

Project Name: Vietnam War Stories

Tape/File # WCNAM A37 Journey From Pha Dong

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INTRODUCTION

[00:20:48;10]

Shot: Men walking through the jungle

Explain: Film about how people "break the silence of a quiet war" in North Laos

[00:21:02;09]

Shot: North Laotian soldiers spying on approaching vehicle and shooting at enemy

Explain: Film about how people learn to win a war

CAUSE OF FIGHTING

[00:21:21;22]

Map of Southeast Asia.

Explain: How French Indochina empire disintegrated into four states--North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Discusses why Laos was the least ready for independence.

[00:22:11;12]

Shot: on map of Southeast Asia, highlights communist network

Explain: North Vietnam supported the Laos communists. Discusses how opposition to communists was weak governments with little power.

[00:22:35;15]

Shot: Close-up on map with highlighted dot on city of Vientiane and arrows pointing to Plaines Des Jarres

Explain: How balance of power disrupted, sides converged in Plains de Jarres

[00:23:02;22]

Shot: Plains de Jarres seen on a screen

[00:23:24;14]

Series of shots of people moving in a group, black and white

VANG PAO EMERGED AS LEADER

[00:23:29;28]

Series of shots of Lao Army officer, Vang Pao.
Explain: Rallied people and led them to safety in village of Pha Dong.

[00:24:46;00]

Series of shots of Vang Pao
Explain: Biographical information

[00:25:12;19]

Series of shots of soldiers working in the fields, loading weapons, keeping watch
Explain: In 1961, people fought at Pha Dong instead of running.

[00:25:52;21]

Shot: Screen freezes and title appears, "Journey From Pha Dong: A Decision in the Hills"

LAO LIFESTYLE

[00:26:07;11]

Shot: Mekong River, Lowland Lao people interacting at market
Explain: How Mekong River is used by the Lao

[00:27:04;01]

Series of shots of forests and mountains in Laos
Explain: Difficult terrain, scattered and isolated communities, no central government making defense hard

[00:27:50;18]

Series of shots of villages and people going about every day actions
Explain: Why Lao Theung were pushed into the hills and how they live

[00:28:18;23]

Series of shots of Mayo villages and people
Explain: Why they arrived in Laos and how they lived

COMMUNIST THREAT

[00:29:10;03]

Close-up of rain flooding grass, fog in forest
Explain: When and why communists came, result.

VANG PAO UNITES PEOPLE AGAINST COMMUNISTS

[00:30:22;29]

Series of shots of Laos walking away carrying belongings, villages
Explain: Why people chose to resist the communists --> How Vang Pao offered people an alternative with Pha Dong

[00:31:10;26]

Shots of people working in fields, inside and outside shots of Vang Pao's plane, shots of people interacting and facial close-ups

Explain: Vang Pao's leadership style with psychology and guns

[00:33:22;03]

Shot of plane dropping supplies

Series of shots of people receiving weapons and being trained

Explain: How Vang Pao put his new army together

[00:34:47;24]

Series of shots of opium and smoking

Explain: Opium use disables soldiers

[00:35:02;17]

Series of shots of new soldiers being trained, women helping, a school being started, equipment set up

Explain: Whole community is involved in war

[00:37:33;24]

Series of shots of a prisoner who is caught

Explains: Prisoner leaks that enemy is moving toward the village and they will attack at night, so training of soldiers speeds up and new weapons introduced

Series of shots of soldiers being trained on new weapons

FIGHT AGAINST ENEMY

[00:39:21;04]

Shot: Gunshots in the dark

Explain: Enemy attacks just before dawn

[00:39:48;15]

Series of shots of dead victim

Explain: Burial/ Death traditions

[00:40:30;03]

Series of shots of happy villagers

Explain: Enemy withdrew

RESISTANCE GROWS

[00:41:06;22]

Map of Southeast Asia

Explain: Pha Dong falls but resistance survives. Shows how resistance grows

[00:41:57;07]

Map of Southeast Asia, Laos highlighted

Explain: Geneva convention establishes a cease-fire and a coalition-government. Vang Pao orders only to act if attacked. Public headquarters of Vang Pao moved to Sam Thong. Military head quarters moved to Long Theing.

[00:42:48;10]

Shot: Series of shots of airfield in valley

Explain: How airfield grew and became third largest city in Laos with radio system.

[00:44:00;25]

Series of shots of villagers and various buildings

Explain: After Geneva, little outside help so people came up with creative solutions.

[00:44:44;12]

Series of shots of planes carrying people

Explain: Families of leaders brought to Long Theing, which strengthened Vang Pao's political appeal by protecting families.

[00:45:27;02]

Map of Southeast Asia. Illustrates how peaceful alliance between communists and neutralists disintegrated and communism seeps into Laos again. Government makes Vang Pao a General in the Army to help counter.

[00:46:26;05]

Series of shots of machines working and airplanes

Explain: When war began again, airfields improved and planes returned. Different aircraft discussed.

[00:47:24;10]

Series of shots of men working in offices, flying and unloading aircraft

Explain: New careers are created for educated men, improves communication. Greatly improved strength of army and the way the "quiet war in Laos is being won."

[00:48:40;02]

Series of shots of loading supplies into planes and delivering

Explain: Bringing supplies determines whether people stay where they are or leave.

[00:49:43;13]

Series of shots of people running for supplies, migrating, refugee soldiers.

Explain: Refugees migrate to villages. Different fighting styles of the old and young. Rations during war.

[00:51:57;11]

Series of shots of wounded, hospital.

Explain: Seriously sick and wounded are taken to Sam Thong. Discusses people's attitude towards medical programs and doctors.

[00:53:07;27]

Series of shots of livestock

Explain: Vang Pao helps communities start raising livestock again.

[00:54:26;16]

Series of shots of villagers, trading

Explain: With time, villages become more established by creating markets, money, developing a trade association.

[00:56:22;29]

Shots of schools, children

Explain: The school system, roots and mission of schools, radio system to deliver lessons, idea of Union of Lao Races

[00:59:54;27]

Series of shots of construction equipment, people traveling on dirt paths

Explain: Roads created, Impact and need for roads

FIGHTING AGAINST ENEMY

[01:01:19;09]

Series of shots watching over enemy roads, dropping bombs, fires from burning enemy trucks

Explain: How watch over enemy roads, code names for enemy vehicles,

[01:02:51;17]

Map showing destroyed trucks

Explain: Use maps to record destroyed vehicles and track enemy

[01:03:27;01]

Hand pointing to markers on a map

Explain: Enemy tries to push village companies back into the mountain. During Monsoon season, however, Vang Pao's army moves as enemy retreats.

[01:03:55;28]

Series of shots of Vang Pao arriving and directing army, soldiers carrying weapons, shooting

Explain: Vang Pao's strategy, fighting techniques and use of new weapons

[01:06:02;01]

Series of shots of Vang Pao directing army and attacking

Explain; Enemy said to be digging in on the hill, so Vang Pao's army tries to stop

[01:06:38;26]

Series of shots of the second battalion moving through woods

Explain: Second Battalion understands that fighting for villages indirectly protects their own far away

[01:07:04;28]

Series of shots showing Vang Pao's army using planes to attack, one plane is shot down during attack, continued fighting on ground

Explain: Use helicopters to attack cornered enemy, fight until reclaim hill

[01:09:43;17]

Shots showing Vang Pao's army standing proudly on hill, dead Vietnamese, Vietnamese letters from home, photographs, burial ceremony

Explain: Vietnamese killed, how the Vietnamese deal with their dead

[01:11:17;28]

Shots showing weapons of the dead, creating a new camp

Explain: The North Vietnamese move on without those that were killed. Take their weapons, build a new camp.

[01:11:59;12]

Series of shots shooting helicopter bringing wounded to hospital

Explain: Taking care of wounded increases commitment to fight

[01:12:47;08]

Series of shots of burial ceremony for Lao

Explain: Honor those who are killed

[01:13:22;25]

Series of shots of men being carried home dead

Explain: Civilians killed

WAR TRAGIC BUT BRINGS A BETTER LIFE

[01:13:57;18]

Series of shots of New Year celebration

Explain: War has brought a better life with fine goods, leisure and feeling of union with other Lao races

[01:15:40;24]

Shots of planes flying home after New Year celebration, landscape/skyline scenes

Explain: War continues but worthwhile because have a better life that also continues to improve

