

June 23, 1958

**Excerpt from "Ordnance: Chronology of Historical
Events, Volume 1"**

Citation:

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Summary:

Excerpt from an internal Vietnamese army history which describes a 1958 shipment of weapons to Algeria to help the Algerian rebels fighting against the French.

Original Language:

Vietnamese

Contents:

Original Scan
Translation - English

[No Attribution given but clearly from “Ordnance: Chronology of Historical Events, Volume 1” (Biên niên sự kiện lịch sử quân khí, Tập 1). Hanoi: People's Army Publishing House, 1996. Obtained for CWIHP by Merle Pribbenow. Accessed 25 October 2008 at <http://www.quansuvn.net/index.php?topic=1229.40>]

Ngày 23 tháng 6 năm 1958

Thực hiện chỉ thị của Tổng Quân ủy và Bộ Quốc phòng, Cục Quân khí tổ chức bao gói một số lượng lớn súng tiểu liên Tulle (loại súng chiến lợi phẩm ta thu được trong KCCP) để viện trợ cho nhân dân An-giê-ri kháng chiến chống thực dân Pháp.

Đây là một kế hoạch đặc biệt, tuyệt mật nên Cục Quân khí tổ chức thực hiện rất chặt chẽ, an toàn. Tổ kỹ thuật do đồng chí Nguyễn Quang Thành phụ trách, cùng các đồng chí Phùng Thanh Toán, Hà Viên,...được lựa chọn thực hiện nhiệm vụ này.

Việc bảo dưỡng, đồng bộ và bao gói súng được tiến hành tại kho 560 ở Bạch Mai, sau đó bí mật chuyển về tập kết tại kho Kha Lâm (Kiến An) chờ lên tàu thủy của Ba Lan vận chuyển cho bạn dưới danh nghĩa hàng thương mại.

Kế hoạch này được Văn phòng Trung ương Đảng, Tổng Quân ủy và Bộ Quốc phòng chỉ đạo theo dõi chặt chẽ. Kế hoạch tiến hành từ ngày 23 tháng 6 đến 24 tháng 7 năm 1958 thì hoàn thành, bảo đảm tuyệt đối an toàn, bí mật.

23 June 1958

Implementing instructions received from the General Military Party Committee[1] and the Ministry of Defense, the Ordnance Department arranged for a large quantity of Tulle submachine guns (weapons captured by our forces during the resistance war against the French)[2] to be wrapped and packaged so that they could be provided to the Algerian people to help them in their resistance war against the French colonialists.

This was a special, top-secret program, so the Ordnance Department arranged for it to be carried out in a very careful and secure manner. A technical team was selected to carry out this mission. This team was headed by Comrade Nguyen Quang Thanh and included Phung Thanh Toan, Ha Vien, etc.

The preservation, standardization, and wrapping of the guns was done in Warehouse 560 at Bach Mai, after which the guns were secretly transported to a staging location at Kha Lam Warehouse in Kien An to be held there for loading aboard a Polish ship that would transport them to our [Algerian] friends under the guise of commercial goods.

This plan was carried out under the guidance and close supervision of the Party Secretariat, the General Military Party Committee, and the Ministry of Defense. This operation began on 23 June and was completed on 24 July 1958, and complete safety and secrecy was maintained throughout the implementation of the plan.

Footnotes by Merle Pribbenow

[1] The General Military Party Committee (Tong quan uy) was a committee made up of a small number of members of the Communist Party Politburo that was responsible for supervising and directing the Vietnamese armed forces. This committee was headed by General Vo Nguyen Giap.

[2] The Tulle submachine gun referred to is the MAT-49, a French 9mm submachine gun that was used by the French Army during the war in Indochina. The Vietnamese captured large quantities of these weapons during the war, especially at the battle of Dien Bien Phu. The term Tulle comes from the name of the French manufacturer: Manufacture Nationale d'Armes de Tulle (MAT).