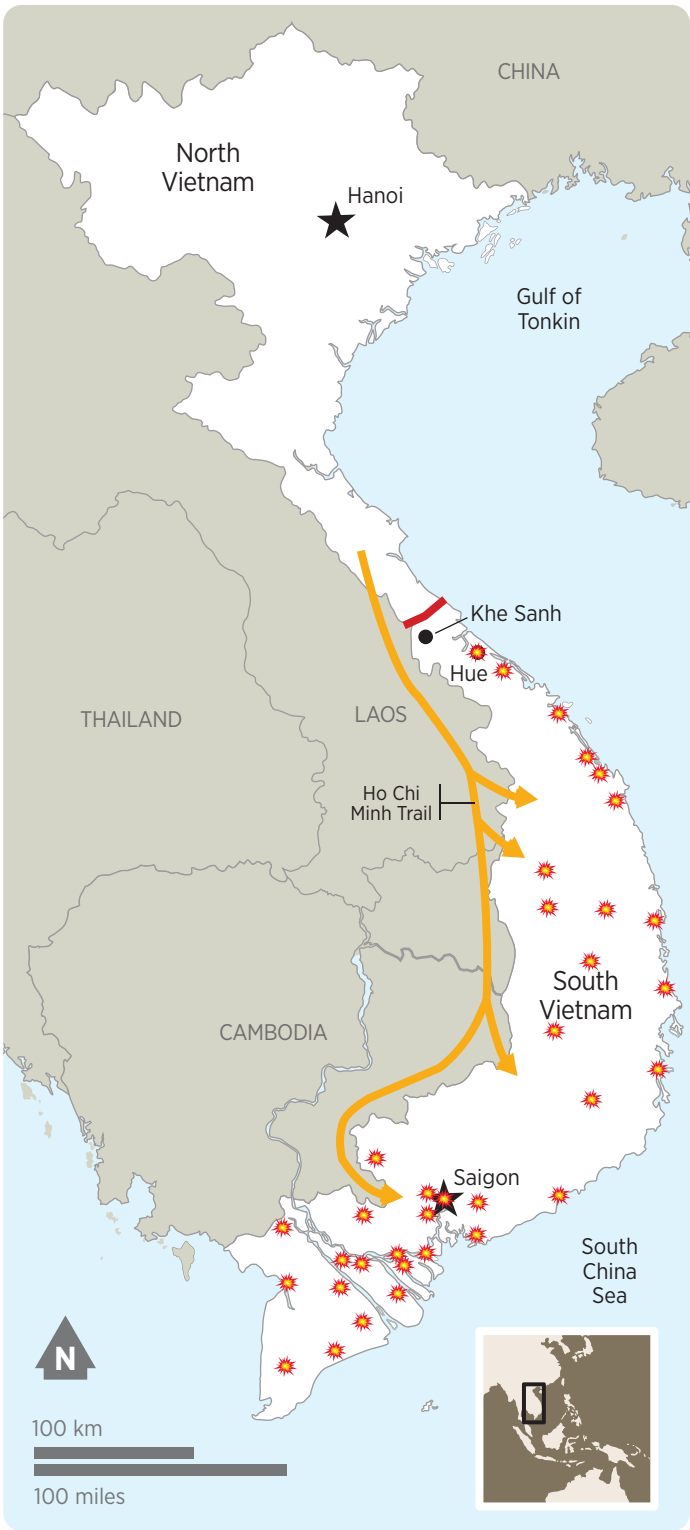


FURTHER REVIEW | TET OFFENSIVE



GAME CHANGER



Area soldiers who died during Tet Offensive

The Spokane Chronicle reported a list of 25 service members who lived in Spokane County and are listed as having been killed in action during Tet fighting in Vietnam. Their average age was just older than 21.

Date	Name	Age	Branch	Rank	Location
2/1	Michael G. Murdock	21	USMC	Corporal	Quang Nam
2/15	James G. Blaine	18	USMC	PFC	Thua Thien
2/18	Patrick E. Lindstrom	19	USMC	Lance Corporal	Quang Tin
2/12	Kaley A. Sonner	21	Army	Specialist, 4th class	Gia Dinh
3/25	Donald L. McHugo	33	USAF	Major	Unknown
4/10	Bryan T. Mukai	19	Army	PFC	Thua Thien
4/12	Patrick G. McGarvey	21	USMC	Corporal	QUANG TRI
4/24	Larry E. Anderson	19	USMC	Lance Corporal	QUANG TRI
3/12	Donald R. Robison	27	Army	Captain	Hua Nghia
1/30	Ronald E. Ray	25	Army	Sergeant	Thua Thien
5/2	Thomas M. Walker	18	Army	Corporal	Quang Tri
5/12	John E. Laipple	19	Army	Sergeant	Thua Thien
5/18	Charles B. Mason	20	Army	Specialist, 4th class	Thua Thien
6/5	Ricardo R. Tejano	24	Army	Reserve warrant off.	Dinh Tuong
6/15	Ralph H. Franck Jr.	20	Army	PFC	Binh Duong
6/19	Richard T. Dutro	20	Army	PFC	Binh Duong
8/2	Larry A. Jamerson	20	USMC	Corporal	Quang Njai
7/12	Randall N. Arney	24	Army	Reserve 1st Lt.	Thua Thien
8/10	Michael P. Boyle	19	USMC	PFC	Quang Nam
8/23	Richard L. Rowland	18	Army	Corporal	Quang Tin
8/24	Leslie E. Hines III	29	Army	Reserve 1st Lt.	Long Binh
8/20	Roy M. Johnson	22	Army	Sergeant	Long An
8/30	Oril W. Hawley	18	USMC	PFC	Quang Nam
9/4	James E. Bowden	19	Army	Specialist, 4th class	Kontum
9/21	Michael I. Hanneman	24	Army	Sergeant	Darlac

As military forces and civilians celebrated the new year’s holiday on Jan. 30, 1968, tens of thousands of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops launched a series of surprise attacks on major cities and provincial capitals throughout the South.

The barrage of sneak attacks in over 30 strategic areas stunned the United States and South Vietnamese armies stationed in the region that were operating under the assumption communist forces would observe a weeklong truce surrounding the Buddhist holiday of Tet.

Though they quickly regained control of most targets initially surrendered during the first two days of the massive offensive, the U.S. military occupation of the area suffered a profound loss of public support as most Americans previously were led to believe the North was being beaten and was incapable of such an attack.

MAJOR BATTLES

KHE SANH

Multiple North Vietnamese divisions boasting a total of more than 20,000 soldiers surrounded an allied combat base in the Quang Tri Province, hemming in over 6,000 U.S. Marine Corps, Army and South Vietnamese fighters. On January 21, the North began an assault that served two purposes: attempt to overrun the enemy position, and more importantly, as a diversion to coax U.S. forces away from major population centers and into rural lowland areas.

HUE

On January 31, communist forces 5,000 strong hit over 190 targets in the ancient imperial city, overrunning South Vietnamese defenders and seizing a majority of the Citadel. Reinforced by U.S. troops, the city was re-taken after 25 days of bitter fights as allied forces essentially went door to door in clearing the city. South Vietnamese government officials allege 4,856 civilians and captured personnel were executed by communist forces and later found buried in mass graves.

SAIGON

Small forces of NVA soldiers set out on the 31st to attack major downtown targets while not attempting a total takeover of the capital. These included large South Vietnamese air force and naval bases, the Independence Palace, the national radio station and the U.S. Embassy. They planned to take and hold these locations for 48 hours until reinforcements arrived to relieve them. By dawn on Feb. 2, most of the attacks in the city center had been repelled, though Viet Cong forces continued fighting on the city’s outskirts for days.



As U.S. Marines and other American forces moved into recaptured civilian areas like Binh Loi in Saigon (pictured on Feb. 18, 1968), they encountered ruined cityscapes with burning destruction and massive casualties.

HOMEFIELD ADVANTAGE



South Vietnamese forces escort suspected Viet Cong guerrilla officer Nguyen Van Lem on a Saigon street on Feb. 1. Moments later, Lem was executed by Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan, South Vietnamese national police chief.

GUERRILLA TACTICS

Militant groups within the NVA power structure drove wartime policy decisions away from Chinese and Russian sentiments for more conventional military engagements in favor of a much more protracted form of battle that would allow fighters to intermingle with civilian populations and play to their strengths by dictating the location and nature of engagements as smaller and in closer quarters.

HO CHI MINH TRAIL

Named by Americans after the North Vietnamese president, this system of truck, bicycle and foot paths and underground tunnels allowed logistical support for the NVA and Viet Cong. Communist forces could often times freely move personnel and materials from the North to the South, through neutral regions of Laos and Cambodia.

PHASE 1 CASUALTIES

Both sides suffered thousands of losses during Tet. Each soldier below represents 1,000 combatants.

Killed in action Missing in action Wounded in action

SOUTH VIETNAM

Also called the Republic of Vietnam (RVN), known as State of Vietnam until 1955.



ALLIES

United States, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand fighting forces.



NORTH VIETNAM

Includes Viet Cong, also known as the National Liberation Front, a communist political organization in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

