

Demons in the Wire
Biên Hòa Air Base, Tet 1968
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**Hell was in the Heavens...
Demons through the wire,
Bunker Hill 10 in silhouette, immersed
in rockets' fire.**

**Dog Handler Bob Press *Called TO ARMS!*
struck down and gravely wounded,
played dead throughout the night.
NVA and Viet Cong flowed over and
around his *body*, sowing demon's
mayhem and destruction.**

**Sentry Dog Diablo attacked the horde,
1,400 strong, his snarls and fearsome
bites inflicting ghastly wounds,
fought on until shot dead.**

**The enemy snared by sirens' call—
*Victory is Yours! The Fortress your grand
prize*—charged defender's gauntlet, the
slaughter roiled on.**

**Two enemy battalions attacked Biên
Hòa Air Base, victory seemed at hand...
Alas, the Air Force 3rd Security Police
executed a different deadly plan—**

**Like a great sea wall, the 3rd SPS broke
enemy's tsunami wave, Armageddon
ruled as they clashed and fought with
rifles and grenades.**

**All through the black night the sky
flamed alight with rockets' trails,
cannons, and tracers red and green.**

**By evening the 31st, 600 NVA lay
cursed...dead in open pits of unmarked
mass graves. Biên Hòa plans gone awry;
their widows would cry...
The Demons...had melted away.**

"The night of Jan. 30-31, 1968, a hundred cities and more than 20 Air Bases were attacked simultaneously by some 84,000 enemy troops. Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, was a prime target. To capture it, enemy forces had to neutralize the two great Air Bases—Biên Hòa and Tân Sơn Nhứt—near the city. Two infantry battalions and a reinforced infantry CO were assigned the task of penetrating Biên Hòa's defenses and destroying US and VNAF aircraft and facilities. Their carefully planned surprise attack was to follow a heavy barrage of rocket and mortar fire."