"It became necessary to destroy the town to save it."

— unidentified U.S. Army Major quoted by Associated Press Correspondent Peter Arnett in newspapers of February 7, 1968. The Major was referring to the destruction of the town of Ben Tre which had been overrun by a regimental-size force (approx. 2500 troops) of Viet Cong. Ben Tre had a civilian population of about 35,000. The fight to wrest Ben Tre from Viet Cong control cost the lives of an estimated 1000 civilians.

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