

INDO-CHINA: DIEN BIEN PHU: THE CRUCIAL BATTLE

(38) This was one of the counter-attacks by French Union forces
against the mass assault launched by the Reds on the
isolated fortress of Dien Bien Phu. Heavy losses were
20 inflicted on the enemy but nothing like enough to
turn the battle in French favour. If the Reds could capture
the fortress they would achieve two objects: Driving the
French Union out of the Thai country and gaining a victory
40 before the forthcoming Geneva Conference. Prisoners
told of massive artillery brought from China, ~~for this battle,~~
the guns, be it noted, made at the great Skoda works in
Czechoslovakia. The ~~French~~ position took a turn for
60 the ~~unpleasant~~ worse when the Dien Bien Phu airstrips were
shelled out of action. Then ~~the garrison took~~ fresh hope;
reinforcements and supplies came parachuting down.