

Our Man Hoppe

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**America's
First Big Win****Arthur Hoppe**

THE GREAT Cambodian Victory in June of 1970 breathed new life into the war-weary American Republic. Once again, Americans could hold their heads high.

For 25 years they had suffered from the taunts of foreigners. Defensive Americans would skulk into foreign bars to hear the inevitable derisive cry: "Who've you ever licked lately?"

And the only possible reply was a weak: "Well, we got a tie with North Korea and we're holding our own against North Vietnam and we did show the Dominican Republic a thing or two."

But with Great Cambodian Victory under their belts win-hungry Americans could once again swagger up to the bar, throw out their chests and say: "We Americans can lick any two-bit Asian nation in the house."

Needless to say, a wave of patriotism swept the country. The stock of the President, who had led the Nation to its first clear-cut victory in a quarter of a century, soared.

It was the very ease of The Great Cambodian Victory that led, just as the President had promised, to a speedy end of the war in South Vietnam.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT was not one to ignore the lessons of victory. And so, two weeks later, he once again took to network television:

"In the last year in Vietnam alone, my friends, we have captured a total amount of enemy arms, equipment, ammunition and food more than equal to all we captured in all of Cambodia. All our military objectives have been achieved. I am withdrawing our troops forthwith."

The news that we had at last won the war in South Vietnam electrified the nation. "Two great victories in two weeks!" the triumphant people cried.

Just as the President predicted, South Vietnam was quickly Vietnamized—by North Vietnam. But the South Vietnamese were happily engaged in Vietnamizing Cambodia, which, seeing a good thing, was off Cambodianizing Laos, which was attempting to Laotianize . . .

But a jingoistic America paid little heed. With a two-war win streak going, there was confident talk among flag fans that this year America "could go all the way."

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THE PRESIDENT, ever receptive to the public mood, invaded in rapid succession Madagascar, Monaco and the Mbongan Republic.

In every case, he cautiously followed the formula for The Great Cambodian Victory: (1) American troops invaded each country no more than 21 miles — that making it easier to get them out and (2) each war lasted no more than eight weeks — that being a week short of the time it took the Senate to condemn it.

By December, America had collected ten straight wins and more captured typewriters, macadamia nuts and assagais than it knew what to do with.

That's when the unfortunate decision was made to invade Russia as far as Harvardgrad — a provincial town 22.8 miles inside the border. This proved to be going too far.

But as the President said on digging his way out of the radioactive rubble of the White House: "Ten wins and a tie isn't a bad session. Just wait'll next year."