

《地雷村：中越战争的后遗症》

导读:大家还记得在《太阳的后裔》中主人公经过雷区时的如履薄冰吗，就在中越边境上，有人正在经历着如此胆战心惊的生活。



I began to feel the longstanding influence of war the minute I stepped into Balihe village, which borders Vietnam in Southwest China's Yunnan Province.

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It is known as a "mine village," as in the region there are large - though no one knows how large - numbers of unexplored mines buried all around, remnants left over from the Sino-Vietnamese War nearly four decades ago.

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We arrived at the village in May to report on the lives of villagers, the struggles they face living in such a dangerous environment and the efforts made by them and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to remove these deadly weapons.

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Before we kicked off our journey, my colleague told me at the airport that he had just accidentally broken his favorite vase, which he worried was a "bad omen."

His campaign, which is incredibly dangerous, isn't supported by the local government. But he is dissatisfied with their simple and crude way of dealing with the problem: erecting warning signs.

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Wang is lucky as so far he hasn't got into a serious accident. After visiting Wang, I got the opportunity to talk to a PLA officer who is in charge of a mine-sweeping team in the region, the third time the military has deployed troops to clear mines. The first two mine clearance missions by the military were conducted in 1990s.

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The officer said that before they embarked on the mission, his leader told him he must guarantee safety of every soldier. But just several days after I returned to Beijing, I learned that a young soldier in a different team had died while mine-sweeping.

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During my interview, I asked the soldiers whether they wanted to move to another assignment. To my surprise, most of them said they didn't want to.

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While I do admire such lofty goals, I can't help but think why it's always the ordinary people who pay the price for war?

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