

BENJAMIN GOLUBOFF

Ho Chi Minh's Sense of Humor

As Bernard Fall tells the story,
when the last French strongpoint at Dien Bien Phu
was about to be overrun, and the last French officer there
was about to put a bullet in the radio,
he heard a Vietminh who had been monitoring
the French command channel say,
“Don't destroy your radio just yet.
President Ho Chi Minh offers you
a rendition of *Le Chant des Partisans*,”
(the anthem of the French resistance in the last war)
and played it for the few French defenders still alive to hear.

BENJAMIN GOLUBOFF teaches English at Lake Forest College. Aside from a modest list of scholarly publications, he has placed imaginative work in many small-press journals. Goluboff's poem “The Fairy Fleet of Fredericksburg” appeared in volume 26 of WLA. Some of his work can be read at <https://www.lakeforest.edu/academics/faculty/goluboff/>