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PHAM DUC THUAN

**THE MOVEMENT AGAINST STRATEGIC HAMLETS
IN THE SOUTHWEST OF VIETNAM (PERIOD 1961 – 1965)**

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INTRODUCTION

1. REASON FOR CHOOSING THEMES

"Strategic Hamlet" is a "national policy" that has an important influence on the success of war plans, especially during the period when the United States conducted the "Special War" (1961-1965) strategy. The purpose of this policy is to seize land for the people, to control the countryside, to destroy the rear and the revolutionary base, to isolate and completely destroy the revolutionary forces, to impose colonialism. New in southern Vietnam. Since the coup in November 1963, the Saigon administration under the auspices of the United States continued to implement the policy of "strategic hamlets" with the new name "hamlet". The essence of changing the name of "strategic hamlet" into "new born hamlet" is just a "new wine bottle". Thus, during the anti-American resistance war (1954-1975), the fight against strategic bombing was a long and persistent struggle between the revolutionary forces and the US government. Saigon.

In the strategic anti-trotting struggle in the South from 1961 to 1965, the South West was one of the most active. Anti-destructive strategies in the localities have been rich in content, leadership, fighting and distinctive features, reflecting the creativity of localities. In the process of applying the Party's line to the anti-destroy strategy strategy. Research on the strategic anti-demolition movement in the Southwest has significant scientific significance and practical significance. From these perceptions, I chose the problem: "The Movement against strategic hamlet in the southwest of Viet Nam (1961-1965)" is a research topic for the Ph.D. thesis in the history of Vietnam.

2. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF RESEARCH

2.1. Research subjects

The main research object of the thesis is the movement against strategic hamlet of the people of southwestern region in the period from 1961 to 1965.

2.2. Research scope

About the study period of the thesis: From 1961 to 1965, this was the period when the United States and the South Vietnamese government deployed the "special war" strategy in South Vietnam with the "backbone" to establish a "strategic hamlet". This is also the period of anti-destroying strategic hamlet movement, most fiercely in the Southwest, contributed to overcome the strategy of "special war" of the United States.

Regarding research space of the thesis: The southwestern region is still large, but in the period from 1961 to 1965, under the direction of the Party Committee, the Central of the Party Committee of the South Viet Nam and including Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Can Tho (including Hau Giang), Rach Gia, Soc Trang (including most of Bac Lieu) and Ca Mau (Including Dong Hai - Bac Lieu), corresponding to the

provinces of Vinh Long, Vinh Binh, Phong Dinh, Chuong Thien (separated from part of Phong Dinh and Kien Giang provinces in December - 1961), Kien Giang, Ba Xuyen, An Xuyen under the administration of the Republic of Vietnam in the period 1961-1965.

3. PURPOSE AND RESEARCH TASKS

3.1. Research purposes

Systematic presentation of the strategic anti-demolition movement of the troops and people of the Southwest region during the period from 1961 to 1965. From that thesis draws the characteristics as well as the role of the anti-demolition movement. Strategic hamlets of the Southwest and the South during 1961 - 1965, while drawing the typical lessons learned can be applied in the construction and development of the country today.

3.2. Research mission

First, analyze the conspiracy to set up the "strategic hamlet" of the US and the Saigon regime, the historical context of the anti-demolition strategy in the southwestern region from 1961-1965.

Second, describe the conditions of the strategic anti-demolition movement in the South West, the guidelines of the Party Central Committee, the Central Bureau of Struggle Against Strategic Struggle in the US phase to implement the " Special war "in South Vietnam (1961-1965), while analyzing the application of the Party's policy in the fight against strategic bombardment in the Southwest.

Thirdly, the process of reconstruction of the army and people in the southwestern region has gradually broken the plot and tactics of establishing strategic hamlets of the United States and the Republic of South Vietnam in the Southwest.

Fourth, make comments on the salient features, roles and at the same time draw lessons from the anti-demolition strategy in the South West for the construction and protection. Country in the present stage.

4. RESOURCE SOURCES AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1. Resources

The thesis is based mainly on the following sources:

The works of President Ho Chi Minh and leaders of the Party, State and army wrote about the resistance war against American salvation, the resolutions and directives of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Documents currently archived at the National Archive Center II (Ho Chi Minh City) include reports, minutes of meetings, resolutions, submissions, maps, maps, and pictures of the First Presidency. The Republic of Vietnam, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation, the Revolutionary Military Council, the Ministry of Social Affairs, etc. These are important documents in the process of implementing theses.

Archives related to the strategic anti-tornado movement are archived at the Military Science Office of Military Region 9 and the archival center of the Southwest provinces in the period 1961-1965, historical summation works.

National scientific works refer to the anti-demolition strategy in the southwestern region and scientific research abroad about the resistance war against American people of Vietnam.

The memoirs and narratives of some historical witnesses who were active in the Southwest region during the period 1961-1965, the materials and images collected from the fieldwork related to the topic.

4.2. Research Methods

The thesis is based on the methodology of dialectical materialism and the historical materialistic method. The main research method of the thesis is the historical method combined with the logical method; Based on this, the thesis utilizes specific research methods such as document collection, fieldwork, interviews, statistics, comparison, analysis and synthesis to provide a comprehensive view of the anti- Strategic hatchery in the South West (1961-1965).

5. CONTRIBUTION OF THE THESIS

Firstly, the thesis systematically presents the conspiracy and tricks of the US and the Republic of Vietnam in the implementation of the "strategic hamlet " in South Vietnam, particularly in the SouthWest of Viet Nam.

Second, the thesis presents The Movement against Strategic hamlet in the South West Viet Nam during the anti-war "Special War" (1961-1965), which clarifies the art of combining military struggles, With political struggles and troop mobilization.

Third, the thesis analyzes the outstanding features, as well as the role and limitations of the movement, and draws lessons for the current construction and protection of Vietnam.

Fourth, the thesis provides a number of new materials, contributing to the development of teaching materials, learning and education of Vietnamese historical traditions, especially the period of war with the US military (1954-1975).

6. THE LAYOUT OF THESIS

In addition to the Introduction, Conclusion, References and Annexes, the thesis has four chapters:

Chapter 1: Overview of research related to thesis topic

Chapter 2: The Movement against strategic hamlet in the southwest of Viet Nam (1961-1963)

Chapter 3: The Movement against strategic hamlet in the southwest of Viet Nam (1964 - 1965)

Chapter 4: Some Comments on The Movement against strategic hamlet in the southwest of Viet Nam (1961 - 1965).

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH RELATED TO THE THESIS

1.1. RESEARCH PROBLEMS

In the US invasion of South Vietnam, the establishment of the "strategic hamlet" was an important measure taken by the United States and the Saigon government in the implementation phase of the "Special war" (1961-1965), whereby the policy of "strategic hamlets" has been promoted to national policy and is defined as the backbone that decides the success of this war. In February 1962, the Saigon government selected Phuoc Ngon Hamlet (Phuoc Hau Commune, Chau Thanh District, Vinh Long Province) as a "strategic hamlet" model, from which it spread to all provinces of Vinh Long and other provinces. Other across the Southwest.

The movement against strategic hamlet in the Southwest was part of the movement against strategic hamlet throughout South Vietnam. This movement contributed significantly to the struggle against US forces in the country. In this place, thoroughly grasp and creatively apply the people's war and martial arts strategy of the Party Central Committee, the Southern Party Committee of the southwestern region and southwestern localities. The ministry has directly led the troops here to launch a large-scale, fiercely-fighting strategic hamlet fight against various forms of struggle, thereby gaining many important victories. Into the general victory of the movement against strategic hamlet throughout the South during the period from 1961 to 1965.

1.2. RESEARCH RESEARCH ON THE THESIS

1.2.1. A series of studies on the anti-American resistance referred to the movement against strategic hamlet

1.2.1.1 Group of works of the authors in the country

National researches on the history of the anti-American war have referred to the movement against strategic hamlet, which may include some typical works such as: Victory and Lessons (National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 1995) of the Politburo Steering Committee under the Politburo. Region VIII - South-Central Vietnam War Resistance (1954 - 1975) (National Political Publishing House, 2004) edited by Lt. Gen. Nguyen Minh Duong (former commander of Military Region 8 - South Central Coast), The South works to keep the bronze of Tran Van Giau and the movement against anti-rural pacification in the South in the resistance war against America, the national salvation (1969-1975) (People's Army Publishing House, Hanoi Views from the history of revolutionary war (National University Publishing House, Ho Chi Minh City, 2008) edited by Ha Minh Hong, the above works have all received the receipt. Considering the prominence of the anti-pacification movement, setting up strategic hamlet in the South.

The History of the South Resistance Warfare (National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2010) of the Council of the Steering Committee for the History of the South Resistance War, History of the Resistance Against the US, Rescuing the Nation (National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2010) of

the Military History Institute of Vietnam - Ministry of Defense consists of 9 volumes, in volume 3 by the author Nguyen Van Minh editorial about the strategy "special war" and combat activities. Against the "special war" strategy of the South Vietnamese soldiers, including the anti-destroy strateg.

Regarding the leadership of the Southern Central Committee and the National Front for the Liberation of the South in the anti-demolition strategy, the South Vietnamese Communist Party (1954-1975) Edited by Nguyen Quy Hung (National Political Publishing House, 2010) and a national flag work (National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2010) edited by Tran Bach Dang. In 2015, the Military History Institute of Vietnam publishes the history of the struggle against pacification in the resistance war against America, the national salvation (1954-1975), including 3 volumes (People's Army Publishing House, Hanoi , In which the second volume focuses on the period 1961-1965 by Nguyen Huy Thuc who presented many aspects related to the fight against strategic bombardment.

1.2.1.2 Group of research works by foreign authors

About the war in Vietnam in the period 1954-1975 and the period 1961-1965 in particular with the focus "strategic hamlet policy" established by the United States and the Republic of South Vietnam, there are many scientists Foreign research interests are as follows

Sir Robert Thompson's Works: Defeating Communist Insurgency: The Lesson of Malaya and Vietnam (Chatto & Windus, London, 1965) and Make for the Hills: Memories of Far Eastern Wars - No Exit From Vietnam (Leo Cooper, London, 1989), reminiscent of remembrance of the war in the East - The battle of no escape in Vietnam. Arthur M. Schlesinger for publication in 1965: The White House, The Pentecostal Report entitled The Strategic Hamlet Program 1961-1963 (Boston, 1971) can be considered a newspaper. A fairly comprehensive and relatively comprehensive report by the US government on strategic hamlets, which mentions the process of organizing, deploying, and providing assistance to the ACL. James M. Higgin's Master of Science in Military Science with the theme of The Misapplication of the Malayan Counterinsurgency Model to the Strategic Hamlet Program (University of Malaya's Strategic Malay Strategy) (University Massachusetts, 1989). Stanley Karnow with Vietnam - A History (The Viking Press, New York, 1983) Robert Thompson, Arthur M. Schchinger, James M.Higgin and Stanley Karnow. The Pentagon Report on Strategic Hamlets is an in-depth study of strategic hamlets in Malaysia and Vietnam.

In addition, Gabriel Kolko's famous work on the Vietnam War, titled "Anatomy of a War: Vietnam, the United States, and the Modern Historical Experience" (The New Press, New York, 1985), has been translated. Go to Vietnamese with the title: Anatomy of a War (Nguyen Tan Obdan, People's Army Publishing House, 1989). Former US Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has published his book Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam, translated into Vietnamese by Ho Chinh Hanh, Huy Binh, Thu Thuy, and Minh Nga. Revisiting the past, tragedy and lessons about Vietnam (National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 1995). George C.Herring's (America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, by George Gerring Hill, New York) was published four times in the United States, and in

Vietnam this work was translated by the translator. Pham Ngoc Thach, translated as "America's Longest War" (National Political Publishing House, 1998), illustrates the writer's perspective on strategic hamlets. A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam was published in 1988, in Vietnam this work has been translated into Vietnamese by the translator Doan Duan: flashy deception John Paul Vann and the United States in Vietnam (National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2003) gave the reader a look at the truth about the war in Vietnam, especially during the period 1961-1965. William Colby, former director of the CIA, is seen as the "mentor" of the plan to set up a "strategic hamlet" in Vietnam with a pilot program "hamlet strategy" in Buon Enao In the book about the Vietnam War, entitled A Lost Victory (Nguyen Huy Cau, People's Police Publishing House, Hanoi, 2007), provides important insights from the House. White, American intentions during ACL implementation. In an effort to analyze American failures in Vietnam in the period 1954-1963, Edward Miller published Misalliance Works: Ngo Dinh Diem, The United States and the Fate of South Vietnam (The Harvard University Press, 2013. This work has been translated into Vietnamese with the title of wrong Alliance, Ngo Dinh Diem - USA and the fate of South Vietnam (National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2016).

In addition, some of the works of researchers such as: Clutterbuck & Richard L. Brigadier, The Long War: Counterinsurgency in Malaya and Vietnam, (1967) - Conflict in Malaya and Vietnam. Benjamin Bradle, Conversations with Kennedy (Harper and Row, New York, 1976), Herbert A. Friedman (Psychological Operation Center, 2000), "Psyop of the Strategic Hamlet in Vietnam" In Vietnam) an essay written for the American Psychological War Center. Peter Busch, The United States, and the Vietnam War - Kennedy's solution: from England to the US and the Vietnam War.

1.2.2. The research group mentions the strategic anti-demolition movement in the South West

1.2.2.1. The monograph on the movement against strategic hamlet

An intensive monograph on strategic hamlets can be seen in the Party's work leading the fight against the "war strategy" of South Vietnam's (1961-1965) strategic hamlet in South Vietnam (1961-1965) by Tran Thi Thu Huong (National Political Publishing House, 2003) and the movement against strategic hamlet 1963-1964 (National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2006). This is also the doctoral dissertation by Nguyen Cong Thuc. . In the study on anti-destructive strategies in specific regions, it is possible to mention the doctoral dissertation "Anti-Destruction Strategies in the South East (1961-1965)" by Huynh Thi Liem (National University of Ho Chi Minh City, 2006).

In addition, there are some works, scientific articles such as: In July 1963, Academic magazine published a paper titled "Strategic Hamlet, Diem Concentration Camp and Military Base of American Diem (7-1963)" by Duy Nghia. The article "The Consequences of 20 Years of Pacification and Ugliness of the United States - Puppet for Rural Vietnam in South Vietnam" (Journal of Historical Studies, No. 171, December 1976) by Pham Quang Toan Depicts the entire rural pacification policy of the United States and the Saigon regime, including the implementation phase of the the strategic hamlet policy ... Journal of Military History (4-1999) with the article by Nguyen Cong Thuc: Strategic Hamlet "pacification pacification primarily in the" special war "of the United States in South Vietnam.

1.2.2.2. Group of local historical research in the Southwest

These include the 9th Battles of the Mekong Delta Force, Military Zone 9 - 30 Years of Resistance (1995), 30 years of resistance in the southwest Butter. Two other important works directly related to the strategic anti-demolition movement in the South West is the South West project in the 30 years of the resistance war 1954-1975 (Ho Chi Minh City, 2000) by Vu Dinh Tu former Secretary The committee was composed of Vo Van Kiet, Nguyen Minh Duong and Tran Bach Dang (editors), who were editor-in-chief and historian of the Southwest Resistance War (National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2008). Systematic presentation of the military process and the people of the Southwest of the resistance war against the United States (1954-1975), basically reflecting the movement against strategic bombardment in the Southwest.

In 2013, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the victory of Dam Doi - Cai Nuoc - Cha La, the largest military victory of the people of the Southwest in the anti - ACL movement from 1961 to 1965, 9 coordinated with the Ca Mau Provincial Party Committee and the Vietnam Military History Institute to hold the National Science Seminar "50 years of victory over Dam Doi - Cai Nuoc - Cha La, meaning and lessons learned".

The provincial Party Committee, the Party Committee of the provinces in the South West also organized the compilation of historical work of the local Party. In general, the above works have not really gone into the study of the anti-demolition strategy in the southwestern region, but only presented individual events, typical in the course of the anti-American war. (1954-1975), therefore, has not yet shown a close connection and has not yet made any comments on the role, characteristics and lessons learned from the strategic anti-demolition strategy. In the southwestern region, active anti-demolition and aggressive strategies are taking place.

1.2.3 Thesis issues inherited from research

In his dissertation, "Anti-Destructive Strategic Movement in the South West (1961-1965)," the author has inherited the achievements of leading researchers in the following areas:

Firstly, the methodology of the anti-destructive anti-underpinning strategy in the South, which has a strong hold on the theory of strategic hamlets, has practical reference, comparisons between regions.

Second, the theoretical issues of the strategic anti-tanking movement in the war of national liberation: the formation of a strategic anti-tornado movement, the selection of strategic anti-demolition sites. A combination of the three adjacent choppers in strategic anti-tornado activity in South Vietnam.

Thirdly, the documentary system on the anti-destructive strategy in the South to provide an overview, on that basis, to compare and contrast the characteristics of anti-warfare anti-war movement. In the south western region, it draws lessons for the development and development of the country in the present period.

1.3. PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO STUDY RESEARCH

To systematically study the conspiracy and tricks of the US and the Republic of Vietnam in the implementation of the "strategic hamlet policy" in the "Special War" in South Vietnam in general and in the West. Nam Bo in particular.

The thesis investigates, systematically and comprehensively re-emerges the anti-demolition strategy of the armed forces and the Southwest people in the anti-war strategy of the "special war" of the United States and the national antiquity.

The dissertation clarifies the art of combining military struggles with political and military combat, as well as the creative application of the Party's policies and the Central Department of the South in the strategic anti-demilitarization movement in the domain. The South West failed to achieve the "American War" policy, contributing significantly to the collapse of the "Special War" strategy.

The dissertation provides a number of new materials, contributing to the work of compiling textbooks of teaching, learning and education of Vietnamese historical traditions, especially during the resistance war against American salvation.

The dissertation analyzes the role and characteristics of the strategic anti-demolition movement in the southwest region in reference to the strategic anti-tide movement in other parts of the South. Lessons learned for the construction and development of the country in the current period.

CHAPTER 2

THE MOVEMENT AGAINST STRATEGY HAMLET IN THE SOUTHWEST OF VIET NAM (1961 - 1963)

2.1. Factors that affect the movement

2.1.1 Natural and socio-economic factors

The South West includes the following provinces: Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Can Tho, Hau Giang, Kien Giang, Soc Trang, Bac Lieu and Ca Mau. On the natural-economic conditions of the Western South: With its important geographical position and favorable natural and economic conditions, the South West is a strategic area. Therefore, in the war invading Vietnam, the US military has determined to pacify the rural South West to control the land is very important for rural South in particular and Vietnam in general . It is the natural and economic condition of the South West that in the anti-demolition strategy, the southwestern region is one of the areas where the strategic anti-tornado movement took place early and drastically on Different locations, but the focus of the movement here is usually concentrated in the riverside areas, along the canals, coastal areas and areas of Khmer people.

About transportation network: Southwest region has many rivers and canals, convenient for transportation and transportation of goods. In the process of setting up a strategic hamlet in the Southwest, US troops relied on waterways and canals to establish because most of the villages in the South West were built near favorable canals. agricultural economy. Therefore, activities against strategic hamlets are also taking place drastically in areas where many rivers and canals are concentrated.

Regarding social conditions, the population in the South West region is the residence area of three main populations of Viet, Hoa and Khmer with different socio-economic characteristics.

2.1.2. Factor on the patriotic and revolutionary traditions of the people

The formation and development of the southwestern region has fostered the indomitable struggle against foreign aggression of the people of the Southwest, such as the Nguyen Trung Truc attack against France. At the beginning of the 20th century, the patriotic movement of the people continued to develop in the form of armed struggle such as the movement of societies, spontaneous movement of peasants, ... responding to Dong Du movement. In addition, Duy Tan movement was formed with the main activities of vocational rehabilitation, with names such as Tran Chanh Chieu, Nguyen An Khuong, Nguyen Than Hien, etc. In early 1930, the Communist Party of Vietnam Born under the leadership of the Party, the people of the Southwest together with the people of the country made the August 1945 uprising for independence and freedom for the country. The patriotic and revolutionary traditions that have been molded through these historical periods are the basis for the people of the southwestern region to stand with the whole country to carry out the resistance war against America in the next period.

2.1.3. Movement against the US Army and the Saigon administration in the South West (1954-1960)

2.1.3.1 American policy - the Saigon administration in the Southwest

After the French colonial defeat in Vietnam and the signing of the Geneva Accord (7-1954), America has the opportunity to jump into Indochina and Vietnam. For the South and South West in particular, Ngo Dinh Diem implemented a policy of "field reform", establishing strong military bases in the South West to control the masses and Defeat the Revolution, such as the Vi Thanh Ground, the 11th Military Base (Understanding Ceremonies), and so on. The revolutionary bases in Rach Gia and U Minh have migration sites and 18 dense sites throughout the southwestern provinces such as Cai San migration zone in Can Tho, Cai Trau drought area, Vi Thanh - Hoa Luu (Long My - Hau Giang) with the scale of 86 hamlets and 60,000 people is considered as the largest dense in the South at that time ...

2.1.3.2 Movement against US and Saigon (1954 - 1960)

From the Ben Tre coeducational movement, it quickly spread throughout the South West. Since the end of 1959, Ca Mau Provincial Party Committee advocated attacking and liberating Hon Khoai Island, then encircling Dam Doi and in the early 1960s attacking the Binh Hung area causing heavy casualties. They have to fight back. In Soc Trang, Can Tho, Vinh Long and Tra Vinh, the people here also attacked the enemy in a number of important results. As of April 1960, in the South West, we have liberated over 59 communes with more than 500 hamlets and 400,000 people. The struggling movement in the countryside of the South West, most notably the attacks on the Binh Hung area, the Vi Thanh - Hoa Luu area from 1959 to 1960, left some valuable lessons, In that experience gathering forces fighting against fences, establishing housing estates and dense areas is an important factor to continue to set out guidelines and plans to deal with pacification policy of rural areas. American troops, most notably the strategic hamlet policy, were deployed during the next period from 1961 to 1965.

2.2 US and Saigon authorities deploy "Special War" strategy and implement strategic hamlets in the South West

2.2.1. Strategy "Special War" and the introduction of strategic hamlets

From 1961 to 1965, the United States applied the "Special War" strategy to South Vietnam to extinguish the revolutionary movement, rescuing the National League. A special war strategy was implemented in the south, beginning with the implementation of the Staley-Taylor plan. The Saigon government has embarked on plans to build a strategic hamlet, dividing it into four types of strategic hamlets: Type 1: Neighborhoods around town, towns, administrative headquarters, military bases, yards Fly, harbor, treasure. Class 2: Located in the roads of waterways, ministries, densely populated areas, many places, religious and ethnic groups. Type 3: Located in the resistance base. Type 4: At the border, border. On February 3, 1962, Ngo Dinh Diem signed Decree No. 11-TTP establishing an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Strategic Hamlets. On April 19, 1962, the Congress of the Republic of Vietnam approved Decision No. 1214-CT / LP Supporting the National Strategy Strategy Book and Supporting the Strategic Hamlet Strategy of the Government of Ngo Dinh Diem. Strategic hamlets' policy was quickly

implemented throughout South Vietnam and became a national policy. In the period of 1961-1962, the USA decided to use the Vinh Long (South West) and Quang Ngai (Central) provinces to pilot the strategic hamlet program and then expand it to the South.

2.2.2. The implementation of strategic hamlets in the South West

In February 1962, the Saigon government selected Phuoc Ngon B Hamlet (Phuoc Hau Commune, Chau Thanh District, Vinh Long Province) as a "model hamlet" model to spread to all provinces of Vinh Long and the provinces. Other in the Southwest. In the South West, each province has a focus on "strategic hamlets" with the need to protect headquarters, military bases, strategic roads, and to encircle the resistance base revolutionary. , Just to scoop people and in densely populated areas, many of them, many religions and people. The Saigon government is divided into three phases (from June 1961 to December 1962): Phase 1: Establishment of "strategic hamlets" along towns and townships and transfer of ducks and residences. Fill in remaining as a strategic hamlet. Phase 2: Establishment of "strategic hamlets" in disputed areas. Phase 3: Sweep and set up "strategic hamlets" in liberated revolutionary areas.

2.3. The people of the Southwest against the strategic hamlet (1961-1963)

2.3.1 The Party's policy against strategic hamlets from 1961 to 1963

In October 1961, the Central Bureau of the South held a conference confirming its strategic determination to defeat the US special war strategy and national defense law. In the fight against strategic hamlets, based on the specific situation of each hamlet, the Department has set 4 levels of breaking strategic hamlets, including:

- The lowest level is liquidation, ie fighting for the people in the hamlet can go out easily, although there are still fences, booths.
- The higher level is breaking the ball, ie breaking down the fence, but still the booth but creating conditions for people and revolutionary forces can secretly go on.
- The third level is to break points, including kill, dissolve the bodyguard, spit boom that is actually completely destroyed hamlet.
- The highest level is to keep the hamlet but destroy the force grip of the enemy, turning the strategic hamlet into a fighting hamlet. In July 1963, the Central Department of the South issued a resolution on the prevention and destruction of strategic hamlets, gathering the enemy's population; This is the most important resolution of the Southern Central Committee in the days of the anti- strategic hamlets movement that took place vigorously in the South, the Resolution stated Raising the movement of political struggle, Especially to promote the anti-sweeping, anti-strategic and strategic warfare militia; Using military forces, consuming enemy forces, coupled with the urgently build, consolidate and develop force in all aspects; Push back and fail to step by step, to completely defeat the enemy strategic planning.

2.3.2. The first step of the movement against strategic hamlets in the Southwest (1961-1962)

In the early stages of strategic hamlet offensive in the Southwest (1961-1962), the movement largely countered the enemy's sweeping operations with a plot of support strategic hamlet setup and consolidation. Strategic hamlet system in the Southwest. Thus, the movement against strategic hamlet in the period from the end of 1961 to the end of 1962 mainly used external forces to attack strategic hamlet and the operation of the enemy rather than focusing on coordination factors ton. External work combined with strategic hamlet uprisings from within, so the effectiveness of the movement against strategic hamlet in the early stages was not really effective. Particularly in Tra Vinh and Soc Trang, due to the fact that there are two districts with a large Khmer population, the initial movement has the combination of external attacks combined with insurgency from within, experiences from the movement against strategic hamlet in these two provinces is a lesson for other localities in the subsequent stages of the movement against strategic hamlet.

Tra Vinh is the area where the movement against strategic hamlet took place fiercely from early on. Due to the fact that the province has 60% of the population is ethnic Khmer, the units of the provincial armed forces and guerrillas of the commune are very many Khmer compatriots to fight the village fight against strategic hamlet. The movement against strategic hamlets in Tra Vinh were built very early in places where there was a large population of Khmer people, often gathering around the temples so that the movement against strategic hamlet in Tra Vinh during this period was characterized by the participation of A large number of Khmer and monks both in temples. Typically, at the end of June 1961, over 1,000 Khmer and Buddhist monks in Chau Dien, Tam Ngai, Hoa An and Phong Phu pagodas struggled to return to Vinh Binh province. The abbot of O Mit pagoda is being detained for crimes against the Ngo Dinh Diem administration.

In July 1961, the 501th Company of Tra Vinh province with the Cang Ngang and guerrillas of Hiep My commune blocked the convoy of the preparing to pave the way for Ngo Dinh Diem's visit to oversee the construction of the strategic hamlet at the Bridge. Ngang. The ambush in Lo Mo destroyed 3 GMCs, collecting over 30 guns. At the end of July 1961, the guerrillas supported the rebels to break the grip at strategic hamlet. They forced them to open 8 strategic hamlet instead of the previous two, breaking strategic hamlet.

In the political struggle, in November 1961, a large number of Khmer and Vietnamese people in the communes of the two districts Tieu Can and Cau Ke district moved to protest against the act of setting up strategic hamlet. In these two districts, people in the two districts fired on the protesters, causing some people to die and injured, and the people continued to drag up the town to force the Vinh Binh provincial authorities to pay compensation, settle the claims and return them. ice. The rally forced the government of Vinh Binh to pay compensation and pledged to consider plans to establish strategic hamlets in these communes.

In Soc Trang - Bac Lieu: In the movement against strategic hamlet in Soc Trang, a large number of Khmer compatriots supported by Armed Forces and Armed Forces have attacked strategic hamlet. An strategic hamlet with 90% of the population is Khmer, strategic hamlets along the riverside of Phu Huu Commune, Long District. Extra; Strategic hamlet on Highway 4 of Ho Dac Kien commune, Chau Thanh district (now My Tu district); Strategic hamlets on Highway 16, strategic hamlets in Nga Nam, strategic hamlets from Nang Ren bridge, Cau Trau bridge, to the road along Highway 4, strategic Ham Tan church in Thanh Tri district. In the district of My Xuyen, we broke the strategic hamlet in which most of the hamlets of the Khmer compatriots such as Soc Soai, Sola, Ta Mamt, Bung Chum, Tac Giong, Sai Ca ... This is where the east The Khmer people have been living long ago, so the anti-terrorist movement is very fierce, there are strategic hamlet that are destroyed and then rebuilt, we break down many times to complete disintegration.

In the movement of political struggle, militia against strategic strategically located Soc Trang and Bac Lieu, the movement took place in July 1962 with over 3,000 sisters of Kinh and Khmer ethnic groups. Long Phu, Chau Thanh, My Xuyen and the people of Soc Trang town have been fighting politics face-to-face with the Ba Xuyen provincial government, with demands for combating capture, deepening and combating people in strategic hamlets. Sweep, shatter, kill people ...

It can be seen that the movement against strategic hamlet in Tra Vinh and Soc Trang was relatively strong, making positive changes in the movement against strategic hamlet in the South West region. In the next phase, the experiences of the movement against strategic hamlet in Tra Vinh, Soc Trang helped the Party to regulate the way of fighting and promptly directed the movement against strategic hamlet, making an important contribution to the victory of the strategic hamlet. This movement in 1963. In Can Tho - Hau Giang: At the beginning of 1962, the Coalition organized several O Môn operations to establish and strengthen the booster system to support the protection of strategic hamlets under construction. In response, on February 18th, 1962, the 20th Company ambushed the squadron of security forces in search of the Kinh Up, Truong Long Commune (O Mon), destroying many enemy forces. On March 25, 1962, the 20d Company merged with the C31 Company and reinforced the Central Command (C.112) to launch a helicopter at Chet Thuong Commune, Truong Long Commune, Injured 150, shot down 3 HU1B aircraft, this is the first "helicopter" battle with the number of many aircraft and around the area there are many rumors such as the new station.

However, with the overwhelming force, quickly took control of the battlefield, and heavy forces were forced to retreat in order to secure their strength. In Cantho, after the attacks on the strategic hamlet in 1962, the revolutionary forces were severely counter-attacked, damaged and forced to withdraw, rapidly reestablished the strategic hamlet, the people in the strategic hamlet mobilized to remodel it. The strategic hamlet was attacked, the movement against strategic hamlet in Can Tho - Hau Giang in this period is not really effective, there are many losses.

In Rach Gia - Ha Tien, the movement against strategic hamlet took place in early 1962. On February 8, 1962, Battalion U Minh 10 organization destroyed a mobile security company of the Kien

Giang subregion swept into the zone. On May 24, 1962, the U Minh battalion continued to defeat the enemy at An Toan (An Bien district), in the embankment battle. The first time a South Vietnamese soldier shot down a helicopter supports strategic hamlet operations.

The movement against strategic hamlet in Rach Gia has taken place very early, but the strategic hamlet has established a dense strategic hamlet system in the area near the towns of Rach Gia, Tan Hiep, Vinh Thuan, causing damage to the revolution, Party threatened and damaged. In Ha Tien, Go Quao people mainly political struggle for the enemy to stay on the old ground, on that basis gradually broke these strategic hamlet. In Phu Quoc, in the two years 1962 - 1963, the strategic hamlet established only 3 strategic hamlet out of the total of 9 strategic hamlet expected to be strategic hamlet Ham Ninh, strategic hamlet Cua Can and strategic hamlet Duong Dong. These strategic hamlet were continuously attacked by local authorities. , Forced the enemy to clump in the booths, but due to the area in the far away so the strategic hamlet in Phu Quoc is not as tight as other places, the loosening of the strategic hamlet here to facilitate the Phu Quoc people fast The uprising broke strategic hamlet on the island in early 1963.

In Vinh Long: The movement against strategic hamlet began in early 1962, when the Sai Gon military moved to set up strategic hamlet, some strategic hamlet were destroyed from the beginning or destroyed. Many times. Typically, in early 1962, the people of Ngai Tu Commune (Tam Binh District) mobilized the entire people movement to prevent the enemy's pile on the Soc Tro River, preventing the enemy from going to Ngai Tu Commune to build the strategic hamlet. By the end of 1962, despite the fact that strategic hamlet was building a large scale strategic hamlet system in Vinh Long province, the revolutionary movement of Vinh Long people was quite stable (Chau Thanh and Binh Minh districts only had difficulties in the revolutionary movement. The Sai Gon Government built a dense strategic hamlet system along the Hau river bank supported by the Republic of South Vietnam on Can Tho.... In the districts of Tam Binh, Tra On, the guerrilla army and the people continue to fight the strategic hamlet on all three sides: politics, military, military logistics, causing many damage, The strategy, creating the tension, create favorable conditions for us to build guerrilla forces, creating a solid foundation for the people of Vinh Long to overcome difficulties and challenges, to win successive stages.

In Ca Mau, the movement against strategic hamlet was later than in neighboring provinces. The United States and the National Assembly have focused on algae in the Ca Mau area by large operations in critical positions, so it was late, but the movement against strategic hamlet in Ca Mau was large and drastic. On August 15, 1962, the US - the campaign was launched to destroy Binh Tay revolutionary forces after the unsuccessful attack in February 1962 to widen the spread of people into strategic hamlets throughout the area. the provincial. They mobilized forces into this campaign, including the 21st Division, eight infantry battalions, two battalion battalions, 130 battleships, 40 helicopters. Bankruptcy, the Sai Gon Gorverment can not destroy the main force and can not set all strategic hamlet as they wish, the base area of the South West Committee is safe, the resistance forces not only not destroyed but grow up every day. Victory in the Binh Tay campaign was one of the most glorious victories of the troops in the southwestern region in 1962.

The first step in the movement against strategic hamlet in the South West, the role of the armed forces was very important, combined with the political and military struggle that led to the strategic hamlet has many difficulties. However, during this period, the people of the Southwest region were too focused on using outside forces to enter the strategic hamlet and destroy the booths without paying close attention from the inside. Combined with the outside, so that when our forces withdraw, forced the people to rebuild the strategic hamlet was attacked, disintegration, in the sweeps, also met much The most damaging is in Ca Mau and Can Tho, political and military warfare is not resonant but mainly armed struggle.

In 1962, the entire southwestern region, the number of strategic hamlet breaking was 182 strategic hamlet, of which 52 hamlets were built. Thus, despite certain limitations, the initial victories of the movement against strategic hamlet of troops and the southwestern region during the period from late 1961 to the end of 1962 formed the basis for the movement against strategic hamlet. strategic hamlet continued to grow in 1963.

2.3.3. Respond to the movement "emulation with Ap Bac, kill the enemy," promote the movement against strategic hamlets in the South West in 1963.

On January 2, 1963, Ap Bac victory in the South Central region made great resounding in the South and across the country. This is an important victory, a historical milestone marking the development of the ACL anti-war movement on the southern battlefield, as a result of good use of the three battleships, opening a new era in the way The South Vietnamese advance completely defeated the "Special War" strategy along with the American strategic hamlet and the National League. The First Secretary of the Party Central Committee Le Duan commented: "Since Ap Bac, the US can not win."

The southwestern committee identified the southern battlefield of Ca Mau as a key battleground in action against the planned pacification, pacification and strategic hijacking in the southwest. In pursuit of the policy assigned by the Party Committee, Ca Mau Provincial Party Committee directed the movement against strategic hamlet Tan Thanh model. Along with the anti-breaking strategic hamlet model of Tan Thanh, in March 1963, the South West Committee and Ca Mau Provincial Party Committee decided to deploy the 306 Battalion, U Minh 1 Battalion Nam Can District combined with guerrilla forces in communes along with new weapons such as B40, B41, DKZ rifles ... determined Dismissed the US sweeps with the operation called "Wave of Love" attacking other areas of Ca Mau where the focus was Nam Cam district. Recognizing the plot of the Sai Gon Government on Ca Mau battlefield, the Western Committee, Command 9, Ca Mau Party Committee has focused on destroying the destroyers of Dam Doi and Cai Nuoc. After our attack, the section of Dam Doi and Water was wiped out and failed at Dam Doi and Cai Nuoc, the corridor opened the attack on Loc Ninh commune by air, but the ambush destroyed the section. This large amphibious group, forced to flee to Soc Trang. At the end of the Loc Ninh campaign, we off the battlefield of more than 600 soldiers, including 22 US advisors, shot down 6 helicopters ... Loc Ninh victory is one of the most glorious victories of Ca Mau troops in the war. Struggle against strategic hamlet strategy, this is seen as a "victory Ap Bac" on the battlefield of the Southwest.

After two battles destroying the two zones of Cai Nuoc, Dam Doi and victory in Loc Ninh, military forces of the 9th Military Region combined with Ca Mau Province concentrated a large force including U Minh Battalion Group 306, the heavy artillery battalion and the local army troops, guerrilla forces to attack Cha La base station - Price Horse. The victory was one of the pinnacles of the American artillery defeat tactics - and the Saigon regime during the Vietnam War. Victory on the battlefield directly created forces and forces for Ca Mau troops and people to upriver strategic hamlet, especially strategic hamlet along the Seven Rivers such as Cha La strategic hamlet, strategic hamlet Horses, strategic hamlet Ai, people in The strategic hamlet took advantage of the destroyed zone, the destroyed booth stood up to break the barbed wire fence, dismantle the house in the strategic hamlet to return to the old place...

At the end of 1963, the Ca Mau Provincial Party Committee's summary report of 1963 stated that in 1963, the armed forces in the province organized anti-sweeps in large and small 1,449 battles (including siege and ambush. Strategically hamleted over 900 battles, ambushed in strategic hamlets of 246 battles) ... struck strategic hamlets in 29 places, breaking five strategic hamlets. On form: 35,795m of strategic hamlet leveling, 217,864m of barbed wire, release of 2,678 families, bringing 12,463 people back to their former places; Totally liberated 12 communes out of 43 communes in the whole province ", Ca Mau province in 1961-1962 with 405 strategic hamlets in 1961-1962 at the end of 1963, less than 40 hamlets, ending number 1964 The remaining strategic hamlet is 14; Compared to other provinces in the South West, it is 20 hamlets. The military triumphs and victory of the anti-destructive anti-destructive movement in Ca Mau province strongly impacted the movement against strategic hamlet in the remaining areas in the South West.

In Soc Trang - Bac Lieu: In 1963, responding to the call for "Ap Bac competition, kill the enemy attack" and under the impact of military success on Ca Mau battlefield, The full moon of the strategic hamlet was launched from August 1963 to October 1963. In most strategic hamlet there was a cadre of adherents so the movement against strategic hamlet incorporated a combination of armed assaults from the outside. With insurgency struggles from within the strategic hamlet. In summary, in Soc Trang and Bac Lieu province, we broke points 13, broke 51, destroyed 68 strategic hamlets and 6 areas of enemy population, bringing 48,547 people back to their former homeland.

In Vinh Long: In February 1963, Vinh Long Provincial Party Committee identified the key strategic hamlets in Tam Binh and V districts (Chau Thanh). By October 1963, the army and the Chau Thanh people broke the strategic hamlets of the border area of the Vinh Long Party Committee in Chau Thanh as strategic hamlet Cu Cuong, the strategic hamlet Cai Truong ... defeated the raids of the Sai Gon Government, Liberation zone. After nearly one year (between 1962 and 10-1963) fierce struggles, the revolutionary forces blocked the strategic hamlet's extended momentum, forcing them to turn to reinforce and defend the hamlets we were fighting against. Nearly every day there are rumors of the enemy being removed, strategic hamlets destroyed, demolition, mass participation is increasing, combining insurgents inside with outside forces hit ...

We continue to use the armed forces to focus on the brain of the enemy as the town of Vinh Long, at the same time, the special forces and engineers constantly hit traffic, step by step threatening the entire strategic hamlet system remaining in the area of Vinh Long.

In Tra Vinh area: In 1963, Tra Vinh province had more than 50,000 insurgents, Tra Vinh troops and people killed and wounded 123 fire brigades, destroyed and destroyed 177 strategic hamlets, Two-thirds of the country's land area is about 300,000. Members of My Long and Huyen Hoi Communes have been recognized by Commune People's Committees as leading communes of the guerrilla warfare movement and the movement against strategic hamlet in the southwest. The movement to break the strategic hamlet into battle hamlets took place excitingly, each commune in Tra Vinh, especially in the two key areas of Duyen Hai and Cau Ngang are fighting hamlets like My Long commune, Long Hoa commune (Duyen Hai)...

In Rach Gia, at the beginning of April 1963, the U Minh 10 battalion and the 306th Battalion (the main unit of the 9th Military Region) and the army of Go Quao District attacked and broke through dozens of strategic hamlets in the communes. Vinh Tuy, Vinh Phuoc, Thuy Lieu and Vinh Hoa Hung. On October 20, 1963, U Minh battalion 10 with Gao Quao district soldiers, Giong Rieng attacked the Great Torment (Ngoc Chuc commune), killed security company in Kien Binh area. They are in Thanh Hung, Go Quao, Giong Rieng communes. In the end of the attack and strategic uprising in 1963, Rach Gia - Kien Giang people organized 230 strategic trenches, broke 98 strategic hamlets and 6 strategic hamlets, At the end of 15 hamlets, breaking 48 hamlets and 2 strategic hamlets, destroying 35 hamlets and 4 strategic hamlets, in a report in November 1963 to the Revolutionary Military Council, The strategic hamlet's value is very poor in Kien Giang, with only 37 out of 197 strategic hamlets, but local authorities did not dare to report the situation in the past.

For the area of Can Tho - Hau Giang, armed revolutionary forces also held 1,968 magnitude battalions of platoons and platoons in 1963. On February 23, 1963, O Mon District troops destroyed and Leveling Cai Cang Station, breaking down the strategic hamlet Rach Tra and Cai Cang. On 2-3-1963, the main troops in Can Tho attack Luong Tam (Long My district) to support the people breaking strategic hamlet Luong Tam. After November 1, 1963, the time of Ngo Dinh Diem's coup was overwhelmed by the coup, the situation in Can Tho province was fluctuating, the Saigon soldiers in the panic bombardment, the Can Tho army captured and the 30 Liberating dozens of hamlets in four districts of Chau Thanh, Phung Hiep, Ke Sach, Long My, killing many evil messages. According to a review, in 1963, troops and people in the southwestern region mobilized 15.6 million people in political struggles in combination with the military strike of the armed forces. As a result, the entire southwestern region has eliminated 9,000 puppet troops from the battlefield, destroying 806 strategic hamlets (including the destruction of 530 hamlets) out of 1,562 hamlets, releasing 1.9 million people. This great victory of Zone 9 of the South West has contributed significantly to the common victory of the South Vietnamese people in the struggle against strategic bombardment, contributing to the Southern revolution lessons learned experience. Importance in defeating the new tactics of the enemy.

CHAPTER 3

THE MOVEMENT AGAINST STRATEGIC HAMLET IN THE SOUTHWEST OF VIET NAM (1964 - 1965)

3.1 The United States and the Saigon government formally sweeps from a strategic hamlet into a "new life hamlet"

3.1.1 Overview of "new life hamlets"

Just over 10 days after the coup, on November 16, 1963, the Revolutionary Military Council led by Duong Van Minh held a strategic hamlet meeting. The Revolutionary Military Council has drawn two reasons for the failure of the "strategic hamlet policy": "One is the shortcomings of hurting and coercing the people into resentment. Second, people have to contribute much to the strategic hamlet construction program, so dissatisfied people do not support it. To outline a new direction for the strategic hamlet program, Prime Minister Nguyen Ngoc Tho instructed generals to visit and inspect the situation in the southwestern province. After the inspection and examination, the Revolutionary Military Council found: "The name of the strategic hamlet has been completed and is no longer suitable for the progressive society." On the American side, on 22 November 1963, President J. F. Kennedy was assassinated, US Vice President replaced L. Johnson still asserted will continue to act in support of US policy in South Vietnam. On March 9, 1964, President of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Khanh signed the Decree 103-SL / CT dissolving the "Inter-ministerial Committee for Strategic Hamlet" from the central level to the war zones. Under the US support, the system "strategic hamlets" was changed to the "new life hamlet". The program to build a new village called "Rural Livelihood Improvement Program" was started from 1-4-4, which is expected to be divided into two phases: Level 1: From April 1-4-4 to December 1965, with the main content is the raid, raiding and combining with the population to build new hamlets in key areas. Step 2, from 1966, with the content of advancing the bases, destroying the main units of the liberation army, destroying our military bases. So basically, the Johnson - McNamara plan is just a Stanley - Taylor plan to "improve" in a "more critical" situation.

3.1.2. The implementation of the "new life hamlets" policy in the South West

Implementing the new hamlet policy in the South West, the National Coalition policy is to divide the provinces in the region into priority areas to establish new hamlets and proceed to stabilize as follows: Priority 1: Vinh Long Priority 2: Phong Dinh, priority 3: Vinh Binh, Kien Giang, Chuong Thien, Ba Xuyen, An Xuyen. In 1964, Vinh Long and Phong Dinh (Can Tho) were the top priorities in pacemaking, the establishment of strategic hamlet.

3.2. The people of the Southwest continued to promote the movement against the strategic hamlet, helping to defeat the "Special War" strategy from 1964 to 1965.

3.2.1. The Party's policy on combating strategic hamlets (1964 - 1965)

In January 1964, the Southern Department of Vietnam reviewed the direction and determination of major directions and tasks of 1964. The Central Office of the South defended two major

tasks in 1964: the entire Party, the entire people and the whole army. Strive to make a complete failure to conspire to build strategic hamlets of the enemy, to destroy all strategic hamlets, to ensure the allocation of material resources for the revolution, to master the majority of rural and mountainous areas. Going to annihilate the enemy and dissolving the majority of puppet troops, pseudo-powers, creating conditions that would disrupt military forces and support American aggression. On March 17, 1964, the Southwest Committee of the South West issued a resolution on anti-trench protection strategy of the whole population of the whole "stressed:" Continue to build and develop armed forces, especially Determined to completely defeat the conspiracy of gathering strategic hamlets of the enemy, destroying all strategic hamlets, proceeding to master most of the rural areas, destroying "The immediate issue is the core training and staff in the strategic hamlet, which will help you know how to operate in the new strategic hamlet ...".

3.2.2. The climax against strategic hamlets in the South West in 1964

Promoting important achievements in the 1961-1963 strategic anti-tide movement, in early April 1964, the South West Committee and Military Region 9 Command decided to open the 1964 dry-season strike. The southwestern commissariat decided to launch a raid on the Vinh Thuan (also known as Kien Long district) in Rach Gia near the border between Ca Mau and Rach Gia. In response to our active plan, the Saigon army sent troops from the District of Ca Mau (Ca Mau) to the hospital, and at the same time redeemed the troops by air from Can Tho to Vinh Thuan to release Vinh Thuan. The fighting in Vinh Thuan took place very drastically, contributing significantly to the success of the anti-breaking strategic hamlet in 1964. According to a review, in 1964, Rach Gia province had: "301 strategic hamlet breakouts, mobilizing more than 4,000 people to join the movement, liberating over 2,300 people back to the old land. The movement to build a fighting hamlet brings many results. In 1964, we have strengthened and built 172 hamlets in the battlefields. The localities in which the movement to build strong fighting hamlets were built are An Bien, Vinh Thuan, Go Quao, Hoa Hung, Hoa Thuan and Binh An. " Thus, Rach Gia's successes had a great impact on the movement against strategic hamlet in the South West in 1964.

In Can Tho the movement against strategic hamlet of the Southwest Committee, the movement against strategic hamlet in 1964 was very fierce and won many successes. On the night of February 4, 1964, a company of 20 local troops combined with the 96th (Military Zone 9) battalion attacked Thoi Lai and 9am the following morning to intercept the station at the station. The result of the battle of the destroyer station at Thoi Lai - Kinh Strike destroyed one security company, one militia group in Thoi Dong commune, one militia unit in Co Do district, Tai Lai was demolished, people in strategic hamlet in Thoi Lai rose up with local troops to break the strategic hamlet.

On March 24, 1964, the 23rd Company and the guerrillas of Phung Hiep District broke the battle of ACG Cheddar in Thanh Hoa commune (Phung Hiep district). 19, killing two military vehicles, opened the resistance to the need to defend the battlefield in Can Tho. On April 16, 1964, the armed forces of Long My district combined guerrillas to set up the Bay of Chèo, killing one enemy company,

collecting all their weapons and supporting the people's uprising to break the strategic hamlet of Chèo Bay. In the fight against strategic hamlet in Can Tho Catholic area, the area was very difficult, so the Provincial Party Committee and the Provincial Party decided to put the newly established Tay Do Battalion in Trung An Commune (Thot Not) to operate. Armed propaganda, construction and the movement against strategic hamlet in Thot Not district development go up. In the political struggle, in Can Tho town, the movement of the people's struggle was intensified such as the struggle for people's life, democracy, dissolving the strategic hamlet of the people in the vicinity of Hội Linh village, Cau Cui , Mitee Hamlet, resistance movement of the people in the area of Highway 19, Highway 20, Tieu area ... Typical, on August 24, 1964, the people of Can Tho town down the road fighting against gathering people On the the movement against strategic hamlet "Charter of the Vung Tau" by Nguyen Khanh, thousands of people with banner slogans shouted "Down with imperial American invasion" "Downgraded Vung Tau Charter" ... Besides Can Tho, Soc Trang and Bac Lieu, one of the two areas against the focus of the South West Committee in 1964 was no less exciting and drastic. At the end of January 1964, the 1st Regiment and the provincial armed forces detonated five posts, then proceeded to destroy, swarmed 20 submarines in the zone and assisted the secret base in launching the insurgency. Some the strategic hamlet in the outskirts of the district and some communes in Vinh Chau District. The Phu Loi Battalion of Soc Trang deep into the Khmer areas in Vinh Chau, attacked the strategic hamlet in Lai Hoa, Vinh Tan, Vinh Hiep, blocking the enemy convoys in Bac Lieu. Chau, destroying 6 vehicles forced them to flee back to Bac Lieu.

On August 2, 1964, Phu Loi battalion (Soc Trang) destroyed a security company, created conditions for people to break the strategic hamlet Traded Set and build battle hamlets. During the battle on 16-10-1964, the Saigon army poured helicopter troops to the strategic hamlet Gion Bong (Chau Thoi commune - Vinh Chau district - Soc Trang province) surrounding the Phu Loi battalion. Phu Loi battalion and Vinh Chau soldiers destroyed two Saigon Army regiments, mobilized people to drag the town to protest, mobilize the soldier's wife to pull the wounded to the hospital, This is shocking, the communist guerrillas support the insurgent people eradicate the strategic hamlet Giong Buom. GiongBuom victory is a typical victory demonstrating the strength of the "three shots" of the troops and Soc Trang in 1964. According to a report by the Soc Trang provincial Party Committee, "By the end of 1964, Soc Trang had broken down 93 strategic hamlet, destroyed 91 strategic hamlet, liberated 12 communes with 136,000 people." In Bac Lieu according to statistics "by the end of 1964, The army and the people of Bac Lieu broke most strategic hamlet, of which 25 strategic hamlet were completely destroyed. "

In addition to the great victories in the movement against strategic hamlet in Ca Mau, Rach Gia, Can Tho - Hau Giang, Soc Trang and Bac Lieu provinces, Attacking the enemy, destroying the post, breaking the strategic hamlet, fighting the army, coordinating and promoting the political struggle, soldiers have achieved many positive results, specifically:

Tra Vinh, in 1964, 510 out of 734 strategic hamlet were destroyed in Tra Vinh, of which ACN broke off 289 points, broke down 186 hamlets and released 498,550 people. In Vinh Long province, early

April 1964, Vinh Long troops broke Phuoc Nguon B (Phuoc Hau Commune - Chau Thanh A), which is a model that the Saigon government has called "strategic hamlets Model "in the South West because this is the first ACL built in the South West since 1961, is equipped with fighting equipment with a company security guard, human security; The armed forces of Vinh Long province combined with Chau Thanh guerrillas attacked Phuoc Ngon B, forcing the enemy to surrender, the strategic hamlet Phuoc Ngau B was wiped out after 3 years of existence. Thus, with the movement against strategic hamlet in Vinh Long - Tra Vinh, at the end of 1964, we owned a large area in Tra Vinh - Vinh Long province, from Tra Vinh coast to Tien Giang river, Hau Giang, expanding the corridor connecting Tien Giang and Hau Giang, linking the South and South West.

Thus, with continuous strikes in 1964, the people of the southwestern region launched a strong anti-demolition movement in the southwestern region, which followed successes in the movement against strategic hamlet in 1963, the people of the Southwest have made great strides in the political struggle and armed struggle combining the three forces in the Southwest battlefield. The air and ground operations of the Saigon military were defeated.

Important military victories such as victory of Vinh Thuan, Luc Phi, Giong Buom ... along with important victories in December 1964 in the South East won the victory of Binh Gia, Dong Xoai and victory. An Lao (Binh Dinh) contributed to the overall victory of the South Vietnamese troops in 1964, defeating the "Special War" strategy. According to the South West Committee, "These successes have broken down each of the large strategic hamlets in the South West, expanding the uninterrupted emancipated area from Can Tho to Rach Gia - Ca Mau. Over 100 communes, over 1,000 hamlets and more than 1,000,000 people. By the end of 1964, the army of the south western region had basically destroyed the strategic hamlet of the enemy". And in the South: "In South Vietnam in 1964, our military forces promoted military and political struggles in all three strategic areas, inflicting massive damage to the Wei troops, breaking 3,695 troops. Strategic hamlets (398 hamlets destroyed, 2,606 destroyed, 655 destroyed), liberated areas, two thirds of the land of the whole region with 10 million people. Strategy of the enemy. So by the end of 1964 all the enemy's efforts in the war were fundamentally bankrupt.

3.2.3. Continue to push against the strategic hamlet, contributing to the victory of the "Special War" strategy of US troops in 1965

In the first half of 1965, the movement against strategic hamlet of the South West soldiers aimed to attack the remaining strategic hamlet in the area, the United States was concentrating on the plan to deploy troops directly involved. The war in the South and the South West in particular, the support for the strategic planning village (Hamlet) is not as strong as before.

In the beginning of the anti-communist movement in 1965 in the southwestern region of Can Tho - Hau Giang, on January 5, 1965, the guerrillas of Vinh Tuong Commune in cooperation with the armed forces of Long My district The convoy of troops in the Vinh Tuong junction, broke the sweeping operation of the security company from Vi Thanh through Long My. Along with Can Tho, the movement

against strategic hamlet in Soc Trang - Bac Lieu and the contiguous area of Ca Mau in the first months of 1965 also took place drastically, beginning with the victory of Tam Soc. Ending the battle at Tam Cam, we broke point 3 the strategic hamlet in the strategic hamlet of Ta Ong - Tam Soc, disbanded more than 100 youths fighting and clamping machinery, burning four military vehicles (12 vehicles Steel), collecting over 100 guns and ammunition. From 15 to 17 January 1965, guerrillas of Tan Long Commune - Vinh Loi District (Bac Lieu) destroyed two towers, breaking the strategic hamlet Tan Long. The armed forces of Bac Lieu attacked two strategic hamlet, breaking the barricades of the two strategic hamlet, seizing nine guards, the strategic hamlet of the West Bank and Gibbons broke down.

In the political struggle, on January 28, 1965, in Soc Trang town, more than 5,000 people from the district to drag on the town were fighting to denounce the crimes of the US - Do not use bombs bombarded indiscriminately in the village. . June 6, 1965 in Soc Trang town continues to break out the struggle of teachers, students in public and private schools to improve the education, fight against candidates to arrest soldiers, open more Schools for poor students and for the US to withdraw, abolishing the establishment of " new born hamlet".In Ca Mau, in the first half of 1965, the movement against strategic hamlet in this place was not exciting than before. In January 1965, Battalion U Minh 2 attacked Bo Bao station, forcing the National Stadium to withdraw, creating conditions for people in the strategic hamlet Insurgency to break up the strategic hamlet. After the victory at Bao Cha, U Minh 2 battalion continued to advance into Tran Van Thoi district, killing a security company at Binh Khanh Dong Reunification Area, encircling Rach Rang, The remaining the strategic hamlet's system in Tran Van Thoi district was destroyed, allowing the people and guerrillas to travel freely in the strategic hamlet.

In the movement against strategic hamlet in the South West region in the first half of 1964, Rach Gia was the most vibrant and fierce. From the end of December 1964, Regiment 2 (the main force of Military Zone 9) and the armed forces of Rach Gia Province surrounded the Hie Le area. On January 5, 1965, the 4th Corps from the 4th tactical zone attacked two battalions attacking the Hiếu Lê area to release the Hiếu Lê area. On January 8, 1965, the armed forces pursued the troops landing and attacked drastically in the Hie Le District, liberating completely Hieu Le District (March 20, 1965, the CQSG issued a decision to abolish Hieu Lei District, then reestablished in April 1971) and destroyed all ACLs at Hieu Le. In Announcement No. 10 / TV.65, the Southwest Committee of the Southwest announced that "the West completely liberated a district". In Tra Vinh, troops and people in Tra Vinh continued to advance the enemy on almost all fronts in which continued the movement against strategic hamlet in the province, from the first half of 1965, troops and people in Tra Vinh Most of the strategic hamlet in Cang Long, Cau Ngang and Duyen Hai districts built battle hamlets and built many battle hamlets. Typical in Cang Long we have completely liberated the communes of Tan An, Huyen Hoi, An Truong, Nhi Long, Duc My and liberate most of the three communes of Tam Ngai, An Phu Tan, Thong Hoa, Duyen Hai district The two communes are Hiep Thanh and Long Hoa. In the movement against strategic hamlet, the armed forces of Tra Vinh Province gradually grew, and by mid-1965 the Tra Vinh battalion was formed (also known as the 501 battalion).

Thus, in the two years of 1964 and 1965, the people of the Southwest had properly carried out the Party's policies in combating strategic bombardment, counteracting the new US escalation and the "Maintaining the initiative to work together with the national battlefields to defeat the strategy of" Special War ", to open up large liberation zones, according to the South West Committee: "From each province there are 180 to 200 hamlets strategically, after 1965, no more than 20 strategic hamlets in each province." The victory of the troops in the southwestern region in the movement against strategic hamlet in 1964 - 1965 along with other victories throughout the Southern battlefield, especially the victory of Binh Gia in the South East in January 1965 and the summer offensive of 1965 culminating with the victories of Ba Gia, Dong Xoai An An had failed to complete the Johnson-McNamara plan, failing the rural pacification program with the backbone of the strategic hamlet, the First Secretary Le Duan commented: "Since Ap Bac, the United States can not beat us, until the Battle of Binh Gia, the US will lose to us in a special war." In the Southwest, in early July 1965, US troops and allies to Can Tho set up a command post, consolidating and expanding Tra Noc airport, making Can Tho the hub for military operations in the region. The South West, the strategy of "special war" with the policy of "strategic hamlets" closed in the Southwest, from which the revolutionary movement in the South West to a new phase.

CHAPTER 4

SOME COMMENTS THE MOVEMENT AGAINST STRATEGIC HAMLET IN THE SOUTHWEST OF VIET NAM FROM 1961 TO 1965

4.1. Characteristics of the movement

4.1.1. The movement took place drastically with various forms and measures of struggle, diverse and flexible, suitable to the areas of rivers and canals

Military victories in the rivers and canals have created the strength and force for the people of the southwest to break through the strategic hamlets built by the Saigon government, reflecting the flexibility and creativity of the troops. And the people of the southwestern region suited to the river. The richness, diversity and flexibility in the struggle against strategic hamlets in the Southwest is also reflected in each step of the movement from Sporadic rise to the climax.

During the guerrilla war, the Western troops also used a variety of "Western-style" fighting methods. These innovative, diverse and flexible ways contributed to the overall success of the anti-Vietnam movement throughout South Vietnam, contributing to the art of people's warfare of the Vietnamese People's Army, Reinforced for the indomitable tradition, the heroes of the army and the people of the Southwest. Alongside the military front, the flexibility and diversity of the movement is reflected in the political struggle and movement of soldiers.

Thus, a prominent feature of the movement against the strategic hamlets of the South West (1961-1965) was that there was a fierce battle with various forms and means of struggle. Suitable for waterways, canals in the South West.

4.1.2. The movement is the struggle against conspiracy, the trick against traditional cultural values in rural South West

In terms of form, for convenience of travel, villages in the South West often formed along canals or lanes, without bamboo beds around the village as in rural North Vietnam. Therefore, the cohesion of the community of Nam Bo village is more loosely than the villages in the North and Central Plains in Vietnam, so villages in the South West tend to "open" with the form In the social organization of the Khmer in the South West (mainly living in Tra Vinh and Soc Trang provinces), the social organization of the Vietnamese community is "Phum" (srok), including some families with blood relations and marital relations with each other.

This struggle is also a strong protest to protect the traditional cultural values of the population of the Southwest. The movement against strategic hamlets in the South West once again affirmed the very important cultural characteristics of the South of Vietnam in general and of the South West in particular, in which the Vietnamese and Khmer communities Have lived together to build the village, build a "water-based civilization" rich in identity.

4.1.3. The unity of fighting the Khmer-Vietnamese is an important factor for the success of the movement

The South West is a long-standing area of the Kinh-Hoa-Khmer ethnic group. However, as the anti-Western movement in the south is concentrated in rural areas, the role of the Chinese community is fuzzy because they concentrate mainly in the towns, so the movement in the Southwest is associated with the struggle of the two Khmer-Vietnamese, this is also a characteristic importance of the movement against strategic hamlets in the South West.

4.2. The role of the movement

4.2.1. Contribute to the US "Special War" strategic bankruptcy

The victories of the troops and the people of the Southwest in the anti-strategic hamlet movement (1961-1965) contributed to the defeat of the US military's "special war" strategy with the "backbones" is a strategic hamlet policy.

4.2.2. The victory of the movement was the basis for extending the liberation zone in the countryside, facilitating the reception of North Vietnam, and affirming the great role of the "three attackers" in the anti- Again hamlet strategy

The movement against strategic hamlets in the southwestern region from 1961 to 1965 played a very important role as a basis for expanding the liberation zone in the rural South West region, while also creating favorable conditions for the next. Receiving support from the North Vietnam, besides the victory of the movement also confirmed the great strength of the "three attackers" in the fight against strategic hamlets.

4.2.3. Strengthen the solidarity between the Vietnamese-Khmer ethnic group in the Southwest

Among the important victories of the movement against the strategic hamlets in the southwestern region from 1961 to 1965, especially the movement against strategic hamlets in Soc Trang, Vinh Long and Tra Vinh, were involved. Of the Khmer crowd on the battlefield with Vietnamese soldiers. The strategic anti-demolition movement in the South West has contributed to the strengthening of the Khmer-Vietnamese solidarity, which is also an important source of encouragement for the revolutionary movement in the South West region in the coming years.

4.3. Limitations of movement

The first limitation: when implementing the anti-hamlet strategic movement, a part of party members, revolutionary cadres in the Southwest is still subjective.

The second limitation: when fighting strategic hamlets, the armed forces of the Southwest region often favor the use of outside attacking military forces, lack of persistence, get up against the strategic hamlet.

The third limitation: The movement took place in the condition that the main armed forces were relatively thin and scattered, so the movement suffered many losses and the local armed forces of districts and communes were still confused in activities.

4.4. The lessons of the movement

4.4.1. Evaluate the conspiracy of the enemy as the basis for the development of guidelines, measures to fight properly, in accordance with specific conditions of the local

Through the struggle against strategic hamlets (1961 - 1965), the lesson was to fully grasp, accurately and deeply understand the nature of the US military's plot and tactics in the real world. It is planned to set up a strategic hamlet, anticipate the fluctuations of the situation, understand our advantages and disadvantages both in terms of force and force in specific historical moments, based on clinging. People, understanding the people as the basis for the proper planning and direction of revolution in accordance with local realities is very important.

4.4.2. Incorporating three "three attackers" creates synergy to win

The victory of the anti-war movement against the strategic hamlet of the South West is a combination of all three fighting in which the military struggle is a major attack on the movement, within the people's insurgency. Break the grip and fight the enemy soldiers to take advantage of the conflict, disintegrate strategic hamlets

4.4.3. Promote the role of the Khmer in the Southwest

The lesson of the anti-strategic movement against the strategic hamlet of 1961-1965 is a living proof of the revolutionary potential of the Khmer in the Southwest. Today, when the Southwest is changing day by day, Khmer people in Southern Vietnam is an important factor in the cause of industrialization and modernization in agriculture.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The SouthWest in Vietnam is one of the important strategic battles during the anti-American invasion, particularly during the United States and the Republic of Vietnam implementing the "Special War" strategy. Here, the United States and the Republic of Viet Nam carried out 63,384 sweeps, created and rebuilt five subdivisions, built 130 posts and 600 reinforcements, and created 1,581 hamlets / 3,051 hamlets (in anticipation). So on this battlefield they always deploy a large number of troops, units of good warfare, with modern military troops to carry out the war of aggression ... Southwest is also an important base. . It is the refuge of the highest leadership of the southwestern Party in the anti-American resistance war with the bases in U Minh. This is also the area where the guerrilla warfare movement has flourished and where the fierce battle for 21-year active warfare has taken place. Deploying the "Special War" strategy (1961 - 1965), the US - The Saigon government has raised the "strategic hamlet" to "national policy", a strategic strategy of warfare. "Special war" strategy. That is also the very pessimistic goal of the Staley-Taylor plan. The plot of the "strategic hamlet policy" is to separate the revolutionary forces from the population.

2. The wide plain of many canals, strategically located hamlets of large scale along the waterways are the main reason that the anti-demolition strategy has encountered difficulties such as large areas, The traffic, education and the revolutionary enlightenment of the Khmer ethnic minority in many places are limited, there are many Catholics, most of which are community Northern provinces have migrated to the South since 1954, so a part of it is not sympathetic to the revolutionary movement. A part of compatriots (mainly in Can Tho, Bac Lieu) follow the Hoa Hao religion, Caodaism and due to historic factors should also have a lack of sympathy with the revolution, so the anti- This is very complicated and difficult. In addition, the troops and people of the southwestern region undertook the war against the US, combating against strategic hijacking in the condition of poor agricultural economy, rudimentary weaponry, in contrast with the enemy. Many military forces equipped with modern equipment such as helicopters, armored vehicles, speedboats ... they organized many sweeping operations, devastation of houses, fields to build strategic hamlets, This was a great and difficult challenge in the period from 1961 to 1965. However, overcoming difficulties and challenges, the movement against strategic hamlets in the South West achieved many important achievements. By mid-1965, the people of the South West had gradually dissolved The system of strategic hamlets in the area, expanding the area of continuous liberation from Can Tho through Vinh Long, Tra Vinh to Rach Gia and Ca Mau with 66,162 large and small battles, out of fighting 148,904 enemy troops, 4 sub branches / 5 sub branches, destroyed 535 posts, disbanded 1,430 strategic hamlets (In 1965, South Vietnam broke 5,800 strategic hamlets), in which 791 hamlets were destroyed strategically. 1,349 hamlets, 4,808,510 meters of barbed wire fences, nearly 2,600 meters of fences made of trees, typical of Rach Gia has completely liberated a district is Hieu Le.

3. The movement against the strategic hamlet in the southwest revealed the enormous role of the leadership of the Vietnamese Labor Party, which played a very important direct leadership role for the Central Committee of the Party in the South. The party organization in the Southwest and the locality, the

insight of effective implementation, the synergy of the "three attacks" in which the military offensive is determined and decisive. At the same time, to create a springboard for the revolutionary armed forces to strongly hit the weaknesses and loopholes of the enemy, consuming and destroying US troops and Saigon troops in the localities in the Southwest. The movement against strategic hamlets in the South West not only plays an important role in attacking, but also contributes to limiting the destruction of raids in rural areas; Encouraging local people to increase production, participate in and serve guerrilla warfare, destroy strategic The anti-war strategy in the South West represents the creativity of the revolutionary line. The Labor Party of Vietnam in the Southwest Delta. In addition to military strikes against strategic hamlets, the movement against strategic hamlets in the South West has as many creative features as using bees, using spicy homemade smoke, evacuating Buddha statues, digging up rumors, the role of The "long hair army" has really enriched the art of people's war in Vietnam. From the practical anti-1961-1965 anti-war movement in the South West can draw characteristics , As well as some practical roles and lessons.

4. In the South West, due to the terrain of many rivers, canals and waterways are complex, the strategic anti-destruction activities are combining various forms of fighting such as destroying small fleet on the river, Combined with the defeat of new tactics such as "transport helicopters", "military transport steel trucks", in addition, the multi-level battles in the encirclement of large suburbs continued. Has shown that the degree of resistance against strategic hamlets in the Southwest has a large scale. Especially in the South West, due to historical conditions, Khmer people are a very important part of the revolutionary movement here, especially in the period from 1961 to 1965, the Khmer South has closed Contributing greatly to the anti-demolition movement strategically especially in the provinces of Vinh Long, Soc Trang and Tra Vinh. It can be said that the anti-ACL movement played an important role in helping defeat the strategy of "special war" with the "strategic" strategy hamlet, confirming the great role of "three attacks" "And contribute significantly to strengthen the solidarity among the peoples in the Southwest. Entering the country in the new era, industrialization and modernization of the country, lessons learned in the movement despite the space is no longer suitable with the current situation and task but The basic spirit of these lessons is still meaningful. With all the strengths of a strategic location, with valuable lessons learned from the history of unyielding struggle. The army and people in the Southwest decided to maintain and promote their precious revolutionary traditions, building the homeland of the Southwest more and more beautiful, contributing together with the country to build a richer Vietnam. Beautiful, progressive and civilized.

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