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IV. "VILLAGE L", MY THO PROVINCE,  
IN THE 1969 AUTUMN CAMPAIGN

[Liberation Press Agency (clandestine) in English to East Europe  
and the Far East, 1505 GMT, 26 July 1970]:

Village L. is beside highway 4 in My Tho province. In early August 1969 the village suddenly bustled with urgent preparations for an uprising. Together with the guerrillas, all the villagers eagerly took part in fortifying the village to tighten the encirclement of Post V. Soon the main route leading to Post V. was cut by the villagers. It took two battalions of the Saigon Army five weeks to "clear" the accesses to the route and still it remained in an ever tighter noose of the guerrillas. Finally both battalions had to pull back to the highway. Thus Post V. was completely isolated on the bank of Tra Tan river.

Everyday, over the loudspeaker, the defenders of Post V. could hear distinctly the voice of the information cadres of Village L. explaining the lenient policy of the National Liberation Front.

The siege on Post V. became close still with the successful attack of the Liberation Army against a company of "Civil Guard" of the puppets at Chanh Bang Dam along highway 4. The enemy garrison in the post became more panic-stricken. Three days later, under cover of darkness they deserted the post and fled to Ea Dua Street. The villagers immediately stormed into the post and razed to the ground all the fortifications. This success was soon known to the other villages on highway 4 and even in the towns of Cai Lay and Cai Be.

On the night of December 3 the area was drowned in a thunder of drum and tocsin beats.

Meetings gathering from 200 to 300 persons were held at many places. The face of everyone shone with the determination to rise up and liberate their hamlets and villages from the U.S.-puppets' grips. In five "strategic hamlets" the insurgent population quickly captured nearly 20 informers and spies of the enemy. Members of the "Civilian Defence" Corps gave themselves up in big numbers, confessed their crimes and asked for mercy. Many families of puppet soldiers were among the throngs of demonstrators going to the enemy posts or administrative officers to denounce the U.S.-puppet crimes. Other succeeded in persuading their relatives in the puppet army to come back and avow their past misdeeds before the village people's revolutionary committee. Thus, more than 200 men of the "Civilian Defense" Corps returned to their village to join in the fight against the aggressors and traitors.

By 4 P.M. the next day, the combat trenches dug by the villagers had reached the second barbed wire fence around Post V.

A spy who ventured into the area was quickly punished. Then, the guerrillas blasted down Ong Poi Bridge and fought off a "Civil Guard" company sent from Ea Dua Street to the rescue of the post.

Thus, the enemy supply route was cut off. Evacuation of their dead and wounded by land was also interdicted.

An atmosphere of insurrection prevailed in Village L. The revolutionary flag fluttered high in many places, including the Ea Dua Streets.

Members of the "pacification" team entrenched in the post together with the puppet troops continually radioed for help but none of the 7th Division of the puppet army dared show up. On the night of November 17, the villages along highway 4 mounted a concerted assault on the enemy posts. The "self-defense" forces in Cai Lay district town attacked nine enemy positions at a time. Meanwhile the guerrillas and population of Village L. quickly overcame the resistance of the troops in Cau Van post. The next morning, the Liberation Army intercepted and put out of action more than 40 "civil guards" near Ba Dua Street. In the afternoon, the population went out in great numbers to bar the way to a battalion of the 7th Division going to the rescue of the battered troops. At 5 P.M. after the sharpshooters of the guerrillas had flushed them out into an open field, the Liberation Army went into action, wiping out this battalion in its entirety. Before the battle ended, the population rushed out and joined the liberation fighters and the army to track down and annihilate the last puppet troops who tried a last-ditch resistance from their fortifications.

People and Army celebrated together their victory right on the battleground and together collected the war trophies. Dozens of brand-new automatic rifles were handed over to the local guerrillas with a view to defending the village.

Not until November 19 did the commander of the 7th Division dare send in their men to evacuate the dead and wounded. They were met by hostile crowds numbering in the thousands including many families of puppet soldiers lining highway 4. The crowds broke into the headquarters of the 11th Regiment, the Hung Vuong Military Training Center, the field hospital and the residence of the puppet governor of My Tho province, wailing and lamenting while turning over the body of each soldier in search for their relatives. The crowds stayed for many days in My Tho town and Cai Lay township to demand cessation of artillery shellings and chemical sprays and compensations for the losses inflicted by air and artillery strikes.

In a seven-day period from November 19 to 26, 1969, in the 11th Regiment of the 7th Division of the puppet army alone, 532 troops deserted their camps and at the Hung Vuong Military Training Center, 350 deserters were recorded.

Thus, in the late months of 1969, the population of Village L. reaped two bumper harvests at a time: A good rice crop and a glorious military political victory that laid a firm basis to advance toward complete liberation of their village.