

BIOGRAPHIC

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF HA THI QUE

[Article: "Biographical Sketch of Ha Thi Que, President of Vietnam Women's Federation"; Hanoi, Phu Nu Vietnam, Vietnamese, No 361, 12 March 1974, p 6]

Ha Thi Que was born in 1921 to a peasant family in Quynh Luu Township, Nho Quan District, Ninh Binh Province. Raised in a revolutionary family in an area where the patriotic movement was established early -- since the Van Than era -- and influenced deeply by her grandfather, father, and uncles, she participated in activities at a very early age. As a youngster, she helped in liaison activities, passing information, and guiding revolutionary cadres in Quynh Luu Township and many other townships.

At the age of 17, she joined the Anti-Imperialist Women's Association and immediately afterwards became the secretary of the township Women's Association.

In 1940, Ha Thi Que participated in the Women's Leadership Committee of Nho Quan District and achieved merit in expanding women's organizations in many townships.

At the beginning of 1941, she joined the Indochina Communist Party and was appointed to the Ninh Binh Provincial Cadre Affairs Committee.

In 1941 and 1942, the revolutionary movement throughout the entire country was severely terrorized. This was also the darkest period of the Thai Binh provincial movement. Mass organizations were breaking up. Secret agents were busily searching for cadres. Ha Thi Que was sent to Thai Binh by the regional committee to participate in provincial cadre affairs committees. She worked closely with patriotic peasant families, reignited the movement, and reassembled the revolutionary mass organizations of the party.

In mid-1943, she was sent to Bac Giang to prepare combat forces and help lead the seizure of power in local areas. Acting upon the directive of the Party Central Committee, Ha Thi Que organized combat units on the squad and platoon level which operated throughout the Yen The and Viet Yen areas. She directly commanded the seize of power in Yen The District and the attack on Bo Ha post, organized attacks on groups of Japanese soldiers and soldiers collecting paddy, and attacked the soldiers stationed at the plantation owned by one of the Japanese lackeys.

After the Japanese-French coup d'etat, in Yen The and Viet Yen, gangs of robbers and bandits began murdering and stealing, and the enemy administration was virtually paralyzed. Along with other comrades, Ha Thi Que participated directly in building armed forces to establish power in the township and district organizations within the province, to suppress and eliminate spies and bandits, and to restore order and security for the people. The entire area of Yen The, Viet Yen, and Bac Giang remembers her name and loves this determined and talented commander.

She was appointed to attend the National Congress at Tan Trao. After political power in the province was established, she participated in the revolutionary people's committee and was responsible for political affairs in the Bac Giang Provincial Liberation Army.

When the resistance throughout the country erupted, she was appointed as secretary of the National Salvation Women's Association in Zone 10 and was a member of the Zone 10 Party Organization Executive Committee. The 1948 All-North Vietnam Women's Conference appointed her as a member of the Bac Bo Women's Executive Committee, of which Hoang Ngan was the secretary.

In early 1950, Ha Thi Que was appointed chairman of the committee to organize the first national women's congress and during the congress, she was elected as a member of the Association's Central Committee. At the second Vietnam Women's Congress, she was appointed Vice President of the Association.

When peace was restored, she was assigned to the Rural Activity Committee of the party and was very active in leading the agricultural cooperativization movement.

When the third National Party Congress met in 1960, Ha Thi Que was elected as a regular member of the Party Central Committee. From January 1961 to March 1974, she was vice chairman of the Control Department of the Party Central Committee.

Ha Thi Que is one of the outstanding and most experienced leaders of the women's movement.

The fourth Vietnam Women's Congress, which met from 4-7 March 1974, unanimously elected Ha Thi Que as President of the Vietnam Women's Federation.

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