

III. CHAPTER III

THE V.C. INTENTION AT PLEIME

THE PLAN

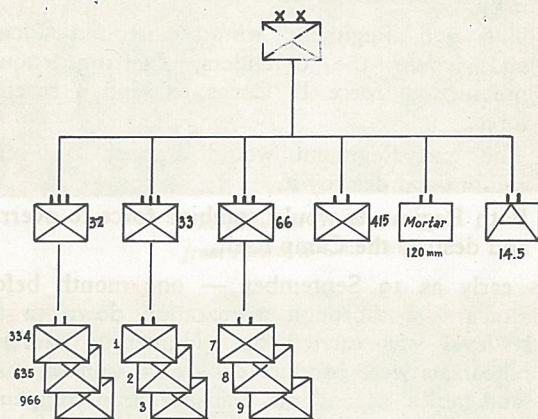
At « The Western Highlands Field Front » Headquarters, VC General Chu Huy Man, wearing a second hat as Commanding General of Military Region IV, and his principal assistants Colonel Quan, Assistant to the Commanding General, and Senior Colonel Ha Vi Tung, Chief of staff (1) studied the plan they had formulated.

The « point » this time would be the CIDG Camp of Pleime, 40 km South West of Pleiku. With a strength of 4 Companies of CIDG troops — most of them Highlanders — and two Vietnamese and US Special Forces A Teams, the Camp in fact did not differ from others which, unlike Pleime, had sustained many VC attacks. But in regard to the surrounding environment, the location of the Camp of Pleime is, on the contrary, a particular one.

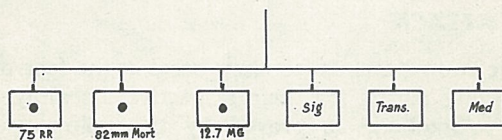
It does not only serve as a check-point to impede to a certain extent the VC infiltration from their base in the Chu-Pong massif (40km West of Pleime) and their sanctuary in Cambodian territory, but also act as an outpost to ensure an early warning for Pleiku City and the District town of Phu Nhon (20 km East).

(1) During the Indo-China war, HA VI TUNG was commander of the 803rd Regiment which together with the 108th Regiment constituted the main forces of the Viet Minh in the Central Highlands. To their credit were the occupation of Kontum and the defeat of French Task Force N° 100 on Highway 19.

ORGANIZATION
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NORMAL REGIMENTAL ATTACHMENTS



Chôi (1). All of us paid one minute of silence in honor of his memory before departure. On 20 October my unit would conduct an ambush and another friendly unit would encircle the post of Pleime. The estimate by Field Front is very accurate: the enemy must send a relief force to Pleime, that's why my unit would set an ambush on top of the « Doc Lap » (?) hill on the road from Pleiku to Pleime; the enemy relief force consisted of three tank companies and the 41st (?) Ranger battalion ».

At approximately 2300 hours on 19 October, the 33d NVA Regiment opened fire on Pleime. With one battalion in reserve, the regiment poured small arms, mortar and recoilless rifle fire into the camp and conducted a series of assaults which were opposed by stiff resistance. But throughout the night the enemy did not succeed in making any penetration into the Camp defensive positions.

(1) CHÔI was the VC terrorist agent captured by the Vietnamese National Police when he intended to sabotage the bridge on Công Lý St in Saigon during the visit of the US Secretary of Defense Mc NAMARA in 1964. He was executed on 15 September 1964 at Saigon Market place.

