

0. A FAILED AMBUSH - Story Preface

1. AMERICANS IN VIETNAM

2. WHY DID THE MISSION CHANGE?

3. LBJ DECIDES TO "GO BIG"

4. CONFLICT ESCALATES

5. HELICOPTER WARFARE

6. 1ST CAV IN COUNTRY

7. WHAT KIND OF WAR?

8. FLAWED POLICY

9. IA DRANG OVERVIEW

10. A FAILED AMBUSH

11. LZ X-RAY

12. BROKEN ARROW

13. DEATH AT LZ ALBANY

14. RESCUE

15. BRUCE CRANDALL

16. RICK RESCORLA

17. HAL MOORE

Phase II of the [Ia Drang](#) battle did not go well for the PAVN. Under the command of [Lt. Col. Nguyen Huu An](#), North Vietnamese Regulars had planned to ambush troops sent to relieve the Special Forces camp at [Plei Me](#). Events did not go according to plan.

Further, American support of South Vietnamese efforts totally disrupted PAVN supply routes and communication. As General Phuong recalled:

You dropped troops close to our headquarters and very close to our units. Our units were broken up, dispersed, and then the Americans dropped into Plei, near the Cambodian border on November third.

You destroyed many caches and supplies of food, as well as our hospital. We lost weapons, war materiel, supplies and our communications. When we withdrew you dropped troops to cut off our units. We lost communications with the retreating units.

During these tens days [until November 9] you caused much distress and disorder. Our soldiers did not have time to rest and regroup...Your attacks were very effective. (We Were Soldiers, page 51.)

Unknown to the Americans, thousands of PAVN had [withdrawn](#) to "[Chu Pong Massif](#)." When Lt. Col. Hal Moore received his orders - "Find the enemy and go after him" - he did not have good intelligence to assist him. He did not know that North Vietnamese soldiers were regrouping and resting at [Chu Pong Mountain](#).

Of one thing, however, Moore was pretty certain: The 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry would likely get the "[search and destroy](#)" mission to commence on November 14, 1965.

Moore, with his men and equipment, would be [flown](#) from [Plei Me](#) to a pre-selected Landing Zone ("LZ"). Major [Bruce Crandall](#) (of the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion) and his crews would [ferry](#) troops and equipment with their UH 1-D "Hueys" and [CH-47](#) "Chinooks."

Crandall would fly the lead Huey. His call sign was "Ancient Serpent Six." Most of the guys called him "Snake."

All the Landing Zones were in the immediate vicinity of Chu Pong Mountain and the hidden-from-view North Vietnamese soldiers.

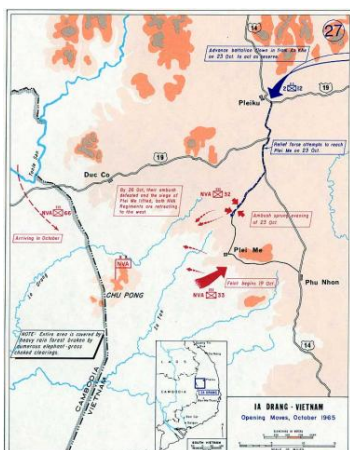
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-FAILED-AMBUSH-We-Were-Soldiers>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-FAILED-AMBUSH-We-Were-Soldiers>

Media Stream



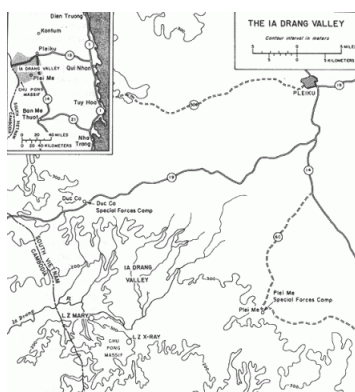
Map Depicting Ia Drang Operations - Opening Moves

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Military Academy.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-Ia-Drang-Operations-Opening-Moves>



Map Depicting Chu Pong Massif

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-Chu-Pong-Massif>

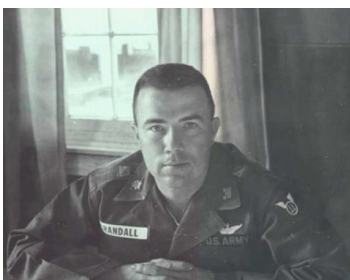


Leaving Plei Me by Helicopter

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Leaving-Plei-Me-by-Helicopter>



Major Bruce Crandall - Hero of Vietnam War

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Army Medal of Honor website.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Major-Bruce-Crandall-Hero-of-Vietnam-War>

A Contagion of War



A Contagion of War

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/A-Contagion-of-War>

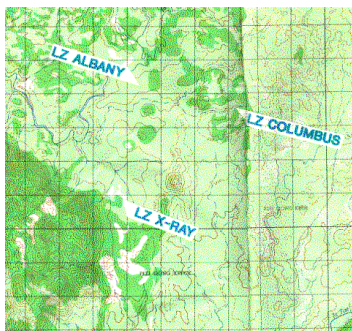


CH-47 Chinook

Image online, courtesy the Airforce Technology website.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/CH-47-Chinook>



Map Depicting Landing Zones - Ia Drang Battle

Image online, courtesy the lzray.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Depicting-Landing-Zones-Ia-Drang-Battle>