INTERROGATION REPORT

COUNTRY: NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)
SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)

SUBJECT: Infiltration of NVA Battalion 4, Regiment 812, Division 321B; Participation in TET Offensive in QUANG TRI Province


DATE AND PLACE OF ACQUISITION: DANANG, VIETNAM

This report was collected by a NIG Field Exploitation Team on 15 February 1968 in DANANG Municipality, SVN. Source is not available at the NIC for further exploitation.

SUMMARY

NVA Battalion 4, Regiment 812, Division 321B returned to SVN with new personnel on 1 January 1968. The battalion was commanded by Senior Captain PHUT, and it consisted of approximately 200 personnel divided into three companies. There was a shortage of personnel, weapons, and ammunition. Since four-fifths of SVN had already been liberated, the mission of the battalion was to build up the country. Orders were received on 28 January to attack QUANG TRI City. At 0500 hours 30 January, while positioned in a small hamlet south of the city, Company 2, Battalion 4, was unexpectedly attacked and overrun by GVN forces, and its members fled in panic.
NVA Battalion 4, Regiment 812, Division 324B had previously operated in SVN (period of time not known). It had then returned to NVN "to be replenished", having suffered many casualties. After new recruits had joined the battalion and undergone training at the base camp (location not known) in QUANG BINH Province, NVN, Battalion 4 began its infiltration March on 15 December 1967. It moved directly south across the DMZ into QUANG TRI Province, SVN.

2. Battalion 4 was commanded by Senior Captain Phut. It consisted of approximately 200 officers and men who were organized into three companies, each having three platoons of approximately 20 members. Each company had only 4-5 men who had previously fought with the battalion in SVN. Weapons of the battalion consisted of 4 x 82mm mortars, 27 x RPG automatic rifles (9 per company), 12 x B-40 rocket launchers (4 per company), and an unknown number of AK submachine guns.

3. Despite the period of build-up in NVN, Battalion 4 entered SVN with a shortage of personnel. None of the companies were fully manned. Due to this shortage, the battalion's supply of B-40's was decreased from the normal quantity of 6 per company to 4 per company. In addition, there was a shortage of ammunition. Whereas the normal supply of ammunition for each RPG automatic rifle was 500 rounds, they had only 300 rounds. They had only 3 rounds for each B-40, instead of the normal 5 rounds. And they had only 100-150 rounds of ammunition for each AK submachine gun.

4. Prior to their infiltration, the members of the battalion were informed that the VC/NVA had already liberated four-fifths of SVN. The mission of Battalion 4, therefore, was to build up the country.

5. On 1 January 1968, Battalion 4 crossed the BEN HAI River (location not known) and entered SVN. The members continued their march southward, travelling only at night. No contact was made with any SVN/U.S. forces, and they were not bombed or strafed from the air. By 23 January, they were in the general vicinity of QUANG TRI City. After resting there for 5 days, orders to attack that city were received.

6. By 0500 hours 29 January, Company 2 of the battalion was positioned in a hamlet (name unknown) just south of QUANG TRI City. It remained there until 30 January. At that time, the company suddenly came under heavy attack by GVN forces. Members of the company were completely caught by surprise. Without firing a single shot in retaliation, they scattered in every direction in panic.