

Davey  
Wardlaw

2 copies  
initial & index

CPT

LINDQUIST

S-3 AIR

HISTORY OF THE  
FIRST BATTALION (AIRBORNE) TWELFTH CAVALRY

1 JANUARY 1966 - 30 JUNE 1966

Prepared by

1/lt. Melvyn A. Estey Jr.

Approved by

Rutland D. Beard Jr.

Lt. Col. Infantry

Commanding

Headquarters

1st Battalion (Abn) 12th Cavalry

1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)

APO San Francisco 96490

## DEDICATION

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 1ST BATTALION (ABN), 12TH CAVALRY "CHARGERS"

## PREFACE

This command history traces the actions of the 1st Battalion (Abn) 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division through the period 1 January 1966 to 30 June 1966. The battalion was based at Camp Radcliff, An Khe, Vietnam, located midway between Qui Nhon and Pleiku. The general area where the First of the Twelfth "Chargers" fought was known as the Central Highlands.

The Chargers celebrated their first 6 months as a reconstructed unit on the first of January 1966. The 1st Cavalry Division of Korea and the 2nd Infantry Division of Ft Benning, Ga., exchanged unit designations; the 11th Air Assault Division retired their Colors and together with the remainder of the 2nd Infantry Division at Ft Benning were redesignated the 1st Air Cavalry Division on 1 July 1965. The 1st Air Cavalry Division then sped through a 90-day training-readiness program and at the end of August moved to Vietnam. As the Army's first Air Mobile Division, it placed into practice the new concept of a heli-borne division, with maximum emphasis placed on fire power, flexibility and mobility. The success of this new concept was borne out continually in operations against the Viet Cong.

The Chargers spent more than 4 out of the first 6 months of 1966 in actions against the Viet Cong. This history covers the major operations of the battalion: Operation Matador, Masher & White Wing, Jim Bowie, Lincoln & Mosby, Crazy Horse, and a portion of Nathan Hale. The battalion both started and ended its second 6 months in Vietnam on combat operations. In addition to the operations, mention is made of some civil action programs and transitory periods between operations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY ..... 1 - 32

    a. Operation Matador ..... 1 - 05

    b. Operation Masher/White Wing ..... 5 - 14

    c. Operation Jim Bowie ..... 14 - 16

    d. Operation Lincoln/Mosby ..... 16 - 27

    e. Operation Crazy Horse ..... 27 - 31

    f. Operation Nathan Hale ..... 31 - 33

2. KEY PERSONNEL ..... 34 - 36

3. STATISTICAL SUMMARY ..... 37

4. AWARDS DECORATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 38 - 40

5. BATTALION PERSONNEL KILLED IN ACTION ..... 41 - 42

6. ENEMY PERSONNEL LOSSES ..... 43 - 44

7. GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS ..... 45 - 47

8. BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES ..... 48

9. MAPS ..... 49 - 52

    a. Vietnam and surrounding countries ..... 49

    b. Operation Matador ..... 50

    c. Operations Lincoln/Mosby ..... 51

    d. Operations, Masher/White Wing, Jim Bowie and  
    Crazy Horse ..... 52

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

January the first, 1966, not only marked the beginning of a new year but perhaps more importantly marked the 1st six-month anniversary of the 1st Air Cavalry Division and the 1st Battalion (Abn), 12th Cavalry. The first six months had seen the unit through its organization, training, movement over seas and the final test, that of combat. January the first found the battalion a veteran, combat effective unit, and the new year promised to hold much in store for the battalion, as the "Chargers" had already received orders for "Operation Matador" which started New Year's Day. The early morning of the new year provided some portence for the superstitious and unrest and irritation for the majority of the battalion. It seems that the New Year's spirit, although not official, was celebrated at base camp (Camp Radcliff) not only by th Artillery but by seemingly everyone who had a noise maker, and many men of the "early to bed . early to rise" 1st Battalion (Abn), 12th Cavalry found themselves scrambling for ditches wondering if this were an attack. However, soon the obvious became apparent and men either added their particular sentiments or went back to bed.

## OPERATION MATADOR

The general concept of "Operation Matador" was to operate with the 1st Brigade on a search and destroy mission in western Pleiku Province, and in the southern part of Kontum Province. The 1st Battalion (Abn) 12th Cavalry received the mission of securing highway 19 for the road move from An Khe to the assembly area, the Cateska Tea plantation, which was

later named Stadium.

The 1st Battalion (Abn), 12th Cavalry had Companies A and B airlifted out to secure the west and east side of Highway 19 respectively. While securing the critical points such as intersections, bridges and critical terrain around the highway the companies conducted short reconnaissance patrols. With the positioning of Companies A and B the battalion, after a short review on ambush and counterambush techniques, jumped into sand-bagged vehicles and proceeded for Stadium in 4 March Units, with a total of 113 vehicles under the command of the Battalion Executive Officer, Major Cantrall. While making the move there was a platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 20th Aerial Rocket Artillery on continuous call. The entire road move to Stadium was completed without incident and the security elements finally joined the main body on 3 January after seeing the remaining elements of the brigade through.

*vehicle  
move*

The fourth of January found Bravo Company making a helicopter assault north to Duc Co near the Cambodian border for search and destroy operations, moving north into southern Kontum Province. They made a total of 3 air-mobile assaults into unsecure Landing Zones and on the 5th of January the 2nd platoon captured two Viet Cong and found a large rice cache in an abandoned village. During the mission, the terrain remained very thickly vegetated and difficult to traverse.

Alpha and Charlie Companies moved out on air assaults on the 6th. Alpha moved out to a large burned out village northeast of the Duc Co Special Forces Camp to secure a LZ for an artillery battery and encountered no enemy initially. However, the second platoon flushed some Viet Cong

suspects from a bunker and Alpha continued sweeping southwest searching for a suspected Viet Cong Prisoner of War camp which an alleged Vietnamese escapee, captured by the first platoon, reported. He said that 50 Americans were in the camp which was lightly defended, but the search proved futile and Alpha Company returned to secure the artillery. The ninth of January found Alpha jumping a distance of 12 feet from choppers (unable to get lower due to the terrain and undergrowth) in an air assault. The company joined up with a Special Forces Sergeant and a platoon of Civil Irregular Defense Guard Strikers; their mission was to screen an area seeded by time detonated bombs. The operation resulted in the capture of one VCS. Meanwhile, Charlie Company made an assault near the Cambodian border for search and destroy operations until the 10th when they returned to the Stadium for two days before returning again to the border.

The battalion returned to the base camp at An Khe on 19 January 1966. The battalion had no solid contact with the enemy while out on "Operation Matador" but it provided good training, particularly for the newly assigned men, after a long lull in base camp during December. As the battalion was already scheduled for another operation on the 24th of January first priority went to maintenance, resupply, and equipment rather than relaxation. However, this time was a breather and broke the constant strain of continuous missions. During this four-day period, 2/Lt Lewis Anderson joined the battalion and assumed command of the 1st platoon of Bravo Company.

While on "Operation Matador" the battalion engaged in several civil affairs projects. The battalion received word from brigade that a Vietnamese village in the vicinity of Pleiku wanted to be relocated and that

the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 12th Cavalry was assigned the evacuation. The extraction group lead by Major Cantrall and Captain Steimert, the S-2, moved 3000 meters from the battalion base to the village. On the way they passed a montangard' village where we had conducted sick call the day before. Upon arrival at the village members of the team moved out to insure the security of the area. The village Chief was then told that this was the day of extraction and that they had a total of four hours to be ready for the move. The villagers with the help of the team met the deadline and loaded 6 sorties of Ch 47's full of personnel, livestock, food, furniture, and equipment. At dusk the last chinook lifted off carrying the last of the livestock and the security force. It was ironical that the major problem of the day was not the meeting of the time schedule but rather the moving of one last bull from the pick-up zone. Here brute strength won out over cunning and the animal was dragged a board. The day ended with 200 Vietnamese being resettled in New Pleiku, a resettlement town.

The second civil affairs project concerned a rice thresher which was picked up in a VC-controlled area and carried back to Camp Radcliff. The rice thresher was worth about \$500.00 (American), but was broken and would cost \$200.00 to repair. Upon a conference with the village Chief of Song Ton, (the local village for which the battalion was assigned civil affairs responsibility), it was agreed that we would give them the machine if the village built the housing for it and raised a loan for the repair cost which could easily be repaid out of profits from the mill. Thus on the 5th of May Captain Maxwell, the Battalion Civil Affairs Officer, formally gave the village Chief the thresher which will definitely help the

village to prosper.

### OPERATION MASHER/<sup>7</sup>WHITE WING

The battalion was attached to the 3rd Brigade for "Operation Masher" which was to take place in the northeastern section of Binh Dinh Province. This particular area is a very rich and fruitful agricultural section. The operation was to have three phases, the first of which was to take place between 24 and 30 January, with the battalion seizing and securing the Phu Cat rifle range for use by the 3rd Forward Support Element and supporting aircraft. The Battalion (minus one company which was to secure the 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery on the 23rd) had the additional task of being on a two-hour alert status.

The 23rd of January found Alpha Company securing an eight-inch battery, from the 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery, and a 175mm self-propelled howitzer battery, from the 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery, on a convoy moving 50 kilometers north of Qui Nhon on Highway 1. They spent eight days securing the artillery and then moved north to the brigade forward base. On the 23rd the battalion was airlifted to secure Phu Cat; Company B landed on the north and Company C landed on the south with both conducting patrols in their respective areas. The Reconnaissance Platoon of Delta Company constituted the battalion reserve, Delta's mortar platoon was in general support and its anti-tank platoon provided the battalion security. The lift to Phu Cat took 24 UH-1Ds and 14 Ch-47 sorties with all units closing by 1230 with negative enemy contact.

On the 25th of January, the battalion sent out a Long Range Patrol on a three day reconnaissance mission of the near by hill masses to

the east for the purpose of reporting the trails in the area. At approximately the same time Bravo Company conducted an air assault 29 miles north of Qui Nhon near Highway 1, while Charlie Company found 500 lbs of rice which they had to destroy due to the lack of transportation facilities. After four more days of securing the brigade base, Company C was alerted and airlifted to reinforce the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, however they were not committed and returned the same day. Bravo was committed to another area and flew by Ch 47 40 kilometers north, landed and observed VC in a valley, and called ARA and artillery in on them. Bravo then conducted search and destroy operations ending up with only 5 VCS. The next day found both B and C Companies alerted and flown to reinforce the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, this time C Company stayed while Bravo returned.

The 30th of January found Companies A, B, and C on seek and kill operations with the Battalion Command Post being secured by Delta Company. All the line companies moved on parallel axes southeast but initially had no contact. During the period 1550-1845 Company C received small arms and automatic weapons fire incurring 2 KIAs and 4 WIAs; artillery and ARA were called in with the result of 5 VCS being wounded and later evacuated. Another battalion LRP was dispatched to the northwest, it encountered 8 VC, killed 7 and captured 1 VCS.

Phase II of "Operation Masher" began on 31 January. Prior to the actual operation it was believed that the 8th Peoples's Army of Vietnam Regiment and undetermined Main Force Units were in the area. Captured documents supported the existence of the 8th Regiment and indicated an infiltration into Binh Ding Province from Quang Ngai during the latter part of 1965. The enemy was expected to have the capability of battalion

sized operations. The terrain to the west had a moderately high canopy, excellent concealment and a network of trails while the terrain to the east was rice paddy with excellent fields of fire and prepared positions around the villages.

On the last day of January, Companies A, B, and C entered the Hy Van Village. This Village had been controlled by the VC for years and all the inhabitants left, but with the help of a Psychological War Team they gradually came back and received medical aid, some being evacuated to a hospital, also foods and soap were dispensed. The next day the battalion returned to the site of C Company's recent engagement. Charlie Company found 1 VC body and later captured 5 VCS on a night ambush--indications were that those captured were rice carriers for a PAVN force in the area. Also information from a Viet Cong Captive indicated a large PAVN force in the area, but there was negative contact and on 4 February at 1915 the battalion was alerted for operations in the An Lao Valley. The second phase of "Operation Masher" netted 9 VC KIAs and 13 VCSs captured. This supported the conclusion that the 8th Regiment was in the area but contrary to first appearances they had not infiltrated to the west.

The third phase of "Operation Masher" started on the fifth of February in the An Lao Valley. Prior to the operation it was believed that elements of the 8th PAVN Regiment were in the Valley with a Weapons Battalion in the adjoining Hunji Long Valley. Intense automatic fire had been received by aircraft flying over the valley. In addition captured documents supported the conclusion that Binh Hoa and Can Duc hamlets in the vicinity could be defended by a company element. The terrain in the An Lao Valley

accorded good observation and fields of fire, but cover and concealment were good from the air as the valley sides were approached.

On 5 February, the battalion was air-lifted south in preparation for a sweep of the An Lao Valley. However bad weather postponed the sweep until the seventh. Even then the initial move into the area was held up four hours due to adverse weather.

The weather finally broke on the 7th and Bravo Company was air-lifted to the eastern side of the mountains and spent the remainder of that day and the 8th sweeping down the eastern side. The first platoon made a brief contact with the VC, killed one and captured one M-1 rifle. They also secured a ridge overlooking the battalion axis of attack. Meanwhile at 0800 on the 7th, Alpha and Charlie Companies moved on parallel axes to an attack position short of the village objective and had a specially rigged "Gas Helicopter" on call. At 1355 Company A received small arms fire from the village and called ARA's and artillery in; then under the cover of smoke A and C Companies advanced over open rice fields and at 1445 entered the village unopposed, capturing 3 VCS, 1 VC and some weapons. On the eighth of February, when A and C Companies moved past the ridge held by Bravo, the battalion captured 2 more VCS and one more VC plus equipment. The 9th was spent moving through 3 more objectives with no contact of any consequence.

From "Operation Masher" in the An Lao Valley we moved into "Operation White Wing" which took place in a valley complex southwest of the An Lao Valley which resembles an "Eagle's Claw" or "Crow's Foot." The concept of the operation was for A and C Companies to act as blocking elements in each valley and with B Company making a show of strength

moving from the mouth of the valley complex south and west up the valley driving the VC into the other companies blocking position. This operation was also divided up into phases, the first one starting on the 11th and lasted ten days.

The battalion made an assault into the objective area at 1430 on the eleventh of February with Charlie Company leading and finding anti-helicopter stakes in the LZ. This held up the landing of the force by 15 minutes while the field was cleared. While A and B were moving and securing their respective areas Company C made contact with 10 VC killing one and sustaining 3 WIA, with one later dying of his wounds. Company A immediately thereafter made contact with 6 VC but after a short engagement found only some packs, a bloodstained hat, VC flag and two blood trails. At 1400 Bravo Company observed an estimated VC reinforced squad with automatic weapons and called in TAC air and artillery and after searching the strike area found 5 dead VC, two Chicom rifles, two 12.7s HMG with spare barrels plus wheels and anti-aircraft tripods. A LRP was lifted to the north and made several sightings of small VC groups but engaged in no contact.

On the 13th, Bravo had a report from the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry helicopter that there were enemy personnel to their front. They captured a sniper, received some fire from a village and had the village cleared by supporting fire. Approximately 2000 meters further up, the first and third platoons came under fire from a hill which dominated the entire area, but fortunately the fire was premature and allowed everyone to scramble for cover safely. The supporting fires supplemented by the first platoon's 90 mm RR effectively suppressed the enemy. The second platoon flanked the enemy position from the left and the third platoon flanked from the right while the first, in the center, supported by fire. Only a few VC were found

alive on the hill and these were dispatched in their homes; the body count for the VC was 6 with an estimated half a dozen more wounded escaping. Bravo Company had been able to take a well fortified critical defensive position while only receiving one slight casualty.

On the 14th of February, one of A Companies local patrols made contact with an unknown number of VC and immediately brought in artillery and F4C str. They received one WIA from a booby trap and experienced that small percentage of friendly casualties, which forever plague the books when receiving friendly supporting fire, by sustaining 2 WIA from the Air Strikes. Upon entering the strike area they found one grenade factory, a mess hall and twenty bed hospital. The 14th also saw the LRP making contact with an unknown number of VC. They killed 4 VC and wounded an estimated 20 more while sustaining 2 WIAs. Artillery was called in to cover their withdrawal and due to the terrain and dense vegetation they were extracted by a hovering Ch 47 by climbing in through the rear ramp via a troop ladder.

A Radio Research Unit team attached to the Brigade picked up VC radio transmissions and was able to take a fix on the transmitting site. The battalion was given the mission of finding the site. The battalion flew to LZs near the objective with A and B Companies moving northwest and C and D Companies moving south and northeast respectively. Alpha Company became engaged on the 15th with 7 VC in a cave, found some Vietnamese rucksacks, one body and several women believed to be nurses. The afternoon of the 16th they lifted back to position Bird and four days of rest, cold beer and bathing in a river. While in this location they were joined by Lt Gordon Fardal who had just recently arrived from CONUS.

Companies B and C had a little more luck and contact while hunting for the enemy transmitting site. Bravo spent three days searching for the site

?  
self  
sawing!

and found everything but that. On the 15th, they came across 7 VC bodies, 12 packs, and both wounded and captured a VC. Sgt Adamson and SP 4 Grace of the third platoon were wounded and here again the mobility of the 1st Cavalry Division met the challenge. Both men were hoisted out of a thickly vegetated area into a Ch 47 and then safely and immediately evacuated where conventional methods of evacuation would of been impossible for several hours.

The company of the day however proved to be C Company. Their third platoon found a commo cache containing approximately \$100,000.00 (US) worth of equipment, however they also failed to locate the transmitter site and received two WIA for their efforts during the next four days. The last four days of the search netted the battalion two .50 Caliber machine guns, 10 packs, eight 60mm rounds, 6 VC KIA, 1 VC WIA and 10 VCS. All units were returned to the battalion base at Bird by 1045 on 20 February. Once again the LRP was utilized, this time as a stay behind force with the reward of getting 5 VC KIA.

"Operation White Wing II" started on the 22nd of February and ran through the 28th. Once again the 18th PAVN Regiment supported by a heavy weapons battalion was believed to be in the area. Although the operation began on the 22nd, A and C Companies made an air assault and search on the 21st. At the same time some ARVN made contact with a VC force 15 miles south of Bird which resulted in B Company being sent out to form a blocking force.

Lt. Jimmie Smith, B Company's Executive Officer was acting commander since Captain Klein had finally succeeded in going on R&R. The company landed on a mountain side and worked down toward a saddle to set up the blocking position. A reconnaissance element was sent forward into the saddle and reported negative contact. The second platoon then started entering the

saddle which was very thickly foliaged. The platoon almost instantly met intense small arms fire coming from well dug in and camouflaged positions which were located in an almost impenetrable mass of vines and growth. The platoon was unable to maneuver left or right due to steep drop offs on either side. The platoon started receiving casualties from the accurate enemy fire, the medic PFC Mack was killed while moving forward to render aid to a wounded man and the platoon with drew calling in heavy artillery and TAC air. After the supporting fires lifted scout ships reported 13 VC KIA and the 3rd platoon assaulted the position. They reached the previous point of contact and also came under intense and accurate fire. The company's mortar platoon delivered immediate and accurate fire but was unable to dislodge the enemy. PFC Mc Donald, only recently assigned, was killed and the platoon leader Lt Baker was seriously wounded along with several others and the platoon withdrew. The situation remained unchanged as darkness approached. That evening Capt. Klein returned from R&R, the injured were evacuated, and continuous artillery fire was called on the saddle.

The following morning the first platoon flanked the VC positions as much as possible while the second platoon swept through it. No enemy were encountered, 7 VC bodies were found with weapons and intelligence reports later revealed that this had been a VC Regimental Command Post. The rest of the battalion was lifted to Bravo's general vicinity and conducted search and destroy operations.

The 23rd of February found C Company heavily engaged. While sweeping toward the west they received fire from an estimated VC company and remained engaged for 7 hours, still being in contact at dark. Alpha Company marched

south to set up blocking positions in the valley below Charlie. At 1315 the lead elements of Alpha's first and third platoons saw personnel running away to their front, were almost immediately engaged by intense automatic weapons fire and received several casualties. Lt Hunter the artillery FO called in artillery and TAC air. The VC were extremely well dug in and presented very poor target. Lt Wayne Davis the first Platoon leader was seriously wounded and the third platoon leader Lt Donald Adamson was killed. The second platoon was committed to ~~evacuate~~ evacuate the casualties and Lt Byard the Company XO brought in the Medevac choppers thus speeding up the evacuation. The company then consolidated its position.

A night ambush netted 5 VC KIA and on the 24th A Company returned to the scene of the previous day's action finding, four 75mm RR, seven 3.75RL, three LMG, 5 KIA and estimated that 30 VC had been wounded. The enemy fortification extended 1000 meters up the valley and documents found indicate it was manned by the 7th Battalion 18th PAVN Regiment. Meanwhile before long up the steep west on the valley floor and encountered a maze of enemy bunkers and foxholes. It took them almost 2 days to clear a 1500 meter ravine. A succession of VC were encountered and had to be dug out, The thick foliage precluded effective artillery fire and even a try with CS gas proved of no significant help. In the end it was up to the individual crawling forward under fire dropping grenades in the holes. It was in such an operation that Sgt Nevin from the first platoon was killed and several others wounded.

By the 25th of February the battalion had completed its search of the entire area of operations and all units were lifted to Bird. The battalion remained at Bird until the 27th when it returned to An Khe via 17 sorties of Ch 47s. Of particular note was the effective use of the JRF which acted as reconnaissance patrols, ambush patrols and stay behind forces and accounted

for 13 VC KIA, and 5 enemy weapons while sustaining only 2 minor casualties. While at position Bird Lt Arthur West rejoined the battalion as a platoon leader in Bravo Company. Lt West had been seriously wounded in an operation in November and was eventually evacuated all the way to Walter Reed Army Hospital. Despite the fact that his serious wound automatically relieved him of the remainder of his Vietnamese commitment he volunteered to and did return to his unit to serve out his full tour.

The battalion had spent 35 continuous days in the field and was more than happy to return to Camp Radcliff. March 1st through the 3rd was spent in resupply, maintaining and repairing equipment. It also saw some more personnel changes in the battalion, Lts Hurbert Glazer and William Crow were assigned to B Company's, Weapons and 2nd platoon respectively, and Lt Quigley moved up to the Executive Officer position with Lt Smith becoming a Battalion Liaison Officer. The fourth through the tenth found the companies on short search and destroy missions around the base camp and also found one or two companies securing the An Khe Pass for a couple of days with no contact being made.

#### OPERATION JIM BOWIE

The 13th of March saw the battalion out on another operation. The area of operations was once again in the vicinity of the "Eagle's Claw" where intelligence believed a division or higher headquarters with combat support was operating. There was a further possibility that an unidentified regiment was located in the vicinity just northwest of the An Lao Valley. The order for the operation "Jim Bowie" was received on the 9th with an execution date of 10 March. The order for the operation placed

the battalion as the brigade blocking force with one company as brigade blocking force, one company as brigade reserve on 30 minutes alert, and the battalion (minus) on brigade reserve 2hour alert-to move to blocking positions anywhere in the sector. The operation received a 74 hour stay which afforded the troops some actual relaxation as no plans for such a situation had been made and thus no details or duties were scheduled.

Operation "Jim Bowie" jumped off at 1225 the 13th of March with the battalion moving to 4 separate LZs in 104 sorties of UH-1Ds and 1 Ch 47 with all closing at 1500. There was negative enemy contact although two punji stake wounds were received by Alpha Company. The flexibility of the battalion and the air noble concept was shown when Delta Company, due to inadequate reconnaissance and time, was initially bound for the wrong LZ. However, the error was corrected enroute by close coordination between the Battalion S-3, and the lift company commander. The correct landing was made with-out a hitch including the artillery and ARA preparatory fires.

Company B was designated the reaction force but was not sent out and the battalion remained in position with the exception of Alpha who conducted extensive patrolling, ambush and blocking missions. They had no contact but ran into punji stakes, a field of man traps and evacuated several people for malaria. One unusual problem was encountered on the 16th when 16 men came down with food poisoning believed to have been caused by some defective "C" rations. The Battalion Surgeon was flown in to conduct medical check ups and inspect the rations and water. The 17th saw Alpha followed by the rest of the battalion, conduct an air assault into Binh Dinh Province approximately 40 kilometers north of An Khe and for two days while fighting leeches they found a VC supply route through the

jungle, 10 feet wide complete with wooden stairs. To top this off was a 100 foot suspension bridge constructed of vines and bamboo.

The battalion joined A Company in Northern Binh Dinh Province near the juncture with Quang Ngai and Kontum Province for the second phase of operation "Jim Bowie." This phase lasted two days and resulted in no major enemy contact, with Bravo receiving some inconsequential sniper fire. As a result of numerous assaults and vigorous patrolling the battalion found extensive trails, elephant tracks, and some khaki uniforms in addition to the supply route and bridge found by Alpha Company. On the 20th, the battalion loaded aboard 88 sorties of UH-1Ds and returned to An Khe.

The period 21 March through 24 March was an uneventful one. Perhaps it was enjoyed all the more because of this. There were no significant personnel changes or activities, just the usual repairs, resupply, maintenance of equipment and relaxation after everything else was done. The operation order for our next mission came out on the 24th and the troops were ready.

#### OPERATION LINCOLN/MOSBY

Operation Lincoln called for a "Search and Destroy" mission to be performed by the 1st Brigade along the Cambodian Border in western Pleiku Province. Intelligence sources believed that elements of the 3rd PAVN Regiment and Main Force units were in the area with a reinforcement capability of battalion size within 24 hours. The terrain afforded good observation and fields of fire in the sparsely vegetated high grounds with only the streams beds being thick with foliage. The two key terrain features were the Ia Krel River which ran east and west and Highway 19 going south.

The operation started according to schedule with the battalion in order of Bravo, Forward Command Post, Charlie, Delta and Alpha moving to Duc Co Special Forces Camp via 8 sorties of C-130's closing at 1234 hours. Immediate deployment from the Special Forces camp found Headquarters and Delta moving over land to area <sup>Pearl</sup> while the other three companies made air assaults into LZs. All companies reported negative initial enemy contact. However, Bravo caught sight of 5 VCs and killed one while Alpha discovered a company size bivouac area.

The period 25 through 29 March found A Company making the only significant contact. After arrival at Duc Co on the 25th they made an air assault in an area just southwest of HW 19. The next day they moved 5000 meters west and set up their camp 1000 meters from the Cambodian Border. At this time the first platoon was dispatched with a Special Forces Sgt and Montangard guide to an ambush site approximately 1500 meters north on the Ia Krel River. The guide had reported that several times while posing as a fisherman he had encountered over 100 VC near the river. At dark the ambush patrol observed some VC filling canteens but held their fire hoping for a larger body. Their restraint and patience was well rewarded when early the next morning 12 VC started across the river to the site. The ambush went off like clock work and when the firing lifted there were 7 VC KIA, an estimated 5 wounded, two pistols, four assault rifles and assorted gear left. After the contact the remainder of the company marched north to reinforce and gave hot pursuit resulting in the capture of 1 VC and his weapon.

The night of 27 March found another A Company ambush killing one VC and wounding four more. The patrol withdrew south, calling 105 and 155 artillery support. In addition to this, they received support from

"Puff the Magic Dragon," a C47 equipped with a Minnie gun which fires 6000 20mm rounds per minute, and "Smokey the Bear," a flare ship. The payoff however was a reconnaissance patrol north of the river which recovered \$200,000 (VN) Piastres and documents. One captured PAVN soldier identified a previously unknown unit as the 2nd Battalion, 141st Regiment, 312th Division. Alpha company moved to the Turkey Farm to secure a helicopter unit on the 29th, and eventhough on a 30 minute reaction force received hot chow and cold beer.

Phase two of the operation arrived with little information on the enemy and his capabilities. We were later to learn to our chagrin that the 18th Reg't 325th Div, 6th Reg't (unidentified elements) and elements of the 304th Division were operating in the area. The enemy had mortar support and all weapons were in excellent shape which lead to the conclusion that they were relatively new in the area. The terrain again offered good fields of fire and observation with the stream beds thickly vegetated. The concept of the operation was to relieve the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry of the security of the aviation base camp and then secure the Brigade Command Post while acting as the brigade reserve with Company A on a 30 minute alert.

On 30 March all units of the battalion had closed to Oasis, the Brigade base, acting as the brigade security and reserve. Company A was almost immediately alerted to reinforce the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry in contact south of Chu Phong Mountain. Alpha was committed and lifted off in 22 Uh-1Ds at 1630 on a mission to secure 3 downed helicopters, evacuated the survivors and rescue the remaining elements of the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry. Aerial rocket helicopters were on continual call as the operation would be out of range of conventional tube artillery.

Company A landed at LZ Eagle at 1705 and moved north towards the downed helicopters and in 15 minutes made enemy contact receiving fire from the north and northwest. ARA and TAC air were called in to suppress the fires; at 1732 Capt Drake the Company commander was seriously wounded, and Lt Britten the Executive Officer took over. The small arms and automatic weapons fire increased and the Company XO was killed while helping to extract the casualties; 1st Lt Wurzbacher took command and the Company withdrew to its original LZ bringing their casualties. A night extraction under the support of TAC air and ARAs, by CH 47 and UH-1D was attempted at 1938 hours and subsequently aborted when the initial aircraft the Ch 47, was shot down, receiving approximately 70 hits.

The night for Company A was going to be a long one. They formed a small perimeter around the downed Ch 47 surrounded by an unknown number of VC while running low on ammo. The bulk of the fire support came from the TAC air and ARA with illumination coming from "Smokey the Bear." The officer responsible for the direction and coordination of these supporting fires and later tube artillery when it displaced forward was the attached artillery FO Lt Hunter. The critical point of the night however, was the resupply of ammo by CV 2. Heavy drops had been practiced and successfully completed by the division in the states but that was under ideal conditions. The night was quite dark and the LZ was small and surrounded by tall trees. The CV 2 made an initial free reconnaissance pass and received intense fire. The Caribou then heedless of the enemy fire made two more passes dropping first ammo and second "C" rations. The first drop stopped just 50 meters north of the perimeter and the second landed 70 meters south. Lt Becker a platoon leader lead a party out and recovered the ammunition thus eliminating the critical ammo shortage. ,

At 0710 hours on 31 March the battalion, in the order of C, B, D, Companies, were air lifted to LZ Eagle and closed by 0925. Lt Byard a battalion LNO took over A Company and along with D Company searched the area in the vicinity of Eagle while Charlie and Bravo searched to the north and south. All elements of the battalion made light contact with small groups of VC trying to exfiltrate. The total VC casualties as of 31 March at 1900 was 49 KIA, 4 WIA captured with friendly casualties of 14 KIA and 14 WIA. There were no April fools day jokes as the battalion continued to make light contact and the VC body count went up to 63.

On the second of April, the battalion found out that the VC had not entirely exfiltrated for 0300 the battalion (minus) located at LZ Eagle was attacked by an unknown number of VC supported by small arms, automatic weapons, rocket launchers and 82mm mortars. The main probe came from the north and east by an estimated reinforced company element in conjunction with a mortar attack which resulted in approximately 20 rounds falling in the perimeter, wounding three men from Company A. Smokey the Bear, Puff, ARA, and artillery were called in to suppress the enemy fires. During the night, a handgrenade killed two more men from Alpha on the eastern side of the perimeter. Contact was finally broken at day light and an immediate pursuit by D Company was instituted. A total of 4 VC bodies and 5 weapons were found just outside the perimeter to the northeast.

Company A continued to patrol in the vicinity of LZ Eagle while Delta pursued the VC north. At 1230 Delta had made no contact and thus prepared for airlift back to Eagle. But even as the ships were inbound an estimated platoon of VC attacked their position. The battle which ensued found 5 VC KIA while Delta received 2 WIA. A scout helicopter supporting the battalion was sent to the area to locate the enemy and with the arrival of the ARA and TAC

air the scout ship dropped marking smoke and directed the attack. Meanwhile Charlie Company located just west of the action moved in to reinforce and finally made a link up just after the VC broke contact and thus both units pursued the enemy to the north making heavy contact at 1535 hours. At 1600 Captain McMillan, Charlie Company Commander, was killed and the Executive Officer Lt Chase assumed command. Sixteen sorties of T-28 aircraft were employed in addition to artillery and a "Gas" helicopter. At 1704 Capt Warren, Delta's Commander, assumed command of Charlie Company and Delta's Executive Officer was alerted for Delta's extraction and return to Eagle when Bravo landed as their replacement. At 1800 all moves were completed. Five minutes later all supporting fires were lifted and Charlie attempted to move to the north, but continued to receive heavy small arms fire from the VC positions. As darkness fell B and C Companies formed a perimeter. The results of the engagement so far was 11 VC KIA versus 4 friendly KIA and 4 WIA. Re-entry into the area on the morning of the third of April resulted in the finding of more VC bodies.

On 3 April all units moved north and west to blocking positions to prevent the VC from moving west and across the Cambodian Border. Again the units made numerous light contacts with small groups of VC trying to get into Cambodia. The Battalion Command Post and Delta Company moved from Eagle to another area, Hawk, while Charlie Company started moving to blocking position White and made contact with an estimated VC platoon, called in ARA forcing the VC to withdraw leaving 6 KIA and 15 weapons. Company A continued its move north and joined Charlie for a perimeter that night. The following day Alpha moved out to blocking positions and all units conducted patrols. At 1435 a VC squad attacked Charlie Company at position "White" and withdrew

after an ARA attack, left 6 KIA and lead the pursuing troops to a commo cache and what seemed to be a Command Post for a regimental size unit.

The 5th and 6th of April found Alpha Company making contacts. An ambush at 0220 on the fifth killed two VC and a search at first light indicated that the VC had been part of a water carrying party. At 1115 another patrol killed a VC and approximately 3 hours later Charlie Company was probed by a VC squad at position "White." The attack was launched from the west and after being broken up by supporting fire, Charlie moving to the west, found numerous bunkers and finally returned to position "White" at 1910. The next day at 1315 they were again probed by a VC platoon which withdrew after receiving supporting fire, were pursued by C Company for 300 meters with Charlie Company receiving 3 WIA and the VC an estimated 12 KIA and 10 WIA. The morning of the 6th found Alpha moving over land to LZ Eagle on an air assault for a search and clear operation to the north and west with no contact being made.

The next two days consisted of patrolling and blocking operations in the same vicinity. Bravo found three 82mm rounds, packs, killed 2 VC and captured one while an element of Delta's reconnaissance platoon ran into 6 VC and substained 1 WIA. C Company continued its run of fate and was probed at position "White" for the fourth time, but once again the enemy withdrew after being hit by ARA and artillery. The element of the reconnaissance platoon meanwhile continued to receive fire and suffered 1 KIA and 6 WIA. The remainder of the reconnaissance platoon was air lifted as reinforcement along with two platoons from Alpha who were airlifted to blocking positions south of the action. Supporting fires were called in and the remainder of Alpha

Company moved north to the site of the action and captured three VC hiding in a creek. Once again the scout helicopter proved invaluable by sighting and marking enemy positions and targets. When Alpha linked up with the reconnaissance platoon they found a total of 7 VC KIA. That evening there was a medical evacuation of a seriously wounded man from A Company which took place under the illumination of "Smokey the Bear's" flares. The remainder of the night found the reconnaissance platoon and the two platoons from Alpha returning to the scene of the action where they found 12 VC KIA and 12 WIA.

On the 8th, the battalion started moving back to brigade base at position Oasis on 68 sorties of UH-1Ds and 5 sorties of Ch 47s. The total enemy losses as of the 8th at 2400 hours were 160 VC KIA, 12 VCC and 96 weapons captured. The battalion spent the next two days at Oasis preparing for the next mission to take place in Kontum.

Operation "Mosby" which took place in Kontum ran from 10 April until 16 April. Prior to the operation no enemy units had been identified or known to be located in the area of operations. It was believed that certain infiltration routes and equipment caches were located in the area of operations.

Thus on 10 April the battalion minus B and C Companies was airlifted in 12 CV-2s from Oasis to Kontum with the mission of division reserve and as such was billeted in abandoned ARVN buildings near the Division Command Post. At the same time, Bravo Company was attached to the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry for operations in the vicinity of Dak To while Charlie Company remained at the "Turkey Farm" securing the aviation laager base. The next 6 days found the battalion reacting to numerous alerts. First, on the 13th of April,

Delta Company was alerted for and secured an artillery battery near Duc Co and on the next day Bravo was returned to battalion control from the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry. Second, on the 15th, the battalion was alerted to send one company on a reaction mission to a location where an artillery convoy of 7 vehicles and 24 personnel had been ambushed and had a vehicle disabled. Charlie Company was committed from the "Turkey Farm" with the mission of insuring the movement of the convoy and aiding in the extraction of the disabled vehicle by CH 47. Charlie via 10 UH-1Es landed and outflanked the suspected enemy positions but made negative contact thus allowing the free movement of the convoy. The disabled vehicle was successfully picked up, but due to a defective strap the HH 47 dropped the vehicle and it had to be destroyed by ARA. The third alert was the movement of the battalion back to base camp. The entire battalion closed at Camp Radcliff on 17 April at 1530.

Of special note during the extended operations was the use of a Psychological War Team and the scout helicopter. The Psychological War Team operated from an aircraft broadcasting to the VC near the Cambodian border and had a demoralizing effect on the enemy, persuading some to give up as witnessed by the battalion when one PAVN soldier surrendered. The scout helicopters from the 1st Battalion 9th Cavalry were of immense aid in heavy engagements. They maintained surveillance, advised friendly troops of VC strengths, disposition, positions, movements, routes of advance and withdrawal and marked enemy positions and targets for TAC air and ARA by dropping smoke while completely disregarding the intense automatic weapons fire. The battalion was honored to recommend Captain Albert Mc Gee and CWO David Kortus for the Distinguished Flying Cross as pilots of scout

helicopters serving the battalion during "Operation Lincoln."

The battalion spent the period of 7 through 20 April resting up from an exhausting series of operations ending with operation Mosby. For the first time in quite awhile we had no major operations planned in the immediate future. The continual combat strain was beginning to take its toll and the men learned that combat exhaustion, battle fatigue, call it what you may, was no myth. It was only by dint of superior leadership that the morale of the troops was as high as it was. But the troops knowing they were scheduled for a tour on the Barrier Line surrounding the camp recouped their strength and improved remarkably in morale.

On the 20th of April, the battalion plus Company B of the 2nd Battalion 8th Cavalry, which was attached, relieved the 2nd Battalion 5th Cavalry of the Camp Radcliff Barrier Line responsibility. The Barrier Line is the outer defensive perimeter which is manned by a reinforced battalion. It lies behind a series of barbed wire fences with dug in positions, and towers placed about 300 meters apart. The battalion had this responsibility from the 20th through the 30th. While on the Barrier Line, the companies conducted extensive patrolling actions both day and night with little to no enemy contact. The line received periodic inspections and ran through two communications and two general alert practices.

The Barrier Line may allow the troops to rest and relax to an extent but the importance of the position is obvious and demanded the strictest attention of the men especially at night. On several nights attached radar sections would pick up small groups of VCS operation within 300 meters of the line. On the evening of the 22nd, a radar team attached to Charlie Company followed the movement of 1 VCS 150 meters in front of one of the towers.

The next morning marking stakes were found in the area. On the very next night, Bravo Company attached from the 2nd Battalion 8th Cavalry had a radar contact to their front and at 0800 on the 24th they found a 6 foot white arrow in front of their tower pointing to a 106mm position. In addition to these continued small probes, the battalion again suffered casualties from friendly fires. Here, some defective ammunition caused a short mortar round which landed 25 meters from one of the towers killing one and wounding several others. Thus once again the battalion became the victims of the unexpected and unfortunately unavoidable accident.

The 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry relieved the battalion of the Barrier Line responsibility on the 30th of April. The battalion minus (Charlie Company was placed under the operational control of the relieving battalion) had the mission of conducting search and clear operations in the Tactical Area of Responsibility surrounding Camp Radcliff. The battalion also acted as the division reaction force with one company at base camp on a 30 minute alert status.

The period 1 May through 15 May was spent conducting numerous air assaults and search and clear operations in the TAOR. Although most of the operations resulted in negative enemy contact this was no picnic for the enemy could spring up at anytime and when not physically present were well represented by punji stakes and booby traps. The third of May Bravo encountered all three of the above. Upon landing in an LZ sniper fire wounded one man, punji stakes wounded two more and awhile later a booby trap brought the friendly casualty total to 6 WIA.

On the fifth, the enemy once again provided a surprise by shooting down the battalion commanders ship as it approached for a landing at a supposedly

secure LZ. The pilot received a gun shot wound of the head but the rest of the occupants escaped unharmed. The battalion continued search and clear operations, received occasional sniper fire and uncovered some food caches and a bunker and tunnel complex.

#### OPERATION CRAZY HORSE

The 2nd Battalion 8th Cavalry ran into heavy enemy contact northeast of Camp Radcliff and as the division reaction force the "Chargers" were committed and operation "Crazy Horse" commenced. Intelligence prior to the operation revealed that elements of the 2nd VC Regiment were in the area of operations. Information subsequently obtained placed portions of 6 different major enemy units in the area. The units were mostly PAVN and were equipped with good supporting fires to include mortars, recoilless rifles, and rockets which were used very effectively. The terrain was typical of that in the Central Highlands, with good observation and fields of fire in the valley and heavy vegetation and foliage obstructing movement and observation in the high grounds.

The first phase of Operation "Crazy Horse" ran from 16 May through 23 May with Alpha Company being committed to LZ Herford at 1753 on the 16th 20 kilometers northeast of An Khe, reinforcing Company B of the 2nd Battalion 8th Cavalry. Alpha received light ~~sniper~~ fire from a hilltop to the east and Charlie Company of the Chargers was committed at 1845. Both companies were engaged until night fall, and continued to receive probes and small arms fire throughout the night. The next morning, Alpha received small arms and rocket fire for over an hour, receiving 5 KIAs and 41 WIA for both engagements.

On the 17th, Charlie Company was attached to the 1st Battalion 5th Cav-

ally which was committed into the area of operations while Alpha continued to secure LZ Herford. Meanwhile, the battalion's forward command post and the 2nd Battalion 19th Artillery, secured by Company D (-), moved to position Cobra which was within sight of and 3 kilometers south of Herford. Bravo also moved up to the forward command post for additional security and local patrolling missions, and was soon joined by the main CP.

The 21st saw some changes in attachments with Alpha being attached to the Third Brigade and returning to Camp Radcliff and Charlie being released from attachment. Charlie flew their mortar platoon to LZ Herford and then marched overland passing through the mortar position which would provide continuous support for the main body of the company being picked up on the valley floor. At 1425 hours Charlie Company (-) had passed through their mortar positions and were almost 2000 meters down the hill. The mortar platoon was ordered extracted, but with the aircraft inbound for the pick up their position was attacked with automatic weapons, P-40 rockets and 60mm mortars. At 1440 hours, an estimated VC company swarmed onto the positions from a hill to the east just as the supporting fires were lifted. They over-ran the position, then split into two groups one withdrawing back to the east and the other to the northwest. ARA and conventional artillery were called into the area and fired continuously into suspected routes of withdrawal.

The remainder of Charlie Company immediately marched back to Herford and Bravo was air lifted to a blocking position on a suspected route of withdrawal with both companies arriving at approximately 1550. Between 1600 and 1630 hours A and B Companies of the 2nd Battalion 8th Cavalry were attached to the Chargers; Alpha tried to regain contact with the enemy and Bravo provided additional security for the CP. By nightfall only light contact had been made by the maneuvering forces. The friendly casualties totaled 16 KIA, 6 WIA and 1 MIA. During the night Company A, 2nd Battalion 8th Cavalry ambushed 3 VC and killed two,

the VC were still in the area. Approximately 10 VC probed the CP and artillery positions in an attempt to destroy the artillery and larger aircraft present; two VC were killed, 2 VC captured, 1 weapon, four 2 lb. explosive charges and 21 grenades were captured.

The third and final phase of the operation was conducted at position Hotel 20 Kilometers east of Cobra and was terminated on the 5th of June. The mission was again to establish blocking positions and conduct local patrols in sector. The last phase commenced on the 1st of June with the battalion in order of Companies A, B, C, D, and the forward CP group utilizing 35 sorties of UH-1Ds and 3 sorties of Ch 47s moving to their assigned positions closing by 1600. Alpha, with the AT platoon attached, moved from their previous blocking positions to Cobra to secure the artillery units which remained while Bravo and Charlie and part of Delta moved to and secured the new CP area, Hotel. Bravo and Charlie conducted local patrolling actions with Charlie given the additional mission as battalion reserve.

On the third of June, an element of one of Bravo's blocking forces made contact with 2 VC, killing one. Bravo then moved to new blocking positions to the west. At 1835, a VC rallier walked into the perimeter at position Hotel and revealed that a VC company was located near by. Charlie Company, remaining at Hotel, conducted local patrols and tightened the security.

Acting on the intelligence received from the VC rallier, Alpha Company was released from its security mission to the west and airlifted to Hotel. Upon arrival Alpha was further airlifted to an LZ near the suspected VC company with the mission of sweeping west for 2000 meters and then turning back to a new pick up zone. The AT platoon was sent in to bolster the CP security while Bravo continuing its blocking mission, reported finding an

an assortment of small arms ammo, four 82mm rounds, VC documents and assorted supplies. At 1630 hours on the fourth three to five VC walked into Bravo's position from the east and two were killed.

At 0730 on the fifth of June, Company B was alerted to move to a suitable LZ for extraction to An Khe. Company A continued their sweep of the valley floor finding evidence of recent occupation of that area with several bunkers, tunnels and huts. At 1115 hours Delta started its extraction along with some portions of the battalion headquarters. By 1915 hours all elements of the battalion had closed at Camp Radcliff.

The battalion was once again at base camp and this time spent three days there prior to receiving the mission of securing a section of highway 19 between An Khe and Pleiku. Here the companies set up on critical terrain paralleling the highway, and in addition to securing the passage for 5 or 6 convoys a day conducted local saturation patrols. Occasionally a VCS would be spotted and once 4 to 5 VC fired on our troops but no major contact was encountered the 9th through the 25th of June. One interesting point was that this particular section of highway was where the French Mobile Group 100 was demolished. The very hill where the battalion set up its CP on was the grave site for the fallen French.

#### OPERATION NATHAN HALE

On the 25th of June at 1700, the battalion received a verbal Warning Order from Headquarters 2nd Brigade for deployment in the last phase of Operation Nathan Hale in the vicinity of Tuy Hoa in Phu Yen Province. Thus on the 26th the battalion was relieved of its highway responsibility and proceeded to Tuy Hoa via C-130 and CV-2 aircraft closing by 0230 hours the morn-

ing of the 27th and immediately assumed the mission as the brigade reserve force.

For the next three days, the battalion moved out to its assigned sector and carried out company sized search and clear operations. During part of this time Bravo Company was under the operational control of the 1st Battalion 9th Cavalry and Charlie secured Battery B of the 2nd Battalion 19 Artillery. In general there was little enemy contact. Bravo and Alpha Companies located training, resting, and staging areas, in addition to an old hospital area. Alpha had the only major contact with the enemy when they took 20 to 30 VC under fire and pursued the group to the northeast and later suffered 4 WIA from a mine field.

The 30th day of June found the battalion alerted for possible commitment in a search for a radio station, but the station proved to be too elusive. This ended Operation Nathan Hale. The enemy had made major contact with the 1st Cavalry Division prior to the "Chargers" entering the operation but had broken up into small groups to exfiltrate the area by the time the 1st Battalion 12th Cavalry was committed and thus the battalion engaged in no major actions. Although Operation Nathan Hale had ended, the battalion had 20 more days of search and clear operations to complete before again returning to Camp Radcliff for the Barrier Line responsibility.

During July and the latter part of June the battalion's rotation of its original members went into effect. With the influx of new men a battalion training program was instituted as a part of the brigade induction program. The new men were given extensive classes and practical training on mines, booby traps, punji stakes, patrols, rappelling, and all other details the experienced instructors could impart. After this extensive 5 day program,

*INCORPORATED INTO*  
the men were ~~incorporated~~ their respective units relieving the rotating personnel.

The 1st Battalion (Abn), 12th Cavalry completed its first year as an Air Mobile Unit on 30 June 1966 having made a proud name for its-self. The men who made and shaped her are returning to the states but the men will always remain a part of the "Chargers" both in memory and history made. As the old troopers leave they can't help but notice the improvements made. The battalion base camp was no longer a smothering of pup tents; NCO, EM, and Officer Clubs are now present, showers, running water, permanent Mess Hall, concrete floors, all this came into being during this first year. The men leaving are both happy and sad at the same time. They are happy in the knowledge of a job well done, that they are going home to love ones, safety, and comfort; but sad in the fact that many of their friends, leaders and subordinates can not go home for they had made the supreme sacrifice!

KEY PERSONNEL

Lt Col Rutland D. Beard Jr	Battalion Commander
Lt Col Otto L. Cantrall Jr	Battalion Executive Officer
Major William C. Roll	S-3
Capt Johnnie L. Daniel	S-1
Capt Cyrus R. Steimert	S-2
Capt Michael W. Maxwell	S-2; CO Hq Co
Capt Robert E. Lindquist	S-3 Air; CO Co G
Capt John G. Lungulis	S-4
Capt Ted A. Showalter	Commo Officer
Capt Robert D. Sturdivant	Commo Officer; Co D XO
Capt Billy Lord	Battalion Chaplain
Capt Harry D. Heideman	Battalion Surgeon
Capt Wayne C. Davis	LNO
1/Lt Mackay R. Bravo	LNO; Co A XO
1/Lt Jimmie R. Smith	LNO; Co B XO
2/Lt Emmette Y. Burton	LNO
Capt John P. Castro	CO Hq Co; S-3 Air
Capt John E. Drake	CO Co A
Capt Jackie B. Cummings	CO Co A; S-1
Capt Stephen Klein	CO Co B
Capt Donald F. McMillan	CO Co C
Capt Donald F. Warren	CO Co C; CO Co D
Capt Robert T. Adams	CO Co D
Capt Herbert Glaser	XO, Co A
1/Lt Lawrence Britton	XO, Co A
1/Lt Charles T. Wurzenbacher	Plt Ldr Co A

1/Lt Donald B Adamson	Plt Ldr, Co A
2/Lt Gordon J Fardal	Plt Ldr, Co A
2/Lt Kaniel J Kapica	Plt Ldr, Co A
2/Lt Joseph J Raporio Jr	Plt Ldr, Co A
2/Lt Joseph H Snyder	Plt Ldr, Co A & Co C <i>2 regt</i>
1/Lt George Quigley	XO, Co B
1/Lt Archur L West	Plt Ldr Co B
1/Lt Roger V. Baker	Plt Ldr, Co B
1/Lt William H Crow	Plt Ldr, Co B
2/Lt Lewis C Anderson	Plt Ldr, Co B
2/Lt David R Poore	Plt Ldr, Co B
1/Lt Michael T Chase	XO, Co C
1/Lt Robert McCellan	Plt Ldr, Co C
1/Lt Allen R Becker	Plt Ldr, Co C —
2/Lt Donald Kell	Plt Ldr, Co C <i>weaver</i>
2/Lt Fred H Simon	Plt Ldr, Co C
1/Lt Robert Pearl	XO, Co D; Plt Ldr, Co A
1/Lt Roger Carpenter	Plt Ldr, Co D
2/Lt Ronald B Epstein ✓	Plt Ldr, Co D & E
1/Lt Roger N Conner	Plt Ldr, S/T Plt
1/Lt Melvyn A Estey Jr	Med Operation Asst; Asst S-1
CWO George B Callahan	Property Book Officer
S/Maj Felix Lubiszewski	En S/Major
1st Sgt Alfred A Daniels	1st Sgt HHC
1st Sgt William H Colbert	1st Sgt Co A
1st Sgt Clarence Linton	1st Sgt Co B
1st Sgt William C Staton	1st Sgt Co C

1st Sgt William B Tucker

M/Sgt Richard E Sandlin

M/Sgt John C Corzot

M/Sgt Leroy Mims Jr

1st Sgt Co D

Bn Operations Sgt

Bn Operations Sgt

Bn Intelligence Sgt

Attached Personnel:

Capt Robert D Offer Jr

Capt William F Crum

Capt David R Brown

2/Lt Larry Hunter

2/Lt Donald Taylor

2/Lt John D Piper

1/Lt Carl Hubbard

1/Lt Washington Sanchez

Forward Support Coordinator

(USAF) Forward Air Controller

(USAF) Forward Air Controller

FO Co A

FO Co A

FO Co B

Fo Co C

FO Co C

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Summary of Friendly Casualties:

Killed In Action ..... 72  
Missing In Action ..... 1  
Wounded In Action .....251  
Malaria .....179

Summary of Enemy Casualties:

VC Killed In Action by Body Count .....293  
VC Killed In Action (Estimation)\* .....235  
VC Wounded In Action (Estimation) .....113

Awards:

Silver Star ..... 2  
Legion of Merit ..... 1  
Bronze Star with "V" Device ..... 13  
Bronze Star (Meritorious) ..... 43  
Air Medal .....315  
Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device ..... 3  
Army Commendation Medal (Meritorious) ..... 24  
Purple Heart .....323  
Combat Infantryman's Badge .....248  
Combat Medical Badge ..... 15

\*NOTE - VC wounded in action (confirmed) are logged as VCC and included under enemy losses pages 42-43.

AWARDS DECORATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Silver Star

WARREN, Donald F.	Capt
FRAZIER, Wesley	PSG
HORTON, Floyd M.	SGT
KIRKPATRICK, Ronald T.	SP4
MACK, Robert L.	PFC

Legion of Merit

BEARD, Rutland D.	Lt Col
-------------------	--------

Bronze Star with "V" device

CANTRELL, Otto L.	Lt Col
ROLL, William C.	Major
GERGULIS, John G.	Capt
KLEIN, Stephen	Capt
CHASE, Michael T.	1/Lt
BAKER, Roger V.	2/Lt
KAPICA, Daniel	2/Lt
COLBER, William H.	1/SGT
CATO, William	SSGT
MORRIS, James C.	SSGT
NORMAN, Joseph L.	SSGT
SINKOVITZ, John F.	SSGT
HALL, Jerome	SP6
LAMBRIGHT, James M.	SGT
LURE, Harry G.	SGT
LOWDEN, Charles	SP5
SMITH, Albert	SP5
BAYLOR, Arthur	SP4
BRYANT, Milton	SP4
CASTOR, Stephen E.	SP4
HILL, Lucious O.	SP4
KNERBEL, Charles W.	SP4
PAPFNE, Arthur H.	SP4
HERNANDEZ, Jose R.	PFC
McDONALD, Michael W.	PFC

Bronze Star (Meritorious)

CASTRO, John P.	Capt
CUMMINGS, Jackie B.	Capt
LINDQUIST, Robert E.	Capt
MAXWELL, Michael	Capt
MacMILLAN, Donald F.	Capt

Bronze Star (Meritorious) (Cont'd)

CAYO, Robert	Capt
CONNER, Roger N.	1/Lt
DAVIS, Wayne L.	1/Lt
McLELLAN, Robert W.	1/Lt
QUIGLEY, George	1/Lt
CALLAHAN, George	1/Lt
LUBISZEWSKI, Felix	CWO
DANIELS, Alfred E.	SMaj
SEATON, William R.	1/SGT
GOZORI, John	1/SGT
DIXON, Ralph	1/SGT
MILLSTRAID, Richard	SGC
BRADLEY, Riley	SGC
DIXON, David	PSGT
MARQUEZ, Gonzales, A.	PSGT
REZNICEK, Rudolf	PSGT
TURNER, Edward	PSGT
ANDERSON, Ronald T.	PSGT
COULBY, Howard	PSGT
EDWARDS, James W.	PSGT
GUILLY, Sherman	PSGT
MORTON, James	PSGT
MONAR, Antonio	PSGT
O'DELL, Frank	PSGT
BUCKER, L. G.	PSGT
WISE, John E.	PSGT
ALL, Wilbur	SGT
HACHEZ, Joseph G.	SGT
HAMMERT, Harold	SGT
LOWE, Donald	SGT
MARSHALL, Oscar	SGT
McKEINBY, William B.	SGT
MONTANEZ, Colon, V.	SGT
MURRAY, Abraham	SGT
THORNHILL, Francis	SGT
WHEELER, Brad	SP5
GASDMAN, Walter	SP4
LINEMAN, Ronald L.	SP4
LONG, Thomas K.	SP4

Army Commendation Medal with "V" device

JUREK, Darwin	PSG
COOPER, Marion	SSGT
SIMPSON, Jesse	SSGT
QUINN, James M.	SGT
BRAGA, James L.	SP4
BERNAL, Gregorio	SP4
GARTER, Gary	SP4

Army Commendation Medal with "V" device (Con't)

KAINES, Thomas E.	SP4
POU, Ronald E.	SP4
SINGLETON, Willour	SP4
SPENSKIE, Robert E.	SP4
TILACH, Billy J.	SP4

Army Commendation Medal

HEIDEMAN, Harry D.	Capt
ESTER, Melvyn A. Jr	1/1st
BURTON, Emmitt Y.	2/1st
HOLLIES, Edward	SSGT
SOTO, Perez J.	SSGT
THRILLING, A.M.	SSGT
McCALL, R.L.	SSGT
ALEXANDER, Norman	SGT
CALDERON, Robert	SGT
CALDWELL, Joel	SGT
DIACONESCU, Petru	SGT
LAMB, B.S.	SGT
METCALA, A.	SGT
McGAIN, E.	SGT
SMITH, M.E.	SGT
TARINC, USG	SGT
WICHENOS, Mifflin	SGT
ARNOLD, Dieter	SP4
ALVAREZ, DAVID	SP4
DOOLE, Charles	SP4
GRACE, W. B.	SP4
GREEN, Coulter	SP4
ROSA, Charles	SP4
COCKRUM, L.	PFC
HAMPTON, James	PFC

BATTALION PERSONNEL KILLED IN ACTION

Operation Masher/White Wing

Personnel Killed In Action ....25

Adamson, Donald B	2/Lt
Jurek, Dalmer C	Psg
Hough, Matthew	Ssgt
Johnson, Jack	Ssgt
Smith, Marshall R	Ssgt
Watson, William B	Ssgt
Dale, Charles R	Sgt
Dyson, Charles E Jr	Sgt
Nevins, Patrick	Sgt
Quinn, John	Sgt
Stochaj, Paul T	Sgt
Thomas, Richard G	Sgt
El, Hondah D	Sp4
James, Joe N	Sp4
Dangle, Richard	Sp4
Sanchez, Frankie	Sp4
Coburn, William	Pfc
Long, Eldon D	Pfc
Mack, Robert L	Pfc
McDonald, Michael	Pfc
Mulree, Isaih	Pfc
Reynolds, Kenneth	Pfc
Sexton, Jimmie C	Pfc
Wilson, Marvin J	Pfc
Morris, Winston	Pfc

Operation Lincoln and Mosby

Personnel Killed In Action ....24

McMillan, Donald F	Capt
Britten, Lawrence	1/Lt
Matthews, James	Ssgt
Grove, Richard	Lgt
Horton, Floyd	Sgt
Iute, Harry	Sgt
Powell, David	Sgt
Alferoff, Ivan	Sp4
Chieves, Calvin	Sp4
Mattabaugh, Paul	Sp4
Hudson, Jonny	Sp4
Johnson, Charles	Sp4
Miller, Norman	Sp4
Vinson, Henry	Sp4
Baylor, Arthur	Pfc

Operation Lincoln and Mosby

Barrios, Bernard	Pfc
Cannata, George A	Pfc
Elman, David	Pfc
Holt, Dennis	Pfc
Moore, James	Pfc
Rose, Larry	Pfc
Sherman, Ronald	Pfc
Thompson, Alfred	Pfc
Woods, Charles	Pfc

One person killed In Action during the Interim period

Wheaton, Allen	Pfc
----------------	-----

Operation Crazy Horse

Personnel Missing In Action ... 1

Buckley, Lewis	Sgt
----------------	-----

Personnel Killed In Action ....22

Sheperd, Edward	Psg
Futwell, Gary	Ssgt
Gaines, Charles	Sgt
Randles, John	Cpl
Crocker, David	Sp/4
Drummond, Austin	Sp/4
Harrison, Paul J	Sp/4
Killilea, Martin	Sp/4
Post, Daniel G	Sp/4
Spikes, Av	Sp/4
Tynes, Earl	Sp/4
Benjamin, Robert	Pfc
Benton, Henry	Pfc
Booth, John	Pfc
Brame, Clarence	Pfc
Brooks, James	Pfc
Mack, Harold	Pfc
Nadeau, Richard	Pfc
Rhodes, Clifford	Pfc
Samayo, Joel	Pfc
Waste, Wade	Pfc
Williams, Lonnie	Pfc

ENEMY PERSONNEL LOSSES

Operation Matador

Viet Cong Captives .....2  
Viet Cong Suspects .....1

Operation Masher / White Wing

VC Killed In Action by BC (Body Count) .....98  
VC Killed in Action (Estimation) .....110  
VC Wounded In Action (Confirmed) .....0  
VC Wounded In Action (Estimation) .....0  
Viet Cong Captives .....7  
Viet Cong Suspects .....56

Operation Jim Bowie

Viet Cong Suspects .....2

Operation Lincoln & Mosby

VC Killed In Action by BC .....170  
VC Killed In Action (Estimation) .....113  
VC Wounded In Action (Confirmed) .....0  
VC Wounded In Action (Estimation) .....109  
Viet Cong Captives .....14  
Viet Cong Suspects .....0

Operation Heavy Horse

VC Killed In Action by BC .....25  
VC Killed In Action (Estimation) .....12  
VC Wounded In Action (Confirmed) .....0

VC Wounded In Action (Estimation) .....4  
Viet Cong Captive .....4  
Viet Cong Suspects .....4

Operation Nathan Hale -- No enemy losses

Note - 1. The estimation is made by the supporting Artillery, in addition to the confirmed count, and is not a confirmed figure.

Note - 2. The confirmed WIAs zero as the wounded VC are listed as VCC.

## GLOSSARY & ABBREVIATIONS

AO .....	Area of Operations
APA .....	Aerial Rocket Artillery
ARVN .....	Army Republic of Vietnam, South Vietnamese Regular Army
AT Platoon .....	Anti-Tank Platoon
CHICOM .....	Communist Chinese
CIDG .....	Civil Irregular Defense Guard - similar to the US National Guard.
CS Gas .....	A very Effective Tear Gas
FO .....	Forward Observer - An Officer or NCO who adjusts supporting fires.
FSE .....	Forward Support Element
HMG .....	Heavy Machine Gun
KIA .....	Killed In Action
LMG .....	Light Machine Gun
LNO .....	Liaison Officer - The Officer who maintains contact and intercommuni- cations between different units to insure mutual understanding and unity of purpose and action.
LRP .....	Long Range Patrol - Usually consist- ing of from 4-7 NCOs who are self sufficient for periods up to 3 days and perform missions as stay behind forces, recon patrols and ambush patrols.
LZ .....	Landing Zone - The area where an air assault is made or the area of dis- embarkation from an aircraft.
MAIN FORCE UNIT .....	A North Vietnamese Regular Army Unit.
MAN TRAP .....	Any large camouflaged trap, pit with sharpened stakes, spikes bent back on a wip limber.

MIA ..... Missing In Action

Montagnard ..... A mountain tribe or series of tribes who do not speak Vietnamese nor resemble them.

PAVN ..... People's Army of Vietnam - Hard Core North Vietnamese Regulars.

Puff The Magic Dragon ..... A C47 aircraft equipped with a Minnie gun which fires 6000 - 20mm rounds per minute and is capable of sustained time over the target.

Punji Stake ..... A slender pointed stake (usually of bamboo) occasionally tipped with poison, which is stuck into the ground at an angle with the point up thus inflicting a wound to all who press against it.

Psychological War Team ..... A Special team usually headed by a Special Forces NCO consisting of Vietnamese and Montagnard interpreters equipped with loud speakers and pamphlets plus a small security element.

PZ ..... Pick Up Zone - An open area where aircraft in flight may approach the ground to receive messages, other aircraft, personnel or supplies.

RL ..... Rocket Launcher

RR ..... Recoilless Rifle

RRU ..... Radio Research Unit

Smokey the Bear ..... A flare ship capable of sustained time over the target.

Sortie ..... An operational flight by one aircraft.

Strike ..... An attack which is intended to inflict damage on, seize or destroy an objective.

TAC Air ..... Tactical Air - In this case meaning that tactical Air Force aircraft were being called in for a strike.

TACR ..... Tactical Area of Responsibility.

Troop Ladder ..... A complex rope ladder slung from a  
CH 47, Chinook Helicopter.

Tube Artillery ..... Ground or Conventional Artillery.

VC ..... Viet Cong

VCC ..... Viet Cong Captive

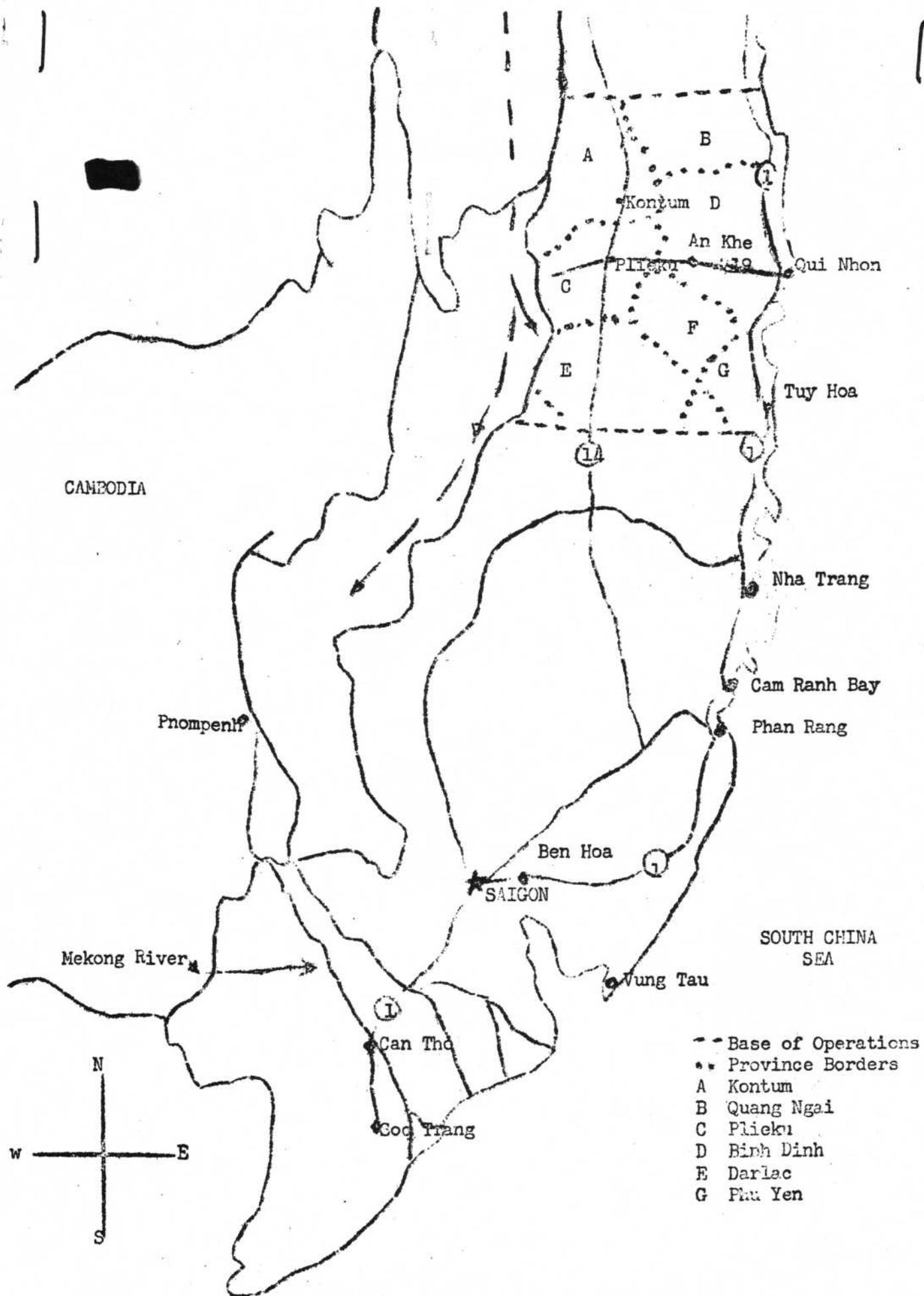
VCS ..... Viet Cong Suspect

WIA ..... Wounded In Action

## BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

As this work is very current no reference material outside of the battalion was used. Part of the information came from personal knowledge and interviews with battalion personnel. The remainder of the information came from the following sources:

1. Company Unit Histories, submitted for the period 1 January 1966 through 16 April 1966. These histories are on file in the S-1 section, 1st Battalion (Abn), 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division.
2. DA Form 1594 - Daily Staff Journal, Location: S-3 files, 1st Battalion (Abn), 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division.
3. Situation and After Action Reports, location: S-3 files, 1st Battalion (Abn), 12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division.



CAMBODIA

Pnompenh

Mekong River

Can Tho

God Trang

Ben Hoa

SAIGON

Vung Tau

SOUTH CHINA  
SEA

Nha Trang

Cam Ranh Bay

Phan Rang

Tuy Hoa

Qui Nhon

Kontum D

B

A

An Khe

Plieku

F

E

G

- - Base of Operations

.. Province Borders

A Kontum

B Quang Ngai

C Plieku

D Binh Dinh

E Darlac

G Phu Yen

RED CHINA

Dienbienphu

Yen Bai

NORTH VIET NAM

LAOS

HANOI

HAIPHONG

GULF OF  
TONKIN

7

Thanh Hoa

Vinh

Dong Hoi

THAILAND

Hue

LAOS

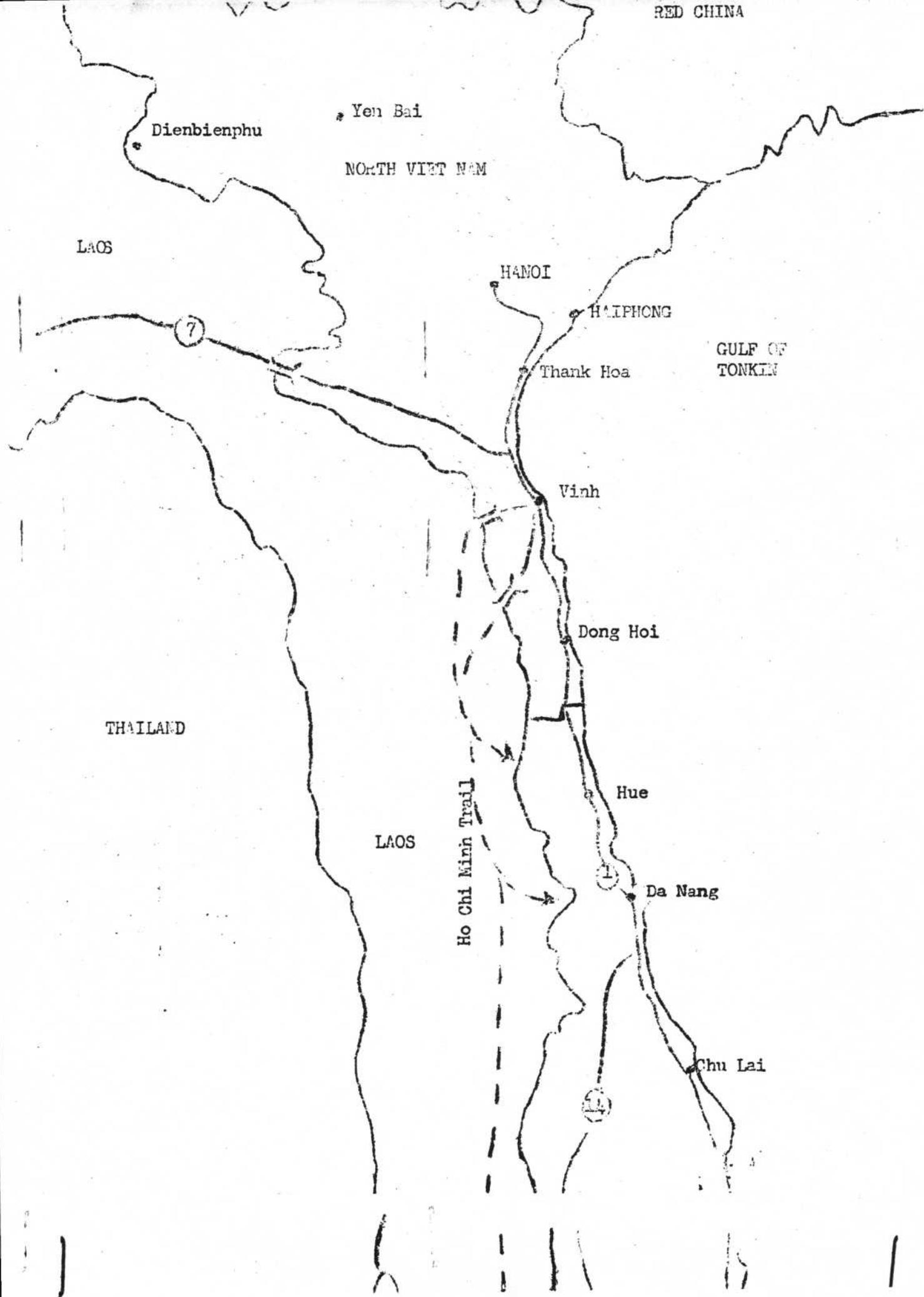
Ho Chi Minh Trail

Da Nang

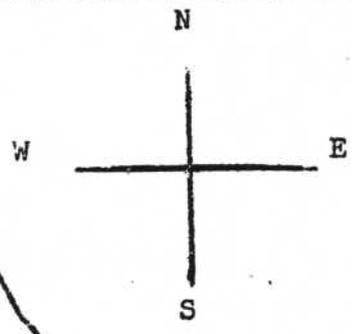
1

Chu Lai

11



"OPERATION MATADOR"



(KONTUM)

CAMBODIA

Suspected V.C, POW Camp

Dak To Special Forces Camp

4

Kontum

Area seeded with time detonated bombs

4

CAMBODIA

(PLIEKU)

29

Plieku

Catecka Tea Plantation (Stadium)

Village extracted

Oasis

Duc Co Special Forces Camp

19

OPERATIONS LINCOLN and MOSBY

Kentum

KONTUM

Area seeded  
with time  
detonated bombs

PLIEKU

Turkey Farm

Convoy was stopped

PLIEKU

Ia Krel Ambush

Pl. Young Drop  
Village Evacated

Catecka  
Tea Plantation

Duc Co  
Special Forces  
Camp

Chu Peng Mt. Area

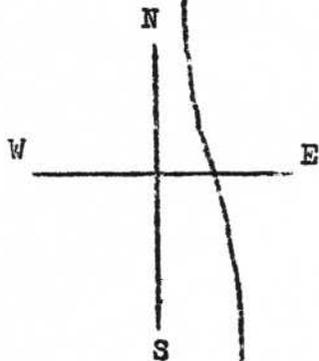
Hawk LZ

Ia Drang River Blocking Area, White

PHU BON

CAMBODIA

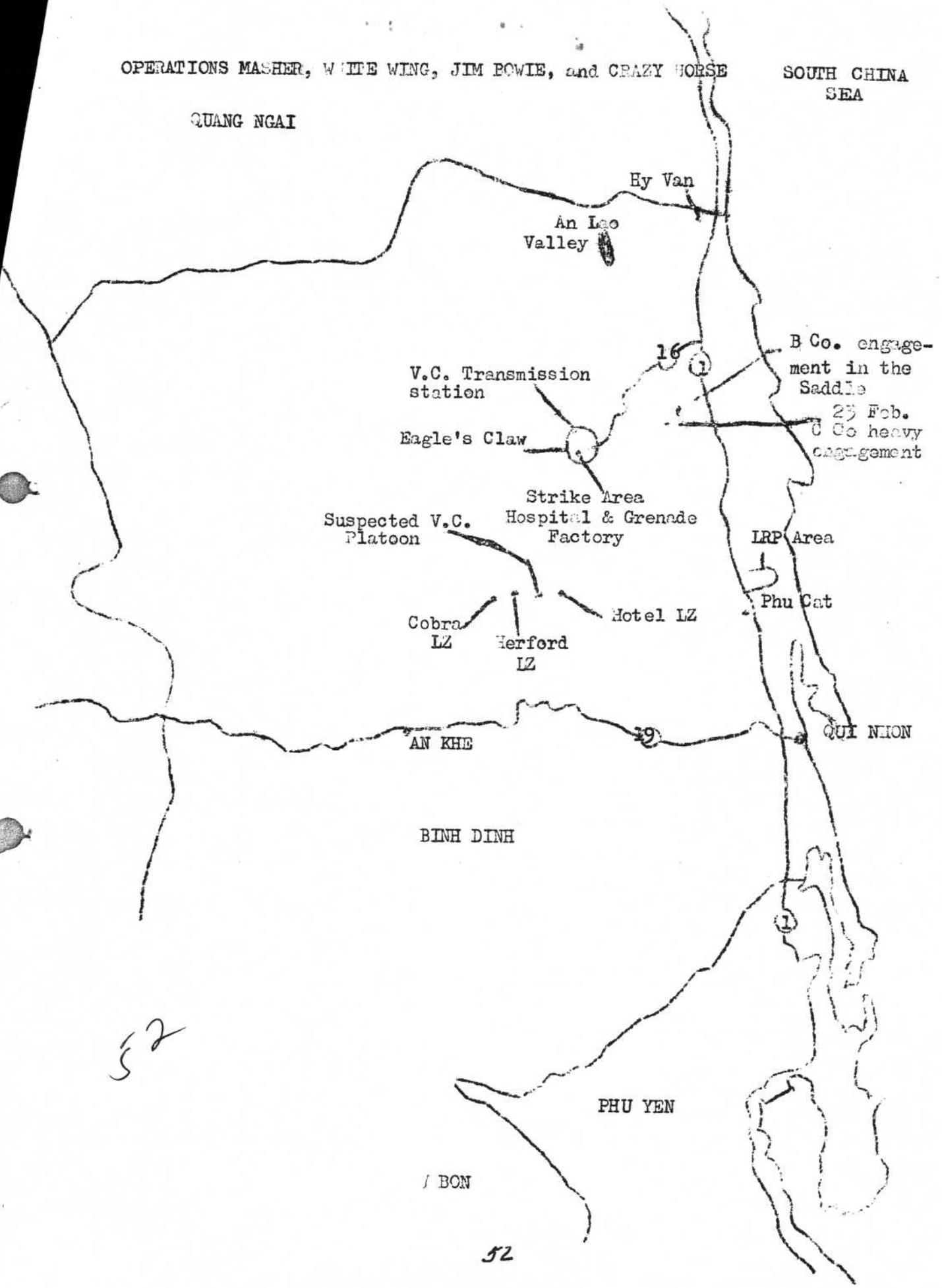
DARLAC



OPERATIONS MASHER, WHITE WING, JIM BOWIE, and CRAZY HORSE

SOUTH CHINA SEA

QUANG NGAI



52

1 BON

52