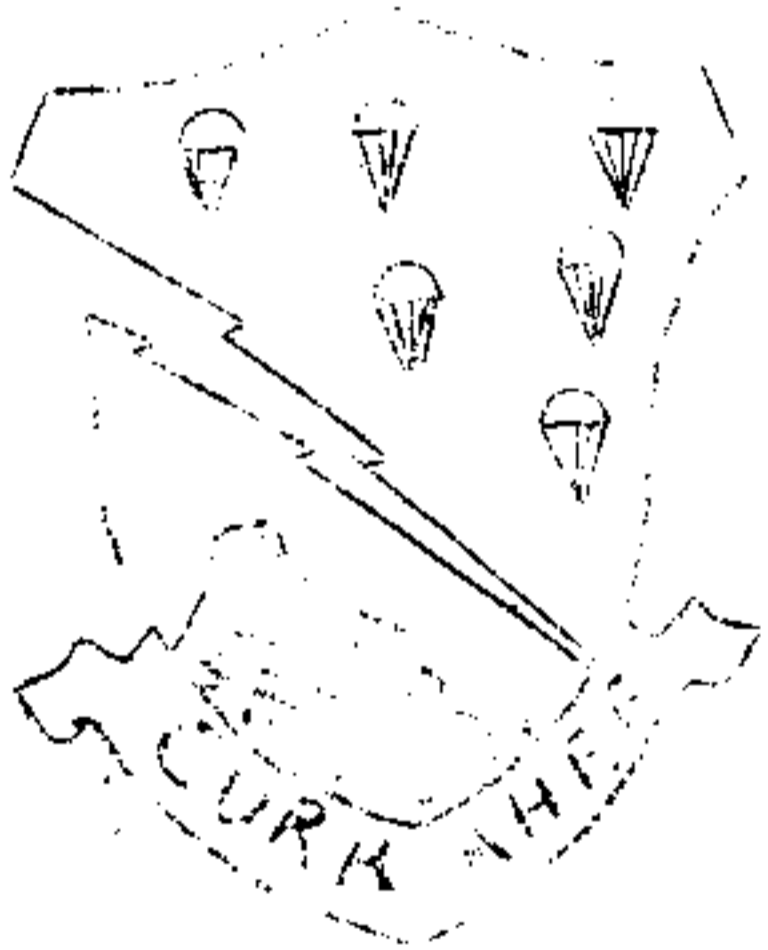


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1970 HISTORY

1ST BATTALION (AIRMOBILE),

506TH INFANTRY, 101ST AIRBORNE

DIVISION (AIRMOBILE), REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

THIS HISTORY IS DEDICATED TO THOSE
MEMBERS OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 506TH
INFANTRY WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES
IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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OPERATION RANDOLPH GLEN
THUA THIEN (COMBINED CAMPAIGN)
(1 JAN TO 31 MAR 70)

THE 1ST BATTALION (AIRMOBILE), 506TH INFANTRY, BEGAN THE YEAR 1970 WITH OPERATION RANDOLPH GLUN THUA THIEN (COMBINED CAMPAIGN). RANDOLPH GLEN WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATION BEGUN 7 DECEMBER 1969.

INTELLIGENCE SHOWED THAT THE GENERAL AREA OF THE PHONG DIEN AND NAM HOA DISTRICTS OF THUA THIEN PROVINCE CONTINUED TO BE USED AS A PASSAGE FOR ENEMY MOVEMENT FROM THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA IN THE WEST TO THE POPULATED AREAS OF PHONG DIEN. RECENT CONTACTS INDICATED THAT THE ENEMY WOULD NOT BECOME DECISIVELY ENGAGED BUT WOULD USE RPG AND SMALL ARMS IN A SNIPER ROLE. THE MISSION OF THE BATTALION WAS, THEREFORE, TO CONDUCT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS TO LOCATE AND DESTROY NVA/VC MAIN FORCES AND TO INTERDICT ENEMY MOVEMENT INTO POPULATED LOWLANDS.

THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION, THE BATTALION OPERATED IN COMPANY AND PLATOON SIZE ELEMENTS. ONE COMPANY WAS TO BE EMPLOYED IN MULTIPLE NIGHT AMBUSHES WHILE TWO COMPANIES AND THE RECON PLATOON CONDUCTED PATROL AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS. THE FOURTH COMPANY PROVIDED SECURITY FOR FIRE BASE JACK.

AS THE OPERATION BEGAN, NUMEROUS TRAILS, BUNKERS, SPIDER HOLES AND OTHER SIGNS OF THE ENEMY WERE DISCOVERED. ALL BUNKERS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DESTROYED TO DENY FURTHER USE TO THE ENEMY. THE ENEMY WAS OFTEN OBSERVED SINGLY AND IN SMALL GROUPS. THESE WERE ENGAGED WHEN POSSIBLE BY ARTILLERY AND ARA RESULTING IN MANY ENEMY CASUALTIES.

FOLLOWING BATTALION STAND-DOWN IN MID JANUARY, THE OPERATION CONTINUED. COMPANY C CONDUCTED A COMBAT ASSAULT INTO AN AREA OF SUSPECTED ENEMY PRESENCE, THEN BROKE INTO SQUAD SIZE ELEMENTS. NUMEROUS TRAILS WERE DISCOVERED, AND BOOBY TRAPS CAUSED SEVERAL CASUALTIES.

ON 25 JANUARY COMPANY D CONDUCTED A COMBAT ASSAULT INTO A HEAVILY BOOBY TRAPPED LZ. ELEVEN BUNKERS WERE DESTROYED BY THE UNIT.

AS THE OPERATION MOVED INTO FEBRUARY, AIR STRIKES WERE OFTEN CALLED IN TO DESTROY THE BUNKERS WHICH WERE BEING FOUND WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY. ON 19 FEB, COMPANY C DISCOVERED ONE NEW BUNKER AND 25 OLD BUNKERS IN A SINGLE DAY. FOUR DAYS LATER THEY FOUND A CACHE AND MANY OLD BUNKERS IN WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE A TRAINING SITE. THE ENEMY CONTINUED TO OPERATE IN SMALL GROUPS AND RESORTED TO SNIPER FIRE RATHER THAN COMMIT LARGE NUMBERS TO AN OPERATION.

IN MARCH LIEUTENANT COLONEL HOLT ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE BATTALION. MARCH WAS A MONTH OF INCREASING ENEMY ACTIVITY.

COMPANY B MADE MANY FINDINGS IN THE FIRST PART OF THE MONTH. THEY FOUND CACHES OF RICE, WEAPONS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES ON MARCH 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 AND 8. THEY ALSO UNCOVERED SEVERAL GRAVES CONTAINING BODIES OF NVA WHO HAD BEEN KILLED BY ARTILLERY WITHIN THE LAST 2-3 MONTHS. ON 6 MARCH THEY WOUNDED AN NVA WHO WAS THEN MEDIVACED OUT. UPON INTERROGATION THE NVA SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY 30 ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF COMPANY B.

COMPANY C ENCOUNTERED ACTIVITY STARTING ON 6 MARCH WHEN THEY CAME IN CONTACT WITH AN ESTIMATED TWO PLATOONS OF NVA. THEY WERE ENGAGED WITH AK FIRE AND RPG ROUNDS. GUNSHIPS WHICH CAME TO SUPPORT COMPANY C ALSO CAME UNDER FIRE WITH ONE LOH AND ONE GUNSHIP HIT BY SMALL ARMS FIRE. ON 7 MARCH THE COMPANY WAS AGAIN ENGAGED BY ENEMY SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE FOLLOWING DAY THEY DISCOVERED A CACHE IN THE AREA OF PREVIOUS CONTACT. BLOOD TRACES WERE FOUND AROUND THE RECENTLY-USED BUNKERS. ON 10 MARCH THEY AGAIN MADE CONTACT WHEN THEY WERE ENGAGED BY AK FIRE AND FRAGMENTATION GRENADES AS THEY CONDUCTED A SWEEP. COMPANY C SUFFERED VERY LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THE THREE CONTACTS.

ON 10 MARCH COMPANY A BEGAN RECEIVING HEAVY SMALL ARMS FIRE AND RPG ROUNDS AS THEY WERE IN THEIR NIGHT DEFENSIVE POSITION (NDP). THEY COULD NOT SEE THE ENEMY BUT ESTIMATED IT TO BE A PLATOON OR LARGER. COMPANY A SUFFERED MODERATE CASUALTIES IN THE PRE-DAWN ENGAGEMENT. THE FIRST AND SECOND PLATOONS MANEUVERED TO THE AREA OF THIRD PLATOON CONTACT AND CHECKED OUT THE AREA. THEY FOUND THE ENEMY HAD BEEN WITHIN 5 METERS OF THE NDP, HAD CUT CLAYMORE WIRES AND TURNED TWO OF THEM AROUND.

(2)

A FIRST LIGHT CHECK REVEALED BLOOD TRAILS BUT ALL ENEMY BODIES HAD BEEN DRAGGED AWAY.

CO B, 3RD BATTALION, 187TH INFANTRY WAS INSERTED ONTO THE HIGH GROUND NORTH-NORTHEAST OF COMPANY A'S CONTACT. THEY INITIATED CONTACT WITH THREE ENEMY 75 METERS FROM THE LZ WITH 1 ENEMY KIA AND 1 KBA. ON 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ MARCH, THEY RECEIVED LIGHT AUTOMATIC FIRE AND LATER IN THE DAY RECEIVED EIGHT INCOMING 60 MM MORTAR ROUNDS.

ALSO ON 14 MARCH COMPANY A AGAIN MADE CONTACT, SUFFERING LIGHT CASUALTIES. THE DUSTOFF CHOPPER PICKING UP THE WOUNDED WAS FIRED UPON AND WAS FORCED TO WAIT UNTIL THE SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS SUPPRESSED BEFORE IT COULD LAND. THE FOLLOWING DAY BOTH COMPANY A AND COMPANY B 3/187 FOUND LARGE BUNKER COMPLEXES IN THE AREA.

ON 15 MARCH COMPANY D LEFT FIRE BASE MOONEY AND BEGAN PATROL AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS. ON 16 MARCH THEY KILLED 2 NVA, AND KILLED 1 ADDITIONAL NVA THE FOLLOWING DAY. ON 19 MARCH THEY RECEIVED 5-6 INCOMING MORTAR ROUNDS WITH NO

Casualties
CASUALTIES

AT THIS TIME COMPANY C WAS ENGAGED IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SECURITY OF FIRE BASE GRANITE. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS ON 20 MARCH, FIRE BASE GRANITE WAS HIT WITH A SAPPER ATTACK SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH INCOMING MORTAR FIRE. THE ATTACK BEGAN AS CPT MOORE, THE COMPANY COMMANDER, WAS WALKING ALONG THE PERIMETER

AND SPOTTED ONE ENEMY AND KILLED HIM. IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE BATTLE, RPG FIRE WAS TAKEN FROM THE SOUTH AND MOVEMENT WAS NOTED ON THE NORTH. THE MAIN SAPPER ATTACK CAME FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, SOUTH, AND SOUTH-WEST. THE TOG BUNKER TOOK A DIRECT HIT FROM MORTAR FIRE AND THE MORTAR SECTION ALSO TOOK MORTAR FIRE AND RPG FIRE. THE ATTACK BEGAN AT 0204 AND TERMINATED ABOUT 0410. A FIRST LIGHT CHECK FOUND 18 NVA BODIES, 5 RPG LAUNCHERS, 5 AK-47S, 50-75 SACHEL CHARGES. A PINK TEAM (1 LOH AND 1 COBRA GUNSHIP) ON A VISUAL RECON FOUND 13 MORTAR POSITIONS IN 5 SEPERATE LOCATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF FB GRANITE. U.S. CASUALTIES FROM THE ATTACK WERE MODERATE TO HEAVY. ONE PLATOON FROM COMPANY B WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SENT TO REINFORCE COMPANY C ON THE FIRE BASE.

ON 22 MARCH THE FIRE BASE WAS AGAIN ATTACKED. THE OBSERVATION POSTS IN FRONT OF THE PERIMETER DETECTED THE ENEMY AND WERE RECEIVING SACHEL CHARGES AS THEY CAME TOWARD THE PERIMETER. MAXIMUM ARTILLERY SUPPORT WAS USED AROUND THE FIRE BASE TO DEFEAT THE ATTACK. FIRE BASE GRANITE REMAINED OCCUPIED UNTIL 28 MARCH WHEN COMPANY A REOPENED FIRE BASE RAKKASAN.

(9)

OPERATION TEXAS STAR
(1 APRIL TO 5 SEPT 70)

ON 1 APRIL THE BATTALION INITIATED OPERATION TEXAS STAR. TEXAS STAR WAS AN AIRMOBILE OPERATION IN THE NAM HOA DISTRICT OF THUA THIEN PROVINCE. THIS REGION WAS LOCATED IN THE MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF CAMP EVANS. INTELLIGENCE HAD INDICATED THAT THE 2ND BATTALION OF THE 803RD NVA REGIMENT ALONG WITH A SAPPER COMPANY WAS LOCATED IN THE MAUREEN RIDGELINE AREA. TEXAS STAR WAS DESIGNED TO LOCATE AND DESTROY ENEMY FORCES AND SUPPLIES AND TO INTERDICT ENEMY MOVEMENTS INTO THE POPULATED LOWLANDS.

~~THE PERIOD OF APRIL, MAY AND JUNE WAS CHARACTERIZED BY FREQUENT CONTACT, (OFTEN INITIATED BY THE ENEMY FROM BUNKERS, ON MOUNTAINS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE.]~~

INTELLIGENCE HAD ALSO INDICATED THAT THE ENEMY WAS FOLLOWING AMERICAN COMPANIES AT A DISTANCE. THE COMPANIES BEGAN TO UTILIZE STAY-BEHIND AMBUSHES AS THEY LEFT THEIR NDP POSITION IN THE MORNING. THIS TACTIC HAD GREAT SUCCESS. ON 2 APRIL COMPANY C LEFT A STAY-BEHIND AMBUSH WHICH NETTED 2 NVA KILLED.

ALSO ON 2 APRIL, COMPANY D TOOK 30-50 INCOMING 60 MM MORTAR ROUNDS WITH MINOR CASUALTIES. THE MEDIVAC CHOPPER TOOK AN FIRE FROM SEVERAL WEAPONS AS IT MEDIVACED THE WOUNDED FROM THE AREA. TWO DAYS LATER THE COMPANY WAS ENGAGED BY SMALL ARMS AND RPG FIRE. A WHITE TEAM, (TWO LOH CHOPPERS WITH GUNS)

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FOUND A BASE AREA IN THE VICINITY WITH MORE THAN 30 BUNKERS. IT WAS THOUGHT TO BE A HOSPITAL COMPLEX. FOUR ENEMY WERE KILLED DURING THE DAY. ON 7 APRIL COMPANY D WAS ATTACKED SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT BY AN ESTIMATED 8-10 ENEMY. THE THIRD PLATOON BEGAN RECEIVING RPG AND SACHEL CHARGES AT 0050. AT 0145 THE SECOND PLATOON LINKED UP WITH THE THIRD AND THE ENEMY FLED, DRAGGING THEIR DEAD WITH THEM. AT 0957 THE COMPANY RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 50 ROUNDS OF INCOMING MORTAR FIRE. DELTA SUFFERED MODERATE CASUALTIES DURING THE NIGHT'S ENGAGEMENT. ON 10 APRIL COMPANY D WAS AGAIN ATTACKED SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT BY AN ESTIMATED 5-10 ENEMY. ABOUT 20-25 SACHEL CHARGES WERE THROWN INSIDE THE PERIMETER. DELTA COMPANY AGAIN SUFFERED MODERATE CASUALTIES IN THE BRIEF ENCOUNTER.

MEANWHILE RECON TEAMS ~~FROM~~ ALPHA, BRAVO AND ECHO WERE CONDUCTING SCREENING MISSIONS ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE RAO TRANG TO PREVENT ENEMY INFILTRATION ACROSS THE RIVER.

BEGINNING AT THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH, BOTH ALPHA AND CHARLIE COMPANIES SAW FREQUENT CONTACT OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT A WEEK. ON 14 APRIL, COMPANY A FOUND A RECENTLY TRAVELED TRAIL. THEIR KIT CARSON SCOUT SAID THERE WERE AT LEAST 200 ENEMY IN THE AREA. LATER THAT DAY THEY FOUND BUNKERS THOUGHT TO BE A BASE CAMP VACATED AS LITTLE AS 3 HOURS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL. EVIDENCE OF A 40 MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN WAS FOUND AS WELL AS SUPPLIES LEFT

BEHIND AND 3 GRAVES CONTAINING THE BODIES OF NVA KILLED BY ARTILLERY. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE COMPANY ENGAGED A LONE ENEMY. AS THEY MOVED INTO THE CONTACT AREA THEY FOUND MORE BUNKERS AND A RICE CACHE. A FURTHER CHECK OF THE AREA ON 16 APRIL SHOWED 22 BUNKERS, 1000 AK-47 ROUNDS, 1 AK-47 AND 30 POUNDS OF SATCHEL CHARGES.

MEANWHILE, CHARLIE COMPANY ON 15 APRIL SIGHTED 35 ENEMY WALKING SINGLE FILE SOME DISTANCE FROM CHARLIE COMPANY'S POSITION. GUNSHIPS EMPLOYED AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY (ARA) WITH AT LEAST ONE NVA KILLED. COMPANY C THEN RECEIVED SEVERAL RPG ROUNDS FROM THE AREA JUST WORKED OVER BY ARA AND THE GUNSHIPS WERE CALLED ONCE AGAIN. A PINK TEAM (1 LOH AND 1 COBRA GUNSHIP) RETURNED TO THE AREA. CHARLIE COMPANY ESTIMATED THAT OVER 1 COMPANY OF NVA WERE FIRING AT THE PINK TEAM AS IT WORKED OVER THE AREA. THE PINK TEAM FIRED ON AND UNCOVERED A CAVE COMPLEX ABOUT 100 METERS SOUTHEAST OF COMPANY C AND RECEIVED HEAVY FIRE FROM THESE CAVES. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE COMPANY FOUND NUMEROUS PIECES OF HUMAN REMAINS IN THE CONTACT AREA--ESTIMATED TO BE IN EXCESS OF 20 PERSONS. INTELLIGENCE GATHERED FROM THE BODIES INDICATED THEY WERE FRESH REPLACEMENTS BEING WELL EQUIPPED WITH NEW CLOTHES, ETC. ALSO IN THE CONTACT AREA NUMEROUS WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION WERE FOUND INCLUDING 1 60MM BASEPLATE AND 12 MORTAR ROUNDS. ON 20 APRIL THE COMPANY ENGAGED 2 ENEMY AS THEY

WERE BUILDING BUNKERS AT AN OLD U.S. NDP SITE. LATER IN THE DAY THEY WERE ENGAGED BY NVA WITH LIGHT U.S. CASUALTIES. ONE NVA BODY WAS FOUND AFTER THE ENGAGEMENT.

ON 25 APRIL COMPANY B CONDUCTED A COMBAT ASSAULT FROM 3 FIELD LOCATIONS TO FIRE BASE MAUREEN AND CONDUCTED PATROL AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS TO THE EAST. ABOUT NOON THEY SPOTTED THREE ENEMY AND ENGAGED THEM. THE NVA FLED TO THE SOUTHEAST. GUNSHIPS WERE CALLED ON STATION AND RECEIVED HEAVY AK FIRE. BRAVO COMPANY MEANWHILE FOUND A MORTAR POSITION AND 6 BUNKERS CONTAINING 40 ROUNDS OF 82 MM MORTAR AMMUNITION. ARTILLERY AND ARA WERE USED ON THE AREA. AT 1302 ONE GUNSHIP WAS HIT BY SMALL ARMS FIRE, BRAVO CONTINUED TO MANEUVER AND FOUND THREE BUNKERS IN A LOCATION ENABLING THE OCCUPANTS OF THE BUNKERS TO SIMULTANEOUSLY OBSERVE FIRE BASES RAKKASAN, GRANITE AND GLADIATOR. AT 1448 THE SECOND PLATOON WAS ENGAGED BY AN ESTIMATED SQUAD OF NVA WITH MACHINE GUNS. THE FIRST AND THIRD PLATOONS MANEUVERED TO HELP THE SECOND PLATOON. THE COMPANY THEN REVISED THEIR ESTIMATE OF THE ENEMY FORCE TO A PLATOON WELL DUG IN. ANYTIME THEY ATTEMPTED TO MANEUVER THEY CAME UNDER FIRE--THE SECOND PLATOON WITH SEVERAL WOUNDED PERSONNEL WAS STILL PINNED DOWN BY MACHINE GUN FIRE AND COULD NOT MOVE. BY THIS TIME THE WEATHER PREVENTED GUNSHIPS FROM OPERATING. FINALLY THE FIRST AND THIRD PLATOONS FLANKED EITHER SIDE OF THE

HILL. SFC JESSE ISSACS, FIRST PLATOON LEADER, AND THREE MEN FROM THE FIRST ^{PLATOON} MANEUVERED FROM BEHIND, KILLED TWO NVA AND PUT TWO BUNKERS OUT OF ACTION WHICH HAD BEEN PINNING THE SECOND PLATOON DOWN.

DURING THE REMAINDER OF APRIL MORE TRAILS AND BUNKERS WERE DISCOVERED AND LIGHT CONTACT WAS MADE.

ON 1 MAY, COMPANY A INITIATED CONTACT WITH AN ESTIMATED 50 ENEMY AT 0737. ALL PLATOONS BEGAN MANEUVERING ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS WITH GUNSHIP SUPPORT. LATER IN THE MORNING THEY RECEIVED INCOMING MORTAR FIRE. AT 1543 THEY AGAIN MADE CONTACT, THIS TIME WITH AN ESTIMATED SQUAD. AN AIRSTRIKE WAS CALLED IN TO SUPPORT THE COMPANY.

BRAVO COMPANY ALSO HAD CONTACT ON 1 MAY WHEN THEY WERE MET WITH AN ESTIMATED 10 WELL ARMED NVA. COMPANY B SUFFERED LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THE BITTER FIREFIGHT. ONE NVA BODY WAS FOUND AMONG NUMEROUS BLOOD TRAILS AFTER THE BATTLE.

DELTA COMPANY INITIATED A COMBAT ASSAULT ON 5 MAY TO FIRE BASE MAUREEN AND BEGAN PATROL AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS TO THE EAST. GUNSHIPS HAD BEEN TAKING FIRE FROM THE VICINITY OF THE FIRE BASE FOR SEVERAL DAYS INDICATING STRONG ENEMY PRESENCE. THE LZ WAS VERY HOT, THE AIRCRAFT TOOK HEAVY FIRE AS THEY INSERTED DELTA COMPANY ON THE LZ. IMMEDIATELY AFTER INSERTION DELTA BEGAN TAKING INCOMING MORTAR FIRE CONSISTING

OF CS GAS AS WELL AS HIGH EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS. THE COMPANY SUFFERED LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THE INSERTION AND ACCOUNTED FOR TWO NVA KILLED AND AT LEAST ONE WOUNDED. ON 6 MAY AN AIRSTRIKE WAS CALLED IN ON THE AREA. DELTA THEN BEGAN TO MOVE AND AGAIN CAME IN CONTACT WITH NVA IN BUNKERS. THEY CONTINUED TO MANEUVER BUT COULD NOT DISLODGE THE ENEMY FROM THE BUNKER COMPLEX. THEY REQUESTED AN AIRSTRIKE TO BEGIN BEFORE THEIR FOLLOWING MORNING'S MOVEMENT. DURING THE NIGHT THEY TOOK SATCHEL CHARGES, MORTAR FIRE AND AK FIRE FROM AN ESTIMATED COMPANY SIZE ELEMENT WHICH HAD MOVED VERY CLOSE TO THEIR PERIMETER. FLARESHIPS AND GUNSHIPS WERE CALLED IN TO HELP WITH THEIR NIGHT DEFENSE. DELTA SUFFERED SEVERAL CASUALTIES DURING THE NIGHT ATTACK. ON THE MORNING OF 7 MAY THE REQUESTED AIRSTRIKE HIT THE BUNKER COMPLEX AT 0817. THE THIRD PLATOON OF CHARLIE COMPANY REINFORCED DELTA AND THE COMPANY BEGAN TO MOVE. SEVERAL SAPPER BODIES WERE FOUND OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER OF THEIR NIGHT LOCATION. IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON THEY AGAIN TOOK INCOMING MORTAR FIRE. ON 8 MAY ANOTHER AIRSTRIKE OF NAPALM AND BOMBS WAS CALLED IN WHICH RESULTED IN FOUR LARGE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. THE COMPANY BEGAN TO MOVE AGAIN. ON 10 MAY THEY AGAIN MADE CONTACT. THEY FOUND A .51 CALIBER MACHINE GUN POSITION AND SEVERAL BUNKERS. THE GUNSHIPS WHICH

CAME TO SUPPORT DELTA COMPANY ALSO TOOK HEAVY FIRE FROM A .51 CALIBER POSITION 400 TO 500 METERS SOUTHEAST OF DELTA'S LOCATION. AN AIRSTRIKE WAS CALLED IN AT 1210 AND 1326. AT 1430 A LOH TOOK SMALL ARMS FIRE AND AT 1510 THE COMPANY AGAIN CAME INTO CONTACT WITH ONE PLATOON LEADER KILLED BY A RPG. AIRSTRIKES WERE CALLED IN AT 1705 AND AGAIN AT 1825, THE ~~LATER~~ ^{LATTER} PRODUCING SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. THE FOLLOWING DAY ANOTHER AIRSTRIKE WAS CALLED IN ON THE AREA.

BECAUSE OF DELTA COMPANY'S HEAVY CONTACT EAST OF FIRE BASE MAUREEN, COMPANY C MADE A COMBAT ASSAULT ON 11 MAY TO THE FIRE BASE AND BEGAN PATROL AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS ALONG THE MAUREEN RIDGELINE TO DENY ITS USE TO THE ENEMY. THEY ALSO HAD SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH THE ENEMY IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

BY 14 MAY COMPANY D HAD MOVED ABOUT 1500 METERS EAST-SOUTHEAST OF FIRE BASE MAUREEN. THERE THEY ENCOUNTERED ANOTHER BUNKER COMPLEX OF 10-15 BUNKERS. FOR THE NEXT WEEK THEY MOVED SLOWLY THROUGH THE AREA, CLEARING BUNKERS AS THEY MOVED.

ON 18 MAY, FB RAKKASAN TOOK AK FIRE AND RPG ROUNDS DURING THE NIGHT. A DAWN CHECK FOUND SACHEL CHARGES IN THE PERIMETER.

THE BATTALION RAN INTO LITTLE CONTACT DURING THE FIRST PART OF JUNE. NUMEROUS BUNKERS WERE FOUND BY ALL COMPANIES TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH BUT THE ENEMY WAS NOT WILLING TO DEFEND THEM IN MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS AT THIS TIME.

ON 23 JUNE ALPHA COMPANY MADE CONTACT WITH AN ENEMY FORCE ON THE MAUREEN RIDGELINE AND THE WHITE TEAM WHICH WAS FIRING COVER FOR THE COMPANY WAS ALSO FIRED ON. ALPHA COMPANY HAD LIGHT CASUALTIES IN THE ENCOUNTER. THE MEDIVAC SHIP PICKED UP TWO OF THE WOUNDED AND WAS DRIVEN OFF BY SMALL ARMS FIRE. IT WENT DOWN IN THE VICINITY OF FIRE BASE JACK. A SECOND MEDIVAC WAS DISPATCHED TO PICK UP THE TWO WOUNDED AND THE CREW OF THE FIRST BIRD. COMPANY A CONTINUED TO HAVE SPORADIC FIREFIGHTS DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

ALSO ON 23 JUNE AN UNKNOWN SIZED ENEMY FORCE PROBED THE PERIMETER AT FIRE BASE KATHRYN. TWO BUNKERS WERE HIT WITH A LARGE EXPLOSION.

ON 24 JUNE COMPANY A BEGAN RECEIVING RPG AND SMALL ARMS FIRE AS WELL AS 82 MM MORTAR FIRE AT 0642. THE MORTAR FIRE CONTINUED OFF AND ON THROUGHOUT THE EARLY MORNING. AN AIRSTRIKE WITH 500 POUND BOMBS, NAPALM AND 20 MM CANNON WAS CALLED IN. AT 1124 THE THIRD PLATOON WAS PINNED DOWN BY MACHINE GUN FIRE, AND CONTACT CONTINUED WITH INCOMING MORTAR FIRE SHORTLY AFTER. AT 0630 THE FOLLOWING DAY THE COMPANY WAS ATTACKED WITH AK, MACHINE GUN AND RPG FIRE. SPORADIC 60 MM MORTAR FIRE CONTINUED ALL MORNING. AT 1229 THE FIRST PLATOON WAS PINNED DOWN BY HEAVY SMALL ARMS FIRE AND RPG FIRE COMING FROM AN ESTIMATED COMPANY SIZE NVA ELEMENT IN BUNKERS.

DURING THE NIGHT AN ELEMENT OF BRAVO COMPANY WAS ATTACKED IN THEIR NDP SITE SOUTHEAST OF ALPHA COMPANY. SMALL ARMS, RPG ROUNDS AND SAPPERS WITH SACHEL CHARGES WERE IN THE ATTACK. BRAVO COMPANY CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT. FIVE NVA BODIES WERE FOUND AT FIRST LIGHT.

ON 27 JUNE COMPANY A WAS ATTACKED IN THEIR NDP SITE. THE FOLLOWING DAY ALPHA COMPANY FOUND A LARGE BUNKER COMPLEX WITH ENOUGH BUNKERS FOR A COMPANY OF NVA. THE COMPLEX WAS EQUIPPED WITH COMMO WIRE INTERCONNECTING EACH INDIVIDUAL BUNKER. MANY BLOOD TRACES WERE FOUND INDICATING THE HEAVY TOLL ON THE ENEMY IN THE LAST EIGHT DAYS OF FIGHTING. PIECES OF HUMAN REMAINS INDICATED AT LEAST 24 NVA HAD BEEN KILLED. ALPHA COMPANY HAD SUFFERED MODERATE CASUALTIES IN THE EIGHT DAY PERIOD. ENEMY RESISTANCE HAD BEEN ELIMINATED IN THE REGION OF THE MAUREEN RIDGELINE AND THE ENEMY REMNANTS WITHDREW TO THE WEST.

IN JULY LIEUTENANT COLONEL PORTER TOOK CONTROL OF THE ^{COMMAND} BATTALION. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY BOTH BRAVO AND CHARLIE COMPANIES FOUND NUMEROUS BUNKERS. ALPHA COMPANY HAD BEEN INSERTED ALONG A NORTH-SOUTH RIDGELINE ON A SCREENING OPERATION TO PROTECT FIRE BASE KATHRYN.

ON 4 JULY BRAVO COMPANY TOOK 15-20 ROUNDS OF INCOMING 82 MM MORTAR FIRE EARLY IN THE MORNING. LATER IN THE DAY THEY CAME

IN CONTACT WITH AN ESTIMATED SQUAD OF ENEMY TO THEIR NORTH. BRAVO HAD BEEN MOVING INTO THEIR NDP WHEN THE ENEMY CLOSED IN FROM THEIR REAR AND INITIATED CONTACT. AT LEAST TWO NVA WERE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED IN THE EXCHANGE.

ON 5 JULY TWO NVA WERE KILLED IN AN ENGAGEMENT WITH COMPANY C. EARLY THE NEXT MORNING THE COMPANY AMBUSHED 1 TO 3 NVA IN DENSE VEGETATION.

THE SAME MORNING BRAVO COMPANY WAS ENGAGED BY AN ESTIMATED REINFORCED SQUAD WITH SATCHEL CHARGES AND RPG FIRE. THE COMPANY SUFFERED MODERATE CASUALTIES. TWO NVA BODIES WERE FOUND.

THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF JULY, ENEMY ACTIVITY SOUTH OF THE RAO TRANG RIVER DECREASED WITH ONLY MINOR CONTACT. COMPANY D WAS UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF 2ND BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH AND SAW CONSIDERABLE COMBAT ACTION ON FIRE BASE RIPCOPD WHEN IT WAS ATTACKED BY SEVERAL BATTALIONS OF NVA.

THROUGHOUT AUGUST THE BATTALION ACTED AS THE SWING BATTALION FOR THE DIVISION. THE ENEMY TRAVELED MAINLY IN SMALL GROUPS. STAY-BEHIND AMBUSHES WERE EMPLOYED EFFECTIVELY AGAINST ENEMY ELEMENTS WHICH WERE TRAILING AMERICAN UNITS.

ON 6 SEPTEMBER OPERATION TEXAS STAR TERMINATED. THE OPERATION HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING ENEMY INFILTRATION TO THE LOWLANDS AND SUCCEEDED IN PUSHING THE ENEMY TO THE WEST.

OPERATION JEFFERSON GLEN
(6 SEPT TO 31 DEC 70)

OPERATION JEFFERSON GLEN BEGAN ON 6 SEPTEMBER AND LASTED THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. THE OPERATION TOOK PLACE IN NAM HOA AND PHONG DIEN DISTRICTS OF THUA THEIN PROVINCE. ALL COMPANIES AND THE RECON PLATOON SENT OUT NUMEROUS DAYLIGHT PATROLS AND SET MULTIPLE NIGHT AMBUSHES. THE OPERATION ENCOUNTERED LITTLE ENEMY ACTIVITY, ALTHOUGH NUMEROUS BUNKERS WERE FOUND. THE FEW FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WHICH WERE SUSTAINED DURING THE OPERATION WERE PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF BOOBY TRAPS RATHER THAN DIRECT ENEMY CONTACT.

ON 12 SEPTEMBER, CHARLIE COMPANY ENGAGED TWO ENEMY WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE, KILLING ONE OF THEM. THE FOLLOWING DAYS THEY FOUND SEVERAL BUNKERS SHOWING SIGNS OF RECENT ACTIVITY AND THEY CAPTURED A CZECH .51 CALIBER MACHINE GUN.

BLOCKING AND SCREENING MISSIONS ALONG THE SONG BO RIVER PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE OCTOBER PHASE OF THE OPERATION. TWO TYPHOONS WHICH PASSED CLOSE BY THE BATTALION'S AREA OF OPERATIONS HINDERED OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE LATTER HALF OF THE MONTH.

WHERE? NOW

ON 11 DECEMBER COMPANY B FOUND A LARGE CACHE IN A COMPLEX OF 11 BUNKERS. INCLUDED IN THE CACHE WERE 15 AUTOMATIC WEAPONS

AND MACHINE GUNS, 285 BLOCKS OF TNT, 30 HAND GRENADES, 271
82MM MORTAR ROUNDS, 14,400 AK-47 ROUNDS AND 30 CLAYMORES PLUS
ASSORTED FUZES, HAND TOOLS, POTS AND PANS. THE CACHE WAS ONE
OF THE MAJOR FINDS OF THE YEAR.

HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING AGAIN HAMPERED OPERATIONS
THROUGHOUT LATE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

GLOSSARY

ARA	AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY
CA	COMBAT ASSAULT
FB	FIRE BASE
KIA	KILLED IN ACTION
KBA	KILLED BY ARTILLERY
LOH	LIGHT OBSERVATION HELICOPTER
LZ	LANDING ZONE
NDP	NIGHT DEFENSIVE POSITION
NVA	NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY
RPG	ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADE
SAPPER	A HIGHLY TRAINED SOLDIER SPECIALIZING IN THE INVASION OF BASE PERIMETERS
TOC	TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER
VC	VIET CONG
WIA	WOUNDED IN ACTION