

## 1 January 1969

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Lanetta YA857457

### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505

D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav

Recon Plt (-) LZ Lanetta

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 1 January 1969 Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; Recon platoon (Night ambush); OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 0950 hours 1 January 1969 Recon platoon reported that they had succeeded in getting one man across the river with a rope, shortly thereafter 2 other strong swimmers were safely across the river. At approximately 1115 hours the Battalion Commander was airborne to assist them in crossing the river. Battalion Commander told Recon to remain on the east side of the perimeter, he also informed the Recon platoon leader to have the three individuals that had crossed the river to rest before crossing back to the east side of the river with the rest of the platoon. Further instructing the Recon platoon leader when his platoon was back together to recon south on the east side of the river to look for an easy crossing spot and inform the Bn TOC but do not cross until told to do so. Establish a night ambush along a likely avenue of approach or trail and return to LZ MaryEtta NLT 1200 hours 2 January 1969. B Company platoon was given the same order except to recon northeast and south side of the river and do not attempt to cross unless told to do so, so this action was taken by the Battalion Commander due to the deep swift current of the river water.

At approximately 1150 hours Recon platoon reported that an individual had safely crossed back across the river, the second individual was trying to cross using the rope, that had been strung across the river when he lost his grip and fell into the deep, swift portion of the river. The EM, PFC Cecil J. Clack was observed by some of the platoon members as he was swept some 300 meters downstream and disappeared downstream from view. The platoon Sergeant said that he thought he heard PFC Clack call for "help" one time. The S-3 1/35 immediately requested a chopper from the 3rd Bde to assist in the search of the missing individual; the recon immediately began a search along the east side of the river.

At 1215 hours a Cider aircraft came on station and made low visual reconnaissance over the river area. Cider searched the area for approximately 2 hours with negative findings, 2 Headhunter aircraft came on station at 1310 hours (HH-60-69) also joined in the search and stayed on station except for refueling at 1715 hours. At 1218 hours the Battalion Commander received his LOH and was airborne and proceeded immediately to the river area and made visual reconnaissance's very low until 1320 hours. He was not able to locate the lost individual. The LOH refueled and was airborne and back over the area with the E Company element at 1350 hours. The Battalion Commander continued his visual reconnaissance until 1515 hours with negative findings at which time he had to go off station.

The air search was cancelled at 1715 hours after approximately 5 hours of air search using 2-fixed wing and one LOH with negative findings. The Recon platoon continued their ground search down the east side of the river back until darkness with negative findings. Battalion was informed by Bde that the 1/10 Cav would be working in the A/O along the river south and west of the 1/35 A/O on 2 Jan 69 and that they were instructed to be observant for the lost US soldier or body of the soldier along the river or along the banks. \"NOTE\" All Companies were reminded of the requirement that all individuals were instructed in river crossing techniques and units that were working in the area of deep and swift rivers carried the proper items of equipment to assist in the safe river crossing operations.

1420 hours (C) Accident report for individual in Recon; Clack, Cecil J E-3, MOS 11B10 arrived incountry 8 Sep 68 supposedly the strongest swimmer in Recon. At 1145 hours 1 Jan while trying to cross a river was swept downstream by strong current. He was observed floating down the river by some of the individuals that were there and the platoon Sgt. Heard him call \"help\" once. They watched him float down the river approximately 300 meters. There was nothing that anyone could do due to the depth and the current of the water, the water was traveling at least 15 knots grid is 728500 time 1145 hours, 1 Jan 69 listed as missing in action.

## **2 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Lanetta YA857457

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505

D/1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav

Recon Plt grid 733486

4.2\" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 2 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457,

Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

Readout on the search for the MIA from Recon. We had the 1/10 Cav from 0827 hours to 1105 hours, 2 LOHs, 1 Slick and 2 Gunships. They had negative findings on the MIA from 0950 hours to 1139 hours we had HH-47 on the Se San river with negative findings on the MIA from 1050 hours to 1130 hours. The Battalion Commander LTC Buckner and the Commanding Officer 4th Engineer Battalion Captain Hunt flew the crossing site and computed the river flow and also had negative findings.

For 3 January we now requested from Bde one (1), three (3) man raft, 2 grappling hooks, 2 500 foot ropes, 5 life jackets and one Headhunter when the equipment arrives we will put one platoon on the river crossing site to drag the river and try and locate the body.

At 1120 hours B Company 3rd platoon closed LZ MaryEtta for a search and ambush operation. At 1221 hours E Company Recon platoon closed LZ MaryEtta for a search and ambush operation. The convoy departed LZ MaryEtta at 1930 hours Recon reported the CIDG OP by the village on the north side of the perimeter reported that he was receiving small arms fire and grenades. CSF reported that a drunk was trying to get through the gate and the OP opened fire in him.

At 1935 hours the S-3 Operations Sergeant and the Commo Sergeant spotted 2 unidentified choppers at grid 8548 both choppers sat down and they were not observed again for a while. Bde was informed of the sightings and they said that there were no friendly choppers in the area, a Snoopy was sent out to check the area with 2 other fixed wing aircraft, they had negative sightings and they were pulled for another mission. Division sent several gunships to check the area, they had several sighting and they expended Rockets and M-60 ammo with negative assessment of the damage. The CSF was observed several times by S-3 and the S-3 Sergeant, Commo Sergeant and other individuals. At the time that the gunships were getting the sightings rounds were fired at the same location as our sighting.

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**2 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Oasis ZA117277

Unit Locations:

1/35th CP is at LZ Oasis

A Co CP ZA083260

B Co CP ZA012241  
C Co CP ZA112347  
D Co CP ZA982285  
D Co 2nd plt & 4th Plt (-) at Rock Quarry  
Recon plt ZA078355  
4.2 Mortar plt ZA982285

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 2 June 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Oasis grid ZA117277; Battalion Headquarters (Forward), 1/35th Command Post is at LZ Oasis ZA117277; A Company at ZA083260; B Company at ZA012241; C Company at ZA112347; D Company at ZA982285; Recon platoon is located at ZA078355; 4.2 mortar platoon located at ZA982285; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward) at LZ Oasis; At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

0920 hours (C) B Co 3d plt SRP found an enemy bunkers at ZA012228, bunker is old built, 3 x 4 x 4 with 3 to 4 feet overhead cover of logs and dirt. Recent use and green leaves were inside, tracks all around as of recently this morning.

1231 hours (C) B Co at 0930 hours burning trash made a mistake and burned up the key code for HC-2, upon our new location we found out we did it. Need reply ASAP.

1530 hours (C) TOC to B Co: Be prepared for extract at 0930 hours tomorrow to vicinity of LZ Kay.

2024 hours (C) From C Co to Toc: 33K at ZA095355 see 3 individuals to their northwest planning heavy organics at this time. They are leaving their location for 33 (-) location at ZA102354.

2103 hours (C) C Co to TOC: CP hears tubes pop at 215-degree azimuth, range 3000 meters.

2235 hours (C) D Co to TOC: Element at the Rock Quarry said that there was some trip flares that went off. They spotted 3 individuals. They fired some S/A at them from their east side.

2243 hours (C) A Co to TOC: 33 element had movement and spotted a light twice to their southwest along the trail about 200 meters away. They are planning arty at this time.

### **3 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div  
Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base  
LZ Lanetta YA857457

#### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457  
B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505  
D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav  
Recon Plt (-) LZ Lanetta  
4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 3 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear). No significant activities occurred in the area of operations.

1041 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-0955 hours 3 Jan 69- B Co departed LZ MaryEtta, they will be looking for the MIA, Shamrock will contact the platoon on B Co organic.

2040 hours (C) C Co CO says to inform Major Royal that their 91 1st platoon that it is going to the river to search for the MIA from Recon, will call in the grid tomorrow and use John Jr. for the code name for that area.

#### **4 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div  
Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base  
LZ Lanetta YA857457

#### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457  
B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492  
C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505  
D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav  
Recon Plt (-) LZ Lanetta  
4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 4 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 1756 hours C Company 3rd platoon was C/Ad to grid YA145574 LZ COLD. Operation to last for

approximately three days, the platoon will conduct nightly ambushes along likely avenues of approach and trails.

1030 hours (C) Bde informs us that there is a CSF element in contact at grid YA862386 with an estimated 1 platoon of VC at this time 1 VC KIA, 2 CSF WIA, informs A Co to get 1 platoon on standby.

1535 hours (C) Bde S-3 informs us that A Co and B Co CP will move to LZ Blackhawk on 5 Jan 69, Co D is at LZ Blackhawk, C Co and 4.2" are en route.

1827 hours (C) LZ time for C Co 3rd platoon, LZ COLD, CO will remain over the area for a short time so that he can cover the entire operation.

## **5 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Lanetta YA857457

### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505

D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav

Recon Plt LZ Lanetta

4.2 Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 5 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear). No significant activities occurred in the area of operation during the reporting period.

0140 hours (C) Bde informs us that the artillery hill is still taking mortars and rockets and they seem to think the rounds are coming from the south portion of the C Co 93 element to see if they hear rounds.

1345 hours (C) From the Bde RTO to Major Royal: 1/35 will conduct a platoon size ambush on 7-8 Jan 69 occupy after dark 7 Jan 69 through dark on 8 Jan 69, walk in platoon ambush, on the first day set up on the trail at grid YA060421 8 Jan through noon 9 Jan set up on the stream at grid ZA069405

will be picked up the afternoon of 9 Jan 69, LZ and PZ must be well away from the ambush site, have the platoon leader and the S-3 ready at 0900 hours 6 Jan for the pickup and a briefing at Bde TOC.

## **6 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Lanetta YA857457

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505

D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav

Recon Plt (-) LZ Lanetta

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 6 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

No significant activities occurred in the area of operation during the reporting period.

1038 hours (C) From the Bde OIC TOC to the Bn TOC: Need to know how many SRP team members have been killed since the SRP concept was first employed, Bde informed 6 men have been KIA.

1131 hours (C) In reference to item 42 passed to Bde that we have had 6 KIAs since the SRP concept started 25 July 68 from the S-3.

## **7 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Lanetta YA857457

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505  
D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav  
Recon Plt LZ Lanetta  
4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 7 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

No significant activities occurred in the area of operation during the reporting period.

0926 hours (C) From Capt Tower: Planned operation; 91 will return 8 Jan, 93 send out a plt (-) on 8 Jan to the northeast, CSF will return 8 Jan, 92 and the CSF Task Force will depart 9 Jan for the 4 day operation with the 81mm, support to the southwest, will have out 5 SRPs and a plt (-) on 8 Jan.

2100 hours (C) From Major Franks to the Bn CO and the Signal Officer: We have credited 115 home town news releases, 128 interview recordings at Division, they do not have January recorded, the Scholarship fund total recorded is \$8419.52, also we have an addition of \$110.00 from B Co to be added.

## **8 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div  
Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base  
LZ Lanetta YA857457

### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457  
B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492  
C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505  
D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav  
Recon Plt LZ Lanetta  
4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 8 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ

Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 1905 hours the 2nd platoon of B Company was inserted at grid YA855651 to reinforce a LRRP that had made contact at grid YA854650, no action occurred during the insertion.

0931 hours (C) 2 platoons from A Co found a trench at grid ZA060422, 6 feet deep and 2-3 feet wide, made for fast travel, there seems to be no recent activity, it is on a slope in a ravine. S-3 informs the 92 that they are not to move until 1830 hours.

1125 hours (C) C Co reports that his 2nd platoon spotted people building a bridge across the river at grid 874495, S-2 is getting the HH aircraft at this time to check this out, passed to Bde.

1131 hours (C) To the S-3 from the Bde S-3 air: 1 additional ambush new platoon will be lifted in today to an LZ to be selected by the Bn CO or S-3 ZA067385 (Ambush Location), will occupy that position tonight, remain until dark 9 Jan 69, remain until 1000 hours 10 Jan, Bn CO and the platoon leader can come to Bde for the briefing ASAP, it will be the 2nd platoon leader of B Co, S-3 informed B Co (2nd platoon will conduct the ambush).

1150 hours (C) 92 element of C Co now has 5 POWs that were building the bridge across the river; the bridge is capable of transporting people. POWs were wearing green T-shirts and loincloth and they had negative knowledge of their people at that location.

1450 hours (C) From Bde to the 1/35 Inf: Mission is to support the operation to the north of Kontum, proposed A/O boundaries for the operation are as follows: AS775140 east to AS940140, southeast to AS980040, west to AS860040, south to AR860970 west to AR222970, north along a line 2 clicks east of route QL14, back to the starting point.

1710 hours (C) Renegade 34 us now on the resupply pad now, got a call from Bde to have all birds standing by on the strip with the platoon from B Co to go to the aid of the LRRPs who are in contact, contact will be Ashcan 61 on 68.05

1735 hours (C) From Major Laird to B Co: You will be going to reinforce a LRRP element in contact at grid YA854650, the 7/17 Cav (C Co) will be there on the ground, 7/17 Cav and the LRRPs are on 68.05, call signs Curly Supply, 7/17 and Ashcan 61 LRRPs.

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**8 January 1969**

2nd Plt. Bravo 1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

The following is from the journal Ralph Leebert kept during his tour. Ralph was the squad sergeant for 3rd squad, 2nd platoon, B Co., 1st Bn., 35th Inf., 4th Inf. Div. 1968/1969.

Wednesday, January 8, 1969, LZ Maryetta:

Today started as usual, nothing out of the extraordinary was foreseen. We worked as usual on the bunker and trenches. Then a little after eleven in the morning our platoon was told to pack up for a mission southeast of Maryetta. The mission was an ambush along a river bank that flows through a village classified as VC sympathizers. Lt. Mariella had to hold a briefing at LZ Lanetta before we would leave. Upon his return we were told that the platoon would leave at 5:30. The CA would be conducted at that time. We would travel after touch down approximately eight hundred meters, set up and wait. Remain there the next day, then move out at dark to another location.

Just prior to our pick up a LRRP team came in contact so we were to go and give them help. Every bird was up and heading towards the area of contact except Sgt Charles Rigsby, myself, plus four other men. All we could do was listen on the radio to the action. The LZ at the other end was hot, but after the gunships worked the area over the birds went in. The first bird came back and picked us up and we were dropped about 200 meters short of the original LZ. Had the LZ been hot we would have been in a world of hurt, but since it was not we were able to make it to the platoon okay. After arriving and joining the platoon we quickly headed towards the woodline, then made an abrupt about face and went back to the LZ to set up for the night.

Thursday, January 9, 1969:

The way the day started anything could have happened. Yesterday there were dinks in the area, so that meant there possibly could be some today. Our objective was to destroy a cultivated area that the LRRPs had found. Apparently the dinks were using it for food supply. Accomplishing along with the above we also were to conduct a sweep of the area. Sergeant Melvin Berrong had lead squad last evening on the CA so this morning Redmond, he had the point. My squad was depleted badly. I have two men in the rear and four stayed at LZ Maryetta, as they had just returned from a SRRP mission and we were not taking them along.

Jim Redmond had four of his men on a SRRP mission when we left, so he had the LRRPs we came to extract out, join his squad this morning. One LRRP walked point for the platoon because he knew exactly where we were to go. Jesse Boyd Hayes was walking lead for Redmond's squad. Third was an engineer carrying an M-79 grenade launcher, Redmond, his RTO, Thomas Morrow, Stanley Rice, the remainder of the LRRPs, then my squad started, and Sergeant Barong's squad. We moved out and headed for the woodline. Entering the woodline we proceeded what appeared to be forty meters, maybe a little less. At this point coming from our left front two shots were fired. A return burst from a sixteen was heard, then two AK-47 rifles opened up on automatic.

It didn't take but the first round fired to have everyone on the ground. But because the ambush happened so fast, it was just a matter of seconds to realize that one man was hit and the LRRP (Craig Loftus) and Jesse Hayes were hit (both walking point). The rest of Redmond's squad pulled back to where I was and we regrouped. Sergeant Barong's squad was sent to the right to try and flank the dinks. At the same time everyone was busy getting things going for our defense. Lt. Mariella was getting medivac, Lt. Jackson (artillery), was starting the process for redleg fire (Howitzers or

cannons), and possibly gunships.

While the above was still going, Redmond and I were helping the medic take care of the wounded LRRP (Todd Wood, he later died of his wounds). After we had him bandaged up we had to get him back to the LZ to be extracted. Two men carried him back to the LZ. Still, we had two men out about twenty meters and we did not know what their condition was. Redmond plus his RTO, Harold Hodge were going to crawl out and see but we were all called back.

Lt. Jackson was still having trouble getting artillery; the E-6 in command of the LRRPs had a head-hunter for an air strike, so Lt. Jackson decided that since he was unable to get us support from the rear, he would adjust the jets in making their run. A plan was devised at this same time. When the jets opened up with the 20-mm guns, six men would rush forward, get the two men from up front and bring them back. The strategy worked to get the men but they were both dead. Neither one of the two actually had a chance. Both took a shot in the heart plus other rounds from the mid section up.

The platoon set up a perimeter to get all three men out. Within a few minutes there were choppers all over the place. The first bird to land was carrying men from Alpha Company. The second was the medivac. Once the men were out it made it a little easier to counter act against the dinks. Alpha Company had a platoon CAd to help us. First they headed for the woodline and we had to call them to our location. Lt. Jackson had some fire going out in that direction, therefore, it was important to get those men out.

Once Alpha company was with us we started to move out. Alpha was on our left side. The redlegs called and said that they had some guns for us. We once again pulled back to the LZ. Lt. Jackson did a wonderful job, especially since it was 175-mm guns putting two hundred-pound bombs in our area.

Maybe twenty or twenty-five minutes passed and we were off again. This time Alpha had point and our platoon followed. We must have moved about four to five hundred meters when we got in another firefight. This time we were ready for them. Alpha was putting out a good volume of firepower, while our platoon maneuvered. First, I was told to take my squad to the left then abruptly I was told to go to the right. At first all I had was David Shaffer, my M-79 man, Cauthen, A rifleman, and myself. Then a few minutes later three men from Sgt. Barong's squad came and joined us. I had Shaffer put out a good volume of 79 rounds although we couldn't see any dinks. James Jackson, the M-79 man from Sgt. Barong's squad, had something go wrong with his weapon, so that left me with one man defenseless. I left Cecil Duke (WHA, frag in arm) with him and we continued to push to the right to cut the dinks off from getting by. I cannot say how much time passed until we were called back. There were still NVA soldiers around but more support was coming in so we had to fall back as not to be hit by our own incoming rounds.

Once we reached the LZ we were picked up and taken out of the area. I was the last man out of the area from the platoon so I ended staying the night with Alpha Company. Everybody was nice to me and I had no trouble getting a place to sleep. I was not sad to see the day come to an end. I felt so good being in a secure area again.

## 9 January 1969

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Lanetta YA857457

### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505

D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav

Recon Plt (-) LZ Lanetta

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 9 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 0905 hours 2nd platoon B Company reported that they were being fired upon 200-250 meters from their night location grid YA855651, unknown size force resulting in one friendly WHA, one platoon from A Company was inserted to assist in the operation. The Battalion Commander conducted artillery, gunships and tactical air strikes on suspected enemy locations. Contact was made again at 1330 after the platoon from A Company was inserted. Readout on all casualties: 2 KHA one from B Company and one from the LRRP team; total 2 KHA and 8 WIA, one from B Company and 7 from A Company; 1 WIA from the LRRP team (note, LRRP later DOWs), total 2 KHA and 8 WIAs, 3 WIA♦s was Dusted-Off other WIAs were treated at the Battalion Aid Station. No enemy assessment was made. At 1400 hours 45Y relay station reported that A Company 2nd platoon had made contact with 4 NVA at ZA085405, platoon threw hand grenades, 2 friendly WIA were sustained. Contact was broken. Artillery was employed and on target. No enemy assessment was made.

0830 hours (C) From Bde S-3 to the Bn S-3: Reference the 9292 element B Co with the LRRPs, search the area and call Bde when you are ready for extraction, sent to the 2nd platoon of B Co via Snoopy Baron.

0905 hours (C) 2nd platoon of B Co reports through Snoopy Baron that they are being fired upon 250-300 meters from their night location.

0915 (C) 2nd platoon of B Co requests a Dust-Off for one EM which is WIA, also requested gunships and artillery is being employed at this time.

0920 (C) Bde informs us to have one platoon on immediate standby, have them on the pad ready to be lifted out because the birds are enroute to pick them up, S-3 informs A Co to saddle up and standby on the strip.

1001 hours (C) The first lift of A Co 3rd platoon is airborne at this time.

1007 hours (C) LRRPs report that they have 2 WIAs and 1 KIA.

1100 hours (C) In reference to item 35 the Bn CO requests to have the 2 additional gunships come to the area of contact.

1150 hours (C) Gunships have expended in the area of contact and they are enroute to Plei Djerang at this time to reload.

1330 hours (C) From the Bn CO to TOC: 8292 reports heavy contact, we requested gunships from Bde.

1337 hours (C) Bde informs us that they have a set of gunships enroute to the area of contact at this time, also a set of guns at Plei Djerang.

1350 hours (C) Bde CO informs the Bn CO to have all elements move back to the LZ for extraction ASAP.

1400 hours (C) Bde informs us that A Co 2nd platoon is in contact at grid 092408, we informed the Bn CO.

1400 hours (C) 45-Y informs us that the 8192 element had contact at grid 085405, spotted 2 NVA/VC in the water and they threw grenades at them, 8192 has 2 WIA at this time, we request a Dust-Off.

1445 (C) Curlie 51 is on station at this time, he has birds for the two platoons that were in contact this morning, 2nd platoon of B Co and the 3rd platoon of A Co. The birds are on the pad at Plei Djerang; Curlie 51 was briefed by the S-3 on the insertion and the extraction procedures for today.

1505 hours (C) Bde S-3 informs us to use the ships and extract the 8193 and 8292, saturate the area with artillery and gunships.

2000 hours (C) Readout on the casualties of today: A Co; Following WHA were Dust-Off: Zimmerman, David D, line no. 71 frag wound in the right leg- Bucher, Harry, line no. 18 frag in the right leg- Radgen, Evich Nicolas line no. 127 finger shot off, Torres, Juan line no. 162 frag in the chest- the following are at the Aid Station at LZ Lanetta, Jefferson, Harry, line no. 1 frag in the chest, McWilliams, Donald line no. 10 neck wound- Brown, Reginald line no. 16 left hand and chest; B Co WHA, Duke, Cecil line no. 95 frag in the arm now at LZ Lanetta Aid Station: KHA Hayes, Jesse B. Line no. 107: equipment captured; 1 SKS SN 23488 (found by A Co 2nd platoon), 1 large metal powder container found by A Co 3rd platoon.

2005 (C) LRRP casualties: 1 WHA Todd Wood (note, later died of wounds), 1 KHA Craig Loftus

**10 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Lanetta YA857457

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505

D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav

Recon Plt ZA068386

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 10 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

No significant activities occurred in the area of operations during the reporting period.

0820 hours (C) To A and B Cos from LTC Buckner Bn CO: Reference yesterday's actions you are to submit to me your recommendations for valor awards today need a QSL, A QSL, B QSL.

1858 hours (C) From Major Laird to Bde: Request the AO for tomorrow's operation be extended 1 km south to the 45 line, Bde says OK. Would like to initiate coordination with the 2/1 Cav, want to rotate our D Co with A Co at LZ Blackhawk, want to know the earliest time that we can change, Bde says that they will relay the message.

1900 hours (C) From the S-3 to C Co: Your LZ for tomorrow's operation will be ZA073507, the PZ will be LZ Stacey at ZA087457.

2210 hours (C) From the Bde S-3 to the Bn S-3: have one Company on standby at 0700 hours tomorrow to reinforce 3/12 at Objective D YA9358 or to reinforce the LRRPs at grid ZA118366.

**11 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Lanetta YA857457

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505

D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav

Recon Plt ZA054374

4.2 Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 11 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear). No significant activities occurred in the area of operations during the reporting period.

0102 hours (C) A Co reports that they received 3 rounds, 4 rounds and then 1 round all of small arms fire, all from the south, fired ILL had negative surveillance.

0850 hours (C) To the S-3 from the Bde S-3: you are to provide a demonstration team for the new Airmobile concept, you are to have a representative go and attend the briefing at Division today, you are to have a 60 man team for a dress rehearsal, before the Chief of Staff 19 Jan, 3rd Bde is 20, 21, 22 and Commanding General 24 Jan, will pick up 1 representative to go to Division for the briefing today.

1605 hours (C) Snoopy Baron (relay at YA920518) has movement and they are shutting down temporarily, but if they are in trouble they will call.

1613 hours (C) Snoopy Baron saw a person looking over a rock at them, they went to investigate and they found bare footprints, they are now employing 81mm mortar from LZ Betty.

2121 hours (C) C Co informs us that 58 rounds of 81mm HE mortar and 8 rounds ILL were fired by them while aiding Snoopy Baron, reports that all is quiet at this time.

2243 hours (C) Snoopy Baron informs us that three individuals charged his position, he threw grenades and he thinks that he got all three.

2300 hours (C) Bde requests to know if the three VC/NVA are confirmed KIA, C Co informs them that the VC/NVA were about 20 meters away when the grenade was thrown, fired ILL and observed three individuals laying of the ground, end of the mission on the light organics and the movement stopped.

## **12 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div  
Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base  
LZ Lanetta YA857457

### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

B 1/35 LZ MaryEtta YA766492

C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505

D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav

Recon Plt ZA054374

4.2 Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 12 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; eadquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear). No significant activities occurred in the area of operations during the reporting period.

0744 hours (C) From Bde to TOC: 1/35 will have one platoon on 15 minute standby and 1 Co on 60 minute standby, 7/17 Cav will work north of Plei Djerang and west of the river.

0815 hours (C) C Co informs us that the standby elements for the 7/17 Cav will be 3rd platoon, 23 packs on a 15-minute standby. 2nd plt with CP, 39 packs on a 60 minute standby with 1 81mm mortar.

0822 hours (C) B Co informs us that he has 24 packs on 15-minute standby.

1020 hours (C) Bde informs us that the 7/17 Cav has a group of the enemy out in the open, they are going to move the ARP◆s to Plei Djerang strip, we are a reactionary force.

1110 hours (C) From Bde to the S-3: Have a platoon on 15 minute standby ready to load up in 10 to 15 minutes and be inserted in the area of contact grid 843647, will have 4 birds with 2 guns 8393 will contact Curly White 6 push 63.65, Bde informs Bn CO, Bde will be controlling, be prepared to go with

1 company.

1130 hours (C) To A, B, C from the S-3: A Co; Have one platoon standing by if we have to go with the company, B Co; B Co have one platoon ready to go if the company goes in 8341 will be in control but do no go in unless notified by this station, A Co say that his 2nd platoon is on standby.

1230 hours (C) C Co 8393 was inserted at grid 852645.

1246 hours (C) B Co will be going in at grid 887714, they will be a blocking force.

1535 hours (C) LTC Buckner is airborne and he is going back to the area of contact and C Co 3rd platoon and B Co 1st platoon will be staying at the area of contact tonight, Bn CO informed. S-3 to have B & C Co pull all their SRPs and have them pull in all their platoon sized elements.

### **13 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div  
Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base  
LZ Lanetta YA857457

#### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457  
B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492  
C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505  
D 1/35 OPCON to 2/1 Cav  
Recon Plt (-) LZ Lanetta  
4.2 Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 13 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), A Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: D Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

A Company departed LZ Lanetta for OPCON to 2/1 Cav at LZ Blackhawk, D Company returned to the control of the 1/35 Infantry at LZ Lanetta. Command group closed the firebase at 1744 hours. Remainder of the unit closed it at 1950 hours 12 Jan. 69.

0900 hours (C) To Bn CO from CSM Wallman: I will be at your location tomorrow to take over the Sergeant Major job, do you have a weapon for me, if not I will make arrangements at my end.

1146 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-1130 hours 13 Jan 69- From B Co to TOC: He says that he received a letter from the Brigade Commander dated 9 Jan 69 that line no. 95 of the Jan roster was wounded in action and did an excellent job the man that was wounded was line no. 95 of the December roster not 95 of the 1 Jan roster, also a morning report stated that he was wounded, 8241 wants immediate action to be taken on this matter, a letter was sent to the Bde CO and if a follow-up was sent to the next of kin, message was given to the S-1 forward.

### **14 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div  
Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base  
LZ Lanetta YA857457

#### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) OPCON 2/1 Cav  
B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492  
C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505  
D 1/35 LZ Lanetta YA857457  
Recon Plt 052388  
4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 14 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), D Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: A Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

No significant activities occurred in the area of operation during this period.

### **15 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div  
Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base  
LZ Lanetta YA857457

#### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 OPCON 2/1 Cav  
B 1/35 (-) LZ MaryEtta YA766492  
C 1/35 (-) LZ Betty YA905505  
D 1/35 (-) LZ Lanetta YA857457

Recon Plt ZA041384

4.2 Mortar Plt, LZ Lanetta

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 15 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Lanetta YA857457, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), D Company 1/35, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, counter mortar section from the 52 group; At LZ MaryEtta YA766492; B Company, 1 CSF platoon from the new Special Forces Camp at Plei Djerang; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At grid YA729501; OPCON Units: A Company OPCON 2/1 Cav; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 0800 hours January 1969, Bde S-3 informed the Bn S-3 to be prepared to CA to the vicinity of grid ZA0555 to conduct a RIF on a multiple axis to the northwest to link up with the 1/12 Inf.

At 0835 hours 15 January 1969, B, C, D Companies were informed to be prepared to conduct a CA on 16 January 1969 to the vicinity of grid ZA0555 for a sweep to the northwest. All heavy material will be moved or sent to the Oasis and all Fire Support Bases will be evacuated. Each company will carry one (1) 81mm mortar.

At 1450 hours Bde S-3 notified the Bn S-3 and told him to have one platoon move to the resupply pad for a CA to grid YA884686. D Company 3d platoon CA to the above location to reinforce the 7/17 Cav and look for a downed bird in that area. 7/17 Blue ground force was already in the area and they are surrounded by an unknown size enemy force.

AT 1805 hours the first lift was off the PZ, first lift to CA to the above location to reinforce the element on the ground, PZ complete at 2040 hours for D Company LZ complete at 2210 hours.

AT 2355 hours D Company linked up with the 7/17 Cav elements on the ground and together they established a night location. No further information was available for the reporting period. (See the summary for 16 January 1969).

0800 hours (C) To Bn CO from the Bde S-3: Be prepared to CA 16 January into the vicinity of grid ZA0555 to conduct RIF on multiple axis to northwest to link up with the 1/12 Inf, will required to establish a firebase to the north-south grid line 8 between east-west 50 and 48 grid line, 1/10 Cav will assume our AO 2 Jan 69, CO 1/35 and S-3 1/35 are to report to discuss the plans with the Brigade Commander, Bn CO gives his QSL.

0825 hours (C) To B, C, D, E from the Bn CO: Be prepared to conduct a CA to the northeast 16 Jan, it will be a Bn CA, need QSL from B, C, D, E.

1239 hours (C) Message to B & C Companies: Be prepared to evacuate your fire support base tomorrow and CA to area passed earlier for a 3 or 4 day operation, travel extremely light and pack all heavy equipment and send it back to the Oasis, fire support base will be closed, take one tube without p/s.

1341 hours (C) Requested a Dust-Off for line no. 61 B Co (1 Jan roster), EM was test-firing the weapon, opened the breach (feed tray) and the round exploded.

1546 hours (C) B Co SRP 7 reported hearing automatic weapons and rocket fire at azimuth of 300 degrees, about 1 klicks from their location grid 758485.

1550 hours (C) B Co reported seeing a Cobra gunship working out in that area.

1750 hours (C) From Bde: You will have your standby platoon get on the pad, notified D Co 3d platoon, they will CA to grid YA884686.

1802 hours (C) D Co 3d platoon will CA to grid YA884686 to be a reactionary force for the 7/17 Cav, 7/17 Cav went to the aid of the downed bird and they are surrounded, 7/17 Cav call sign is Curly White 41 (freq 40.40) ETA on birds 03 minutes. Hot LZ.

1810 Hours (C) From Bde: Get the rest of your D Co ready, when 3rd platoon is on the ground the birds will come back and they will pick up the rest of the company to supplement those that are already on the ground. Notified D Co.

1820 Hours (C) LZ first 3 birds touched down, LZ Hot.

2040 hours (C) PZ complete for D Co.

2045 hours (C) Dust-Off is now taking the wounded back to 71 Evac for the 7/17 Cav.

2050 hours (C) LZ complete for D Co (D Co and 7/17 Cav have linked up).

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437

**15 January 1969**

Charlie 7/17

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

Jose L. Martinez A/7/17 Cav emailed me this account of 15 Jan 1969 prior to D 1/35 going in to reinforce.

Also on the 15th, C Troop worked an AO north of Plei Djereng. The VHPA Helicopter database has a battle damage and loss with fatalities record for C Troop AH-1G #67-15651 at grid YA878677 flown by 1LT Sterling E. Cox and WO1 James B. Petteys. They crashed while making a gun run and both pilots were killed. The NVA demonstrated great fire control discipline until the Blues were inserted. Then a huge battle developed that would last for several days. What follows is one account of that battle:

PFC Garfield Langhorn, an RTO in C Troop's Blues accompanied his unit on a search and rescue mission north of Plei Djereng. The platoon was inserted about 300 meters from a downed Cobra.

After hacking their way to the crash site, they retrieved the bodies of the two pilots. Because of the additional load and the terrain, the Blues were forced to travel down the mountain side to the river where a better PZ was located. As the point lead the way down to the stream bed, less than 50 meters from the PZ, the entire visible length of the river bed erupted with a holocaust of weapons fire. As the platoon leader hurriedly directed his men into a hasty perimeter, PFC Langhorn had already radioed the platoon's critical situation to the orbiting gunships and the C&C ship. The Guns provided supporting fire but darkness soon intervened, prohibiting accurate aerial support. Realizing this, the NVA began to probe the perimeter, lobbing hand grenades inside. PFC Langhorn was lying between his platoon leader and a rifleman, providing cover fire for them and his wounded comrades in addition to controlling the radio. Suddenly, a hand grenade sailed into the perimeter, rolling to a stop on Langhorn's left side, a few feet from some of his wounded comrades. Without hesitation, PFC Langhorn chose to protect the lives of his buddies. Thrusting his body at the grenade, he scooped the object beneath himself and absorbed the explosion. Smothering the blast with his body, Langhorn, in devotion to his fellow comrades, rendered the final ultimate act above and beyond the call of duty. On Apr 7, 1970, PFC Langhorn was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

CW2 Bob Mitchell provides another account of this battle. The story really starts the night before. There was a real argument in Doug Hammond's (the Gun platoon leader) room over who would fly with Sterling Cox. Cox was known as a "cowboy" and a young WO we nicknamed "hayseed" (because he was a blonde towheaded young kid) was refusing to fly with him. He would not be persuaded as he insisted Sterling was going to kill someone, and it wasn't going to be him. The argument stopped when Jim Petteys, another AH-1G AC, said: "stop the argument, I'll fly with him." Hayseed flew wing the next day and lived; Petteys and Cox did not. I was flying lead Scout. I would fly lead if the schedule dictated, but I much preferred the wing position because it had the minigun. I think that was probably a carry-over from my days flying Guns. I wanted a trigger under my finger. The morning was pretty much uneventful as we were searching the river west of Kontum for crossing sites. There were major trail networks coming in from the west to the river, about 30 to 50 meters wide at the point of our search. They picked up on the east side and continued east. We stopped at a small SF Camp, Polei Kleng I think, for lunch. We were sitting around on a bunch of old 175mm barrels eating Cs and shooting our 38s at tin cans. In the process we discovered if you took real careful aim you could shoot the barbed wire fence in half. Well, shortly after we had broken the second strand of a three strand fence, a jeep came flying up and a young SF CPT got out and ripped us a new one. He wanted to know who was in charge. We were all WOs or enlisted, so we pointed to 1LT Cox. The CPT raved about how they had put up the fence to keep the cows off the blankety-blank airstrip to make it better for the aviators and now here were the aviators shooting down his fence. Well, Sterling just took the heat and gave us that little grin of his as the CPT drove off. We finished lunch and headed for our aircraft when I remembered I had not crossed the date off my "short timers calendar"; something I did every morning without fail. I mentioned it to Jim Petteys, who was climbing into the front of Cox's Snake. He made the hex sign at me with his fingers and said "stay away from me, something bad's going to happen." We all laughed and started out on the mission. I was hovering around down on the river searching the banks when we discovered several dugout canoes sunk close along the bank. They had large rocks in them to hold them under water until they were needed to ferry supplies across the river. I informed the Guns and asked if they wanted to shoot them up. Dumb question! Gun pilots live to shoot! Sterling called for us to mark the target, which I did. We hovered in close, let a smoke start to burn and then dropped it in the water. It

dyed the water and made a good aim point. I said, "Smokes out" and started a climbing left turn watching the first Cobra (Cox) inbound out the left door looking across in front of the observer. The run was being made perpendicular to the valley with fairly high terrain to the rear (east) and a more gentle, but rapidly rising terrain to the front (west). The first rockets were long, impacting on the shore west of the boats. The Cobra's dive steepened sharply, too low, as I can only assume Cox knew we would raze him for missing the target. I could see the mini raking the water as Jim worked the turret. Too late Cox pulled the Cobra up sharply. The aircraft responded and was in a nose up attitude, but continued to "mush" through. It started hitting trees, the blades coned incredibly as branches and large limbs flew. I started down, knowing they were going to crash. The Cobra staggered and started to rise -- they were going to make it -- but then exploded!! The explosion was as a napalm strike and Cox and Petteys died instantly. MAJ Ledford told me to go in to look for survivors. I did, but knew there was no hope. The fire was intense and the onboard ammunition was exploding everywhere. It was dangerous to stay too close, but I tried. The CO was beside himself! He called and launched the blues; then landed about 150 meters away and let his crewchief and gunner out - telling me to guide them to the wreckage. I did this by hovering slowly backward down the hill, guiding them through the thick jungle with hand signals. As I neared the wreck, a huge explosion rocked my ship. I can only assume it was the 40mm drum going up all at once. I was thankful the two guys on the ground weren't that close to the site yet. The Lift arrived and a Scout escorted them into the LZ as the Gun team on station was a composed of two very inexperienced wingmen. As the Blues started walking down toward the wreck, we had to break for fuel. When we arrived back on station, there was big trouble!! The NVA had allowed our Blues to get the bodies (they were too hot to handle and the slicks had hovered in one by one dropping fire extinguishers which the Blues used to cool the bodies enough to get them in the bags) and then ambushed them as they worked their way down to the river where a sandbar was to be their PZ. I found the Blues laying in a small clearing, in a small circle, almost feet to feet, facing out. I think there were 18 of them. The NVA was very close in on them. So close in fact, that we had to use the Scouts for fire support as the Guns couldn't shoot that close. We made pass after pass with 60 door guns shooting within ten meters of our guys and them all the while telling us to move it in. It was beginning to get very dark when the our Lift arrived with the ready reaction force. A night insertion, time and time again, into hot LZs - who ever said "slicks are for kids." Bob Parker, one of the original Chaparrals and a great slick driver, put seven guys in the wrong LZ. On climb out, he realized he had put them in short and called that he was going back to get them. The battalion CO said to leave them; they would marry up later. They turned out to be the luckiest group as they were in the NVA's rear and the NVA didn't seem to know it!! They watched, counted, and killed when they could for the next two days. The first night was probably the worst. The NVA had our guys surrounded, calling to them in the night as in the old Japanese war movies. Grenades rained in all night. I remember talking to the LT over a game of pool some time later. He was still "rattled" by those days; but he did a GREAT job during that battle. He said you'd hear a thud and only have a split second to decide if the grenade was in the hole with you or had just landed nearby. Once or twice he had jumped out of the hole and laid flat on the ground when the blast went off. Once he didn't move and nothing happened. The next morning almost everyone found a dud grenade near them; his was in the hole with him!! It was during this period the PFC Langhorn covered a grenade as noted above. The LT also said there were holes in the Cobra's mast and that crash site was in close proximity to an NVA bunker complex. He said it seemed possible to him for the NVA gunners to believe the Cobra was firing at them and that they had opened up on Cox as he was coming through the trees! Anyway, finally it was too dark and the Scouts were

of no more use; we were ordered home. I gave the controls to my observer and hung my head and cried. Sterling was a very good friend. I didn't fly the next two days as the battle raged. I don't know why. I think because I was so close to Cox. Instead I paced the Troop area waiting for word from the front. The NVA finally withdrew and we got everyone out. I believe there were five US dead. C Troop lost PFC Langhorn and the two pilots, but I also think almost every one of our Blues were wounded.

## **16 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Tango ZA035663

### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 Plei Mrong ZA116672

B 1/35 LZ Tango ZA035663

C 1/35 LZ Betty YA905505

D 1/35 LZ Lanetta YA857457

Recon Plt LZ Oasis

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Oasis

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 16 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Tango ZA356637, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), B Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon (-) D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, At Plei-Mrong ZA116672 A Company, At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company, At LZ Lanetta YA857457; D Company; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward), E Company; At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

From the Bde S-3 to the Bn S-3: ARC lights are scheduled to be put in at 1200, 1215, 1230 hours in the vicinity of grid YA951663. From the Bn S-3 Major Losey to A, C and D Companies: A Company will conduct a CA from Plei-Mrong at Objective Bravo at grid coordinate YA950662. Secure the LZ until the first lift of D Company is in and established. Conduct a Recon in force to the southwest in the assigned AO if the ARC lights strike prior to the CA conduct a BDA in the assigned AO, time of the CA for purposes of planning 171100 hours January 1969. C Company conduct a CA from LZ Betty to the vicinity of grid YA950662 to Objective Bravo. Secure the LZ Until the first of A Co is established, conduct a Recon in force to the northwest in the assigned AO, if the ARC lights strike prior to the CA conduct a BDA in the assigned AO, time for planning purposes 171100 hours January 1969. D Company conduct a CA from LZ Lanetta to the vicinity of grid YA950662 to Objective Bravo, conduct a Recon in force to the west in the assigned AO, if the ARC lights strike prior to the CA, conduct a BDA in the assigned AO, time for planning purposes 171100 hours January 1969. Engineers will CA with C Company and they will conduct a mine sweep of the LZ and enlarge the LZ, they will then move out with D Company. C Company 81mm mortar platoon will set up at or on Objective Bravo for fire support. At 1223 hours the first lift PZ for C Company, PZ complete at 1325 hours, LZ Cold. At 1409 hours the first lift off PZ for A Company, PZ complete at 1430 hours. LZ complete at 1803 hours. At 1509 hours the first PZ for D Company, PZ complete at 1535 hours. LZ complete at 1545

hours. All units on the ground with no enemy reported.

0055 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY- 1240 hours 17 Jan 69- At 1240 hours we received the following message from Bde: From the Bde S-3 to the 1/35 S-3. Be advised that the following ARC lights a troop assault preparation will be given, it will consist of three ARC lights scheduled at 1200 hours, 1215 hours, 1230 hours put in at the vicinity of grid YA951663, ordnance will include Mark 117 high drag, Mark 117 instants, mark 82 high drag, I recommend that you coordinate with the FAC prior to 170900 hrs.

0515 hours (C) In reference to item 66 16 Jan 69 log; Question 1 is how many packs will go on the CA tomorrow? Question 2 is the platoon order of march? Question 3 is what bird will be Co be on? C Co will take 106 packs, D Co will take 83 packs, A Co will take 115 packs, order of march C Co order of march 3rd, 1st, 4th, 2nd platoons; D Co order 2nd, 1st, 4th, 3rd, A Co order 1st, 3rd, 4th, 2nd; C Co CO will be on the sixth bird. D Co will be on the 3rd bird; A Co CO will be on the 9th or 10th bird.

1100 hours (C) At 1100 hours received the following message from D Co: Casualties of D Co from the 1 Jan roster: WHA line numbers; 7, 18, 20, 32, 49, 61, 82, 85, 98 and 142- wounded not as a result of hostile actions; 33, 50 and 72- casualties Medic, WHA Shelton, Hann, KHA- Reiser, died 16 Jan.

1559 hours (C) Informed Bde that we will have a total of 309 packs today for the operation.

0826 hours (C) From Bde to the S-3: ADC-A with 2 reporters will visit LZ Tango between 0915 and 1015 hours, be prepared to give him a briefing on the current tactical situation.

0915 hours (C) To the Bde S-3 air from the S-3 reference the CA for today; It will be C Co first from LZ Betty, 2nd A Co from Plei-Mrong, then D Co from LZ Lanetta, they want one lift ship to report to LZ Tango for the insertion of the Engineers and the CP group, then this ship will return to his respective unit.

1223 hours (C) First PZ time for C Co.

1238 hours (C) 1st LZ time 1238 hours.

1250 hours (C) LZ Cold.

1318 hours (C) 14 ships on the LZ.

1430 hours (C) CSM says that the birds are receiving ground to air fire from the east side of the perimeter.

1455 hours (C) Gunships are working out in the area where the birds received the ground to air fire.

1615 hours (C) CSM says that they have just put in an air strike at grid 960626 and they had the enemy in the open.

1639 hours (C) LZ complete now have three companies, A, C and D.

## **17 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div Bn  
(1/35) Forward Fire Base  
LZ Tango ZA035663

### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 Plei Mrong ZA116672

B 1/35 LZ Tango ZA035663

C 1/35 LZ Betty YA905505

D 1/35 LZ Lanetta YA857457

Recon Plt LZ Oasis

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Oasis

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 17 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Tango ZA356637, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), B Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon (-) D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, At Plei-Mrong ZA116672 A Company; At LZ Betty YA905505; C Company; At LZ Lanetta YA857457; D Company; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward), E Company; At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

From the Bde S-3 to the Bn S-3: ARC lights are scheduled to be put in at 1200, 1215, 1230 hours in the vicinity of grid YA951663. From the Bn S-3 Major Losey to A, C, and D Companies: A Company will conduct a CA from Plei-Mrong at Objective Bravo at grid coordinate YA950662. Secure the LZ until the first lift of D Company is in and established. Conduct a Recon in force to the Southwest on the assigned AO if the ARC lights strike prior to the CA conduct a BDA in the assigned AO, time of the CA for purposes of planning 171100 hours January 1969. C Company conduct a CA from LZ Betty to the vicinity of grid YA950662 to Objective Bravo. Secure the LZ until the first of A Co is established, conduct a Recon in force to the Northwest in the assigned AO, if the ARC lights strike prior to the CA conduct a BDA in the assigned AO, time for planning purposes 171000 hours January 1969. D Company conduct a CA from LZ Lanetta to the vicinity of grid YA950662 to Objective Bravo, conduct a Recon in force to the West in the assigned AO, if the ARC lights strike prior to the CA, conduct a BDA in the assigned AO, time for planning 171100 hours January 1969. Engineers will CA with C Company and they will conduct a mine sweep of the LZ and enlarge the LZ, they will then move out with D Company. C Company 81mm mortar platoon will set up or on Objective Bravo for fire support. At 1223 hours the first lift PZ for C Company, PZ complete at 1325 hours, LZ complete at 1332 hours LZ Cold. At 1409 hours the first lift off PZ A Company, PZ complete at 1430 hours, LZ complete at 1803 hours. AT 1509 hours the first PZ for D Company, PZ complete at 1535 hours, LZ complete at 1545 hours. All units on the ground with no enemy contact reported.

0055 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-1240 hours 17 Jan 69- At 1240 hours we received the following message from Bde: From the Bde S-3 to the 1/35 S-3: Be advised that the following ARC lights a troop assault preparation will be given, it will consist of three ARC lights scheduled at 1200 hours, 1215 hours and 1230 hours, put in at the vicinity of grid YA951663, ordnance will include Mark 117 high drag, Mark 117 instant, Mark 82 high drag, I recommend that you coordinate with the FAC prior to 170900 hrs.

0200 hours (U) DELAYED MESSAGE-1250 hours 17 Jan 69- Passed the following message to A, C, D Co's: To a Co CO; Conduct a CA from your present location to objective B the vicinity of grid YA950662, secure the LZ until the first lift of D Co has landed and they are established, conduct a Recon in force to the Southwest within the assigned AO, if the ARC lights strike prior to the CA conduct a BDA in the assigned AO, Commanders will take 81mm mortar assigned Engineer and Chain-saws, time of the CA for planning 17100 hours. To C Co CO; Conduct a CA from the present location to the vicinity of grid YA950662 to objective B, secure the LZ until lift of A Co is in and they are established, conduct a Recon in force to the Northwest in the assigned AO, if the ARC lights strike prior to the CA conduct a BDA in the assigned AO. Commanders will take 81mm mortar, assigned Engineers and Chain saws. Time of the CA for planning will be 171100 hours, Engineers will go in on the first lift with C Co, conduct a mine sweep and enlarge the LZ and move out with D Co upon completion of the CA. To D Co CO: Conduct a CA from your present location to objective B in the vicinity of grid YA950662, conduct a Recon in force in the assigned AO, if the ARC lights strike prior to the CA, conduct a BDA in the assigned AO, Commanders will take the 81mm mortar, assigned Engineers and chain saws. Time for planning purposes will be 171100 hours. Engineers will go in with C Co on the first lift, conduct a mine sweep and enlarge the LZ, they will move out with D Co upon completion of the CA. To A, C and D Co's: S-2 will visit each company with maps, overlays and instructions in the morning as early as birds are available to us, need a QSL from all elements.

0515 hours (C) In reference to item 66 16 Jan 69 log; Question 1 is how many packs will go on the CA tomorrow? Question 2 is the platoon order of march? Question 3 is what bird will the CO be on? C Co will take 106 packs, D Co will take 83 packs, A Co will take 115 packs, order of march C Co order of march 3d, 1st, 4th, 2nd platoons; D Co order 2nd, 1st, 4th 3d; A Co order 1st, 3d, 4th, 2nd; C Co CO will be on the sixth bird. D Co CO will be on the 3d bird, A Co CO will be on the 9th or 10th bird.

1100 hours (C) At 1100 hours received the following message from D CO: Casualties of D Co from the 1 Jan roster: WHA line numbers; 7, 18 20, 32, 49, 61, 82, 85, 98 and 142- wounded not as a result of hostile action; 33, 50 and 72- casualties Medics, WHA Shelton, Hann, KHA-Reiser, died 1131 16 Jan.

0559 hours (C) Informed Bde that we will have a total of 309 packs today for the operation.

0826 hours (C) From Bde to the S-3: ADC-A with 2 reporters will visit LZ Tango between 0915 and 1015 hours, be prepared to give him a briefing on the current tactical situation.

0925 hours (C) To the Bde S-3 air from the S-3 reference the CA for today: It will be C Co first from LZ Betty, 2nd A Co from Plei-Mrong, then D Co from LZ Lanetta, they want one lift ship to report to LZ Tango for the insertion of the Engineers and the CP group, then this ship will return to his respective

unit.

1223 hours (C) First PZ time for C Co.

1238 hours (C) 1st LZ time 1238 hours.

1250 hours (C) LZ Cold.

1318 hours (C) 14 ships on the LZ.

1430 hours (C) CSM says that the birds are receiving ground to air fire from the East side of the perimeter.

1455 hours (C) Gunships are working out in the area where the birds received the ground to air fire.

1610 hours (C) D Co found 8-10 camp fire positions that are less than 12 hours old.

1615 hours (C) CSM says that they have just put in an air strike at grid 960626 and they have had the enemy in the open.

1640 hours (C) S-3 directed Captain Tower to take a patrol along the ridgeline from 009650 to 010670 start 18 Jan a night ambush is to be set up in the vicinity of grid 009652 return 19 Jan 69.

1655 hours (C) From the Bde S-3 to the BN S-3: 1 Co of CSF from Plei-Mrong will be OPCON to the 1/35 19025 Jan 69, you will assign them a boundary within the 1/35 AO and employ them as a fighting force, coordinate directly with CO Plei-Mrong and submit A/C equipment to BDE NLT 181200.

2306 hours (C) A Co reports movement to the West of their location, they will move their D.T into that area at this time.

## **18 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Tango ZA035663

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 951646

B 1/35 LZ Tango ZA035663

Snoopy Baron 008657

C 1/35 YA952678

D 1/35 YA951662

Recon Plt LZ Oasis  
4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Oasis

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 18 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Tango ZA356637, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), B Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon (-) D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, Objective Bravo; D Company YA952678, C Company YA951662, A Company YA951646; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward), E Company; At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

A, C and D Companies conducted their Recon in force operation in the area of ARC lights, other than that no significant activities occurred in the area of operation during the reporting period.

0040 hours (C) 51C informs us that an artillery smoke round hit 5-10 meters away from A D Co member, a piece of metal hit the man above his knee creating a small wound, the man is well enough to wait for the morning for a Dust-Off, the man was in a hole on the west side of the perimeter when the incident happened.

0924 hours (C) Talked with Special Forces at Plei Mrong (Inverse Morse) says he will have 75 people for the CA on 19 January 1969.

0925 hours (C) C Co reports finding one sandal and fresh blood trails also found a lot of boulders at grid 952678, they are now following the blood trails.

0930 hours (C) C Co reports that the blood that they found was very fresh they also found a foot. They also found an NVA canteen and many caves which they are going to search.

0945 hours (C) C Co reports that they had negative findings in the caves.

1006 hours (C) C Co reports finding 1 AK-47 magazine and more caves at grid 952681.

1014 hours (C) C Co reports finding a grave, they found the grave and it had one NVA body buried in it.

1019 hours (C) In reference to item 33 the body had on light green uniform and it was buried this morning.

1027 hours (C) In reference to the above item the body had on a blue T-shirt and some papers, Kit Carson papers were OP orders.

1035 hours (C) C Co reports that the Kit Carson scout said papers said 13 NVA were to stay on the hill and 14 were to go get lots of NVA to assault the hill.

1159 hours (C) D Co found a village 100 meters to the north of the objective, several hoochs and 15 rounds of 60mm mortar.

1345 hours (C) D Co reports finding a Base Camp, 25 sleeping positions, 1 hooch, 10 camp fires and 20 rounds of 60mm mortars at grid 934662

**19 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Tango ZA035663

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 YA942635

B 1/35 LZ Tango ZA035663

Snoopy Baron 008657

C 1/35 YA937687

D 1/35 YA948664

Recon Plt LZ Oasis

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Oasis

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 19 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Tango ZA356637, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), B Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon (-) D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, A Company YA942635; C Company YA937687, D Company YA948664; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward), E Company; At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 1010 hours 19 January 1969 C Company reported making contact at grid YA934692 estimated to be one NVA squad, the enemy is under cover and the company is trying to flush them out in the open, one (1) US causality. At 1151 hours a gunship was making a run near C Company location and one EM from C company at the rear of the column was slightly wounded by a frag but there was no need for a Dust-Off as the wound was only slight in nature. One CSF Company from Plei-Mrong OPCON to the 1/35 Infantry CAd to grid YA954707 as a blocking force. At 1630 hours 19 January 1969 C Company found the following equipment at grid coordinate YA943687, many caves, NVA frequencies, pictures of NVA officers, 31 ruck sacks, 50 uniforms, personal gear, 1 NVA flair pistol, 1 headset, machine gun ammunition, 60mm mortar rounds, AK-47 ammunition, 10 helmets, 1 B-40 Rocket, 3 Chinese Communist grenades, 2 Chinese Communist Claymore mines, 1 ton of rice.

0905 hours (C) SECRET message from Bde: To the Bn CO; Ranger blocking force to the west of our units will be withdrawn 191200 Jan 69. SECRET, your units will insure the control of the high ground along the west boundary in addition to the accomplishment of the search and clear mission that was previously assigned, need a QSL, and the S-3 gives his QSL.

1010 hours (C) Bde informs us that C Company is in contact at this time at the location where they found caves earlier, 1 enemy WIA at this time, C Co believes that the enemy is below the caves, they are not sure of their location at this time.

1120 (C) Shamrock 50 reports receiving air/ground fire at grid 907686, seemed to be small arms automatic weapons fire.

1145 hours (C) In reference to items 28 and 34 Bn CO informs us the C Co reported that they had spotted 2 VC/NVA at 1100 hours, C Co fired on them and the enemy fled to the northwest, they followed them and came upon 5 more VC/NVA, C co fired upon this second group of enemy soldiers and they believe that they killed at least one of them, gunships are blocking by fire at this time.

1400 hours (C) Bde CO informs us that C Co is in contact and suffering casualties at this time.

1412 hours Bn CO informs us that C Co has 1 WIA at this time, estimated size of the enemy force is 1 platoon, Bn CO wants another bird ASAP, the one that he is currently using is out of fuel at this time.

1430 hours (C) Requested a Dust-Off for the EM in C Co; EM is badly wounded by order of the Bde CO.

## **20 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Tango ZA035663

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 YA937659

B 1/35 LZ Tango ZA035663

Snoopy Baron 008657

C 1/35 YA903687

D 1/35 YA967669

Recon Plt, LZ Tango

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Tango

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 20 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Tango ZA356637, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), B Company, E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, 3rd platoon (-) D Company 4th Engineers Battalion, A Company YA937659; C Company YA953687, D Company YA967669; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward), E Company; At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 0900 hours 20 January 1969 C Company reported that line no. 36 was slightly wounded by a gunship, line no. 35 in the face and line no. 15 had to be Med-Evaced. At 1123 hours 20 January 1969 Cider 32 reported that C Company was receiving incoming mortar rounds, no US casualties were sustained as a result. At 1230 hours the Bn CO reported seeing a secondary explosion while an

airstrike was going in at grid YA950680. At 1435 hours 20 January 1969, Bde S-3 informed the Bn S-3 to have B Co prepared immediately to CA to a blocking position on the high ground south of the river between north-south grid lines 92 and 94, the approximate location to be grid YA926717. First lift of B Co from LZ Tango complete at 1700 hours, first lift complete at 1717 hours LZ Cold, the entire lift was complete at 1817 hours, PZ complete at 1828 hours.

0852 hours (C) C Co spotted 1 VC/NVA at grid YA943687, they are moving after him at this time.

0930 hours (C) At 0830 hours A Co reports finding at grid 934659 8 foxholes 3 feet deep covered with branches and large enough for 2 people was occupied last night believed to be by the enemy, departed.

0630 hours this morning moving north, also found M-72 LAW.

0906 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-0850 hours 20 Jan 69- Bn CO says that the LOH that he was in received possible Air/Ground fire at grid 941697, Bn CO feels that it was a B-40 Rocket that just missed.

1123 hours (C) Cider 32 informs us that C Co is getting incoming rounds at this time, we have guns on the way at this time.

1155 hours (C) C Co reports negative casualties at this time.

1200 hours (C) Cider 32 says that he saw secondary explosion at grid 950679.

1210 hours (C) Cider 32 is putting in an airstrike at grid 950680, possible enemy mortar position.

1240 hours (C) To the S-3 from Bde: Have received confirmed intelligence reports that the enemy is moving north from Chu Pa and across the river, there is one element across the river at this time, this will require immediate reaction, you are directed to employ 1/10 Cav on this report and be prepared to reinforce the ARPs with the 1/35 element.

1305 hours (C) S-3 informed A Co to move back to Obj. Bravo in case we need them as a reactionary force for the 1/10 Cav.

1436 hours (C) From Bde to S-3: You will immediately be prepared to CA B Co 1/35 from LZ Tango as a blocking force on the high ground to the south of the river, between the 92 and 94 grid lines, A Co 1/35 and D Co 1/35 will reorient direction of attack to the northeast on parallel axis where B Co will be located, C Co to continue their present search mission until the A & D arrive abreast and then the three companies move abreast towards the blocking position, Bn CO should make an immediate visual reconnaissance to select a suitable LZ on or as close to the high ground as possible.

1525 hours (C) Shamrock reports at grid 948682 seeing caves all blown, it looks like it was a secondary explosion.

1607 hours (C) Shamrock 1/10 reports that they have spotted bunkers at grid 949687, entrance is 2 to 3 feet wide and the inside is much larger, at grid 951695 spotted several caves which were caved in they were 6 feet by 6 feet.

1700 hours (C) Rustler 24 will be the flight leader, Gambler gun will be in support.

1701 hours (C) 1st PZ complete of B Co.

1717 hours (C) First PZ complete for B Co LZ Cold.

2045 hours (C) C Co hear tubes shooting and they think that the tubes are shooting at them, but the enemy is shooting in the wrong location at this time, there is a Spooky to the south of B Co locations, request from Bde to have the Spooky go to C Co location.

2220 hours (C) Informed the 1/10 Cav to have their birds on station at 0800 hours to 0830 hours and the C & C bird at 0745 hours, the AO to make a visual reconnaissance of is east to the 96 grid line, north to the 74 grid line, south to the 66 grid line, we are positioning for a three company sweep into B Co and the CSF people who will be a blocking force between the 92 and 94 grid lines, intelligence indicated the presence of enemy forces within the entire AO assigned, please check in with all units and get their location prior to embarking on the visual reconnaissance, as soon as we get the C & C bird, LTC Buckner will contact your birds in the morning.

2245 hours (C) Passed to Bde and Major Laird: B Co and CSF will develop positions, A Co will move out to Chu Pa at grid 952678, NLT 0700 hours, D Co will move to 930690, C Co will move only on the order of the Bn CO.

2350 hours (C) Bde informed Major Losey that tomorrow 21 Jan the ARVNs will CA 2 battalions into Objective Bravo, the time is unknown at this time, 2/42nd ARVN and the 23rd Ranger Battalion, they will conduct an RIF to the west and northwest to Objective Alpha 912703.

**21 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Tango ZA035663

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 YA950662

B 1/35 YA926721

Snoopy Baron 008657

C 1/35 YA954687

D 1/35 YA951679

Recon Plt, LZ Tango ZA035663

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Tango

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 21 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Tango ZA356637, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, A Company YA950662; B Company YA926721; C Company YA954687; D Company YA951679; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward), E Company; At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 1025 hours 21 January 1969 D Company reported that they saw one (1) individual in front of them and they took him under fire, the entire company came under fire immediately with an unknown size enemy force. At 1050 hours D Company reported that they had 1 US WHA and that they the enemy had broken contact at 1045 hours, they regained contact at 1047 hours approximate locations for D Company were grid YA939685. At 1140 hours the Bde S-3 informed the Bn S-3 that A Co 1/14 Inf will become OPCON to the 1/35 Inf at 0800 hours 22 January 1969. Unit will CA from LZ Oasis to a LZ just south of LZ Stud. At 1215 hours the Bn CO reported that D Company has 3 WIA and that they were receiving sniper fire at this time. At 1255 hours C Company reported that they were receiving incoming mortar rounds. At 1340 hours D Company reported 4 WHA, 1 KHA and receiving incoming mortar fire, Company also reports one enemy KIA. At 1505 hours D Company reported one (1) KHA and 11 WHA, 2 seriously. At 1612 hours D Company reported two (2) KHA and 11 WHA 4 seriously. At 1730 hours D Company reported 2 KHA and 14 WHA. At 1803 hours A & D Companies reported that they were both receiving incoming mortar rounds at that time, the rounds appeared to be coming from grid YA925695, the attack stopped at 1815 hours. At 1920 hours an unconfirmed report that A Company had 3 KHA and 6 WHA. At 1934 hours D Company again reported that they were receiving small arms fire and incoming mortar rounds. At 2100 hours A Company reported 4 KHA, 8 WHA.

0055 hours (C) Major Losey informed B Co of the present location of A, C, D, CSF and also informed them that for 21 Jan 69, they are to hold in place, develop the positions and place out SRPs, 1/35 is preparing for a sweep against B Co and the CSF.

0210 (C) Bde informed us that the 24 STZ has requested permission to land the 23rd ARVN Ranger

battalion, 2/46 ARVN regiment at LZ B 21 Jan 69 and pass through our AO to reenter the 24 STZ AO and attack to the west. The HHC authorizes direct coordination for this movement between the 1/35 Inf and the ARVN elements; CO is designated to have an officer coordinate with the ARVN element at LZ B.

0615 hours (C) DELAYED ENTRY-0520 hours 21 Jan 69- At 0520 hours we received a message from Bde: Reference the intelligence report received by Bde Hqs on 210320 hour Jan, message from the Bde S-3 to the 1/35 S-3; we received an agent report from the Division level that there is an underground NVA bunker (Hqs complex) with 4 rooms in the vicinity of grid ZA048689, the complex is commanded by a Colonel by the name of Lu-Xi, he has a staff of 1 Major, 6 Captains and numerous interpreters, the complex also has a dispensary and one antiaircraft machine gun, 4 caches re said to be in the area, this intelligence is categorized as C-3 and possibly true, based on the fore going information you are directed to send your Recon platoon to the vicinity of grid ZA048689 to Recon the area and Sitreps will be turned in every hour.

0725 hours (C) To Bde from the S-3: Be advised that at LZ Tango we have only 1/35 Inf TOC personnel 20 personnel from 4.2" guarding the LZ and 2/9 artillery now that the mission has been given to Recon.

0845 hours (C) Inverse Morse informs us that he had a platoon in contact with a platoon of NVA at grid 073686, the enemy fled to grid 056678.

1025 hours (C) D Co reports that they saw one individual in front of them so they fired at him.

1030 (C) Requested gunships for C Co.

1030 hours (C) Inverse Morse repots one platoon of NVA at grid 053694, he request to move on of his units into this location, S-3 negative and to keep his element in his own AO.

1050 hours (C) D Co reports that they have one friendly WIA, they broke contact at 1045 hours, they regained contact at 1047 hours.

1140 hours (C) From the Bde CO to S-3; Under OPCON 1/35 A Co 1/14 will CA 220830 Jan from Oasis to an LZ just south of LZ Stud by bend in river, Company Commander will coordinate with us, LTC Buckner is to make a Recon for an LZ.

1215 hours (C) Bn CO informs us that D Co has three friendly WIA and they are receiving sniper fire at this time.

1255 hours (C) C Co is receiving incoming rounds at this time, they request gunships.

1340 hours (C) CSM says that D Co now has 4 WHA and 1 KHA.

1350 hours (C) D Co reports that they are receiving incoming 60mm mortar rounds at this time, also D Co reports on enemy KIA.

1420 hours (C) From the Bde S-3 to the Bn S-3: Suspected enemy location is in the vicinity of grid 926693, can you place artillery fire on this grid immediately, can you sweep the area following the artillery, Bn S-3 says negative on sweeping the area, Bn CO says negative on the artillery also.

1435 hours (C) D Co received small arms fire from the ridge to the north.

1501 hours (C) Shamrock 1/10 Cav has one gunship en route to the area of contact at this time.

1505 hours (C) D Co has one KHA and 11 WHA, 2 wounded are serious.

1612 hours (C) D Co reports that they have 2 KHA, 11 WHA and 4 of them are serious.

1730 hours (C) D Co now has 2 KHA and 14 WHA from the CSM.

1750 hours (C) D Co is receiving enemy mortars at this time and they are requesting gunships.

1755 hours (C) D Co 2 KHA, 14 WHA, A Co unknown NVA WIA.

1803 hours (C) A & D companies are receiving mortar fire at this time, enemy grid is 4700 mils, 1,000 meters 925695.

1815 hours (C) D Co reports that the mortars have ceased.

1816 hours (C) Elliot 14 (FAC) is putting in an air strike at grid 925695.

1817 hours (C) Requested Spooky from Bde.

1837 hours (C) Enemy KIA; 84 killed 2, 81 killed 1.

1857 hours (C) Dust-Off 32 is on station.

1920 hours (C) Not confirmed A Co has 3 KHA, 6 WHA.

1931 hours (C) Dust-Off is returning to Base Camp as he feels he cannot make the pickup, (Dust-Off 32).

1934 hours (C) D Co is receiving mortar and small arms fire at this time.

2020 hours (C) DELAYED ENTRY-2000 hours 21 Jan 69- Informed Bde that Recon found no bunker complex nor did they have any significant findings in general.

2100 hours (C) B Co reports hearing tubes shooting at grid 909715, received information from arty that there are ARVN elements in that area.

2110 hours (C) A Co reports 4 KHA, 8 WHA (2 serious), D Co reports 2 KHA, 14 WHA, the 2 wounded from A Co can wait until the morning for extraction.

2118 hours (C) A Co report that they have movement and one trip flare went off, employed one hand grenade and the movement stopped.

2119 hours (C) A Co is all on the perimeter at this time as reported by Major Laird, says that he is pinned down in this area and he is awaiting further orders so that he can make plans for tomorrow.

2130 hours (C) C Co reports that they have not received any resupply and that they have only a limited supply of C-rations remaining, they are in critical shape for resupply and they only have enough to last until tomorrow.

2140 hours (C) Passed the following messages to A, B, C, D Companies: To A Co and Major Laird; Use squad action to kill the snipers, meet D Co with the equipment to build an LZ; To B Co; Develop your positions, acknowledged; To C Co; Hold; To D Co; Make LZs for the Dust-Offs, a squad from A Co will bring the equipment to help. The CSF are to stay in place.

## **22 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Tango ZA035663

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 946677 (YA) reconfirmed

B 1/35 YA924717

Snoopy Baron 008657

C 1/35 YA945693

D 1/35 YA939685

OPCON CSF-YA941705 (confirmed)

Recon Plt, LZ Tango ZA035663

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Tango

Bn CO LZ Tango ZA035663

C Co LZ Tango ZA035663

Weapons platoon 951679 (A, C Co) 2nd platoon

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 22 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Tango ZA035663, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, A Company YA946677; B Company YA924717; C Company YA945698; D Company YA939685; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

The battalion was repositioning forces for a three company sweep to the north between the 92 and 94 north-south grid lines against the positions occupied by B Company and the CSF, A Company was to move to the top of Chu Pa in the vicinity of grid 950678, D Company was to move to grid 930690, C Company was to hold in place until they were directed to move by the Bn CO, B Company and the CSF were to develop their positions, Recon was ordered by Bde to check out the area in the vicinity of grid ZA048689, D troop 1/10 Cav was OPCON to the 1/35 today. They were given a visual reconnaissance mission and they were directed to work in the direct support of the companies.

At 0700 hours A Company moved north, at 0730 hours D Company moved west. At 0930 hours A Company was at grid 951673, D Company was at grid 939685. At 1025 hours D Company spotted one suspicious looking individual and they fired on him. At 1030 hours D Company reported one friendly WHA, contact was made with an unknown size enemy force, contact was broken at 1045 hours but contact was again regained at 1047 hours. At 1051 hours the enemy fire was reported to be coming from an azimuth of 220 degrees this from D Company location. At 1052 hours D troop 1/10 Cav came on station. From 1205-1300 hours D Company platoon attempted to flank the sniper fire but they became pinned down. At 1215 hours D Company reported 3 WHA, they were receiving sniper fire from the northeast and the west. At 1300 hours birds from D troop 1/10 Cav checked the area of contact but they were forced to leave due to the heavy volume of fire that they were receiving. At 1120 hours gunships were employed in the area to the north of D Co location this lasted until 1235 hours. A Company was now at grid 951679. At 1255 hours C Company heard mortar rounds being fired to the west, no rounds in their area and the rounds were of an unknown origin as reported by C Company. AT 1330 hours D Company was at grid 937683, has 4 WHA, KHA. At 1300 hours D Company was told to stay in place. A Company (-) moved to sweep toward D Company location leaving one platoon at grid 951679. At 1355 hours D Company began receiving 60mm mortar fire, they also reported 2 enemy KHA. At 1400 hours D Company received small arms fire from the north. From 1400-1600 hours A Company swept towards D Company but they continually received heavy small arms fire from the northwest. From 1600-1800 hours A Company attempted to reduce the hostile fire, negative results. From 1608-1726 hours Recon was lifted from grid ZA049688 to LZ Tango and C Company weapons platoon from Objective Bravo to LZ Tango. At 1750 hours D Company was again getting mortared and they requested gunships. At 1755 hours D Company had 2 KHA, 14 WHA (total). At 1803 hours A & D Companies were both receiving mortar fire. At 1815 hours the mortar fire ceased. At 1830 hours the gunships fired on the suspected enemy mortar positions. At 1831 hours the Bn CO instructed all units to establish defensive positions for the night. At 1837 hours D Company reports 2 enemy KIA, A Company one (1) KIA, at 1841 hours the enemy fire and the dense terrain caused the Dust-Off called for the wounded to return to Base Camp (Camp Enari). At 1920 hours A Company reported 3 KHA, 8 WHA (total). The enemy was contacted at extremely close ranges and in extremely rugged mountainous terrain with triple canopy which precluded the use of artillery, the gunships of D troop 1/10 Cav and 45th Aviation did fine in support and each ship expended at least three times. Gunships and scout ships did receive ground/air fire when they got close to the contact area. The enemy used sniper tactics to pine down the companies and then brought in mortars. An airstrike was employed above the ridgeline above D Company along with the gunships.

0150 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-0150 hours 21 Jan 69- Passed to Bde at 2200 hours 21 Jan 69 log total casualties from A Co 8 WHA, 4 KHA, total from D Co 14 WHA, 2 KHA, also D Co killed 2

NVA (confirmed) A Co killed 2 (not confirmed by body count).

0600 (C) Dust-Off from Pleiku called to inform us that he would be at D Co location with a penetration device to Evac the seriously wounded, he will come with the gunships at 0700 or 0715 hours.

0625 hours (C) From the Bde S-3 to the 1/35 S-3: A Co 1/14 will move by truck from the Oasis to Plei-Djerang 0630 hours, today they will CA from Plei-Djerang airstrip at 1100 hours to a new LZ to the west of B Co 1/35.

0625 hours (C) Pleiku Dust-Off wants D Co to clear a LZ for the seriously wounded, Major Losey told D Co to start clearing a LZ through the use of explosives, D Co is staring at this time.

0655 hours (C) Dust-Off 32 is on station 2 Cobras, will contact D Co as soon as he is close enough to find out D Co tactical situation, will have the Cobra gunships work in the area of D Co CO deems it necessary.

0825 hours (C) Sergeant Major informed us that D Co has 16 WHA, 2 KHA.

0900 hours (C) LTC Buckner reports that he is receiving ground/air fire at this time, but there have been no hits.

0915 hours (C) Bde says that the ADC-A is en route to our location ETA 05 minutes.

0920 hours (C) Bde informs us to use artillery that we have, liberally fire in front of our troops even while they are moving, even when they are not in contact, fire artillery around the troops when they stop.

0950 hours (C) A Co reports 2 NVA KIA possible, not confirmed body counts.

1000 hours (C) D Co informs us that the 16 WHAs are as follows: line no.s 90, 41, 139, 63, 7, 134, 124, 114, 170, 162, 166, 67, 116, 11, Davidson (Eng), Scott (Medic), the 2 KHA are as follows: 13, 59.

1010 hours (C) A Co is still receiving sniper fire while they are trying to marry up with D Co.

1025 hours (C) A Co reports that most of the 81 element has married up with D Co, Major Laird and a few A Co EM are pinned down 30-40 meters outside of the D Co perimeter.

1026 hours (C) D Co is receiving B-40 Rocket fire at this time. Azimuth 105 degrees.

1040 hours (C) Bde Signal officer requests to know the status of the search for the missing KHA from A Co.

1042 hours (C) LTC Buckner says that there are no plans at this time to conduct a search until things quiet down out there, and A Co has no idea where to search at this time.

1045 hours (C) D Co reports B-40 Rocket and mortar fire at this time at an azimuth of 240 degrees, distance 1,000 meters.

1055 hours (C) D Co reports that the rounds are impacting inside of the perimeter negative report of casualties at this time.

1055 hours (C) Bde informs us the Hawk 10 is en route to our location for the CA of A Co 1/14 who are OPCON to us.

1105 hours (C) Division recommends that we use tactical airstrikes.

1110 hours (C) A Co 2nd platoon is on top of the Chu Pa Mountain, they report movement on the north side of the perimeter, they have gunships moving in at this time.

1115 hours (C) D Co reports that they are still receiving 60mm mortar fire and B-40 Rocket fire at this time, no casualty report.

1145 hours (C) D Co reports that most of the A CO elements have closed their perimeter, they are not sure of the jump CP and the rocket and mortar fire have stopped but they are receiving small arms fire.

1150 hours (C) A Co reports that there is one company coming up the mountain at Chu Pa, call sign Leroy Cooks 6, they are at grid 955674 at this time.

1205 hours (C) D Co reports that they are still under small arms attack and sporadic B-40 Rocket attack, they cannot stand up to build an LZ.

1221 hours (C) A Co reported that they informed Leroy Cooks to stop closing in on their position, but Leroy Cooks refused.

1230 hours (C) Passed the information concerning Leroy Cooks on to our CO, and he informed us that he was aware of this and that Leroy Cooks 6 was going to support our A Co 2nd platoon on the hill at Chu Pa.

1231 hours (C) A Co CO says that the missing KHA was left behind because the company was pinned down by sniper fire and they had to leave him.

1235 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-1217 hours 22 Jan 69- At 1217 hours PZ for A Co 1/14 complete.

1236 hours (UP DELAYED ENTRY-1233 hours 22 Jan 69- At 1233 hours LZ complete and Cold at grid 910715.

1255 hours (C) LTC Buckner reports that Major Laird and his RTO are 40 meters from D Co perimeter, and they are pinned down but safe.

1340 hours (C) A Co reports that they have 3-4 people laying on the road, but they do not know whether or not they are WHA or KHA, being that they are still pinned down.

1350 hours (C) D Co reports the line numbers of the additional wounded personnel: 2, 106, 85, 142, 81, Lt. Williamson 1350 hours (C) A Co reports the KHA line no. 14, 17 Head (Medic), WHAs 88, 26, 72, 84, 82, 89, Ducane.

1352 hours (C) Air strikes with napalm is going in at this time approximately grid 943685.

1355 hours (C) The airstrike is going in at the vicinity of grid 943685 with 500-pound bombs.

1415 hours (C) Bde wants to know what direction the jump CP is from D Co perimeter.

1420 hours (C) The airstrike is complete.

1430 hours (C) Leroy Cooks has married up with our A Co 2nd platoon element and they are awaiting further instruction at this time.

1433 hours (C) A Co 1/14 reports that their LP spotted a VC/NVA coming up the hill and he looked like he was motioning for more to come, LP killed him but they had one man wounded.

1448 hours (C) A Co 1/35 has closed D Co location, jump CP is 40 meters to the east in a cave.

1449 hours (C) C Co is ready for resupply at this time, they will have to kick the material out of the helicopters as they will not be able to land.

1458 hours (C) Requested a Dust-Off at this time, the Bn CO says that as far as he knows they are not being fired upon at this time and we have negative guns in the area.

1503 hours (C) A & D companies are beginning to cut an LZ.

1510 hours (C) Dust-Off 32 is on station at this time.

1515 hours (C) Bde informed us that Dust-Off 32 will be at D Co location in about 20-25 minutes with guns.

1516 hours (C) D Co reports sniper fire coming from the north at this time.

1518 hours (C) Bde informs us that they are sending a pair of gunships to aid the Dust-Off.

1615 hours (C) D Co is taking incoming 60mm mortar rounds at this time, they are coming from an azimuth of 240 degrees and a distance of 1,000 meters.

1620 hours (C) D Co reports that they are receiving 4-5 rounds at this time.

1625 hours (C) Bde requests to know the total number of casualties and they wish to know the progress of Dust-Offs, have the jump CP married up with D Co, have any of the bodies been recovered.

1630 hours (C) D Co reports 3 KHA, 22 WHA.

1650 hours (C) D Co reports that the three KHA are line numbers 13, 59 and 100.

1700 hours (C) A Co requested a case of BA-386, C-rations and water is essential.

1710 hours (C) A Co swept the area where the VC/NVA was spotted and they had negative findings, but they have one man injured as a result of the action occurring after they spotted the VC/NVA.

1717 hours (C) A Co 4 confirmed KHA, 10 confirmed WHA, does not include the jump CP nor 81 security element.

1721 hours (C) D Co received 3 rounds B-40 Rocket fire and they think that the M-79 rounds are coming from the east and northwest.

1831 hours (C) D Co reports sniper fire and B-40 Rocket.

1835 hours (C) D Co reports to LTC Buckner that the jump CP has not married up with D Co element at this time, they are holding up in a cave and they are safe, but they will not try and meet up with D Co until after dark.

1845 hours (C) D Co reports that they are receiving incoming rounds at this time, they believe them to be 60mm mortar rounds.

2003 hours (C) D Co informed 8192 that there are 6 VC/NVA moving towards them.

2005 hours (C) A & D companies have coordinated with the CSF, A & D companies will not move tonight, Major Laird and the RTO will stay in the cave for the night, CSF has ambushes all around the area and they will sweep the hill tomorrow.

2006 hours (C) D Co informed 8192 that there are 6 enemy going toward the 8192 location and they can request Spooky if need be.

2008 hours (C) A Co 1/14 LP 2 has movement 250 meters to their front at an azimuth of 180 degrees, Bde LNO says that the closest element is our B Co, A Co 1/14 has been instructed to take the enemy force under fire.

2009 hours (C) In reference to item 60 the three men who were pinned down of the trail were KHA from A Co.

2035 hours (C) A Co 2nd platoon has movement all around their perimeter, they seem to think that they are being encircled, they are waiting for the artillery to clear the grid.

2050 hours (C) A Co 2nd platoon has people closing in from their northeast and they request Spooky, SGM told them to hold tight and that he will get a Spooky.

2055 hours (C) B Co reports hearing a burst of automatic weapons fire at grid 939706, CSF is taking care of it.

2104 hours (C) A Co 2nd platoon is going to employ M-79 rounds at the visible enemy.

2115 hours (C) Received a report from A Co CO and we relayed it to A Co 2nd platoon and to D Co to TOC; Bn XO is MIA and one of his RTOs HHC line no. 122 is KHA but the body had not been recovered as of yet.

2155 hours (C) B Co has enough C-rations to last for tomorrow, but they do need water.

2205 hours (C) To B Co CO from the Bn CO: I have recognized that you have violated my specific order to put out SRPs tonight.

2230 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-0945 hours 22 Jan 69- A Co started to close D Co perimeter. At 1020 hours of A Co closed the perimeter and then remained with the 50 party. Included were pinned down and trapped in caves. 50 party was separated from A Co element, (they were in separate caves) at last report of the communication with the 50 element was 1 RTO KIA (SP/4 Ross) and the others were all right. Communications was lost with the 50 and the RTO between 0900-1000 hours. At that time 1 RTO Sgt. Corum reported that the other RTO SP/4 Ross was moving upright and was killed. Major Laird had not spoken on the radio as of that time.

2315 hours (C) From Bde: Intelligence reports the possibility of attacks by fire or sapper attacks on Kontum, Pleiku, Oasis and Camp Enari as well as installation in these vicinities, the same intelligence indicates the possibility of renewed attacks in the Sledgehammer AO, Commanders should take the appropriate action to improve the security in their areas.

2350 hours (C) Major Losey coordinated with Bde LNO to have him tell the ARVNs that A & D companies would be moving to the south tomorrow, the ARVNs were informed.

## **23 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Tango ZA035663

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 YA938685

B 1/35 YA924716

Snoopy Baron 008652

C 1/35 YA945694, FO says- 954686

D 1/35 YA938685

Recon (-) LZ Tango ZA035663

Recon Plt, LZ Tango ZA035663

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Tango

CSF (Leroy Cooks)- 943708

A Co 2nd platoon- 952678

Bn CP ZA035663

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 23 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Tango ZA035663, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, A Company YA938685; B Company YA924716; C Company YA945694; D Company YA938685; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

A & D companies were given instruction to move from their location grid YA938685 to south away from the snipers to a secure location and construct an LZ to evacuate the casualties and to receive resupply, also made coordination with Leroy Cooks 36 (CSF) who are going to sweep to the northwest through your night location, move to the east of the 04 grid line to establish an LZ.

At 1015 hours A Company started moving out of the caves to start a search of the area for the 50 element (Task Force Leader Major Laird and his RTO).

At 1105 hours D Company reported that they were taking incoming mortar rounds but there were no casualties reported as a result. At 1120 hours A Company reported that they had found Major Lairds body to confirm him as a KHA, SP/4 Ross body was not found at this time.

At 1530 hours A & D companies reported that they had searched an area that deemed to be suitable for an LZ grid YA948672, it will required additional engineers, they also request a Dust-Off for the wounded. At 1600 hours Dust-Offs 33 and 35 were on station.

At 1742 hours 4 EM were evac'd to the 71st Evacuation Hospital.

At 1820 hours D Company reported that a Dust-Off with 4 EM WHA had been shot down by what was believed to be a B-40 Rocket, one (1) of the 4 WHA was on a hoist.

At 1835 hours A & D companies reported that they were receiving incoming mortar fire, no casualties were reported as a result. Dust-Off 33 was the bird that was shot down. All personnel on the aircraft were killed except for the individual who was on the hoist; most of the bodies were burned with the chopper.

0002 hours Have had negative communications with A or D companies since 2300 hours, orders must be sent to them but there is no communication.

0410 (C) Passed the following message on to D Co and we instructed them to pass it on to A Co: You will move the entire elements to the south away from the snipers to a secure location where you can construct an LZ to evacuate the casualties and receive resupply this will be started as soon as you are able to tell friend from foe, make a maximum effort to contact the 50 element prior to departure, make coordination with Leroy Cooks 36 on 43.90 or 44.40 who are going to sweep to the northwest through your location, get to the east of the 94 grid line, we will send additional engineer support once a secure area is reached. Sent to A & D companies.

0650 (C) Called to the Oasis requesting an ample supply of morphine.

0759 (C) To B Co CO: A, C, and D companies will move to the north on the east side of the 94 grid line, inverse morse is not to move, keep the same AO, gravil 81 is to your west.

0820 hours (C) Informed C Co to sweep the north, but stay east of the 94 grid line, move to the trail in vicinity of grid 952703.

0821 hours (C) Informed the CSF to move to grid 947718 and they are to set up new defensive positions.

0835 hours (C) B Co informed that he could move to the west of the river.

0925 hours (C) D Co reports that in addition to the WHA previously mentioned add the following: 16, 94, 96, 71, 159, 27, 28, 155 has hepatitis.

1009 hours (C) Leroy Cooks is taking incoming mortar at this time.

1016 hours (C) Informed A & D companies to move as soon as Leroy Cooks starts to move, maintain radio contact with Leroy Cooks, you must move at that time, keep us advised.

1020 hours (C) Bde informed us that General Irzik is en route to LZ Tango, ETA 10 minutes out.

1045 hours (C) A Co element that was in the caves is starting to come out of the caves at this time, as soon as they are able to get themselves organized they will begin to search for the 50 party.

1046 hours (C) Cooks 36 is still receiving incoming.

1100 hours (C) D Co request a Dust-Off for their 10 WHAs total 10 to 11 that must be taken out immediately, need the hoist.

1105 hours (C) D Co reports that they are taking incoming mortars from 200 meters from their north.

1120 hours (C) A Co element while coming out of the caves and moving back found Major Lairds

body and he is a confirmed KHA.

1121 hours (C) Dust-Off 35 is on station.

1133 hours Dust-Off 35 is leaving the AO, as they were not able to make the pickup. This due to the tactical situation.

1134 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-1130 hours 23 Jan 69- A and D companies are moving to the south.

1145 hours (C) LTC Buckner requested that artillery be employed at grid 938668.

1230 hours (C) LTC Buckner informed us that A & D companies are moving in a 150-degree azimuth, they are moving very slowly due to the fact that the rocks were moved about 30-40 meters.

1300 hours (C) Leroy Cooks 36 informs us that they are at grid 945714 same as before they are pinned down by 8 NVA with 2 machine guns, also the NVA spider holes have been assaulting the past hour.

1350 hours (C) Bn CO reports that A & D companies are at grid 939683, found no LZ at this time, but they are looking for one as they have one smoke grenade left.

1420 hours (C) D Co thinks that they have VC/NVA on the end of the column and they are going to employ artillery.

1535 hours (C) Requested a Dust-Off one with a wench and one without to area 940681 for A & D companies.

1542 hours (C) Rustler 24 and the engineers are en route to A & D companies.

1550 hours (C) Bde informs us that Dust-Offs 33 and 35 are en route to A & D companies location, ETA 15 minutes.

1555 hours (C) Another resupply bird departed our location en route to D & A company location but it was too heavy to hover and drop the engineers, the bird will come back to our location, drop off part of his load and then he will come back.

1600 hours (C) Dust-Off 33 and 35 are on station and they are en route to D & A company location.

1605 hours (C) Bikini 19 is dropping resupply to D & A companies at this time.

1616 hours (C) Dust-Offs 33 and 35 are at D Co location, they are waiting for the engineers to cut a better LZ.

1640 hours (C) 2nd half of the Engineer team is on the LZ at this time, they estimate that it will take 25

minutes to clear the LZ and the Dust-Off will be able to go in.

1644 hours (C) General Irzik is en route to LZ Tango, ETA 05 minutes.

1655 hours (C) Requested the ETA on the gunships for the Dust-Off.

1710 hours (C) Bde informs us that the guns are down for maintenance and they will try and scrape up a group for us.

1727 hours (C) From the 1/35 Bn Signal Officer to 3d Bde: Possible compromise of the following 4th Division items; 50C-1 plus pen and ink changes, 56A-3, 56A-4 extracts, KAC-QY 514 days 16-31, 34-1, KAC-PY 150 sets 9-16 items were in the possession of Major Laird and his RTO who were KIA, this date no indication available as yet as to whether the subject items were on the body of Major Laird or his RTO.

1742 hours (C) 4 people Dusted-Off from A & D company locations, this by Dust-Off 35.

1820 hours (C) A Dust-Off was shot down by a possible B-40 Rocket, the round came from the north, called Bde for gunships, they are going to put artillery in at grid 948678.

1835 hours (C) A & D companies are receiving incoming mortar rounds at this time 1833 hours.

1845 hours (C) Status of Dust-Off 33 when it was hit; was hovering with 3 WIA aboard, 1 on a hoist and they have not found the bodies at this time.

1850 hours (C) The search party has reached the downed bird, the bird was in flames and no one was alive, they have not found any bodies at this time.

1853 hours (C) Message from Dust-Off 30: Had 4 seriously wounded and they made it to the hospital.

1833 hours (C) The crew states that the crew of men on Dust-Off 33 and the WIA who were on board were all KIA, individual who was on the hoist is still alive (first crew referred to is the search crew).

1905 hours (C) Bn CO has ordered A & D companies to move to the east ASAP to the ridge line above their location.

1908 hours (C) Bn CO reports that A & D companies had security out for 150 yards, rocket came over that and hit the Dust-Off, artillery is being employed and the ship is on fire.

1915 hours (C) Report from Rustler 24: Dust-Off 34 picked up 4 WIA at 1745 hours, Rustler 24 went in with resupply, he received 4 hits from an AK-47, 3 in the tail and 1 under the seat, there were negative casualties as a result.

2003 hours (C) To the Bn CO from the Bde CO: 1/12 has a mission of securing LZ B grid YA949662 for the extraction of the wounded, they will coordinate with you for radio call signs, the frequencies

and the link-up procedures, you are directed to use the assigned force required to secure and move your wounded to LZ B, QSL desired.

2020 hours (C) A & D companies are combined, A Co CO will assume command of both companies until a secure area is reached.

2045 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-2015 hours 23 Jan 69- At 2015 hours requested Spooky coverage all night, by A Co CO.

2100 hours (C) Reference the QSL item 89: LTC Buckner proposed the use of the Chu-Pa as extraction site, due to the proximity of the location, the presence of friendly troops there, the safety from enemy fire and the presence of an LZ. Directed the use of Objective Bravo for extraction, LTC Buckner said that we would comply.

2120 (C) Spooky is on station, he will fly over A & D company locations all through the night.

## **24 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Tango ZA035663

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 YA946672

B 1/35 YA924716

Snoopy Baron ZA008652

C 1/35 YA945694

D 1/35 YA946672

Recon LZ Tango ZA035663

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Tango

A Co 2nd platoon YA952678

Unit locations in our AO;

Grave 81 1/14 910715

CSF 0-71-945684, 942684

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 24 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Tango ZA035663, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), E Company, C Battery 2/9 artillery, A Company YA946672; B Company YA924716; C Company YA945694; D Company YA946672; At LZ Oasis; Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); 1/35 Inf CP moved from LZ Tango at 1645 hours to LZ Charmaine and they were operational at this new location at 1621 hours.

At 1700 hours CO 1/14 assumed command of the operation at Objective Bravo, units OPCON to the

1/14 B, C, A Co 2nd platoon, Recon, 4.2". A & D companies linked up with an element of the 1/12 Inf at grid YA956674, all of the casualties were evacuated from that location, the remainder of A & D companies are to move to Objective Bravo and CA from there to LZs Charmaine and Brigit 25 January 1969.

0040 hours (C) Message from Bde to the Bn CO: You are to secure the area that you presently hold of yesterday's attempted extraction with a security body and collect the bodies from the downed helicopter, you will send another force of sufficient force to secure the movement and to assist in the movement to LZ B at grid YA949662 and link up with C Co 1/12 Inf which is securing the LZ, security element at last night's location will not move to LZ B until the 1/14 has reached the high ground east of A & D company present position and the CO 1/14 will assume operational control of the AO, final coordination between CO 1/14 and CO 1/35 is authorized and directed.

0530 hours (C) Bde called 71st Evac hospital, Corum, David HHC, SFC Bales, Ralph D Co, PFC Linden, Allen C, D Co, SP/4 Borshard, Anthony W. A Co, all were Dusted-Off 231742 hours Jan 69.

0630 hours (C) Major Losey instructed A & D companies to secure the downed aircraft and then to move to LZ B for evacuation of casualties, (this order came from Bde).

0720 hours (C) A Co is sending an element to check the downed aircraft to see if there are any survivors.

0735 hours (C) Major Losey informed A & D companies to go to the area of the downed aircraft with a radio, the rest of A & D companies will begin to move toward the ridge and then to Objective Bravo, C Co will send one platoon with a radio to the area of Chu-Pa, A Co 2nd platoon will leave one squad as security the rest of A Co 2nd platoon will move to intercept A & D companies to provide security and to assist in the movement of casualties to Objective B.

0746 hours A Co CO wishes to leave more than 2 squads behind to provide security for the downed aircraft, Bn S-3 informed him that he may leave 2 squads behind, maybe more, must comply with the mission assigned in the earlier message (Reference journal entry 14).

0755 hours (C) Message from the 1/14 CO to 1/35 CO: Request that we send the frequency of the 1/14 to our 1/14 unit that will be OPCON to 1/14 freq. is 56.70. LTC Buckner gave the disposition of our forces to the 1/14; 1/14 Inf has elements moving toward Objective Bravo at this time.

0945 hours (C) Message to B & C companies: A Co 1st platoon on order from Bn S-3 go OPCON to 1/14.

1059 hours (C) C Co element has mortars impacting 150 meters from C Co location and they are now going to move to C Co location.

1059 hours (C) A & D companies have all the SOIs: The SOI from Major Laird was recovered, if Sgt. Corum has an SOI in his possession at the 71st Evac hospital then all the SOIs are accounted for. Bde will check.

1100 hours (C) C Co says that the mortar rounds are coming from an azimuth of 5100 mils at a distance of approximately 800 meters.

1101 hours (C) From the S-4 to Bn CO: All combat loss equipment should be turned in ASAP.

1103 hours (C) Bde says that the Commanding General wants the location of A & D companies ASAP and were any of the bodies on the Dust-Off recovered.

1154 hours (C) Bn CO reported to the Bde S-3: 5 KHA were left at A & D companies original point of contact grid YA939685, all were 1/35, 4 KHA 1/35 were left at LZ where the Dust-Off was shot down 944672, 3 1/35 KHA and 4 Dust-Off crew were KHA were left behind at the point of the crash of the Dust-Off YA946671, A & D companies have moved 100 meters to the east, the troops are very weak at this time.

1342 hours (C) From Bde: 1/10 Cav will send the Battalion Surgeon and the people that will aid the wounded at Plei-Djerang.

1435 hours (C) A Co security 8191 element on the Dust-Off bird has movement, Cider 35 will try and help since we do not have a C&C ship.

1550 hours (C) Cider 35 says that an LOH can pick up the wounded in a clearing at grid 956674 which is the link up point of A & D companies and the 83 element 1/14.

1631 hours (C) DELAYED ENTRY-1621 hours 24 Jan 69- Bn TOC is in operation at IZ Charmaine.

1700 hours (C) 1/14 has command of the operation at this time, B, C, A Co 2nd platoon, Recon and 4.2" are now OPCON to 1/14 Infantry.

1743 hours (C) First lift of the wounded are out at grid YA956674 with one WHA will be dropped on Objective Bravo and transportation to LZ Lanetta.

1800 hours (C) From the Bde CO to the Bn CO: All able bodied members of the 1/12 Inf will remain with the 1/12 Inf element at grid 956674 and they will be guided into Objective Bravo by the 1/12 Infantry element, the wounded only will be evac'd tonight to LZ Lanetta, the rest of A & D companies will be moved to LZs Charmaine and Brigit early in the morning or afternoon of 25 Jan 69. Bde will handle the resupply of the 81 and 84 elements still at Objective Bravo.

1807 hours (C) 20 WHA from A & D companies are now at Objective Bravo.

1817 hours (C) Snoopy Baron and 50 packs are at LZ Tango and they will be evac'd to LZ Charmaine 25 Jan 69.

1822 hours (C) 31 WHA have reached Objective Bravo, 25 of the 31 have been evac'd to LZ Lanetta, Bde CSM estimates that there are still 20 on the LZ at grid 956674.

1827 hours (C) 1/14 84 element has linked up with the people at the downed aircraft and they will establish a night location at that grid tonight.

1831 hours (C) Shamrock 11 says that he is taking the last sortie of the wounded out of the LZ at this time.

1832 hours (C) Bn CO advised A & D companies of the plan to stay at the LZ and move to Objective Bravo with 1/12 Inf at first light tomorrow morning.

1854 hours (C) Bn CSM says that 39 packs were taken out of the LZ.

1855 hours (C) 7 able-bodied people were at the LZ, Bn CO reports that 24 people were left at the crash scene.

2230 hours (C) 1/10 Cav requested the location where A & D companies lost their equipment, can be found, we passed him grid 939685, 946672 and 946671.

2310 (C) 1/14 CO passed the following message from our Bn CO: Mission for 25 Jan: Move to D Co to LZ B, move A Co 2nd platoon with body and equipment to LZ B by moving east to D Co location, then moving to the south to LZ B.

## **25 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Charmaine YA999219

### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 950663 OPCON to 1/14

B 1/35 926721 OPCON to 1/14

C 1/35 954686 OPCON to 1/14

D 1/35 958675 OPCON to 1/14

A Co 2nd platoon 952678 OPCON to 1/14

Recon LZ Tango ZA035663 OPCON to 1/14

4.2" Mortar Plt, LZ Tango OPCON to 1/14

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 25 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Charmaine YA999219, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), 4.2" mortar platoon from the 1/14 Inf, 81 mm mortar platoon from B Company 1/14 Inf, counter-mortar section from the 2/9 artillery; A Company YA950663 OPCON to 1/14 Inf, B Company YA926721 OPCON to 1/14 Inf; C Company YA954686 OPCON to 1/14 Inf. At LZ Tango ZA035663; E Company OPCON to 1/14 Inf; At LZ Oasis Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari) Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

D Company CAd from grid YA958675 to LZ Charmaine 25 January 1969 first lift down at 1040 hours, lift complete at 1400 hours. A Company will remain at Objective Bravo until all personnel reach B to include search party of downed aircraft (Dust-Off) site, will CA to LZ Brigit 25 January 1969.

1041 hours (C) S-3 passed on to Payday O that hot chow will be sent to LZ Brigit and LZ Charmaine for A & D Companies also have the S-4 meet the Bn CO at the resupply pad, have 8424 go to LZ Charmaine to take care of the troops.

1048 hours (C) Second hook lift from LZ Tango to LZ Brigit is taking place at this time.

1100 hours (C) In reference to item 14 the hook did not pick up the troops, they received heavy small arms fire and they returned to Base Camp.

1119 hours (C) Recent report on the WHAs: D Co 27 WHA, 2 sick 6 KHA; A Co 17 WHA, 1 sick 2 KHA; HQ 1 WHA 4 KHA.

1128 hours (C) Report from the S-3: No weapons were lost, 1 M-60 machine gun destroyed another M-60 machine gun possibly destroyed, there were packs lost but there is no count at this time.

1155 hours (C) Bde reports that three bodies were inside of the Dust-Off, 2 were found outside of the Dust-Off, 3 bodies were found on the LZ and the search has ended, they swept 300 meters around the LZ and the Bde CO has ordered them to return to Objective Bravo.

1300 hours (C) Bde informs us that two more bodies have been found at the Dust-Off crash site.

1510 hours (C) To Bde Commo officer from the Bn Commo officer: SOI in the possession of Major Laird has been recovered from his body. SOI in the possession of Sergeant Corum was no longer present on his body at the time of Evacuation to the 71st Evacuation hospital. RTO Ross had a PRC-77 radio on his back that was set on 66.00 1/35 Battalion Command when he was KHA, neither the radio nor the body have been recovered at this time.

1847 hours (C) From Bde: KAL 150 has been compromised do not use it at all.

2248 hours (C) At our location the radar picked up a chopper at grid 990185 circling LZ Laura at 1250 feet followed it west to grid 979190 at 1200 feet. Lost it at grid to east at 2253 hours, check with Bde and Bde says that there are negative friendly choppers in that area, artillery was employed 2 rounds VT and 2 rounds HE on LZ Laura.

2130 hours (C) From Capt. Kocsis to Bde 25: In reference to the SOI loss from Sergeant Corum (RTO) may have been recovered from the 71st Evac, my 25A will pick it up so that it can be checked for completeness, as soon as the completeness can be verified T25A will contact you direct, if you wish to expedite this check the document is supposed to be in the 41 or 43 safe at the 71st Evacuation hospital.

**26 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Charmaine YA999219

## Unit Locations:

A 1/35 Objective B OPCON to 1/14

B 1/35 OPCON to 1/14

C 1/35 OPCON to 1/14

D 1/35 LZ Charmaine YA999219 1/14

A Co 4th platoon LA Brigit YA025160

103 and 101 OPCON

8394 1/14 LZ Charmaine YA999219

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 26 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Charmaine YA999219, Battalion Headquarters (Forward), D Company, 8294 OPCON 1/14 to 1/35; 101 1/14 OPCON to 1/35 Inf; counter mortar section from the 2/9 artillery; At LZ Brigit YA025160; A Company 4th platoon, 8394 1/14 OPCON to 1/35; OPCON units: a Company (-) OPCON to 1/14; B Company OPCON to 1/14; C Company OPCON to 1/14; Recon platoon OPCON 10 1/14; 4.2" platoon OPCON to 1/14; At LZ Oasis Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

C Company returned to the control of the 1/35 Inf 26 January 1969, they CAd from LZ Tommy to LZ Brigit, PZ time 1150 hours LZ complete at 1612 hours.

At 1724 hours SRP 2 from D Company spotted 2 VC in pajamas with AK-47 rifles, SRP team fired on the VC and they jumped into brush and disappeared, artillery and light organics were not employed, due to location of the SRPs in the area.

At 1905 hours the warning order was given to A & C companies to be prepared to move to an AO (TBA) to conduct search and clear operations from 27 January 69 to 30 January 69, take 1 81mm mortar tube and return back to LZ Charmaine upon completion of the operation (C Company) operation 28 January- 31 January 69 return to LZ Charmaine 31 January 1969 upon completion of the operation.

**27 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Charmaine YA999219

Unit Locations:

A Co 4th platoon LZ Brigit YA025160  
B 1/35 OPCON to 1/14  
C 1/35 LZ Brigit YA025160  
D 1/35 LZ Charmaine YA999219  
Recon OPCON 1/14  
4.2" OPCON 1/14  
1/14 Recon LZ Charmaine YA999219  
B Co 4th platoon LZ Charmaine YA999219  
C Co 4th platoon LZ Brigit  
D Co 4th platoon LZ Brigit  
2/9 Artillery radar LZ Charmaine YA999219

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 27 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Charmaine YA999219, Battalion Headquarters (Forward); 4.2" Mortar platoon from the 1/14 Inf, B Company 81 platoon from the 1/14 Inf; counter-mortar section from the 2/9 artillery; At LZ Brigit YA025160; C Company, A Company 81 platoon, D Company 81 platoon from the 1/14 Inf; OPCON units; A Company (-) OPCON to 1/14 Inf; B Company OPCON to 1/14 Inf; E Company OPCON to 1/14 Inf (LZ Tango); At LZ Oasis Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

No significant activities occurred in the area of operations.

1101 hours (C) From the Bde CO to the Bn CO: You are directed to employ one company on a search and destroy mission in the vicinity of LZ Linda beginning 28 January, airlift is not likely except for resupply, there is a Plei Me operation (CSF type) to the east of your AO and direct coordination is authorized and directed.

1114 hours (C) To C Co CO: Leave LZ Brigit NLT 281000 Jan 69 and conduct search and destroy operations from LZ Puma ZA172216 period of operation 28 Jan-1 Feb 69. Area of operation ZA0702501, Za180250, ZA070200, from higher there have been numerous reports of enemy activity between the two LZs, only 1 ship for resupply will be available.

2050 hours (U) To NCS from D/1-35 Our LPs report movement and are standing by with red. Movement is to the southeast. We are firing 81mm and are awaiting results at this time.

At 2235 hours movement started back up and chased LP back. The movement is believed to be people but are not sure.

2146 hours (U) To Bn S-3 from Bde S-3: Keep B/1-35 in holes during bomb run 28 Jan 0925 and 28 Jan 1135, bomb run will come from the south to north. Last bomb time is not known at this time. Be prepared to move into phase two on order after 1200, 28 Jan 69, then plan on maneuver for B and D companies.

2215 hours (C) From the Bde S-3 to the 1/35 S-3: Sub future operations in the 1/35 AO, the first mission assigned in the eastern portion of our AO is directed, mission will begin on 28 Jan 69 send your plan for the operation in reference to the discussion on 27 Jan 69 future mission in the AO should be directed to the southwest along la Drang and la Meur river approaches. I recommend 1 platoon and 1 company RIF search and destroy and night ambush operations to last 3-5 days each AO extensions into 3d Bde Recon Zone of Plei-Me CSF AO should be requested from this Headquarters.

2345 hours (U) To NCS from B/1-35: Our LP spotted someone sitting to the south of his position approx. 50 to 75 meters away. The LP made a noise and the person stood up and moved up the hill to get one other person. The LP then moved back to his perimeter. Artillery was employed. B 1/35 wants his 3rd platoon to sweep up the hill to check it out, with his 2nd platoon to the west and his 1st platoon to the east.

## **28 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div  
Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base  
LZ Charmaine YA999219

### Unit Locations:

A 1/35 LZ Brigit YA025160  
B 1/35 OPCON to 1/14  
C 1/35 LZ Brigit YA035160  
D 1/35 LZ Charmaine YA999219  
Recon OPCON 1/14  
4.2" OPCON 1/14  
B Co 4th platoon 1/14 LZ Charmaine YA999219  
2/9 Artillery radar LZ Charmaine YA999219

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 28 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Charmaine YA999219, Battalion Headquarters (Forward); D Company, 4.2" mortar platoon 1/14 Inf, 4.2 mortar platoon 1/35 Inf, Recon platoon 1/14 Inf, counter-mortar section from the 2/9 artillery; B Company 4th platoon 1/14 Inf; At LZ Brigit YA025160; C Company, A Company; OPCON units; B Company OPCON to 1/14 Inf; At LZ Oasis Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 1010 hours 28 January 1969 C Company departed LZ Brigit to an AO for a five day operation, A & D companies will provide one platoon for a security force to the 1/69 Armor on 29 January 1969.

At 1635 hours 28 January 1969, C Company reported that they were in contact at grid ZA057165, believed to be an enemy squad and a machine gun and they broke contact at 1650 hours. No enemy casualties were reported, one (1) WIA from C Company, gunships were employed (artillery too slow),

at 1727 hours 1/10 Cav came on station with 2 gunships and a scout section, at 1807 hours an LOH from the scout section was shot down by an AK-47, the bird did not burn and there were no casualties, the chopper went down at grid ZA059165. The two platoons that were to go OPCON to the 1/69 Armor will go to LZ Janet, second platoon of D Company and the Rock Quarry (3d platoon of A Company).

1635 hours (C) C Co is in contact at grid 057165 they were moving along the river when they heard automatic weapons fire from the northeast approximately 500-700 meters at the same time C Co was hit with automatic weapons fire (machine gun fire) from an estimated enemy squad from the ridge, contact was broken at 1650 hours, 1 US WIA, they are trying to employ artillery at this time.

1655 hours (C) Requested gunships from Bde and also requested a C & C bird at 1645 hours.

1713 hours (C) C Co is moving two platoons in two different directions at this time.

1718 hours (C) Bn CO is airborne with the artillery LNO at this time.

1727 hours (C) 1/10 Cav with 2 gunships and scouts (LOH) contact area ETA 05 minutes.

1735 hours (C) 1/10 Cav guns are on station at this time.

1743 hours (C) Negative artillery employed at this time.

1758 hours (C) 1/10 Cav CO will pick up the WIA from C Co location and he will take him to the Oasis.

1807 hours (C) An LOH belonging to the 1/10 Cav was downed by AK-47 fire, LOH did not burn, there were no casualties reported and there are friendly troops in the area, they are around the downed aircraft at grid 059165.

1815 hours (C) Requested an urgent Dust-Off from Bde for C Co.

1830 hours (C) Artillery is being employed and the gunships are expending at this time.

1831 hours (C) Dust-Off 35 is on station.

1834 hours (C) C Co 3d platoon is securing the downed aircraft (LOH) at this time.

1835 hours (C) From the Bn CO: Shamrock 45 was the bird that went down and as soon as the Dust-Off is complete all elements will move to the LOH and 1/10 Cav will try and extract the bird that went down.

1854 hours (C) LOH from the 1/10 Cav was at an altitude of 10 feet and he was going about 3-5 knots, he does not know how many rounds he received.

1908 hours (C) Bird (LOH Shamrock) was picked up at this time.

1915 hours (C) 1/10 Cav Shamrock guns and ships have departed the contact area at this time.

## **29 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Charmaine YA999219

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 LZ Brigit YA025160

B 1/35 OPCON to 1/14

C 1/35 LZ Brigit ZA052164

D 1/35 LZ Charmaine YA999219

Recon OPCON 1/14

4.2" LZ Charmaine YA999219

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 29 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Charmaine YA999219, Battalion Headquarters (Forward); D Company, A Company 4th platoon, 4.2" mortar platoon, counter-mortar section from the 2/9 artillery; At LZ Brigit YA025160; A Company (-), C Company ZA052164; OPCON units; B Company OPCON to 1/14 Inf; Recon platoon OPCON 1/14; At LZ Oasis Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 0848 hours D Company 2nd platoon CAd from LZ Brigit to LZ Janet for OPCON to 1/69 Armor. At 0958 hours A Company 3d platoon CAd from LZ Brigit to the Rock Quarry for OPCON to the 1/69 Armor.

At 0926 hours C Company reported finding 25 bags of unpolished rice 200 meters to the east of grid ZA052171, the rice was destroyed by spreading it over the ground in a large area.

At 1812 hours there was a message received from Bde; Be prepared to accept B Company OPCON from 1/14 30 January 1969.

At 1814 hours Recon platoon returned to the control of the 1/35 from the 1/14 Inf at LZ Tango.

## **30 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by:* Dave Fogg

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Charmaine YA999219

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) ZA012174

A Co 4th Platoon LZ Charmaine YA999219

B 1/35 OPCON to 1/14

C 1/35 ZA065180

D 1/35 (-) LZ Charmaine YA999219

Recon LZ Charmaine YA999219

4.2" LZ Charmaine YA999219

2/9 radar LZ Charmaine YA999219

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 30 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Charmaine YA999219, Battalion Headquarters (Forward); D Company, A Company 4th platoon, E Company, C Company 4th platoon, counter-mortar section from the 2/9 artillery; A Company ZA012174; C Company ZA065180; OPCON units; B Company OPCON to 1/14 Inf; At LZ Oasis Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

At 1545 hours C Company reported that they had made contact with approximately a squad size enemy force, the enemy employed M-79 rounds, the contact was broken at 1550 hours, no us casualties and no enemy assessment was made.

At 1925 hours B Company arrived at LZ Charmaine from OPCON 1/14 Inf.

At 2310 hours C Company reported that an EM line no. 123 had been attacked by a tiger.

At 2320 hours the cat came back and he was spotted with a flare that was fired, the perimeter opened up with M-16 on the area where the LPs had been sent out, the LP sustained a flesh wound in the left leg, the company was not sure if the burst of fire had killed the cat or not.

0740 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-2100 hours 28 January 1969- From the Bde CO to the Bn CO: Request that Lt. Childs be assigned the project officer for the Airmobile demonstration, 21 individuals including 16 skit characters and Lt. Childs will report to the Bde S-3 on 1 February 1969 must have the same skit character as originally trained with the exception of Lt. Childs, he is to be replaced with a capable individual, if he needs to be replaced request 40 troops, 5 NCOs, include 2 81mm mortars with crew be transferred to LZ Oasis on 3 February 1969, individuals other than the skit characters need not be trained previously individuals will report with all the necessary equipment including 3 PRC-25 radios, the individuals will be returned to the parent unit on or about 11 Feb 69, QSL needed by 20 1200 Jan 69.

1225 hours (C) A Co report on the British camouflage nets, used once, too cumbersome, very ineffective, easier to carry the radio on a rucksack.

1355 hours (C) To D Co from the S-3: Move on 301600 Jan 69 from LZ Charmaine to AO 6 to conduct search and destroy operation, through AO 6 (by foot) through AO 4 to AO 6, period of operations 3-5 days, be prepared to be resupplied by air in the AO, carry enough rations to last for

three days, take 1 81mm mortar carry enough malaria pills and water purification tablets to last for the duration of the mission, carry one 292 antenna, set up an ambush of at least a platoon size element each night, hourly Sitreps are required, plans for the next day will be reported by 1700 hours daily, a minimum of personnel will remain at LZ Charmaine to man 1 81mm mortar and maintain the equipment not carried.

1342 hours (C) Recon moved into AO 2 grid 311030 hours to conduct search and destroy operations for a period of three days, set up a night ambush each night, hourly sitreps will be reported, take sufficient rations for three days, take sufficient malaria pills and water purification tablets to last for seven days, take a 292 or field expedient antenna which will accomplish the same thing. Report by 1700 hours the plans for the next day to include planned location of the night ambush, be prepared to be resupplied by aircraft, return to LZ Charmaine NST 031100 February 1969.

1545 hours (C) C Co is in contact with approximately one squad of men with an M-79.

1550 hours (C) C Co reports that the contact has been broken and there are no casualties.

1615 hours (C) C Co negative sitrep, they have moved across the river to the north-northeast, they will work out with the artillery.

1620 hours (C) C Co has swept the area negative findings at this time.

1629 hours (C) The VC were about 200 meters away to the northeast when C Co was hit, C Co was crossing the river at the time.

1703 hours (C) Shamrock 97 is on station with scouts and the guns, they also have ARPs on standby.

2130 hours (C) From the Bde CO to the 1/35 CO: The stand down program has been cancelled until further notice.

2310 hours (C) A cat grabbed a man on the west side of the perimeter (line no. 123 of the January roster) and no movement was heard until the man screamed, they shot a flare and spotted the cat, they opened up with M-16s and the man on the LP line no. 134 of the January roster got a flesh wound in the right leg, they are still not sure if the cat is dead at this time, C co requested a Dust-Off for 0700 hours 31 January 1069. They have a good LZ.

### **31 January 1969**

1/35th

*Submitted by: Dave Fogg*

3rd Bde 4th Inf Div

Bn (1/35) Forward Fire Base

LZ Charmaine YA999219

Unit Locations:

A 1/35 (-) 997192

A Co 3rd Platoon Rock Quarry

B 1/35 (-) LZ Charmaine YA999219

C 1/35 098214

D 1/35 001208

Recon LZ Charmaine YA999219

4.2" LZ Charmaine YA999219

2/9 radar LZ Charmaine YA999219

Summary: Log opened at 0001 hours 31 January 1969. Unit locations: At LZ Charmaine YA999219, Battalion Headquarters (Forward); B Company, E Company, counter-mortar section from the 2/9 artillery; A Company YA997192; C Company ZA098214; d Company ZA001208: OPCON units; D Company 2nd platoon OPCON to the 1/69 Armor; A Company 3d platoon OPCON to the 1/69 Armor; At LZ Oasis Headquarters and Headquarters Company Support (S-4 Forward); At Base Camp (Camp Enari); Battalion Headquarters (Rear).

In reference to journal entry 70 30 January 1969 log C Company reported killing the tiger that had attacked line no. 123, weight of the cat was approximately 400-500 pounds. At 1300 hours Recon platoon departed LZ Charmaine for a 2 day operation, their mission was to search, clear and set up nightly ambushes along likely avenues of approach and trails.

0705 hours (C) C Co reports that they have one dead tiger at their location, it weights about 400-500 pounds.

1405 hours (C) Requested a Dust-Off for 2 EM from B Co, line no. 15 machete wound in the leg, line no. 144 FUO.

1426 hours (U) DELAYED ENTRY-1415 hours 31 Jan 69- From the Bde to the Bn S-3: C Co will continue to move to the east to the vicinity of LZ Linda vicinity of grid ZA172216, C Co will conduct extensive C & D operations vicinity of LZ Linda and they will be prepared to move on orders in moving to the east into the extended AO. Extension of the AO is approved ZA2325, ZA2320, ZA1825, ZA1820, question to Bde from the S-3 of the 1/35, has the CSF to the east moved out? Bde says yes, what is the period of operation, elements will be lifted out on the 3d February 1969 and they will return to LZ Charmaine, can we expect an airlift back, the answer is yes and call back.

2115 hours (C) To B Co CO from the S-3: Move from LZ Charmaine 011230 February 1969 to AO 8, conduct extensive search and destroy operations throughout AO 8, paying particular attention to the river valley location vicinity the 04 north-south grid lines, the la Tong river valley and the la Drang river valley, place out at least one platoon size element (ambush) from each element. This will be accomplished each night, report the situation and the location each hour, report the plans for the next day by 1700 hours daily, carry rations for three days, carry malaria pills and water purification tablets for seven days, take 1 81mm mortar tube leave only the minimum of personnel to maintain the equipment and a man to man the 81mm mortar at LZ Charmaine, report all LZs and potential LZs encountered including the work required to make a potential LZ complete, resupply request submitted

prior to 1600 hours daily for the next day, plan for aerial resupply as required, on order move from AO 8 to AO 9 continue the search and destroy operations.

2120 hours (C) To Bde from the Bn S-3: A Co will continue the search and destroy operations in AO 5 closing on LZ Charmaine about 1200 hours, B Co will leave LZ Charmaine moving into AO 8 to conduct search and destroy operations with particular emphasis on the river valley, on order they will move into AO 9, C Co will continue their search and destroy operation in the vicinity of LZ Linda and move into the extended AO on order, D Co will continue their search and destroy operation in AO 6, Recon and 4.2\ personnel will move to the Oasis.