



WELCOME TO "A WALK WITH THE 35TH"



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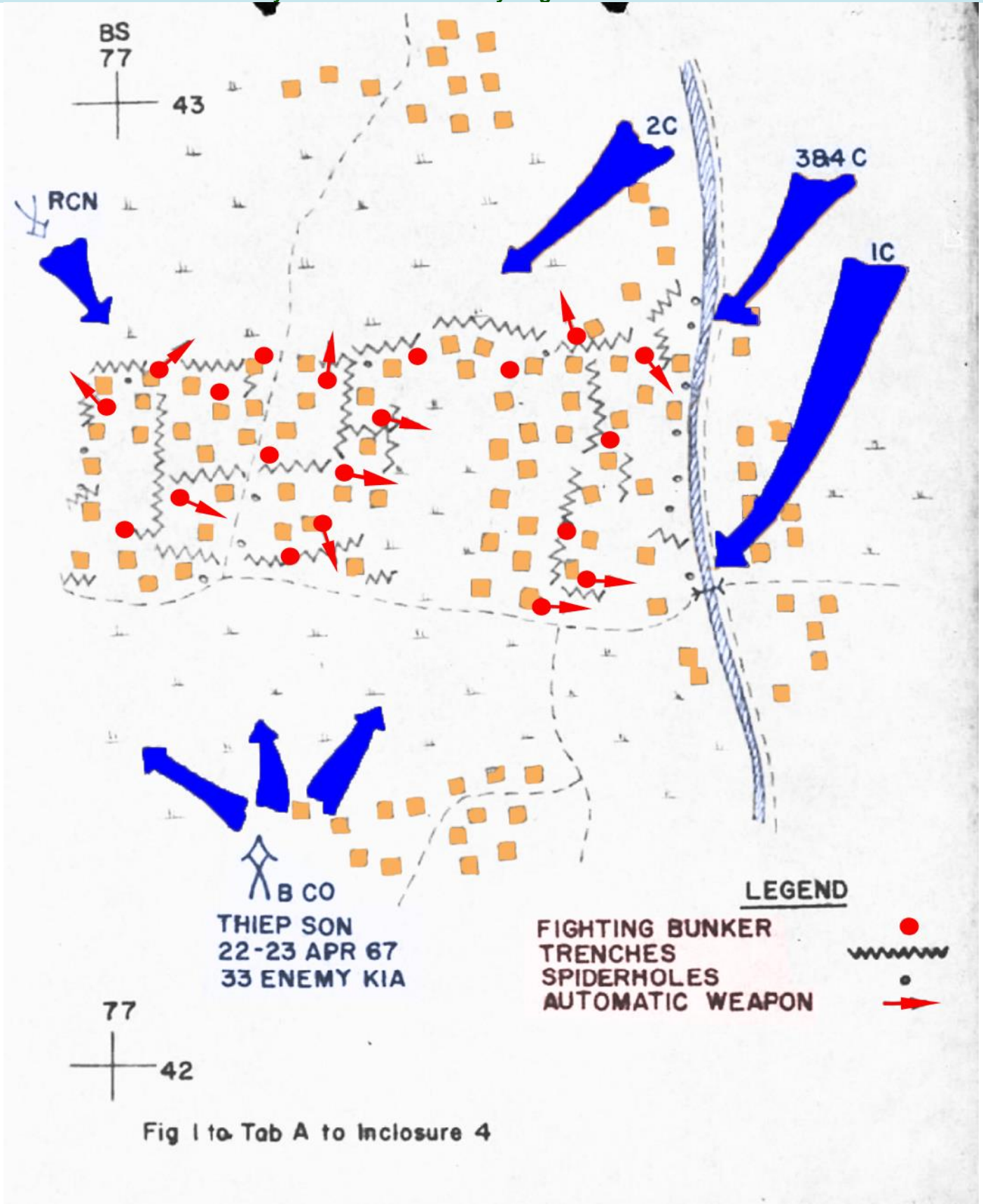


Fig 1 to Tab A to Inclosure 4

Battle of Thiep Son (2)

1. On 22 April 1967 when Task Force Oregon began operations and the 3d Brigade TF became OPCON, C Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry was on a sweep from BS796430 to the west to search the village of Thiep Son (2) (vic BS774426). At 0910 hours the second platoon had moved to a rice paddy just 50 meters from the village of Thiep Son (2) when they began receiving sniper fire. The third platoon and weapons platoon were approaching the village from the northeast and the first platoon was maneuvering to enter the village from the south (See Fig 1). By 0915 hours heavy automatic weapons fire had the second platoon pinned down and taking casualties. At about the same time the third platoon began to receive automatic weapons fire from across the river as they maneuvered to support the platoon in contact.

2. Gunships were called in to suppress the fire, but at 1055 hours the automatic weapons fire was still blazing from the well protected bunkers. The second platoon and third platoon continued to return fire, inspite of the well placed enemy fire that was finding its mark.

3. The gunships continued to pound the bunkers and trenches, and the two platoons steadily laid down fire in the blistering sun from the bullet whipped rice paddies. The 1st platoon which had received little fire, started a charge across the river bridge to close behind the enemy positions on the east side of the village. The lead element crossed the bridge and quickly took cover by the river. When the second element reached the bridge the whole area came alive with 30 cal machinegun fire and small arms fire from concealed and previously quiet positions.

4. One soldier killed and another wounded laid on the bridge which was being riddled by automatic weapons fire. In spite of the hail of steel, the platoon medic ran to the wounded man's rescue and carried him from the bridge. The medic was wounded by the intense fire as he carried the soldier to safety.

5. The platoon continued to lay down a base of fire while gunships again rolled in to expend their ordnance and artillery began to pound the bunkers. The 1st platoon which had taken up positions near the river on the west bank continued to receive and return fire. The enemy seemed to get reinforcements and their fire became more intense although the platoon had observed and killed eight enemy shortly after crossing the river. The Company Commander pulled the platoon back across the river to link up with the CP Group while the gunships provided suppressive fire; so an air strike could be called in on the positions. The other platoons were still under fire and taking casualties.

6. Recon Plat 1-35th Inf was combat assaulted into vic BS768426 to act as a blocking force to the northwest of the village and B Company, 1-35th was combat assaulted into vic BS774424 to act as a blocking force to the south and southwest. Recon Plat came under fire from the bunkers immediately upon being inserted resulting in one friendly killed.

7. After the air strike C Company used fire and maneuver to attack the bunkers which were still blazing with automatic weapons fire. Each bunker was

a battle. There were twenty protective bunkers in the village besides a network of trenches. Crawling, screaming, charging, and throwing grenades the men of C Company took one bunker after another. At 1825 hours, the 1st platoon of C Company was working its way across the rice paddy in the center of the village and was receiving 30 cal machinegun fire, M-79 grenades, BAR and small arms fire from the four bunkers that guarded the approach to the second VC sanctuary. The company was low on ammunition and darkness was settling in. The men who had crawled to within 30 meters of the enemy bunkers under constant fire, crawled back across the rice paddy to spend a night watching for VC to try to escape from the village and to be sniped at all night. C Company, B Company, and Recon Platoon set up a perimeter to contain the VC until morning.

8. All night artillery H&I fire and illumination rounds were fired. The watchful eyes of the US soldiers spotted some of the enemy as they tried to leave and gunned them down.

9. At 0630 hours on 23 April an air strike was called in on the area and C Company swept into the village. Except for a few grenade throwing enemy, little resistance was encountered. Final results of the battle were 33 enemy KIA, 36 VCS, and the following weapons captured: 2 SKS rifles, 2 sub machine-guns, 2 M-79's, 3 M-16's, 3 AK-47's, 1 AK-50, 1 RP-4 rocket and launcher. Captured documents indicated that the contact was with 3d Company, 93d Battalion, 2d VC Regiment (Fig 1-Battle of Thiep Son, 2).

EXTRACT: INTSUM NO 1 (3D BDE TF) 23 APR 67

3. SUMMARY OF EN ACTIVITY

A. GROUND ACTIVITY

(1) 220910H, BS790430, C 1-35 REC'D SA FIRE FROM AN UNK DIRECTION. GUN SHIPS WERE EMPLOYED AND FIRING CEASED AT 0955H W/1 US KIA AND 4 US WIA. FIRING RESUMED AT 1043H IN SAME GENERAL LOC. ARA, AIR STRIKES, AND GUNSHIPS WERE EMPLOYED ON EN POSITION. CONTACT CONTINUED OFF AND ON THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON AS ARTY, AIR STRIKES, ARA, AND GUN SHIPS WERE EMPLOYED ON THE EN POSITION. ARA CAUSED TWO LARGE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AT BS772426. AT 1835H, BS772426, REC'D M-79 RDS AND SA FIRE. AT 1850H, CONTACT WAS CONTINUING W/M-79 RDS AND AW FIRE BEING REC'D. FRD RETURNED FIRE AND FIRED ARTY AT EN LOC.

(2) 221030H, BS811415, RECON 1-35 REC'D AW FIRE FROM SW. ARA, ARTY, AND GUN SHIPS FIRED ON SUSPECTED EN LOC. AREA CHECKED W/NEG RSLTS. AT 1205H, BS818425, DETAINED 3 INDIV DURING VILLAGE SWEEP. AT 1823H, AFTER INSERTION IN VIC OF C 1-35 CONTACT AT BS769418, REC'D M-79 OR 60MM RDS AND SA AND AW FIRE. CONTACT CONTINUES AS OF 2000H. TOTAL EN CASUALTIES FOR C 1-35 AND RECON 1-35 ARE 19 EN KIA AND 4 X AK-47'S AND 1 X B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHER W/ROCKET CIA. AT 2205H, BS770428, OBS 1 INDIV ATTEMPTING TO EXFILTRATE. FRD FIRED SA. RSLTS: 1 EN KIA.

EXTRACT: INTSUM NO 2 (3D BDE TF) 24 APR 67

3. SUMMARY OF EN ACTIVITY

A. GROUND ACTIVITY

(4) 230700H, BS768406, AN AIR STRIKE WAS DELIVERED IN THE AREA OF YESTERDAYS CONTACT BY 1-35. AT 0925H, 1 X K-50, SN 360361, 1 X RFG-2, SN 51974, 1 X 60MM MORTAR ROUND, 343 RDS 7.62 SHORT AMMO, 190 RDS 7.62MM LONG AMMO, 15 CHICOM HAND GRENADES, 9 U.S. FRAG GRENADES, 24 X .30 CAL ROUNDS, AND 2 X B-40 ROCKET ROUNDS.

(5) 230800H, BS778428, C 1-35 DETAINED 2 INDIV IN FOLLOW-UP ACTION IN THE CONTACT AREA OF 21 APR 67. AT 0810H, DETAINED 7 MORE INDIV IN SAME VIC. AT 0910H, SAME VIC DETAINED 6 MORE INDIV. AT 1010H, SAME VIC, DETAINED 1 INDIV. CONTINUING TO SWEEP THE CONTACT AREA THROUGH THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON, FRD LOC AN ADDITIONAL 4 EN KIA FROM THE PREVIOUS DAYS ACTION. A TOTAL OF 33 EN BODIES WERE LOC IN THE AREA. DOCS LOC IN CONTACT AREA INDICATED 3D CO, 93D BN, 2D VC REGT.

"A TRUE COPY"

Bobby L. Moore
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