



WELCOME TO "A WALK WITH THE 35TH"



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15 JULY 1967

CHARGIN' CHARLIE'S CHARGE

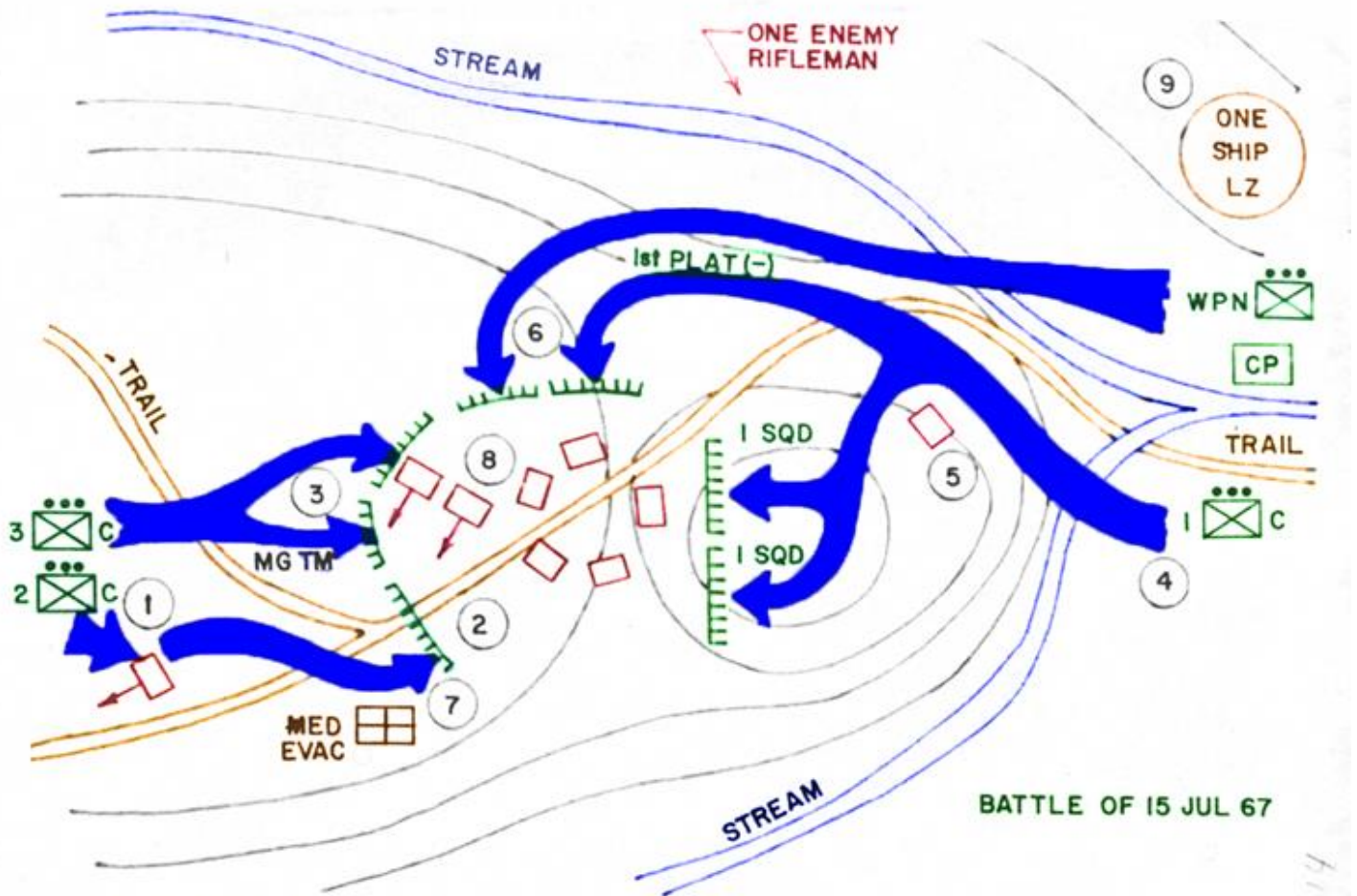


Fig 1 to Tab G to Inclosure 4

Inc 4

Battle of 15 July 1967

1. Around the middle of July, the 3d Brigade TF received intelligence that an NVA battalion was operating in the dense ragged mountains southwest of Duc Pho. In an attempt to find the enemy and gain tactical surprise, Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, was infiltrated into the double canopied mountains with three days rest. On the second day, the 2d and 3d platoons were high on a ridgeline with the Company CP (-) and 1st and 4th platoons moving parallel in the valley below. The company on two axes was pinching to search the area of an air strike on the suspected enemy location. Late in the afternoon, as Company C (-) was moving up the valley, they made contact with 4 enemy with weapons, moving down a trail in the valley. The four enemy fled as Company C (-) poured M-16 fire into the dense jungle. Pursuing the fleeing enemy for more than 800 meters, Company C (-) was only able to find blood trails before darkness closed in and they returned down the valley to set up night locations.

2. On the 3d day, the 2d and 3d platoons began a sweep down the ridgeline to the east as Company (-) began a sweep up the valley to the west, thereby effecting the pincer maneuver. The 2d platoon was in the lead with the 3d platoon echeloned to the left. At 1035 hours, the 2d platoon approached a bunker from the rear. The enemy in the bunker, positioned to fire downhill, were obviously surprised when friendly forces approached from the rear. Three NVA attempted to withdraw down the ridgeline, but they were cut down by the 2d platoon. Two AK-47 rifles and one Chicom LMG were captured. The two platoons inspired by the brief contact, continued on down the ridgeline. Suddenly, the dense jungle undergrowth erupted into a blaze of fire from automatic weapons. Two men were wounded in the initial volley, as the NVA exercising strict fire discipline allowed the platoons to move within 15 to 20 meters from their firing positions before opening fire. Although, incurring nine wounded in the first 20 minutes, the 2d platoon maintained its combat integrity. Since the thick dense jungle prevented an accurate assessment of the enemy strength the company began to maneuver not knowing what was ahead, and became heavily engaged. The 2d platoon leader although hit in the arm, picked up a 45 cal pistol and attempted to assault a bunker before being hit in the leg and pinned down by intense fire. The platoon medic, with complete disregard for his personal safety, ran through a hail of enemy fire to carry the platoon leader to a covered position.

3. As the 2d and 3d platoons increased the volume of fire on the fortified enemy positions, the company commander started up the ridgeline with the 1st and 4th platoons to pinch in on the enemy. Fighting the heavy underbrush as well as 104° temperatures, Company C (-) climbed up a narrow trail to the area of contact. Two squads of the 1st platoon were sent east to provide a blocking force while the remainder of the first platoon and the 4th platoon maneuvered to the north. At this point, it was believed that the company was engaged only with two enemy bunkers. The company commander with one squad moved forward to assess the enemy strength and locations in the dense vegetation and immediately received a heavy volume of fire and sustained several casualties.

4. The second platoon withdrew 100 meters to clear a LZ for evacuation of the wounded and to receive resupply. The third platoon maintained contact,

maneuvering and engaging the bunkers with M-72 LAWs and automatic weapons. The company commander could not call for artillery or gunships because of the almost hand-to-hand fighting and the dense vegetation. The fighting continued throughout the afternoon as the enemy held tenaciously to their positions with what seemed to be an inexhaustible supply of ammunition. The company commander requested that the 90mm recoilless rifle be brought up the steep hill for a direct shot at the bunkers.

5. The 2d platoon had cleared a small landing zone and at 1420 hours, the medevac ship arrived to extract the wounded. By this time 14 were wounded and were to be evacuated by hoist. On the third trip the hoist broke and a Chinook was dispatched and hovered for more than 45 minutes above the small LZ while the remaining wounded were hoisted out.

6. While the wounded were being extracted, LAWs and 90mm recoilless rifles were fired on the enemy bunkers. However, the NVA were not to be denied and continued to place accurate well trained fire on the platoon position. Three more infantrymen had incurred wounds and the Company Commander decided he could no longer continue the stalemate. Using the 2d and 3d squads for a base of fire, the Company Commander organized a final assault by 2 squads of the first platoon and the fourth platoon. The final assault rose as one wave and screaming, the infantrymen charged the bunkers with such violence and determination that the enemy was quickly overrun. The high-spirited soldiers ran from bunker to bunker, throwing grenades and firing their weapons at the bewildered NVA. Enemy attempts to flee the bunkers proved fatal as they were quickly cut down. It wasn't until after the charge that the men realized that there were five bunkers instead of the three they expected to find. The battle, ending as quickly as it started, left 25 NVA killed, 6 AK-47 rifles, 3 LMGs, 2 SKSs, 1 Mauser, and several grenades captured.

7. The success of this operation can only be attributed to the gallantry and determination of the men of Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry. Fighting for eight hours in 103° temperature and facing the most accurate enemy fire ever encountered by the company, the infantrymen maintained their fighting integrity and constantly maneuvered. As casualties rose, determination also rose. The final assault proved the training and devotion to duty of the proud soldiers of Company C.

"A TRUE COPY"

EXTRACT: INTSUM NO 85 (3D BDE TF) 16 JULY 67

3. SUMMARY OF EN ACTIVITY

A. GROUND ACTIVITY

(1) DUC PHO

(R) 151055H, BS802267, 2 & 3 C/1-35 WHILE MOVING SE DOWN A HEAVILY VEGITATED RIDGE WERE TAKEN UNDER FIRE BY EN IN A BUNKER APPROX 20 METERS TO THEIR FRONT. FRD RETURNED FIRE AND UTILIZING FIRE AND MOVEMENT QUICKLY OVERRAN THE BUNKER RESULTING IN 3 EN KIA AND 2 X AK-47 AND 1 IMG CIA. AS C 1-35 WAS ATTEMPTING TO LINKUP WITH 2D AND 3D PLATOONS, THEY CAME UNDER FIRE FROM AN ENEMY PSN CONSISTING OF 7 BUNKERS AT BS804265. BUNKERS WERE ARRANGED IN A CIRCULAR PATTERN WITH FIRING PORTS FACING IN ALL DIRECTIONS. THE 2D AND 3D PLATOONS ATTEMPTED TO ASSAULT THE PSN FROM THE NE, BUT WERE ALSO PINNED DOWN BY THE INTENSE EN FL&E. LAW'S AND 90MM RR FIRE WAS BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE BUNKERS AND THE INFANTRYMEN CLOSED WITH THE ENEMY IN THE BUNKERS QUICKLY DESTROYING THE REMAINING ENEMY WITH SAMLL ARMS AND HAND GRENADES. TOTAL EN CASUALTIES INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE WERE 28 EN KIA, 6 X AK-47'S, 3 X IMG'S, 2 X SKS'S, 1 X MAS-36, 20 HAND GRENADES, AND 300 RDS OF SA AMMO CIA. DOCS CAPTURED INDICATED THAT CONTACT HAD BEEN MADE WITH AN ELEMENT OF THE 9TH BN, 22D NVA REGT, 3D NVA DIV.

"A TRUE COPY"

Bobby L. Moore
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Captain, CMIC

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