

1967 News Apr-Jun

IVY LEAF

7 Apr 67 Ivy Leaf

Soldiers Stop Mortar Attack On Fire Base

Bong Son— Three enlisted men, all with the counter-mortar radar unit supporting the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, stopped a North Vietnamese Army mortar attack on the battalion's fire support base after 140 rounds and a hectic night.

Their fire base was mortared three times during the night and it was the job of Sergeant Allan Carswell (Detroit), Specialist 4 Ernest M. Correia (Boston), and Specialist 4 John D. Sutherland (Radford, Va.) to plot the enemy mortar positions and direct counter mortar fire on their locations.

The ever-moving NVA were in three groups of at least one mortar per group. "We would locate their positions and throw 100 rounds or more at them only to have them fire at us from a different location a few hours later," said Specialist Correia.

"We finally got them about 8 a.m. It was an all-night job, but they won't be bothering us again," he said.

The three men, part of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division, and the 2/35th are in the Central Highlands on Operation Sam Houston.

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14 Apr 67 Ivy Leaf

1/35th Soldier Experiences Unusual Ride

Bong Son - Infantrymen in Vietnam experience various means of transportation, in helicopters, tanks, personnel carriers or trucks.

But the ride that Specialist 4 Jorge W. Marfisi received was not welcome or expected.

As the 2nd Platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry moved up to a thickly vegetated hillside, the men heard a noise in the underbrush to their left. They became tense and ready for battle.

Suddenly a deer bolted from the underbrush. With its head lowered, it ran between the legs of Specialist Marfisi, lifting him off the ground.

The ride was short, for the deer soon re-entered the underbrush as quickly as it had come out, and Specialist Marfisi was left lying on his back, slightly shaken, a little amazed, but unharmed.

Specialist Marfisi later said, "It happened so fast I never even saw the deer. I didn't even know what was happening until it was all over, and it was a ride that I could have gotten along without."

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28 Apr 67 Ivy Leaf

25th Division's 3rd Brigade Part Of Task Force Oregon

Saigon—A multi-battalion force of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division is a member of the Army's Task Force Oregon in Quang Ngai Province.

Task Force Oregon has joined the units of the III Marine Amphibious Force in the I Corps Tactical Zone to support Government of Vietnam forces.

The multi-brigade Army task force, commanded by Major General William B Rosson, former chief of staff of the Military Assistance Command, is under the operational control of the commanding general of III MAF.

Elements of the task force engaged an unknown number of enemy in bunkers last Saturday night in an area five kilometers northwest of Duc Pho.

Fire was returned and artillery and a flareship were requested.

Twenty enemy were confirmed killed and five weapons captured. One U.S soldier was wounded.

Light to moderate contact was reported Sunday by units of Task Force Oregon.

One significant contact occurred when elements of the 25th's 3rd Brigade, supported by air strikes and Task Force Oregon artillery, accounted for 50 enemy killed.

A 3rd Brigade, 25th Division company, killed 21 enemy Wednesday in an engagement with an unknown size force seven kilometers north west of Duc Pho.

Two U.S. soldiers were killed and 16 wounded in the encounter.

Stars and Stripes

About 18-20 April 1967

25th Inf Kills 45 Viet Cong In Coastal Battle Near Duc Pho

DUC PHO, (25th INF-IO)-In the first seven hours of Task Force Oregon the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division killed 45 Viet Cong in a battle on the coast near here.

Thirty VC were killed by the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry automatic weapons fire and 15 more were killed by artillery fire thrown into the area.

Five U.S. soldiers were wounded, none seriously.

The Bronco Brigade, after completing Operation Pershing south of Bong Son and after participating in the final two days of Operation L e j e u n e, closed in on the Duc Pho area by air and sea to begin "Oregon."

The brigade's sea assault was the first of Task Force Oregon. The assault started a sea re supply route from Qui Nhon to Duc Pho.

Earlier, the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry was the first element of the 25th Division to battle VC in Duc Pho District. Killing 43.

Stars and Stripes

29 May 1967 (Tan Phong)

Cacti Men Kill Thirty NVA

DUC PHO —The sudden flash and sharp crack of enemy mortar explosions shattered the silence. The incoming rounds signaled the beginning of a three-hour night battle which many men of the Recon Plt and Co B of the 2nd Bn, 35th Inf, will long remember.

The "Cacti" had been sweeping an area where there had been recent clashes with units of an NVA battalion. It was late afternoon when the infantrymen set up their perimeter for the night. Ambushes were set along enemy routes.

At 2:30 the first mortar rounds landed and contact was made for the third time in three days.

The NVA hit the Cacti with everything they had. It was estimated 100 to 150 rounds of 60mm and 82mm mortar and recoilless rifle were fired at the infantrymen. The enemy then assaulted, supported by two machine guns, attempting to penetrate the perimeter.

Artillery immediately began to pound the charging enemy and was lifted only long enough for the gunships and "Spooky" to have their chance.

My platoon was on ambush when the first rounds landed," said 2LT Walter Twyford. "We moved back to the perimeter as fast as we could. The men on the perimeter were running low on ammo when we arrived after slicing through the enemy on the way in."

The recon platoon, also on ambush, moved back to reinforce the perimeter.

Dug in behind rice paddy dikes, the Cacti fought to hold off the furious assault by the NVA unit. The enemy charge carried them close enough to throw grenades over the paddy dikes. Gun ships from the 1st of the 9th Air Cav with flawless accuracy delivered their ordnance within 20 meters of the infantrymen driving back the enemy assault.

With the enemy momentum broken the Cacti swept the enemy back.

Daybreak revealed a battlefield littered with bodies of NVA. A total of 30 NVA were killed and three captured. Sixteen weapons were captured including a 57mm recoilless rifle and three light machine guns.

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25 Jun 67 Ivy Leaf - Regards 29 May 67 Contact

Cav. Infantrymen Battle North Vietnamese Troops

DUC PHO—It was the "Blue Team," a platoon of air cavalrymen, from the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry who first collided with units of an estimated North Vietnamese battalion.

The cavalrymen had been inserted shortly after noon to check out a suspected enemy position. The helicopters had barely lifted off when they were hit from all directions.

The "Blues" held their own but were running low on ammo and being pressed by the NVA when the 1st Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry was airlifted into the battle.

"As we approached the landing zone I could see it was plenty hot," said Second Lieutenant Walter Twyford, 1st Platoon leader. "My chopper was hit and missed the LZ by 200 meters. We were all able to make it in and link up with the fighting cavalrymen, though."

The bitter fighting continued and an attempt to overrun the American positions was repelled before more help arrived.

The remainder of Company B and the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry's Recon Platoon joined the fighting along with two platoons of armored personnel carriers from the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry.

With the APCs and Infantrymen battling side-by-side, the NVA lines were shattered.

"We really had the enemy on the run," said Lieutenant Twyford. "Forced from the trenches, he couldn't find enough holes to hide in. As we moved through the area we started receiving fire from the rear. Many were in spider holes and we had to sweep back through the area."

Darkness fell and contact continued throughout the night. The infantrymen of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Division now had a new danger to contend with as the NVA began firing mortar and recoilless rifle rounds into the perimeter.

"When the mortar rounds began to fall I was too busy to be scared," said Sergeant Kenneth J. Hills of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry.

Sergeant Hills certainly was busy because during the night he fired 50 to 60 magazines of M-16 rounds, a case of M79 grenades, and 3,000 rounds of 50-caliber machine gun ammo.

Aided by air strikes, artillery and "Spooky," the "Cacti" and 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry routed the NVA. A total of 87 enemy were killed and the 3rd Brigade troops captured numerous weapons, including a 60mm mortar, a recoilless rifle, and a machine gun.

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25 Jun 67 Ivy Leaf - Regards 29 May 67 Contact

'Cacti' Unit Turns Back NVA Force

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The incoming rounds signaled the beginning of a three-hour battle which many men of the Recon Platoon and Company B of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry will long remember.

The "Cacti" had been sweeping an area where there had been recent clashes with units of a North Vietnamese battalion. It was late afternoon when the infantrymen set up their perimeter for the night. Ambushes were set along enemy routes.

At 2:30 am the first mortar rounds landed and contact was made for the third time in three days.

The NVA hit the "Cacti" with everything they had. It was estimated that 100 to 150 rounds of 60 and 82mm mortar and recoilless rifle fire were hurled at the infantrymen. The enemy supported by two machine guns, then assaulted, attempting to penetrate the perimeter.

Artillery immediately began to pound the charging enemy and was lifted only long enough for gunships and "Spooky" to have their chance.

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Gunships from the 1st Squadron, 9th Air Cavalry delivered their ordnance within 20 meters of the infantrymen with flawless accuracy, driving back the enemy. With the enemy momentum broken, the "Cacti" swept the enemy back.

A total of 30 NVA were killed and three detained. Sixteen weapons were seized, including a 57mm recoilless rifle and three light machine guns.

IVY LEAF

25 Jun 67

3rd Brigade Kills 81 Enemy In Task Force Oregon Battle

DUC PHO — Following artillery preparation, 18 air strikes and naval gunfire, infantrymen from the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Division recently assaulted battered enemy positions and finished off what remained of an estimated North Vietnamese battalion.

After a day and a half of fierce fighting, which left the battlefield scarred by artillery and bomb craters, the "Cacti" assaulted with two companies, leaving 81 enemy dead and capturing huge amounts of weapons, equipment and documents.

The battle took place in a heavily fortified area approximately eight miles southeast of Duc Pho in lower Quang Ngai Province.

The area was believed to have been one of the primary resupply points for the NVA as the mountains run almost to the coast.

The battle, one of the largest to date for Task Force Oregon, began when Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry made contact while on a sweep of the area.

The crack NVA unit was tenaciously holding ground between two hills and fighting from prepared bunkers, tunnels, caves and complex trench systems.

Receiving heavy fire from automatic weapons, Company A maneuvered to flank what was later estimated to be a NVA battalion.

Captain Lloyd Yoshina, Company A commander who was wounded by the initial burst of fire, said, "The fire was so heavy I couldn't move even three feet to get to my radio."

Although members of the company attempted to get to him, Captain Yoshina ordered them back so that they wouldn't be hit. Refusing to be evacuated, he was still commanding his company a day later when the battle ended.

Artillery, gunships and air strikes were immediately called in to pound the entrenched enemy. Major James E. Moore Jr., 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry commander who was hovering overhead in his command helicopter, coordinated the supporting fires as well as combat assaults and the units in combat.

By mid-morning Company B had been airlifted into the area of contact. Upon touching down, the company quickly maneuvered to assault the enemy positions.

However, the NVA, dug-in in caves and bunkers, continued to fight throughout the afternoon. During that time other units were moved into the area and by nightfall the enemy was surrounded by four companies and a cavalry platoon.

Before darkness engulfed the battlefield, the "Cacti" had killed 43 NVA and captured 16 weapons.

When darkness came, flare-ships turned the battlefield back to day. The battle continued throughout the night.

At daylight the "Cacti" were still receiving heavy fire from the entrenched NVA. Once again the area was saturated by air strikes and artillery.

While the supporting fires continued, Major Moore lifted his field commanders out by helicopter and conducted a detailed aerial reconnaissance of the battlefield for the final assault.

By mid-morning the air strikes and artillery were lifted. Through a screen of smoke and in 103 degree heat, two "Cacti" companies, accompanied by Colonel James G. Shanahan, 3rd Brigade commander assaulted and overran the enemy positions.

Besides killing 81 NVA, the 3rd Brigade troops seized 151 82mm mortar rounds, thousands of rounds of small arms ammunition and large quantities of weapons, grenades and other equipment. They also detained one NVA sergeant.

The "Cacti" were still policing the battlefield when Major General William B. Rosson, Task Force Oregon commander, landed in the middle of the area to commend the infantrymen on a "tremendous victory."