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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO San Francisco 96225

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AVDCDH

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968  
(RCS CSFOR-65) (BC)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

Location: Vicinity CU CHI, CU CHI Base Camp (XT647153), RVN

Reporting Officer: Major General F. K. Mearns

Prepared by: Major Richard A Baun, Commanding Officer, 18th MH Det

1. (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

a. Operations

(1) General. The "Tropic Lightning" Division continued its 1967-68 Dry Season Campaign during the course of this reporting period. The mission of the Division in the Dry Season Campaign is specified in 25th Infantry Division OPLAN 17-67 (1967-68 DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN PLAN-DRYSECAP). The mission is to conduct military operations in the Divisional Tactical Area of Operational Interest (TAOI), to assist Government of Vietnam (GVN) forces in military pacification of LONG AN, HAU NGHIA and BINH DUONG Provinces, to secure allied base areas and to control resources, particularly food, and to neutralize War Zone "C". The Dry Season Campaign had commenced 1 November 1967 and progressed through Phase I and Phase II prior to the beginning of this reporting period. Phase III commenced 1 February 1968.

*DRY SEASON*

(b) Dental patients seen - 9,186

- 1 Dental examinations - 7,916
- 2 Other (extractions, etc.) - 1,270

(c) Supply and Service

- 1 Line items issued - 6,629
- 2 Short tonnage total - 26.5
- 3 MEDCAP line items issued - 1,525
- 4 Short tonnage total - 5.5
- 5 Bulk pharmacy items issued - 2,880
- 6 Eyeglasses ordered (pairs) - 455
- 7 Maintenance work orders received - 104
  - a Work orders completed - 84
  - b Work orders remaining at - 20 end of report period

(9) Transportation Office.

(a) Highway continues to be the primary mode of transportation for the resupply of CU CHI, TAY NINH, and DAU TIENG base camps. Following is a breakdown of regular resupply convoys operated in the division area:

- 1 CU CHI - SAIGON convoys
  - a Total convoys - 182
  - b Number of convoys per day - 2
  - c Total vehicles  $\frac{30}{9,025}$
  - d Number of vehicles involved in unit
- 2 SAIGON/CU CHI - TAY NINH convoys
  - a Total convoys - 179
  - b Number of convoys per day - 2

distribution - 3,500

(c) KOLEKOLE (13 May - 7 December 1967). This operation was a rainy season operation which took place in HAU NGHIA and TAY NINH Provinces. During this quarter, the 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division continued on KOLEKOLE. (The mission of KOLEKOLE was to conduct offensive operations against VC units along the Oriental River from TAY NINH to DUC HOI; provide security for engineer activities; deny the VC use of lines of communications in the TAOI; and reinforce Vietnamese operations in the TAOI.

In November and December, 1967, the most significant activity of the 2d Brigade in Operation KOLEKOLE was centered around security of the engineer operation of rebuilding route 10 from LOC THANH (XT 4316) to BAO TRAI (XT 5204) and Rome Flow operations near THAI MY (XT 5415). Two of the 2d Brigades battalions were OPCON to the 1st Brigade in an operation near SONG BE (YU 139074) during early November and this accounted for the small amount of activity.

When KOLEKOLE ended on 7 December 1967, much of the operation's TAOI which was previously under South Vietnamese Government and US control remained "status quo" during this period of reduced ground mobility. Statistically, US casualties were 144 KIA, 14 died of wounds (DOW), and 876 MIA opposed to the VC losses of KIA (BC) 797, 150 PW, and 34 HOI CHAMHS. The enemy also suffered the loss of supply caches and the interruption of lines of communications in the MY CHU (XT-3913) area.

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Prepared by: Captain Sidney P. Stone, CO, 18th Military History Detachment

1. (C) Significant Organizational Activities...

a. Operations.

(1) General. There were seven major operations (battalion size or larger) and 716 small unit actions conducted by the 25th Infantry Division during the quarter. All major operations and 219 of the small unit actions resulted in enemy contact.

(2) The 25th Infantry Division Monsoon Campaign which began in May, continued into this reporting period until the beginning of the 1967-68 Dry Season Campaign in December. The mission of the division in the Dry Season Campaign: (to conduct offensive operations with emphasis in War Zone C, to destroy VC/NVA forces and installations, to secure lines of communications (LOC's), to support the Government of Viet Nam (GVN) Revolutionary Development Program and to reinforce Free World Military Assistance Forces and GVN forces as directed, and to prevent VC rice taxation, harvesting or transportation within the Division's Tactical Area of Interest (TAOI). Within the Division's TAOI during the reporting period, operations KOLEKOLE, BARKING SANDS, DIAMOND HEAD, ATLANTA, and CAMDEN were concluded, and operations SARATOGA and YELLOWSTONE are presently being conducted.

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## Cu Chi

The base camp designated for the 2nd Brigade lay just outside the village of Cu Chi, an agricultural hamlet 20 miles northwest of Saigon and 18 miles from the Cambodian border. The land is flat and dry, used primarily for cattle and vegetable farming. Its strategic importance lies in the fact that it stands between the Viet Cong stronghold in the north and Saigon, the seat of the South Vietnamese government and prime object of attack.

Directly northeast of the base camp stands the infamous Ho Bo Woods, a patch of heavy forest perennially used as an enemy hiding place. To the north lies War Zone C, a triple canopy jungle reported to be the Viet Cong command center for the whole country, and to the south of the base camp the Oriental River flows quietly, carrying infiltrated men, supplies and equipment between the Viet Cong bases.

In two months of heavy action, Tropic Lightning troops slashed their way through enemy emplacements and tunnel systems until they had firmly established a fortified enclave from which the Division could safely operate.

Two hundred and fifty miles north of Cu Chi, the 3rd Brigade Task Force at Pleiku was making history by opening the Viet Cong controlled Highway 19, allowing tons of vital supplies to flow through.

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