

Then came Ba Toul July
Lightning sorters searched

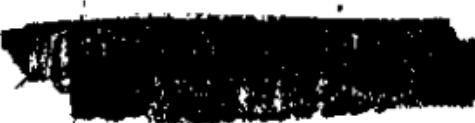
diligently for the next month and a half finding tons of munitions, food and clothing
occasionally they ran the enemy rather fight he ran. As a consequence the only
major conflict during July occurred before dawn July 4th. When an estimated 2
reinforced companies took on Diatang base camp. They directed 550 mortars
and rockets into the compound. During an accompanying ground attack 5 members of
the mixed NVA VC force cut the entanglement of the western perimeter and were
racing towards the bunker line when they were felled by the defenders.
As a 2nd wave descended on the eastern perimeters slinging more than 400
satchel charges on the bases strip and then exploded. When the enemy withdrew
he left 10 dead. The successful defense was attributed to the 3rd brigade
support troops who manned the majority of the bunkers.

In the early morning hours of 4 July, the enemy launched a heavy attack by fire (rocket/mortar, RPGs and small arms) and a moderate ground attack against the Dau Tieng Base Camp. Artillery elements defending the western perimeter repulsed the attackers after they had reached the main bunker line. Four artillery men were killed and eight wounded in the fighting. Follow-up operations in the vicinity of Dau Tieng and the redeployment of the 3d Bde, with 2/77 attached, to OPCON Capital Military Assistance Command (CMAC) caused a large number of artillery moves between 4-6 July.

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July

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B, 2/77 replaced A, 7/11 at FSPB Danford vic XS7798 on 4 July and on 6 July C, 2/77 also moved into Danford as the 2/77 came under CMAC control 5 July. A, 7/11 was shifted from Cu Chi to FSPB Hull vic XT 2638 on 6 July. The following day, C, 6/77 displaced from Cu Chi to Dau Tieng and on 8 July A, 7/11 moved into Tay Ninh from Hull. B, 7/11 moved from Hull to Schofield II vic XT3942 on 6 July where is supported reconnaissance in force operations by 4-23 Ing (Mech) south and west of Dau Tieng until 13 July when the battery moved into Tay Ninh. Also on 6 July, C, 7/11 moved from Dau Tieng to FSPB Kearny vic XT 5152; the battery returned to Dau Tieng on 8 July. By 13 July action around Dau Tieng had subsided and operations centered in the Trung Lap, Trang Bang Go Dau Ha area until late in the month when intelligence disclosed a major threat to Tay Ninh.

On 16 July A, 7/11 moved from FSPB Thomas III vic XT4052 to Dau Tieng and C, 7/11 moved from Dau Tieng to FSPB Wood vic XT4434. These moves were made to maintain support for the gast moving 4-23 Inf (Mech) as the Mohawks shifted their RIF operations from the Crescent area to the Bo Loi Woods.

Meanwhile, the 3d Bde, 101st Air Cav supported by its 2/319 Arty Bn at FSPB Houston vic XT4307 had conducted a three day operation in the vic of the Sugar Mill. The 2/319 reutrned to Patton on the 14th.

On 15 July the 6/77 Arty began departing the 25th Div Arty Tactical Area of Interest by convoy to the New Port Docks, Saigon, for redeployment to the Delta. The departure of 6/77 and the CMAC OPCON of 2/77 Arty left the 25th Div Arty critically short of light batteries for direct support missions. The 23d Arty Group provided partial relief when A, 2/13 arrived in Cu Chi 11 July to assume a General Support Reinforcing role.

There were no major artillery actions until 21 July when A, 3/13 (the Clan) moved from Stuart to Hampton vic XT4420 and C, 7/11 shifted to Hull vic XT2638 from Wood to provide support for the initial Cu Chi to Tay Ninh night convoy. The following day C, 7/11 joined the Clan's battery at FSPB Hampton. The next two days, 22-23 July, these batteries provided support for 4-23 Inf (Mech) as it destroyed a regimental size VC base camp, killing 14 enemy, 3 kilometers north of Go Dau Ha. *NOT S*

24 July was a day of redeployment as the 2/319 rotated its B Btry from theScreaming Eagles Base Camp at Phuoc Vinh to FSPB Patton to relieve C Btry which returned to Phuoc Vinh. The most significant moves were the result of an enemy threat in the Tay Ninh area. A, 3/13 and C, 7/11 convoyed from Hampton to Tay Ninh.

On 26 July the 25th Division/CMAC boundry became the Hoc Mon canal from the Saigon River to the Pineapple area vic XS6086. As a result, the 2d Bde elements and B, 1/8 at FSPB Pulaski II vic XT8005 were in the CMAC TAOR and were moved north to Crockett II vic XT7416 in the reduced 2d Bde area of operations.

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The reinforcement of Tay Ninh continued on 27 July with A, 2/13 moving there from Cu Chi. At Tay Ninh, the maneuver elements moved out from the base camp to hit the enemy before he could take the initiative. To support the 3-22 Inf, B, 7/11 Arty moved to FSPB Buell vic XT2153 and to support 4-23, C, 7/11 occupied FSPB Rawlins III vic XT2848.

Meanwhile, the 101st Air Cav 3d Bde conducted combat assault operations north of the Sugar Mill supported by the 2/319 Arty. The artillery moved into FSPB Jackson II vic XT4519 from Patton on 30-31 July.

The quarter closed with the spot light on Tay Ninh and the threatened enemy 3d Phase offensive still only a threat. During the quarter, Div Arty units made 133 moved, some by air, but most by convoy. A total of 256,006 rounds (193,100 - 105mm; 52,575 - 155mm; 10,381 - 8") were fired as Div Arty carried out its mission of providing artillery support to the maneuver elements of the Tropic Lightning Division.

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3 July

Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, participating in the squadron's road clearing and security mission of the MSR between TAY NINH City and SAIGON, drew fire from an estimated enemy platoon at 0130 at a point on the MSR four kilometers southeast of GO DA HAU (XT 413231). The cavalry troop returned the enemy's fire with organic weapons and called in artillery, helicopter gunships and air strikes to hit the enemy positions. Contact with the enemy lasted until 0245 hours. Sweeping through the area at first light, the troop discovered four VC bodies and one AK-47 rifle. At about the same time that this contact was taking place, ten kilometers to the northeast (XT 538264) the night defensive position of D Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry came under attack by an unknown size enemy force. Meeting the attack with organic weapons and supporting artillery, the company fought off the enemy charge. Sweeping into the area from which the enemy came, the company located 13 VC KIA and captured two machine guns, two rocket launchers, four AK-47 rifles and one field radio.

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4 July

The 25th Infantry Division's major administrative and logistical base camps located at CU CHI, TAY NINH and DAU TIENG had come under frequent stand off mortar and rocket attacks during the reporting period. However, all of these attacks were minor in nature involving small amounts of ordnance and were conducted more for harassment than any other purpose. The one exception to this norm was the attack which took place on the DAU TIENG Base Camp beginning at 0220 hours and lasting until 0450. During that period of time, the base camp received 42 107mm rocket rounds and 515 rounds of mixed 82mm and 60mm mortar rounds. This massive artillery assault was combined with two separate ground probes on two sectors against the base camp perimeter. These probes were met by bunker line personnel and reaction forces from the Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry and the Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery. In both cases, the ground probes were repulsed with the enemy breaching the perimeter in only one location. Results of the attack in the way of U.S. losses were five KIA, 55 WIA, 12 quarter ton trucks, five 3/4 ton trucks, three 2 1/2 ton trucks, three 5 ton trucks, one APC, and six buildings damaged. Enemy losses were recorded at 16 KIA, six AK-47 rifles and one rocket launcher captured, and 434 satchel charges, 61 RPG rounds, 45 60mm mortar rounds, 16 grenades and four mines destroyed.

8 July

Tropic Lightning maneuver elements continued to push their search for enemy supply caches. Searching along a canal bank one mile southwest of the SAIGON RIVER town of PHU CONG (XT 799124), C Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry uncovered and captured a large supply cache containing 563 rounds of small arms ammunition, 238 60mm rounds, 18 82mm rounds, 50 rifle grenades, 40 pounds of medical supplies and one AK-47 rifle. Later in the day, at 1532 Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry, sweeping an area approximately three kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG (XT 520217) engaged an unknown size enemy force. The fire fight that followed was supported by armed helicopters, artillery and an Air Force "Spooky", a gatling gun armed C-47 cargo aircraft. Pushing through and overrunning the enemy positions, the paratroopers recovered 21 VC KIA. Four troopers died in the contact and 13 were wounded.

9 July

At 0920 hours, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry sweeping west of the SAIGON RIVER one kilometer southwest of PHU LONG (XT 843046) discovered 12 VC KIA by artillery. Movement had been detected in the area the previous night by radar and the movement was engaged by artillery. Three destroyed AK-47 rifles and two unserviceable RPG rocket launchers were captured along with three RPG rounds and 14 hand grenades. Searching several kilometers to the northwest of the 2nd of the 14th discovery (XT 758124) at 1150 hours, B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry discovered a cache consisting of one AK-47 rifle, 3,300 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 170 pounds of explosives and 35 blasting caps.

10 July

Flying armed aerial reconnaissance at 1140 hours approximately seven kilometers northwest of TRANG BANG, D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry detected approximately 50 VC in bunkers and spider holes at XT 473257. Assaulting the enemy with their rockets and automatic weapons and calling in artillery and air strikes, the air cavalrymen alerted the nearby 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry to the presence of the enemy unit. At 1547, Companies

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C and D of the battalion made a helicopter borne assault on the enemy positions. Overrunning the bunkers, the cavalrymen recovered 27 enemy bodies, and captured 15 AK-47 rifles, six RPG rocket launchers, 1,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 15 RPG rounds and 25 hand grenades.

11 July

Pursuing the remnants of the enemy force they attacked to the northeast by following blood trails, C and D Companies, 1st Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry discovered an additional six enemy bodies, four AK-47 rifles, 17 RPG rounds, 25 pounds of medical supplies, 350 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 2,100 pounds of rice, 35 pounds of sugar, one RPG rocket launcher, one pound of documents, 40 82mm rounds, 30 mortar fuzes and seven hand grenades.

12 July

Flying armed aerial reconnaissance eight kilometers east of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT 714127) at 1145, Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry detected a sampan on a canal. Checking out the contents of the boat, the air cavalrymen captured nine complete 122mm rockets.

15 July

At 1040 hours a forward air controller for the 25th ARVN Division detected 10-20 VC unloading two sampans on a canal one kilometer east of the Cambodian border. Air strikes were called in on the site and helicopters of C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry flew into the area to follow up the air strikes. The helicopters engaged several VC in bunkers near the spot where the two sampans lay destroyed. Checking out the results of the attack in the position, the air cavalrymen discovered six VC bodies and determined that the cargo in the sampans had exploded.

16 July

Companies B and C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry searching for enemy arms and weapons caches along the west bank of the SAIGON RIVER one kilometer south of PHU LONG (XT 8404) captured 1,345 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 22 hand grenades, three RPG rounds, two 60mm mortar rounds, nine 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, and 2 AK-47 rifles.

19 July

The 2nd Brigade Combined Reconnaissance and Intelligence Platoon (CRIP), a joint US-Vietnamese unit, acting on intelligence, assaulted a house four kilometers north of DUC HOA (XT 608008) where a VC meeting was supposedly taking place. Sneaking up on the house at 2230 hours, the CRIP succeeded in surprising the meeting and in the fire fight that took place killed 9 VC and took one PW. Three pistols, one AK-47 rifle and one carbine were captured. The dead VC were later identified as high ranking VC cadre. At 1955, an ambush patrol from D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, set up along a trail at XT 749167 ambushed a VC party. The results of the ambush were 7 VC KIA of the seven man party and the capture of five AK-47 rifles, one RPG rocket launcher, one pistol, 1,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 10 RPG rocket rounds and 50 rounds of 9mm pistol ammunition.

22 July

At 1056 B Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry was sweeping three kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG (XT 522204) when it encountered an unknown size VC force. Supported by

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helicopter gunships, artillery and air strikes and reinforced by the battalion's C and D companies, the contact with the enemy force continued throughout the day and into the night. A sweep of the area the following day resulted in the discovery of six VC bodies. At the same time to the west of the paratroopers contact, B Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry sweeping four kilometers north of GO DA HAU (XT 392301) engaged an unknown size enemy force. Armed helicopters, artillery and air strikes were called in on the enemy positions, and B Company was reinforced by companies A and C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mech). The contact lasted through the day and into the night. At first light, a sweep of the area revealed 13 VC KIA.

24 July

C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry flying armed aerial reconnaissance along the Cambodian border at 1830 hours detected a platoon size enemy force at XT 340200 eight kilometers southwest of GO DA HAU. Attacking with automatic weapons and rockets and calling in artillery and air strikes, the air cavalrymen observed the enemy withdrawing to the west in the direction of CAMBODIA. A low level reconnaissance of the area after the contact revealed 8 VC KIA.

25 July

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry sweeping three kilometers northeast of TRUNG BANG (XT 511219) at 0815 came into contact with an unknown size enemy force. C Company was reinforced by A and B Companies of the battalion and the contact was supported by helicopter gunships, artillery and Air Force fighter strikes. Contact was maintained until 2130 hours. Sweeping into the enemy positions, the paratroopers recovered 35 VC KIA and captured two AK-47 rifles, one machine gun, one 82mm mortar and 150 rounds of AK-47 ammunition.

C. Combat Aviation Support Operations. During the period of this report, 3,627 Air Force fighter bomber sorties were flown in support of 25th Infantry Division operations. These strikes which expended an estimated 4,574 tons of ordnance consisted of daily preplanned air attacks on known or suspected enemy targets and immediate close air strikes in support of troops in contact. In addition, 166 B-52 missions (sorties not known) were flown against targets located in the division T.O.I. These targets were known or suspected enemy base camps and supply areas and were flown on pre-planned or mission divert bases. Confirmed results of these air operations (figures not included in those cited in paragraph A) are as follows:

Enemy KIA	- 876
Bunkers destroyed	- 4,355
Structures destroyed	- 619
Secondary explosions	- 189
Secondary fires	- 142
Sampans destroyed	- 78
Bridges destroyed	- 20
Trench lines destroyed	- 4,790 meters

Air Force units which provided support to the division during the period of this report were C Flight of the 4th Air Commando Squadron flying out of BIEN HOA Air Base; the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing consisting of the 391st, 557th, 558th and 559th Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of C.M. BINH BAY; the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing consisting of the 180th, 136th, 308th, 304th and 305th Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of TUY HOA Air Base; the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing consisting of the 120th, 352nd, 614th and 615th Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of PHAN TANG

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Air Base; the 174th, 355th, 416th and 612th Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of PHU CAT Air Base; the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing consisting of the 90th, 510th and the 531st Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of BITN HOI Air Base; and the 8th and 13th Tactical Fighter Squadrons of the Australian Air Force flying out of PHAN RANG Air Base.

Army combat aviation support for the combat operations of the 25th Infantry Division was provided by the organic 25th Aviation Battalion and 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, the 12th Aviation Group, three separate aviation companies, two Air Ambulance Detachments and the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry.

Tactical troop lift and aerial resupply throughout the division TACI was made available on a daily basis by the 128th and 173rd Assault Helicopter Companies of the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion; the 68th, 118th and 190th Assault Helicopter Companies of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion; the 147th and 205th Assault Helicopter Companies of the 222nd Combat Aviation Battalion; the 116th and 187th Assault Helicopter Companies of the 242nd Combat Support Helicopter Company of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion. All those units are organic to the 12th Aviation Group.

Aerial reconnaissance support to the division was made available by the 75th Support Aircraft Company (Mohawks), the 174th Reconnaissance Aircraft Company (Bird Dogs) and the 184th Reconnaissance Aircraft Company.

Armed aerial reconnaissance and helicopter gunships were provided to the division daily by the organic 25th Aviation Battalion and D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry; B and C Troops of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry; and the 334th Armed Helicopter Company (Gunship) of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion.

Air ambulance service to the division was provided by the 159th Air Ambulance Detachment and the 57th Air Ambulance Detachment of the 45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance). The 159th provided air medical evacuation service working out of the CU CHI and TAY NINH Base Camps and the 57th provided similar service working out of the DAU TIENG Base Camp.

D. Principle Command and Staff. The identification of the principle command and staff personnel within the 25th Infantry Division for the reporting period is as follows:

Commanding General

- Major General F. K. Mearns (1 May - 31 July)
- Brig General William T. Gleason (3 July - 31 July)
- Brig General Donald D. Lunlop (1 May - 22 June)
- Brig General Glen C. Long Jr. (11 July - 31 July)
- Brig General William T. Gleason (1 May - 18 June)
- Brig General Carleton Preer Jr. (19 June - 31 July)
- COL Burton F. Hood
- LTC Stanford Touchstone (1 May - 8 Jun)
- LTC Ernest F. Conchina (9 Jun - 9 Jul)
- LTC Harry Rubin (16 Jul - 31 Jul)
- LTC Albert Stubblebine
- LTC Chandler Goodnow (1 May)
- LTC Alfred M. Bracy (2 May - 31 Jul)
- LTC Walter I. Brent
- LTC Vincent I. Brosky
- COL Fremont B. Hodson
- COL Raymond O. Miller
- COL Leonard R. Daems (1 May - 3 Jun)
- COL Lewis J. Ashley (4 Jun - 31 Jul)

Acting Division Commander

Assistant Division Commander(M)

Assistant Division Commander(S)

Chief of Staff
ACoFS G-1

ACoFS G-2
ACoFS G-3

ACoFS G-4
ACoFS G-5

Commanding Officer, 1st Brigade
Commanding Officer, 2nd Brigade
Commanding Officer, 3rd Brigade

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