

Battle
Jan 10 1968

Mortar Attack

10 JANUARY 1968

During operations in the Parrot's Beak (Cambodian border), elements of the 25th Infantry Division captured documents from the 9th VC Division, showing plans to overrun Dau Tieng Base Camp. They would be coming through our portion of the southern perimeter using the village as cover and the locals as shields. Even though the enemy was aware of our knowledge of their plans, they pressed ^{on} with the attack. Not knowing the exact date, we had a rough idea ^{and were ready for them.}

The VC posted observers in the higher buildings, using binoculars and set up snipers, automatic weapons, and .51 cal. machine guns. First Lieutenant, Frank Linster was duty officer / Officer of the Guard that night. Equipped with a Starlight scope and radio. The perimeter had been beefed up with 55 gallon barrels ^{drums} of Fox Gas and ^{and} concentric wire trip flares. The guards switched from two M-16's and one M-40 machine gun the first night to two M-40 machine guns and one M-16 rifle the next evening. The "RED ALERT" came on the evening of the third night. 1LT Linster watched through the starlight scope as hundreds of VC were moving into position across the road, in Dau Tieng. Before the attack, he radioed ^{the CO} ^{Black Widow} to get everyone out on the perimeter with their weapon. Close to sixty M-40 machine guns were spread out over the length of our perimeter facing the village, along with our armament section's new toy..... a ground mounted mini gun secured to the back of a jeep. When the mortars started falling we knew the ground attack was imminent. The first wave was cut down when they were about 50-75 feet from ^{the} wire. All the Spider gun ships were scrambled and from the air it looked like a red carpet ^{extending} from our entire perimeter into the village. The next morning Graves Registration confirmed over 200 bodies in the village.

The captured document was given to Frank because we were the air support during the mission that the VC document was found.
— Operation Yellowstone Jan 30-31. Dan Tien hit with 107mm rockets — 1st time ^{seen in} _{the Corps}

Just before Tet, intelligence in the form of a map diagram and documents taken off a ^{dead} VC which was up in the Parrots' Beach A.O. Dan Tien was targeted to be hit, but no specific date was given. We went on 100% alert for three nights before the actual attack came, resulting in our guys flying without uniforms when they were scrambled chicken plates, Tongs and shorts. Making gun runs on the village. The initial waves of enemy soldiers were wiped out by our 60+ M60 machine guns that we had on line along the company perimeter. The open space to our front was beefed up with 5 from 3 55gal drums of gas to 12 - trip flares and concertina wire - 200+ bodies found the next day