

#10
Operations

KAWELA

This operation was begun by the 25th Infantry Division as a follow up to Operation MANHATTAN, to exploit intelligence reports of VC activity along the upper SAIGON River vic XT5632 and in the TRI TAM District XT5836. It

employed the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry to search and destroy VC forces and installations in an AO thought to house elements of Military Region (MR) IV, and that contained supply routes that continued to the FILHOL Plantation immediately north of the Division base camp at CU CHI and to the HO BO Woods beyond them. During the operation no main force units were encountered. Contact was limited to sporadic sniper activity from local guerrillas. The operation was begun with two crossings of the SAIGON River. One a non-illuminated, non-support crossing using aluminum foot bridges and light tactical rafts. It was unopposed while another diversionary crossing was made by mechanized units to the south. Although contact was negligible, extensive amounts of enemy munitions and equipment were seized. Results of Operation KAWELA were: 38 VC KIA (BC), 26 VC KIA (poss), VC Killed by Airstrikes (KBA) (BC) 2, VC KBA (poss) 25. Enemy equipment captured was: 58 rds of SA ammo, 2 RPG-2 launchers, 22 lbs of medical supplies, 12 lbs of documents, 42 rds of SA ammo, 5 AK-47 rifles, 1 pistol belt, 1 combat pack, 5 bags of CS-1, 9 tape recordings, 1 CHIOM carbine, 7 RPG-2 rds, 9.2 tons of rice, 1 CHIOM carbine, 1 cannon barrel, 2 bicycles, 1 82mm mortar w/base plate, 1 grinding machine, 2 grenades, 1 dairy. Equipment destroyed: 9 sampans, 6 AT mines, 305 bunkers, 82 military structures, 12 bicycles, 29 tons of rice, 1,257 rds of SA ammo, 3 claymores, 2 VC protective masks, 55 AP mines, 1 500 lb bomb, 23 CBU's, 66 trenches, 29 tunnels, 54 grenades, 14 sampans, 1 60mm rd, 1 500 lb bomb, 1 .50 cal breech, 1 .30 cal pistol w/o barrel, 1 .50 cal MG tripod, 3 1/2 lbs of explosives, 3 booby traps, 3 stoves, 1 RPG-2 rd, 1 raft, 6 CBU's detectors.

SOURCE: ORLL, 25th Infantry Division, 31 July 1967