

#10
Ops

DIAMOND HEAD

This operation ^{was} ~~is~~ being conducted by the 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division from its base camp at TAY MINH. Its mission is to conduct search and destroy operations in TAY MINH Province, cordon and search operations in the MICHELIN Plantation, and security and reinforcement missions in the TAY MINH and PREK KLOK Areas. ~~An additional mission is to provide necessary security to its base camp at DAU TIENG. Search and destroy operations have resulted in the discovery of supply caches, and~~

intelligence reports indicate the local VC in the TAY MINH and DAU TIENG areas are finding it increasingly difficult to effect resupply. However, terrorist incidents of assassination and kidnapping (in and around DAU TIENG, and the mortaring of DAU TIENG base camp) have increased. This is due, ~~in part at least~~, to the detachment of one battalion of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division to operate in Operation UNION TOWN outside the 25th Infantry Division's TAO, as well as other times the brigade has left DAU TIENG. One battalion conducted security operations for the DAU TIENG and TAY MINH base camps exclusively, throughout the month of July. Buddy operations were also conducted during July with eight companies of RF, PF and CIDG forces. Engineer units ~~are~~ upgrading the road from TAY MINH to SROI DA leading to War Zone "C", which ~~will~~ increase the reaction capability of the 3rd Brigade (particularly its mechanized units) and ~~make~~ the road available for civilian use. Results of Operation DIAMOND HEAD to date are: 40 VC KIA (BC), 92 VC KIA (poss), 4 VC PW, 1 HOI CHANH and 174 detainees. Enemy material captured was: 2 P38 pistols, 2 GHICOM carbines, 43½ lbs documents, 58,030 lbs rice, 1 unk weapon, 1 shotgun, 2 Mauser rifle, 10 AK-47s, 1 tractor, 1 RPG-2 rd, 1 AT mine, 75 lbs medical supplies, 463 SA rds, 1 GHICOM rifle, 6 bicycles, 230 lbs food, 8 cans cabbage, 2 cans oil, 2000 lbs fertilizer, 2 notebooks, 1 M1 rifle, 1 commercial radio, 2 pack of assorted medical supplies, 6 CBUs, 1 claymore, 1 VC training schedule, 1 book, 1 M79 launcher, several signal instruction manuals, 10 cases of cream. Enemy material destroyed was: 1152 bunkers, 650 military structures, 18 trenches, 9 tunnels, 6 bridges, 16 AT mines, 7 AP mines, 62 booby traps, 10-60mm rds, 9-57mm rds, 2-75mm rds, 3-105mm rds, 4-155mm rds, 2 RPG-2 rds, 1-250 lb bomb, 7 oxcarts, 40 lbs clothing, 30 lbs black powder explosives, 6 mines, 16-82mm rds, 16 sampans, 1 ammo casting, 1-500 lb bomb, 7 large storage tanks, 1 lb propaganda, 47 grenades, 902 SA rds, 46,250 lbs rice, 1 rice polishing machine, 3 VC protective masks, 18 bicycles, 900 lbs of cement, 3 CBUs, 7-81mm rds, 1100 lbs fertilizer, 301 trip flares, 6 claymores, 1 hand flare, 17 M79 rds, 1 voltage converter (20amp), 2 blasting boxes, 20 gal cooking oil, 1 LAW, 55 gals diesel fuel, 1-8" rd, 2 metal silhouette targets, 1 RPG-2 fuze.

During 1 May - 31 July 1967,

there were 3,846 sorties, 1,577 combat missions, 1,898 passengers carried and a total of 1,655 hours flown. Armed Helicopters expended 549,970 rounds of 7.62mm machine gun ammunition, 4,305 rounds of .50 cal machine gun ammunition, 90 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition, 3,853 rounds of 40mm grenades and 1,975 aerial rockets in support of combat operations. In addition, 138 sorties and 90 hours were flown using the Manpack Personnel Detector E63 (commonly called the "People Sniffer", modified for use in the UH1D helicopter), accompanied by another UH1D with spotlights ("Firefly") and a Light Fire Team (two more armed UH1B). These flights scouted for VC, detecting them by the ammonia produced in human perspiration and by the carbon produced by their camp fires. These missions resulted in the destruction of 24 structures, 13 sampans, 29 VC Killed by Army Air (KBAA) (BC), 65 VC KBAA (poss), 2 VC PW and 2 VC WIA.

(3) Operation DIAMOND HEAD was continued by the 3d Brigade in Tay Ninh and Binh Duong Provinces. Most operations conducted were battalion size and smaller. Numerous small unit actions were conducted during the first several days of September in conjunction with election security operations. In September the first phase of an extensive re-settlement project was initiated by US and GVN forces to prevent enemy use of the Michelin Plantation. This was accomplished by displacing the population from an area southeast of the plantation to a refugee center at Lai Thieu, thus eliminating a source of support to the enemy. Seventy-four families with their belongings were relocated using CH-47 aircraft. Michelin workers from populated areas within the plantation and inhabitants from the area south of the Michelin Plantation will be relocated as a follow up action. During October, operations of the 3d Brigade were in great part conducted in the Michelin Plantation, on the north, east and south of the Michelin Plantation and in the western Boi Loi Woods. The operations were characterized by extensive day and night patrolling. Cumulative losses to date include 158 enemy killed, 354 detainees and 76 weapons captured.

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