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Delaware / LAM SON 216

In what was termed "one of the 101st's toughest missions in Vietnam," Operation Delaware was initiated by troopers of the 1st Brigade on April 19. The primary mission of Delaware was to provide a blocking force for the 1st Air Cavalry assault into the A Shau Valley and to interdict enemy supply routes along Highway 547 and 547A leading out of the valley toward Hue. The Brigade, with the 3rd ARVN Airborne Task Force, was to operate in the Rao Nho and Rao Nai valleys to establish Firebase (FB) Veghel.

On April 23, the 1st Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. continued their clearing operations at Veghel, six miles east of the A Shau Valley. Scattered resistance was met as the paratroopers prepared the LZ for insertion of heavy engineer equipment and artillery pieces.

Company C, 2nd Bn., 327th Abn. Inf. engaged two NVA companies along route 547, 15 miles southwest of Hue on April 25. The battalion's Co. A moved to assist while Co. C maintained contact. The surprised NVA left their positions under a deadly hail of fire as the paratroopers flanked the fortifications. Thirty-two Communists were killed and seven weapons captured when the battle subsided.

Operation Delaware concluded on May 17. The 1st Brigade units had killed 318 NVA and captured three prisoners and ~~121 weapons~~ during the 28 day operation. The Brigade also succeeded in interdicting route 547, completely cutting off its use as a resupply route by enemy forces.

Jack add your input
we are the lead element?

Source: 101st Airborne Division's 1968 YEAR BOOK

19 APRIL-17 MAY 1968

Ground War An operation involving the 1st Air Cavalry Division, 101st Airborne Division, and elements of the US 196th Infantry Brigade, ARVN 1st Division, and ARVN Airborne Task Force Bravo is intended to

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Operation DELAWARE began 190001H April 1968 as a one brigade operation into the mountainous jungle astride Hwy 547, southwest of Hue.

division The operation was designed to compliment the 1st ACD assault into the Ashau Valley. The mission of the 1st Bde was to conduct ground and airmobile assaults southwest from FSB Bastogne to interdict enemy routes of withdrawal/infiltration vic junction: Hwy's 547 and 547A (YD 5504); establish FSB Veghel vic hill 333 (YD 5404); block Hwy's 547 and 547A in zone and provide security for FSB Bastogne and Rome Flow operations in the area. Upon completion of the above, be prepared to continue attack to the south into the Rao Nai (River) Valley or to re-orient north along the axis of the Song Bo River towards VC/NVA Base Area 114.

Source ORLIS, 101ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION, July 1968