

Historical Summary of The 3d Bde 25th Infantry Division for the period
1 January to 31 December 1968.

The Brigade began the calendar year at Camp Rainier located adjacent to the village of Dau Tieng, RVN. During the year, the Brigade participated in operation Toan Thang Phase I and II. The beginning of the year saw the Brigade operating in the area of the Boi Loi-Hobo Woods and the Trapezoid areas. During the latter part of the first quarter, operations were centered in the Hoc Mon area to counter VC/NVA Forces in the "Rocket Belt" around Saigon. In October, the Brigade returned to Camp Rainier to resume its responsibilities in the Tri Tam and Khem Hanh Districts. Operations during the remainder of the year were concentrated in the Crescent, Trapezoid, Ho Bo Woods, Mushroom, and Michel Rubber Plantation areas.

The first tactical operation of the year was Operation Yellowstone, conducted in the Suoi Cut area of war zone "C". The 3d Brigade mission was to destroy Viet Cong/NVA Forces and installations, open land lines of communication throughout this area. Operations in the Brigade tactical area of responsibility were successful in establishing GVN influence in an area which the enemy used as a sanctuary for resupply, reequipping and staging area for operations, by interdicting enemy lines of communications and the destruction of his base camp installations.

The operation began on 8 December and terminated on 24 February. Colonel Leard R. Dames commanded the Brigade in what was one of the most successful operations this Brigade had experienced. The net loss in enemy personnel was approximately two (2) fully equipped battalions.

Simultaneously with Operation Yellowstone, the Brigade engaged in Operation Saratoga, a three battalion operation to establish a forward Brigade Command Post in the Hoc Mon area and to search out and destroy VC/NVA Forces in that area. This operation was conducted from 4 February to 10 March. During this period, OPCON Battalions of this Brigade inflicted severe losses upon the enemy in personnel and equipment, and destroyed a large base camp area.

During the period 11 March through 7 April 1968, the Brigade conducted Operation Quyet Thang in the Pineapple area and in Binh Trynh in conjunction with the 5th ARVN Division. The purpose was to locate and destroy enemy forces and base camp areas. Friendly forces gained control of many enemy rockets that could have been fired on the Saigon-Tan Son Nhut area. In addition, the enemy lost a substantial amount of equipment and personnel.

On 7 June the Brigade became OPCON to CMAC for the defense of the Saigon area. This was the beginning of Operation Toan Thang Phase II. The Brigade mission was to perform search and destroy, RIF and VCI missions in the "Rocket Belt" in the Northwestern section of Saigon. At this time, Colonel Lewis J. Ashley assumed command of the Brigade. The Brigade remained OPCON to CMAC until 8 October 1968. During this period, no formal operations orders were issued by this Brigade.

The Brigade returned to Camp Rainier and to OPCON 25th Infantry Division

on 8 October 1968. During the period 8-23 October the Brigade conducted VCI operations in the Go Dau Ha - Boa Don - Dau Tieng Areas. Land clearing (Rome Flow) operations were continued along the MSR's. RIF operations were conducted in the areas of the "Big" and "Little" Rubber to locate and destroy enemy forces and provide security for MSR's in the Brigade AO.

On 23 October, the Brigade initiated Operation LOTA (Liberation of Thanh An). This operation was directed toward the reestablishment of RVN control of the Thanh An area, thereby separating this valuable source of man-power and material from the VC/NVA elements in the Trapezoid. The operation was an unqualified success since it thoroughly disrupted a major enemy base supply area. Route 14 was opened thereby expanding GVN influence and access to the Trapezoid area. Also this operation has lessened the enemy's ability to support offensive operations in the Trang Bang Boi Loi areas.

Operations during November were concentrated in Hue Thien, Khiem Hanh, and Tri Tam Districts. These operations were directed toward removing Viet Cong infrastructure, securing the MSR's and locating enemy base areas and the main infiltration and supply routes. Rome Flow land clearing operations were conducted along MSR (Hwy 19) to clear this route and establish FSB Wood. The enemy generally attempted to avoid major confrontations with friendly forces during this month. However, during this period units of the Brigade inflicted substantial personnel, equipment, and weapons losses upon the enemy.

During December the Brigade conducted offensive operations throughout its area of operation. At this time, Colonel Louis J. Schelter, Jr., assumed command of the Brigade. Extensive Reconnaissance In Force (RIF) operations were conducted in the Crescent - Ben Cui Areas with the assistance of this Brigade, an outpost was established in Ben Cui Rubber Plantation. VCI operations were conducted in several of the villages in this Brigade's AO. The "Colors Up" program was initiated in Tri Tam and Khiem Hanh Districts, thereby facilitating better VN control and pacification of these areas. Operation Caravan was conducted during the period 23-26 December 1968. In this operation, GVN Forces in conjunction with forces of this Brigade cordoned and searched AP 6 Chanh (1) for possible tactical control facilities in the Michelin Rubber Plantation. Those forces remained in the area throughout the Christmas "Truce" period, to screen and register authorized rubber workers for the Michelin area. Even though there were no significant findings, this operation was termed a success since this was the first significant presence of the GVN in this area for the past several years. All the civilians were registered in the Michelin Rubber Plantation and a RF outpost was established facilitating the permanent presence of GVN authority in this area.