

SUMMARY

MAC-V 3-15-67(A) LONG TAN BASE BUILDING 13-14 DEC 1967

At a location on the My Tho River 50 miles south of Saigon in the Vietnamese delta region, Commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam General William C. Westmoreland, personally chose the spot for the third brigade of the 9th Infantry Division's base camp. He called it Long Tan for the Vietnamese word United Heart.

At the time of the selection, in the summer of 1966, the land adjacent to the My Tho River was rice paddies, under water. In order to provide a base camp two dredgers were floated up the My Tho river from Vung Tau. The Jamaica Bay was the first one to arrive and the New Jersey soon followed to the selected site about five miles west of the town of My Tho. Actual up lifting of the site from rice paddies started in Oct. 1966. The entire area had to be up lifted at least 5 feet and in most cases 10 feet, to be above flood stage. In January of 1967 the VC set off a mine on the Jamaica Bay sending it to the bottom of the My Tho River.

In their quest for sand the dredgers search the bottom of the river in the immediate area and set about pumping the muck from the river's bottom, to a sectioned off area of the base camp. Bulldozers in the mean time have prepared and made levees of earth from 5 feet to 10 feet high. As the dredger's pumps force the muck into the walled in area, the water will drain back into the river leaving the sediment to raise the soil level up.

First elements of the 3rd Brigade moved into the Long Tan base camp in Dec. 1966 and became operational in Jan. 1967. For over a year the base camp has been expanding and the dredgers continue to search for sandy sections on the My Tho River's bottom.

Since the first troops arrived in Long Tan, many changes have taken place, among them the third brigade moved out and the second ABN has taken over, in May of 1967. U.S. Naval units have set up base camp too, in portions of the Long Tan base camp. At present, the Long Tan Base Camp is nearly completely up lifted. Presently it has 600 acres uplifted or is in the final stages of being uplifted, using thousands of cubic yards of river deposits.

Long Tan has many firsts to its credit among them: the 1st major U.S. base in the delta, the first to use 105mm howitzers on barges which can be floated into a battle zone, to provide artillery support; one of the MOUT Hospitals (MOUT --- MEDICAL UNIT SELF-CONTAINED TANK. PORTABLE) in country; the first delta base camp for a riverine force; and of course the first base camp to be uplifted from rice paddies.

Today Long Tan nearly completed in construction phase, has a riverine force which both services help in. The navy boats transport the army troops up the rivers and canals of the delta region and drop them off for search and destroy or assault missions ranging from two to four days. A 1500ft air strip is completed with in-bias Caribous to land. Many two story wooden barracks and various metal office buildings are still being constructed.

13 Dec. 07

3-12-07 (A)

10. Wagon

Over 500-514-750

Sta. 6000

75

Belia Howell 1110
1110 501

Long Tan, about 10
miles north of Saigon

27/2 10/10
27/2 10/10

Long Tan Mass Camp

27/2 10/10

Over all sound of Long Tan Mass
Camp
Of the bridge New Jersey while
digging for work on the bottom
of the river.
Of the main engine room of the
New Jersey.
Of a water pump running aboard
the New Jersey.
Of the work running out of a
pipe, which is being pumped
by the New Jersey.
Of a 2 1/2 ton water truck
running.
Sound of heavy driving nails
for the construction of a new
mess hall.
Sound of a heavy crane running
up 10' above jet engine.

PROBABLE

WILD

2

WILD

2

WILD

2

WILD

1

WILD

1

WILD

2

WILD

2

13-31 DEC 1967
3-12-67(A)

HOMB

DONG TAN
BASE BUILDING

DONG TAN DISTA REGION RVN

LA. WISCON

SP5 FOULKE
SP4 POLARINA

SP4 NASH

FILMS

MM-70

591 and 311

UNR # 565172726

500FT

EOO 7255

EOO 7255

ROLL 1	1.	1.	WILD	MS.	Water and muck gushing out of pipe from the dredgers in the HT The river about a mile a way.
	2.	1.	WILD	MS.	Vietnamese Child walking around in the mucky water.
	3.	1.	WILD	CU.	Water coming out of the pipe from the dredger.
	4.	1.	WILD	MS.	Water coming out of pipe and flowing into a walled in section to be uplifted.
	5.	1.	WILD	LS.	Buildover building levee
	6.	1	WILD	CU.	Buildover building levee to prepare to flood a section.
	7.	1.	WILD	MS.	Buildover pushing muck into a levee.
	8.	1..	WILD	CU.	Korean bulldozer driver at controls of dozer.
	9.	1.	WILD	LS.	Muck shooting up in the air behind the levee.
	10.	1.	WILD	MS.	SIGN 2nd BDE 9th INF DIV. HQS.
	11.	1	WILD	MS.	Water truck traveling on dirt road on Dong Tan base camp.
	12.	1.	WILD	MS.	SIGN Dong Tan Fleet Landing with several River line boats in background.
ROLL 2	1.	1.	WILD	LS.	The dredge New Jersey, pumping muck from the bottom of the river for the Dong Tan Base camp
	2.	1.	WILD	LS.	The main pump on the dredge New Jersey
	3.	1.	WILD	LS.	Pen shot of the pipeline extending from the New Jersey to the shore
	4.	1.	WILD	CU.	The ships nose pluck
	5.	1.	WILD	LS.	The pipeline leading from ship to shore
	6.	1.	WILD	LS.	The pipeline on board the New Jersey
	7.	1.	WILD	MS.	The main pump of the ship
	8.	1.	WILD	MS.	The main pump of the ship
	9.	1.	WILD	LS.	The dredge New Jersey
	10.	1.	WILD	CU.	The 3th Surgical hospital sign

ROLL 2 Con.	11.	1.	WILD	LS.	Fan shot of the MUST buildings in the 3rd Surgical Hospital
	12.	1.	WILD	MS.	Air buses extending into the MUST buildings
	13.	1.	WILD	LS.	An open MUST building
	14.	1.	WILD	LS.	Fan shot of soldier's feet as he walks through dust
	15.	1.	WILD	CU.	Fan shot of soldier's feet.
ROLL 3	1.	1.	SILENT	MS.	ARRIALS dredger New Jersey in the Ry The River off Dong Tam.
	2.	1.	SILENT	LS.	Korean Dredger in Ry The River with Dong Tam Base Camp in background.
	3.	1.	SILENT	MS.	Korean dredger in the Ry The River pumping
	4.	1.	SILENT	MS.	Both dredgers Korean dredger in foreground and the New Jersey down river in the back ground.
	5.	1.	SILENT	MS.	ARRIALS making a U turn showing the New Jersey dredger off Dong Tam.
	6.	1.	SILENT	MS.	Perimeter of the Dong Tam Base Camp with rice paddies near the portion being uplift
	7.	1.	SILENT	LS.	Back coming out of the pipe and flowing over the walled in area.
	8.	1.	SILENT	LS.	Water draining off the uplifted area.
	9.	1.	SILENT	CU.	Back coming out of the pipe from the dredger
	10.	1.	SILENT	MS.	Building and living quarters for the men of Dong Tam Base ARRIALS.
ROLL 4	1.	1.	Silent	MS.	Bank of Dong Tam along the perimeter with water buffalo in background.
	2.	1.	SILENT	Fan	Fan much inside the walled in section to the rice paddies out side the perimeter and water buffalo grazing.
	3.	1.	SILENT	LS.	Back light much coming out of the pipe of the walled in section being uplifted with building of Dong Tam in far background.
	4.	1.	SILENT	CU.	Korean worker for H&M-B&J Corp.
	5.	1.	SILENT	CU.	Design Gen. R. Hife of Silverland, Calif pilot of the hovercraft.
	6.	1.	SILENT	LS.	Caribou aircraft landing at Dong Tam Base
	7.	1.	SILENT	CU.	Col Robert Schilbacher of Boise, Idaho
	8.	1.	SILENT	MS.	Men getting off and other men getting on the Caribou airplane at Dong Tam.

ROLL 2	9.	1.	SILENT	CG.	Sign Welcome to Long Tan River Raider Base.
ROLL 25	1.	1.	WILD	LS.	Riverine pulling into dock basin
	2.	1.	WILD	MS.	Riverine pulling into docks
	3.	1.	WILD	MS.	Fun shot of water-sporting from engine to the bow of the riverine
	4.	1.	WILD	LS.	Riverine moving into dock basin
	5.	1.	WILD	LS.	Men on Riverine tying the boat to the docks.
	6.	1.	WILD	CG.	The ship's name
	7.	1.	WILD	LS.	Dock basin where the riverines are kept
	8.	1.	WILD	CG.	Dock area sign
	9.	1.	WILD	LS.	Building being put up at Long Tan
	10.	1.	WILD	MS.	Men putting up the building
	11.	1.	WILD	CG.	Construction was pounding nails
	12.	1.	WILD	CG.	Men putting up a section of a building
	13.	1.	WILD	LS.	Building being built at Long Tan
	14.	1.	WILD	LS.	The Navy's Hovercraft, recently brought back to Long Tan. This shot and shot 15 are not to be released as this information on the Hovercraft is still classified.
	15.	1.	WILD	CG.	Navy personnel working on the Hovercraft