

One Day In The Life ... of the Americal Division

May 12, 1969 was another day for the Americal Division in Vietnam. While each soldier experienced the day as it looked from his own "foxhole", here is the war that day as seen from division headquarters.

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Daily Staff Journal

0001 Journal Opened
 0106 198th Brigade reports rocket fire on refugee camp in its area of operations, at 2330.
 0110 C Troop-1st/1st Cav received 5 mortar rounds and 3 RPG rounds on night position (at 0055).
 0235 B Troop- 1st/1st Cav received small arms fire and 1 - 82mm rocket round (Hawk Hill) at 0150. At 0245 Guard Post #24 reports 4 rounds of 82mm mortar landed 300 meters in front of position.
 0300 D Company, 4th/3rd battalion at 0215 (LZ San Juan Hill) received 4 rounds of 60mm mortars. Flashes spotted, artillery returned fire with unknown results.
 0330 Company G, 75th Ranger LRRP Team observed rockets being fired (at 0315); called in artillery.
 0340 C Troop-1st/1st Cav hit with small arms fire, 8 rounds of 81mm mortars and 5 RPG rounds at 0325. 1 soldier wounded.
 0400 B Company, 26th Engineers at Tra Bong Special Forces Camp received 9-10 60mm mortar rounds (at 0100).
 0515 3rd/5th ARVN battalion (196th LIB area of operation) hit by mortars (at 0400). 2 soldiers killed, 1 wounded.
 0515 Recon-4th/3rd battalion (11th LIB), hit by 12- 60mm mortar rounds and AK-47 fire. 5 soldiers killed, 3 wounded.
 0515 1st/46th battalion (198th LIB) at Tien Phuoc hit with 4-6 B40 rockets and 16 81mm mortar rounds at 0325; No casualties.
 0515 2 pl/H-Troop/17th Cav (198th LIB) received small arms fire and 1-82mm mortar round. 1 armored track damaged but could still fire. 4 wounded from H troop and 1 wounded from 5th/46th battalion.
 0530 3rd/21st (196th LIB), LZ Center, hit at 0137. Received 8-10 82mm mortar rounds, unknown number of satchel charges, hand grenades and 2-3 RPG rounds. 2 soldiers killed, 24 wounded. Fire Support base had 4 bunkers damaged. 4 NVA killed. Captured: 1 RPG Rocket launcher, 1 AK-47 and 23 hand grenades.
 0530 A Company, 1st/52nd battalion (198th LIB), LZ Buff, hit at 0123 with 40-45 RPG and mortar rounds, 150 rounds of 82mm & 60mm mortars. Sappers entered perimeter and occupied some bunkers for period of time. Perimeter reestablished, contact broken at 0405. Estimate force of 2 VC

companies. From B/26th Engineers 1 killed & 4 wounded. From A/1st/52nd 7 killed & 13 wounded. 25 VC killed.
 0550 HQ, 5th/46th Battalion, LZ Gator (198th LIB) at 0123 hit by 75-100 RPG & mortar rounds. Ground attack plus unknown number of sappers penetrated perimeter. 4 soldiers killed, 10 wounded. 1 of soldiers killed was LTC Alfred Barnes, Battalion Commander. 1 VC killed & 1 sapper killed.
 0620 C Company, 1st/20th (11th LIB) hit by 20 rounds of 82mm mortar fire (at 0315). 1 killed, 8 wounded.
 0620 B Company, 1st/20th (11th LIB) hit by 2 hand grenades (at 0305). 5 wounded.
 0620 D Company, 1st/20th (11th LIB) received small arms fire (at 0435). 1 wounded.
 0620 A Company, 1st/20th (11th LIB), at LZ Liz hit by 3-82mm mortar rounds.
 0630 B Company, 3rd/1st (11th LIB), at LZ Debbie hit by 2 rounds 60mm mortars (at 0445). 1 wounded from D Company, 19th Engineers.
 0640 B-1st/1st Cav (LZ Hawk Hill) hit by 10 - 122mm rockets (at 0626). 1 wounded and moderate damage to one track.
 0645 11th LIB HQ at LZ Bronco at 0130-0515 hit by 16 RPG's, 30 mixed 60mm & 81mm mortars, 10 75 Recoiless Rifle and 11 140mm rocket rounds. 1 soldier killed, 16 wounded.
 0700 A Company, 3rd/1st battalion (11th LIB) at 0125 received 12-15 rounds of 81mm mortar fire. No casualties reported.
 0730 C Company, 3rd/1st (11th LIB) engaged 2 VC at 0620. 1 VC killed.
 0735 C Company, 39th Engineers (11th LIB) hit at 0240 by est. 25 VC. Satchel charges destroyed 1 bunker. 3 soldiers killed, 6 wounded. 23 VC killed, 3 detained, sent to LZ Bronco by 2nd ARVN elements. Captured 3 AK-47's, 1 AK-50, 1 38-cal pistol and 1 flare pistol.
 0750 A Company, 1st/52nd (198th LIB) reference ground attack reported 0530, on 1 dead VC found dog tags w/name Timothy J Campbell. EM was a member of Delta,

1st/52nd and medevaced to USA on 27 April according to records.
 0800 D Company, 4th/31st (196th LIB) killed 1 VC at 0600. Found 15 pounds of rice.
 0800 3rd/5th ARVN battalion (196th LIB area) on LZ Ross hit with 25 rounds 81mm mortar. 1 soldier killed, 1 soldier wounded.
 0810 D Company, 5th/46th battalion (198th LIB) observed two VC carrying a litter patient. Engaged and killed 2 VC and captured 2. Captured 81mm mortar base plate and M-16.
 0820 B Company, 39th Engineers filled crater and opened lane of traffic on Highway 1. Continuing mine sweep.
 0830 D Company, 1st/6th (198th LIB) found rocket launcher site (coordinates given), fresh trails, 88 shipping caps.
 0840 26th Engineers report two road culverts blown (locations given), but road is passable.
 0845 D Company, 5th/46th battalion, (198th LIB) requests tracker dog for one day. Dog/handler will be picked up at LRRP pad 0900.
 0850 B Company, 1st/6th (198th LIB) detonated M-26 grenade with trip wire rigged as a mine at 0810. 2 soldiers wounded.
 0927 LZ Professional (196th LIB) at 0905 hit with 2 mortar rounds.
 0930 Battalion TOC, 1st/46th LZ Professional (196th LIB) hit with 10 RPG rounds at 0915. 2 soldiers wounded.
 0930 123rd Aviation Aero Scouts report 0700 1 VC evading and received light 30 cal fire; observed numerous trenches & spider holes (locations given). At 0725 report 50 sampans under brush at NE side of river plus tunnel entrances and green shirt. At 0745 observed trench line with triple strand barbed wire. At 0755 observed recently vacated 51 cal machine gun position plus tunnel entrances. At 0805 observed 1 hut with green poncho, blood stained shirt and 1 mama san with weapon. Received light MG fire. At 0810 observed 1 hut with barbed wire and trench line around hut. 1 VC evaded. At 0820 received 30-cal machine gun fire. At 0845 observed 5 VC evading.
 0940 Division TOC: 9th Marines request security for An Tan bridge tonight. Passed request to 198th LIB, secure with 1 platoon.



0955 2nd/1st (196th LIB) LZ Baldy hit with ground attack at 0124 from unknown force of VC/NVA. Received small arms fire, RPG's and sappers. VC were inside the perimeter. 4 soldiers killed and 25 wounded. 37 VC/NVA killed. Captured: 3- AK-50's, 7 RPG's, 6 AK-47's, 1 M-79, 1 45 Cal Pistol, 25 satchel charges, 125 hand grenades and 1 bangalore torpedo. One bunker took 2 RPG rounds with minor damage. Minor damage to buildings and tents. Several cuts in perimeter wire.

1035 Division Tactical Operations Center received incoming rounds, alert condition yellow at 1014. At 1020, initial report from Chu Lai Defense Command (CLDC) 4 rockets hit.

1042 C troop, 1st/1st Cav. At 0750 had M-48 tank hit with RPG round through gun tube. Result: 4 wounded; vehicle not combat loss. At 0900 3 tracks received RPG fire. 3 soldiers killed, 3 wounded. B troop moving to reinforce C troop. 1 soldier MIA.

1055 B Company, 19th Engineers (11th LIB) found roadblock of rocks & metal 300 meters long. Checked out & cleared; found road blocks of trees buried in ground, checked out and cleared; found 20 pounds of leaflets, evacuated to LZ Bronco.

1100 A Company, 4th/3rd battalion, at 0940 found 2 large huts, 5 punji pits with 100 punji sticks in bunkers, miscellaneous writing material & documents. Paper documents were sent to LZ Bronco.

1100 D Company, 5th/46th battalion (198th LIB) added to incident at 0630: 2 RPG rounds, 8 Chi Com grenades, 1 82mm mortar round, 1 pair wire cutters and 1 wallet with ID & letters sent to LZ bayonet. 1100 C Company, 3rd/1st (11th LIB) at 0920, received small arms fire from 2-3 positions. Returned fire with 1 soldier wounded. At 0950 1 wounded. At 1015 1 soldier killed, 4 wounded. At 1055 received 6-7 82mm mortar rounds, negative assessment at this time. At 1115 have engaged estimated NVA company in green uniforms. Estimate 30% of US force killed or wounded. Receiving heavy machine gun, mortar and RPG fire.

1115 A Company, 5th/46th (198th LIB) detonated unknown type mine at 1023 (location given).



1140 Blue Ghost to conduct visual recon of rocket pocket ASAP until further notice. Estimated time on station 45 to 60 minutes.

1145 Popular Forces & 1st Plt/F Troop/17th Cav received 800-1,000 rounds of heavy automatic weapons fire at 0945. Observed large number of VC at (locations given).

Black Ace 32 observed large number of VC with neg. weapons or equipment.

1148 A Company, 4th/3rd (196th LIB) at 1100 detained 1 Viet male, no ID, extracted to LZ West.

1150 D Company, 4th/31st 1t 1005 killed 1 VC, negative weapon or ID.

1153 A Company, 1st/46th (196th LIB) at 0950 observed 3-5 NVA evading. Called in arty, negative results.

1155 Battalion TOC, 1st/46th at 1116 helo received unknown amount of automatic weapons fire with one hit in tail rotor blade, aircraft continued to fly.

1200 1st/1st Cav B Company, HQ Det reports at 1115 1 UH-1C received small arms fire and 1 hit in rotor shaft.

1200 11th LIB TOC LZ Bronco received at 1200 approximately 3 140mm rocket rounds. 1 hit HQ Co mess hall; 1 wounded.

1230 A Company, 4th/3rd (11th LIB) captured 1 NVA Chu Hoi. Evac to LZ Bronco

1230 D Company, 5th/46th (198th LIB) received sniper fire (1 wounded). 1 VC killed, 1 AK-47 captured.

1312 C Company, 39th Engineers at 0810 completed culvert (coordinates given). Road passable.

1315 F Troop/8th Cav at 1300 (location given): 8 cylinders with bunker & spider holes. Work recently completed. Blue Ghost confirms same siting.

1350 27th Surgical Hospital received 1 122mm rocket in sub sector 7.

1350 D Company, 4th/3rd (11th LIB) hot with 10 60mm mortar rounds, San Juan Hill (at 0215). 3 soldiers wounded.

1355 B Company, 1st/20th (11th LIB) hit with 2 PRG rounds and small arms fire at 1235.

1420 C Company, 1st/52nd (198th LIB) finds cache of enemy weapons while searching village (location given).

1422 B Company, 1st/6th (198th LIB) Hoi Chanh working with company detonated mine. Evacuated to 312th Hospital.

1425 19th Engineers (11th LIB) at 1120 in convoy received small arms fire. 1 soldier killed, 1 wounded. 1 VC killed.

1425 Recon, 1st/52nd (198th LIB) at 1015, while following blood trial, found 1 VC wounded. VC attempted to evade, VC killed.

1425 C Company, 1st/52nd (198th LIB) observed 1 VC evading into tunnel. Threw hand grenade. 1 VC killed, medical supplies found.

1445 Chu Lai Defense Command hit with small-arms fire received in sub sector III, bunker 305. Notified 198th LIB.

1500 C Company, 3rd/1st (11th LIB) update to entry at 1100 hrs: Totals: 18 NVA killed, 1 captured, 8 US soldiers killed, 35 wounded.

1510 B Company, 3rd/1st (11th LIB) at 1505 found 1-30 Cal. machine gun with spare barrel, tunnel complex with 3 NVA packs.

1520 A Company, 3rd/1st at 1520 found 1 NVA killed, 1 pack and 18 AK magazines & blood trials.

1530 B Company, 3rd/1st killed 1 NVA in uniform, captured 100 rounds 30 cal ammo.

1530 Co C, 75th Ranger LRRP Oklahoma extracted at 1500. Passed to 11th LIB.



1545 4th/4th made contact unknown VC force. 13 VC killed, 1 captured. Popular Force Plt. 3rd/4th ambush made contact with 3 VC killed. Mil Advisor Team on Nui Yon OP overrun. All advisors killed or captured.

Marine CAP Team 1-1-6 in firefight, 7 VC killed; at 0200 RF Company 108 in Night Position received 30 rounds 82mm-mortar fire. 5 ARVN wounded, 4 VC killed; at 0130 PSDF received B-40 rockets, result in 8 friendly killed, 5 civilians wounded & 1 VC killed. At -130 Duc Pho sub sector HHC received small arms fire & satchel charges; Quang Ngai City at 0130 received approximate 8-10 rounds of 82mm mortars.

1605 (from 196th LIB) Popular Forces at Moc Bai captured 4 VC & father of VC; destroyed 40 huts & 4 bunkers; captured M-2 Carbine.

1620 B Company, 1st/6th (198th LIB) at 1528 hit unknown # mines. 3 wounded and 1 Kit Carson wounded. Dust Off completed.

1640 Co G, 75th Ranger: LRRP Illinois received fire & was extracted at 1635.

Radio Relay Team California extracted at 1600 from OP #1.

1650 Delta, 1st/1st Cav at 1621 received 2 hits, returned to Hawk Hill.

1700 From 196th LIB reference entry made at 0955. 2 more NVA killed making total of 39. 1 captured. Unit was 1st Company, 575th battalion. Company learned of mission 2 days ago. Attack in full-strength of 65-66 men. Infiltrated to South Vietnam in late 1968.

1720 174th Abn (11th LIB AO) at 1710 received small arms fire, 1 wounded.
 1725 A Company, 4th/31st (196th LIB) at 1625, while checking local population 10 Vietnamese said they would walk to Hau Duc because VC would kill them because they didn't have rice. A/4-31 evacuated 750 lbs. of rice before moving people.
 1730 From TOC, 11th LIB, at 1715 convoy received small arms fire on way to LZ Bronco from LZ Charlie Brown. 1 track hit, 3 trucks burning, Air Force observer in the air. 1 ammo truck destroyed, 2 tanker trucks destroyed, 2 soldiers killed, wounded from E troop, 1st Cav. 1 killed from 63rd Trans. Bn. and 1 killed from 3rd/1st.

1750 B Company, 3rd/1st at 1730 killed 2 NVA, captured 1 AK-47 & 1 unknown type machine gun.

1800 D Company, 3rd/1st (11th LIB) at 1638 killed 3 NVA, captured 1 30-Cal machine gun & 2 AK-47's.

1825 B Troop, 1st/1st Cav., at 1540 hit by rocket round. 8 wounded. Vehicle combat loss.

1840 Tam Ky Support Ship CHIC at 1810 received 20 rounds mixed 60mm mortar & RPG. 8 National Police wounded. Called artillery on suspected location, negative assessment.

1901 E Troop, 1st Cav., (11th LIB) at 1803 2 wounded from RPG rounds. Soldiers treated in field and back to duty.

1905 C Company, 4th/31st (196th LIB) at 1642 observed 5 VC with packs and weapons, arty called in with unknown results.

1910 4th/31st (196th LIB) from Hiep Duc District Chief reporting his unit movement.
 1915 From 3rd/82nd Artillery at 1910 LZ Center taking mortar fire and CS gas. 2005 received 5 rounds of mortar fire (unknown type. 4 rounds were duds).

1945 Quang Ngai, I Corps: Entire 1st Corps is on Grey Alert.

2000 D Company, 1st/46th (196th LIB) at 1800 started search of south slope outside perimeter of LZ Professional. Found 20 NVA killed, 9 AK-47s, 2 RPG rocket launchers, 2-7.62mm Soviet pistols and 100-150 ChiCom grenades in baskets. Will continue search in the morning.

2005 S-5 of 2nd/1st (196th LIB) at 1755 reports Vietnamese child led S-5 personnel to a trench area used for staging area last night. Clothing and paper revealed the unit designator was 123.

2013 D Company, 3rd/1st (11th LIB) at 1605 killed 3 NVA and captured 2 M-16s.

2015 S-5, 4th/31st (196th LIB) reports that 1 national Policeman & 9 Government personnel departed LZ Karen at 1900. They are to search for info/intel & will return at 1200 on 13 May.

2015 196th LIB, LZ Baldy: Bunker #24 at 1900 observed 10 VC with packs going into wood-line 1,000 meters away.

2030 B Company, 3rd/1st, at 1655, received small arms fire. 1 soldier killed.

2035 A Company, 1st/52nd (198th LIB) update to journal entry made at 0530: totals are as follows: 27 NVA KIA; 7 B-41 rockets, 6 B-40 rockets, 96 ChiCom hand grenades and 11 bangalore torpedos, 4 AK-47's and 2 RPG launchers.



2050 D Company, 1st/52nd (198th LIB) & 3 Plt, H Troop, 17th Cav at 1815 hit a mine made of 105mm round. 2 wounded from Delta. As dust off was leaving area it received small arms fire and crewmember wounded. Delta engaged suspected sniper with 106 recoilless rocket and 2 US soldiers were killed from back blast of 106th: 1 from Delta and 1 from H Troop.

2057 A Company, 5th/46th (198th LIB) at 1850 received grenade & small arms fire. 1 trooper broke arm when he jumped into foxhole.

2115 A Company, 4th/3rd (11th LIB) at 2020 received 8-9 RPG rounds and small arms fire.

2115 F Troop, 17th Cav., (196th LIB), LZ Baldy at 2035 observed 1 NVA trying to get out of the perimeter. 1 NVA killed.

2115 Binh Son (198th LIB AO) District Headquarters received 5-6 60mm mortar rounds outside the perimeter.

2130 USMC CAP Team 1-2-5 at 2100 killed 1 female VC with AK-47.

2150 USMC CAP Team 1-1-4 and 1-1-1 at 1710 detonated mine. 2 Marines wounded, 2 Popular Force wounded.

2208 USMC CAP Team 1-2-5 at 2100 engaged 3-5 VC. Killed 1, captured 1 AK-47, 1 pack, 2 magazines and 1 poncho.

2230 3rd/21st (196th LIB) at 1845, LZ Center received 30 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. 2 wounded. Artillery returned fire in grid ... resulting in secondary explosion.

2240 3rd/21st (196th LIB) at 2005 observed lights moving NW, engaged with M-79 with unknown results; info from S-5 Hiep Duc; PF & RF confirmed 2 civilians killed, 2 wounded. Reliable agents spotted 80 VC in khakis with weapons. At (location given)

spotted 2 VC through starlight scope, engaged with 81mm mortar.

2245 III MAF COC, I Corps received report that Quang Tin was under direct fire attack & ground probe. Spooky on station at present time. At 1600 received 10-60mm mortar rounds, resulting in 6 PF wounded and 1 USMC wounded and 20 civilians wounded. At 2200 observed movement, Spooky fire, negative results.

2305 A Company, 1st/52nd (198th LIB) LZ Buff at 2155-2220 received 15 mortar rounds and unknown number of ChiCom grenades. Returned with Artillery & mortars.

2315 2d ARVN Division Tam Ky made contact at 1100 with estimated 35 VC. 4 VC were killed, 1 taken prisoner.

2400 Ops Summary: Commencing at approximately 0115 hours enemy forces launch coordinated attacks throughout the Americal Tactical Area of Operations. The attacks were characterized by extensive employment of indirect fire weapons and sapper elements against US/ARVN installations and Republic of Vietnam population centers. The attacks by indirect fire were followed by ground probes at several locations. The Americal Division suffered moderate to heavy casualties with light damage. At first light, counter-offensive operations against attacking forces were initiated with moderate enemy contact encountered in both operation Frederick Hill and operation Iron Mountain. Throughout the Americal Tactical Area of Operations heavy casualties were inflicted upon enemy forces. Americal Daily Totals: 48 killed in action; 179 wounded in action requiring evacuation; 57 wounded in action (minor); 1 missing in action; 60 VC killed in action; 111 NVA killed in action;

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