

## HISTORY OF HHC, 198TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

The 198th Infantry Brigade arrived in Chu Lai on 22 October 1967, after traveling from Da Nang, by LST, where they had arrived a few days earlier. On 26 October 1967, the Brigade became part of the newly re-activated Americal Division. The 198th Brigade began Operation MUSCATINE on 20 December 1967. During the next four years, the Brigade conducted Operations BURLINGTON TRAIL, VANCE CANYON, RUSSELL BEACH, GENEVA PARK, NANTUCKET BEACH, FINNEY HILL, and MIDDLESEX PEAK.

At the beginning of 1971, two operations, GENEVA PARK and NANTUCKET BEACH, were being conducted by the Brigade. GENEVA PARK was the larger operation, and was conducted in southern Quang Tin and northern Quang Ngai Provinces. The Brigade conducted unilateral and combined operations with the 6th ARVN Regiment to secure major lines of communication, to locate and destroy enemy forces attempting to attack Quang Ngai City and the Chu Lai Base complex, and to support the GVN Pacification Program. Particular efforts were made to insure coordination between American and ARVN Forces. GENEVA PARK ended on 1 March 1971. The operation lasted twenty-three months and cost the enemy over 2,300 soldiers killed, 532 individual weapons captured, and forty-nine crew served weapons captured. The rice denial operations conducted as part of GENEVA PARK resulted in the capture of 18,900 pounds (8590 kilos) of rice captured from the enemy.

Operation NANTUCKET BEACH was a joint operation conducted by elements of the 198th Brigade and the 6th ARVN Regiment on the Batangan Peninsula and the surrounding area in order to destroy Main Force and Local Force

Units (in particular the 48th Local Force Battalion), eliminate the VC/VCI political apparatus, and restore GVN control of the Batangan. Normally, one battalion of the 198th Brigade operated in NANTUCKET BEACH: The 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry from 20 July 1969 to 22 March 1970, and the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry from 22 March 1970 to 1 March 1971. The Batangan was one of the most heavily mined and booby trapped areas in Vietnam. NANTUCKET BEACH ended on 1 March 1971, resulting in over 600 enemy soldiers killed, 207 individual, and five crew weapons captured.

On 1 March 1971, the 198th Brigade began Operation FINNEY HILL. As the 11th Infantry Brigade was in Quang Tri Province for Operation LAM SON 719 at that time, the 198th Brigade AO included all of Quang Ngai Province. The operation's purpose was to locate and destroy the VC Quang Ngai Provincial Headquarter and the 21st NVA Regiment, to conduct combat operations with Regional and Provincial Forces as part of the GVN Pacification Program, and to assist in the Rice Denial Program. The 198th Brigade turned responsibility for FINNEY HILL over to the 11th Infantry Brigade on 11 April 1971.

On that same day, 11 April 1971, the 198th Brigade joined the 196th Brigade in Operation MIDDLESEX PEAK. The AO for the 198th included Son Tinh, Binh Son and Son Ha Districts of Quang Ngai Province and Ly Tin District of Quang Tin Province. On 29 April 1971, the 196th Brigade ceased all operations in Quang Tin Province, and the 198th Brigade assumed responsibility for all of Quang Tin Province and complete control of MIDDLESEX PEAK. All Brigade operations were conducted in close coordination with the 5th and 6th ARVN Regiments. Operation MIDDLESEX PEAK

ended on 1 July 1971. It had cost the enemy 461 soldiers killed, 122 individual weapons, and sixteen crew served weapons captured.

Throughout July, August and September 1971, the 198th Infantry Brigade continued to operate in Quang Tin Province in close cooperation with ARVN Forces. As of 7 October 1971, the men of the 198th Infantry Brigade had killed 252 enemy soldiers, captured fifty-seven individual, and fourteen crew served weapons since 1 July 1971.