

HISTORY OF 1ST BATTALION, 52D INFANTRY

The 1st Battalion, 52d Infantry arrived in Vietnam in October 1967, as part of the 198th Infantry Brigade and began offensive operations in Operation MUSCATE. The Battalion later participated in Operations BURLINGTON TRAIL, GENEVA PARK, FINNEY HILL, and MIDDLESEX PEAK.

At the beginning of 1971, the 1-52 Infantry was engaged in the 198th Brigade's Operation GENEVA PARK. The operation consisted of unilateral and combined operations with the 6th ARVN Regiment in order to secure major lines of communication, to locate and destroy enemy forces attempting to attack Quang Ngai City and Chu Lai Base complex, and to support the GVN Pacification Program. The 1-52 Infantry operated from Stinson using small unit tactics and achieving excellent results.

Following the conclusion of GENEVA PARK on 1 March 1971, the 198th Brigade began Operation FINNEY HILL on the same day. 1-52 Infantry continued to operate in the northern part of Quang Ngai Province, using small unit tactics against the enemy. On 11 April 1971, the 198th Brigade turned Operation FINNEY HILL over to the 11th Infantry Brigade. At the same time, the 198th Brigade assumed responsibility for Operation MIDDLESEX PEAK from the 196th Infantry Brigade. The purpose of MIDDLESEX PEAK was to conduct unilateral and combined operations to secure major lines of communication, to locate and destroy enemy forces, and to participate in the GVN Pacification Program. The 1-52 Battalion continued to operate from Stinson, and had particular success in its rice denial activities. Contact with the

enemy remained light throughout the operation, with most contacts being sharp but brief in duration. Operation MIDDLESEX PEAK ended on 1 July 1971.

On 1 July 1971, the 1-52 Infantry was attached to the 11th Infantry Brigade. The 11th Brigade conducted operations to locate and destroy the VC Quang Ngai Provincial Headquarters and the 21st NVA Regiment, to assist in the GVN Pacification and Revolutionary Development Program by conducting combat operations in conjunction with RF/PF Forces, and to assist in the Rice Denial Program. Contact was generally light, but the level of activity increased considerably during the period 18 July to 31 July 1971. During that period, a series of operations were conducted in the western portions of Quang Ngai Province along the Nuc Ong Corridor, in conjunction with the 6th ARVN Regiment, to disrupt the flow of enemy supplies. The 1-52 Infantry was the major participating American ground unit and operated very effectively against the enemy.

After 31 July 1971, the level of action tapered off and remained light throughout August. The 1-52 Infantry was still performing its mission when ordered to stand down.

Throughout four years of service in Vietnam, the men of the 1st Battalion, 52d Infantry performed their mission with aggressiveness and dedication.