

UNCLASEFTO

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VV STN620

RTTEZYUW RUMUGKK0487 231153Z-EEEE--RUYVSII.

ZNY EEEEE

R 181530Z AUG 68

FM CTF ONE ONE SEVEN

TO RUYVSII/TF ONE ONE SEVEN

INFO ZEN/CO SECOND BRIGADE NINTH INF DIV

RUYVSII/USS OKANOGAN

RUYVSII/USS INDRA

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

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DAILY INTERNAL INFO SUMMARY 03-18

MOBILE RIVERINE GROUP ALPHA ELEMENTS RAN INTO SOME OF THE MOST HEATED CONTACT IN MONTHS SUNDAY IN DAY-LONG FIGHTING ALONG THE HAI MUOI TAM CANAL.

WITH ARMY ELEMENTS STILL RECEIVING SPORADIC FIRE AT 2100, EIGHT 2ND BRIGADE COMPANIES CLAIMED TO HAVE AN ESTIMATED MAIN FORCE BATTALION SURROUNDED ABOUT 17 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF CAI BE. AIR FORCE PLANES RAINED THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF ORDNANCE ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN SEVERLY POUNDED BY ARTILLERY AND DOZENS OF HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS.

AS OF 2100, NINE VIET CONG HAD BEEN CONFIRMED KILLED. U.S.

PAGE 2 RUMGUKK0487 UNCLAS E F T O

CASUALTIES WERE FOUR KILLED AND 82 WOUNDED, BUT THIS DID NOT INCLUDE MANY OF THE LESS SERIOUS INJURIES SUSTAINED IN TWO DEVASTATING AMBUSHES OF ASSAULT CRAFT OF RIVER DIVISION 112.

THE RIV DIV 112 BOATS WERE FIRST HIT AT 1225 AS THEY MOVED UP THE HAI MUOI TAM CANAL WITH 4/47 INFANTRY. IN THE WITHERING ROCKET, RECOILESS RIFLE AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE, THREE NAVYMEN WERE KILLED AND 15 WERE WOUNDED SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO REQUIRE MEDICAL EVACUATION. TWO OF THE KIA WERE CREWMEN OF ASPB-112-2, BUT THE THIRD HAD NOT BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED BY EARLY SUNDAY EVENING. MISSING IN ACTION WAS A BOAT CREWMAN OF ASPB 112-1 WHO DISAPPEARED DURING THE AMBUSH AND WHO HAD NOT BEEN LOCATED AS OF SUNDOWN. TWELVE ARMY PERSONNEL WERE ALSO MEDEVACED AND OTHERS WERE INJURED AS THE ATC'S MOVZD IN TO BEACH THE EMBARKED TROOPS. ALTHOUGH THE GROUND ELEMENTS WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE NO SIGNIFICANT CONTACT AS THEY MANEUVERED IN THE AREA, DUSTOFF HELICOPTERS AND GUNSHIPS DREW ALMOST CONTINUOUS AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE FROM THE ENEMY POSITIONS. ONE DUSTOFF HELO WAS SHOT DOWN BY GUNFIRE BUT THE CREW ALL ESCAPED INJURY.

WHEN THE SWEEP THROUGH THE AREA PROVED FRUITLESS, THE GROUND FORCES WERE BACKLOADED TO BE MOVED SEVERAL KILOMETERS UP THE RIVER

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UNCLASEFTO

PAGE 3 RUMUGKK2437 UNCLAS E F T O

WHERE AN ESTIMATED 15 TO 22 VC HAD BEEN SPOTTED EARLIER IN THE DAY. THE RIV DIV 112 BOATS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE SPORADIC FIRE AS THEY MOVED UP THE CANAL, AND AT ABOUT 1700 THEY WERE HIT AGAIN WITH A VICIOUS WAVE OF ROCKET, RECOILLESS RIFLE AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. THERE WERE NO FATALITIES IN THIS SECOND, EQUALLY POTENT ATTACK, BUT 14 NAVYMEN HAD TO BE EVACUATED FROM THE AO FOR TREATMENT AT THE COLLETON AND DONG TAM. ALSO DUSTED OFF AT THIS TIME WAS LT. JIM NELSON THE RIV DIV 112 COMMANDER, WHO WAS WOUNDED IN THE FIRST ATTACK AND WHO HAD REMAINED IN COMMAND OF HIS BOATS THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON.

MANY BOATS WERE DAMAGED BY THIS SECOND AMBUSH, AND DURING THE COURSE OF THE BATTLE BOTH CC3 112-1 AND ATC 112-1 HAD FIRES WHICH HAD TO BE EXTINGUISHED IN THE FACE OF THE HEAVY ENEMY FIRE. ALSO BADLY DAMAGED WAS ASP3 91-7 WHICH HAD REPLACED ONE OF THE DIVISION 112 ASPBS TOWED FROM THE AO AS A RESULT OF THE FIRST ATTACK.

THE 4/47 INFANTRY BEACHED NEAR THE SCENE OF THE ATTACK AND ATTEMPTED TO CLOSE IN ON THE VC FORCE, BUT THEY REPORTED ONLY MODERATE CONTACT AS THEY TRIED TO COMPLETE THE ENCIRCLEMENT.

BOATS OF RIVER DIVISION 91 WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN SUNDAY'S OPERATION BUT THEY SPENT MOST OF THE DAY AT A FIRE SUPPORT BASE AFTER DROPPING OFF 3/60 INFANTRY AT A PICK-UP ZONE TO BE AIRLIFTED

PAGE 4 RUMUGKK2437 UNCLAS E F T O  
INTO THE AO.

THE SIX SHIPS OF MRB ALFA RELOCATED FROM DONG TAM TO VINH LONG SUNDAY MORNING, CLOSING THE NEW ANCHORAGE ABOUT 1030.

ELEMENTS OF RIVERINE GROUP BRAVO WERE ALSO REPORTED TO BE IN CONTACT SOUTH OF SAIGON SUNDAY, BUT A LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO TASKS GROUPS PREVENTED ANY DETAILED REPORTS.

TASK GROUP ALFA WAS VISITED SUNDAY BY REAR ADMIRAL P.N. CHARBONNET, COMMANDER CARRIER DIVISION SIX.

FILMING SUNDAY'S ACTION IN THE AO WAS A THREE-MAN NBC CAMERA CREW WHICH WAS EMBARKED IN AN ARMY C & C SHIP DURING MOST OF THE FIGHTING.

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TOD:19/0741Z AUG 68/AAE

TOD:19/0820Z AUG 68/TMC

DU:JDP/CWO:Rt...

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CO XO OPS COMM CBO.... A-PERS.....

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