

CGO:376

UNCLAS EFTO

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INFO ZEN/CO SECOND BDE NINH INF DIV

RUYVSII/USS INGRA

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

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DAILY INTERNAL INFO SUMMARY 12-22

EIGHT U. S. PERSONNEL WERE WOUNDED BY HOSTILE FIRE WEDNESDAY DURING A SERIES OF AMBUSHES ON THE BEN TRE RIVER EAST AND SOUTHEAST OF BEN TRE.

BOTH RIVER DIVISIONS 92 AND 111 WERE THE TARGET OF RECOILLESS RIFLE, ROCKET AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WHILE MOVING THROUGH THE AREA APPROPRIATELY KNOWN AS "AMBUSH ALLEY".

THE FIRST ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED JUST BEFORE 0922 AS THE 111 BOATS WERE PICKING UP A COMPANY OF 4/47 INFANTRY AT BEACHES 12 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF BEN TRE. THE BOATS RETURNED AND SUPPRESSED THE ENEMY FIRE, WITH THE ONLY CASUALTY BEING A TIGER SCOUT WHO WAS WOUNDED.

700/2253

TNC AT 12111

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UNCLAS EFTO

PAGE 2 RUHUGKK 6779 UNCLAS E F T C

THE BOATS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE SPORADIC SMALL ARMS, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND ROCKET FIRE FRO. BOTH BANKS AS THEY MOVED DOWN RIVER TO THEIR OBJECTIVE BEACHES, BUT THE ONLY CASUALTY WAS A 22MM GUNNER WHO RECEIVED MINOR WOUNDS WHEN A SHELL EXPLODED IN HIS BOAT.

AFTER SWEEPING ALONG THE BANKS FOR SIX HOURS WITHOUT CONTACT, THE TROOPS WERE BACKLOADED ABOUT 1530 AND THE BOATS BEGAN THEIR RETURN TRANSIT UP RIVER. AT 1545, THE ASSAULT CRAFT RAN INTO THE MOST SEVERE AAMBUSH OF THE DAY AS FIVE BOATS TOOK ROCKET HITS AND A TOTAL OF FOUR NAVY MEN AND TWO INFANTRY MEN SUSTAINED INJURIES.

THE ENTIRE COLUMN OF 15 BOATS RAN THE AMBUSH, AND A DUSTOFF HELO WAS BROUGHT IN TO EVACUATE THE WOUNDED AS SOON AS THE BOATS WERE CLEAR OF THE AREA.

LESS THAN 10 MINUTES AFTER 111 WAS HIT, BOATS OF RIV DIV 92 MOVING EAST ON THE RACH BEN TRE TO PICK UP A COMPANY OF 3/47 INFANTRY WERE ATTACKED WITH ROCKETS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FROM THE SOUTH BANK TWO KILOMETERS EAST OF BEN TRE. THE BOATS OPENED UP WITH ALL WEAPONS AND WERE ABLE TO SUPPRESS THE ENEMY FIRE. ONE NAVY MAN WAS WOUNDED IN THE FIREFIGHT.

WHEN THE 111 BOATS MOVED THROUGH THE SAME AREA AT 1725, THEY WERE ALSO HIT WITH ROCKET AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE, BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES IN THIS RELATIVELY LIGHT ATTACK.

PAGE 3 RUEKU3KK2779 UNCLAS E F T D

IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE HEATED NAVAL ACTION, THE GROUND ELEMENTS HAD A QUIET DAY. IN THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT CONTACT, FOUR VC WERE KILLED BY 3/47 INFANTRY ABOUT 1420 15 KILOMETERS EAST-SOUTHEAST OF BEN TRE.

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