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INFO ZEN/CC SECOND 323 NINTH INF DIV

RUYVSII/USS INDRA

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DAILY INTERNAL INFO SUMMARY 12-12

TASK GROUP ALFA ELEMENTS HAD NO CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY SATURDAY WHILE LAUNCHING AN UNPRECEDENTED PENETRATION INTO THE HEART OF THE BINH DAI SECRET ZONE.

LOCATED ON THE SOUTH VIETNAM COAST BETWEEN THE SONG KY THO AND THE SONG BA LAI, 45 MILES SOUTH OF SAIGON, THE BINH DAI DISTRICT HAS LONG BEEN AN UNCHALLENGED HAVEN FOR THE VIET CONG.

THAT ENDED SATURDAY MORNING WHEN BOATS OF RIVER DIVISION 92 LANDED THREE COMPANIES OF 4/47 INFANTRY IN THE ENEMY BASE CAMP AREA. THE TROOPS WERE SUPPORTED IN THEIR SWEEP BY AIR FORCE PLANES, ARMY AIR CUSHIONED VEHICLES (ACVS), AND THE NAVY DESTROYER DUPONT (DD-941), WHICH POUNDED SUSPECTED ENEMY POSITIONS WITH HER

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FIVE-INCH GUNS.

THE FIRST DESTROYER TO EVER PROVIDE FIRE SUPPORT FOR A RIVERINE ASSAULT OPERATION, THE DUPONT ACHIEVED ONE SECONDARY EXPLOSION WHILE DESTROYING SIX BUNKERS AND FIVE STRUCTURES. GROUND ELEMENTS DESTROYED 89 BUNKERS AND 50 PUNJI PITS AND FOUND TWO ENEMY MINES.

AIR FORCE PLANES RECORDED TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS WHILE DESTROYING TWO BUNKERS AND ONE HUT.

THE ONLY TASK GROUP ALFA CASUALTIES SATURDAY WERE TWO MEN OF 3/47 INFANTRY WHO WERE INJURED BY COMMUNIST CHINESE BOOBY TRAPS IN SMALL UNIT OPERATIONS SOUTHEAST OF BEN TRE.

IN ORDER TO BETTER SUPPORT THE OPERATION, BENWEAH DETACHED FROM THE OTHER FIVE SHIPS OF MRB ALFA AND MOVED 17 KILOMETERS EAST TO AN ANCHORAGE ON THE CUA TIEU ABOUT 15 MILES NORTH OF THE OPERATING AREA.

VISITING THE MRF SATURDAY AND SUNDAY IS VICE ADMIRAL ELMO R. ZUGWALT, COMMANDER NAVAL FORCES VIETNAM.

BT

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TOD: 13/0110Z NBTB NOMQ NUIY NCB1 NUIR MDNU/ UU/GJS/ SPVR.....

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