

W FILE / HLST
 / SUBJ.
 DATE / SUB-CAT.
 09-70

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1. COUNTRY: **SOUTH VIETNAM** 6. REPORT NUMBER: 6 028 0261 71

2. SUBJECT: **Combat Activities and Losses of the 2nd Battalion, 27th NVA Regiment, B5 Front. (U)** 9. DATE OF REPORT: 30 April 1971

3. ISC NUMBER: A723.210 G APTERA 10. NO. OF PAGES: 1
 A723.510
 A736.150
 A748.200

4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 1969-1970 11. REFERENCES: DIRM 1A1, 1G3q, 1J, 1J15, 6G

5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: VS; 24 September 1970 12. ORIGINATOR: COMUSMACV (CDEC)
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7. SOURCE: **CAPTURED ENEMY DOCUMENT**

13. SUMMARY: Leave Blank

(U) This report contains information obtained from enemy documents and concerns an extract translation from two notebooks kept by Thai Viet, radio operator of the 2nd Battalion, ((possibly 27th NVA Regiment, B5 Front)). The extract, dated 1969-1970, reveals the activities and losses of an unidentified regiment ((possibly 27th NVA Regiment, B5 Front)). It recounts by date, five combat missions undertaken by the regiment over the stated time period, along with a statement of losses and the personal view of the writer, regarding the war.

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13 Nov 69

At 1100 hours, I was ordered to go to C2 ((possibly 2nd Company)) to replace Brothers Trinh and Miêu. I crossed many high points and became exhausted from walking. It seemed that enemy aircraft and ground forces were keeping me under constant surveillance. I reached my destination at 0600 hours.

On the night of 11 ((Mar)), C2 conducted a raid but the raid failed because of flare mines.

On the morning of 12 ((Mar)), a large enemy force divided into four elements and

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attacked our bivouac area. They yelled to frighten us, but we drove them back. They used mortars and grenade launchers to support the L19, L20 ((observation planes)), armed helicopters, and bombers to fire directly at our trenches. It seemed to me as if the sky was falling. Thinking that we had retreated, they ordered infantry troops to rush forward and set up heavy machine guns on the roof of our trench. But they had to move back because of heavy fire from our B-40 antitank rocket launchers. Time after time, they also failed to capture prisoners. At 1200 hours they stopped firing and concentrated on other high points around us. The fighting on the hill lasted until darkness fell.

About 0700 hours, we began to leave the bivouac area secretly.

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We moved to our bivouac tunnels but were stopped by enemy air raids. Suddenly an artillery shell dropped five meters in front of us. I quickly lay face down. The explosion made me dizzy and almost deafened me. However, I was not injured.

At 0200 hours on the morning of 13 Nov, one enemy reconnaissance squad appeared along our route. At 1200 hours, it searched our bivouac area. Again we underwent a day of fierce fighting. This time our forces were scattered along two sides of the spring and we had to fight large enemy forces. We thought that we would all be captured by the enemy. He attacked the billet for wounded soldiers many times, but was unsuccessful. They made another assault,

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but sustained heavy casualties. Two helicopters that landed to evacuate casualties were set ablaze by two rounds from our B-40. Not until nightfall came did the enemy stop firing. We ran out of ammunition and food supplies. At 2300 hours, we secretly left our position.

On 14 Nov 69, we arrived at the old signal position and stayed there for one day. From then on, we had to do without food.

During the night, we continued to move away from the enemy. Being cold and hungry, we all trembled and almost fell down.

On 15 Nov, we lay under a big bamboo tree which reminded me of my native village.

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We stopped at this area in order to continue the movement at night, but at 1000 hours the enemy attacked a hill which was 800 meters from our position.

The enemy was headed in our direction and Thien I urged Phai⁴ (Company Commander) to order the men to withdraw from this position. We had to move silently. An hour later we reached an area which had been bombed by the enemy earlier in the morning.

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We started toward Ba Gia Field at 1200 hour, but we did not arrive until 1700hour. Ba Gia Field is very large and is surrounded with hills, forests and streams. We continued moving throughout the night and arrived at the bivouac site of High Point 161 at about 1000 hours. Because of B-52 bombardments, this area which had once been a dense forest was now completely levelled. We are lucky that the B-52's did not hit our bivouac site. We took shelter in trenches at High Point 161 on 16 Nov ((69)).

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17 Nov ((69))

We are still located at High Point 161.

18 Nov ((69))

No incidents have occurred.

We are still stationed at High Point 161. The enemy has only bombed this location twice.

22 Nov ((69))

I have arrived at O ((sic)), with C1. We started to move at 2400 hours on 19 Nov and arrived ((possibly at O)) on 20 Nov. Afterward, we dug trenches. Today is 22 Nov and in the trench, I write my impressions in my diary.

Tonight, we were ordered to move deep into O. On the way, we met a group of people who had returned from TDY. They carried stretchers with dead bodies of our friends who were KIA on 12 and 13 Nov at High Point 162. Seeing those bodies caused me sorrow. In only 10 days, our casualties have increased to 30.

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We are anxiously waiting, hour after hour, to be taken to the rear area ((possibly NVN)) to avoid being the last men to die in this battle. The war is disgusting. It has driven youths to their deaths and has created many problems for this country.

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29 Nov 69

Yesterday, 28 ((Nov 69)), we were stationed at O where no trenches were available for protection from enemy attacks. On the morning of 29 Nov,

we were ordered to move to 77 ((the bivouac area on High Point 161)). We reached High Point 161 by 1000 hours. We were ready to return to NVN after being replaced by other personnel. Suddenly, at 1600 hours, while staying in tunnels, we were given the terrifying information that enemy B-52's would be bombing within a two kilometer perimeter in the northern part of High Point 161. We were paralyzed and confused by the news. We knew that we might not be alive in a few hours.

Shortly after that, a withdrawal order to NVN was given. We all hurried to prepare for the trip. We departed at 1700 hours. We quickly traveled across many high points. However, because we were tired, we reached the B^h H^ai Rⁱver at 1900 hours.

Here we were completely safe.

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1 Dec 69

Today is the second day that we have lived on the socialist land. We understand the difference between the two sides of the B^h H^ai Rⁱver. One side is a hell and the other side is liberty and paradise.

Do the people living in the beloved socialist NVN know that more than 60 of our youths and teenagers who left the North to go on duty never returned with us, because they were KIA in deep forests of the Western Nam B^o?

We feel sorrow and regret for our unfortunate comrades who sacrificed their lives for us. Their relatives will suffer a great deal when they learn that these men were KIA.

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2 Dec 69

Exactly as predicted, at 1805 hours yesterday, enemy B-52's returned and bombed our ((recently abandoned)) bivouac site. This was the third time within 15 days that our bivouac site had been bombed by B-52 raids. How unstable the military life was for us!

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22 Jan 70

Sitting in a blockhouse on Route 1, after digging for "ginseng" ((sic)), I quickly wrote down some impressions.

Sitting there alone, I felt at ease. Around me all was quiet except the murmur of waves from afar.

I wondered why I was here while my friends were now sitting in the classroom listening to interesting scientific lessons.

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I was planning to eventually enter the faculty of medicine or pharmacy and in the near future, after receiving the certificate of medical doctor, I would

serve at a city hospital. Thereby, I would support my family so that my younger brothers could follow my example. But unfortunately ((because of the war)), I had to join the army. At first my unit was sent to Đò Lương. When we were near the location, we were ordered to move to this area.

After the recent operational phase, the 2nd Battalion sustained more than 100 KIA. Nothing causes me greater anguish than seeing my friends dead.

Our Party cleverly uses letters of commendation and citations to lure us to the battlefield to receive nothing but certificates of dead heroes.

Some of the WIA died due to the lack of medical treatment.

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Today, C3 conducted raids, and seeing my friends quivering, I pitied them very much.

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26 Jan 70

This evening, on the way to buy "dog's meat" in Túng Lai (Ngũ Thủy), I met Huân (a native of Diên Yên Village) and one of the comrades in my unit who had departed in advance and participated in attacks in Central Vietnam. He told me that during the 1968 General Offensive, our unit was continuously being replenished, because only one-third of its personnel returned from ((Central Vietnam)). As a result, the AWOL rate has increased and the desertion rate has risen to one-third.

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25 Feb ((70))

The day before yesterday, ^ATue came to ((my unit)), but I was not there because I was busy writing a "resolution for fighting" for the Group Chapter. I was rather sad about not seeing him. On the same day, I told Brother Múi that I had lost his pen, but he did not believe me and thought that I had given it to my girl friend.

Recently, D1 ((possibly 1st Battalion of the 27th NVA Regiment, B5 Front)) suffered heavy losses when their bivouac area was raided by enemy troops. Command: cadre with such a poor spirit of fighting will soon drive us to complete destruction. I still remember that during a battle in Khe Sanh in 1967, one

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Senior Captain, commanding officer of a battalion of the 246th ((NVA)) Regiment, committed suicide on the battlefield because he had sacrificed many of his men.

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4 Aug 70

I arrived at my unit yesterday evening. My unit has received many new replacements, especially the squad in charge of attacking lines of communication which has been increased by 14 men.

This evening, I went along with other comrades to the Quyet Thang agricultural site to carry wood to the unit to build its barracks. I arrived back at my unit at 1700 hours, just at meal time. My shoulder hurt from carrying the heavy load. I wanted to write some in the diary, but I was very busy today.

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5 Sep 70

The ((author's)) unit departed for SVN at 0600 hours. After passing by Depot Q2, the unit arrived at Khe Tua ((Pass)) and took a temporary rest in an area south of Khe Tua (Nga Ba ((three-way intersection))).

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6 Sep 70

After leaving Depot Q2 (northwest of coordinates 624 ((sic)) adjacent to Nga Ba ((three-way intersection)) of Khe Tua), the unit continued to move through many high points and one small pass until it crossed the Cam Lồ River at 1000 hours. At that time, four enemy helicopters landed about one kilometer away from our location for reconnaissance ((sic)) (as had been anticipated by Đôn Sáu, a field grade political officer of the ((27th NVA Regiment))). The regiment, commanded by Major ((Đôn Sáu)) and one captain, battalion political officer, headed towards Khe Chinh Linh Pass. At about 1630 hours, the unit arrived at the three-way intersection and rested there before starting its movement along the north side of Khe Chinh Linh.

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The regiment and battalion headquarters were bivouaced in the north of Ba Lão Hill (south of Khe Sóc Hill). C4 ((possibly 4th Company of the 27th NVA Regiment)) was bivouaced south of Ba Lão Hill and C3 in an area southwest of Ba Lão Hill.

----- END OF TRANSLATION -----