

ATTACK ON FIRE BASE SUNG BE

From Larry Robinson

It was on November 3rd 1969, SSgt **Barnes** the Operations NCO, briefed Team 43, and gave the orders that we were to be inserted in Song Be province near Nui Ba Ra mountain, SSgt **Barnes** told Sgt **Harvey** and myself and one other guy that he didn't expect much in activity, and that we would have a couple of Newbies on our team, (I don't remember the names any more, and I hope those brave men that were there, will forgive me.)

On Nov 3rd, late afternoon Team 43 was inserted and proceeded into the trees line, and looked for signs. Not seeing anything, we then proceeded to move away from the LZ two to three hundred yards or so, when we came across a well-used trail. The trail was wide enough for two men to walk side by side and the trail was hidden by a canopy of overhanging trees,

It sure was eerie to me. We called in our position and the trail we had discovered and proceeded to find a place to set up our perimeter about 15-20 yards off the trail. Everyone knew their jobs and did it well and proceeded to monitor the trail.

I remember Harvey and myself (Larry) had the trail in sight and the others was in a circle. We had the feeling something was going to happen, but all was quiet for the moment and that was good.

It was getting dusk, when all of a sudden Charlie started to move. At first it was Viet Cong head toward Fire Base Sung Be, probably about eight or so. We radioed in the sighting and were instructed by Tay Ninh to observe and try no contact if possible. After about 10 minutes or so, North Vietnamese regulars, well dressed and well-armed, started to move through, it seemed like a whole battalion. I really don't know how many but there was a lot of them, they were moving quite fast down the trail, I didn't know what their mission was at that time, but I knew they had some place special on their mind,

We called Tay Ninh and told them what was happening, then we monitored the trail. I had a feeling that we were too close to the trail and I really don't know how that many NVA could go by and not spot us, even though it was heavy foliage. We dared not move back any, we didn't know if more was coming, so we stayed low and just watched.

Tay Ninh notified Song Be to be on high alert because they were heading to Sung Be (Song Bay). About 30 minutes after the NVA went by, the radio came alive. Sung Be was being hit hard. We could hear the battle from afar, the sounds of rockets, the rifles firing, the explosions, all without the radio. Blue Max and other choppers were already on their way, and were hitting Charlie hard because of the intelligence that we observed and reported. The battle seemed to go on and on and on through the night, but, as quick as it started, it finally stopped and then calm came, It was a very long long night.

We were ordered to stay put by Tay Ninh and observe through the night, and that is exactly what we did. In the early morning of November 4 1969, came a radio call from Intelligence NCO at Song Be to try and get a NVA POW if possible, "What"! said the two newbies, "are they out of their minds". Not long after, the gooks started to come back, a few at a time, you could tell they were tired and looked whipped,

All of a sudden Harvey and I see an NVA looking straight at us with his AK 47 up, and others, coming by. Harvey blew the claymore, I couldn't hear anything for a while, I remember seeing the guys yelling and couldn't hear them, all heck broke loose. The battle was now ours and although there was not as many gooks, there was only five of us, and it was a fire fight that I will remember forever. I called for help and Blue Max was still close. We popped smoke and they showed up to help us but still the fire fight seem to go on and on and on.

The Blue's were on their way, but had to be dropped a ways off and hike in, and it seemed like more and more gooks were getting involved in the fight, I recall One of the new guys was hit, I believe in the arm or shoulder, so I crawled over a log to help him, That is when I was hit and it threw me back a ways, I was hit below the left eye and came out in my right neck, I remember to this day seeing the gook that shot me. Harvey came to my aid, And applied bandages to stop the bleeding while still keeping up the fight, with the other three. I tried to do what I could, but that wasn't much.

It seemed to take forever to get choppers in because the fighting was so hot. The Blue Team finally came to our rescue and I remember how happy Harvey and the other were.

But it was still too hot for medevac chopper to land. Finally after a while medevac came in under fire and picked myself and the other wounded up, and took us to the hospital at Cho Chi. It was over for me, but I still remember it well

I really wish I could remember all their names, but Thanks to all who were on the team and the Blues who help the team and if you were there I wish you would let me know your names.

Thank you
Larry Robinson
Company H 75th Inf Ranger
Gaylord Michigan