

SUBJECT: AO "Hobo Woods"

The 37th IPSD has began working in the area north of Cu Chi refered to as the "Hobo Woods." The 1st /508, 82d ABN DIV with 37th IPSD as a supporting unit moved into the area around the 2d May 1969 after the 25th Division had no success in the AO. The "Lightning Division" was stymied and attacked in broad daylight while in their basecamps.

This area has long been a commurists stronghold and VC and NVA are extremely prevelant within the area. The villigers are pro-communists and harass the GI's in many cases. The area is a staging ground for operations in southern RVN.

Scout dog teams were brought into the area with the first infantry company to arrive. Each woodline in the area that has been searched contained numerous booby-traps. To date, we have detected about 20 in this area. Most of these traps have been M26 US fragmentory grenades with trip wire attached lying about 2 or 3 inches off the ground. We have found four 105 shells up in trees with trip wires attached to them.

We have noticed that most of these booby-traps are crudely set. It is our belief that the VC and NVA are using children to rig many of the booby traps. The fact that some of them are very easy to detect even at a distance. There was also one crude punji pit(the only one in 4 months) detected. Most of the materials were all US made, very little CHI-COM ordinance.

We have also detected several groups of VC hiding. These were engaged by gunships and killed. The battalion is killing on an average of 20 enemy per day, and a company never moves without a dog team up on point(usually with a "Kit Carson" scout, and a couple of covermen—all used as a scout team).

~~DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY~~
37th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)
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SUBJECT: AO "Kneebend"

The 37th IPSD has been used in AO "Kneebend" since the middle of March, 1969. This territory is not a definite AO for either of our battalions. Various companies are Combat Assaulted into the area on two day sweeps. This area is a definite transit point for infiltrators and is heavily booby-trapped and mined. Also, there are well constructed bunkers among the heavy underbrush.

On 1 April, 1969, D. Co, 2/505, 32d ABN DIV combat assaulted into the AO and immediately ran into contact. Within twenty-four hours, the combined forces of Co. D, Rangers, Naval Canal Support, and Helicopter Gunship Support had accounted for 15 enemy bodies plus several POW's and CHIEU HOUGHIS. Small arms ammunition, AK*47's, AK*51's, documents, and maps were captured from the dead enemy. The bodies were determined to be about half and half VC's and NVA's. One NVA officer was known killed with his body found and documents confiscated. The sweep found many tunnels, bunkers, and booby-traps. These were all blown by a platoon of combat engineers that was assigned to Co. D.

After the operation, General Dickerson made IMPACT awards to various of the members of the operation. One handler of the 37th IPSD was awarded the ARCOM with "V" DEVICE. This handler utilized his scout dog at night to find enemy snipers and infiltrators that had wandered into the company's night defensive perimeter and had escaped the ambushes.