

Dec 1967-1969

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UNIT HISTORY

58th INFANTRY PLATOON (SCOUT DOG)
3rd BDE, 101st AIRBORNE DIV. (ABDL)
APO San Francisco 96383

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
50th Infantry Platoon (Spartan Dog)
APO San Francisco 96383

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
58th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)
APO San Francisco 96383

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SUBJECT: UNIT HISTORY

In December 1967, the 58th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) was activated and trained by Headquarters Detachment (Scout Dog) at Fort Benning, Georgia. The unit was activated and trained specifically for deployment to the Republic of Viet Nam.

On 16 February 1968, the 58th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) was deployed to Viet Nam under the command of 1st Lt. Andrew E. Bond. The unit arrived in Viet Nam on 18 February 1968, and was attached to the 3rd Brigade 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) working in the vicinity of Phouc Vinh in III Corp. The 58th IPSD spent the first several weeks getting settled in their new area and undergoing extensive training for their future operations. The scout dog team's first major operations were those occurring during TET Offensive in February 1968 around Phouc Vinh.

In September 1968, the 58th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) redeployed with the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and moved northward to I Corp. The platoon set up their new area and started operations at Camp Eagle, 5 miles west of Hue. In November 1968, the platoon again redeployed, moving northward to Camp Evans to replace the 34th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) which moved south with the 1st Air Cavalary Division to II Corp.

Once the 58th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) became settled in their new area at Camp Evans, they again began training for the new type of operations required in their area of operations.

The first large scale operation the unit became involved in was "Novada".

Eagle which began the 3rd of October 1968 and lasted until 28 February 1969. Also the scout dog teams were used extensively again in the Counter Offensive for TET in 1969.

On 15 February 1969, 2LT Eugene R. Anderson assumed command of the 58th IPSD from Capt Andrew E. Bond. Also at that time, SFC Kenneth W. David assumed responsibilities as platoon sergeant.

Contact during the month of February was negligible due to the defensive posture of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). The 58th IPSD scout dog teams pulled 88 scout dog team support days and received credit for warning of one NVA sniper, 9 unoccupied bunkers and 12 booby traps. Two AK-47's were captured as a result of the scout dog alerts. At the end of February, operation "Nevada Eagle" ended, and the teams began operation "Kentucky Jumper".

During the month of March, the 3rd Brigade remained in their defensive posture. The scout dog platoon had 98 scout dog team support days and received credit for alerts on 2 booby traps, 1 cache, and two warnings of enemy approach toward friendly ambushes. As a direct result of these alerts on enemy personnel, there were one NVA KIA and one NVA PL. Medical supplies and rations were also found.

During the month of April, the 58th IPSD sent their first scout dog teams into the A Shan Valley during the operation "Kentucky Jumper". While working with the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, two scout dog teams (SP4 Ronald Malone and Princess and SP4 David Feagy and Jia Dandy) near FSB Elane discovered an unoccupied HV 1 Battalion size base camp with alerts at a distance of 150 meters. As a result of these alerts, 50 caliber rounds, RPO rounds, and medical supplies were found.

On 15 April 1969, the 58th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) was given the

mission to support the 1st Brigade of the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division with 5 scout dog teams daily. Thus, the 58th IPSD was now supporting two brigades. During April we had 139 scout dog team support days. In addition to the battalion size base camp, our scout dog teams were given credit for warnings of one other base camp, two unoccupied bunkers, and three caches.

During the month of May, the 58th IPSD had 243 scout dog team support days working for the two brigades. The majority of the scout dog support was with the 1/5 Mechanized Infantry Division.

In June, 1969 the 58th IPSD became deeply involved in operation "Honey Rendezvous". We were given credit for warnings of three enemy caches, one enemy group movement, one body trap, four unoccupied base camps, and four unoccupied bunkers. As a result of the scout dog alerts the following equipment was found: One M16-25 battery, two M16 assault rifles, 4 M16 magazines, one SIG, 156 RPG rounds, 4,000 M16 rounds, 5 magazines, 2 grenades, one 90mm recoilless rifle, and twenty-one 82mm mortar rounds.

During the month of June, the 58th IPSD had 400 scout dog team support days. Which to that date, was the most scout dog team support days ever pulled by a scout dog platoon in one month in Viet Nam. These days were the total scout dog team support days supporting the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division.

During the month of July the 58th IPSD had 188 scout dog team support days with 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. During this time, they were working on the second take-over of Dong Ap Hill. Our teams were patrolling during the daylight hours and working on listening post at night. As a result of our work on listening posts, our scout dog teams were given credit for 9 NVA killed. SFC Steven Tompkins was given credit for personally kill-

ing 3 NVA, including one officer, which his dog, Eric, had alerted on as the enemy had approached the LP.

The 58th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) suffered their first casualty of the Viet Nam war when SP4 Raymond D. Hales and his dog Rebel were killed during an enemy ambush on 19 July 1969, in the A Sava Valley. SP4 Ronald Haines was wounded in the same action and medivaced back to the United States. As a result of the scout dog alerts during July while working for the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, 8 M16's, 3 M14's w/folding stocks, 6 attached charges, 7 pistol belts, 2 claymores, 1 set of binoculars, 27 60mm mortar rounds, 51 grenades, 4 canteens, one 9mm pistol, and miscellaneous medical supplies were captured. Also as a direct result of Scout Dog alerts, 24 NVA soldiers were killed. Scout dog teams also gave alerts on 3 unoccupied bunkers, one unoccupied tunnel, and early warning of one enemy ambush. During the same month we worked 159 support days for the 1/5 Mech. For the 1/5 Mech, our teams alerted on 12 enemy ambushes, 1 cache, and 20 unoccupied base camps. As a result of these alerts, 3 NVA were killed, 3 M16's, 6 bags of rice, 3 RPO rounds, 1 SRS, and 1 French sub-machine gun were captured.

August was the last month that we supported the 1/5 Mechanized Infantry Division. During August, we had 120 scout dog team support days with the 1/5 Mech. On August 20th, 1969, the 43rd Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) moved to Quang Tri from IV Corps and was attached to the 1/5 Mechanized Infantry Division and relieved the 58th IPD of their responsibilities to the 1/5 Mechanized Division.

During August 1969, the 58th IPD supported the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in the last of operation "Kentucky Jumper" and then began support of the new operation, "Richland Square". We had 200 support days with

the 3rd Brigade. The 58th IP30 suffered one WIA, SP4 Larry Cassidy received wounds as a result of RPG fragments while in an M16 with the 3/5 Armored Cav. He was medevaced to the states.

Our scout dog teams were given credit for alerts on 25 bunkers and four different groups of enemy personnel. As a direct result of these scout dog alerts; 9 NVA killed, weapons, ammunition, medical supplies, heavy equipment, and a few vehicles were captured.

During the month of September, the 58th IP30 had only 65 scout dog support days in support of the 3rd Brigade. The 3rd Brigade at this time was operating mainly in 6 man recon teams. During September, the 3rd Brigade mainly concentrated on pulling out of the A Shau Valley. We were given credit for one alert on a cache which netted twenty-nine 82mm mortar rounds, 25 submachine guns, and 1000 rounds of M16/M17 ammunition. On September 23, we finished operation "Richland Square" and began participating in operation "Horton Falls". During operation "Horton Falls", we redeployed to the DMZ. The 58th IP30 suffered one WIA while involved in operation "Horton Falls", SP4 Steven Tompkins was wounded by fragments of a Chicom Granada. He recovered from his wounds and returned to the 58th IP30. While working on the DMZ, scout dog alerts accounted for 2 NVA killed, one POW, and a large cache of weapons, ammunition, food, and miscellaneous equipment.

During the month of November, the 58th IP30 participated in operation "Republic Square". The platoon had a total of 127 scout dog support days. There was very little enemy contact. The efforts of the 3rd Brigade were mainly concentrated in the lowlands. Our scout dog teams were used mainly on short patrols and as early warning of enemy approach towards friendly ambush sites.