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1ST BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY OPERATIONS

10 May 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report for the period 22 through 30 April 1967

1. 22 Apr 67 - Unit loc: Bn CP, A 2/9, 4.2 Mort plat, A Co, LZ OD (BS780367); B Co at LZ MONTEZUMA; C Co and Recon at BS796430. At 0755 hrs Recon began moving and 1st plat, A Company moved out on a patrol. C Company reported 9 VCS ready to be picked up at 0756 hrs. The VCS had been detained the day before. After the VCS were picked up C Company moved out on their sweep and at 0915 hrs they began to receive sniper fire. Gunships were requested. Medevac was called for 2 WIA in 2nd plat, C Company at BS774428. At 0938 hrs the units around the plat in contact were: 3d plat, B Company at BS789425, and Recon plat at BS810417. The fight increased in intensity and at 1018 hrs C Company 2nd plat, had suffered 4 WIA. Recon plat began receiving AW fire at 1055 hrs vicinity BS 811412 and quickly requested ARA. While Recon was receiving fire, A Company 2/35 just west of LZ SHOU (BS822403) was getting AW fire. At 1045 hrs Recon began receiving AW and small arms fire from their left flank. The 1st plat C Company made contact at 1105 hrs vicinity BS775425. The C&C made an extraction at BS778424 of 1 KIA and 1 WIA at 1115 hrs for C Company. Ground to air fire was received by the gunship flying over BS 775460 at 1125 hrs.

The Blue Team, B 1/9 was located at BS829447 when 2/35 notified the Recon plat that 8 VC were hiding in the bunker at BS815403, and they would mark the location with WP. The Blue Team, B 1/9 Cav, moved in on a suspected VC CP location at BS828446. Artillery and ARA was called in on a group of 70 males with weapons. 20 were KIA and 10 WIA. The Blue Team suffered 3 KIA and 1 WIA. The Recon plat was located at BS818408 when the Bn CO notified 2/35 that the Recon plat would be moving to BS815402. 2/35 was notified at 1212 hours. C Company was still receiving small arms fire at 1323 hours when the gunships reported people fleeing the village to the west. More gunships were requested at 1328 hrs and they arrived at 1340 hrs. 1st plat A Company prepared an LZ for the LRRP and the LRRP was inserted at 1352 hrs vicinity BS791843. Two air strikes were conducted, one at BS760342 and the second at BS736378.

The LRRP found a grenade at BS791342 and then at 1445 hrs they found an anti-personnel mine at the same location. The Bn CO directed Recon to assemble in a PZ immediately for pick up, and told them they would be inserted at BS768426; at the time Recon was holding 3 VCS at BS817404. The LRRP had moved to BS793340 by 1536 hrs. C Company, still in contact, requested an immediate air strike on the village at BS774428. A second air strike was brought in on the village at 1630 hrs by C Company's FO. The strike was made by 5 jet air craft. A Company's 1st plat closed LZ OD at 1700 hrs. The VC fighting C Company in the village found the going getting rough, and after the second air strike 12 VC decided to make an escape. They began to run out of the village just as a "SHARK" gunship,

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174th Aviation Company, flew by. The alert "SHARK" saw them and quickly made a 180° turn to enable his gunship to come in behind the 12 VC. Running with their backs to the closing gunship, they were easy prey for the "SHARK" miniguns. The gunships pass was so low over the rice paddy, the spraying water and mud from the bullet strikes covered the windshield and the gunship had to return to LZ MONTEZUMA to wash the windshield. C Company contact continued and the entrenched VC held their fortified position with great tenacity. At 1716 hrs C Company passed on the report that they had 5 VC KIA vicinity BS 775425, and 3 AK-47, 1 paratrooper AK-50, 1 RP-4 type rocket launcher with 1 rocket. The C&C went in with the Bn S-3 to pick up a Recon WIA at 1823 hours. At 1828 hours the VC in the My Thuan village began firing M-79 rounds at C Company, and Recon suffered one KIA at 1835 hrs.

The Bn CO requested the Air Force C-47 (Spooky) with its miniguns to be sent to the C Company location at 1910 hrs. The situation at 1947 hrs was: C Company in heavy contact in the village with the VC bottled up in one corner. Recon was providing a blocking force on the west, running from BS767427 to the northeast. B Company was providing a block to the south along the trade: BS773419 to BS772424 to BS775424. C Company was on the line from BS773428 to BS776424.

Darkness was approaching and the Bn CO decided to: (1) leave the battlefield situation in the above posture for the night, (2) bombard the village with the Air Force C-47's 21,000 rounds, use artillery (H&I and illumination) throughout the night, and, (3) have C Company sweep the village after a 0630 hrs air strike the following morning.

At 2000 hrs the total enemy KIA by body count was 18, and C Company lost another man, KIA at 2043 hrs, making the total casualties for the day 3 KIA and 9 WIA.

The anxious eyes of C Company, B Company and Recon watched the village throughout the night for signs of a breakout of an attempt to drag off the bodies of the dead VC. Illumination was provided throughout the night by A 2/9 Artillery.

2. 23 Apr 67 - The requested air strike was made at 0630 hrs. C Company plato began to move into the village as soon as the dust and smoke cleared. The Bn CO and S-3 flew to the village and began to orbit at 0700 hrs. C Company found no resistance and easily swept through the village, getting to the opposite side at 0755 hrs. A sweep back through the village began at 0758 hrs to get a body count. Seven VCS were picked up on the initial sweep. B Company picked up one VCS at 0800 hrs. Medevac was called by the Bn CO for the 3 wounded Vietnamese from the village at BS775426. The Medevac also extracted 4 US WIA and 1 KIA. The second

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sweep yielded 2 VC KIA and 36 VCS. Weapons found were: 2 SKS, 2 SMG, 1 Rocket Launcher, grenades (US and Chicom), 2 M-79, 3 M-16, a knife and assorted canteens, belts and packs. Ammo recovered: 343 rounds 7.62mm, 190 rounds 8mm, 24 rounds M-1, 1 X 60mm round in container, also 20 sets of black pajamas were captured. Total enemy KIA at Theip Son (2) was 33.

At 1125 hrs, the B Company CO and 1st Sgt were wounded by a grenade. The VC had jumped out of a large bunker in the village at BS 766416 and tossed the grenade.

B Company requested an EOD team to assist in the destruction of some large bunkers at BS765416. The 3d and 4th plat of B Company moved out at 1315 hrs. Recon was given the mission of checking out the village (BS766423) at 1352 hrs by the Bn S-3. Two air strikes were planned - one at BS725326 (TOT 1515 hrs) and one at BS740352 (TOT 1700 hrs). B Company destroyed 22 bunkers with overhead cover (3 to 5 feet thick) at BS766416. A Chinook was sent to C Company to pick up 60 refugees. The 2nd plat, B Company began receiving AW fire at 1550 hrs vicinity BS768411. Gunships were requested immediately, C Company found 550 lbs of rice at BS774425. The enemy was in a heavily fortified position with bunkers and AW weapons. 2nd plat, B Company had just crossed the railroad when the VC opened fire. The Bn CO called for an immediate air strike on the village of Binh My (1). At 1724 hrs the Bn CO reported the VC were pinned down on the SW, the NW sector was still receiving heavy fire, and there were several US WIA at BS768411 near the railroad bridge. Three men from B Company were on the ground in an exposed position in front of the enemy bunkers. One of the gunship pilots, Lt Wood, 174th Aviation Company, distinguished himself by hovering directly over the wounded at an altitude of 20-30 feet, and directly in front of the enemy bunkers. With his guns blazing, he resembled an irate, protective, mother eagle shielding her young. With the valiant support of the gunships, and the courageous effort of the B Company FO, Lt Keith, who crawled out to rescue the wounded, the area was cleared for the air strike. All positions were marked with smoke and the F-104's began to pound the enemy. At 1810 hrs, the air strike was finished and the 2nd plat, B Company with the Recon plat began to close in on the village of Binh My (1). The next flight of F-104's began to strike Binh My (2) just SE of BS764407. A white team was used to screen the SE side of the village of Binh My (1). At 1810 hrs, 1 US KIA and 1 US WIA were extracted. The Air Force G-47 was requested and at 1930 hrs B Company reported 1 VC KIA who was armed with an M-16.

At 1950 hrs the Cacti Green forces around the VC were located at: B Company BS772411, Recon plat BS768410, C Company (-) moving to a blocking psn at BS762414. The total US casualties for the day were: 2 KIA and 6 WIA.

Again, the night was spent watching for VC attempts to escape.

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The most likely escape route was the river, and B Company placed riflemen with starlite scopes on the bridge at BS772441 to watch the river. Illumination was provided by the artillery and H&I fires were shot into the village. Air strikes were scheduled for the next morning, 24 April 1967, for 0630 hrs and 0645 hrs.

3. 24 Apr 67 - At 0640 hrs the first air strike was underway with 3 F-100's delivering their ordnance on the village. A White Team was sent in to screen and observe reported movement in the village in the vicinity BS803340. The second air strike was completed at 0750 hrs. At 0735 hrs 3d plat, B Company shot one VC who was attempting to swim the river. The Recon plat and 2nd plat, B Company swept through the village at 0750 hrs meeting no resistance. C Company was instructed to move NW and check out the area at BS753428, then to BS747439 because those areas were covered with trenches and foxholes. An engineer team with demolitions was requested to destroy the bunkers.

At 1013 hrs A Company's 3d plat departed LZ OD on a local patrol. The IRRP reported seeing 5 people in black pajamas at 1410 hrs near BS796-355. When C Company approached the village at BS756428, the pagoda bells began to ring and the Vietnamese people began evacuating the village. At 1445 hrs 1st plat, C Company was notified to get into a PZ at BS748430 for extraction and delivery to BS728426. The 1st plat, C Company completed the lift at 1538 hours. C Company (-) continued to sweep through the village at BS735432. At 1530 the body count from the village was 20 VC KIA. The last two were killed in the air strike. Statistics for the day were: 20 VC KIA in the village at BS765407.

4. 25 Apr 67 - At 0755 hrs the resupply Chinook received ground-to-air fire and the gunships were called to C Company's location. The Blue Team, B 1/9 Cav was inserted at BS758354 and requested a ready reaction force from 1/35. A Company was designated by the Bn CO to provide a plat for the RRF. C Company received word from the Red Team (gunships) working over their area that the village of Tan Phong (BS735-435) had numerous freshly dug trenches and tunnels which could accommodate a company-size unit. C Company (-) was located on a line from BS733434 to BS 740434 and the 3d plat, C Company was located near BS746430 at 0905 hrs, at 1105 hrs C Company (-) was sweeping Tan Phong (BS736437) with the 2d plat at BS746430, and the wpm plat at BS737434. Resistance was not met; however, many freshly dug trenches and several bunkers were found.

The gunships of the Red Team, B 1/9, were on station overhead and at BS745427, the lead gunship fired on a man wearing a grey uniform, web gear, and helmet. Another individual was taken under fire and killed at BS745424. 2nd plat, A Company, on a local patrol out from LZ OD, found a small cave containing some documents at BS760377. The Bn S-3 instructed 2nd plat, B Company to search to the SW vicinity BS762372. The 3d plat,

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C Company was moving to the location where the gunship had fired on the pajama clad person at BS746624 when they received AW fire on their left flank and sniper fire from their right front. The 3d plat, began to flank the enemy and called for the gunships who, fortunately, had just refueled and were on their way to the C Company area. At 1237 hrs 3d plat, C Company had 3 men pinned down in front of the enemy bunkers, one of them WIA. Their location was BS742428. At 1241 hrs the gunships were on station, and the lead ship immediately spotted 2 men with packs and weapons entering a building. The fire fight grew in intensity and at 1315 hrs 3 plat, C Company had 3 WIA and needed a Medevac. The 3d plat pulled back to provide the gunships working room on the bunkers. The wounded were pulled back to safety under very heavy fire.

An air strike was being made at BS744357 and was being controlled by the Bn Commo Officer from LZ OD when the Bn S-3, above 3d plat, C Company in the C&C, called the 1/35 TOC to have an immediate air strike laid on. The Bn Commo officer notified the FAC of the S-3's need and the jets were diverted north to the C Company area where the FAC contacted the Bn CO and S-3. The F-100's had expended their HE and napalm on the target at BS744357; but they were able to offer 20mm and the FAC called for more jets while the 3d plat, C Company wounded were being pulled back to safety. The Red Team gunships laid down heavy fire on the entrenched enemy while the Medevac ships entered. After the friendly positions were identified, the Air Force began to pound the enemy positions. The air strike at BS742423 was completed at 1411 hrs. At 1415 hrs the Bn CO directed B Company to move to the NW of C Company's contact area. A second air strike for C Company was approved at 1445 hrs. As the C&C flew to drop smoke grenades to the units on the ground with the Bn CO and S-3 it received 40 rounds of AW fire, losing altitude and power rapidly. The aircraft made its way to LZ MONTEZUMA air strip on a final glide and crash landed. No one was hit by gunfire or hurt in the landing. The ship caught fire during the glide into the air strip. A replacement C&C was immediately provided, and the CO and S-3 returned to the contact area. At 1431 hrs the Recon plat was at BS762318, and 2d plat, A Company had picked up a VCS when he tried to run at BS775370. The 2d plat, B Company had bagged a hook load of rice by 1505 hrs and also had 4 VCS at BS763409. The 2d plat, A Company returned to LZ OD at 1515 hrs. Recon plat was now at BS762401 and was moving to a blocking position for the C Company contact. Their block was to be set at BS745418. B Company (-) was at BS752416 at 1535 hrs. The 3d plat, C Company had one WIA at 1603 hrs and requested Medevac. The second air strike was completed at 1620 hrs on BS743423. By 1625 hrs Recon had reached BS754516, and by 1705 hrs they were located at BS744416. The 3d plat, B Company was located at BS749419. The 3d air strike of the day went in at BS743423 at 1725 hrs. The Arty LNO was controlling the air strike in the C Company area and was wounded on the left forearm from the bomb shrapnel. At 1840 hours C Company reported their

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casualties since the contact began. 2d plat had 3 WIA and 1 KIA, 3d plat had 1 WIA and the Arty FO's RTO was KIA. Again, for the third day in succession the S-4 made a resupply run to the embattled area to deliver ammo and C rations. At 2000 hrs the Bn CO directed C Company elements to pull back so the village could be shelled throughout the night. The platoons pulled back and Medevac ships began making extractions. The Air Force C-47 (SPOOKY) was called and was controlled by C Company. The final friendly casualty report was: B Company - 1 KIA, 3 WIA; C Company - 1 KIA, 9 WIA; 2/9 Arty - 1 WIA (1/35 LNO) and 1 KIA (C Company FO's RTO). The action in the C Company area resulted in 15 VC KIA, found on the NW side of Tan Phong, 2 SMG's captured, 1 M-16, and an estimated 10 rounds of rocket fire from the village was received.

5. 26 April 67 - 30 April 67 - At 0020 hrs the C Company FO reported secondary explosions coming from the village at BS742423. At 0650 hrs an air strike was made on the village (Bich Chieu (2)) and was completed at 0715 hrs. By 0730 hrs the Bn CO and S-3 were airborne in the C&C over the C Company area. The Bn CO instructed B Company and C Company to move back through the two villages and conduct a thorough search. Also at 0815 hrs, the Bn CO requested an EOD team from Brigade to go into the contact area to destroy the dud artillery rounds.

B Company and C Company had swept the two villages at 0827 hrs and had not met with resistance. At 0830 hrs B Company began a sweep of the eastern village and C Company started on the western village in a search for equipment and bodies. The 1st plat, A Company departed LZ OD on a local patrol at 0852 hrs. Recon plat received sniper fire from the village at BS745416 and called in artillery fire. The Blue Plat, B 1/9 Cav was inserted at 0933 hrs near BS784332. The sweep completed, C Company reported at 1025 hrs that they had found 22 VC KIA and signs that 5 bodies had been removed. From blood trails and bloody bandages an estimated 8 VC were wounded. Equipment policed up included: 4 AK-50 SMG, 3 M-16 Rifles, 1 M-2 carbine, 1 SKS, 14 Chicom HI, and ammo in the following varieties: 300 rounds 8mm, 74 rounds .30 cal, 494 rounds of .30 cal long, 352 rounds 7.62mm short (wide rim type) and 50 rounds of 5.56mm. At 1245 hrs an air strike was made at BS763423 and was controlled by the Arty LNO. At 1400 hrs the unit locations were: 1st plat, A Company BS784344; B Company (-) BS740419; 2d plat and 3d plat BS 750425; C Company BS740420; LRRP (Team #1) BS754421 and LRRP (Team #2) BS790340. At 1435 hrs C Company picked up 1 VCS with two fresh wounds. Another air strike was made on BS740378 at 1520 hrs. When the jets screamed in delivering their bombs they received ground-to-air fire. A second air strike was put in on the same location at 1630 hrs. In the period between 1530 hrs and 1630 hrs the 4.2" mortars fired on BS740378 and a secondary explosion was observed. At 1615 hrs the unit locations were: C Company BS747414, B Company (-) BS757413, 2d and 3d plats BS772419, Recon plat BS762401 and LRRP BS790340.

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The IRRP spotted 9 persons in black pajamas moving equipment vicinity BS780368. A White Team was called for the IRRP and A 2/9 fired into the location. The IRRP reported 6 VC KIA, 1 was carrying a MG. Later, at 2036 hrs, the IRRP spotted flashing lights at BS790340, and called in artillery.

27 Apr 67 - At 0805 hrs C Company received sniper fire vicinity BS740407, and observation aircraft were summoned. The 2d plat, A Company departed LZ OD on a local patrol. The flight leader for the B Company (-) lift was briefed at 0900 hrs. The first element of B Company touched down at 0955 hrs vicinity BS706422. Recon plat made a combat assault at BS708429 with an artillery preparation of the IZ. At 1000 hrs C Company was located at BS731410 and had picked up 11 VCS. The IRRP, at 1105 hrs, was told to link up with 2d plat, A Company and return to LZ OD. Also at 1105 hrs the Recon plat closed at BS703428. The IRRP started to move down off the mountain but due to the density of booby traps had to move back to be extracted by air. At 1221 hrs C Company was receiving sniper fire at BS724410. A gunship team was requested. 2d plat, B Company killed a VC at BS699428 who was carrying a Chicom grenade. The IRRP on the mountain was extracted at 1500 hrs while two false insertions were simultaneously made in adjacent areas, and the IRRP (Team #2) was inserted at BS810330. 2d plat, B Company reported 2 VC KIA vicinity BS709428 at 1332 hrs. Both were carrying Chicom grenades, canteens and pistol belts. The 2d plat, A Company spotted 2 persons in black pajamas who fled. The fleeing VC were fired on and one was killed. Also at BS777446 2d plat, A Company found 4 spider holes with 2 US grenades, 1 US poncho, 50 lbs of rice, 3 canteens and some clothing. C Company was ready for extraction at 1550 hrs vicinity BS735412, so A Company was lifted from LZ OD to the C Company PZ and C Company was returned to LZ OD. B Company (-) was at BS705421, 1st and 2d plats at BS708426, 3d plat at BS704418, Recon plat at BS706429, and the IRRP at BS803324. B Company (-) discovered a 250 lb bomb at BS705421 and blew it in place at 1826 hrs. A 2/35 was extracted from the 1/35 AO at 1827 hrs.

28 April 67 - At 0725 hrs A Company reported a large rice cache at BS734407. B Company requested EOD assistance to blow 2 750 lb bombs at BS716424. Also B Company's FO was notified he would control the air strike at BS673398 at 0900 hrs. Recon made a CA BS765351, touching down at 0831 hrs. 1st plat, A Company picked up 2 VCS at 0858 hrs. B Company found 3 more 250 lb bombs at BS716423 at 0955 hrs. Two of the bombs had been cut open and had the explosives removed. 1st plat, B Company found 500 lbs of rice at BS718416 which they destroyed. At 1100 hrs B Company reported on their bomb demolition project. They had destroyed: 2 X 750 lb bombs, 1 X 250 lb bomb and 3 X 250 lb bombs which had been opened.

Recon captured 1 ton of rice in a hut at BS755366 and one woman.

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They also took under fire a woman with a pack and weapon. She was wounded and died later. Her pack contained medical supplies, documents including propaganda literature, schematic drawings of fortified villages and a schematic drawing of the District Hq in Duc Pho. Also she was carrying a photo of herself and friends, and in the picture she was holding a Thompson SMG. The 30 year-old female was definitely a hard-core communist. The 3d plat, A Company found and destroyed 400 lbs of block salt at BS725384. Recon killed 1 VC at BS755366 and wounded a second. The 1st plat, A Company spotted 1 NVA at 1312 hrs and began receiving AW fire from 2 locations vicinity BS729380. The platoon swept through the area with negative contact and found only some empty cartridges. The IRRP found a booby trap at BS804324 and marked its location. B Company found 1 ton of rice at BS 712406 and asked for personnel to bag the rice. The rice bagged and ready for pickup at 1430 hrs.

The 1st plat, A Company at BS732381, found a hut containing 6 X 60mm mortar illumination rounds, 1 pack, 5 PAVN shovels and 13 tons of polished rice (estimated 250 cu. meters). Later, at 1649 hrs, another 15 tons of rice was found by 1st plat, A Company near BS732382 along with 3 M9A1 gas masks. Coordination was made with the District Hq at Duc Pho and arrangements were made for PF personnel to go to 1st Plat, A Company's location to bag and extract the large rice cache. The rice removal was scheduled for 29 April 1967.

29 Apr 67 - At 0750 hours the 3d plat, C Company departed LZ OD on a local patrol to meet a Popular Force platoon and provincial Recon unit at the pagoda vicinity BS809358. The joint operation was then to proceed south into the valley, BS800330, to find a 250 lb bomb (booby trap) found on an earlier mission by the same PF unit. A second task assigned was the job of destroying a bamboo and barbed-wire fence constructed by the VC. A contingent of PF rice baggers were lifted to A Company's location to sack the 13 tons of rice found in a cache by A Company. The rice was stored at BS733381. A Company's 1st plat stayed at BS733381 to see that the rice cache was extracted while A Company (-) moved on to the south. Meanwhile, 3d plat, C Company and the PF unit had reached the area where the PF's had reported the bomb on 23 April. The PF's told the 3d plat leader they could not remember where the bomb was located although they had given coordinates in their initial report on 23 April to the PF advisor at Duc Pho District Hq. The bomb was not found; but the bamboo fence (75 meters long) was torn down by the PF troops. Two air strikes were made - one at 1300 hrs on BS743321 and one at 1400 hrs on BS697379, which was controlled by B Company. At 1500 hrs a third air strike was delivered on BS771323. The 3d plat, C Company closed LZ OD at 1700 hrs, and Recon reported 1 VC KIA at BS747366. The 3d plat, A Company found 2 M-1 barrels, 2 hand flares, 1 bag of M-1 ammo, 1 home-made rocket launcher, and 1 carbine at 1702 hrs near BS732370. Closing the days activity, A

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Company saw two flashlights at 2126 hours near BS727436 and called in artillery.

At 0745 hrs A Company and Recon continued their parallel sweep south following the ridge line. Four air strikes were planned for the last day of April, at the following times and locations:

0915 hrs, BS680379
1300 hrs, BS791319
1400 hrs, BS750336
1530 hrs, BS750340

At 0810 hours the lift of B Company from BS706376 down to BS 813303 began. Beginning at 0930 hrs, persistent CS gas was dropped on three locations. They were: (1) BS780303 (2) BS737367 (3) BS665384. The IRRP reported they found a 105mm booby trap which had the trip wire pulled loose. After the IRRP was extracted at 1110 hrs, the gunships fired on the booby trap.

B Company discovered a tunnel at BS812306 and when B Company's men moved into the tunnel they heard voices. Backing out rapidly, B Company notified Bn they wanted tear gas. An interpreter and tear gas was sent to the cave location. The occupants of the tunnel were treated to a liberal dosage of CS after they failed to respond to the interpreters instructions to come out. After several minutes of gas inhalation a VC came gasping, stumbling out of the cave. He was taken to a nearby creek and revived. He was persuaded to re-enter the cave and talk the others out. The second man to exit the cave was a NVA and he threw a grenade when he came out and was immediately cut down by a host of riflemen. A second VC came out of the cave and was taken to the creek. Total VC captured in the cave were 3. Also captured were several bicycles. 2d plat, B Company at BS802306 located a circular position with a forked stick, believed to have been an anti-aircraft aiming device, some freshly cooked rice, and a deer that had been recently killed.

At 1515 hrs, Company A spotted 9 individuals with packs moving north along a trail vicinity BS737331, and called for gunships. Recon plat at 1725 hrs killed one VC who was carrying a US hand grenade and 3 rounds of .30 cal ammunition.

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