

PROPOSED CITATION

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

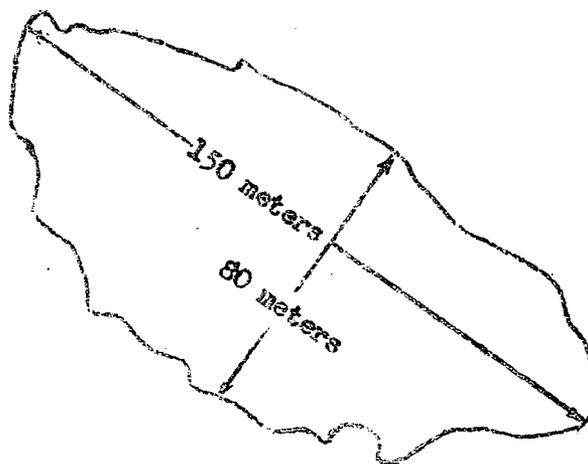
for

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY IS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING HEROISM IN ACTION AGAINST HEAVILY ARMED NORTH VIETNAM ARMY FORCES VICINITY LANDING ZONE TEN ALFA IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, DURING THE PERIOD 28 THROUGH 29 MAY 1966. ON THE AFTERNOON OF 28 MAY 1966 COMPANY A WAS ORDERED TO CONDUCT A HELICOPTER LIFT INTO LANDING ZONE TEN ALFA TO ASSIST COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY WHICH WAS HEAVILY ENGAGED BY A DETERMINED AND WELL EQUIPPED ENEMY. THE COMPANY LANDED AT 1700 HOURS. DURING THE NEXT 20 HOURS THE ENEMY CONDUCTED A MULTI-BATTALION OPERATION, RESEIZING THEM WITH A DETERMINATION AND INTENSITY OF EFFORT UNIQUE TO THIS THEATER OF OPERATIONS. THE ENEMY EQUIPMENT INCLUDED 60MM AND 82MM MORTARS, LIGHT AND HEAVY MACHINE-GUNS, AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. OUTNUMBERED AND SURROUNDED COMPANY A FOUGHT VALIANTLY SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY AS SUCCESSIVE WAVES ATTACKED THEIR POSITION. WITH GREAT PROFESSIONAL SKILL, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF COMPANY A COURAGEOUSLY DEFEATED EACH ENEMY ATTACK. GALLANT ACTS AND INSPIRED LEADERSHIP WERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY. WHEN THE ROAR OF BATTLE SUBSIDED WITH ONLY THE STENCH OF DEATH AND CARRIAGE LINGERING OVER THE FIELD, ALL ENEMY BODIES LAY BEFORE THEIR LINES AND A QUANTITY OF EQUIPMENT WAS CAPTURED. EVEN NOW THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT AMAZES THE MOST EXPERIENCED VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM CAMPAIGN. BY THEIR HEROIC STAND, A PAGE WAS WRITTEN IN AMERICAN MILITARY ANNALS THAT WILL FOREVER HONOR THE MEN OF COMPANY A AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE AMERICAN ARMED SERVICES.

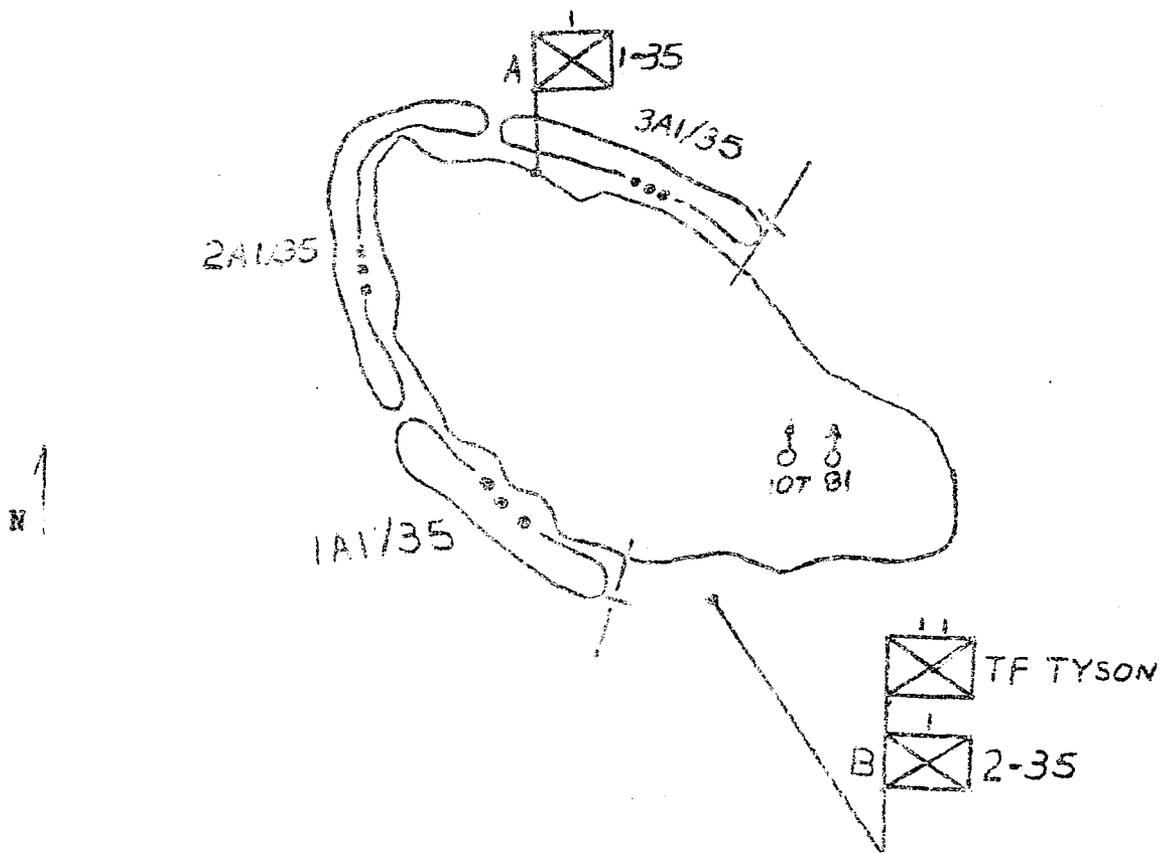
Inclosure 1

SCHMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION



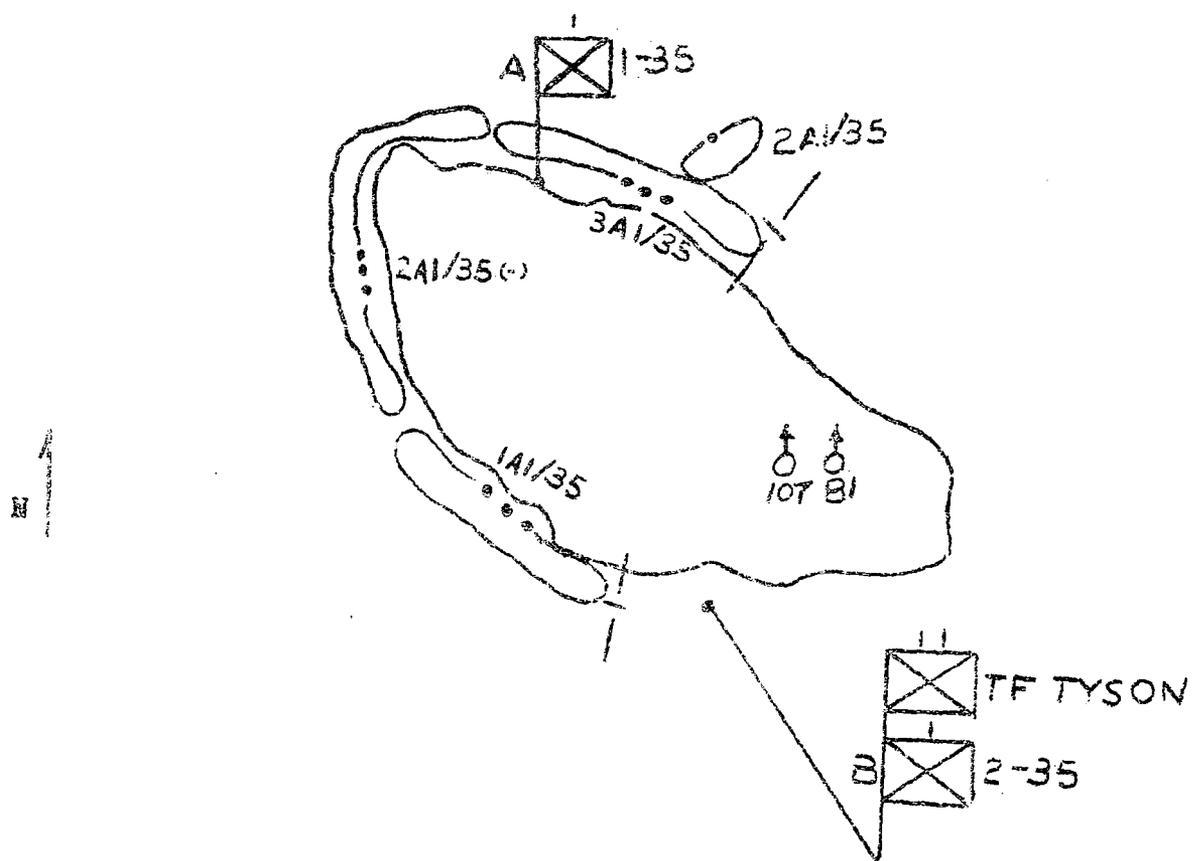
LANDING ZONE TEN ALFA

SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION 281715-290900 MAY 1966



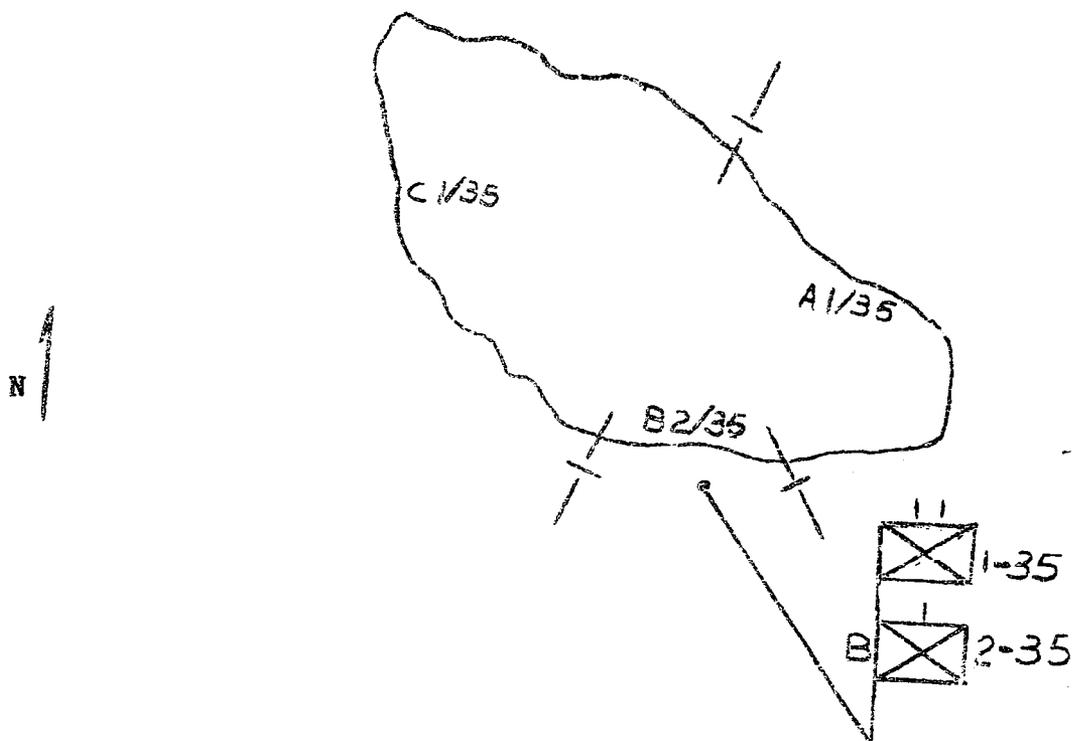
Inclosure 4

SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION 290900-291335 MAY 1966



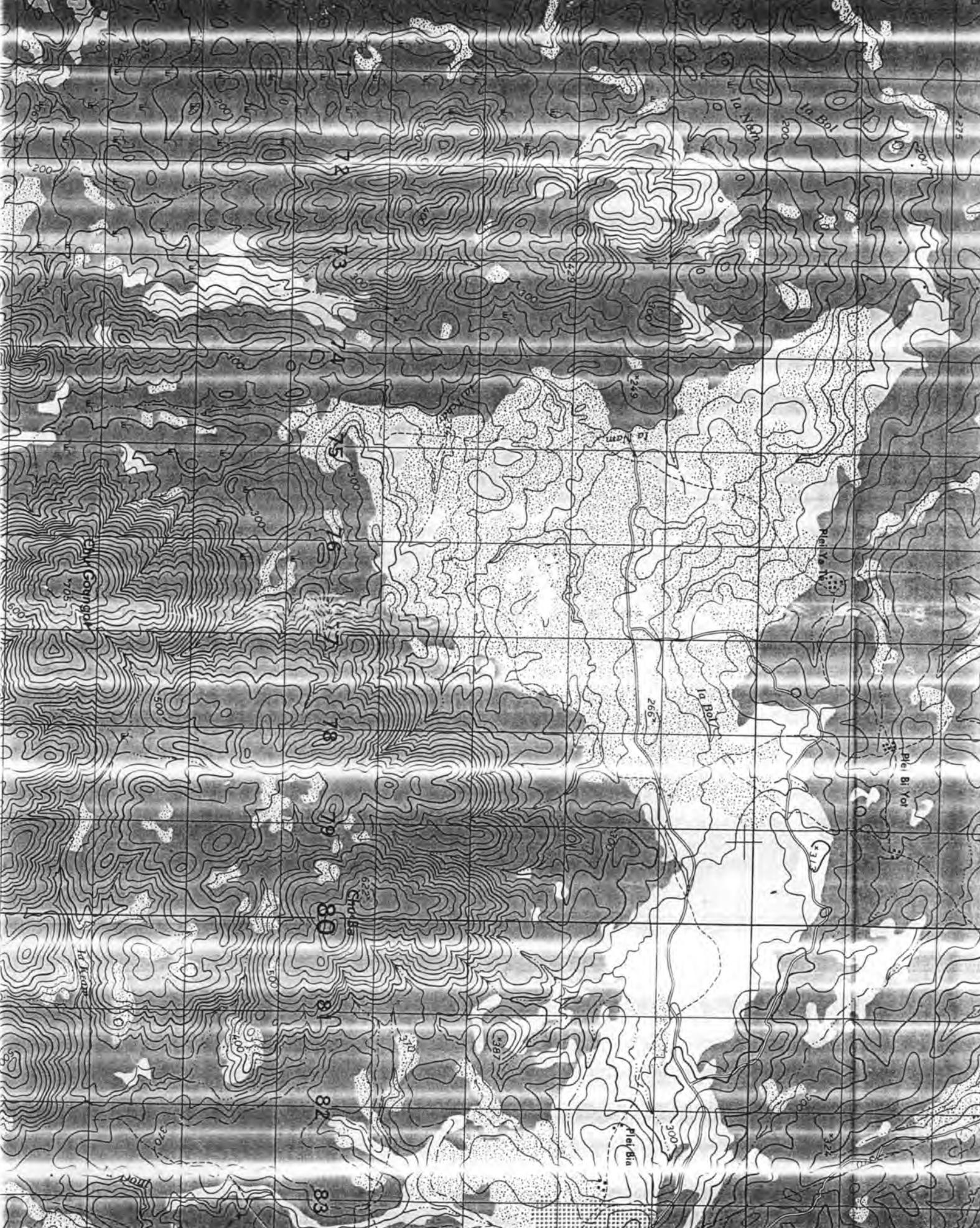
Inlosure 5

SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION 291335-301041 MAY 1966

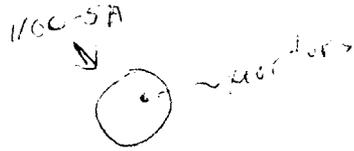


Inclosure 6

1532 1533 1535 1534 1535 1536 1537 1538 1540 1539 1540 1541 1542



10A 769 376 1st sup



norm Rpt

B- 768 376 1st sup

01 A 765 386 1st

02 765 386 1st

077 386 1st (WIA)

03 077 386 1st

04

135 Journals

PO Eagle 7037

Scout 7136

28 May

150 - prep to lift 100 to 72 100 166 386 to support 2/35

0200

29 May 1st sup 100 at 756

100 1st sup to SE

30 May

0900 C Co patrol 765 382

0930 C Co Frm Eagle 1 3.7 up 1.2 765 382 Eagle 1? on Eagle 1st 100

1002 C Co 748 382 1st 100

1130 C Co. 760 383 1st 100

1150 C Co 758 388

1240 C Co 755 380

1830 C Co 748 386

1943 " " "

80  
left 3.7  
763  
37  
1.2 up  
38.2

B - CO 30th

1450 • 787 392

1507 787 393 ordered setup ambush.

1530 768 401 ambush.

1931 7 82 388 patrol

2215 785 349 ambush repts...

napalm. The cause of the accident was later determined to be a combination of factors encompassing marginal visibility and pilot error\* (Cpt Bisantz, A/1/35)

1300 HOURS: 29 MAY 1966

A Bravo company medic came to the CP area and told Cpt Moisano that Sgt Evans was dead. The Sgt, with the Company 81mm mortars, had been hit in the legs - a bullet passing through one and almost removing the kneecap from the other. Instead of allowing himself to be removed to the relative safety of the company collection point, he chose to stay with the mortars and keep his tubes in action. When an assistant gunner was killed, he reorganized the gun crew and talked the loader and ammunition bearers through the laying and firing procedures. Sergeant Evans stayed with the guns until, after receiving at least one more wound, he died from loss of blood and shock.

Another of the individual actions that occurred during the fight involved a soldier that I had had previous dealings with at Schofield Barracks while serving as President of a Fitness Board. The soldier had left the PX beer garden and, instead of returning to his barracks, had decided to go to the Post Library, stand out front and expose himself to any ladies who might be passing by. The first person to pass was the Post Duty Officer, and when the soldier failed to salute, he was called to "attention". Dropping his hands from his front and coming to attention, his intentions were exposed, and I got the job as President of his Board. Although obviously guilty, we decided that his behavior had been influenced by the beer, and since he had no previous disciplinary problems, he was given another chance. "Figleaf", as he became known in some circles, was on the Bravo 3rd Plt line a few meters from a machinegun team. When an incoming grenade killed the gunner and badly wounded the assistant gunner, three NVA broke from cover and tried to capture the weapon. "Figleaf" saw them coming, ran from his position, fully exposing himself - but in an entirely different sense of the word - to enemy fire and reached the machinegun just ahead of the NVA. He dropped into a firing position and drove off the attackers, killing two of them in the process.

Throughout the second day, the NVA mortars were employed twice. On the first occasion, they fired nine rounds during the morning attack. The first round was heard to impact hit well back in the forest, and since the TF had no fire mission in progress at that moment, it was assumed that something had blown up out there. A second explosion occurred about ten minutes later, closer, but still "lost". A third impacted about ten minutes after the second, on line and within sight of the LZ. It was determined that an observer was probably in a tree somewhere in the vicinity and as each round was fired, he would send the correction back to the tube position by runner - thus the time lapse between rounds. Cpt Maisano was told that the next round would hit pretty close to his 1st Plt positions and for him to move his people to the left and right of the anticipated impact point. The troops moved, the round came in on schedule, and did no damage. There was one final adjustment out into the center of the LZ, the tube fired four rounds "for effect", and after that, the mortar ceased firing.

1430 HOURS: 29 MAY 1966