

17 Oct 78

Harry,

As indicated in my letter, enclosed please find:

- a. Some selected pictures
- b. Map of 1/35th area of operations from Apr - Sep '67. (Atch'd)
- c. Bn report for period Mar - Jun '67
- d. Bn report for 1967
- e. Selected diagrams of actions
- f. Accounts of "Charging Charlie's Charge"

The large scale Xerox copy of maps shows the area around Duc Pho where the 3rd Bde TF, 25th Div operated from Apr '67 thru about Sep '67. We came from the south around Song Son to take over from the Mainers.

The 1/35th landed at LZ Montezuma and we went out on foot to seize LZ OD. I named the LZ in honor of then Maj. Bob Drudick, the Bn XO. He was 100% gung ho / ranger / airborne. He carried about 100 lbs of assorted armaments on his harness -- we called him OD Drudick.

LZ OD was situated so that we could support LZ Montezuma with 4.2 mortars. There was a steep hill on the east side of Montezuma and we wanted to be sure we could

support by fire in event of an attack from that direction.

At LZ Montezuma was the Bde CP, the Bde/Bn Trains, our rear CP (51 & HHCC(-)) plus two or three arty batteries. Also located there were a couple of aviation companies.

The strip was soon upgraded to all weather C-130.

At LZ OD we had the Bn CP, 4.2 platoon and our SS 105 Btry. It kept a rifle co (-) there for protection at night -- allowing day/night patrols to keep our area clear around the fire base.

Initially our 1/35 AO went to the top of the map. The 2/35 was not with us until early May '67. The 1/14 was about 20 Km north along Hwy 1.

Our job was to find the NVA/VC, move them out and control the rice harvest. The first major actions took place where the red stars are shown in what later became the 2/35 AO.

Some time around ~~June~~ mid-May, the 1st Bde, 101st moved into LZ Carentan. Their units operated in the mountains to the west in company sized 3-5 day patrols. From time to time, I'd get a Co from the 101st grenade attack in B Co.

to help me cover my area. As you can see, it was rather large and included all types of terrain -- coast line, highway / RR, numerous villages, coastal plain and then the mountains.

When things settled down in late May '67, we operated rather loosely -- by Companies and even platoon elements to be able to cover a lot of ground. He always stayed within 105/155 How range except when we conducted some "mortar raids" into the mountains to the west. Those were one day affairs to check out an area with a rifle company with 4.2 platoon to support. In the south, we were at the extreme limits of the 155 How and relied on the 1 Cav across our boundary very frequently. Once, I used a destroyer in SS of an assault into LZ Lloyd. It worked out well -- I picked up the NGFLO at sea.

Air support was plentiful. Initially, we were to be supported by the Navy but the AF didn't want to see that happen. The AF did a fine job. We did get back up from the Navy on several occasions to include our fight on 22-23 May. I preferred the AF.

Our ALO/FAC, Maj. Smith was a classmate of mine at CGS at Maxwell in 65-66. He was tremendous -- unfortunately he was killed in the fall of '67.

Our stay at LZ OD was the first time we had stayed at one place with the Bn CP for more than a week or so. I became concerned about ground or mortar attack by the NVN or VC. We had never been hit before. As a result, we added a "mad minute" to our routine of patrolling/ambush/HI fires. We cut loose at least once a week with all we had in the firebase to include our .50 cal MG and mortars -- usually at dusk. What a sight -- the troops were even impressed. Never were hit as a result. Maj. Tippen had us surrounded by wire and mines to boot. Looking back though, our bunkers were poor on overhead cover due primarily to lack of materials such as lumber.

After mid-May '67, I put some units on a night schedule to break up our routine. Those on a day schedule moved after dark before bedding down. It only got caught once -- lost a couple of men from a grenade attack in B Co.

In July, we started rotating a platoon at a time into LZ Montezuma for 3-4 days of rest, refit and training. The troops had been in the field continuously since 2 Jan!

We tried to compensate by feeding hot meals at least once a day. Delivery by air usually at about 6 P.M. We'd also fly in the rucksacks, beer, soda and mail. Then, at dusk, we'd pick it up ~~and~~ (chow, cans, etc) and the unit would move to a night position.

The rifleman did a superb job. His morale was good. That was the time before antiwar sentiment had set in.

We won our share of awards altho fewer than in most units. Our admin chain stretched all the way back to Pleiku and that really didn't help us out in the "Bastard Brigade". Impact awards were our best bet to see that justice was done.

Our biggest tactical problem was cracking thru a fortified village. We always seemed to get entangled at dusk and have to wait it out to finish the job. The 2/35 had APC's and tanks and that's what we needed to give us some punch. All in all, the men did

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their job and it was a proud outfit.
Should you want to know anything
else, please drop me a line.

Col Jim Moore

P.S. Tell young David Shanahan I said
hello. He's got a tough job as a Spt. Plt.
Ldr but one he'll value highly later for
the great experience.