

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT  
 "CACTI BLUE"  
 2<sup>D</sup> BN 35<sup>TH</sup> INF  
 1966

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OPERATION Garfield 25 Feb 66 – 24 mar 66	<i>in Daklac Province, moved from New Pleitu air strip to Ban-Sue Thout East Airfield, 2135 reserve</i>
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## OPERATION TAYLOR

5 Feb 66 - 8 Feb 66

Combined with other elements of the 3d Bde Task Forces 25th Inf Div, the 2/35 Inf conducted a motor march to the north of PLEI MRONG on 5 Feb 66. The battalion had the mission of providing convoy security for the operation and despite the size of the convoy (217 vehicles), encountered little difficulty.

Upon its arrival at the new base of operations (Coord: ZA 065735), the 2/35 Inf prepared for its operation against an estimated battalion size North Vietnamese Army (NVA) force located in the vicinity of the Chu Granuel Mountain.

The 2/35 Inf continued to conduct search and destroy operations in their assigned area of operation (AO) until OPERATION TAYLOR ceased at 0700 8 Feb 66, at which time the 2/35 Inf conducted an airmobile extraction to Plei Mrong.

## OPERATION GARFIELD

25 February 1966 - 24 March 1966

During the period 0730 25 February 1966, through 2400 24 March 1966, the 3d Bde Task Force, 25th Inf Div, conducted OPERATION GARFIELD. The 2/35 Inf was the reserve reaction force for the operation.

*23 Feb - 7 Mar 66*  
The operation was conducted in DAR LAC Province against the 966th Bn, 32d NVA Regiment. The 3d Bde. Task Force moved by air from New Pleiku Airstrip to BAN ME THUOT East Airfield. The 1/14 Inf and 1/35 Inf, with 2/35 Inf in reserve, conducted search and destroy operations using "eagle" flights and saturation patrolling.

*8 Mar 66*  
On 8 March 1966, the 2/35 Inf was given the mission (OPERATION LYSANDER) to conduct a search of Plei Klung, a village in DAR LAC Province, and to establish blocking positions in support of OPERATION GARFIELD. In addition, the 2/35 Inf had the responsibility for providing security for the Brigade Rear Command Post. OPERATION LYSANDER was accomplished with very light contact and negative friendly losses.

On 15 March 1966, while still assigned the mission as the reserve element in OPERATION GARFIELD, the 2/35 Inf was given the additional mission (OPERATION QUINTUS) of securing that portion of Highway 19 bounded by coordinates BR 188518 on the west and BR 28453 to the east. This was accomplished by occupying platoon and squad size strong points and by conducting local patrolling. Furthermore the battalion provided convoy escort train BR 288453 east to Pleiku during the period 17-21 March 1966. On 21 March 1966, the 2/35 Inf departed their assigned sector and closed to the 3d Bde base camp, Pleiku, at 1905 21 March 1966, where the battalion continued to maintain its reserve posture for OPERATION GARFIELD in addition to local patrolling to provide security for the 3d Bde base camp.

## OPERATION LONGFELLOW

15 April 1966 - 1 May 1966

During the period 15 April 1966 to 1 May 1966, the 2/35 Inf under the command of LTC George A. Scott, participated in OPERATION LONGFELLOW

The mission of the 2/35 Inf during OPERATION LONGFELLOW was to conduct search and destroy operations in northwest Kontum Province. The Area of Operations (AO) was bounded on the west by the National border and on the east by a line 1000 meters west of Highway 14.

Supported by the artillery fires of A Btry, 2d Bn, 9th Arty and planes from the 7th US Air Force, the 2/35 Inf conducted saturation patrolling during the day, utilized ambush positions and patrolling at night, and conducted eight combat assaults employing the "Eagle Flight" technique during the operation. There was no significant contact made during OPERATION LONGFELLOW, although there were numerous casualties suffered due to the numerous areas in the AO which were saturated with punji stakes and pits.

10 MAY 1966 – 31 JULY 1966

OPERATION PAUL REVERE I began the first of four phases of OPERATION PAUL REVERE which started 10 May 1966 and ended 25 December 1966.

The 2/35 Inf, as part of the 3d Brigade Task Force displaced from Pleiku by motor convoy on 10 May 1966, to OASIS (ZA 107276) to provide reserve/reaction force and security force for the Brigade forward base, and to conduct search and destroy operations initially in AO 21 and 22.

The decision was made to conduct the operation in three phases:

Phase I: Conduct motor move 10 May 1966 from Pleiku to Brigade forward base.

Phase II: Conduct rapid search and destroy operations in AO 21 and 22 to determine whether there were heavy enemy concentrations in the AO.

Phase III: Conduct detailed reconnaissance and surveillance operations in AO 21 and 22 to detect enemy activity and to locate routes of movement. Establish blocking positions and ambushes on principal routes of movement to disrupt enemy efforts to reconnoiter, infiltrate, withdraw, or establish caches in AO.

Phase I and II were completed on 17 May 1966 without contact

On 22 May 1966, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 2/35 Inf, conducted a heliborne assault into LZ 29A and began a longrange in the North and West portions of the AO. During its patrol, the platoon accounted for four NVA KIA and one NVA WIA. There were no friendly casualties.

On 27 May 1966, the 2/35 Inf conducted a heliborne assault into AO 11 and 12 with

companies A and B landing at LZ 12A (YA 908385). The battalion (-) landed at LZ 11A (YA 873369). Companies A and B later closed to LZ 11A after conducting search and destroy operations to the northwest and southwest, respectively.

Based on a terrain analysis, the valley associated with LZ 10A (YA 769376) appeared to be a likely area for use by enemy forces, hence Company B was directed to prepare for a heliborne assault into LZ 10A on 28 May 1966.

31 July 66 - (66-1151) COC + A YA97200775  
OPERATION PAUL REVERE II

1 August 66 - 25 August 66

August 1, 1966 found the 2/35 Infantry entering phase II of OPERATION PAUL REVERE. On this date Company C conducted a heliborne assault into LZ 29X without enemy contact. Company A, 2/35 INF was rested and reorganized after heavy contact on 31 July 1966. 2/35 INF(-) continued search and destroy, ambush, and blocking positions in AO.

On August 2, 1966, Company A was given the mission of returning to the 31 July 66 scene of action. Rather than approach from the southwest, Captain McDonough was directed to move due east of LZ 36J (YA973053) until he crossed a north-south trail that previously had been detected by airborne visual reconnaissance. Once astride this trail, Captain McDonough was to proceed north following and mapping the trail and its major offshoots, if any. In this fashion he was to proceed north of the 08 east-west grid line, turn west, and come into the 31 July 66 scene of action from the northwest. The area of contact would then be thoroughly searched. Inherent in the assigned task was a concurrent search and destroy mission.

OPERATION PAUL REVERE III

26 August 1966 - 17 October 1966

OPERATION PAUL REVERE III commenced with the 2/35 Inf (-) helicopter lift from LZ 27K to LZ 27Y after the new location had been secured by Task Force Lake, which consisted of 1st platoon, C/3/4 Cav, and 1st and 3d platoons, Company C, 2/35 Inf.

At 1020, 27 August 1966, the point man of the 1st platoon, Company B, saw an estimated twenty to twenty five NVA milling about on the south side of hill 289, YA 817143. The NVA, noticing the point man, fired at him, at the same time the point fired back. NO friendly casualties were taken, but the point believed he had hit four NVA. Indirect fire was called in. At 1035, enemy fire ceased temporarily and Lt. Brauer, the 1st platoon leader, reported he thought that the enemy was either attempting to break contact or trying to flank to the south. The company commander decided to move the 3d platoon to YA 825135 to establish a blocking position across the trail and stream bed in that area.

During the period 28 August 1966 to 10 October 1966, the battalion had no significant contact. The 2/35 Inf was airlifted to LZ 30D after being relieved in place at LZ 27D, on 12 September 1966. On 3 October 1966, the battalion performed maintenance and training at

the brigade rear CP area and served as I Field Force V reserve reaction force until 9 October 1966.

On 10 October 1966, the battalion, reinforced by 1/A/1/69 Armor and 3/C/3/4 Cav, moved by motor to assigned sectors of Highway 19 and prepared to assume responsibility for securing the highway in zone effective 0700 11 October 1966, and, in addition, provide convoy escorts in sector. The battalion performed this mission until relieved in place by 1/10 Cav, 4th Inf Div, 1200 15 October 1966. In order to assist the 1/10 Cav, which had been given little time to prepare for the mission, the 2/35 recon platoon and a movement control station provided by the 2/35 Inf TOC controlled and escorted convoys throughout the daylight hours of 15 October 1966. The following elements were given escort during the period 0100 11 October 1966 to 1200 15 October 1966.

Upon being relieved by the 1/10 Cav, the 2/35 Inf (-) moved by motor to ZA 160575 and prepared to conduct search and destroy operations northwest of PLEIKU in coordination with the 220th and 230th RF Companies. Company B moved by motor to the brigade forward CP, CATECKA, to act as a security force there.

On the 16th and 17th of October, the battalion successfully closed OPERATION PAUL REVERE III by conducting search and civic action programs in the village of PLEI KLUNE (ZA 195587), PLEI VEN I (ZA 160564), and PLEI YEN II (ZA 165578). The search of PLEI YEN II resulted in the capture of an eleven man VMC squad previously detected by the search force from the 220th RF Company.

#### PAUL REVERE IV

18 October 1966 - 26 December 1966

Operation PAUL REVERE IV commenced with an airmobile assault into LZ 503A, YA 862598, by B/2/35. 2/35 Inf (-) then moved into LZ 503A with no enemy contact. As soon as the LZ was secure, three maneuver elements, Task Force McDonnell. (consisting of the battalion reconnaissance platoon and the 276th CIDG Company), A/2/35, and C/2/35, left the LZ to patrol to their respective locations: Task Force McDonnell, YA 871628; A/2/35, YA 843597; C/2/35, YA 859576.

During the period 31 October 1966 to 17 December 1966, there was no significant contact with the enemy. It was apparent that the enemy forces were doing all possible to avoid large contact with elements of the 2/35 Inf.

During this period, the 2/35 Inf counted eleven NVA KIA, and 8 weapons CIA.

On 18 December 1966, 1st platoon, Company A, received orders to conduct a search and destroy operation through an area south of the company base (YA 914679).

## OPERATION SAM HOUSTON

1 Jan 67 – 5 Apr 67

With the beginning of 1967, the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry had just concluded OPERATION PAUL REVERE IV, along the Cambodian Border in southwest Kontum Province, and was preparing for participation in OPERATION SAM HOUSTON. This was another operation in which the battalion aggressively sought the NVA forces in the Central Highlands west of Plei Djereng. The operation was characterized initially by search and destroy missions conducted with very little contact throughout January.

On 17 February 1967 the battalion conducted a combat assault (CA) to the east of the Nam Sathay River. During the period 17 February to 11 March extensive search and destroy operations and Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols (LRRP) were conducted resulting in the discovery of numerous enemy bunker complexes, base camps, hidden trails, and weapons caches. On the morning of 11 March a B-52 airstrike was requested in the battalion area of operation (AO). Company A, 2-35th Inf was given the mission of exploiting the airstrike and to make contact with the enemy. Early on 12 March Co A established contact with an estimated battalion size force, later identified as the 8th Battalion, 66th NVA Regiment. Fighting continued throughout the day until contact was broken after dark with the NVA leaving fifty-five (55) KIA's on the battlefield.

On 13-14 March the battalion fire support base (FSB) came under three (3) separate mortar attacks receiving an estimated 160 incoming mortar rounds. Sweeping north of the previous days contact, Co C made contact with an estimated battalion size force. During the engagement forty-seven (47) NVA were killed. Captured documents found after the battle identified the force as the 8th Battalion, 66th NVA Regiment who had been maneuvering in a northeasterly direction since the 12 March engagement. From 22-27 March, 2-35th Inf consolidated its forces and on 28 March the battalion returned to base camp in Pleiku to prepare for a move to Binh Dinh Province on the South China Seacoast.

On 5 April 1967 the battalion was committed to search and destroy operations Binh Dinh Province. The battalion remained in the area of operations until 15 April but did not make any significant contact with the enemy and was then airlifted to Duc Pho District, Quang Ngai Province to become part of TASK FORCE OREGON.

(9)

A. General:

1. The Battalion administrative headquarters was relocated to LZ Montezuma in late April. During the reporting period all administrative functions were performed at the forward Brigade Base, LZ Montezuma

1 May-7 May 1967

During the reporting period there was no significant contact as the 2-35th Inf continued to conduct S&D operations in the battalion AO. On 4 May 1967, the 2-35th Inf displaced the Battalion CP from LZ Montezuma to LZ LIZ, vic BS754431, closing at 1130H.

6. Task Organization \*

1 May-7 May 1967	4 June-26 June 1967
2/35 <sup>th</sup> Inf	2/35 <sup>th</sup> Inf
C/3-4 CAV (-)	C/3-4 CAV (-)
Sqd/D/65th Engr	A/1-14 Inf
	Sqd/D/65th Engr
	C/2-34 Arm (-)
18 May-26 May 1967	26 June-29 June. 1967
2/35 <sup>th</sup> Inf	2/35 Inf
C/3-4 CAV (-)	A/1-14 Inf
C/2—31~ Arm ( )	C/3-4 CAV (-)

Sqd/D/65th Engr

Sqd/D/65<sup>th</sup> Engr

28 May-30 May 1967

2/35th Inf

C/3-4 CAV (-)

C/2-34 Arm (-)

C/1-35 Inf

Sqd/D/65th Engr

30 June-31 July 1967

2/35 Inf

A/1-14 Inf

C/3-4 CAV (-)

C/2-34 Arm (-)

Sqd/D/65<sup>th</sup> Engr

30 May-3 June 1967

2/35<sup>th</sup> Inf

C/3-4 CAV (-)

C/2-34 Arm (-)

Sqd/D/65th Engr

\* B/1-9 CAV (Airmobile) was placed OPCON 2-35 frequently for periods of hours only.

#### OPERATION BAKER

15 Apr 67 — 18 Dec 67

Immediately upon arrival in Duc Pho the 2/35 Infantry was committed to combat operations. The day following its arrival, the battalion was engaged by the Viet Cong 219th LF Company, which resulted in 43 enemy KIA. The remainder of April was characterized by small but frequent contacts. Initially the 2/35 Infantry was placed under the OPCON of 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile which was just concluding OPERATION LeJEUNE.

In the first part of May and up until the 19th of the month the battalion had no significant enemy contact. During this time however the 2/35th displaced the Battalion CP from LZ Montezuma to LZ Liz, coordinates BS754431. At 1450 hours, while Co C was searching a cave and bunker complex vic. BS766539 and made contact with a Viet Cong platoon. Co C with one platoon of Co A 1/14<sup>th</sup>

On 24 May Co B 2/35th Inf was released from OPCON of B 1/9 Cav and returned to the 2/35th Inf. At approximately 1400 hours, the Blue Team (B 1/9 Cav) secured an LZ at coordinates BS747472 for the lift ships carrying 1B 2/35<sup>th</sup>

2 June 1967

A/1-14<sup>th</sup> Inf was placed OPCON to the 2/3-5th Inf at 04 1035H, having moved from their parent base at Chu Lai to their new base on LZ Dragon, vic BS725535. Battery B, 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery, GS, Task Force Oregon, Was positioned at LZ Dragon to provide artillery support for what had been a gap, in the northern portion of the battalion area of operations.

## 6. Task Organization

1 Aug-10 Aug 1967	29 Aug-30 Oct 1967
2/35 Inf	2/35 Inf
A/1-14 Inf	C/1-10 Cav (-)
C/1-10 Cav (-)	Sqd/D/65th Engr
C/2-34 Arm (-)	
Sqd/D/65 <sup>th</sup> Engr	
11 Aug – 28 Aug 1967	31 Oct 1967
2/35 Inf	2/35 Inf
C/1-10 Cav (-)	1-46 Inf (-)
C/2-34 Arm (-)	C/1-10 Cav (-)
Sqd/D/65 <sup>th</sup> Engr	Sqd/D/65th Engr

## REORGANIZATION

The concept of reorganization was to add one rifle company, one combat support company headquarters, eliminate the anti-tank platoon from Headquarters Company; eliminate the anti-tank section from the rifle company, weapons platoons and add two company mess teams.

The reorganization was implemented in the following manner. The augmentation arrived 13 August 1967 in one packet of 142 filler personnel and were processed by a 4th Infantry Division personnel team. Prior to that the 2/35 Inf was reorganized on paper with certain individuals in the existing companies being earmarked for reassignment within the battalion to more equitably distribute resources by grade and DEROS date. Upon arrival of the battalion augmentation packet some personnel were immediately airlifted to the existing companies and the personnel earmarked for reassignment were then airlifted to their new units of assignment. The reorganization was successfully implemented with no adverse effect on the tactical efficiency of the battalion

On 7 September 1967 Company A conducted a new type combat assault "Operation Aloha" just north of Red Hill (BS760540).

From 3-13 November the 2/35th Inf conducted a battalion operation herein referred to as OPERATION SHORT TIME. The mission was to close with the 97th VC Battalion and stop their infiltration into the Song Ve River Valley. Initially airstrikes conducted at coordinates BS618533 where enemy ground to air fire had been received, however the airstrikes produced negative results. Additional airstrikes were called in on the same coordinates however a detailed search of the area revealed no trace of the enemy. A total of three (3) helicopters were lost during this phase of the operation, one gunship had an internal rocket explode, one helicopter had a defective oil pump and the other helicopter was shot down by hostile ground fire.

recovered and evacuated and the crew numbers aboard the gunship were immediately evacuated to medical facilities. OPERATION SHORT TIME continued without significant contact, as the maneuver elements continued detailed search and destroy operations. On 12 November the battalion engaged the enemy with artillery and gunships killing eight (8) VC and capturing one (1) weapon. On 13 November OPERATION SHORT TIME was terminated without prolific results. Of particular significance during this period was the discovery of an entrance to a cave located in a natural rock formation at coordinates BS659538. After the entrance was blocked and the cave surrounded, Company C began its detailed search of the tunnel apprehending fourteen (14) prisoners.

(4) 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 35th. infantry: During the reporting period the 1st Battalion 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry conducted search and destroy operations in their area of operations with the battalion CP located at LZ OD (OLIVE DRAB) (BS786368). The battalion had no major contacts, however, there were many minor contacts and ambush engagements. On 4 October 1967 the 1st Battalion was airlifted to TAM KY, RVN, and placed under the operational control of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division,

(5) 2nd, Battalion, 35th Infantry: During the reporting period the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry conducted search and destroy operations in their area of operations with the Battalion CP being located at LZ LIZ (BS751436). The battalion had two major contacts on 8 and 20 August 1967, (See Inclosure "2 and "3). A detailed explanation of the techniques employed during these operations is included in the inclosures.

AVDC-C-OP  
November 1967

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

(6) 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry: During the reporting period the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry was under the operational control of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade until 24 September 1967 at which time it reverted to 3d Brigade TF, 4th Infantry Division. Upon arrival in the DUC PHO AO the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry established a battalion fire support base at LZ THUNDER (BS874323), and began to conduct search and destroy operations within the former 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry Area of Operations. The Battalion has had several minor contacts during the remainder of the reporting period. The battalion also assumed the additional mission for the security of the logistical installations in the vicinity of SA HUYNH.

1. (c) GENERAL: During the reporting period 1 November 1967 to 31 January 1967 the 3d Brigade TF, 4th Infantry Division participated in Operation Baker for 62 days, Operation Muscatine for 23 days and Operation Wheeler/ Wallowa for 7 days for a total

of 92 days in combat. The 3d Brigade TF, 4th Infantry Division has participated in 632 consecutive days in combat as of 31 January 1968.

a. Mission: The 3d Brigade's mission in Operation Baker was to assume responsibility within the Duc Pho AO for:

b. The 3d Brigade's mission in Operation Muscatine was to assume responsibility for the southern 2/3 of the Muscatine AO for:

#### OPERATION MUSCATINE

19 Dec 67 - 31 Dec 67

On 19 December, the battalion minus (-) displaced from LZ Liz by air and convoy to Quang Ngai airstrip and became OPCON to 198th Inf Bde (LT). The battalion prepared for a combat assault into the new area of operations in the vicinity of Chu Lai, relieving elements of the 3d Bn 2d ROK Marine Bde.

On 19 December 1967, the Battalion minus companies A and B commenced displacement closing Quang Ngai airstrip at 1730 hours with negative enemy contact in 10 air sorties carrying troops and the operations equipment and one 22 vehicle convoy carrying C 2/9 Arty and logistical equipment.

On 20 December 1967, Company D and the Reconnaissance Platoon conducted airmobile combat assaults on what was to be the new battalion fire base, LZ Sue BS567877, following a forty-five minute air and artillery preparation commencing 0730 hours. Once on the ground, Company D searched and cleared the new fire base while the Reconnaissance Platoon conducted search operations about its perimeter. Company C initially remained at Quang Ngai airstrip as a ready reaction force in support of Company D and the Reconnaissance Platoon. Negative enemy contact was encountered and the Battalion CP and C 2/9 Arty were airlifted from Quang Ngai airstrip to LZ Sue, secured by Company D. At 1400 hours Company C conducted an airmobile combat assault into the new AO (BS560847), established a night fire base and conducted offensive operations.

(2) 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry: During the reporting period, the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry participated in Operation Baker in the Duc Pho area with the Battalion CP at "LZ THUNDER" (BS874323) and later in the Cat Mit Valley located at the headwaters of the An Lao River Valley in the 3d Brigade's Reconnaissance Zone, In January the Battalion moved with

AVDDC-OP 2 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968