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**HEADQUARTERS
2D BATTALION 5TH CAVALRY
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)**

AVION-OT

5 December 1965

SUBJECT: After Action Report of Silver Bayonet

**TO: Commanding Officer
2d Brigade
1st Cavalry Division (Air)
ATTN: S3
APO UN Forces 96490**

- a. Name and identify and/or type of operation: Silver Bayonet- Search and Destroy.
- b. Date/Dates of operation: 11-26 Nov 65
- c. Location: Plei Me Area, 24 Special Zone, II Corps
- d. Control or Command Headquarters: 11-20 Nov 3d Bde
20-26 Nov 3d Bde
- e. Reporting Officer: Lt Col Robert B. Tully
- f. Task Organization: 2/5 Cav
Fwy War Team II Corps
Section H&H Team
Demo Team 3/8th Bn, 11-20 Nov
Flat (-) 2/8th Bn, 21-26 Nov
- g. Supporting Forces:
 - (1) Arty: 1/21, 2/17 and 1/77th Arty.
 - (2) USAF: 24 Air Div for close air support, Smokey Bear and Puff the Magic Dragon for illumination missions.
 - (3) Preplanned air was requested thru S3 Air channels.
 - (4) Immediate Air requested by ground FAC utilizing organic radio. Reaction time varied from 10 minutes to two hours.
- h. Intelligence: 2/5 Cav had contact with 101st (PAVN) and 66th (PAVN) Regiments. Squad size elements of 101st Regt contacted at AR 045064 and AR 022034. 2/5 Cav contacted elements of at least one Battalion of 66th Regt at ME X-MAY, via RV 93040.
- i. Mission: 3d Bde conducts search and destroy ops in assigned area.
- j. Concept of Operations: 2/5 Cav conducts airmobile assaults to seek and destroy enemy in assigned AO. Operate in assigned sector utilizing sweeps and saturation patrolling to destroy the enemy.

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k. Execution:

(1) 2/5 Cav was attached to 3d Bde for Operation Silver Bayonet via Plei Me, Vietnam, with the mission to conduct search and destroy operations in Area Red. The Battalion deployed by OV-2 and C-123 aircraft 110715 Nov to 111430 Nov to Stadium Area via YA 201341 and was helilifted into Area Red commencing 111210 Nov. Bn closed 111545 Nov 65. A, C, D, & Hq Co (-) established defensive perimeter via AR 245195 with C Btry 21st Arty. B Co established patrol base via AR 814150. Bn trains located at Camp Holloway. 2/5 Cav cas, 3 KIA.

12 Nov: A Co moved to via AR 845183 to establish patrol base and discovered numerous punji stakes on trail via AR 790260 to AR 805214. B Co continued patrolling and discovered approx 10 tons of rice via AR 804150. Approx 1/3 of the rice was evacuated to the rear. C Co helilifted to via AR 827182 and established patrol base. Pay War Team conducted orientation in local villages. Reception appeared good.

13 Nov: 2/5 Cav conducted Air Assault to LZ Falcon via AR 825035. A & C Co conducted search and destroy operation along routes Alpha and Charlie. B Co remained LZ Falcon as reaction force.

14 Nov: A & C Co continued search and destroy operations. B Co conducted sweep to via AR 845065 and AR 029039. Battalion was alerted and in accordance with Frag Order 7-65, moved to IV 964994 and prepared for move to LZ X-RAY, VC Cas, 3 KIA, 1 VCG. 2/5 Cav Cas, 7 KIA.

15 Nov: 2/5 Cav departed assembly area IV 964994 and moved to LZ X-RAY, IV 934010 by foot movement. Bn closed LZ X-RAY at 1245 hrs. B Co attached to 1/7th Cav, B Co 1/7th Cav attached to 2/5 Cav. Bn conducted search and destroy operations to IV 930010, to extract 2d Platoon 1/7th Cav which had been cut off from 1/7th Cav for 24 hrs. Bn returned to LZ X-RAY at 1950 hrs, and established defensive perimeter with 1/7th Cav. VC Cas. 25 KIA, 5 VCG. 2/5 Cav cas, 7 KIA.

16 Nov: 2/5 Cav received fire at 0415 hours. A & C Co began sweep operations at 0955 hours, 500 meters to the front of perimeter. Bn supported extraction of 1/7th Cav from LZ X-RAY - 2/5 Cav and 2/7th Cav established defensive perimeters. VC cas, 200 KIA and 2 VCG (in conjunction with 1/7th Cav) 2/5 Cav cas, 7 KIA.

17 Nov: 2/5 Cav conducted sweep 400 meters to the front of perimeter. At 0900 hrs the Bn moved to LZ Columbus via IV 973038 by foot movement and closed 1140 hours. Patrols were conducted by A & C Co with negative results. 2/5 Cav cas, 1 KIA.

18 Nov: 2/5 Cav made air assault on LZ Crooks via YA 875125. 3 platoon size patrols were conducted and all companies swept front of perimeter. Harassing B/A and mortar rds were received during the night. Small squad size probe made in A Co area and continued around perimeter counterclockwise during the hours of darkness. VC cas, 2 KIA and 1 VCG 2/5 Cav Cas, 1 KIA.

19 Nov: 2/5 Cav continued defense of LZ Crooks and security mission for C Btry, 21st Arty, and C Btry, 17th Arty in support of ARVN Operations. 3 Company size patrols were conducted to the north, south and east. 2/7th Cav helilifted into LZ Crooks and defended southern portion of perimeter. 2/5 Cav cas, 2 KIA.

20 Nov: 2/5 Cav continued defense of LZ Crooks; 2/7th Cav departed LZ Crooks and B Company assumed their position on perimeter. 2/5 Cav reverted to control of 2d Bde 201200 Nov. 6 platoon size patrols were conducted with negative contact. VC Radio Station at YA 846076 fired upon by Armed Falcon and Artillery. 2/5 Cav cas, 1 KIA, from short Arty rd. 2 KIA from punji stakes.

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21 Nov: 2/5 Cav continued defense of LZ Crooks. B Co conducted search and destroy operation to YA 878046 and made contact with est VC Platoon. 3 platoon size patrols conducted with negative contact. 2/5 Cav cas, 5 WIA.

22 Nov: 2/5 Cav continued defense of LZ Crooks. 4 platoon size patrols were conducted with negative contact. Bn prepared for operation Greenhouse. 1/8th Cav helilifted to LZ Crooks and occupied north, east, and south portion of defensive perimeter.

230800 Nov: 2/5 Cav crossed LD and conducted search and destroy operation to Objective Far. Upon seizure and securing of Objective, 1/8th Cav relieved 2/5 Cav. Bn returned to LZ Crooks. C Co(-) deployed to Camp Holloway as Brigade Reaction Force for 2d Brigade.

24 Nov: 1/8th Cav relieved 2/5 Cav at LZ Crooks. 2/5 Cav(-) deployed to Camp Holloway and closed at 1830 hrs. Bn prepared for return to An Khe by truck.

25 Nov: 2/5 Cav remained Camp Holloway and prepared to move 26 Nov 65.

26 Nov: 2/5 Cav (Reinforced) moved by motor march to An Khe. Lead elements crossed SP at 0600 and closed base camp at 0930 hrs.

1. Results:

(1)	KIA	WIA	MIA	VC
2/5	1	36	0	0
VC	230	Unk		9

(2) 2/5 Cav Screened after air strikes when the tactical situation permitted.

n. Administration Matters:

(1) General: The S-4 section moved by air and road to Fleiku Area 11 Nov 65 in conjunction with the Bn move. Rear trains were set up in the 3d Fwd Spt area at Camp Holloway where they remained for the duration of the operation. Resupply was by air exclusively utilizing a combination of attached UH-1D's and Fwd Spt CH-47's.

(2) Recap of Opns: During the period 11 - 24 Nov 65 the following amounts of supplies by class were moved from the rear trains to the Bn forward elements. Figures do not include movement within the battle area.

(a)	Class I	22.2 Tons
	Class II & IV	2.3 Tons
	Class V	16.5 Tons
	Water	7645 Gallon

(b) Sorties: 114 UH-1D
19 CH-47

(3) Med Evacs: Med Evac ships were consistently not responsive to calls. Lift ships assumed the evacuation missions and did an outstanding job.

(4) Problem Areas: Shortages of water containers of all sizes and communication over the distance required in this operation were critical factors affecting resupply operations.

n. Commander Analysis:

(1) Operations during period 11-15 Nov were conducted too fast to allow units to effectively sweep and clear assigned areas. Pay Var Team appeared to be getting through to the local Montagnard people, but unit was forced to move to other areas prior to fully developing the information received.

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(2) Operations for remaining periods were against PAVN elements. Company and battalion size operations were conducted in areas where PAVN elements were suspected of operating. Sweep and destroy operations were used during daylight hours and conventional perimeter defense used during hours of darkness. Ambushes were employed during hours of darkness except at LA X-RAY.

(3) During operations away from Div Base, logistical resupply of units and troops requires approximately 2 - 3 hours of daylight to accomplish. This time must be planned for with missions and objective which requires movement of troops from BMT to BMT must be kept to a minimum. Troops require adequate time to dig in positions, get rations, water and ammo distributed and rest up after a days operation. Normal alert during darkness requires at least 50% alert. This reduces the physical stamina of the troops over a period of time if not planned for on a daily basis. This unit uses as a guide 1400 hours to start consolidating its positions and preparing for resupply and night operations.

e. Recommendations:

- (1) More time be allocated to search and destroy operations.
- (2) Battalion integrity be maintained when PAVN units are known to be operating.

s/ROBERT B. TULLY
t/ROBERT B. TULLY
Lt Col. Inf
Commanding

A TRUE COPY JAMES A. GASH
Captain, Infantry
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