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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALPHA TROOP, 1ST SQUADRON
11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

AVIC-XA

9 February 1970

SUBJECT: Synopsis of Action, 7 February 1970, conducted by Team A (A Troop 1/11th ACR, A Co 2/8 Cavalry, 10 Rome Plows of 501 Engineer Company).

At approximately 1515 hours 7 February 1970 Team A was moving on an easterly axis vicinity of XT 398388. The formation was Rome Plows on the left of the formation echeloned left. A, 1/11 with A Co, 2/8 Cavalry mounted on their vehicles, were in column formation with two platoons abreast, 1st platoon on the south, third platoon on the north. The HQ element of A, 1/11 was initially with the 3rd platoon. (See inclosure 1 sketch).

Phase I

At the outset of the contact, the troops had just passed a trench line and had been instructed to execute a 90 degree turn to the south; after moving 40 meters to the south the rear of the column received fire from RPG's, rifle, and hand grenades, from positions well camouflaged in the thick brush. The 1st platoon immediately turned south (right flank) and on command returned fire. Within 30 seconds the head of the column began to receive grenade, rifle, and RPG fire from three directions. Vehicles were ordered forward to protect the Rome plows which had halted in place, primarily A-66, HQ-81 (medic track), How22 (F.O.) and A-38. After fire superiority had been achieved (infantry also having been off-loaded) the task of leading the plows to the rear had to be accomplished. Vehicles were ordered to move off the cleared area into the brush. Wounded personnel were evacuated to the rear, Rome Plows drivers rounded up and moved between the column to the rear where the medic pad was prepared and the infantry put on line. The initial reorganization lasted perhaps 30 to 40 minutes and included straightening out the line on a east-west axis, medical evacuation of the rest of the extremely wounded and the pushing out of the line on the north where activity was lightest in order to secure the pad.

Phase II

The 1st platoon was now forward on line and prepared for an assault into the area of greatest fire, Southward. The 3rd platoon secured the area to the rear and the still active East flank, and the 2nd platoon arrived to evacuate the plows from the area of contact.

The assault commenced with 2 sheridans, 5 ACAVs from the 1st platoon and A-66 (G.O. track in center). The infantry formed on the rear. After directing suppressive fire into the area the 1st platoon A, 1/11 moved into thick jungle, firing constantly.

Not more than eight feet into the jungle wall were well fortified bunkers occupied by NVA soldiers still willing to fight. The 1st platoon continued to move slowly, but steadily ahead. The result was that although many were killed outright; others hid in the bottoms of bunkers and waited for the tracks to pass over.

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SUBJECT: Synopsis of action (Continued).

The Troop Commander's vehicle rolled over 4 NVA soldiers who were lying on the ground. At one point the vehicle crushed a bunker and a NVA soldier was seen hiding inside of it. Waving off the infantry who were fragging bunkers to the rear, the Troop Commander made an attempt to capture the enemy soldier. The NVA soldier offered to surrender, but at this point a grenade was thrown from the entrance of the bunker. The personnel from the Troop Commander's vehicle remounted the track and began tossing concussion grenades into the bunker while the infantry fired from the side of the vehicles. Resistance ceased after a short period, and the advance continued forward for another 30 to 40 meters with moderate return of fire being encountered. The Sheridan vehicles proved to be most effective in blasting (the infantry reported A-17 killed 7 enemy with one main gun round). The assault reached its critical point at approximately 1700 hours when A-16 received a direct hit from a RPG-7 in the side, wounding 1 man seriously and 2 others lightly. The Troop Commander moved forward in response to a call for aid and to cover A-16's right flank. As the commander's vehicle moved into the brush, a RPG grenader was observed in a bunker preparing to fire his weapon. The enemy soldier was killed by pistol fire and the bunker was destroyed. The attack continued until approximately 1730 hours when Blue Max was employed throughout the area. Throughout the attack, the Squadron Commander directed artillery to within 200 to 300 meters of the contact area (to the East and South).

RECAPITULATION:

The attack moved through the entire complex to the south and east with the exception of 2 bunkers uncovered the next day, a suspected Sapper school, and a mess hall. A brief search of the area disclosed 14 NVA bodies, 3 AKs, 1 crew-served MG, 1 B-40, 2 SKs, 1 pistol (the last 3 items not reported as they were not turned in A Troop), 100lbs of clothes, 30 lbs of documents, 40 grenades, 2 mines, 1 82mm booby trap, 5 60mm mortar rounds, 400 lbs of rice, 8 RPG rounds (-7), 400 rounds of AK, and 25 packs.

COMMENTS:

It is impossible to commend highly enough the courage of the men who continued to press forward against the well entrenched positions in dense jungle and brush with little visibility. The combination of infantry, Rome Flows, and the Armored Cavalry is a highly effective force for jungle activities.

JOHN B. POINDEXTER
CPT, Armor
Commanding

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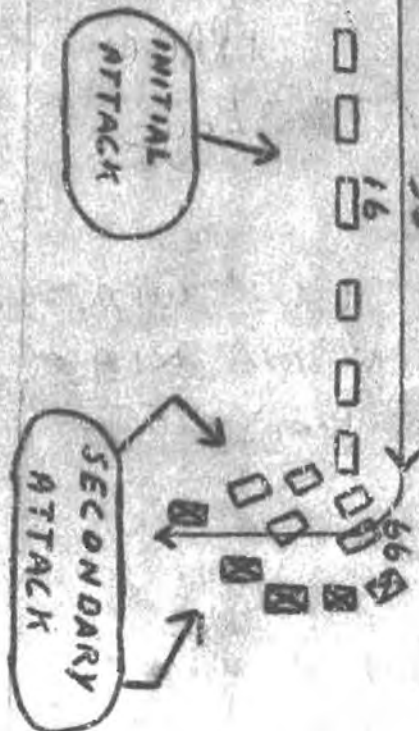
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I

- ☒ - ROME FLOWS
- - A TROOP

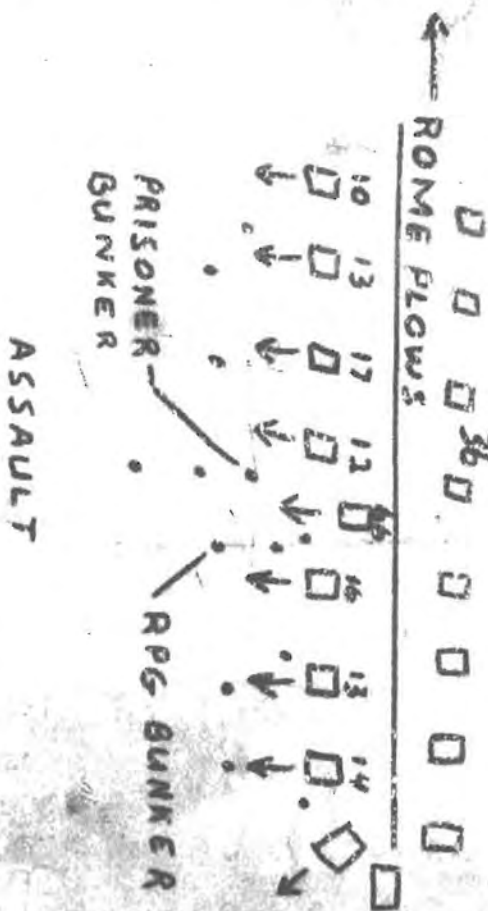
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SKETCH

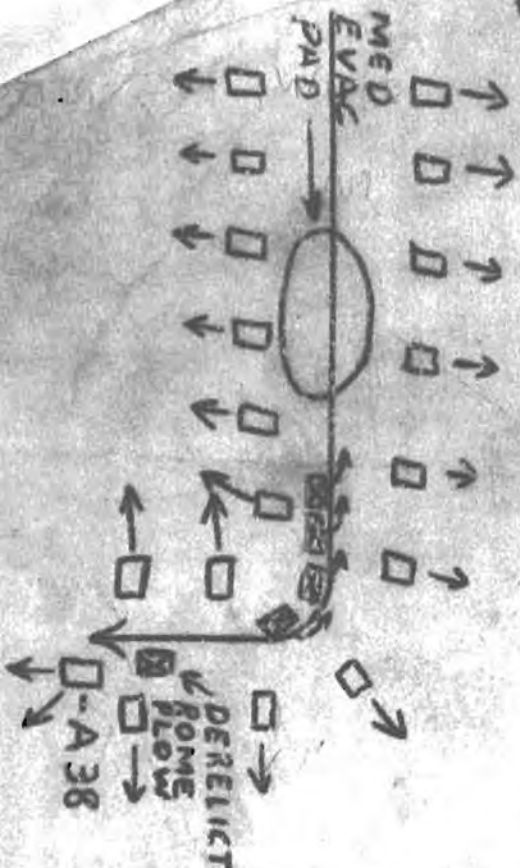
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• - BUNKER



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II



IV



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Sketch: 1

clear
forest

stream

39

29

⑥

⑦

①

bunkers

④

⑤

clear forest

Jungle

trail

Notes:

- ① A Troop and Rome Plows were hit and turned outward to counterattack.
- ② Artillery was brought initially to this block.
- ③ The artillery fire was then shifted to the trail area.
- ④ At the same time, a Light Fire Team expended in the general area of the bunkers.
- ⑤ ARA was finally brought in to cover the lower trail.
- ⑥ The Rome Plows evacuated to here.
- ⑦ Medivac pad.

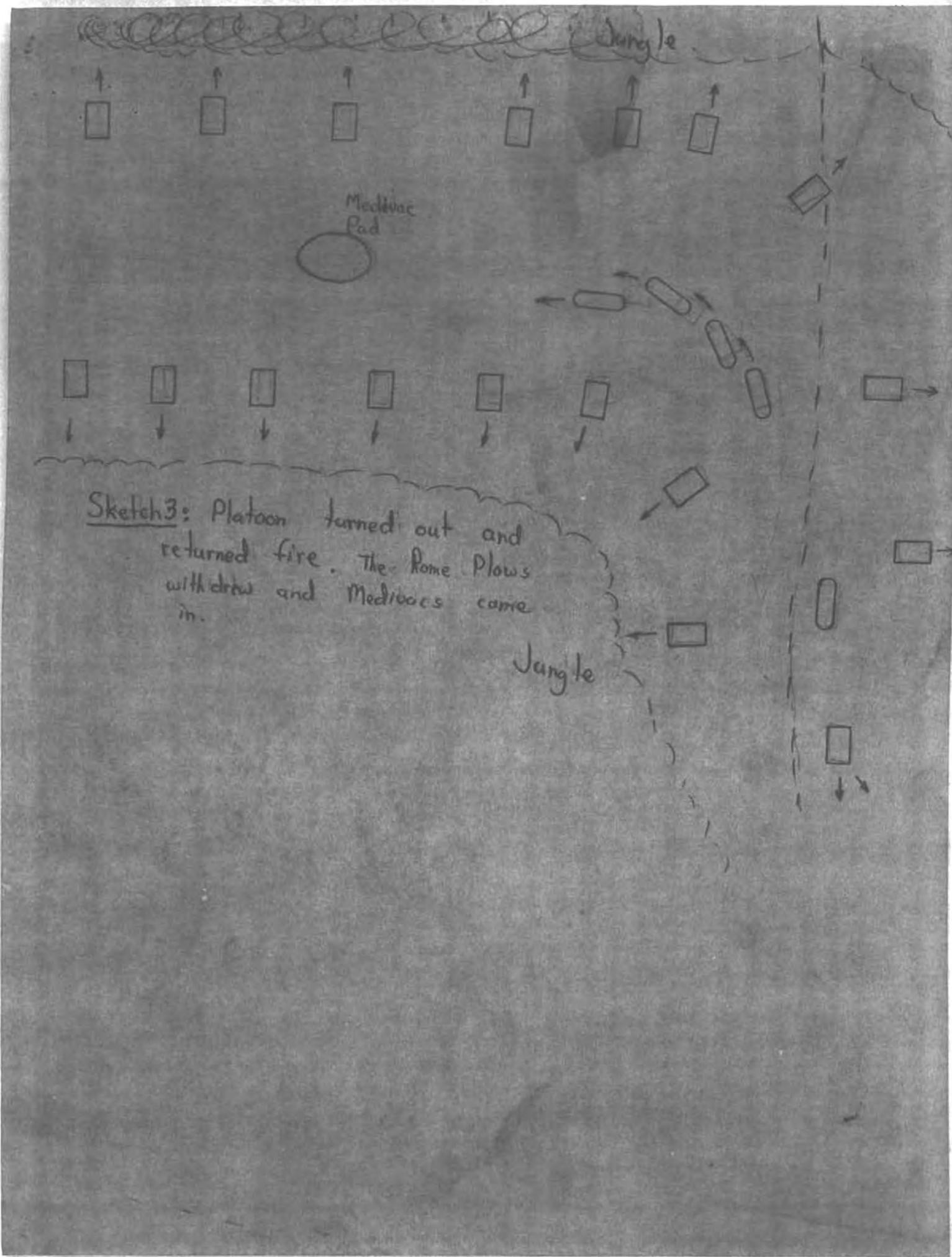
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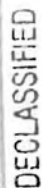
Sketch 3: Platoon turned out and returned fire. The Rome Plows withdrew and Medivacs came in.

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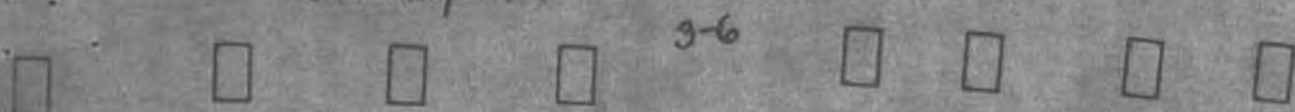
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Jungle

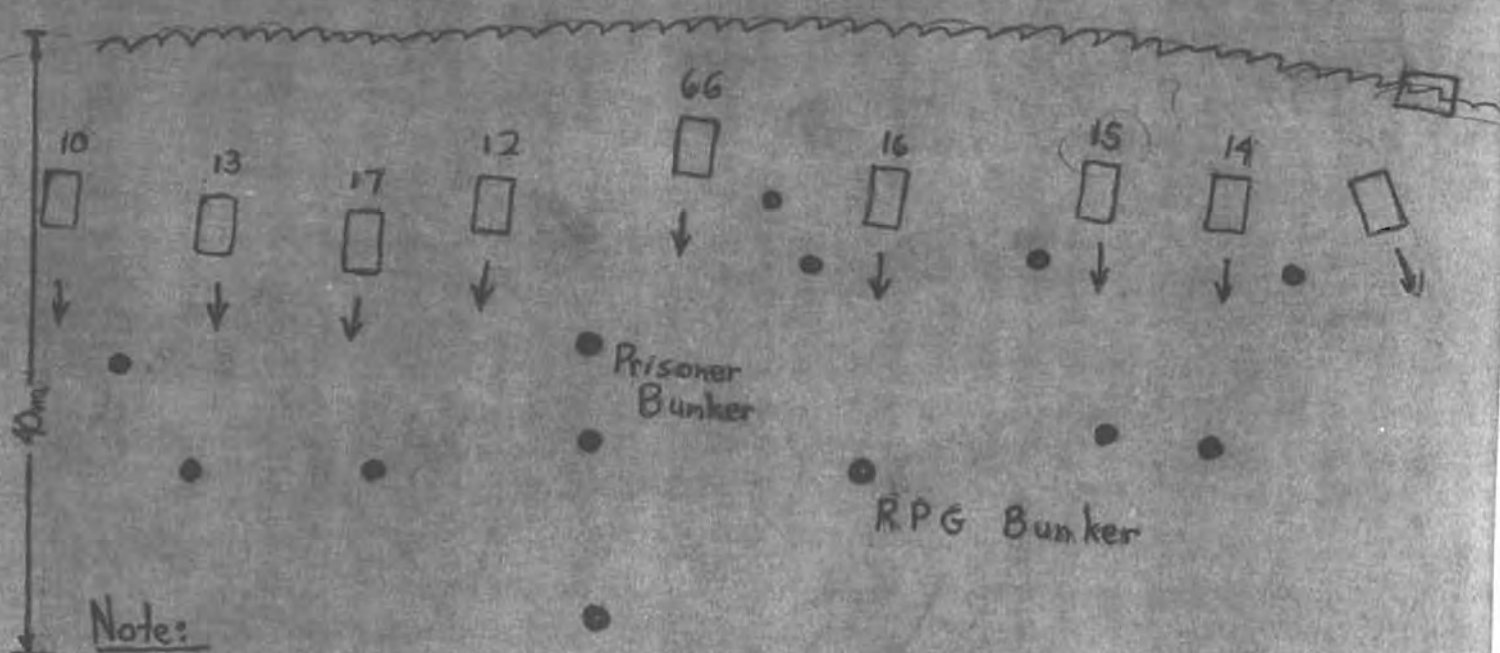


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Sketch 4: 1st Platoon came on line and assaulted into the bunker complex.



← Some Plows moved back in this direction.



Note:

● Bunkers

□ ACAVs & Sheridans

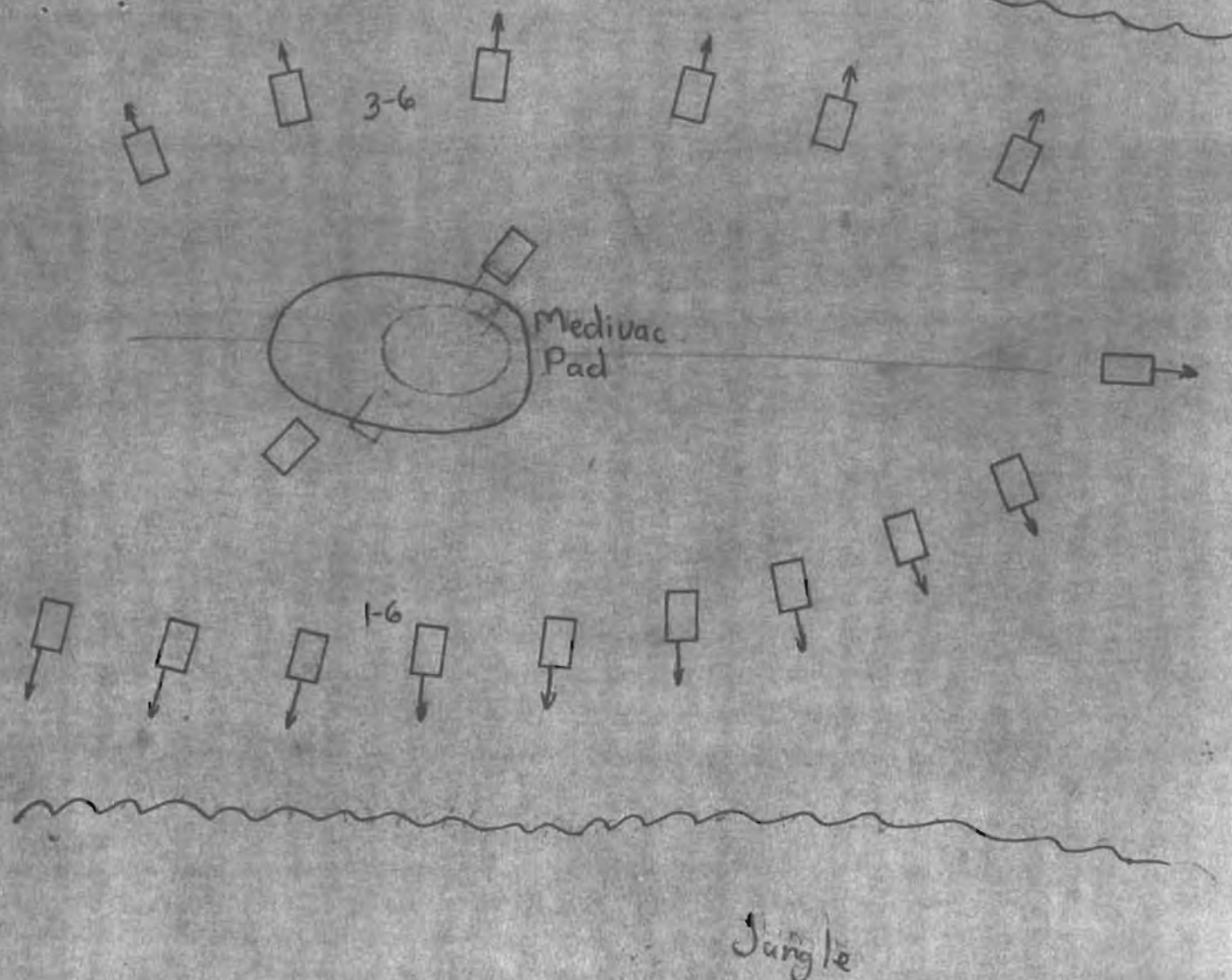
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Sketch 5: A Troop formed a perimeter to secure dust-offs.

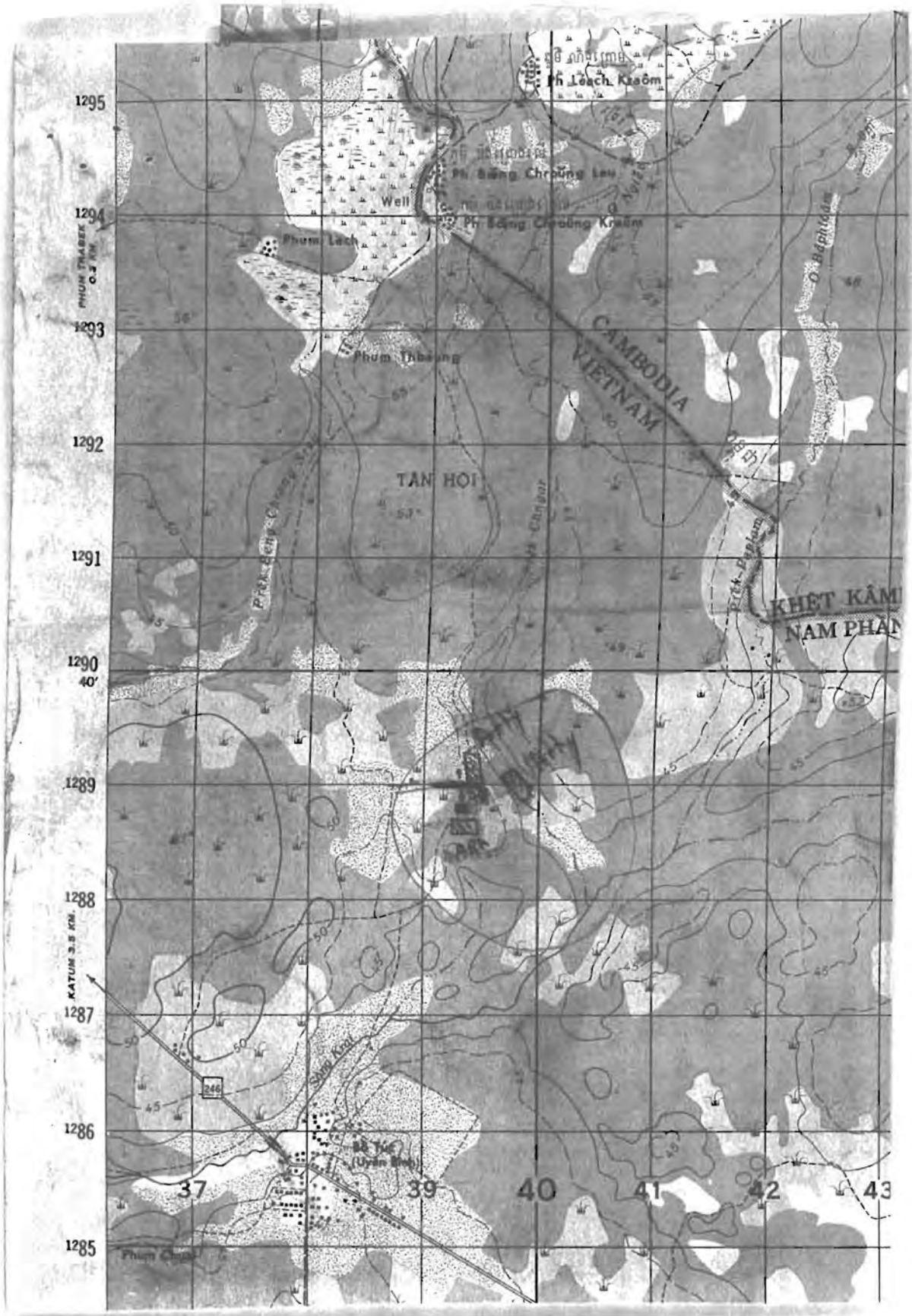
Jungle



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