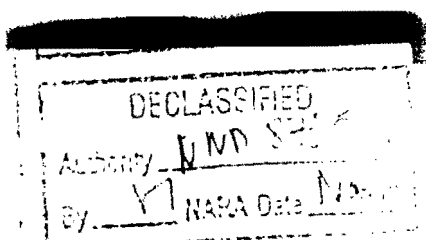


RG 472 USA Viet Nam
11th ACE
Organizational History 1966-71
Box 4

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY
1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
1 January 1968 - 31 December 1968

22 February 1969

Merritte W. Ireland
MERRITTE W. IRELAND
LTC Armp.
Commanding



HEADQUARTERS, 1ST SQUADRON
11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96257

AVIC-XR

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Summary

The beginning of 1968 found the 1st Squadron continuing Operation FARGO (which was initiated on 21 Dec 1967) in the Loc Ninh area.

The Squadron provided security for the Regimental Command Post and Forward Support Area. In addition, the Squadron continued operations in AO RAMBLER which included security of Rome Plow teams, clearing vegetation along Highway 13, from AN LOC to LOC NINH, bridge construction vicinity XT 723973 and convoy escort between AN LOC and LOC NINH. Troop-size search and destroy missions were conducted which resulted in the discovery and destruction of numerous enemy bunkers vicinity of XU 765138 and XT 708079.

On 14 Jan the Squadron moved NE on Highway 14A toward BU DOP (XU 971290). Operations were conducted from FSB KNIFE (XU 884185) and FSB SLEEPER (XU 800125) resulting in several VC KIA and one battalion-size base camp destroyed.

On 20 Jan Operation ATTALA began. The first mission consisted of occupation of a blocking position NW of the Iron Triangle. The Squadron also established FSB HOB0 (XT 693329) to support the occupation of FSB WOODS. One VC base camp was destroyed during search and destroy operations. During this period the Squadron lost 8 killed and 17 wounded due to hostile mines.

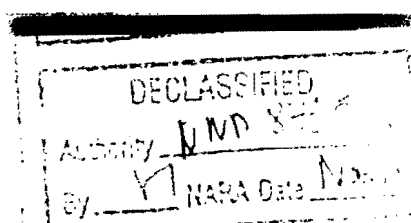
At 310945H Jan 68 the TET TRUCE was terminated by President Thieu and 2 hrs. later the 1st Squadron was ordered to secure II FFORCEV HQ (YT 055113).

From 1 Feb 68 to 29 Feb 68, the 1st Squadron participated in Operation ADAIRSVILLE in the LONG BINH and BLACKHORSE Base Camp (YS 4396) areas.

During the period 1 Feb to 15 Feb 68, the 1st Squadron had the primary mission of defending II FFORCEV HQ. In addition, a Rome Plow clearing operation was secured by Troop A while they worked south of LONG BINH, Team D cleared WIDOW's Village (YS 935995) and Team C moved to TRANG BOM (YT 200111) to assist in a cordon and search operation with elements of the 1st Australian Task Force.

From 2-5 Feb 68 Team A was OPCON to 1/18 Inf and conducted operations in THU DUC (XS 923995). On 5 Feb 68 the 1st Squadron received its first AFI/CIMI in VIETNAM which was conducted by the

Page 1 of 7 Pages



AVIC-XR

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Summary

USARV IG Team. On the same day, Team B moved to defend TAN SON NHUT Air Base (XS 805953) and later moved into the Southern Saigon area (XS 834175) under OPCOM 4/39 Inf, 9th Inf Div. Team B lost 1 US KHA, 4 US WIA, and accounted for 3 VC KIA and 1 VC WIA.

On 15 Feb 68, the 1st Squadron (-) moved to Blackhorse and assumed the additional missions of defending Blackhorse, providing convoy RRF between Blackhorse and Long Binh and securing the rock quarry operation at GIA RAY (YT 620115). Team C reacting as convoy RRF killed 5 VC on 18 Feb.

From 1 Mar 68 to 22 Mar 68, the 1st Squadron continued operation ADAIRSVILLE/KITTY HAWK. The primary missions were Blackhorse Base Camp security, GIA RAY rock quarry security, convoy and engineer work party security and also a Long Binh security requirement.

On 6 Mar 68 the 1st Squadron (-) conducted a joint operation with the 52d ARVN Ranger Battalion (18th ARVN Div) which included cordons of SUOI CAT (YS 4294), HOAN QUANG (YS 444925) and CAM MY (YS 462925). On this day 5 men were lost to enemy mine action.

At 090110H Mar Blackhorse received 40 rounds of 82mm mortar fire, resulting in 10 WIA. At the same time the VC attacked several villages and compounds near Blackhorse Base Camp.

The 1st Squadron conducted screening and reconnaissance in force missions for the remainder of the month. Operation ALCONH COVE began on 22 Mar 68, but the mission of the 1st Squadron remained the same.

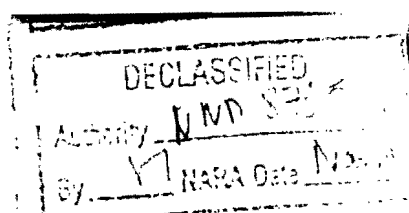
During the period 3 Apr to 5 Apr the 1st Squadron conducted a joint operation with the 1/43 Regt, 18th ARVN Div and the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Regt, (RTAVR) in the western sector of the Blackhorse TAOR. The 1st Squadron formed a blocking force and ARVN and RTAVR forces pushed toward the block. The result was 1 VC KIA, 1 VC WL and various supplies captured.

From 6 - 10 Apr, D Co, 1/11 ACR turned in all its M48A3 tanks and drew M48A2C tanks. The other units of the 1st Squadron conducted maintenance and prepared for future operations.

On 15 Apr Operation CLIFTON CORRAL began. The name was changed to Campaign TOAN THIANG (PHASE I) on 18 Apr and this operation continued until 31 Jul 68.

On 15 Apr the 1st Squadron moved from Blackhorse to PHU CUONG (XT 839144) and then attacked in column along Highway 1A and Highway 14 establishing FSB FREMONT (YT 295007). From this position the

Page 2 of 7 Pages



AVIC-XR

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Summary

Squadron's mission was to destroy VC/NVA forces north and south in an area east of the SONG BE River.

From 16 - 20 Apr 68 the Troops conducted RIF's in the area. On 18 and 19 Apr, B Troop OPCON to 1/18 Inf was ambushed with result of 2 US KHA and 15 US WHA. 2 VC were KIA by B Troop two days later at the ambush site (YU 345169).

On 21 and 22 Apr the Squadron marched down Route 14 from DONG XOAI to the DONG NAI River on Route 322. Team C on a RIF (YT 231316) found 4 ammo storage bunkers containing 21 rounds of 81mm mortar, 142 rounds of 75mm RR ammo and some rice.

The 1st Squadron conducted a river crossing at YS 314261, marched to the LONG BINH Post area on 25 Apr and assumed the Plantation, DONG NAI River Bridge, WIDOW's Village, III Corps POW compound, III Corps HQ & HONOUR SMITH Compound, security and reaction force missions.

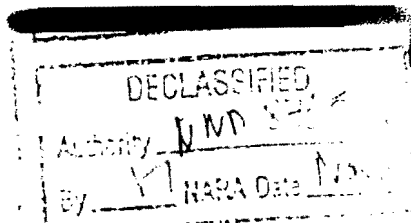
The 1st Squadron continued the LONG BINH security mission until 12 May when the 1st Squadron (-) moved to CU CHI to establish a block to prevent NVA (9th Div) forces moving toward the Saigon area. The 1st Squadron remained in heavy contact for the rest of May. During this period the 1st Squadron worked with the 5th ARVN and 25th ARVN Div. VC/NVA KIA during the period were 312. The Squadron lost 21 KHA and 118 WHA.

During operations in HAU NGHIA Province the 1st Squadron participated in the following major engagements:

On 13 May 68, A/1/11 in support of the 5th ARVN Inf at XT 729124 received heavy AW and RPG fire from a woodline. A/1/11 overran the NVA position in the afternoon resulting in 67 NVA KIA (BC) and 3 VC PW. A large quantity of weapons, ammo and supplies was captured.

The same morning B/1/11 ACR, working with 3/49th ARVN Bn, received heavy AW and RPG fire from a base camp (XT 524106). D/1/11 reinforced and then assaulted the point of contact. Later C/1/11 joined the attack and the enemy stronghold was penetrated at 1915H. NVA (BC) was 61.

Page 3 of 7 Pages



AVIC-ZR

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Summary

On 14 May 68 at XT 741127, A/1/11 engaged an NVA Company. The contact lasted all day and was supported by 7/5 ARVN and TAC Air. NVA (BC) was 7.

On 16 May 68 the 1st Squadron established a screen with B and C/1/11 from XT 6005 to XT 6003. Later that day D/1/11 received fire from XT 595065 and was reinforced by B and C troops. This contact resulted in 22 VC KIA.

On 18 May 68 C/1/11 received heavy fire vic XT 510020 from an NVA Bn size force. D/1/11 reinforced and penetrated the first line of defense. Darkness closed in and the 1st Squadron laagered to continue in the morning. Eight AA machineguns were observed firing at TAC Air. Results were 47 NVA KIA (BC).

On 25 May 68, B/1/11 ran into a Bn size enemy force armed with AW and RPG's at XT 580023. D/1/11 reinforced and, as in the earlier contacts, after dark an NVA covering force was left to harass, while the main force withdrew under cover of darkness and contact was broken at 260040H May. A sweep indicated 12 NVA KIA (BC).

On 28 May 68, C/1/11 was conducting a RIF and received heavy fire from XS 636983 at 1030H. C/1/11 and 51st ARVN Rangers overran the objective at 1640H. The result was 54 NVA KIA (BC).

B/1/11 vic XT 244125 attacked and pushed into the center of an objective but the enemy flankers held. At 1830 B reinforced by D Co. consolidated their position. That night, the allied forces killed 8 VC while they were attempting to get close to the US positions. In a sweep the next morning, 9 NVA KIA (BC) were found.

The 1st Squadron began movement from the 25th ARVN Div area of operation at 031720H Jun 68 and closed on PHU LOI, XT 863166 with all units at 040100H Jun 68 and became OPCON to 3d Bde, 1st Inf Div.

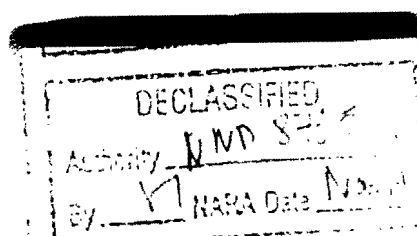
During the period 4 - 22 Jun 68, the 1st Squadron worked the area of AP BO LA (XT 8838) and NE of BINH MY (XT 9033). These were key areas to the LOC's of the 7th NVA Div.

The 1st Squadron fought a heavy engagement on 6 - 7 Jun 68 against a company size NVA unit dug in on a hillside at XT 941404. Results were 16 NVA KIA.

For the remainder of the month the 1st Squadron was harassed by small arms and RPG fire, but did not fight any major engagements.

On 26 Jun 68 the 1st Squadron moved into the TRAPEZOID area vic XT 621331. The Squadron discovered numerous caches while conducting RIF's in the area. The caches contained large amounts of rice

Page 4 of 7 Pages



AVIC-AR

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Summary

(10 tons), powdered milk, salt and bicycles which the enemy had apparently been stockpiling for some time. The unusual aspect of this was that no real resistance was offered American units moving into these areas.

From 1-10 Jul 68 the 1st Squadron continued its operations in the TRAPEZOID area. There had been reports of extensive enemy movement of new units of the 1st NVA Div south of the FISH HOOK (XU 6090) through the Michelin Rubber Plantation towards Saigon. The Squadron continued to locate old base camps, some times with small caretaker forces in them along with large amounts of weapons, food and medical supplies, but it did not find any large groups of NVA forces. From 10-12 Jul the 1st Squadron performed maintenance at LAI KHE and on 12 Jul moved to QUANG LOI and became OPCON to the 1st Bde, 1st Inf Div. The Squadron conducted local RLP's on the 15th and 16th and moved to the LOC NINH area on the 17th and established NDP APACHE (XU 731073).

On the 18th of Jul, Troops A and C were on a RIF at XU 773105 when they engaged an estimated NVA platoon, resulting in 10 NVA (BC). At about the same time (0940H) on the 18th, Troop B was screening Hwy 14 in conjunction with A and C Troops RIF when an estimated NVA Co ambushed the leading ACAV units of the screen at XU 800142. Troop B consolidated and attacked north, found an occupied enemy base camp and pushed through it. The result was 36 NVA KIA (BC), 2 NVA POW and various weapons and supplies captured.

On 24 Jul, Co D reacted to a SF/CIDG contact at XU 713093 with an estimated NVA Co in the rubber. Co D attacked with the result of 21 NVA KIA (BC). Total NVA killed in Jul was 81 (BC).

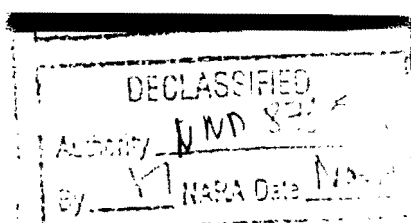
The 1st Squadron was released from the control of the 1st Inf Div and moved to Blackhorse to assume the Base Camp security mission at 051200H Aug 68.

On 7 Aug 68 LTC Briggs H. Jones replaced LTC Jack W. Nielsen as CO of the 1st Squadron.

On 15 Aug 68 Blackhorse Base Camp received 20 rounds of 122mm rocket fire. 3/11 ACR had 3 US WHA.

Later in the morning on the 15th, Co D's Road Runner to GIA RAY was ambushed at YT 612064 by unk size enemy force. The Plt ldr was killed and 2 US personnel were wounded.

Page 5 of 7 Pages



AVIC-ZR

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Summary

During the period from 6-31 Aug 68, 1st Squadron also worked with the 18th ARVN Div and the 1st AIF and Task Force PRIVEE (under 11th ACR control).

During 1-12 Sep, the Squadron conducted operations in the Blackhorse TAOR and continued the Base Camp security missions. On 13 Sep 68, the 1st Squadron CP moved from Blackhorse to PHU LOI (XT 862161). Elements of the 1/11 ACR moved into AO PANTHER in southeastern BINH DUONG and northwestern BIEN HOA Provinces. The Squadron conducted anti-rocket, reconnaissance in force, and extensive night ambush operations, as well as cordons of selected villages in order to stop infiltration of the Dong Nai Regiment toward GIA DIEN and the Capital Military District; and to thwart local force units that were providing shelter and supplies.

On 24 Sep, Troop B received RPG rounds from a village (XT 812285). They sealed the area and attacked at daylight with a company of the 36th Ranger Bn (ARVN). The results were 4 US WHA, 1 ARVN KIA, 6 VC KIA and 1 VC PW.

On 27 Sep, Troop C on an RIF with elements of the 7th Regt. (ARVN) discovered a large ammunition cache in a well at XT 865232.

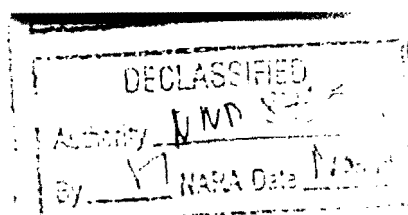
From 1-18 Oct the Squadron continued operations in AO PANTHER with no major engagement.

On 18 Oct, the 1st Squadron moved from the PHU LOI base camp to the TAN SON NHUT AFB/SAIGON area. The Squadron came under the operational control of 3d Bde, 82d Abn Div. The Squadron became primarily a rapid reaction force. However, it also performed reconnaissance in force, security and night ambush operations. During this period the 1st Squadron was responsible for security of various US installations in the TSNAFB/SAIGON area.

The Squadron continued the reaction force mission until 15 Nov 68 when 1/11 ACR returned to the LAM SON area of southeastern BINH DUONG and northwestern BIEN HOA Province. In AO SADDLE, the Squadron conducted pacification, reconnaissance in force, road security, anti-rocket, and night ambush operations throughout the remainder of the year. The 1/11 ACR CP located at FSB HOLIDAY INN (XT 909335) and the 1st Squadron reverted to 11th ACR control.

On 20 Nov, the Squadron CP at HOLIDAY INN received approx 100 rounds of 82mm mortar and RPG fire and a probing ground attack resulting in 2 US KHA, 8 US WHA, 1 LOH destroyed. Enemy losses were unknown.

Page 6 of 7 Pages



AVIC-XR

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Summary

On 23 Nov, LTC Briggs H. Jones was replaced by LTC Merritte W. Ireland.

During the month of December 68 the 1st Squadron placed major emphasis on the pacification of BINH MY and BINH CO. Total VC KIA in Dec 68 were 9 and 2 VC MIA. Friendly casualties were 5 US KIA and 16 US MIA, due mostly to mines and mortar attacks.

Page 7 of 7 Pages

