

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
919th ENGINEER COMPANY (ARMORED)
APO San Francisco 96257

AVIC-WL

2 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period ending 30 April 1968,
(RCS/CSPUR-65) (VIC-WDMBTO) (U)

Commanding Officer
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
ATTN: AVIC-WE
APO SF 96257

Section I: Significant Organizational/Unit Activities.

1. Introduction: During the reporting period elements of the 919th Engineer Company (Armored) participated in Operations "Adairsville", "Quyet Thang" (Resolve to win), and "Toan Thang" (Total Victory), while providing direct Combat Engineer Support to elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

2. Operations:

a. "ADAIRSVILLE": With the outbreak of the "TET" offensive on the 29th of January, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and elements of the 919th Engineer Company (Armored), moved into the Long Binh/Tien Hoa area to rout the enemy forces and secure the immediate area. Upon arrival the Headquarters, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and First Squadron moved into an area called "Widows Village", directly across from II Field Force, Long Binh. Immediately after moving into the area the First Platoon, 919th Engineer Company (Armored), was given the mission of putting in 3,000 meters of barrier material around "Widows Village", consisting of one

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
14 APR 1992 7624
Authority: NARA Date Specified
By: [Signature]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AVIC-WL

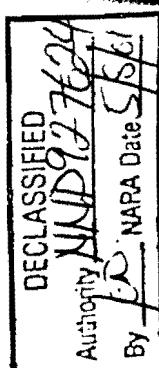
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period ending 30 April 1968 Cont.

2. Operations: Continued.

a. "ADAIRSVILLE" Continued.

belt of triple standard concertina. The Second Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, along with the Third Platoon, 919th Engineer Company, moved into III Corps Headquarters in Bien Hoa, for security of Bien Hoa and Bien Hoa Air Base. The Third Platoon, 919th Engineer Company (Armored), gave direct engineer support to the Second Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, while running operation's North of Bien Hoa, along the Dong Nai River. The platoon built approaches and supervised one of the largest assault river crossings to date on 17 March 1968, at YTO41186. The platoon supervised the crossing of some 150 vehicles by the use of "Mike" boats. The crossing was completely successful, bringing both track and wheeled vehicles across the river. The Third Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, along with the Second Platoon, 919th Engineer Company (Armored), moved to the Long Binh area for security and operations east of Long Binh and south of Highway I. The platoon participated in these operations destroying some 50 enemy fortifications. Elements of the 919th Engineer Company (Armored), gave their continuing combat support on operation "Adairsville", while participating in Reconassiance in Force Operations.

b. "QUYET THANG" (Resolve to win): On 3 March 1968, the Third Squadron, along with the Second Platoon, 919th Engineer Company (Armored), moved west of Saigon to Vinh Loc and then further West to Duc Hoa, to support the 25th ARVN Division. During reconnaissance in Force Operations the platoon searched and destroyed enemy complexes and destroyed

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AVIC-WL

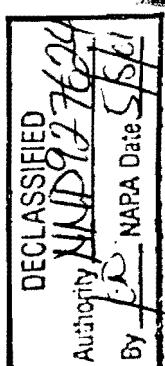
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period ending 30 April 1968 Cont.

2. Operations: Continued.

b. "QUYET THANG" (Resolve to Win): Continued.

over 1500 enemy fortifications. The platoon also received the mission of supervising the digging in of vehicles and to build helicopter revetments. (See Lessons Learned: Expedient Aircraft Revetments). During the Reconnaissance in Force Operations the platoon participated in two enemy encounters on the 16th and 28th of March. The platoon brought continuous suppressive fire on the enemy with negative casualties. During this period the Third Platoon, 919th Engineer Company (Armored), with the Second Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, were on operations in the Iron Triangle. The Platoon searched and destroyed 100 enemy bunkers and 115 feet of tunnel complexes. With the conditions of roads in the "Iron Triangle" the platoon prepared and supervised the launching of Armored Vehicle Launched Bridges at some 30 sites. With the mission of the First Squadron at this time being Base Camp security and reconnaissance in force operations in the immediate area of Blackhorse Base Camp. The First Platoon, 919th Engineer Company (Armored), during this period, conducted mine sweeping operations south of Blackhorse Base Camp, in the vicinity of Cam My. The platoon found seven (7) Anti-tank Mines, which they destroyed. The road and culverts between Blackhorse Base Camp and Cam My were repaired.

c. "TOAN THANG": On 15 April 1968, the Headquarters, First and Second Squadrons, and elements of the 919th Engineer Company (Armored), moved to conduct an operation in the Song Be area. This operation being

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVIC-WL

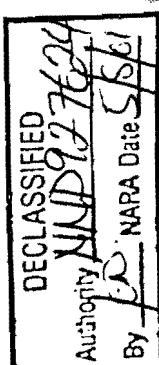
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period ending 30 April 1968 Cont.

2. Operations: Continued.

C. "TOAN THANG": Continued.

unique, because 75% of the route from Phoue Vinh to the Regimental Jump CP (BOONARD), in the Song Be area, had not been traveled in more than fifteen (15) years. The mission of the 919th Engineer Company (Armored), was to move the elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in with speed, and still gain an element of surprise on the enemy. Several obstacles were encountered to hinder their movement, they included blown bridges, and bomb craters. The First Platoon, 919th Engineer Company (Armored), utilizing the company's organic M48A3 Tank-dozer, prepared and launched three (3) AVLB's on the initial move into the area. In connection with this operation the Second Platoon, 919th Engineer Company (Armored), prepared and launched two (2) AVLB's. With the elements of the 919th Engineer Company (Armored) being able to recon, prepare and negotiate these obstacles, they were able to move the elements of the Regiment 130 miles in less than 20 hours, on a road that has not been used in over a decade. After getting settled into the area the elements of the 919th Engineer Company (Armored) gave direct combat engineer support in Reconassince in Force Operations, destroying over 300 enemy fortifications. With the movement of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment back through War Zone "D", the 919th Engineer Company (Armored) was given the mission of negotiating any obstacle, and move all elements through with speed. The First Platoon, 919th Engineer Company (Armored), prepared the site and launched 14 AVLB's, and two Ford Sites were prepared. On one of the AVLB sites the organic M48A3 Tank-dozer worked for 6½ hours to put a 60 foot AVLB over an 80 foot gap. During the operation, without the availability of the M48A3 Tank-dozer

CONFIDENTIAL



AVIC-WL

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period ending 30 April 1968 Cont.

2. Operations: Continued.

c. "TOAN THANG": Continued.

many of the obstacles would not have been negotiated. The operation demonstrated the full capabilities of the 919th Engineer Company (Armored) in support of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment on combat operations.

3. Regional Force/Popular Force Upgrading and ARVN Training: The 919th Engineer Company (Armored) continued its upgrading support by releasing over 300 rolls of concertina, and gave technical advice in the placing of this material.

4. Base Camp Development: The rear detachment during this period accomplished intensive work on the perimeter of Blackhorse Base Camp. The replacing of barrier material and the clearing of over 1000 meters of fields of fire around the perimeter, along with technical advice on the rehabilitation of the perimeter bunkers, strengthened the perimeter and was essential in the security of the base camp.

Section II: Lessons Learned.

1. Expedient Aircraft Revetments: It was found that with materials available, such as sand bags and powder bag casings, that an effective and lasting revetment can be built in a minimum amount of time, and with minimum personnel. By alternating sand bags two layers thick and placing powder bag casings lengthwise an L shaped revetment 20' X 20' can be built in less than one hour.

CONFIDENTIAL

WILLIAM J. SCHAMMELL
CPT, CE
Commanding

10778
10778

