

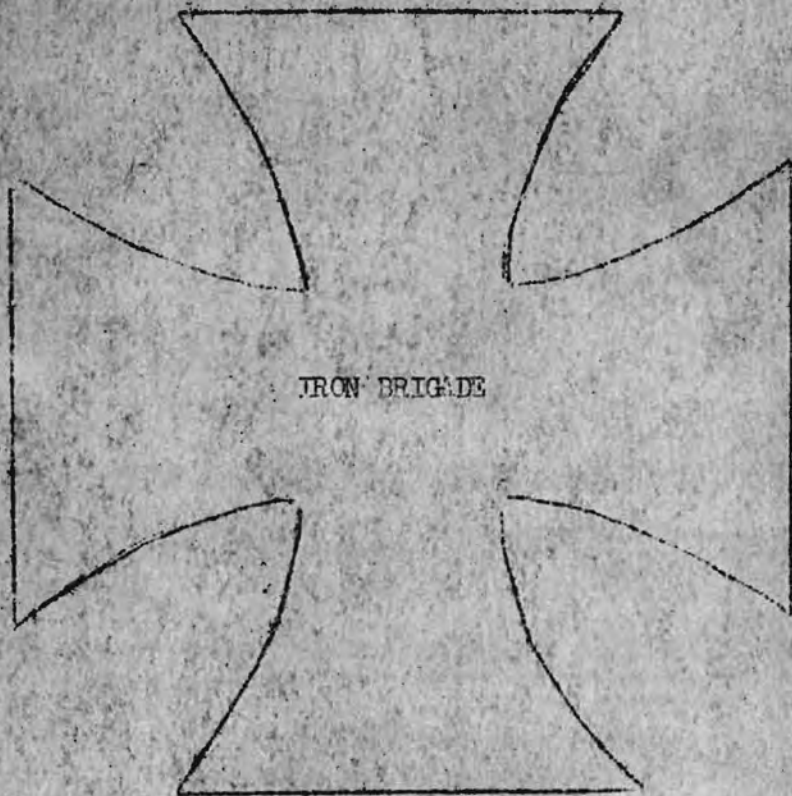
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COMBAT OPERATIONS AFTER ACTION

REPORT

"MANHATTAN"



SIDNEY M. MARKS
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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By <u>PR</u> NARA Date <u>5/8/81</u>

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS 3D BRIGADE AND LAI KHE BASE
 1st Infantry Division
 APO 96345

AVDB-WB-C

25 May 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (MACV/RCS/J3/32)

THRU: Commanding General
 1st Infantry Division
 APO US Forces 96345

TO: Commander
 US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
 ATTN: J321
 APO US Forces 96243

1. NAME AND TYPE OF OPERATION: Operation MANHATTAN; Search and Destroy.
2. DATES OF OPERATION: 230900 April 1967 to 112400 May 1967.

3. GENERAL: Command headquarters - 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. 1st Infantry Division OPLAN 9-67 (Operation MANHATTAN) dated 111200 hours April 1967; 1st Infantry Division OPORD 9-67 (Operation MANHATTAN) dated 230001 hours April 1967; 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division OPORD 11-67 (Operation MANHATTAN) dated 200800 April 1967. Operation MANHATTAN was conducted in the LONG NGUYEN Forest area North of the Iron Triangle. The 3d Brigade plan was to conduct a multi-battalion combat assault on 23 April 1967 and conduct combat reconnaissance and jungle destruction in assigned AO; and to destroy VC/NVA Forces and installations within the operational area.

- a. Reporting Officer: Colonel Sidney M. Marks
- b. Task Organization:
 Headquarters 3d Brigade, Colonel Sidney M. Marks, CO
 1-2 Infantry, LTC William C.S. Simpson, CO
 2-18 Infantry, LTC Lewis R. Baumann, CO
 2-28 Infantry, LTC Jerry S. Edwards, CO
 1-11 AGR, LTC Martin D. Howell, CO
 3-11 AGR, LTC Frank Cochran, CO

4. INTELLIGENCE:

a. Intelligence Prior to the Operation: Intelligence indicated that the VC had re-established logistical operations in the area previously penetrated during Operation CEDAR FALLS. The 83d Rear Services Group, subordinate to COSVN and MR IV, was the unit primarily responsible for re-establishing the supply bases and transportation networks required to sustain the entire area as a logistical base, and to replace those destroyed during Operation CEDAR FALLS. The area was reportedly covered with small supply facilities, base camps, tunnels, bunkers and other allied installations. Past patterns of VC tactics were expected to be encountered and the area was reportedly heavily mined and booby trapped. Political headquarters that were known to be in the area included: MR IV, THU DAU MOT Province Committees, BEN CAT and DAU TIENG District Committees, and their subordinates. Past experience indicated that political headquarters never really leave the area, but temporarily go into hiding or keep on the move. No main force units were reported in the area. However it was reported that the 273d Regiment was located in the LONG NGUYEN S Zone and was in position to reinforce if a VC counter sweep was ordered.

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b. **Intelligence During the Operation:** US units discovered numerous base camps, supply depots, rice caches and other food stores immediately after being inserted into the area and continued to locate these installations throughout the operation. Large amounts of documents were extracted from the operational area. From the onset, documents confirmed the presence of the 83d Rear Services Group and security elements of MR IV and other political headquarters elements. Included in the documents were: financial, medical and supply records of the 83d Rear Services Group, DAU TIENG District Committee and MR IV. Intelligence developed thru the use of Chien Hois and POW's was extremely rewarding. In several cases this information resulted in significant discoveries of both weapons and ammunition caches. One cache discovered thru the use of a Chien Hois was reported to be the largest located in South Vietnam. It is believed that the exploitation of hard intelligence developed during MANHATTAN resulted in a complete disruption of the VC logistical base and denied the enemy the use of supplies which could have sustained him several months in the Western and Central III Corps area. A Complete listing of equipment and food-stuffs captured is included in paragraph 9. Contacts were numerous but were confined to small unit encounters. The VC continued to use known harassing tactics such as booby traps and mines throughout the operation.

5. **MISSION:** The 3d Brigade conducts a multi-battalion combat assault on 23 April 1967. Conducts combat reconnaissance and jungle destruction in assigned AO; destroys VC/NVA Forces and installations within the operational area.

6. **CONCEPT OF OPERATION:**

a. **Maneuver:** The 3d Brigade conducts a multi-battalion air assault on 23 April 1967 with 1-2 Infantry, 2-18 Infantry and 2-28 Infantry landing on two LZ's; conducts combat reconnaissance and jungle destruction in assigned AO to destroy VC/NVA Forces and installations within the operational area.

b. **Fire Support:** Artillery fire support will be as follows:

- (1) 2-33 Artillery: DS to 3d Brigade
- (2) 3-6 Artillery (-): GSC to 2-33 Artillery. Initially all fire support will come from FSB OSCAR (XT541453). On order, 1 battery from 2-33 Artillery will displace to FSB NOVEMBER (XT587424).

7. **EXECUTION:**

23 April- The 3d Brigade began Operation MANHATTAN by conducting an air assault with three infantry battalions on two LZ's. After an extensive artillery and air force preparation 1-2 Infantry began landing on LZ JOE (XT605385) at 0900 hours and closed at 0924 hours. There was no fire received on the LZ but some aircraft received small arms fire on approaches to the North and East of LZ. No aircraft were hit. 2-28 Infantry began moving into the same LZ at 0935 hours and closed at 1003 hours without incident. At 1200 hours 2-18 Infantry conducted an airmobile assault into LZ AL (XT-593400) and closed by 1224 hours without contact. The three battalions conducted Search and Destroy operations with 1-2 Infantry moving to the Northeast of LZ JOE and 2-28 Infantry moving to the West. 2-18 Infantry remained in the general vicinity of LZ AL. At 1411 hours vicinity XT615376, Company B 2-28 Infantry made contact with 2 VC in a bunker. The VC were killed and 2-7.62 bolt action rifles, 1 grenade launcher 1 US claymore, 1 Chicom claymore, 3 grenades and miscellaneous equipment and documents were captured. The bunker was destroyed. At 1541 hours vicinity XT612384, Company B 1-2 Infantry located a small base camp in which they found 6 recording tapes, a microphone and some documents. All were evacuated. 2-28 Infantry closed its NDP (XT-606378) at 1629 hours; 1-2 Infantry (XT607386) at 1700 hours; and 2-18 Infantry (XT-592398) at 1715 hours. The remainder of the day passed without incident.

24 April- The 3d Brigade continued to conduct Search and Destroy operations in assigned AO. Throughout the day all three battalions located base camps varying in size from squad to company. Most camps contained miscellaneous items of food, clothing, equipment, and documents. Several had small amounts of ammunition but no large caches or weapons were found. Rice caches were found throughout the area and varied from 100 lbs to 5 1/2 tons. All the rice was unmilled and destroyed. Significant events are listed below. At 1150 hours, vicinity XT603399 Company C, 1-2 Infantry located a large concrete bunker with a steel door. While opening the door the company commander

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huts destroyed, approximately 2 tons of rice which they destroyed, and 3 VC KIA (BC). At 0910 hours, Company B, 2-18 Infantry entered a base camp area. They found an S-shaped bunker and three 12'x15' bunkers which contained 900 hand grenades, 15 Chicom claymores, 25 mines weighing 25-30 lbs, 200 rounds of 60 MM and 82 MM mortar ammunition, 10 Butterfly bombs, miscellaneous uniforms and documents. All were destroyed except samples of some of the items and the documents which were evacuated through S-2 channels. At 1108 hours in the same area B Company received 1 WHA from sniper fire and at 1130 hour received 1 KHA from small arms fire. The unit pulled back and placed mortar and artillery fire in the area. At 1119 hours vicinity XT601355 Company B, 2-28 Infantry found and destroyed 46.8 tons of unmilled rice and 13 shape charges. At 1118 hours, vicinity XT582391, Company A 2-18 Infantry found and destroyed 10 tons of unmilled rice. At 1144 hours, Recon Platoon 2-28 Infantry received 9 WHA from a booby trap vicinity XT595365. Six of the wounded required Medevac. Also in the area the platoon found a Chicom claymore, several booby trapped 81 MM mortar rounds and some documents. All were destroyed except the documents which were evacuated. Company C and Recon Platoon 2-28 Infantry established an NDP vicinity XT595365, and the battalion (-) established one vicinity XT603354. The other battalions used the same NDP's as before and all units closed by 1821 hours. Although movement was reported by ambush patrols in the 2-28 Infantry area throughout the night, the remainder of 28 April passed without incident.

29 April - The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in assigned AO. At 0650 hours, vicinity XT600356, Company A 2-28 Infantry observed 5 VC hiding behind a hut. The unit took them under fire and they fled South into the jungle. At 0952 hours sporadic fire was received by A Company in the same area and continued until 1100 hours. During this time an LFT fired into the suspected VC position and received fire from XT600351. Also in the same area A Company found and destroyed 300-100 lb bags of polished rice. At 0655 hours, vicinity XT600357, Company B located and destroyed 105-100 lb bags of rice. At 1150 hours, L-2 Infantry began R/W move from a LZ vicinity XT615404 to an LZ XT525385 which was secured by the 1-11 Cavalry. The move was completed by 1244 hours without contact. At 1815 hours, Company B, 2-18 Infantry found and destroyed 4 huts which contained approximately 1000 lbs of rice vicinity XT583397. The unit moved to vicinity XT580396 and began receiving heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Fire was returned with small arms and by the tanks attached to the unit. At 1730 hours, the company withdrew and airstrikes and artillery were placed on the area. At 1646 hours, it was reported by the 11th ACR that a POW said a 400 man headquarters unit was hiding in a tunnel vicinity XT540382. 1-11 Cavalry was attached to the brigade in order to search the area and find the headquarters group. At 1630 hours, the unit received 1 WHA from a booby trap. Several huts were found in the area but the squadron returned to 11th ACR control at 1915 hours without finding the VC. At 1526 hours, Company C 2-28 Infantry was moved by R/W aircraft from position HOP XT595365 to the battalion NDP XT602357 and closed at 1608 hours. L-2 Infantry set up a new NDP vicinity XT531389. All units closed their NDP's by 1825 hours and the rest of the day passed without incident.

30 April - The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations and continued search for alleged VC headquarters in assigned AO. Company B and Recon Platoon L-2 Infantry entered a base camp area vicinity XT546387 at 0950 hours. The area was made up of several small base camps rather than one large one. In the area the units found 7 tons of polished rice, 1 ton of dried fish, 500 gallons of cooking oil, about 100 rounds of small arms ammunition and documents. All were destroyed except the documents. Troop A, 1-11 Cavalry was attached to L-2 Infantry to assist in the search for the 400 man headquarters element. At 1152 hours the troop and A Company L-2 Infantry entered the area and found a base camp containing a shelter in which the unit located clothing, a barber kit, warm food, a painting set and documents. The two units proceeded further into the area and at 1314 hours vicinity XT521354 found 2 bunkers and 5 foxholes. At 1415 hours A Company L-2 Infantry made contact with 3 VC, they killed two and received one UE WHA. An hour later in the same area A Company made contact with an estimated VC platoon and received 3 KHA and 6 WHA from automatic weapons and small arms fire. Both units withdrew and artillery and airstrikes were placed on the area. At 1113 hours, vicinity XT610350, Company B 2-28 Infantry trapped a VC in a bunker. They threw in 4 or 5 grenades but before they could begin checking out the bunker they began receiving small arms and automatic weapons fire from 5 or 6 points in the area. They pulled back, called artillery and airstrikes into the area and moved back in at 1320 hours. At 1515 hours, in the same area, the unit trapped one or more VC in a tunnel. Using grenades CS and flame throwers Company B killed 5 VC, captured 3 VC POW, 2 Chicom bolt act

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wounded. In the ensuing fire fight 3 VC were killed and 1 captured. The POW and some captured documents were evacuated. At 1830 hours, vicinity XT606397 Company C, 1-2 Infantry had one man wounded when he fell into a punji pit. All units closed their NDP's by 1831 hours. The remainder of the day passed without incident.

25 April- The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in its assigned area. The battalions continued to find the same type of base camps and equipment as on the 24th. Company C, 2-28 Infantry operating vic. XT598387 found, throughout the day, 21,400 lbs of unmilled rice, 780 lbs of dried fish, 3 outboard motors, miscellaneous cooking utensils and some documents. The motors and documents were evacuated and the rest destroyed. At 0900 hours, vic. XT615376, Company A found 20 concrete bunkers in which they found miscellaneous items of medical supplies and equipment. The area appeared to have been occupied recently and judging from undergarments found in the area, occupied by women. At 1212 hours, in the same area, Company A 2-28 Infantry engaged 3 VC with artillery and mortars resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC). At 0950 hours, vicinity XT587395, Company B 2-18 Infantry made contact with approximately 3 VC in a bunker. The contact resulted in 2 US KHA and 1 US WHA. At 1200 hours vicinity XT601369 Company A 2-28 Infantry received 2 WHA from a booby trapped grenade. 1-2 Infantry moved to position X-Ray (XT611404) without incident. All units closed their NDP's by 1803 hours. The remainder of the day passed without incident.

26 April- The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in assigned AO. At 0730 hours Company B 2-28 Infantry entered a rice storage area vicinity XT606370 in which they found and destroyed 1000 rounds 7.92 MM ammunition and 2.5 tons of unpolished rice. At 1039 hour vicinity XT617377 Company A 2-28 Infantry entered a base area which had been used as a hospital. In the area the unit found surgical gowns, surgical tools and miscellaneous medicines. At 1123 hours, vicinity XT586395, Company C, 2-18 Infantry located a base camp containing 4 huts and two bunkers. In the huts were 4 tons of polished rice which was destroyed. Medical supplies were also found in the area, and were evacuated. At 1145 hours vicinity XT555363 Company B 2-28 Infantry found and destroyed 8.5 tons of polished rice. At 1530 hours, vicinity XT627393, Company A, 1-2 Infantry found a tunnel which contained a rather large cache of medicine and medical supplies. They were evacuated. At 1605 hours, vicinity XT609377, Company A, 2-28 Infantry received 3 WHA from a booby trap. In the same area the unit found several documents which were evacuated through S-2 channels. At 1815 hours, Company B, 2-18 Infantry received 1 KHA by sniper fire coming from vicinity XT584394. Fire was returned with small arms and mortars with unknown results. All units had closed their NDP's by 1830 hours and the rest of the day passed without incident.

27 April- The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in its assigned area. At 0925 hours Company B, 2-28 Infantry entered an area vicinity XT606370 in which they found and destroyed approximately 8 ton of unmilled rice. At 1045 hours, vicinity XT595365 Company C, 2-28 Infantry found a cache of 7.5 tons of milled rice. The cache and the area around it was heavily booby trapped. At 1045 hours two men were wounded and at 1245 hours, 4 more WHA were sustained from booby traps. Bulldozers were used to destroy the rice. At 1146 hours, vicinity XT605358, Company A, 2-28 Infantry received small arms fire and called artillery and air on the VC position. At 1239 hours the company returned to the area and found 1 VC body. While still in the same area Company A again came under heavy VC small arms fire. The unit was again withdrawn and artillery and airstrikes were placed on the area. Company A suffered 1 KHA and 15 WHA in this last contact. At 1150 hours, Company B 2-28 Infantry entered an area vicinity XT602359 in which they found several rice caches and miscellaneous equipment. In the next three hours the company found and destroyed 65 tons of unmilled rice. At 1325 hours Company C 1-2 Infantry found a bunker and tunnel complex vicinity XT602400. Voices were heard in the bunker so the battalion interpreter called for those in the bunker to come out and surrender. Since there was no response the unit attacked the bunker with flamethrowers and high explosives. When the tunnel was entered 6 VC KIA (BC) and several documents were found along with miscellaneous items of clothing, medicine and food. At 1735 hours, Company C, 2-28 Infantry closed its new NDP vicinity XT595365 and all other units had closed by 1740 hours. The remainder of 27 April passed without incident.

28 April - The 3d Brigade continued to conduct Search and Destroy operations in its assigned AO. At 0848 hours, an airstrike was called by 1-2 Infantry vicinity XT598407 which resulted in two secondary explosions and a high intensity fire. Later in the day, when Company A, 1-2 Infantry went back into the area, they found several

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rifles, 1 Russian AK47 and 6 AP mines and destroyed 21-100 lb bags of unpolished rice. At 1158 hours, vicinity XT580390, Company A 2-18 Infantry located 2 huts. The huts and surrounding area were heavily booby trapped but the unit managed to enter the hut and capture 30-81 MM mortar rounds, 100 smoke grenades, 1 Soviet rifle, 1 US Springfield rifle and 2 US SMG M3's. The weapons were evacuated and the ammunition destroyed. At 1450 hours, vicinity XT572394, Company B 2-18 Infantry found and destroyed 400-100 lb bags of unpolished rice. All units closed their NDP's by 1935 hours. At 2240 hours, Company C 2-28 Infantry received 6 or 8 incoming small arms rounds vicinity XT602357. No casualties were received. Fire was returned with unknown results. The remainder of 30 April passed without incident.

1 May - The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in its assigned AO. At 1010 hours, vicinity XT593353, Company C 2-28 Infantry was engaged with small arms by several VC. Airstrike and artillery were placed in the area after the unit repositioned itself. Company C suffered 7 WHA and one attached engineer (from A Company 186 Engineer Battalion) was also wounded. Company A 2-18 Infantry while searching the area vicinity XT579395 found 3.5 tons of unpolished rice at 1047 hours and 2 VC bodies, 3 AT mines, some medical supplies and documents at 1430 hours. The documents, weapons and medical supplies were evacuated. At 1125 hours, vicinity XT618345, Company B 2-28 Infantry made contact with two VC and took them under small arms fire. The VC fled and in the area the unit found 1 M-1 rifle, 1 Chicombolt action rifle and 1 Russian semi-automatic rifle. In the same general area at 1209 hours Company B received 2 WHA from small arms fire. Artillery and airstrikes were placed in the area and when the unit reentered at 1330 hours it made contact with an estimated VC squad. B Company suffered 2 WHA and killed two VC. By 1442 hours no more fire was received from VC in that area. At 1126 hours, Company C 2-18 Infantry entered a rice storage area vicinity XT571395. Throughout the day Company C found and destroyed 127.3 tons of rice in eight separate caches. At 1203 hours, vicinity XT557396, B Troop 1-11 Cavalry located one VC KIA, 6 tons of unpolished rice and one US starlite scope. The rice was destroyed and the scope evacuated. At the same time A Troop 1-11 Cavalry located a dead VC and a Mauser rifle vicinity XT553387. At 1346 hours, while entering the new battalion NDP (XT501339) Company C 2-28 Infantry suffered 1 KIA from a booby trap. At 1615 hours, vicinity XT579395 Company A 2-18 Infantry received 3 WHA from a booby trapped claymore. All units closed their NDP's by 1847 hours, except for two stalled tanks which were secured by A Company 2-18 Infantry vicinity XT578397 and XT576397. The remainder of May Day passed without incident.

2 May - The 3d Brigade conducted Search and Destroy and Eagle Flight operations in its assigned AO. All battalions continued to find platoon size base camps scattered throughout the area. Also found were five caches of food in which the units destroyed 46.5 tons of rice and one ton of wheat. The most significant find of the day was a 22 bed hospital vicinity XT571398 which was found by B Company 2-18 Infantry. All units had closed by 1800 hours. The remainder of 2 May passed without incident.

3 May - The 3d Brigade conducted search and destroy and cordon and search operations in its assigned AO. 1-2 Infantry conducted a cordon and search of the village of THANH AN (XT5337), completing the cordon by 0602 hours. At 1535 hours, vicinity XT530377, A Company 1-2 Infantry observed 6 VC running from a house and fired on them wounding one. The wounded VC was captured and identified as an officer of C-604 Company, 2d Battalion, 272 Regiment. He was evacuated through Medevac channels. At 0940 hours, the battalion surgeon detected a suspected case of small pox in the village. The patient was evacuated and 325 villagers were inoculated against the disease. At 1200 hours, vicinity XT534377, Recon Platoon, 1-2 Infantry received 3 WHA from a booby trap. The search of the village resulted in 2 VC POW, 2 VCS detained, 1 Mauser rifle and 1 pistol captured and 2-15 lb claymores destroyed. At 0735 hours, Company B, 2-28 Infantry entered a food storage area vicinity XT584337. Between that time and 1630 hours the unit found and destroyed 2 tons of wheat and 3½ tons of rice bound in seven separate caches. At 1252, vicinity XT560390 Company C, 2-18 Infantry found and destroyed a rice cache of 4000 lbs. In the same area they found a tunnel which contained: 1800 blasting caps (electric), 18 RPG rounds, 1 B-40 rocket launcher, 1400 non-electric blasting caps, 100 time bombs, 50 small frag grenades, 25 sticks of TNT and miscellaneous supplies and equipment. At 1411 hours, a Chieu Hoi led Company A 2-18 Infantry to two concrete bunkers vicinity XT560380 in which the unit found: 220-7.92 Mauser rifles; 147 Chicom type 53 ri 20 VC claymores, 500 rifle grenades, 7500-12.7 MM AP rounds, 1 BAR (US), 1 VC ty

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7.62 SMG, 1500-60 MM mortar rounds, 2000-82 MM mortar rounds, 250 radio tubes, 25-57 MM RR rounds, 25-75MM rounds, 1600 mortar primers, 71,000-7.92 rounds, 231,800-7.62 rounds, 100 lbs TNT, 200 shoe box mines, 50 US AP mines, 7800 rounds 50 caliber ammunition, 12 bundles of maps and 20 lbs of documents. All weapons, samples of the ammunition and the documents were evacuated. All units had closed their NDP's by 1735 hours. At 2200 hours, vicinity XT585342 a man from Company B, 2-28 Infantry stepped on a mine in the NDP. The mine left a crater 5 feet wide and 2 feet deep and killed the soldier. The remainder of the day passed without incident.

4 May - The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in assigned AO and continued to evacuate weapons and ammunition found 3 May. At 0905 hours, Company A, 2-28 Infantry found a minefield vicinity XT589352. Five Bouncing Betty AP mines and an AT mine were found and destroyed. At the same time Company B 2-28 Infantry entered a storage area vicinity XT584340 and destroyed 7.5 tons of unmilled rice and 500 lbs of wheat found in six separate caches. The unit also found and destroyed 13 Bouncing Betty AP mines and an oxcart in the area. At 1137 hours, vicinity XT550-360, Company C 1-2 Infantry observed and fired on 2 VC, killing both and capturing the 2 AK47 rifles with which they were armed. Company A 2-28 Infantry continued evacuating weapons and ammunition found on 3 May. At 1441 hours, in the area of the cache, the company received several rounds of small arms fire. Fire was returned and mortars placed on the VC. Results of the returned fires are unknown but the firing stopped. At 1321 hours, vicinity XT575332 a patrol from B Company 2-28 Infantry found and destroyed 6 sampans, 200 sheets of tin and 15 gallons of oil. At 1605 hours, vicinity XT585342, a ~~Boat~~ plow working for 2-28 Infantry hit a rather large mine resulting in 5 WHA and heavy damage to the vehicle. All units had closed their NDP's by 1805 hours. 1-2 Infantry moved its NDP to vicinity XT563359. The remainder of 4 May passed without incident although movement was reported around several NDP's.

5 May - The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in its assigned AO. At 0630 hours, an ambush patrol from Company A, 1-2 Infantry found and destroyed two sampans near their ambush site (XT564354). At 0900 hours, Company B, 2-28 Infantry entered a rice storage area vicinity XT588339, found and destroyed 4 tons of rice in six separate caches. At 1213 hours, vicinity XT556353 Company C, 2-28 Infantry found a small base camp which contained several huts and 4 bomb shelters. A telephone EE8 (US), 300 lbs of rice and miscellaneous medical supplies were found in the camp. Rice and shelters were destroyed; the telephone and medical supplies were evacuated. The rest of the day passed with no contacts or incidents with all battalions closing their same NDP's by 1755 hours.

6 May - The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in assigned AO and moved one battalion from field positions to LAI KHE. At 0911 hours, vicinity XT588-337, Company B, 2-28 Infantry found and destroyed 3.5 tons of rice in six separate caches spread throughout the area. At 0929 hours, vicinity XT590339, Recon Platoon, 2-28 Infantry found 800 lbs of rice, 2 booby trapped grenades, 1 sampan, 1 water buffalo and 1 VC body. The rice, grenades, sampan and buffalo were destroyed. At 0936 hours, vicinity XT555360, Company B, 1-2 Infantry located a tunnel in which they found 5 bicycles, 3 hand grenades and some medical supplies. The bicycles, grenades and tunnel were destroyed. At 1015 hours, 2-18 Infantry began its move by helicopter to LAI KHE, closing at 1145 hours without incident. At 1535 hours, Company A, 2-28 Infantry observed 8 VC vicinity XT598350 and placed mortar and artillery fire on the area. These fires resulted in 1 VC KIA (BG). Both battalions (1-2 Infantry and 2-28 Infantry) closed their NDP's by 1700 hours. The remainder of the day passed without incident.

7 May - The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in assigned AO and assumed OPCON of a cavalry squadron. At 0735 hours, B Company, 2-28 Infantry began moving by helicopter from its NDP to position NOVEMBER (XT5642). The company closed 0805 hours at which time it was attached to 3-11 Cavalry. The 3-11 Cavalry came under OPCON 3d Brigade at 0800 hours. At 0805 hours, while moving from position NOVEMBER, I Troop 3-11 Cavalry had a tank hit a mine vicinity XT577459. Very slight damage was caused and the tank continued moving. At 0842 hours, Company A, 1-2 Infantry located a company size base camp vicinity XT569363. In the camp were 600 lbs of rice which the unit destroyed. At 0840 hours, I Troop had another tank hit a mine vicinity XT584450. Resulting damage was a thrown track which was quickly repaired and the tank moved on. At 1005 hours, K Troop 3-11 Cavalry located 20 graves vicinity XT613379. At 1054 hours, vicinity XT623389, K Troop found and

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600 lbs of rice. At 1055 hours, M Troop 3-11 Cavalry made contact with unknown size VC force vicinity XT614337. An RPG round hit a tank wounding 3 personnel and slightly damaging the tank. Automatic weapons and 90 MM fire was returned immediately. Artillery and airstrikes were placed on and to the rear of the VC positions. When M Troop entered the VC positions they found 5 VC KIA (BC), 1 RPG 2, 2 RPG rounds, 2 AK47 rifles, 1 M-1 rifle, 1 Chicom field phone and 4 lbs of documents. At 1600 hours, Company C, 2-28 Infantry entered a platoon size base camp in which they found 1 VC KIA (BC), 15 maps, 15 blasting caps and some documents. The documents and maps were evacuated. At 1605 hours, B Company, 2-28 Infantry (attached to 3-11 Cavalry) fired on and killed one VC and captured a Mauser rifle vicinity XT621338. At 1715 hours, an APC from 3-11 Cavalry headquarters hit a mine vicinity XT603390 resulting in slight damage to the vehicle and 3 US WHA. 3-11 Cavalry established NDP's as follows: Headquarters, I Troop and B 2-28 Infantry - XT634345, K Troop - XT638356 and M Troop XT638354. All units had closed their NDP's by 1800 hours. At 2015 hours, Headquarters, 3-11 Cavalry received 65 mortar rounds around its position. Only 1 slightly wounded and no damage was caused by the attack. The remainder of the day passed without incident.

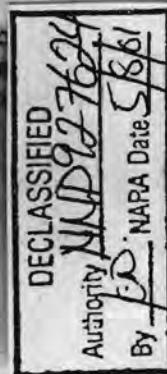
8 May - The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in assigned AO and moved a battalion from field positions to LAI KHE. At 0920 hours, I Troop 3-11 Cavalry located a well fortified bunker vicinity XT638328 in which the unit found 15 booby trapped CBU's. The bunkers and CBU's were destroyed. At 1012 hours, a dozer working with B Company 1-2 Infantry struck a mine vicinity XT573363 which caused minor damage to the vehicle. At 1036 hours, I Troop 3-11 Cavalry received 1 WHA from a booby trapped CBU vicinity XT644324. At 1220 hours, vicinity XT618337, M Troop, 3-11 Cavalry entered a base camp area. The camp was made up of 15 bunkers reinforced by logs and interconnecting tunnels in which were found 1 VC KIA, 1000 lbs of rice and miscellaneous clothes. The rice was destroyed and the bunkers collapsed. At 1300 hours, I Troop, 3-11 Cavalry entered a base camp vicinity XT629-330. The camp consisted of 4 huts, 4 bunkers, a connecting tunnel and a well. The huts, bunkers and well were destroyed along with a ton of rice and miscellaneous equipment that was found in the huts. A P-38 pistol was captured in the camp. At 1330 hours, 2-28 Infantry (-) began moving by rotary wing aircraft from its NDP to LAI KHE closing at 1454 hours without incident. 3-11 Cavalry (-) established an NDP at XT665307. This consisted of Headquarters Troop, I Troop and B 2-28 Infantry. K and M Troops set up an NDP vicinity XT663373. 1-2 Infantry remained in the same NDP as the previous night. All units closed by 1920 hours and there were no incidents the remainder of the day.

9 May - The 3d Brigade continued Search and Destroy operations in sector and moved one battalion from field positions to PHUOC VINH. At 0957 hours, 1-2 Infantry began moving by rotary wing aircraft from its NDP to PHUOC VINH closing at 1342 hours without incident. The battalion came under OPCON 1st Brigade at that time. At 1000 hours, K Troop, 3-11 Cavalry found 4 tons of rice and 40 bags of cement vicinity XT667371. The rice was evacuated. At 1025 hours, vicinity XT654363, K Troop, 3-11 Cavalry located a base camp consisting of 15 huts, 10 bunkers, a mess hall and a shower. There were 6 punji pits with AP mines around them in the camp. The bunkers and huts were destroyed along with 1 ton of rice, 10-175 MM artillery shells, 6 CBU's and miscellaneous items of clothing that were found in the huts. Documents found in the area were evacuated. The 3-11 Cavalry remained in the same NDP's as on 8 May. All units closed by 1700 hours and had no incidents for the balance of 9 May.

10 May - The 3d Brigade assumed OPCON of a second cavalry squadron and moved it, the other squadron and other divisional units from their field locations to base camp areas. At 0600 hours, 3-11 Cavalry moved out of the NDP areas, moved toward BEN CAT, moved through the town at 0930 hours and reverted to OPCON 11th ACR at that time. 1-11 Cavalry entered 3d Brigade AO at 0654 hours at which time it came under 3d Brigade OPCON. The squadron moved through BEN CAT to LAI KHE closing at 1224 hours without incident. A convoy of 8-6 Artillery and 2-33 Artillery (-) moved from field positions to PHU LOI under control of 3d Brigade. It departed FSB OSCAR (XT5445) at 0735 hours and closed PHU LOI at 2120 hours. 1-11 ACR trains departed FSB BRAVO for LAI KHE at 1415 hours. At 2025 hours, vicinity XT551185 a wrecker was totally destroyed by a mine. Two US WIA's also resulted from the incident. The convoy was still on the road as 10 May ended.

11 May - The 3d Brigade continued moving divisional units from the field base areas. The 1-11 Cavalry trains convoy continued moving toward LAI KHE and closed at 1140 hours. 1-4 Cavalry (-) and attached support units departed FSB OSCAR

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1830 hours and began moving to its base camp at PHU LOI and was closing that area at the end of the day. Operation MANHATTAN was officially terminated at 112400 May 1967.

8. SUPPORTING FORCES:

a. Artillery: The operation was supported by 2-33 Artillery and 8-6 Artillery (-) GSR to 2-33 Artillery. Artillery fires were planned on all LZ's during the operation. Artillery fires were used extensively in support of ground forces. A total of 28,320 rounds of 105 MM and 11,233 rounds of 155 MM were expended.

b. Air Force: The Air Force provided aerial observation and reconnaissance throughout the operation. Air Force ordnance was used in preparation of LZ's and in support of ground forces. A total of 328 close air support sorties were flown in conjunction with the operation.

9. RESULTS:

a. Personnel Losses:	US	VC
	KHA	8
	WHA	57
	VCC	-
		58
		-
		8

b. Equipment Losses:

- (1) US Losses: None
- (2) VC Losses:

(a) Weapons:	Captured	Destroyed
RPG Rocket Launcher	2	-
Mauser Rifles	225	-
Rifles	6	-
AK-47 Rifles	5	-
M-1 Rifle	1	-
Semi-automatic Rifles	2	-
Chicom 53 Carbines	153	-
BAR	3	-
Rifle-grenade Launcher	1	-
US S&W M3	2	-
(b) Ammunition:		
RPG Rounds	20	-
Time Bombs	100	-
Small Frag. Grenades	50	-
60 MM Mortar Rounds	1500	600
Booby-trapped Clocks	8	-
82 MM Mortar Rounds	2000	-
Claymore Mines (VC)	20	120
Rifle Grenades	500	15
Grimped Cartridges	450	-
Hand Grenades	400	2363
12.7 MM AP Rounds	7500	-
57 MM RR Rounds	25	17
75 MM RR Rounds	25	1
Mortar Primers	1600	-
TNT (Pounds)	272	-
Shoobox Mines	200	-
US AP Mines	50	-
Rifle Grenade Base Parts	132	-
Rifle Grenade Cases	100	-
7.62 & .30 Rounds	-	3000
.45 Rounds	-	200
Claymore Wire (Feet)	-	200
Small Arms Rounds	-	132,843
81 MM Mortar Rounds	-	236

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40 MM Rounds	-	900
Mines & Boobytraps	-	130
Bangalore Torpedos	-	35
Shape Charges	-	123
60 MM Shell Casing	-	25
Hand Grenade Fuses	-	500
Mine Fuses	-	175
Demolitions (Pounds)	-	166
Electric Blasting Caps	1800	-
Non-Electric Blasting Caps	1400	-
(c) Food Stuffs:		
Rice (Tons)	111.5	470
Salt "	-	21
Wheat "	-	5.6
Fish (Pounds)	-	2,910
Cooking Oil (Gallons)	-	500
(d) Documents found throughout the operation were evacuated through S-2 channels.		
(e) Miscellaneous:		
VC Uniforms	-	986
Bicycles	15	10
Cement (Pounds)	-	6,600
Acid (Quarts)	-	6
Diesel Fuel (Gallons)	-	115
Oil (Gallons)	-	126
Tin Sheets	50	255
Kerosene (Gallons)	-	50
Tools	-	200
Sampans	-	19
Rice Processing Machine	-	2
Calcium Carbonate (Pounds)	-	600
Chicom Field Phone	1	-
Watches	15	-
Medical Supplies (Pounds)	25	-
Radio Tubes	250	-
Maps (Bundles)	12	-
Armo Pouches	120	-
VC Gas Mask	12	-
Typewriters	3	-
Flags	1	-
Gasoline Engines	2	-
Canteen Covers	150	-
Rolls of Tripwire	4	-
EE-8 Telephone	1	-
Sewing Machine	1	-
Compass	1	-

10. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

- a. Supply: Resupply was conducted by air. No supply problems were encountered.
- b. Maintenance: No maintenance problems were encountered during the operation.
- c. Treatment of Casualties, Evacuation and Hospitalization: No unusual problems were encountered with medical evacuation or treatment of the wounded.
- d. Transportation: No major transportation problems were encountered during the operation.
- e. Communication: At times during the operation the Brigade CP could receive one battalion or another. However, a forward relay station was established at FSB OSCAR which eliminated the problem.

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11. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES: Engineer equipment such as dozers and Reems plows were attached to battalions to assist them in clearing the jungle for LZ's and defensive positions. Although this equipment has been used in this manner many times in the past, it must be emphasized that the best way to find and destroy a base camp is to have a dozer first clear the vegetation from a bunker and then level the bunker with its blade.

12. COMMANDERS ANALYSIS: During Operation MANHATTAN the troops of the Iron Brigade were faced with the standard VC opposition. The VC would not stand and fight but contented himself with harassing tactics using snipers and booby traps extensively. By using artillery and close air support to the maximum the Brigade was able to push through the VC bases with minimum casualties.

On one occasion a booby trap wounded six persons and on another nine. Since neither of these booby traps were claymores, there is an indication that units are overlooking the basic principle of maintaining proper dispersion. Leaders at all levels of the Brigade must, in the future, stress the importance of adhering to the simple, basic principles of ground combat. These basics save more soldiers in jungle fighting than the finest strategy or most cunning tactics.

When conducting search and destroy operations in jungle areas or areas of heavy VC population, plans must be flexible and time schedules tentative. When a base camp is discovered, it must be thoroughly searched. If it takes one day or three to do this satisfactorily, time must be made available. To cause the unit to conduct an inadequate or hurried search in order to meet an inflexible schedule will cost at worst, unnecessary loss of life or at best, a waste of time.

The use of information provided by a Chieu Hoi proved, in this operation, to be extremely advantageous. Information provided by people such as this must always be considered and, whenever possible, exploited to the utmost.

13. CONCLUSION: MANHATTAN was another successful operation conducted by the Iron Brigade. Although the VC body count was not as high as for previous operations, the number of weapons captured and the amount of food supplies destroyed, greatly reduced the enemy capability to continue operations in the area.

Sidney M. Marks

SIDNEY M. MARKS
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

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