

Lamar Plain

As the battle for Dong Ap Bia raged, the 1st Brigade headquarters and two battalions under its operational control, the 1st Bn. (Ambl.), 501st Inf. and 1st Bn. (Ambl.), 502nd Inf., prepared to relive a chapter of 1st Brigade history by joining the Americal Div. at Tam Ky. Twice before the Always First brigade had fought with Task Force Oregon (later designated the Americal Div.) at the battle for Duc Pho and at Chu Lai.

On May 15, 1969 the 1st Brigade again deployed for the Chu Lai-Tam Ky area and *Operation Lamar Plain* began. The enemy was the NVA 2nd Div. which was threatening the Quang Tin Province Headquarters at Tam Ky.

For 90 days the 1st Brigade troops pushed through thick jungle and blistering 120 degree heat in pursuit of the enemy. And the enemy was abundantly available; on May 21 the Geronimos took hill 270, killing 25 NVA. Throughout the operation men of the 1st Brigade uncovered hooch and bunker complexes. Some abandoned bunkers had been occupied only the night before.

By late June the NVA were avoiding contact with the 101st and troopers began turning up abandoned supplies. The largest cache found included 29 SKS rifles, 72 AK-47s and one M-1; three 60mm mortars and thirty-seven 122mm rounds; 13 cases of AK-47 ammunition; thirteen 75mm recoilless rifle rounds and numerous blasting caps and mortar fuzes. Close by, another cache contained two hundred 82mm mortar rounds and 78 rocket propelled grenades.

On August 14 the 1st Brigade returned home, having removed the threat to the province headquarters. In the operation 519 enemy had been destroyed and 257 individual and 18 crew-served weapons captured.