

ambush. One hour and twenty minutes later this scene was repeated when another sampan carrying four Viet Cong came into the killing zone of the ambush.

Snipers employed by 3-39 Inf and 4-39 Inf killed nine and a Night Search by 9th Aviation Battalion in the Plain of Reeds accounted for thirteen enemy dead. Aviation support figured prominently in 2d Brigade operations, also. Airmobile operations conducted by 3-60 Inf and the 162d AHC inflicted nine casualties on the enemy. Later, men from 3-60 Inf teamed with C/7-1 Cav to carry out a Night Search which was responsible for eight VC KIA. Another eight enemy were felled by Cobras from D/3-5 Cav and extensive searching on foot by troops from 4-47 Inf resulted in sixteen Viet Cong casualties.

21 April 1969

This was the second day of Operation "Long Shot", so named because it took troops from the 2d Brigade outside the Division's TAOI. The operation had commenced on the previous day with the movement by air of two companies and by water of one company into the Viet Cong's Base Area 487. Intelligence reports had indicated that the Viet Cong sister battalions, the 509th and 510th, were active in this area south of the Co Chien River in Vinh Binh Province. Throughout the operation, which terminated on the 22d of April, coordinated assaults were made from helicopters and boats at various locations. Reconnaissance-in-force operations during the day alternated with ambushes and patrols at night. Though the enemy showed great reluctance to make contact and fire fights were mostly brief and sporadic, a Viet Cong platoon was engaged on two occasions, both during the night of 21-22 April.

Having eliminated sixteen Viet Cong on the first day of the operation, the team composed of troops from 4-47 Inf and 3-60 Inf, C/7-1 Cav, D/3-5 Cav, 162d AHC, and 3-34 Arty rooted out and killed sixty-one on this day. The largest part of an enemy platoon was wiped out in the late evening as it approached the night positions of A/4-47 Inf. Gunships and artillery supported immediately, killing twenty. Contact was established in the early morning of the 23d with another platoon which attacked following several rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Countermortar fire silenced the enemy mortars and the ground force was quickly repelled with small arms fire. A sweep of the area revealed only three bodies, but the numerous blood trails provided evidence of more casualties. Other scattered contact on the third day accounted for an additional twenty-two VC KIA, bringing the total for the operation to 102 enemy killed. One US soldier was killed and fifteen wounded.

Using the helicopters of 9th Aviation Battalion, infantrymen from 4-39 Inf made several insertions in the maze of canals and streams just south of Base Area 470. They killed ten Viet Cong, one and two at a time, at six different locations. On two occasions support was requested from 1-11 Arty, whose guns were credited with four additional enemy bodies. In a three-hour Night Search gunships from 9th Aviation killed another six in

roughly the same area of western Dinh Tuong.

22 April 1969

While Operation Long Shot was being terminated, the remainder of 2d Brigade pressed forward with footmobile and airmobile search operations in Kien Hoa Province. Delta Company, 3-60 Inf, was ferried between several locations by helicopter and killed ten while on the ground. Moving on foot through the mud, nipa palm, and booby traps, the rugged men of 3-47 Inf engaged and killed nine Viet Cong, seven of these at night.

The superior fire support and mobility of US forces continued to manifest themselves in high Viet Cong casualties. Experience in Dinh Tuong on this day was particularly graphic evidence of this. Of the forty-one Viet Cong eliminated, thirty-two were killed by artillery and helicopter gunships. Another four were killed by infantrymen on an airmobile operation.

23 April 1969

For the first time in a long while more Viet Cong were killed at night by the Division than during the day. Although some of these were the result of night ambushes, most were attributable to the Night Search. By now this highly sophisticated technique for denying the night to the enemy had become routine, and the groups moving at night along the canals and streams of the Viet Cong commo-liaison routes were ill-advised indeed. Eighteen enemy were killed and their sampans destroyed by 9th Aviation Battalion on a Night Search east of Cai Pa, along the My Tho River. A similar search southwest of Mo Cay by C/7-1 Cav and 3-60 Inf eliminated nineteen.

In southeastern Base Area 470 a night patrol from 4-39 Inf was engaged with automatic weapons fire by approximately fifteen Viet Cong. Immediate support was forthcoming from 1-11 Arty, and the enemy quickly retreated, less eight men. Traveling on foot, by boat, and in choppers, the men of 3-47 Inf and 4-47 Inf sought out the enemy in and around Base Area 490. Fifteen were killed. Following two days of little contact in Long An, the "Go-Devils" of 3d Brigade killed sixteen. The largest single group, five, fell victim to 2-47 Inf near VC Island. Airmobile operations by 2-60 Inf claimed eight.

24 April 1969

Although the daily mix of tactics and disposition of forces employed by the Division remained basically unchanged throughout the cited period, and though the average daily body count of ninety-one was quite high, it is apparent that the result on any one day was probabilistic in nature. Any day's result was influenced by many variables, the most important being the accuracy and timeliness of intelligence. The Division's tactics were deliberately designed to increase the likelihood of contact with the enemy,

Viet Cong presence were corroborated in some instances by ground fire. Brave pilots and marksmen are required to execute the Night Search mission and the tremendous success of this tactic testifies to their presence in the 9th Division.

Forty-nine Viet Cong were killed in the 2d Brigade's tactical area. Airmobile searches and patrols accounted for most, but two incidents were noteworthy. Four snipers accompanying an ambush patrol from 3-47 Inf killed fifteen in two separate engagements, but at the same location. The killing zone along a road southeast of Ban Tre was invisibly illuminated by a searchlight with a pink filter. In another unrelated incident one of the enemy's booby traps was turned against him. A patrol from 3-47 Inf was searching a line of nipa palm when it came upon two men apparently installing a booby trap on one of the paddy dike trails. The patrol described the scene, "We opened up on them with small arms but it seemed like we used mortars because all of a sudden the VC were blown sky high. Apparently the booby trap intended for us had backfired."

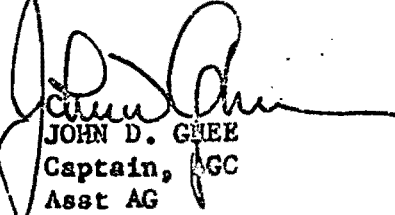
26 April 1969

#### Battle of Vinh Cong

On this final day of the cited period the most important action occurred in Long An Province, about midway between Tan An and Binh Phuoc. Contact began as B/2-47 Inf was enroute to conduct a cordon and search. Bravo Company received a heavy fusillade of fire from small arms, automatic weapons, and B-40 rockets. The enemy was fortified in bunkers, so Bravo was given the mission to occupy a blocking position until supported by air strikes and artillery and reinforced by other troops.

Within minutes a "Tazale" forward air controller was over the area and 105mm howitzers from 2-4 Arty were firing in support. Bravo Company assaulted the enemy positions following three air strikes, but sustained injuries to seven soldiers, including the company commander. The commander, Captain James Lanier, refused medical evacuation and continued to command his men. Upon the arrival at the scene of C/2-47 Inf and two platoons of D Company, 15th Engineers, escorted by tracks from the battalion headquarters company, the assault was renewed. In the meantime, two more air strikes had been placed on the enemy and his escape routes were blocked by B/3-17 Cav and artillery concentrations. Fighting broke off completely after eight hours and a sweep of the area was made. Enemy losses were sixty-three killed and friendly casualties were two killed and fourteen wounded. Though not positively identified, the enemy force was suspected to be an element of the K6 Battalion, 1st NVA Regiment.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
JOHN D. GHEE  
Captain, AGC  
Asst AG

SUMMARY OF STRENGTH AND CASUALTIES

1. Friendly Forces.

- a. Assigned Strength on 25 January 1969: 19,040  
b. Casualties during 25 January through 26 April 1969:

<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>MHA</u>	<u>CAP</u>
201	2297	1	0

2. Enemy Forces.

- a. Estimated Strength on 25 January 1969:

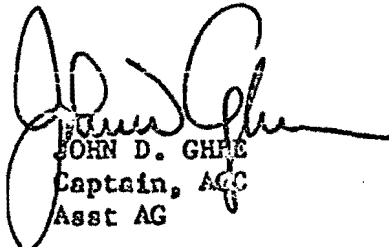
Local Force and Main Force Battalions	3,142
North Vietnamese Army Battalions	1,306
Local Force Companies	1,270
Guerrillas	19,925
Viet Cong Infrastructure	<u>10,984</u>
TOTAL	36,627

- b. Losses during 25 January through 26 April 1969 due to operations of 9th Infantry Division:

<u>Body Count</u>	<u>Cap</u>	<u>Hoi Chanh</u>	<u>VCI</u>	<u>Total</u>
8415	331	184	58	8988

NOTE: Probable enemy casualties, or VC KIA (POSS), are not estimated in the 9th Infantry Division, although there is convincing evidence that actual casualties are significantly higher than body count figures.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
JOHN D. GHEE  
Captain, AGC  
Asst AG

Part I. Units assigned and recommended for award of the Presidential Unit Citation. (All units assigned during 25 January-26 April 1969.)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
1. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Infantry Division	None
2. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade	Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 7 March-22 June 1968.
3. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Brigade	Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 29 January-4 March 1968.
4. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Brigade	Valorous Unit Award for period 1-3 February 1968. Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 6-12 May 1968.
5. 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry	Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered LUZON 1941-1942. Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered BATAAN. Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered DEFENSE OF THE PHILLIPPINES. Presidential Unit Citation (Navy), Streamer embroidered CHOSIN RESERVOIR. Presidential Unit Citation (Navy), Streamer embroidered HWACHON RESERVOIR. Navy Unit Commendation, Streamer Embroidered PANMUNJOM. Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 6-12 May 1968.
6. 2d Battalion, 39th Infantry	Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered COTENTIN PENINSULA. Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered CHERENCE LE ROUSSEL. Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered LE DESERT. Valorous Unit Award for period 1-3 February 1968. Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 7 March-22 June 1968.

UNIT

PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS  
AND DATES

7. 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry
- Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered CONTENTIN PENINSULA.  
Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered CHERENCE LE ROUSSEL.  
Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered LE DESERT.  
Valorous Unit Award for period 1-3 February 1968.  
Pending Award:  
Presidential Unit Citation for period 6-12 May 1968.
8. 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry
- Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered COTENTIN PENINSULA.  
Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered CHERENCE LE ROUSSEL.  
Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered LE DESERT.  
Valorous Unit Award to Co B/4-39 Inf, for action on 31 January 1968.  
Pending Award:  
Presidential Unit Citation for period 6-12 May 1968.
9. 2d Battalion, 47th Infantry
- Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered NORTHBERG GERMANY.  
Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered REMAGEN GERMANY.  
Valorous Unit Award for action on 31 January 1968.  
Pending Award:  
Presidential Unit Citation for period 6-12 May 1968.
10. 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry
- Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered NORTHBERG GERMANY.  
Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered REMAGEN GERMANY.  
Pending Awards:  
Presidential Unit Citation for period 29 January-4 March 1968.  
Meritorious Unit Commendation for period 1 January-31 December 1968.
11. 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry
- Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered NORTHBERG GERMANY.  
Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered REMAGEN GERMANY.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
12. 2d Battalion, 60th Infantry	Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered GERMANY. Valorous Unit Award to B/2-60 for period 1-3 February 1968. Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 7 March-22 June 1968.
13. 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry	Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 29 January-4 March 1968.
14. 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry	Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered STE COLOMBE. Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered SCHWAMMANUEL DAMS. Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered SEDIENANE VALLEY. Pending Awards: Presidential Unit Citation for period 6-12 May 1968. Presidential Unit Citation for B,C/5-60 for action on 1 February 1968.
15. D Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry	Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered LOS NEGROS ISLAND. Valorous Unit Award for action on 2-3 February 1968.
16. 9th Aviation Battalion	Valorous Unit Award for action on 2 September 1968. Pending Award: Meritorious Unit Commendation for period 13 February 1967-31 January 1969.
17. 15th Engineer Battalion	Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered SIEGFRIED LINE.
18. 9th Signal Battalion	Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered REMAGEN BRIDGEHEAD. Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER. Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 19 December 1967-18 January 1968.
19. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 9th Infantry Division Artillery	Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered THALA, TUNISIA.

UNIT

PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS  
AND DATES

20. 2d Battalion, 4th Artillery	Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 6-12 May 1968.
21. 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery	Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered DEFENSE OF KOREA. Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 7 March-22 June 1968.
22. 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery	Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered THALA, TUNISIA. Valorous Unit Award to A/3-34 Arty for period 1-3 February 1968. Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for period 25 January-4 March 1968.
23. 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery	Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered THALA, TUNISIA. Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered REMAGEN BRIDGEHEAD. Valorous Unit Award to 1st Plt B/1-84 Arty for action on 2 and 3 December 1967.
24. Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Band, 9th Infantry Division Support Command	None
25. 9th Administrative Company	None
26. 9th Medical Battalion	Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER. Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 1 January-31 October 1967. Distinguished Unit Citation to Co B/9th Med Bn, WD General Order 65 dated 1946.
27. 9th Supply and Transport Battalion	Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER. Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 1 January-31 December 1967.
28. 709th Maintenance Battalion	Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER. Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 1 December 1966-31 December 1967.
29. 1097th Transportation Company (Medium Boat)	Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 1 March-1 September 1967.



UNIT

PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS  
AND DATES

30. 9th Military Police Company	Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered REMAGEN BRIDGE. Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER. Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 19 December 1966-29 February 1968.
31. Company E (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Previously Company E (LRP), 50th Infantry. Redesignated on 1 February 1969.)	Unknown
32. 43d Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)	None
33. 45th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)	None
34. 65th Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker)	None
35. Armor Platoon, Air Cushion Vehicle	None
36. 9th Military Intelligence Detachment	Pending Award: Meritorious Unit Commendation for period 1 February-30 September 1968.
37. 584th Military Intelligence Detachment	None
38. 39th Chemical Detachment	None
39. 19th Military History Detachment	None
40. 18th Public Information Detachment	None
41. 19th Public Information Detachment	None
42. 22d Public Information Detachment	None

Part II. Units attached and recommended for award of the Presidential Unit Citation. (All units attached during 25 January-26 April 1969.)

UNIT

PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS  
AND DATES

1. 2d Platoon, Battery H (Searchlight), 29th Artillery	None
2. Battery C, 5th Battalion (AW) (SP), 2d Artillery	None

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
3. 361st Aviation Detachment (Divisional), 165th Aviation Group (Cbt)	None
4. 9th Infantry Division Tactical Air Control Party, 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron (USAF)	None
5. OL5, 5th Weather Squadron (USAF)	None
6. 9th Infantry Division Detachment, United States Army Special Security Group	None
7. 14th Military Intelligence Detachment (ARVN)	None

Part III. Units in Direct Support of 9th Infantry Division and recommended for award of the Presidential Unit Citation.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
1. Troop A, 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry	25 Jan-8 Mar 69	Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for the period 29 January to 6 December 1968.
2. Troop B, 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry	25 Jan-26 Apr 69	Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for the period 29 January to 6 December 1968.
3. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 214th Combat Aviation Bn	25 Jan-26 Apr 69	None
4. 162d Assault Helicopter Company, 214th Combat Aviation Bn	25 Jan-26 Apr 69	None
5. 191st Assault Helicopter Company, 214th Combat Aviation Bn	25 Jan-26 Apr 69	Presidential Unit Citation for period 1-8 June 1968.
6. 240th Assault Helicopter Company, 222d Combat Aviation Bn	25 Jan-26 Apr 69	None
7. 335th Radio Research Company	25 Jan-26 Apr 69	None

NOTE: The following two units would be recommended as well, but have been included in a recommendation by their parent squadron for a period of time which overlaps with that of this recommendation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
1. Troop A, 7th Squadron, 1st Cavalry	6-10, 12, 13, 17-20, 27-31 Mar 69	Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for the period 1 May 1968 to 1 February 1969.
2. Troop C, 7th Squadron, 1st Cavalry	16, 18, 23, 26-28 Feb, 1, 3-5, 9, 15, 21-26 Mar, 1, 19-23 Apr 69	Pending Award: Presidential Unit Citation for the period 1 May 1968 to 1 February 1969.


Part IV. Unit assigned but not recommended for award of Presidential Unit Citation. (Unit was under operational control of 101st Airborne Division during 25 January-26 April 1969.)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
1. 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry (less D Troop)	Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered LOS NEGROS ISLAND. Presidential Unit Citation for action on 19 and 20 March 1967. Valorous Unit Award for action on 27 and 28 June 1968.

Part V. Unit attached but not recommended for award of the Presidential Unit Citation. (Unit under operational control of Senior Advisor, IV CTZ, During 25 January-26 April 1969.)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PREVIOUS US UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
1. 6th Battalion, 77th Artillery	None

FOR THE COMMANDER:

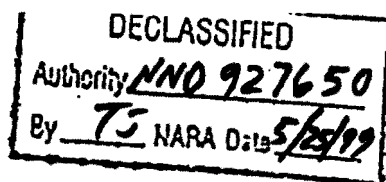
  
 JOHN D. GHEE  
 Captain, ASC  
 Asst AG

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

AWARD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FOLLOWING UNIT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IS CONFIRMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 194, AR 672-5-1.

9TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Infantry Division  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Brigade  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Brigade  
6th Battalion, 31st Infantry  
2d Battalion, 39th Infantry  
3d Battalion, 39th Infantry  
4th Battalion, 39th Infantry  
2d Battalion, 47th Infantry  
3d Battalion, 47th Infantry  
4th Battalion, 47th Infantry  
2d Battalion, 60th Infantry  
3d Battalion, 60th Infantry  
5th Battalion, 60th Infantry  
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 9th Infantry Division Artillery  
2d Battalion, 4th Artillery  
1st Battalion, 11th Artillery  
3d Battalion, 34th Artillery  
1st Battalion, 84th Artillery  
Battery C, 5th Battalion (AW) (SP), 2d Artillery  
2d Platoon, Battery H (Searchlight), 29th Artillery  
9th Aviation Battalion  
D Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 214th Combat Aviation Battalion  
162 Assault Helicopter Company  
191st Assault Helicopter Company  
240th Assault Helicopter Company  
A Troop, 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry  
B Troop, 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Band, 9th Infantry Division  
Support Command  
9th Administration Company  
9th Medical Battalion  
9th Supply and Transport Battalion  
709th Maintenance Battalion  
1097th Transportation Company (Medium Boat)  
15th Engineer Battalion  
9th Signal Battalion



9th Military Police Company  
Company E (Ranger), 75th Infantry  
335th Radio Research Company  
43d Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)  
45th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)  
65th Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker)  
Armor Platoon, Air Cushion Vehicle  
9th Military Intelligence Detachment  
584th Military Intelligence Detachment  
39th Chemical Detachment  
19th Military History Detachment  
18th Public Information Detachment  
19th Public Information Detachment  
22d Public Information Detachment  
361st Aviation Detachment (Divisional), 165th Aviation Group (Cbt)  
9th Infantry Division Detachment, United States Army Special Security Group  
OL5, 5th Weather Squadron (USAF)  
9th Infantry Division Tactical Air Control Party, 19th Tactical Air Support  
Squadron (USAF)  
14th Military Intelligence Detachment (ARVN)


THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND ATTACHED UNITS DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES BY OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY AND EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN ACTION AGAINST ENEMY FORCES IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD 25 JANUARY THROUGH 26 APRIL 1969. IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1969 THE VIET CONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY FORCES WERE FORECAST TO LAUNCH A LARGE-SCALE OFFENSIVE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR WINTER-SPRING CAMPAIGN. INFILTRATION OF NEW TROOPS AND REORGANIZATION OF FORCES IN THE AREA SOUTH OF SAIGON INDICATED THE ENEMY PLANNED ATTACKS ON SAIGON AND OTHER CITIES OF THE UPPER MEKONG DELTA. ADDITIONALLY THE VIET CONG WERE DETERMINED TO INFLECT HEAVY CASUALTIES AMONG UNITED STATES FORCES AND MAINTAIN THEIR DOMINANCE OVER THE POPULACE IN THIS TRADITIONAL COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD. OPERATING IN LONG AN, DINH TUONG, AND KIEN HOA PROVINCES, SQUARELY ASTRIDE THE ENEMY'S MAJOR INFILTRATION ROUTE INTO THE DELTA, THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION WAS TASKED WITH THE MISSION OF PRE-EMPTING ENEMY OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS SOUTH OF SAIGON. THROUGH THE UNSURPASSED COURAGE OF THOUSANDS OF "OLD RELIABLES" AND BOLD, IMAGINATIVE TACTICS THIS MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH SUCCESS UNPRECEDENTED IN THE ANNALS OF AMERICAN COMBAT IN THE REPUBLIC

OF VIETNAM. OVER EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED ENEMY WERE ELIMINATED; EXCEPT FOR SMALL INSIGNIFICANT CONTACTS, ENEMY OFFENSIVE ACTIONS WERE THWARTED; AND THE THREAT TO SAIGON FROM THE SOUTH WAS NEUTRALIZED. TO ACHIEVE THIS UNPARALLELED RESULT TWO MAJOR OBSTACLES HAD TO BE OVERCOME: THE DIFFICULTY IN DETECTING THE ENEMY BECAUSE OF HIS DISPERSED AND FRAGMENTED POSTURE, AND THE HAZARDOUS TERRAIN, FAVORABLE TO THE ENEMY'S TACTICS AND MADE DANGEROUS BY THE ENEMY'S WIDE-SCALE USE OF MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS. INGENUITY, INNOVATION, AND DETERMINATION PRODUCED THE TECHNIQUES NECESSARY TO FIND AND DESTROY THE ENEMY. THE INDOMITABLE WILL AND DAUNTLESS COURAGE OF THE INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS OF THE "OLD RELIABLES" SUCCESSFULLY OVERCAME THE DELTA TERRAIN AND THE TREACHEROUS MENACE OF MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS. INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, AVIATION, AND COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT WERE FASHIONED INTO A FIGHTING TEAM THAT PLACED UNRELENTING PRESSURE ON THE FOE, DAY AND NIGHT, THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION'S TACTICAL AREA OF INTEREST. IN THE MAJOR BATTLES OF THANH PHU, PHU MY, AP BINH DONG, THANH LOI, THANH HUNG, AND VINH CONG, NEARLY SEVEN HUNDRED ENEMY WERE ENTRAPPED AND ELIMINATED. MOVING BY FOOT, AIR, AND WATER, THE MEN OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ALSO ACCEPTED UNFLINCHINGLY THE RISKS INHERENT IN SMALL UNIT TACTICS. IN MORE THAN TWENTY-TWO HUNDRED SMALL UNIT CONTACTS, THE ENEMY LOST ADDITIONAL THOUSANDS TO THE CONSTANT DAY AND NIGHT PURSUIT OF THE "OLD RELIABLES". THE UNEXCELLED COURAGE OF THESE MEN, AND OF THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THEM WHILE UNDER CONTINUAL ATTACKS BY FIRE, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND ATTACHED UNITS. THEIR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM AND OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY, SUSTAINED THROUGH EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS AND DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON THEMSELVES, THE UNITED STATES ARMY, AND THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

COMBAT STATISTICS

1. Daily Enemy Casualties from 9th Infantry Division Operations.
2. Enemy Eliminated.
3. Division Day Operations.
4. Division Night Operations.
5. Total Division Operations.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
JOHN D. GHER  
Captain, AGS  
Asst AG

DAILY ENEMY CASUALTIES FROM 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION OPERATIONS

Date		VC KIA (BC)			Date		VC KIA (BC)		
	Day	Night	Total			Day	Night	Total	
25 Jan	54	6	60	12 Mar	44	54		98	
26 Jan	63	19	82	13 Mar	55	80		135	
27 Jan	42	25	67	14 Mar	32	60		92	
28 Jan	22	11	33	15 Mar	59	100		159	
29 Jan	12	6	18	16 Mar	39	67		106	
30 Jan	39	47	86	17 Mar	48	40		88	
31 Jan	16	41	57	18 Mar	71	20		91	
1 Feb	21	21	42	19 Mar	76	14		90	
2 Feb	69	18	87	20 Mar	42	64		106	
3 Feb	41	24	65	21 Mar	75	80		155	
4 Feb	18	25	43	22 Mar	66	71		137	
5 Feb	13	15	28	23 Mar	118	100		218	
6 Feb	25	23	48	24 Mar	43	44		87	
7 Feb	20	11	31	25 Mar	68	16		84	
8 Feb	14	37	51	26 Mar	47	70		117	
9 Feb	34	22	56	27 Mar	55	48		103	
10 Feb	25	9	34	28 Mar	49	73		122	
11 Feb	43	27	70	29 Mar	53	37		90	
12 Feb	16	19	35	30 Mar	48	61		109	
13 Feb	30	9	39	31 Mar	88	70		158	
14 Feb	71	55	126	1 Apr	52	63		115	
15 Feb	16	36	52	2 Apr	94	44		138	
16 Feb	41	8	49	3 Apr	49	35		84	
17 Feb	15	17	32	4 Apr	42	45		87	
18 Feb	45	20	65	5 Apr	39	35		74	
19 Feb	7	10	17	6 Apr	49	42		91	
20 Feb	111	21	132	7 Apr	77	41		118	
21 Feb	34	28	62	8 Apr	37	71		108	
22 Feb	52	43	95	9 Apr	84	23		107	
23 Feb	55	49	104	10 Apr	59	32		91	
24 Feb	79	8	87	11 Apr	55	15		70	
25 Feb	43	74	117	12 Apr	45	17		62	
26 Feb	29	32	61	13 Apr	102	58		160	
27 Feb	26	56	82	14 Apr	49	44		93	
28 Feb	62	28	90	15 Apr	43	32		75	
1 Mar	50	50	100	16 Apr	83	44		127	
2 Mar	54	23	77	17 Apr	46	31		77	
3 Mar	103	38	141	18 Apr	87	39		126	
4 Mar	57	37	94	19 Apr	64	35		99	
5 Mar	60	35	95	20 Apr	54	55		109	
6 Mar	52	79	131	21 Apr	67	43		110	
7 Mar	43	79	122	22 Apr	57	34		91	
8 Mar	53	58	111	23 Apr	48	57		105	
9 Mar	45	40	85	24 Apr	97	61		158	
10 Mar	52	27	79	25 Apr	46	60		106	
11 Mar	57	67	124	26 Apr	116	11		127	
				Totals	4746	3669		8415	



ENEMY ELIMINATED\*

	<u>25 Jan-28 Feb</u>	<u>1-31 Mar</u>	<u>1-26 Apr</u>	<u>Total</u>
Day Inf	846	1141	1003	2990
Night Inf	322	845	530	1697
Day Cav	415	572	380	1367
Night Cav	455	580	299	1334
Snipers	124	211	297	632
Other (Arty, AF, etc)	212	377	378	967
Total	2374	3727	2887	8988

\*Includes KIA, PW, Hoï Chanh, and VCI

9TH INF DIV

DIVISION DAY OPERATIONS

FOR THE PERIOD 27 MAR - 26 APR

OPERATION	SQUAD	PLAT	CO	BN	REMARKS
AMBUSH	0 0	78 11	85 129		
RIF	3 3	424 39	274 431		
CHECKERBOARD	2 0	70 2	76 17		
BUSEMASTER	2 0	106 10	69 48		
PILE ON	0 0	2 0	1 0		
PATROL	8 5	128 9	15 0		
RAID	0 0	17 2	8 0		
SEARCH	0 0	40 3	41 6		EQUIVALENT PLATOONS MANEUVER ELEMENTS
TOTAL OFFENSE	15 8	365 76	569 631		2574
INSTAL DEFENSE	0 0	447 0	74 6		669
OTHER	0 0	371 0	93 0		650
TOTAL	15 8	1883 76	736 637		3893/721

KEY: (1) 3 SQUADS = 1 EQUIVALENT PLATOON

(2) 1 COMPANY = 3 EQUIVALENT PLATOONS

UNITS
CONTACTS

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority: **AND 927650**  
 By: **TS NARA 0215/5/819**

9TH INF DIV

DIVISION NIGHT OPERATIONS

FOR THE PERIOD 27 MAR - 26 APR

OPERATION	SQUAD	PLAT	CO	BN	REMARKS
AMBUSH	1070 53	686 119	0 0		
RIF	0 0	0 0	0 0		
CHECKERBOARD	0 0	0 0	61 38		
BUSHMASTER	0 0	0 0	296 91		
PILE ON	0 0	0 0	0 0		
PATROL	0 1	1 0	0 0		
RAID	0 2	4 2	0 0		
SEARCH	5 99	0 0	0 0		EQUIVALENT PLATOONS MANEUVER ELEMENTS
TOTAL OFFENSE	1075 155	691 121	357 129		2121
INSTAL DEFENSE	142 0	699 61	0 0		746
OTHER	40 0	1014 0	0 0		1026
TOTAL	1257 155	2404 182	357 129		3893/339

KEY: (1) 3 SQUADS = 1 EQUIVALENT PLATOON

(2) 1 COMPANY = 3 EQUIVALENT PLATOONS

UNITS
CONTACTS

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority: **AND 927650**  
 By: **TS** NARA Date: **5/24/99**

9TH INF DIV

TOTAL DIVISION OPERATIONS

FOR THE PERIOD 27 MAR - 26 APR

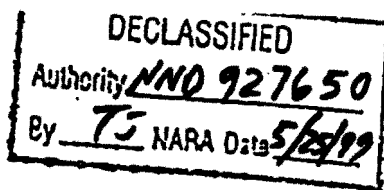
OPERATION	SQUAD	PLAT	CO	BN	REMARKS
AMBUSH	1070 53	764 130	85 129		
RIF	3 3	424 39	274 431		
CHECKERBOARD	2 0	70 2	137 55		
BUSHMASTER	2 0	106 10	365 139		
PILE ON	0 0	2 0	1 0		
PATROL	8 6	129 9	15 0		
RAID	0 2	21 4	8 0		
SEARCH	5 99	40 3	41 6		EQUIVALENT PLATOONS MANEUVER ELEMENTS
TOTAL OFFENSE	1090 163	1536 197	926 760		4695
INSTAL DEFENSE	142 0	1146 61	74 6		1415
OTHER	40 0	485 0	93 0		1676
TOTAL	1272 163	3187 258	1093 766		7786/1060

KEY: (1) 3 SQUADS = 1 EQUIVALENT PLATOON

(2) 1 COMPANY = 3 EQUIVALENT PLATOONS

UNITS	
CONTACTS	

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority: AND 927650  
 By: TJ NARA Date: 5/24/12



This inclosure contains twenty-nine photographs which were taken of 9th Infantry Division operations during the period 25 January through 26 April 1969. An authenticating signature is on the back of each photograph.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JOHN D. GHEE  
Captain, AGC  
Asst AG

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John D. Ghee', is written over a typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive.