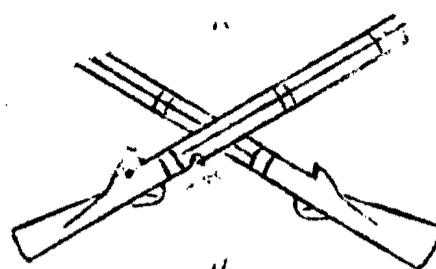


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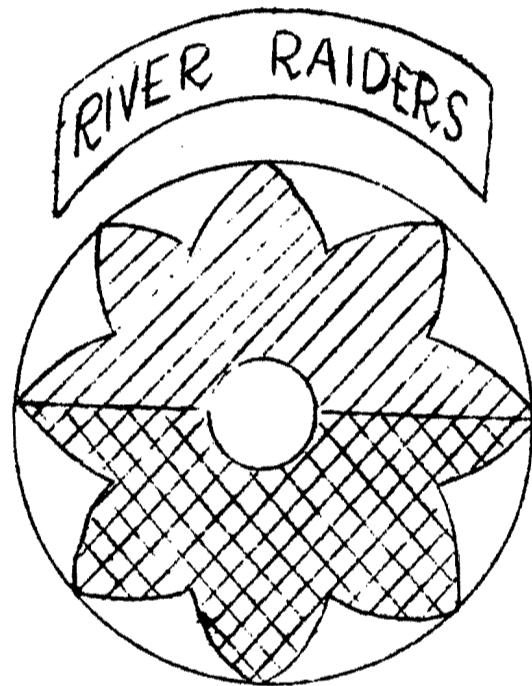
9th Infantry
2nd Brigade S-3

Command Report 78



HEADQUARTERS

2ND BRIGADE
9TH INFANTRY DIVISION



OPERATION TRUONG CONG DINH

... PHASE II

GROUP FOUR
DOWNGRADE AT THREE YEAR
INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED
AFTER TWELVE YEARS

CONFIDENTIAL

Authority WD 873541By JL NARA Date 6-3**CONFIDENTIAL**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2ND BRIGADE, 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96372

AVD 47MH-A

30 July 1968

SUBJECT: Combat Operations - After Action Report

THRU: Commanding General
Headquarters
9th Infantry Division
APO U.S. Forces 96370TO: Commander
United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
ATTN: MACJ343
APO U.S. Forces 96222

1. NAME OF OPERATION: TRUONG CONG DINH.
2. DATES OF OPERATION: 040245 April to present (Phase II).
3. LOCATION: Kien Hoa, Go Cong, Long An, Vinh Long, and Dinh Tuong Provinces, RVN; Map References: 1:50,000; sheet Nr. 6129I, 6229 I, 6229 II, 6229 III, 6229 IV, 6330 II and 6330 III.
4. COMMAND AND CONTROL HEADQUARTERS:

Headquarters Mobile Riverine Force

2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

Task Force 117 - U.S. Navy element

5. REPORTING OFFICERS:

- a. Captain R. S. Salzer, Commodore, TF 117.
- b. Colonel B. A. David, CO, 2nd Bde, 9th Inf Div.
(Commanding Officer until 28 May 1968)
- c. Colonel Robert E. Archer, CO, 2nd Bde, 9th Inf Div.
- d. LTC William F. Lackman, CO, 3-47th Infantry.
- e. LTC Lawrence E. Bryan, CO, 4-47th Infantry.
- f. LTC John G. Hill, CO, 3-60th Infantry.
(Commanding Officer until 11 June 1968)
- g. LTC George E. Marine, CO, 3-60th Infantry.
- h. LTC W. E. Rawlinson, CO, 3-34th Artillery.

6. TASK ORGANIZATION: See inclosure #1.7. SUPPORTING FORCES:

- a. U.S. Navy: Naval support provided throughout the operation by Task Force 117 continued in the same scope and magnitude as provided during Phase I of Operation TRUONG CONG DINH. Support included mutual coordination in preparing operational plans and orders, and providing operational, administrative and logistical support. Tactical support included employment of: riverine survey, UDT and EOD teams, escort boats and troop carriers, ~~armed for both direct and indirect fire~~.

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b. U.S. Air Forces: The 7th U.S. Air Force continued employing pre-planned and immediate air strikes in support of ground forces throughout the operation. Pre-planned requests were submitted through Army channels by telephone, and immediate requests were initiated via Air Force Single side-band communication after approval by the local commander. The majority of the air strikes were employed effectively against fortified fighting positions and fleeing ground troops. In addition, air strikes were employed in preparation of beaching and landing zones. No significant employment problems were encountered, and targets were properly marked and identified.

c. Army Aviation: Air assets of III and IV Corps, in addition to 9th Infantry Division assets were provided in support of the Brigade. Support included light helicopter fire teams, air cavalry units, and helicopter companies. As during the first phase of this operation, all aviation requests were submitted to Headquarters, 9th Infantry Division and allocations were accordingly provided. Army Aviation enhanced the Brigade's operations; particularly when air cavalry troops were placed in support of the Brigade.

d. Artillery: The 3-34th Artillery continued to support the entire operation from forward fire support bases established on floating barges. Response to all fire missions was quick and efficient, and assisted in blocking the enemy's withdrawal from the area of contact as well as destroying his positions and will to fight. Artillery fires materially reduced the enemy's resistance to ground assaults; tactical air, artillery and gunship fires combined to enable infantry elements to assault successfully.

8. INTELLIGENCE:

a. General: On 4 April 1968, the Mobile Riverine Force initiated Phase II of Operation TRUONG CONG DINH, in accordance with MRF OPORD 31-68. Phase II of Operation TRUONG CONG DINH was a supplementary series of tactical operations designed to intensify attacks against enemy forces and structures throughout DINH TUONG, VINH LONG, LONG AN and KIEN HOA Provinces; and eliminate his presence and influences along waterways and high-ways throughout these provinces. Most operations conducted during this period, saw the 2nd Brigade and TF 117 employed independent of ARVN Forces. Occasionally, however, MRF and ARVN operations complemented each other. The first offensive operation initiated by the MRF was in TRUC GIANG and GIONG TROM Districts, KIEN HOA Province.

b. KIEN HOA Province:

(1) Terrain: KIEN HOA Province is a triangular shaped province located on the coast of the South China Sea in the Mekong Delta approximately 70 KM South of Saigon. The Northern boundary is formed by the My Tho River, the Western boundary by the Co Chien River and the Eastern boundary by the South China Sea. The Province covers a physical area of approximately 831 square miles. Four major tributaries of the Mekong River, the My Tho, the Ba Lai and Ham Luong and the Co Chiem, separate the province into three islands, An Hoa in the North, Bao in the center and Minh in the Southwest. Kien Hoa is one of the most densely populated areas in South Vietnam. Present population is estimated at 650,000. There are nine self administered districts. They are: BATHI, BINH DAI, DON NHON, GIONG TROM, HAM LONG, HUONG MY, MO CAY, THANH PHU and TRUC GIANG. The Province is rice growing, alluvium plain with negligible slopes except along canal and stream banks. The average elevation is two meters. The ground is silty clay over bedrock. Rice paddy dikes average 0.5 to 1.0 meters above sea level at low tide. Canal banks may rise as much as 5 meters above the water level at low tide. The soil was compact and afforded a solid base for cross country trafficability. The dense foliage provided by nipa palm, coconut, sugar cane and mangroves, limits observation and fields of fire. There are numerous spike pits, mines and boobytraps throughout the Province.

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(2) Weather: April brought the transition period between dry and wet seasons, and with it much variation in the weather patterns. The wind flow was normally from the Southeast, but varied greatly. Low cloud patterns in April were similar to those experienced in March, except in the vicinity of rainshowers and thunderstorms. A significant climatological difference was the tendency for low clouds to persist later in the afternoon. Low visibilities experienced in March by smoke and fog continued through April.

(3) Enemy Forces: KIEN HOA is strategically important to the enemy as a rear area for VC Military Region II. Located on the coast of Binh Dai and in Thanh Phu Districts, are two large secret zones where large quantities of weapons, ammunitions, and other materials are stored. The tactical disposition of VC combat units in the province was such that the enemy was able to protect the secret zones, base areas and lines of communications. Viet Cong units operating in the Province were:

502 Main Force Battalion	- Estimated 250 personnel
D 518 Main Force Infantry Battalion	- Estimated 415 personnel
560 Local Force Battalion	- Estimated 200 personnel
D 516 Provincial Mobile Battalion	- Estimated 700 personnel
C 502 Air Defense Company	- No estimate made
A 101 Transportation Battalion	- No estimate made
Six (6) District Companies	- Estimated 75 to 100 ea.

The enemy had at his disposal all weapons previously used against assault craft. He was capable of conducting harassing and ambush tactics using such direct fire weapons as small arms, automatic weapons, recoilless rifles and B40/41 rockets.

c. DINH TUONG Province

(1) Terrain: The area of operations for OPORD 32-68 was the border area of LONG AN, DINH TUONG and GO CONG Provinces. Districts in the area are CHO GAO (D.T.), HOA DONG (G.C.) and BINH PHUOC (L.A.). The terrain is characterized by flat open rice paddy area and sparse tree lines. The Quan Can and Tram Streams are to the north and west of the Cho Gao Canal.

(2) Weather: No change.

(3) Enemy Forces:

(a) The enemy force within the Vinh Kim and Long Dinh area of operations could not be identified, although its estimated strength was approximately 200 personnel. Units known to have used the area were the 261 MF Bn, 2nd Independent Bn, C313 Co, 8th Bn, Dong Nai Regt, the Cho Gao DCU and local guerrillas. Due to the major movement pattern of the unidentified unit, it was conceivably a transportation company tasked with moving supplies from the Southeastern Dinh Tuong Province "Coconut Grove" area to Long An Province.

(b) Within Central DINH TUONG Province elements of the 514th PMB operated in the AP BAC area. On 29 March 1968 the 334B NVA Bn, one reconnaissance company of the 514th PMB and the CAI BE DCU were located along the CAY GAO Canal, MY THANH Village.

(c) Three main force battalions, the 261st Bn, 263rd Bn and the 514th MF Bn operated in DINH TUONG Province. The total strength of these battalions were approximately 1,000 combat effective troops. In addition, there were ten local force companies, the 312th

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332nd, 334th, 336th, 212th, 207th in CHO CAO, CHAU THINH, CAI LAY and CAI BE District coordinated units. Total strength of those units were in excess of 2,000 troops.

(d) Throughout this phase of Operation TRUONG CONG DINH, the identification and disposition of enemy forces varied within each Province. The units identified above are but a portion of the total enemy force which the MRF endeavored to seek out and destroy. Within the execution portion of this report, the MRF missions for each operation will indicate the specific enemy force they were targeted against.

9. MISSION: As directed by CG, 9th U.S. Infantry Division: conduct Riverine and airmobile operations in DINH TUONG, KIEN HOA, VINH LONG and LONG AN Provinces to locate, fix and destroy VC, NVA and other enemy elements within.

10. CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

a. Mobile Riverine Force operations would be planned and conducted according to the perimeters, tasks and guidance derived from missions assigned by CG, 9th Infantry Div. Nineteen significant operations were initiated during this phase of Operation TRUONG CONG DINH.

b. Phase II of Operation TRUONG CONG DINH commenced after the 3-60th Infantry debarked and became OPCON to Task Force Funston at Dong Tam. The 3-47th Infantry, replacing the 3-60th Infantry, completed its embarkation on 3 April 1968. Plans were formulated for the MRF to conduct two phase riverine, airmobile, reconnaissance in force operations in TRUC GIANG and GIONG TROM Districts, KIEN HOA Province. The concept for the initial operation (4 April 1968) was for the 3-47th Infantry to conduct riverine beach assaults in AO MASSENA and sweep east along axis of advance indicated (OP overaly) to the battalion boundary; the 4-47th Infantry would employ two companies in beach assaults to sweep south, while a third company would remain embarked on ATCs supporting River Assault Crafts and subsequently beach in the AO. Both battalions would continue their sweep operations until ordered to backload (following day) and move into AO PATTON to conduct sweeps south and west in zone.

c. With the completion of these operations subsequent operations would be planned and conducted in DINH TUONG, VINH LONG and LONG AN Provinces.

11. EXECUTION:

a. On 4 April 1968, the MRF implemented OPORD 31-68 to locate fix and destroy the VC 516 MF Bn, 560th LF Company and other enemy elements in TRUC GIANG and GIONG TROM Districts, KIEN HOA Province. Unknowingly, the MRF elements were to encounter one of their heaviest engagements in this AO; the enemy in well fortified fighting bunkers had elected to launch a furious ambush-attack against the Brigade forces. As originally conceived the operation commenced at 0200 hours when TE 117.11.2 escorted the 3-34th Artillery to FSB BILLIERS, vicinity XS632393. The battalion was laid and ready to fire (LRF) in support of the maneuver battalions at 0545 hours. Meanwhile, TE 117.1.1 with the embarked maneuver battalions moved south on KINH GLAO HOA Canal; the 4-47th Infantry proceeded the 3-47th Infantry into the AO.

(1) The 4-47th Infantry, upon entering the AO employed A and B companies in beach assaults on landing sites BLUE 1 (XS585358) and BLUE 2 (XS583364) respectively. C Company 4-47th Infantry remained embarked on ATCs, as A and B companies swept along both sides of the KINH GLAO HOA to clear the major canal intersections and then backloaded! A Co - vicinity XS580348 and B Co - vicinity XS585344. Both companies embarked on ATCs at 0810 hours and deployed to BLUE BEACH 3 where they were reinserted, conducting beach assaults. The beach

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Landings were without incident and the companies began to sweep west, toward their boundary. At 0950 hours the battalion was tasked to extract by ATCs and reinforce the 3-47th which was engaged in heavy contact. A/4-47th Inf was the first company to embark ATCs. B and C companies started their movement to vicinity XS571355 where they would backload on ATCs. Enroute, the ATCs in support of C Company were engaged with automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire; none of the boats were hit. The brief engagement prevented C Company from embarking until the enemy's fires were suppressed. At 1210 hours the 4-47th Infantry (-), completely embarked, began to insert C Company in the vicinity of XS569358, B Company at XS572356, and A Company at XS570355. The companies moved west to attack the enemy's flank, C Company captured one POW in the vicinity of XS565359, and later became the first company to establish contact in the vicinity of XS551358. A/4-47th Infantry was inserted 100 meters west of C Company at XS550360, and immediately received heavy volumes of small arms and automatic weapons fire, B and C Companies tried to maneuver behind the enemy force that was engaging A Company; in doing so both companies became heavily engaged. The 7-1st Air Cavalry was employed in support of both battalions. The Air Cav at this time engaged an enemy force causing them to withdraw to vicinity XS560555. Throughout the afternoon the 4-47th Infantry (-) remained in contact resulting in one US KHA and 14 US WHA. The 4-47th Infantry accounted for six VC KIA and 3 POWs. The 7-1st Air Cav sustained one US KHA, and accounted for 16 VC KIAs.

(2) During its initial movement, the 3-47th Infantry encountered no significant incidents. Prior to the battalion beach assaults, artillery fires were employed along both banks of the SONG BA LAI from vicinity XS563358 to XS562354, and were then shifted west. During the artillery preparation fires, the battalion continued its riverine movement reaching the intersection of the SONG BA LAI and KINH GIA HOA. The intersection of the two waterways is known as the "Crossroads". The battalion's column turned west entering the SONG BA LAI at 0830 hours to conduct its beach landing assaults in the vicinity of XS562358. Upon entering the canal, assault support boats and armored troop carriers, (ATCs) of River Division 92 were ambushed and engaged with B-40 rocket and small arms fire in the vicinity of XS564359, from the south side of the river. The battalion reacted implementing its counter ambush plan. This required the lead element (B Company) to move through the ambush and beach on the side of the heaviest contact, in this instance the south side. The second company (E Company) was supposed to land on the side of heaviest contact, short of the ambush. The third company (C Company) was to land on the opposite shore and sweep, with the second company, towards the first. B Company, which suffered casualties from the initial attack, proceeded through the ambush and landed unopposed on the south bank past the ambush. Upon beaching, the platoon leader - 3/B/3-47th Infantry, assumed command of the company, as a result of the company commander being one of the initial casualties. E Company, reacting to the initial fire, attempted to beach on the south bank short of the area where B Company was engaged; but in fact, they beached directly into the area of heaviest contact. As E Company turned toward the beach, it received .50 cal machine gun, small arms and B-40 rocket fires. Two of the ATCs transporting the 2nd and 3rd Platoons beached, and the troops started to debark into heavy fire. Only 14 men of the 3rd platoon succeeded in leaving the boats; the remainder were wounded while embarked. Those elements of the platoon already ashore were immediately pinned down by intense fires. An attempt was made to engage the VC .50 cal position with a LAW; however the weapons failed to fire (possibly because of water immersion). The 2nd Platoon of E Company beached slightly to the east, and its 22 men debarked safely in waist deep mud. The platoon started maneuvering east of the .50 cal position, but was informed by crew members of the ATC that the platoon was to discontinue its movement and backload on the ATC; backloading was completed without incident. During the extraction, the ATC was hit with a B-40 rocket and eight casualties resulted. The 1st Platoon of E Company and the company command group remained embarked the entire time eventually withdrawing from the intense fire. Several casualties were sustained, including the platoon leader.

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two embarked platoons of E Company returned to the crossroads and transferred their wounded to an aid boat for further evacuation. The ATCs returned up the stream and attempted to beach again in the vicinity where the 2nd platoon had previously inserted. Both boats received fire as they turned into the beach at 0945 hours. The 2nd platoon (-) offloaded with its remaining nine personnel, and attempted to maneuver east around the .50 cal position. This time however, they were pinned down by three AW positions facing the stream. A more critical problem resulted because of the chest deep mud which clogged the weapons of those struggling to reach the shore. The 1st platoon received heavy fire when trying to beach, and could not land its troops. At this time E Company had two platoons ashore, neither of which was effective, one because of mud-clogged weapons and the other because of casualties. Communications was disable between the company commander and his two platoons on the south bank; however, C Company maintained radio communications with them.

(3) In the meantime C/3-47th Infantry moved to the north bank, but was ordered not to offload pending development of E Company's disposition. At 0857 hours C Company was ordered to proceed beyond the ambush site and beach between H Company and 3/C/3-47th Infantry. They were to move east towards the 3rd platoon, and at the same time link up with B Company. At 0907 hours C Company beached on the south bank and started to move towards the platoon of E Company. As they advanced they received heavy fire from their east and south. C Company discovered an extensive bunker complex that extended south from the river to two canals. The bunkers were reinforcing and oriented towards the east and west, except for the .50 cal and two supporting AW positions near the river. B Company started to move towards C Company at 0954 hours, after the company commander and another man were evacuated by the battalion C&C helicopter. Its movement was slow because the company carried its wounded personnel. B Company was then engaged from their south, east and from the north of the stream. During the time span, Companies B and C struggled to link up. As Company B moved east towards Company C, it discovered a bunker line along a canal that separated the two companies. Company C tried to eliminate the .50 cal position between it and Company E. Another .50 cal position began to engage Company C from its southeast. The firing positions (bunkers) projected only to the height of 18 inches above the ground, and were extremely difficult to locate in the thick ripapalm along the canals. The company employed its LAW trying to eliminate the position. The bunker was located close to E Company's wounded personnel, which made it difficult to employ artillery or airstrikes. Navy assault boats attempted to employ 40mm cannons against the bunker, but quarters were so close that their fires entered C and E Company's position causing more casualties.

(4) When the 1st platoon of E Company withdrew from the beach, after making a second attempt to land, it sustained 5 WHA from a .50 cal machine gun which was fired through the boat's ramp. The wounded were taken to the "Crossroads" for evacuation. At 1030 hours, gunships of the 7-1st Air Cav engaged the bunkers located south and southeast of Company C. The gunships made several effective passes, relieving the pressure in that area. Company B continued to endure casualties from the enemy's fire in the south. At this time Company B had 28 casualties, but only one was serious enough to warrant immediate evacuation; a dustoff was completed at 1114 hours. Company C sustained 1 KHA and 3 WHA from the engagement that occurred to their south. Artillery was employed continuously to the south of C and B Companies throughout the morning. At 1136 hours, an ATC supporting Company E returned from the "Crossroads" and extracted the nine men of the 2nd platoon in order that they could clean their weapons. An attempt to extract the 3rd platoon was made; however, the ATCs were forced back by B-40 rocket fire; two boats received direct hits. The five men of the 3rd platoon who were not casualties, swam to the boats in the river. Company B at this time was receiving fire from the north, and the south (across the river). Contact in C Company's area decreased, and the company moved east another 50 meters. Company E was ordered

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to beach its remaining personnel with Company C, after they had cleaned their weapons. Through an error, Company E beached on the north bank where elements of the 4-47th Infantry were located and linked up with C/4-47th Infantry in lieu of C/3-47th Infantry. It was not realized that this was the wrong Company until after the ATC had departed.

(5) C/3-47th Infantry contact increased as hostile AW and rocket fire was employed from positions to its south and southeast. A .50 cal position was between C/3-47th Infantry and E/3-47th Infantry wounded personnel. C Company employed two more rounds of 90mm at the enemy bunker, failing to silence the machine gun. Company B arrived within 75 meters of C/3-47th Infantry by 1400 hours. Within 20 minutes the company had eliminated the enemy positions between it and C Company, and at 1435 hours the two companies joined up. Company C sustained a total of 2 KHA and 8 WHA during its engagements. Company B sustained its first fatality at 1450 hours, and evacuated his body to the canal for extraction by ATC. At this time elements of Company B located a seriously wounded soldier in the water; he was the platoon medic of the 3rd platoon, E Company. Although wounded, he had crawled away from the bank. He stated that the VC came to the bank took the weapons of the dead and wounded after the 2nd platoon was extracted.

(6) A boundary change was established at 1542 hours to separate the two battalions. The 4-47th was tasked to cross from the north bank to the south bank and move south, then east against the VC. In conjunction with this move, the elements of E/3-47th Infantry (with the 4-47th Infantry) were to beach with B and C Companies. The battalion would then move south and swing east with the 4-47th Infantry. Casualties at this time were reported as: B/3-47th Infantry 27 WHA, 1 KHA, C/3-47th Infantry 10 WHA, and E/3-47th Infantry 16 WHA, 9 MIA and 2 VN WHA. As E/3-47th Infantry beached, casualties of B and C Companies 3-47th Infantry were embarked. At 1612 hours a B-40 rocket was fired into the boat from the vicinity of the .50 cal position. The 3-47th Infantry established a defensive perimeter and prepared to receive resupply. As the evening progressed patrols were employed to recon the areas of previous contact; no further contact developed. During the hours of darkness, one NCO from Company C crawled to the area of E Company's wounded; he returned with one wounded man. The NCO departed to assist another wounded man, but the soldier died before he could be evacuated. The NCO then crawled to the .50 cal position and threw grenades into the bunker. He could not determine whether or not the position was occupied, but he heard voices of the VC still in the area. Resupply and evacuation of wounded continued without incident, and the remainder of the night was quiet. At the conclusion of all engagements during the day, the MRF had sustained 21 US KHAS and 122 WHA; of these figures the 3-47th Infantry had 9 KHAS, 67 WHA and 8 MIAs. Navy casualties are included in the total figures and consisted of 2 KHA and 30 WHA.

b. On 5 April both maneuver battalions swept the area of the previous days contact. The 3-47th Infantry initiated its search and clear operations moving east to the "Crossroads" (Intersection of the canal and river), while the 4-47th Infantry moved west, on the south side of the river. No significant enemy contact was encountered during the sweep of the battle area. The 3-47th Infantry destroyed 30 bunkers and an unknown amount of grenades at coordinates XS563356. A patrol from C/3-47th located the eight men (MIAs) in the vicinity of XS565359, and returned their remains to E/3-47th for extraction to the MRB. E/3-47th Infantry, having sustained heavy casualties, was later relieved by A/3-47th and returned to the MRB; the company was then employed in defense of the MRB. In several small engagements, elements of the 4-47th Infantry killed two VC snipers; the battalion also captured one POW and located 24 VC graves and two VC KIAs from the previous days operation.

c. With the completion of the search and clear operations, the two battalions were extracted and inserted in AO PATTON, two miles east of the previous days operation. The 3-47th Infantry secured

the "Crossroads" employing C Company on the northwest and southwest quadrants, B Company securing the north east (vicinity of XS583348). A/3-47th Infantry was airlifted from FSB NEY and established defensive positions vicinity XS581343. The 4-47th Infantry was extracted from vicinity XS543364 at 1235 hours, and inserted conducting beach assaults at XS603327; the battalion proceeded south reconning-in-force. Shortly after beaching unopposed, elements of the battalion were engaged with sporadic sniper fire; A/4-47th Infantry sustained 1 US KHA. The battalion maneuvered south, and at 1530 hours encountered sporadic small arms and automatic weapons fire which later developed into moderate contact. Company B was engaged by automatic weapons in the vicinity XS608325; the enemy's fire was suppressed resulting in 2 VC KIA and 1 captured US carbine. Company C was engaged with small arms fire from bunkers in the vicinity XS608324; one US was wounded and 2 VC were killed in this engagement. Elements of the 7-1st Air Cav, conducting aerial reconnaissance in the area, observed an undetermined number of VC in bunkers and tree lines. As the battalion continued its advance the enemy increased his sniper and automatic weapon fires. Company A maneuvered along a stream bank and engaged seven VC in a bunker with handgrenades; gunships supported the assault on the bunker, resulting in 4 VC KIA. One US was KHA and another wounded while sweeping the area of contact. C/4-47th Infantry maneuvered toward B Company's area of heaviest engagement. During this maneuver, the company encountered automatic weapons and rifle grenade fires from the tree line. The engagement continued until 2015 hours, at which time the battalion established night defensive positions vicinity XS608326. As a result of the 4-47th Infantry's contact 13 US were KHA, 39 WHA, and 5 MIAs; enemy losses were 39 VC KIA (Includes 11 VC KIAs by gunships supporting the battalion) and 3 POWs captured.

d. On 6 April, the 4-47th Infantry swept the battle area and found the (5) MIA previously reported; the men were reclassified as being KHA. The battalion loaded ATCs vicinity XS606328 and conducted a riverine movement to beaches located XS579289. Upon beaching the battalion swept south reporting no enemy contact. Company A in the vicinity of XS566289 captured (1) POW who was a member of the 516 MF Battalion. Later during the afternoon, the battalion backloaded ATCs and moved from XS516284 to vicinity XS561279. At 1905 hours all units had received their resupply and were settled in their night defensive positions. The 3-47th Infantry remained at its locations until 0710 hours, at which time all companies backloaded on ATCs. The 4-47th Infantry had completed its transit through the crossroads, and there was no longer a requirement to secure it. The fourth platoon of Company A, which had remained to provide security at FSB NEY, rejoined the company at 1200 hours. The battalion moved by ATC to the vicinity of XS562282, and beached after the 4-47th had cleared both banks of the BACH TAI PHU to that location. Upon beaching at 1505 hours, the battalion swept south along the river on the east bank. No contact was made during the sweep. The battalion located and destroyed 50 bunkers. The battalion moved to the vicinity of XS561273 at 1730 hours to accept resupply and establish defensive positions for the night. Patrols were employed to XS559271, XS565271 and XS565274.

e. The operation was continued on 7 April as the 3-47th Infantry conducted sweep from XS563266 to XS558262 then to vicinity XS563258. The only engagement encountered during the day occurred at 1045 hours, when B/3-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS556260 sustained (1) US WHA from sniper fire. The 3-47th Infantry apprehended a young male detainee who had 23,000 piasters; the tiger scout with the unit determined the detainee to be a local VC. At 1420 hours the battalion embarked ATC's and returned to the MRB. During the day E/3-47th Infantry was employed in the vicinity of XS585404 to defend the MRB. The 4-47th Infantry continued its operation sweeping south reporting no contact. The battalion swept to the vicinity of XS554263 to XS561262, and then to XS557234. Late in the morning, vicinity of XS555267 B/4-47th Infantry found (20) graves believed to be about six weeks old. At 1420 hours all elements of the battalion embarked ATCs

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and deployed to the MRB closing at 1755 hours. Artillery support for the operation was provided by the 3-34th Artillery from FSB NEYS. At 1550 hours B Battery moved to establish a new FSB in the vicinity of XS526423, and was LRF at 1830 hours. C/3-34th Artillery deployed from FSB NEYS to DONG TAM, and were LRF at 1900 hours. The 7-1st Air Cav conducted aerial reconnaissance throughout the AO, and reported several sightings and engagements resulting in (20) VC KIA. As a result of the 4 day operation friendly losses consisted of: 39 US KHA, 166 US WHA, and 11 ATCs damaged. Enemy losses were 85 VC KIA, four weapons, and five POWs.

b. 10 thru 12 April 1968:

(1) In response to intelligence reports of increased enemy activity in VINH KIM and LONG DINH Districts, the Brigade initiated an operation west of DONG TAM. The operation commenced at 0900 hours with the deployment of the 3-47th Infantry (-) to conduct beach assault landings south of the PHI THANH hamlet in the vicinity XS3241. The 4-47th Infantry Battalion remained embarked at the MRB, on a one hour alert status for contingency commitment in support of the 3-47th Infantry; concurrently, it was designated to be the Division's Ready Reaction Force.

(a) At 1010 hours the 3-47th Infantry conducted beach landing assaults employing Company A in the vicinity of XS328408, Company C in the vicinity of XS331409 and Company E in the vicinity of XS331509. Upon landing unopposed, the battalion maneuvered north in zone to locate and destroy elements of the 514th VC local Force Battalion. The 3-47th Infantry's scheme of maneuver involved its attacking north across highway 25, northeast to SONG RAI and then north along the river to vicinity XS319429. Company E moved along the east bank, followed by Company C while Company A moved along the west bank of the SONG RAI. Five bunkers, two of which indicated recent construction, were destroyed by Company A in the vicinity of XS332415. Continuing its maneuver, A/3-47th Infantry found 100 bags of unpolished rice at XS324416. The rice, weighing approximately 600 lbs, was given to local inhabitants.

(b) The battalion continued its operation until mid-afternoon and established no contacts or encountered any engagements. At 1548 hours Companies A and C from XS323428, and Company E at XS336417, embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB. Throughout the remainder of the day, the 4-47th Infantry was maintained on a one hour alert status as the division RRF. The MRF at this time finalized its plans to conduct reconnaissance-in-force operations in CHO GAO District.

(c) On 11 April, the MRF initiated reconnaissance-in-force operations in CHO GAO District, DINH TUONG Province. The operation was launched in conjunction with the previous days operation. The operation commenced at 0350 hours with the 3-47th Infantry embarking ATCs to conduct riverine movement from the Dong Tam anchorage of the MRF to beaches located in the vicinity of XS657429. After moving through the CHO GAO Canal, the 3-47th Infantry beached unopposed at their designated beach sites. At 0712 hours E/3-47th Infantry located an extensive bunker complex in the vicinity of XS661503 while sweeping toward their blocking positions. The complex was too large for the unit to destroy; therefore, a platoon from D/15th Engineers was airlifted to the area to destroy them. A/3-47th Infantry discovered $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of VC propaganda documents vicinity of XS647403, and evacuated them to FSB HUNT at XS638474. Throughout the day the 3-47th Infantry reported no contact. It moved from the blocking position in the afternoon to night locations in the vicinity of XS645347. B/3-47th Infantry remained on MRB defense at Dong Tam. The company was extracted at 0600 hours by ATC, and deployed to XS582405, where it conducted extensive patrolling in the vicinity of the north bank near the new MRB anchorage.

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(2) The 4-47th Infantry commenced its operation at 0345 hours conducting riverine move from the MRB to beaches located in the vicinity of XS675534. All elements swept southwest to XS660525. Fourteen male detainees were apprehended at 1045 hours by A/4-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS653535; they were evacuated to FSPB HUNT for interrogation and later classified as (13) IC's and (1) CD. Late in the morning the battalion reported no contact. The battalion swept east and north to embarkation sites in the vicinity of XS662527. All units swept northwest to vicinity XS622514 then to XS675537 and after no contact returned to their night locations in the vicinity of XS680514 where they were resupplied by ATC's. Aerial reconnaissance throughout the AO was conducted by the 7-1st Air Cav. The air cav unit reported several sightings of enemy activity, and encountered several engagements which resulted in 3 VC KIA and one US WHA.

(3) On 12 April the 3-47th Infantry continued its operation with A, C and E Companies. The battalion embarked ATCs at 0530 hours in the vicinity of XS644479, and transited the CHO GAO Canal to the SONG TIEN GIONG River, then east to beach landing sites located in the vicinity of XS630398. Beach assaults were made at 0720 hours and the battalion began to recon-in-force. One soldier of A/3-47th Infantry drown while crossing a stream in the vicinity of XS644498. A three man underwater demolition team was employed in attempt to locate him. The 3-47th Infantry located and destroyed a bunker system consisting of 98 camouflaged bunkers with overhead covers during its reconnaissance in force operations. At 1135 hours in the vicinity of XS622422, Company C found five bundles of blank paper, five bundles of printing ink, one typewriter, one bundle of propaganda, and one bundle of achievement certificates. Due to the absence of enemy activity in the AO, the 3-47th Infantry embarked ATCs at 1753 hours and returned to the MRB.

(4) The 4-47th Infantry continued its operation at 0730 hours when it deployed by riverine movement to establish and secure PZ KEATS in the vicinity of XS659499. At 0914 hours the battalion began its airmobile assault into a LZ located at XS659440. The airlift was completed at 0940 hours without incident. One LFT escorting the airlift was engaged with small arms fire; no hits were reported. The battalion began its swoop south to XS687425, then SW to XS671417, reporting no contact. At 1045 hours Company C apprehended (seven) detainees, all of which were classified as IC's. Company A located a suspected VC aid station with blood stains on ground, smashed medical containers and one AK-47 magazine in the vicinity of XS673405. All battalions encountered no contact, and at 1730 hours embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB.

c. 14 thru 15 April 1968:

(1) The Mobile Riverine Force, in conjunction with elements of the 7th ARVN Division, initiated operations on 14 April in accordance with OPORD 33-68 to locate and destroy the 550th and 560th DCUs in GIONG TROM and BEN TRE Districts. The original scheme of maneuver was to employ the 3-47th and 4-47th Infantry Battalions in reconnaissance in force operations moving west in zone. All elements of the 7th ARVN Division would conduct similar operations in an adjacent AO, moving east toward the axis of advance of the Brigade elements. The operation was modified and commenced at 0600 hours with the 3-34th Artillery (-), B/3-47th Infantry and Navy assault boats deploying to FSPB JAMES vicinity XS630393. The artillery battalion (-) was laid and ready to fire in support of the Infantry Battalions at 0630 hours. Shortly thereafter, both maneuver battalions embarked ATCs. The 3-47th Infantry (-) and TU 117.1.2 proceeded to the AO and conducted beach landing assaults at 0844 hours on GREEN Beaches. The battalion employed Company A at XS607328, C and E Companies in the vicinity of XS605329. The 4-47th Infantry, embarked upon TU 117.1.1, entered the AO and employed Company G initially to sweep from XS586350 to XS579349 while the battalion (-) conducted eagle float operations. All elements of the battalion beached at 0830 hours with Company A at XS624324,

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Company B at XS618326 and Company E vicinity of XS614327. Company C embarked ATCs and remained afloat as the battalion's reserve.

(2) After beaching unopposed, both battalions reconned-in-force. The 3-47th Infantry (-) maneuvered south and southeast within the AO, as the 4-47th Infantry (-) maneuvered south and southeast in zone. Throughout the day, the battalions found many signs of enemy activity but encountered very few engagements. The most significant engagements of the day occurred while C/7-1st Air Cav conducting aerial reconnaissance throughout the AO. The cavalry troop was engaged during the morning with small arms and automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of XS639292 and XS630298. Eight VC were KIA as a result of the engagement. Two more VC were killed when elements of the 4-47th Infantry engaged one and artillery fire killed another. Although, the infantry battalions encountered insignificant enemy contacts, the operation was successful in that several large munitions and supply caches were found, and 217 bunkers were destroyed. In addition two VC training sites were located in the vicinity of XS620317 and XS625321. Each site contained circles of bamboo sticks in the ground which were used as training devices to teach escape techniques. As of 1820 hours, the two battalions had established night defensive positions, and were resupplied. The 3-47th Infantry positions were established with Company A at XS629305, Company C at XS631300 and Company E at XS631300. The 4-47th Infantry employed A and B Companies in the vicinity XS671281, and C and E Companies in the vicinity of XS666290.

(3) The infantry battalions continued offensive operations on the morning of 15 April. Commencing at 0800 hours both battalions were employed conducting "eagle floats" and insertions along the SONG BAI LAI Assault support patrol boats of TF 117 conducted water patrols throughout the AO. At 0915 hours, assault boats of River Division 92 were ambushed while transiting the SONG BAI LAI in the vicinity of XS618326. The ambush was quickly suppressed by the Navy boats, and gunships that were dispatched to the area. No casualties or damage resulted from the ambush. An unexploded B-40 rocket round was found lodged in the styrofoam of one ATC. The rocket was later removed by EOD personnel. In response to the enemy's ambush, both maneuver battalions backloaded on ATCs and deployed to the area of contact in hopes of exploiting the engagement. The 3-47th Infantry (-) was inserted in the vicinity of XS61831 and swept along the north side of the river. The 4-47th Infantry inserted in the vicinity of XS606327, and swept the area of contact to XS621216. After conducting sweeps of the area, both battalions backloaded on ATCs and returned to the MRF, closing at 1645 hours. C Troop, 7-1st Air Cav conducted aerial reconnaissance throughout the AO. The Air Cav troops accounted for five VC KIA and captured two weapons (M1 and AK-47); the engagements occurred at 1057 and 1255 hours in the vicinity of XS625301 and XS643279.

(4) Throughout the day the enemy avoided contact with the infantry battalions. In addition to engaging the assault support boats the enemy launched an attack employing 57mm and 75mm recoilless rifles against the MRE at 1407 hours. The Mobile Riverine Base was anchored in the vicinity of XS580400 when the attack occurred. The US Benewah (MRF flag ship) received three direct hits above the waterline; the TOM GREEN COUNTY (Logistic ship of the MRF) received eight hits, and a reconfigured LCM-6 was hit and erupted in flames. The LCM-6 had been specially configured to serve as a refueler for the assault boats. It was struck by a round while alongside the USS Benewah, and was immediately casted off when it burst into flame. Despite efforts of a tug boat to extinguish the flames, the blaze could not be controlled and consequently the boat sunk. Eighteen embarked personnel were wounded as a result of the enemy's attack. The three crewmen of the LCM-6 avoided injury by jumping overboard and were recovered by an assault support patrol boat. Of the 18 wounded, four were Navy men aboard the TOM GREEN COUNTY, five Navy and four Army aboard the USS Benewah, and five assault boat crewmen. The hostile fire was suppressed with a combination of Naval, artillery and gunship

fires. Several airstrikes were employed on the area where the hostile fire originated.

(5) As a result of the two day operation, the MRF accounted for 16 VC KIA, while sustaining 18 US WHA.

d. 17 and 18 April 1968:

(1) On 17 April the MRF shifted its operations to CAI LAY District, Central DINH TUONG Province. The MRF's objective was the 514th VC MF Battalion and other enemy elements operating within the District. The AO was considered to be the base camp area for the 514th Battalion. During past operations conducted in the area, contacts involved at least a company size VC force. Several large caches had been found previously by both 7th ARVN and US Forces. The tree lines within the AO were thought to contain many offensive and defensive bunkers. The AO had been the base camp for the infrastructure of the 514th Battalion.

(2) The concept of operation as originally conceived was that the MRF would employ a three battalion force within LONG DINH and CAI LAY Districts. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC was placed OPCON to the MRF and would be employed as the RRF from Dong Tam. Plans were formulated in coordination and cooperation with the VNMC Battalion. Upon implementation of OPORD 34-68, the original concept of operation was modified as the 3-47th and 4-47th Infantry Battalions established moderate to heavy contact with the enemy in the CAI LAY District.

(a) Commencing at 0445 hours, the infantry battalions conducted a riverine movement, from the MRF anchorage at Dong Tam, northwest up the KINH XAN to the KINH SONG MY THO, along the KINH BA BEO and west on the KING TONG DOC LOC. The 3-47th Infantry conducted beach landing assaults at 0735 hours employing A, B and E Companies at XS288579, XS293578 and XS297577 respectively. The 4-47th Infantry made beach landing assaults at 0800 hours employing Company A in the vicinity of XS239592, Company B at XS242589 and Company E at XS244590. All beach landings were unopposed and without incident. The 4-47th Infantry then swept south in zone along both sides of the woodline paralleling the KING XANG waterway; while the 3-47th Infantry swept south east in zone on both sides of the woodline paralleling the SONG BA BEO stream. At 1105 hours A/4-47th Infantry was engaged with small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire from the south - vicinity XS235560. As the enemy fires intensified the company sustained four men WHA. A/4-47th Infantry engaged and killed three VC in the vicinity of XS236563 while maneuvering south. Two US soldiers were WHA as the company's point element encountered heavier fires which subsequently pinned the company down. Companies C and B, 4-47th were also engaged, with small arms and automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of XS241567 and south thereof. By 1445 hours all elements of the 4-47th Infantry were in contact which increased substantially; the enemy force was approximately a company size unit.

(b) The 3-47th Infantry thus far, had been maneuvering without incident, locating and destroying 37 two man bunkers and two mortar positions. At 1310 hours the Battalion Commander moved Company A back to the north bank of the stream, and then west to objective 140 (XS249560) in response to a request by the 4-47th Infantry to block the VC exfiltration from their area of contact in the vicinity of XS2457. The 3-47th Infantry was tasked to move toward elements of the 4-47th Infantry and mutually established contact with the enemy who at this time was trying to break contact although intensifying his fires. Through the efforts of the Assistant Division Commander, A Company 2-60th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division was airlifted south of the area of contact and established a blocking position in the vicinity of XS242544. The company established contact and pursued its engagement to XS236550. Blocking positions to the west were also established by Popular Forces of GHO GAO District along the RACH BA RAI from XS225555 to XS221540. In the meantime airstrikes,

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artillery and helicopters employing the E158-CS cluster were employed against the enemy; all of which were effective. As the lead elements of the 3-47th and 4-47th Infantry pursued the enemy, he would repeatedly enter bunkers and employ heavy volumes of accurate fire. However, the CS strikes would force him out of the bunkers, and cause him to seek additional routes of withdrawal was during those times that airstrikes and artillery were most effective.

(c) At 1445 hours A/3-47th Infantry received ground fire from C/4-47th Infantry. C/4-47th Infantry was placed OPCON to the 3-47th Infantry at 1515 hours as the movement of A Company and C/4-47th Infantry was such that they were moving into each other's fields of fire. B/3-47th Infantry received sniper fire from across the stream where Company A was employed; one man was wounded. Company E received fire from the west and south which slowed its movement and effectively pinned the unit down. Company B, at the same time, was trying to neutralize the automatic weapon positions.

(d) As of 1640 hours all companies were engaged in heavy contact. A/3-47th and C/4-47th Infantry were receiving fire from their front and from positions between them; B/3-47th Infantry movement was hindered by automatic weapons fire from a bunker to their front; Co E was receiving automatic weapons fire which continued to impede its movement. Company B also encountered snipers firing into its flank from the northern bank of the stream. Artillery was employed throughout the area to suppress the enemy fires and eliminate snipers who were statically positioned throughout the area. During the engagements the point element of A/3-47th Infantry became separated from the company while moving forward. C/4-47th was also pinned down by the AW fire. At 1757 hours Company B secured an LZ and evacuated its wounded. The enemy employed mortar fires against B/3-47th Infantry at 1867 hours, and continued to maintain contact with other elements of the battalion until 2000 hours. At which time C/4-47th Infantry reverted back to the OPCON of its battalion. E/3-47th Infantry maneuvered north to join A and B Companies. The battalion evacuated its wounded and was resupplied for the night. Each company reported one U.S. KHA as a result of its engagements. The battalion also sustained 34 U.S. WHAs while killing 30 VC throughout.

(e) The 4-47th Infantry elements continued to advance slowly against the enemy's small arms and automatic weapons fire as the battle raged throughout the day, elements of Company B encountered heavy automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of XS235560 which impeded its movement. Company A was continuously harassed by sniper and SA fires during its movement to the vicinity of XS237563. B/4-47th Infantry succeeded in maneuvering toward C Company's location in the vicinity of XS237513. The enemy broke contact with the 4-47th Infantry elements at approximately 1930 hours. Night defensive positions were established and night ambushes were employed in the vicinity of A Company's perimeter. As a result of the day's engagement the 4-47th Infantry sustained two U.S. KHA and 20 U.S. WHA. The battalion reinforced by artillery accounted for 53 VC KIA.

(3) 18 April 1968:

(a) The infantry battalions manned their defensive positions throughout the night without any engagements; and at sunrise, both battalions initiated search operations in the area of its previous contacts. No significant engagements occurred during the sweeping operations. D/3-5th Air Cavalry conducted aerial reconnaissance of the AO, and inserted one element in the vicinity of XS378529 to engage five VC. One VC KIA and two motorized sampans were destroyed by the cav troop. Two additional VC were killed at 1530 hours by D/3-5th Cav at XS378529.

(b) The 4-47th Infantry (-) swept southwest from XS235560 to XS224557, and back to XS235560. The battalion was then air-lifted from vicinity XS230555 to vicinity XS254544 where it embarked

ATCs and returned to the MRB. The 3-47th Infantry swept from the vicinity of XS239558 southwest to vicinity XS231459, and east to the vicinity XS254544. The battalion was airlifted to LONG KINH Bridge, where it embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB at 1917 hours. Within the area of contact, there was heavy devastation and destruction resulting from the continuous employment of artillery and air-strikes. It was extremely difficult to accurately assess the enemy's losses. However, from the charred remains of bodies and equipment throughout the area it is undoubtably correct to assume that the enemy suffered more KIAs than the verified body count of 93.

(c) As a result of the two day operation, the Brigade sustained 4 U.S. KHA and 49 U.S. WHA. Enemy losses consisted of 93 VC KIA, 239 bunkers destroyed, eight tons of rice and an unknown quantity of uniforms, mosquito nets, six chicom carbines, and one chicom light machine gun were captured. Two 82mm mortar tubes, one B-40 rocket launcher and four sampans were destroyed.

e. 19 thru 22 April 1968:

(1) On 19 April the MRF elements prepared for future operations. Plans and OPORD 36-68 were formulated in coordination and cooperation with the 2nd Battalion, VNMC, which had joined the MRF to participate in the for comming operation in west KIEN HOA Province. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC was employed with the 3-47th Infantry, on 20 April, to conduct a reconnaissance-in-force operation in HAM LONG and TRUC GIANG Districts. The operation commenced with the 3-47th Infantry deploying by ATCs to a PZ in the vicinity of DONG TAM. The battalion was then airlifted to assault LZs in the vicinity of XS405374, XS420636 and XS413372; C, B and A Companies were employed respectively on the LZs. The battalion reconned-in-force to the vicinity of XS400408, where it embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC deployed to and assaulted beaches in the vicinity of XS4654412. Upon landing unopposed, the battalion swept south, then west in the AO. The only contact of the day was made by companies 1 and 3 when they engaged an estimated VC squad in the vicinity of XS455401. Results of the engagement were not determined. The VNMC Battalion continued its sweep west to XS435404, where it extracted by ATCs and returned to the MRB.

(2) On 21 April, the 2nd Battalion, VNMC and 3-47th Infantry were employed to conduct reconnaissance-in-force operations in CHO LACH District, VINH LONG Province. The 4-47th Infantry remained embarked as the Brigade and Division RRF. The operation commenced with the 3-34th Artillery deploying on 202300 April, to establish FSB CAMERON in the vicinity of XS047338. At 0450 hours the 3-47th Infantry departed the MRB, to conduct beach landing assaults. B/3-47th Infantry was employed at XS114388 to secure beaching sites at XS116387 and XS118385 for C and A Companies. The battalion completed its beach assaults at 0838 hours without incident. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC deployed earlier at 0400 hours to conduct beach assaults at 0820 hours in the vicinity of XS068401. Both battalions reconned in force without incident. Elements of the 3-47th Infantry swept south and west in zone, while the VNMC Battalion swept southeast, then northwest in zone. Throughout the day, 36 detainees were apprehended; 22 of which were classified as CD and 1 as a POW. Both battalions backloaded on ATCs and were extracted from the AO. The 3-34th Infantry returned to the MRB which had relocated to VINH LONG, and the 2nd Battalion, VNMC deployed to the vicinity of XS041340.

f. 23 and 24 April 1968:

(1) In accordance with OPORD 39-68, the MRF and the 2nd Battalion, VNMC conducted reconnaissance in force operations in GIAO DUC District, DINH TUONG Province. The target selected was the 502nd VC Battalion and other enemy elements within the AO. The 502nd VC Battalion was thought to consist of four infantry companies with a total strength of 450. Other VC forces operating within the AO were

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the 263 Battalion (approximate strength of 400) and 464 LF Company (approximate strength of 100). The AO was heavily populated, especially along major streams and rivers. Inhabitants within the AO were considered to be friendly, although their way of life had been dominated by the VC since the TET offensive.

(2) The concept of operation was to employ the 3-47th Infantry, in the assault of GREEN Beaches 1 and 2 to sweep east in zone; the 4-47th Infantry would deploy to assault BLUE Beaches 1 and 2 and sweep north, then west, straddling waterways, towards the VNMC battalion; and the 2nd Battalion, VNMC would assault RED Beaches 1 and 2 to sweep north, then east into blocking positions oriented toward the east. Artillery fire support would be provided from FSB TATE by the 3-34th Artillery.

(3) The operation commenced with the deployment of 3-34th Artillery from FSB COMERON, at 0350 hours, to FSB TATE in the vicinity of WS942384; the battalion was laid ready to fire at 0600 hours. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC departed the MRB at 0600, followed by 4-47th Infantry at 0615, and the 3-47th Infantry at 0655 hours, conducting riverine movements to the AO.

(a) The 2nd Battalion, VNMC beached at 0816 hours in the vicinity of WS941418 without incident. The battalion then moved northeast to establish blocking positions at WS936416 and WS943415. Companies 3 and 4 established contact with an unknown size force at 1000 hours in the vicinity of WS944416, and encountered small arms automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire. The engagement increased and was estimated to involve a company size VC force located in close proximity to a watch tower. Artillery was employed to support VNMC elements. The 1st company, 2nd Battalion, VNMC moved to the vicinity WS945419, and at 1135 hours it found documents which indicated that a VC District company had planned a meeting near a PAGODA in the area at 1200 hours that same day. Shortly thereafter, company 1 engaged and overran a VC machine gun position (WS935416), capturing the weapon and reported a VC company was moving east, in the vicinity of WS950414, along the RACH MICH toward the 4-47th Infantry. Companies 3 and 4 continued their assault against the enemy force, and at 1440 hour reported the enemy was trying to withdraw east toward blocking position of the 4-47th Infantry.

(b) The 4-47th Infantry had beached in the vicinity of WS963397 at 0820 hours, and swept north and east along the RACH B4 TU without significant contacts. A and E Companies encountered sporadic small arms fire at 1145 hours in the vicinity of WS968409; no casualties resulted. Continuing its movement to WS951428, E/4-47th Infantry encountered moderate contact. Gunships and artillery reinforced the company as it engaged an undetermined size VC force. Contact continued, as the VC employed sniper and B-40 rocket fire against the advancing company. This engagement developed throughout the evening resulting in 19 VC KIA. Company E sustained one U.S. KHA and three U.S. WHA. A and C Companies engagements were of lesser duration and subsided earlier. Company A captured 2 VC in the vicinity of WS955414, both were WIA. Company C found three VC KIA by artillery fires in the vicinity of WS954415.

(c) The 3-47th Infantry was employed in a series of beach assaults and sweeps prior to assaulting GREEN Beaches 1 and 2 at 0835 hours. Upon beaching unopposed the battalion swept to vicinity WS922409 and backloaded on ATCs. The Brigade Commander ordered the battalion to move to, and beach in the vicinity of WS926436. By 1215 hours all companies had beached at WS922437. B and C Companies moved east to objective 8 (WS927435), while A Company temporarily remained in the vicinity of the beaching site, and employed platoon size patrols along the east bank. At 1307 hours C Company engaged 10 armed VC moving north toward WS927437. Artillery fires were also employed in the area. The company swept searching the area, only to find blood stains. In the meantime Company A dispatched two platoons to patrol

the west bank of the river. The battalion was ordered to backload on ATCs and reinsert in the vicinity of WS938410 to establish blocking positions oriented north in support of the VNMC Battalion and 4-47th Infantry engagements. The battalion beached at 1655 hours and began its movement to establish blocking positions. Company A was to move east to vicinity of XS950410 and establish contact with A/4-47th Infantry. Company B was to tie in with A Company's west flank and extend west with C Company on their right flank. Enroute to its blocking position, A/3-47th Infantry found two VC WIA at WS945408. The VC were later questioned by a ~~Hot~~ Charlie and identified as members of the 207th Battalion. At 2020 hours, the 3-37th Infantry occupied blocking positions as follows: A Company WS950410 west to WS947411, B Company from WS947411 west to WS943411, C Company from WS943411, west to WS939411.

(d) During the 2nd Battalion, VNMC's engagement, three Navymen were wounded when their flamethrower boat was hit by rocket fire vicinity of WS931419. The boat was moving to provide fire support to the Marines when a B-40 rocket struck the Coxwain's flat. The enemy engaged the boat from a dense woodline. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC continued its engagement until 2235 hours. The battalion succeeded in killing 15 VC, while sustaining four men KHA and 26 WHA. Close air support consisting of seven airstrikes, and totaling 15 sorties, were employed in support of ground forces; 24,500 lbs of general purpose bombs and 14,000 lbs of napalm were delivered on VC forces. At the end of the day, the ground forces and supporting fires accounted for 46 VC KIA.

(4) During the early morning hours of 24 April the infantry battalions and 2nd Battalion, VNMC made sporadic contact as the enemy attempted to withdraw under the cover of darkness. E/4-47th engaged an estimated platoon size force at 0045 hours in the vicinity of WS954426; artillery supported the engagement. At 0115 hours elements of the company observed the enemy removing his dead and wounded from the battlefield. The battalion searched the area at daybreak and found five VC KIA. The 2nd VNMC swept the area of its previous day contact. During its sweep company 2 received small arms and automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of WS945415. Contact developed briefly, resulting in three VC KIA and one weapon captured; one Marine was WHA. A/3-47th Infantry also killed three VC, who were probing its night defensive position.

(5) Shortly after noon, the two infantry battalions and VNMC battalion backloaded on ATCs and returned to the MRB at Dong Tam. The two day operation succeeded in destroying a significant number of enemy forces. VC activities within GLAO DUC District were disrupted and the enemy suffered 61 VC KIAs. Allied loses were one U.S. KHA, six U.S. WHA, three USN WHA, four VNMC KHA and 27 VNMC WHA.

g. 27 thru 30 April:

(1) The MRB continued operations in DINH TRUONG Province on 27 April in accordance with OPORD 41-68. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC and the Infantry Battalions initiated reconnaissance-in-force operations to locate and destroy elements of the 514th MF Battalion and CAI LAY DUD. The CAMSON area of DINH TUONG Province had been a center of significant VC activity during the month of April. An unidentified unit of 200 troops consistently camped along both sides of the BA RAI River. In addition elements of the 514th MF Battalion frequently moved from the BA LONG area to XUAN SON (XS1942) and LONG TRUONG (XS2241) villages. Indications were that the enemy was using the BA RAI River as a line of communication to transport supplies and munitions. The tree line between the two XOM TROM RON Hamlets (XS1947) was known to be a VC base area and cache site.

(2) The concept for the initial phase of the operation was to establish a FSB at XS164403 with one Infantry Company and the 3-34th

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Artillery Battalion; the battalion was to be LRF not later than 0700 hours. At 0800 hours the 4-47th Infantry (-) and 2nd Battalion, VNMC would conduct beach assaults at XS159486 and XS192417 respectively. The two battalions would then sweep on converging axis of advance with the RACH BA RAI as their boundary. The 3-47th Infantry would deploy to the FSB, and remain embarked until 0830 hours to prepare for employment against the possibility of a severe riverine ambush or significant contact by the other battalions upon beaching. If not committed the battalion would then assault beaches on the north shore of the TIEN GIANG and conduct sweeps parallel to the river.

(3) The operation commenced at 0115 hours with the 3-34th Artillery (-) and A/3-47th Infantry deploying to establish FSB BALZAC at XS163404; the battalion (-) arrived at 0515 hours, and B and C Batteries were laid ready to fire at 0535 hours. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC departed DONG TAM, by riverine movement and at 0510 hours made beach assaults on RED Beaches 1 and 2 vicinity of XS213418 and XS214423 respectively. The battalion then swept north along RACH BA RAI with companies 1 and 2 proceeding companies 3 and 4. The 4-47th Infantry departed the MRB and inserted A and E Companies in the vicinity of XS158487, and C Company in the vicinity of XS161483; the battalion elements moved east, and then southeast in zone to vicinity of XS194455 and XS194460, where they embarked ATCs and moved to XS202485 inserting at 1650 hours. The 3-47th Infantry (-) was employed as originally conceived; B, C and E Companies were inserted in the vicinity of XS226431 and conducted sweeps paralleling the river. Throughout the day neither of the battalions encountered enemy contact or engagements. During the evening hours the battalions established night defensive positions where they spent the night without incident.

(4) On the morning of 28 April, the MRF continued operations within the province extracting and reinserting the maneuver battalions. The 3-34th Artillery (-) departed FSB BALZAC and established a new FSB, in the vicinity of XS305395. At 0727 hours, the 3-47th Infantry (-) backloaded on ATCs, deployed to the vicinity of XS226429, and employed E Company on the south bank, and B and C Companies on the northern bank. The only incident associated with the beaching was at 0904 hours when the battalion's command and communication boat was engaged with rocket and small arms fire. The ambush occurred after the column of assault boats cleared the RACH TRA TAN and was on the SONG NAM THON. The rear elements of the column were engaged; one ATC was struck with a B-40 rocket resulting in no significant damage to the boat. One Navy crewman of an ASPB received minor wounds as the enemy's fire was quickly suppressed. The 3-47th Infantry elements conducted their sweep operations without any significant engagements. B/3-47th Infantry sustained three men wounded by boobytraps during the day. E/3-47th Infantry received eight rounds of small arms fire in the vicinity of XS275413; artillery fires were employed with unknown results.

(5) The 4-47th Infantry departed its night location and move to the vicinity of XS202480 where it backloaded on ATCs. The battalion was reinserted, employing A, C and E Companies respectively at XS356442, XS356443 and XS355444. Enroute to the beaching sites, the assault craft and riverine column were ambushed at 1130 hours in the vicinity of XS330414 with B-40 rocket and automatic weapons fire just as they began moving north up the SONG RAI. At least five B-40 rockets hit the assault support boats and ATCs; five of the craft received moderate damage and 11 crewmen sustained wounds. Employing its organic weapons and flame boat, the assault support boats suppressed the enemy fires. The 4-47th Infantry completed its beach assaults at 1358 hours and initiated reconnaissance in force operations. The battalion had no significant contacts or engagements; however two VC suspects were apprehended. A/4-47th Infantry apprehended one male in the vicinity of XS350441 who had in his possession a chicom carbine, VC uniform, documents and four B-40 rounds. Another detainee was apprehended in the same area; he was 70 years of age, wore a pistol belt and carried two chicom grenades. Later during the day Company C sighted

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a VC squad in the vicinity of XS32449; artillery fires were employed in the area with unknown results. The battalion established its night defensive positions without further incident.

(6) The 2nd Battalion, VNMC was also reinserted during the morning. The battalion was employed in the vicinity of XS300432, and swept northeast without incident to XS292446 where it established night positions.

(7) On 29 April, the 3-47th Infantry was extracted from the vicinity of its night location, and conducted a riverine movement to vicinity XS219398 beaching at 0900 hours unopposed. All elements swept north in the AO. At 1122 hours, vicinity XS233447, Company E engaged four VC in light khaki uniforms with AK-47s. This was the only battalion contact during the day. The 3-47th Infantry, at 1745 hours, became OPCON to the 1st Brigade, moved to highway 20 and traveled by truck to FSB MOORE to provide security. Night defensive positions were established and night patrols and ambushes conducted. The 4-47th Infantry backloaded in the vicinity of XS324454 at 0745 hours and conducted a riverine movement to beaches in the vicinity of XS333453, landing with no contact. Elements swept north, then southeast with no contact or significant results. The battalion established night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS358444. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC conducted cloverleaf type patrols from its night locations. Elements swept north to the vicinity of XS294445, then south to the vicinity XS307431 where they backloaded ATCs and returned to DONG TAM, closing at 1630 hours.

(8) On 30 April, the 4-47th Infantry embarked ATCs in the vicinity of its night defensive positions, and was inserted in the vicinity of XS367425. The battalion swept west in the AO. At 0930 hours Company A in the vicinity of XS343421, was engaged with automatic weapons fire from a tree line. Artillery and airstrikes were employed in the area. The company searched the area and apprehended 2 males, six bolt action chicom rifles and documents, in a pagoda. At 1220 hours in the vicinity of XS431417, Company A encountered a booby trapped (command detonated or trip wire) claymore type mine resulting in one U.S. KHA and three U.S. WHA. The battalion continued its sweep south to an extraction point vicinity XS333411 where they backloaded ATCs and returned to the MRB at 1600 hours. During the four day operation the MRF sustained one U.S. KHA, seven U.S. WHA and 13 USN WHA. Enemy losses consisted of eight weapons captured, 290 bunkers destroyed, 25 boobytraps and one sampan destroyed. A total of 38 detainees were apprehended.

h. 1 thru 3 May 1968:

(1) On 1 May, the MRF initiated an intermediate operation which was limited in scope. Elements of the 3-47th Infantry were tasked to be the 9th Infantry Division's RRF, and to conduct local patrols in defense of the MRB, which was anchored in the vicinity of Dong Tam. The 4-47th Infantry employed B Company in defense of the MRB. B/4-47th Infantry sustained one U.S. WHA as a result of a grenade booby trap in the vicinity of XS403423. No enemy contacts or engagements occurred during the units' operations. The only engagement occurred earlier in the day when ships of the MRB were engaged with rocket and mortar fire. The enemy's attack was launched in conjunction with his mortar and rocket attack on Dong Tam Base between 0200 and 0238 hours. An estimated 25 rounds were employed against ships of the MRB. However, not one of the ships or Naval support boats were hit. Dong Tam Base sustained six casualties from 120mm mortar and 75mm recoilless rifle fire. In coordination with the TOC at Dong Tam Base, the Naval support boats and 3-34th Artillery engaged suspected enemy positions in the vicinity of XS418399 and XS407400.

(2) During the day, plans were formulated by the MRF and 2nd Battalion, VNMC for a new operation in GIONG TROM District, KIEN HOA Province. The target selected was the 516th and 650th LF battalions.

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This operation would be conducted in accordance with OPORD 42-68, effective 020001 May.

(3) The MRF continued offensive operations on the early morning of 2 May 68. Concurrently with the deployment of the maneuver battalions, a thirteen man patrol from B/3-47th Infantry was to be extracted from the south bank of the MRE. The patrol was employed on the previous day to establish an ambush along a confirmed route frequently used by the VC. The extraction was initiated at 0145 hours, when members of the patrol withdrew from their ambush location to embark an assault support patrol boat. During the embarkation, the patrol was engaged with small arms fire. The engagement occurred as the men were wading in waist deep water which was possessing a strong current. Eight of the 13 men succeeded in climbing over the port side of the boat. The remaining five men had difficulty in reaching the boat as it was moving away from the shore; subsequently, the men drowned. B/3-47th Infantry was tasked to search the area at daybreak to locate the five men in hopes that they were alive on the shore. It was not certain what their exact status was at that time. The body of one man was located during the initial search.

(a) Simultaneously, the 4-47th Infantry and 2nd Battalion VNMC departed the MRE, conducting a riverine movement to the AO. The 4-47th Infantry (-) employed B, C and E Companies in beach assaults in the vicinity of XS5527. E/4-47th Infantry encountered sniper fire while beaching; no casualties resulted. The 4-47th Infantry initiated recon-in-force operations southwest in zone to the vicinity of XS557252 and XS546353 where the companies were employed in night defensive positions. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC assaulted beaches in the vicinity of XS5925. The battalion moved west and northwest in zone. Later during the day, the battalion established night defensive positions employing its companies in the vicinity of XS526253. No significant contacts or engagements were encountered throughout the day.

(b) The 3-47th Infantry (-) departed the MRE at 0136 hours, conducting a riverine movement to the AO. The battalion arrived at FSB KENMAN at 0615 hours. A/3-47th Infantry offloaded and established a PZ in the vicinity of the FSB. The battalion (-) commenced its air assault at 1107 hours to an LZ in the vicinity of XS568332. Company C proceeded Company E which was followed by Company A; the airlift was completed at 1146 hours. The companies moved north and established blocking positions. During the evening, the 3-47th Infantry moved to the vicinity of XS555240 and established night defensive positions. The battalion was resupplied, and at 1843 hours settled in positions.

(4) Throughout the night, the battalions manned their defensive positions without incident. On the morning of 3 May, the battalions continued reconnaissance in force operations. The 3-47th Infantry initiated its operations, moving west toward the vicinity of XS545236. The battalion did not encounter any significant contacts of engagements, and subsequently moved to a backloading site in the vicinity of XS530224, where it was later extracted and returned to the MRE. The 4-47th Infantry moved southwest from its night positions to the vicinity of XS530224. Company E was the only element of the battalion to encounter an engagement. The company was briefly engaged with automatic weapon fire while moving north of XS545246. Artillery was employed on suspected enemy positions with unknown results. The battalion continued its movement to XS30284 it was extracted and returned to the MRE. The only other engagement that occurred during the day involved the 2nd Battalion, VNMC which had moved northwest from its night defensive positions. Elements of the battalion located a company size VC base camp at vicinity of XS571258. Upon entering the area, three VC were engaged resulting in 1 VC KIA. The battalion was extracted from the area and reinserted in the vicinity of XS483297 where it spent the night. The two day operation resulted in five U.S. KIA and one U.S. WHA. Enemy losses consisted of one VC KIA, 11 bunkers destroyed, and 38 suspects detained.

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1. 4 thru 6 May 1968:

During the period 4 thru 6 May, the MRF initiated limited patrol operations in the Dong Tam area. The MRF departed Ben Tre on the morning of 4 May and arrived at Dong Tam assuming a ready reaction posture for commitment in the MY THO and/or SAIGON area. On 5 May, a survey was conducted of RF/PF outposts in CAI BE District to determine the extent of damage resulting from VC attacks during the previous night. A/4-47th Infantry and A/3-34th Artillery were respectively deployed to vicinity of XS143461 and XS136424 to reinforce CAI BE District. The remainder of the Brigade's elements conducted limited patrol operations in the vicinity of the MRB, and were maintained in a ready reaction posture for further commitments.

2. 7 thru 11 May 1968:

(1) On 7 May, operations were initiated in GIO DUC District, DINH TUONG Province to locate and destroy rear service elements of the VC MR II Headquarters, 502nd Prov. Mobile Battalion and local guerrillas operating therein. The operation as originally conceived was modified when the Brigade was tasked to deploy one rifle company to reinforce Dong Tam Base, and two rifle companies and an artillery battery to reinforce the Ben Tre Garrison.

(a) The operation commenced in accordance to OPORD 43-68 as the MRB deployed from Dong Tam to an anchorage point in the vicinity of VINH LONG. The 4-47th Infantry and 2nd Battalion, VNMC conducted a riverine movement earlier from the MRB to make beach landing assaults in AOs HILER and WILSON respectively. The 4-47th Infantry employed B, C and E Companies at 0830 hours on BLUE Beach in the vicinity of XS939414. Upon beaching unopposed the battalion (-) moved throughout the AO reconning-in-force. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC made beach assault landings on RED Beaches in the vicinity of WS927452; afterwhich the battalion conducted eagle float operations between WS931406 and WS917416. The 3-47th Infantry was not employed until 1320 hours; at which time, it beached in the vicinity of WS939398 to establish blocking positions. Neither of the three battalions encountered any contacts or engagements. During the morning one VC POW was captured and 10 detainees apprehended; one chicom carbine was also captured with one of the detainees.

(b) The operation terminated early in the afternoon when the Brigade was directed to deploy its forces in reaction to the developing situation and enemy threat in the Ben Tre Area. At 1420 hours, B/3-47th Infantry embarked ATCs and moved to Dong Tam; the company was placed OPCON to Task Force Funston. A and E/3-47th Infantry embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB in preparation for subsequent operations to reinforce the Ben Tre Garrison. C/3-34th Artillery conducted an airlift to the vicinity of VINH LONG to support the BEN TRE Garrison. The 4-47th Infantry withdrew from the AO and returned to the MRB closing at 1715 hours. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC concluded its operation and prepared for deployment to BEN TRE. During the evening the MRF prepared plans to redeploy the MRB to a MY THO anchorage and employ the 4-47th and 2nd Battalion, VNMC to reinforce friendly elements in the BEN TRE area that were under attack. Approximately 1941 hours, A and E/3-47th Infantry commenced a riverine movement to BEN TRE; however, at 2300 hours the companies were tasked not to proceed to Ben Tre, but to beach at the FSB established in the vicinity of XS486264 and sweep west to the tree line securing the beaching area.

(2) The Mobile Riverine Force displaced from the vicinity of Vinh Long to support and reinforce 7th ARVN elements that were in heavy contact northeast of Ben Tre. The 2nd Battalion, VNMC departed the MRB at 0342 hours and made beach landing assaults on RED Beaches in the vicinity of XS577384. The battalion conducted recon-in-force operations, and encountered sporadic sniper fire later in the evening. No significant contacts developed during the day, and the battalion

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establish night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS544353 and XS554345.

(a) At 0845 hours, C and E/4-47th Infantry conducted beach assaults on BLUE Beaches, vicinity of XS577343. Upon landing without incident, Company C swept west along the canal. Company E swept concurrently with Company C moving to its south. B/4-47th Infantry was inserted behind Company E and moved southwest in zone. During its sweep C/4-47th Infantry apprehended a VC suspect who stated a VC force was moving west in the AO. The detainee was evacuated to the battalion's CCB, where he attempted to escape by jumping into the river. Concussion grenades were employed in the vicinity where the VC suspect jumped, resulting in one VC KIA. The battalion continued to recon in-force without further incident until 1330 hours, at which time C/4-47th Infantry, after having embarked ATCs, crossed the SONG LAI, and inserted on the north bank in the vicinity of XS556352. Company C and Naval assault craft were engaged with small arms, automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire from the beach in the vicinity of XS553365. During this (15 min) engagement two ASPBs and two monitors were hit resulting in six U.S. WHA. C/4-47th Infantry requested an airstrike on 20 VC observed moving in the vicinity of XS550365; the strike was employed. To exploit the ambush activity and airstrike, B and E Companies were inserted in the area of contact. Company E backloaded and beached in the vicinity XS551363 at 1420 hours, after which B Company backloaded and beached in the vicinity of C/4-47th Infantry at 1455 hours. During a search of the airstrike area, Company C found one VC KIA, two B-40 rocket launchers, six 75mm cannisters (pack howitzer), and eight empty B-40 rocket containers in the vicinity of XS545366. At 1440 hours two Naval assault craft were ambushed in the same vicinity where the first ambush occurred. One monitor and a flame thrower boat were engaged with small arms, automatic and B-40 rocket fire; four USN were WHA as the assault support craft quickly suppressed the enemy fire. As the 4-47th Infantry (-) continued its sweep of the area, it encountered sporadic sniper and automatic weapon fire. Artillery was employed in support of the battalion. The 4-47th Infantry later established night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS544363.

(b) The 3-47th Infantry (-) departed the FSB (vicinity XS486264) at 0720 hours and moved to another FSB (LONE) located in the vicinity of XS513310, near Ben Tre and remained there until 0930. A PZ was established in the area of XS487260 by A and E Companies after redeploying by ATC to that location. The two companies were airlifted at 1030 hours to a LZ in the vicinity of XS567373, north of Ben Tre. The air assault was completed at 1116 hours and both companies swept toward objectives in the vicinity of XS560395, XS567359, XS549395 and XS551395. B/3-47th Infantry remained OPCON to TF Funston at Dong Tam during the day, and C/3-47th Infantry was inserted at 1145 hours in the vicinity of XS584405 to conduct patrols near the MRB. The only significant 3/47th engagement during the day occurred at 1720 hours when Company E engaged two VC at vicinity of XS541388 resulting in one VC KIA and one POW. The battalion employed A and C Companies in night defensive positions at 1835 hours in the vicinity of XS541388.

(3) 9 May 1968:

(a) The two infantry battalions continued operations in the AO sweeping north of Ben Tre; while the 2nd Battalion, VNMC extracted from the AO and deployed to My Tho as directed by Chief, JCofS, VNMC. The 3-47th Infantry encountered light contact during its operation throughout the day. Earlier in the day, several groups of VC were observed moving in the vicinity of XS519392 by the 3-47th Infantry Battalion Commander. The battalion's first engagement occurred at 0923 hours when A and E Companies were engaged with sniper fire at XS537403. A/3-47th Infantry was engaged with small arms fire from its rear in the vicinity of XS527408. The company employed a stay-behind patrol attempting to destroy the snipers. The two companies continued beyond the vicinity of XS521412 without incident, and

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the stay-behind patrol joined its company. At 1400 hours the two companies were engaged with automatic weapons fire while crossing a bridge in the vicinity of XS514416. One U.S. KHA and five WHA resulted from the engagement. Artillery was employed throughout the area on suspected enemy positions. After the wounded and fatality were evacuated, the companies moved to the vicinity of XS487413 and established night defensive positions. Ambush patrols were employed throughout the night defensive positions.

(b) During the day, the 4-47th Infantry conducted eagle float operations. Initially the battalion searched the area of its night location and the area where airstrikes were employed the previous day. B/4-47th Infantry located eight 75mm rounds some 30 meters from its night defensive position. Company C located a 75mm recoilless rifle bipod, documents and clothing. A thorough search of both areas revealed a considerable quantity of ammunition and equipment. The battalion was extracted by ATC and reinserted, employing B and E Companies in the vicinity of XS515374 and C Company XS523374. Company B engaged two VC in the vicinity of XS505382; one VC was killed and his weapon (a Thompson SMG) was captured. The battalion continued to receive sporadic sniper and automatic weapon fire throughout the afternoon. Later in the evening, the battalion established night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS487382.

(4) On 10 May, the infantry battalions continued operations north west of Ben Tre.

(a) The 4-47th Infantry succeeded in establishing significant contact which commenced at 0824 hours, when B/4-47th Infantry encountered light automatic weapons fire from the vicinity of XS488385. As the company maneuvered against the fire it was subjected to harassing sniper fires. Company B located a VC force entrenched in bunkers, in the vicinity XS472395, and requested an airstrike to support its movement against the bunkers. An airstrike was employed on the area, and the fire was suppressed momentarily. As B and E Companies continued to advance, the enemy's fires from the bunkers intensified. Another airstrike was requested for the target area. Prior to the airstrike, a CS strike was employed in the area at 1320 hours. The airstrike immediately followed and was completed at 1520 hours. During that period, B Company sustained one U.S. KHA and two WHAs while killing two VC; E Company casualties were three WHA, and C Company had killed one VC. As the battalion continued to move against the enemy, contact increased with what was considered an estimated VC Company. Automatic weapons, small arms and H-40 rocket fire were employed against the advancing forces. Artillery fires were employed throughout the area of XS473398 where contact was reported as being the heaviest. Elements of C Company were pinned down by the H-40 rocket fire. As the engagements continued into the evening, elements of the battalion were frequently pinned down by rocket and automatic weapons fire. The enemy force was considered to be at least two companies or one reinforced company. Approximately 1940 hours the enemy broke contact. The 4-47th established night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS471395. The battalion sustained one KHA and 15 WHAs from the engagements; six VC were accounted for.

(b) The 3-47th Infantry (-) originally swept west from its night defensive positions. One Company was tasked to search for a concealed munitions cache in the vicinity of XS480413. The battalion encountered sporadic small arms fire during the morning from XS471395. At 1430 hours the battalion (-) moved south to reinforce the 4-47th Infantry in its contact. A/3-47th Infantry was employed in a blocking position in the vicinity of XS480412, and E/3-47th Infantry moved to establish a blocking position at XS465401. A/3-47th Infantry displaced from its blocking position and moved to the vicinity of XS465401 where it established blocking positions with E Company. The two companies encountered no significant contacts during the evening.

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(5) The operation concluded on 11 May after the two infantry battalions conducted local sweeps.

(a) The 4-47th Infantry searched the tree line from which it was engaged the previous day; numerous documents and equipment was found. Prior to its sweep operations, elements of the battalion reported sporadic engagement during the early morning hours. At 0205 hours, B and C Companies received small arms and automatic weapons fire in their perimeter. Twenty minutes later, enemy firing positions within a tree line 250 meters from the company's position, were observed; artillery fires were employed in the area reinforcing B and C Companies fires. Two soldiers were wounded when the enemy employed grenades against the defensive positions. At day light a search of the area revealed six VC KIA, ammunition, equipment, several trails with blood stains leading west in the vicinity of XS469397, bunkers, machine gun and mortar positions. The battalion moved to XS435411, embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB. The 3-47th Infantry (-) encountered no incidents during the night, and commenced its operation moving west of its night defensive location. The two companies (A and E) subsequently swept north to the My Tho river (XS453412) where they embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB.

(b) When the five day operation terminated, the MRF had sustained two U.S. KHA, one VNC KHA, two U.S. KNHA and 41 U.S. WHA. Enemy losses consisted of 21 VC KIA, one POW, 43 detainees, six weapons, one B-40 rocket launcher, 131 bunkers destroyed, and numerous amounts of ammunition, supplies and equipment captured. VC activities within the province were disrupted, and the Province Capital of Ben Tre was no longer in immediate threat.

k. 14 thru 16 May 1968:

(1) After a brief period (2 days) of preparation and planning the MRF continued offensive operations on 14 May, OPORD 44-68 was implemented as conceived, with the 2nd Brigade conducting riverine reconnaissance-in-force operations in DON NHON and MO CAY Districts, KIEN HOA Province. The target selected was the 516th VC Battalion and local guerrillas.

(a) The initial phase of the operation involved the early deployment of the 3-34th Artillery (132300 hours) from Base Clark to two FSB's (SMITH AND JONES) located on SONG HAM LUONG. C/3-34 Artillery was employed at FSB SMITH, in the vicinity of XS394334, and was LRF at 0535 hours; A and B Batteries were employed at FSB JONES in the vicinity of XS487266. Both maneuver battalions initiated riverine movement from the MRB to conduct beach assaults in AO's KENNEDY and MC CARTY, located approximately 10 KM southwest of Ben Tre. The 3-47th Infantry (-) conducted beach landing assaults in AO KENNEDY in the vicinity of XS433316. Simultaneously, E/3-47th Infantry deployed with a riverine armored reconnaissance element (RARE) to execute a feint landing in the vicinity of XS363295; after which the company rejoined its battalion in the vicinity of XS4331. The beach assaults were completed at 0830 hours without incident, and the battalion began its operations south west in zone, reconning in force with A, C and E Companies. Throughout the day no significant contact was encountered. However, several small groups of VC were observed and engaged in the vicinity of XS425503, XS430311 and XS432326 earlier in the day; the results of these engagements were not known. The battalion continued its reconnaissance in force operations until 1950 hours; at which time night defensive positions were established in the vicinity of XS420286 and XS413287.

(b) The 4-47th Infantry (-) made beach landing assaults in AO MC CARTY, after transiting the MO CAY river. The battalion (-) completed its landing at 0814 hours in the vicinity of XS417243. C/4-47th Infantry remained with the MRB which displaced from DONG TAN to an anchorage off of BEN TRE in the vicinity of XS485285. The

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company was employed to secure both the MRB and FSB. The 4-47th Infantry (-) initially conducted reconnaissance in force operations northwest in zone, and later moved northeast, 10 kilometers southwest of BEN TRE. No significant contacts occurred; however, several significant findings were made which included ammunitions, equipment, an abandon hospital and a VC Base Camp. B/4-47th Infantry accounted for one VC KIA in a brief engagement at 1830 hours in the vicinity of XS428261. The battalion (-) continued its sweep to the north without further incident and established night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS431267 and XS414267. C/4-47th Infantry, while conducting local patrols in defense of the MRB, engaged two VC and killed one. An ambush patrol of E Company sustained one U.S. KHA at 2255 hours when a grenade was tossed into its position.

(2) During the night neither infantry battalion established contact with the enemy. At 0545 hours elements of A/3-47th Infantry engaged and killed one VC in a sampan in the vicinity of XS420287. Operations were shifted to 4 kilometers southwest of MO CAY on the morning of 15 May. The 3-47th Infantry and 4-47th Infantry were airlifted to LZs in the vicinity of XS446165.

(a) The 3-47th Infantry (-) employed A, C and E Companies in the AO on a LZ located in the vicinity of XS435160. The airlift was completed without incident, and the battalion commenced to recon-in-force. A/3-47th Infantry established contact, at 0945 hours, while moving in the vicinity of XS443170. The enemy force was employed along a road leading to the city of MO CAY. E/3-47th Infantry (moving to the right flank of A/3-47th Infantry) established contact shortly thereafter. The initial estimate of the situation was, that two squads of VC forces were engaging both elements with automatic weapons. The initial engagement occurred after the point element of A/3-47th Infantry crossed the road. The tactics employed by the enemy was to permit the point element to advance beyond the road prior to engaging the main element. He had constructed a sophisticated bunker system beneath the road which was reinforced by spider holes on the north side. The point element was engaged by VC from the spider holes; three U.S. were immediate WHA. It was difficult for A/3-47th Infantry to immediately retrieve its wounded. As the company advanced, the enemy intensified his fires from the bunkers. The terrain between the road and LZ was principally open rice paddies containing dikes one foot or less in height. Consequently, the enemy succeeded in slowing the momentum of the 3-47th Infantry's attack. Company A began to maneuver southwest of the enemy positions, and E Company maneuvered east of the bunkers. At approximately 1105 hours, gunships were employed in support of the ground forces. The light fire team strafed the area north of the road with rockets and automatic weapons. The enemy automatic weapon fires increased and snipers were employed extensively. The VC force was now estimated to be at least a company size element. The 3-34th Artillery accurately engaged the area and momentarily decreased the frequency of sniper fires. The turning point of the engagement occurred when air-strikes were employed. Napalm employed on the road caused a few of the VC leave their positions fleeing toward a tree line. Following the airstrikes, several CS strikes were employed. Through its movement was slightly impaired by automatic weapons fire, the battalion obtained the initiative as it attacked the enemy bunkers. E/3-47th Infantry reported killing eight VC, A/3-47th Infantry accounted for 13 VC KIA, and C/3-47th Infantry reported two VC KIA. In the meantime, the 4-47th Infantry was introduced into the area of contact to exploit the engagement, fix and destroy the enemy. The enemy broke contact shortly before 1830 hours, and the 3-47th Infantry established night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS437179. Ambush patrols were employed during the night. During the day the 3-47th Infantry sustained three U.S. KHAs and 12 U.S. WHA, the majority of the casualties were of Company A.

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(b) The 4-47th Infantry minus C Company, which provided security for the MRB and FSB, began its airmobile operations at 1025 hours. The battalion employed A, B and E Companies into the AO, on a LZ located in the vicinity of XS454166, southwest of the 3-47th Infantry's contact. A/4-47th Infantry was introduced into the AO without incident; however, the light helicopter fire team escorting the airlift was engaged from a tree line in the vicinity of XS445165. Company A was the first unit to establish contact. The company was engaged at 1035 hours in the vicinity of the LZ. Maneuvering against the enemy, the company sustained two U.S. KHA and one WHA. Gunships supported the company in its contact. Meanwhile, B/4-47th Infantry completed its airlift into the AO and moved east toward the 3-47th Infantry. Company E followed Company B airlift into the AO. As the battalion advanced, Company A again encountered small arms and automatic weapons fire; the enemy at this time was fighting from bunkers in the vicinity of XS438167. The airstrikes employed in support of the 3-47th Infantry caused some of the VC to flee unknowingly towards B/4-47th Infantry's advance. B Company established contact at 1400 hours in the vicinity of XS437167, and continued its attack moving towards XS443140. During its five and a half hour engagement, the company and supporting fires accounted for 15 VC KIA and ten weapons captured. Company E attacked toward the vicinity of XS440170 reporting six VC KIA, one rifle and one 60mm mortar captured. Contact terminated at 1900 hours, at which time the battalion established night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS447177. During the day the 4-47th Infantry sustained three U.S. KHA and three WHA.

(3) On 16 May, the infantry battalions continued their reconnaissance in force operations moving northeast in zone. The only engagement of the day occurred when elements of the 4-47th Infantry encountered sporadic automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of XS435182; one soldier was WHA. Artillery fires were employed on suspected enemy positions. The two battalions continued their operations moving north to the vicinity of the MO CAY Bridge where they embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB. The three day operation terminated at 1508 hours, the Brigade sustained a total of seven U.S. KHA and 17 U.S. WHA. Three Navy men were wounded during the second of two brief ambushes of Naval assault craft supporting the operation. The ambushes occurred on 14 and 15 May, on the SONG HAM LUONG and in the vicinity of XS485283 respectively. Enemy losses during the operation included: 57 VC KIA, four POW's, 27 detainees, eight grenades, 62 "toe poppers," 12 CBU bombs, and ten claymore mines, four 10 lbs land mines, assorted small arms ammunition, nine five gallon cans of chlorine, 16½ lbs of documents, medical supplies, clothing, four AK-47's, three M-1 rifles, one U.S. carbine, one chicom carbine, one 60mm mortar, two unknown type weapons, one starlight scope, radio, and web gear captured or destroyed, in addition to destroying 58 bunkers and 43 structures.

1. During the period 17 and 18 May, the MRF temporarily concluded OPERATION TRUONG CONG DINH, and initiated strike operations in THAN DUC District, LONG AN Province in coordination with the 46th ARVN Regiment.

m. 21 and 22 May 1968:

(1) On 21 May, the MRF initiated operations to locate and destroy the 263rd and 514th VC MF Battalions operating in LONG AN and DINH TUONG, Provinces. The operation commenced in accordance with OPORD 46-68, at 0210 hours with riverine assault craft escorting the 3-34th Artillery to establish a fire support base, in the vicinity of XS737541. The 3-47th and 4-47th Infantry, conducted early morning beach assaults attacking to the south. The 3-47th Infantry beached in the vicinity of XS665564, and the 4-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS675569. A "Tiger Scout" interpreter with the 3-47th Infantry questioned civilians in the area and learned that VC tax collectors were in the area the previous week. The 3-47th and 4-47th Infantry continued to recon-in-force moving south without opposition. Twelve detainees were apprehended by the 4-47th and evacuated to the tactical screening center. One chicom carbine was found in the vicinity of

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XS680557 by B/4-47th Infantry. There was no enemy contact throughout the day, and the battalions established night defensive positions: A/3-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS669533, B/3-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS669534, E/3-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS671537, A/4-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS678535, B/4-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS680533, and C/4-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS679536. Five airstrikes were employed in support of the operation; eight structures and 16 bunkers were reported destroyed.

(2) On 22 May, the 2nd Brigade, in cooperation and coordination with 7th ARVN elements, attacked southwest from its night defensive positions and established blocking positions in the vicinity of XS663532, XS652535, and XS655533. The 3-47th Infantry continued reconnaissance in force to the southwest and established blocking positions to the west: A/3-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS655533, B/3-47th in the vicinity of XS663532, C/3-47th in the vicinity of XS652535. The 4-47th Infantry attacked west from its night defensive positions to blocking positions oriented southwest: A/4-47th in the vicinity of XS677517, C/4-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS679517. Three pounds of enemy documents were found by C/4-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS679517. The MRB relocated to DONG TAM, arriving at 1510 hours without incident. The two infantry battalions moved to extraction points, loaded ATCs at 1330 hours, and returned to DONG TAM via the CHO GAO Canal. During the extraction, the 3-47th Infantry received two rounds of sniper fire.

on 24 May 1968:

(1) In accordance with OPORD 47-68, the MRF continued OPERATIO TRUONG CONG DINH on 24 May employing the 3-47th Infantry in a reconnaissance in force operation in HAM LONG District, KIEN HOA Province. The operation commenced at 0716 hours with the 3-47th Infantry employing B, C and E Companies to conduct beach landing assaults in the vicinity of XS439406, XS428404 and XS438405 respectively. Upon beaching, the battalion swept south, and did not encounter enemy contact. All elements reported enemy interference (jamming) on their primary radio frequency. Throughout the morning, elements of the battalion destroyed several two-man bunkers in the vicinity of XS425401, and ten mortar pits in the vicinity of XS433887. A house was found in the vicinity of XS448397, containing an abundance of VC flags, empty penicillin vials, and other indications of VC occupation. The immediate area was thoroughly search.

(2) As of 1600 hours, the enemy avoided contact with the battalion. B/3-47th Infantry swept to the vicinity of XS455385 and prepared for airmobile extraction. Companies C and E, located in the vicinity of XS442386 and XS457391 respectively, were also making preparation for extraction by air. At 1624 hours Company B was engaged by automatic weapons fire resulting in one U.S. KIA. The company immediately suppressed the enemy fire. A light fire team and artillery were employed on areas of suspected enemy positions in the vicinity of XS456387. A search of the area revealed three VC KIA. Two VG were found tied in trees, and one was observed falling from a tree when fire was returned. All elements of the battalion were extracted to DONG TAM, from whence they loaded aboard ATC's and returned to the MRB closing at 1725 hours. The 3-47th Infantry succeeded in killing three VC, in addition to destroying 24 bunkers and 14 mortar positions from which attacks had been launched on the U.S. Base at DONG TAM. Three 57mm and three 75mm recoilless rifle rounds were also destroyed. Although the VC avoided contact with the battalion, the enemy's freedom of movement throughout the AO was curtailed.

(3) During the day, the 4-47th Infantry debarked the MRB to relieved the 3-60th Infantry of its security mission at DONG TAM Base. The 3-60th Infantry embarked aboard the USS COLLECTON and prepared for future operations with the MRF.

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Authority N.D. 8735411

By J.E. NARA Date 6.3

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D. 26 thru 28 May 1968.

(1) Operation TRUONG CONG DINH continued with the MRF implementing OPORD 48-68. Operations commenced 252100 May with the deployment of the 3-34th Artillery by LCM-8 from the MRB anchorage vicinity Dong Tam to FSBs LOWEL (XS514315), MERRIL (XS486267) and SPENDER (XS51.543). During the early morning of 26 May, the maneuver battalions departed the MRB to conduct riverine recon-in-force operations in GIONG TROM District, KIEN HOA Province. The MRB commenced its deployment from Dong Tam at 0800 hours to an anchorage point vicinity (XS4829), arriving at 1100 hours.

(2) The concept of operations as originally conceived was modified as a result of the immediate contact established by the 3-47th Infantry and assault boats of River Division 111. The 3-47th Infantry (-) departed the MRB at 0100 hours, to conduct beach landing assaults on GREEN beaches 1, 2 and 3; after which, the battalion would initiate recon-in-force operations southwest in AO SACKVILLE. At 0720 hours the lead element of the riverine column was ambushed, and engaged with B-40 rocket and automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of XS591258. Two ASPBs and one monitor received direct hits; initial casualties reported were two USN KHA and six WHA. The casualties occurred as the assault support boats moved in to beach landing sites of the 3-47th Infantry. The lead boats in the column bore the brunt of the attack. The boat captain and radiomen of ASPB 111-1 were killed instantly, and two other crewman were wounded when their boat sustained two rocket and two recoilless rifle hits. Two of the rounds struck the boats 20mm cannon; another hit the mast and the fourth tore into the coxswain's flat. Four crewmen on ASPB 111-5 were wounded in the first attack as a rocket blew open its 20mm mount. The third boat (monitor 111-2) in column received heavy fire, and sustained two men injured with minor wounds. The enemy fire was reported originating from both sides of the bank. Artillery fire from the 3-34th Artillery and a light helicopter fire team from TF 116 were employed against known and suspected enemy positions. The ambush lasted approximately ten minutes, and despite the enemy's ambush the battalion continued toward its assigned beach sites. At 0735 hours, B/3-47th beached on GREEN Beach #1, vicinity XS602257, encountering a heavy volume of automatic weapons and small arms fire; one U.S. was KHA and five WHA resulting from contact with an estimated VC platoon. After establishing a beach head it was found that there was an unfordable stream on the east separating B Company from the remainder of the battalion. The company was then ordered to extract from that beach site and reinsert in the vicinity of XS607521. At the same time E/3-47th Infantry beached on GREEN Beach #2 in the vicinity of XS600250 encountering small arms fire from vicinity XS603250 resulting in two U.S. WHA; however, the company completed its beaching. C/3-47th Infantry beached on GREEN Beach #3 in the vicinity of XS599249 also encountering automatic weapons and small arms fire from all sides resulting in one U.S. WHA. The company engaged the enemy while moving south west killing ten VC. By 0850 hour Company C had moved to the vicinity of XS601250, and was involved in heavy contact with enemy in bunkers; artillery and light fire teams were employed in support of the company, while B and E Companies continued their movement to develop C Company's contact. B/3-47th Infantry maneuvered to the vicinity of XS605248 to engage the enemy opposing C Company. It was estimated that both B and C Companies were in contact with a platoon size force entrenched in a bunker line. Possibly they were blocking elements for a withdrawing main body force. All elements of the battalion continued to engage the enemy, while the 3/60th Infantry was tasked to backload and exploit the tactical situation by conducting operations south east of the 3/47th Infantry. At 1015 hours the 3/47th Infantry reported a total of 18 VC KIA (12 VC by C Company and six VC by B Company).

(a) Initially, the 3-60th Infantry commenced its riverine deployment to the vicinity of RED Beaches 6, 5 and 4 or 1, 2 and 3 in AO WEST. At 0750 hours the lead elements of the battalion were engaged with B-40 rocket, automatic weapons and small arms fire in the

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vicinity of XS591258. The ambush, this time, engaged boats of River Division 91 with automatic weapons fire just west of the location where boats of River Division 111 were attacked. One crewman of ASPB 91-7 received minor wounds during the attack; no significant damage occurred to the boats. Light fire teams and artillery fires were employed in support of the battalion convoy.

(b) The Brigade Commander directed the 3-60th Infantry to beach in the vicinity of XS592255 and sweep south west in order to develop the situation and determine the extent of enemy fires on the north bank. The battalion beached unopposed at 0816 hours with Company C on the left, Company E in the center, and Company B on the east. The battalion maneuvered south west to vicinity of XS587250, then south east towards vicinity of XS592248 to backload ATCs for subsequent deployment/employment. Backloading was completed at 1122 hours and the battalion commenced its riverine movement to the vicinity of XS62 4239. During its initial recon-in-force operations, the 3-60th Infantry located a heavily bunkered area, and destroyed 40 bunkers. Enroute to the new insertion area, elements of the battalion were engaged with automatic weapons fire from vicinity of XS618242; Company C and the boat fires of River Division 91 suppressed the fires killing one VC. The battalion beached unopposed at 1142 hours, and commenced its operations moving south west in zone. The maneuver was to flank the bunker line from the south. During its movement, B/3-60th Infantry found ten VC gas masks and assorted drawing equipment (vicinity of XS591249), and destroyed one sampan containing 175 lbs of rice in the vicinity of XS621236. Four detainees were also collected. Throughout the remainder of the day, the 3-60th Infantry had no significant engagements with the enemy. At 1350 hours, elements of C/3-60th Infantry ~~was engaged~~ in the vicinity of XS621238 with one handgrenade. The area was searched, resulting in the capture of three VC; one of which was WIA. Subsequent interrogation of the POWs revealed that they were members of the 516th VC MF Battalion. In the same location, Company C killed two VC and captured one chicom carbine, two M-26 grenades and three chicom grenades. The battalion continued reconning in force, until 2000 hours; at which time it established night defensive positions employing Company B in the vicinity of XS611234, Company C in the vicinity of XS605239, and Company E in the vicinity of XS612225. Due to the terrain conditions it was unable to link-up with the 3-47th Infantry.

(c) As of 1145 hours, B and E 3-47th Infantry contacts were diminishing to sporadic sniper and automatic weapons fire as the companies intensified their attacks. C/3-47th Infantry, at the same time, was pinned down in the vicinity of XS598247 by intensive small arms and automatic weapons fire from a well constructed bunker line. The company continued to advance against the enemy encountering rugged resistance. The battalion had thus far accounted for 21 VC KIAs. At Approximately 1415 hours, contact intensified as B and E Companies encountered a VC force within a bunker complex in the vicinity of XS603249. The intensity of the enemy fire was such that the companies rate of advance was slow and tedious. C/3-47th Infantry was also confronted with a bunker complex in the vicinity of XS601248, and received heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire. Airstrikes and artillery were employed on both bunker complexes. During an airstrike at 1505 hours C/3-47th Infantry sustained 12 U.S. WIA when a napalm bomb fell in close proximity (40m) to their position. The wounded were evacuated at 1608 hours. Shortly thereafter, C/3-47th Infantry reported that three of its men were WIA and lying in close proximity to the bunkers. Because of the intense fires the company was unable to retrieve them at that time. The battalion contact continued until the evening hours. As of 1800 hours, Echo Company had succeeded in reaching the bunker complex and found one VC KIA, and one male hiding within a bunker. The company later engaged a VC force, killing two in the vicinity of XS602248, and reported ten VC KIA probable from the same engagement. At 1930 hours the battalion established night defensive positions employing Company B in the vicinity of XS601250, Company C in the vic-

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inity of XS601246 and Company E in the vicinity of XS599248. Company C, as of this time, had not recovered its wounded because of the intense fighting. The company was ordered to dispatch a patrol to recover its three wounded men, who were in close proximity to the bunkers.

(d) Throughout the day, B/7-1st Air Cav conducted aerial reconnaissance and provided gunship support for both maneuver battalions. The Air Cav unit, in support of ground contacts and during independent operations, accounted for six VC KIAs, found nine fresh graves and collected six detainees. Assault boats of River Division 91 encountered another, more substantial, attack later in the morning at virtually the same position where the 111 boats were hit. Four men, including three crewmen of ATC 91-5, were injured by the automatic weapons, rocket and recoilless rifle fire. The boats were attacked on several other occasions during the afternoon, but no other personnel casualties resulted. Other boats hit by hostile fire were ASPB 111-2, which took four recoilless rifle rounds, flamethrower 111-7 and ATC 111-1. Approximately 2120 hours, the MRB was engaged from the vicinity of XS497283 with recoilless rifle fires. Three rounds were reported fired at the Barracks Ship APL 26; one round hit in the water, another passed over the Starboard bow, and the third penetrated the mid-deck, but did not explode. There were no personnel casualties or significant damage resulting from the attack. Fire was returned by the boats of the security force, the major ships of TF 117 and 3-34th Artillery. An EOD team was dispatched to handle the unexploded enemy ordnance. During the attack, elements of A/3-47th Infantry, employed as MRB defense, reported one recoilless rifle round was fired into their position; they estimated the enemy's location to be approximately 400 meters from theirs. Due to the close proximity of A/3-47th Infantry to the enemy's location, the company was extracted at 2205 hours, after which the ships and assault support boats of the MRF engaged the surrounding area throughout the night. As a result of the day's operation three U.S. were KHA, two USN KHA, 26 U.S. WHA and 11 USN WHA. Enemy loses consisted of 32 VC KIA, three POW and 17 detainees collected.

(3) Throughout the night of 26 May, both battalions remained in their night defensive positions without incident. Plans were formulated to search the areas of contact at first light, and then conduct a ground sweep to exploit the area where a B-52 strike had been employed on 26 May.

(a) At daybreak on 27 May the 3-47th Infantry conducted its search and clear operation in the area of previous contact. C and E Companies dispatched patrols to locate the four MIAs. Company B swept west toward objective 72 (vicinity XS597246), and then to an embarkation site in the vicinity of XS594241. At 0730 hours Company C located its three MIAs who were now KHAs, in the vicinity of XS600249. The company then swept toward objective 72, then to its embarkation site at W18. Company E located its MIA during its sweep at 0730 hours, in the vicinity of XS600249. The company continued its sweep toward objective 72, and then to a backloading site in the vicinity of W18. The battalion was extracted by ATCs and proceeded toward RED Beaches 4, 5 and 6 in the vicinity of XS587229. Enroute to the beaching site, assault support boats of River Division 111 were again targets for an enemy ambush. Earlier in the day (0720 hours) support boats were ambushed five kilometers east of Bon Tre (vicinity XS556298), and engaged with automatic weapons, recoilless rifle and/or rocket fire from both banks. Three crewmen were wounded during that engagement. A second ambush occurred at 1145 hours in the vicinity of XS589231 as the boats were landing elements of B/3-47th Infantry. In addition to four Navy casualties, one infantryman was killed and another wounded as the company attempted to land in the face of the heavy fire. B Company subsequently, backloaded on ATCs, to allow maximum coverage of the area by artillery and gunships. The enemy fire was initially suppressed by the support boats, and silenced when artillery and gunships reinforced their fires. At 1212 hours contact ceased, and B

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3-47th Infantry was reinserted to sweep the ambush area; no significant findings were made. The battalion (-) completed its beaching concurrent with Company B, and reconned-in-force south and east through the B-52 strike area. E/3-47th Infantry collected three detainees in the vicinity of XS588228. B/3-47th Infantry discovered an extensive bunker complex containing 170 two-to-three man bunkers and emplacements with overhead covers; all of the bunkers were destroyed in place. The battalion continued its operations to vicinity XS584223 without contact. At 1700 hours the battalion commenced its airmobile extraction to an LZ in the vicinity of XS550215, and then moved on foot to a riverine extraction point (XS541209) for movement to the MRB; closing at 1945 hours.

(b) The 3-60th Infantry continued its offensive operations at 0930 hours conducting recon-in-force operations to RED Beaches 1, 2 and 3 in the vicinity of XS602217. No significant contact was encountered throughout the day. Four detainees were apprehended; one of which stated that he was a Viet Cong. At 1500 hours, C/3-60th Infantry located five fresh graves with bodies in the vicinity of XS600210. The VC died from gunshot and fragmentation wounds. Shortly thereafter, all elements of the battalion were extracted from vicinity XS592218 to vicinity XS550203, and commenced riverine movement to the MRB closing at 1907 hours. The maneuver battalions of the Brigade did not establish contact with the enemy while sweeping the area of the B-52 strike. Bravo troop, 7-1st Air Cav conducted aerial reconnaissance and gunship support throughout the AO. On one occasion at 1345 hours, in the vicinity of XS595205, the gunships engaged and killed two VC who were fleeing the area. Two additional VC were killed during another enemy ambush on the Naval assault boats in the vicinity of XS556298, at 1415 hours, six boats were hit with automatic weapons, rocket, and recoilless rifle fire, resulting in four Navy men wounded. As of result of the two day operation, a total of 41 VC were killed and four POWs captured. The MRF losses consisted of eight U.S. KHAS, two USN KHAS, 26 US WHAs and 24 USN WHAs.

p. 29 and 30 May 1968.

(1) After a brief period of preparation and maintenance, the Mobile Riverine Force continued Operation TRUONG CONG DINH in accordance with OPORD 49-68. The scheme of maneuver involved, deploying the 3-47th Infantry to conduct beach assaults, GREEN Beaches 1 thru 4. After beaching, the battalion should then sweep south west in AO BAL-FOUR. The 3-60th Infantry would be employed in AO CHURCHILL, to assault beaches RED 1 thru 3, and then attack north east in zone. Both maneuver battalions would conduct recon-in-force operations in MO CAY and DON NHON Districts to locate, fix, and destroy the VC 540 DCU and other enemy elements in zone.

(a) The operation commenced at 0540 hours with the deployment of 3-47th Infantry elements, followed by the 3-60th Infantry at 0600 hours to the area of operations. A/3-60th Infantry remained at the MRB, and was employed in defense of the MRB and FSB PEMBERTON in the vicinity of XS484274. At approximately 0730 hours both battalions beached unopposed, and initiated reconnaissance-in-force operations. The 3-47th Infantry made its beaching assaults on GREEN Beaches in the vicinity of XS446307, XS443316, XS428317, and XS459302, employing C, E, A and B Companies respectively. Company C, upon beaching, engaged three armed VC in the vicinity of XS446307; results of the engagement were not known. Throughout the day, the 3-47th Infantry activities were limited to the aforementioned engagement, and collection of one POW and 21 detainees. Several reports of VC movement were explored with negative results. At 1845 hours the battalion was employed in night defensive positions; Company A in the vicinity of XS412286, Company B in the vicinity of XS437287, Company C in the vicinity of XS434281, and Company E in the vicinity of XS432287.

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(b) The 3-60th Infantry (-) assaulted RED Beaches encountering negative contact. E/3-60th beached in the vicinity of XS 413240, Company C in the vicinity of XS419244, and Company E in the vicinity of XS417242. Upon completing the assault landings, the battalion began reconnaissance in force operations northeast in zone. No significant contacts were established throughout the day. Company B captured two detainees in a bunker at XS415243, and engaged two others with negative results. In searching the area, an ammunition box containing paper documents was found. Civilians in the area stated, that a large VC force had moved through the area two weeks earlier and a squad size force traversed the area daily. Company C located a house containing a blackboard and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of documents in the vicinity of XS428256. E/3-60th Infantry found one demolition kit and a list of names of VC in the area. Companies C and E moved to the vicinity of XS426265, and at 2018 settled in their night defensive positions; B 3-60th Infantry established its night defensive position in the vicinity of XS415271. The battalion apprehended 27 detainees during the day.

(c) Troop D, 3-5th Cav conducted aerial reconnaissance, and provided gunship support throughout the day. Of the five VC killed during the day, four were killed by gunships. At 0935 hours, in the vicinity of XS390295, the cav troop engaged a small group of VC, killing two. The gunships again engaged and killed two VC in the vicinity of XS368265 at 1000 hours. Later in the day, 1310 hours, the ships were engaged with automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of XS 410270. The area was engaged by the gunships, and several secondary explosions resulted. A fifth VC was killed by assault support boats on the RACH MO CAY. The results of the Brigade's operation were five VC KIA, one POW and 37 bunkers destroyed.

(2) Neither battalion encountered or established contact throughout the night; and at day break, operations continued with elements of both battalions conducting airmobile and riverine operations into AOs BARON and KING. At 0720 hours the 3-47th Infantry was airlifted from its night defensive positions to an LZ in the vicinity of FSB PEMBERTON, from whence it deployed by riverine movement to the vicinity of XS534177, and attacked southwest in zone. Two companies of the 3-60th Infantry airlifted from their night locations to establish blocking positions in conjunction with the deployment of 3-47th Infantry. Companies B and C were inserted on LZs in the vicinity of XS490130 and XS510120, respectively, and attacked northwest in zone to establish blocking positions in the vicinity of XS508154 to XS520146. E/3-60th Infantry remained at its night location, as the Brigade's ready roaction force, and was later employed in an airmobile role to the vicinity XS511155, at 1222 hours, to search for an alleged VC cache. In the afternoon, both battalions were extracted from the AO, and returned to the MRB. All operations conducted during the day were supported by D troop, 3-5th Air Cav which accounted for ten VC KIA, and the destruction of two sampans during several sporadic engagements. The two maneuver battalions had no significant contacts, but apprehended 48 detainees; 15 of which were classified as civil defendants.

q. 1 and 2 June 1968:

(1) On 1 June, the MRB initiated reconnaissance in force operations in SA DEC and DUC TON Districts, VINH LONG Province in accordance with OPORD 50-68. The operation commenced with the early riverine deployment of the Brigade elements from BEN TRE to VINH LONG Province. During the evening of 31 May, the 3-34th Artillery began its deployment at 2245 hours to establish FSB CONNIE in the vicinity of WS917378; the battalion arrive at the FSB at 0730 hours. Following the departure of the Artillery Battalion both maneuver battalions embarked ATC's and commenced their deployment to the VINH LONG area. The 3-47th Infantry (-) departed the MRB at 0134 hours and conducted assault landings at 0904 hours in the vicinity of WS893314. The 3-60th Infantry followed the 3-47th Infantry in its riverine movement, and conducted assault landings in the vicinity of WS894315 at 0910 hours. The MRB in the meantime had deployed to an anchorage in the vicinity of

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VINH LONG to support the operations.

(a) Upon beaching, both maneuver battalions commenced tactical operations in zone. The 3-47th Infantry moving southwest, then north sweeping towards its northern boundary. A/3-47th Infantry, moved north to establish a blocking position in the vicinity of WS891319, to complement operations of 3-60th Infantry which was reconning in force west, and then south toward the 3-47th Infantry. During the morning, both battalions continued their sweeps without incident. Several intelligence reports, from ARVN Forces employed west of the Brigade, indicated a company size VC force had dispersed into small groups that were moving south (vicinity WS886332 to WS882327). It was not until the afternoon that elements of the brigade made contact with the enemy. Initially, contacts were limited to sporadic incidents of sniper and small arms fire resulting in one U.S. KHA and two WHAs. The first U.S. casualty occurred at 1200 hours when C/3-47th Infantry encountered sniper fire in the vicinity of WS986305. At the same time A/3-47th was also engaged with sniper fires, vicinity of WS893317, which harassed the unit so as to impede its advance. After several attempts to suppress the intermittent sniper fire, the company requested assistance from a light fire team and flame boat. At 1315 hours, the flame boat (converted ATC with two M132 flame turrets mounted in its deck) engaged the suspected VC sniper position. At 1410 hours the first sergeant, A/3-47th Infantry was killed by sniper fire in the vicinity of WS893317. The company made light contact with an estimated six to ten man force in bunkers. During this engagement one VC was killed by small arms fire. It was now evident that the enemy was fighting from a series of bunkers in the area. Once again the flame boat was employed in support of the company, in addition to "CS" E-8 launchers. A/3-47th Infantry continued its operation in the area and was supported by tactical airstrikes employed against the bunkers. C and E 3-47th Infantry continued their sweep encountering sporadic automatic weapons fire. E/3-47th Infantry was employed in a blocking position in the vicinity of WS886318, while C/3-47th Infantry back-loaded on ATCs and was inserted in the vicinity of WS895314.

(b) The most intense engagement during the day occurred when B/3-60th Infantry received small arms and automatic weapons fire from enemy bunkers in the vicinity of WS893324; the engagement lasted approximately three and one half hours. The contact developed when elements of B/3-60th came under sporadic sniper and rifle grenade fire at 1600 hours, resulting in one U.S. KHA and two WHAs. The company maneuvered against what was thought to be a sniper element. CS was employed in support of the company. Company C was employed to the right flank of Company B in the vicinity of WS897333, to block enemy withdrawal and reinforce by fire. Company A moved across the river to the vicinity of WS897336, and established a blocking position. By 1645 hours the enemy's sniper fire increased, coupled with automatic weapons fire. It was then determined, that B/3-60th Infantry had encountered a squad size force or larger in the vicinity of WS893324. Contact continued until 1941 hours, resulting in six U.S. KHAs, 14 WHAs and one MIA. Enemy losses were 13 VC KIA.

(c) Both battalions established night defensive position received resupply, and prepared for the next day's operation. In addition to the casualties sustained in the early evening fighting, two U.S. were killed when a sampan (they were using to cross a stream) overturned; ten others were wounded (six from grenade fragments and four from gunship fires).

(2) Throughout the night, there was only one reported incident of enemy activity. It occurred at 0155 hours when A/3-60th Infantry was engaged with one grenade west of its position; no casualties resulted. At daybreak both battalions continued offensive operations. The 3-47th Infantry swept east, then northeast to a blocking site in the vicinity of WS953338. The battalion was extracted at 1554 hour and returned to the MRB. The 3-60th Infantry commenced its operations

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backloading on ATCs at 0715 hours and was reinserted. Company A in the vicinity of WS949314, Company B in the vicinity of WS952319, and Company C in the vicinity of WS953322. Upon beaching, the companies swept east, then west to extraction sites for riverine movement to the MRB. Movement throughout the AO was unopposed and without contact. Two casualties resulted from booby traps encountered by elements of E/3-47 Infantry. One Navy crewman received minor wounds when several rounds of small arms fire were received while elements of the 3-47th Infantry were backloading for extraction. Artillery fires were employed on suspected enemy positions and the extraction continued without further incident.

r. 3 thru 8 June 1968:

(1) Completing operations prescribed by OPORD 50-68 the Mobile Riverine Force shifted anchorage on 3 June from VINH LONG to an area east of SA DEC, transit time was one hour and 15 minutes. No offensive operations were initiated during the day, as both maneuver battalions prepared for future operations. The 3-47th Infantry was employed in defense of the MRB and was maintained on a stand by alert status for commitment, on order, as the 9th Infantry Division's Ready Reaction Force. The 3-60th Infantry employed Company E to secure the 3-34th Artillery FSB. During the day, River Assault Divisions were rotated within TF 117. River Assault Division (RAD) 92 relieved RAD 91 which assumed responsibility for MRB defense. RAD 111 continued its mission of supporting the 3-47th Infantry, and RAD 92 assumed the mission of supporting the 3-60th Infantry.

(2) On 5 June, the Brigade was employed in KIEN PHUOC, Province, implementing OPORD 51-68. The operation was initiated in coordination and cooperation with 9th ARVN Division elements to locate and destroy the 502A and 502B VC Battalions, and other enemy elements in CAO LANH, KIEN VAN District. The 44th Special Zone conducted supporting operations, employing the 2-16th Infantry and 41st ARVN Ranger Battalion. The concept of operation was to employ the 3-60th Infantry in beach assaults in AO CALHOUN to subsequently conduct eagle floats west and north along the RACH CAM LO; and the 3-47th Infantry in riverine and airmobile assaults to conduct reconnaissance-in-force operations southwest to RACH CAN LO. The 2-16th Infantry and 41st ARVN Ranger Battalion would sweep and subsequently establish blocking positions in AOs ADAIR and CALHOUN respectively.

(a) The operation commenced at 0235 hours with the 3-34th Artillery deploying from the MRBs anchorage near SA DEC to establish FSB MIDWAY at WS774502 on the TIEN GIANG River, approximately 10 kilometers southeast to GAO LANH City. The battalion completed its transit at 0530 hours and was LRF within twenty minutes. Shortly thereafter, the 3-47th Infantry made beach assaults east of the FSB, in the vicinity of WS782396, where it established PZ ALBERT and prepared for airmobile operations. At 0745 hours, the Brigade and 9th ARVN elements initiated a coordinated attack. Blocking positions were established in the vicinity of WS728567 and WS725593 by the 41st Ranger Battalion and 2-16th ARVN Battalion respectively at approximately 0800 hours. At the same time, the 3-60th Infantry eagle floated throughout the AO on the RACH CAM LO, and the 3-47th Infantry employed B and C Companies in an airmobile assault to LZ ALPHA in the vicinity WS778577. Both battalions continued their operations without incidents, and at 1000 hours B and C 3-47th Infantry were employed at LZ BRAVO in the vicinity of WS773558. Several reports and sightings of VC movement were made. The local civilians in the 3-47th Infantry zone of operation reported that 50 VC were seen earlier moving northeast in the vicinity of WS778577. The 2-16th ARVN Battalion reported a brief engagement with 30 VC moving south in the vicinity of WS735494. C/7-1st Air Cav conducted aerial reconnaissance of the areas of operations, and frequently deployed to areas of reported sightings. Its only engagement occurred at 0750 hours in the vicinity of WS749558; when two VC were engaged. Although the enemy avoided contact with the Brigade maneuver elements, his newly constructed bunkers located throughout the AOs were destroyed.

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The operation continued until 1700 hours; at which time, the 3-47th and 3-60th Infantry Battalions were extracted and returned to the MRB for subsequent employment in the RACH RUONG area, northeast of SA DEC.

(b) Operations on 6 June were limited in scope as the Brigade maintained its two infantry battalions in a RRF posture for ARVN elements operating in the 44th Special Tactical Zone. The displacement of the MRB was deceptive as it deployed from the vicinity of WS7251 to a SA DEC anchorage in the vicinity of WS9338. The 3-34th Artillery departed FSB MIDWAY and deployed to vicinity of WS825405; after which the 3-47th and 3-60th Infantry departed the SA DEC anchorage and were inserted into AOs BRAVO (vicinity WS825405) and ALPHA (vicinity of WS820420) respectively to conduct limited sweep operations and prepared for commitments as RRF. The 3-47th Infantry employed A, B and E Companies to assault GREEN Beaches in the vicinity of WS902438, and to attack north in zone. B/3-47th Infantry apprehended two detainees and destroyed large bunkers, in addition to locating a VC hospital with a 35 bed capacity in the vicinity of WS907459. A/3-47th Infantry located a VC grave yard with 74 graves in the vicinity of WS898458. No other significant finds were made by the battalion during its operation. The 3-60th Infantry continued its eagle float operations north in zone, after beaching in the vicinity of WS9243. The battalion made multiple insertions from the vicinity of WS918423 to WS934169 without incidents. During the day, the 3-60th Infantry apprehended several detainees, located two base camps, and succeeded in accounting for two VC KIAs; C/3-60th Infantry engaged the two VC in the vicinity of WS918438 and captured one AK-47 and one M1 rifle. As of 1930 hours, no significant contacts were encountered, and the two battalions established night defensive positions to interdict possible VC locations.

(4) Throughout the night no contacts or engagements occurred, and at 0500 hours 8 June, the battalions continued offensive operations. The 3-60th Infantry embarked ATCs, deployed to the vicinity of WS962458 where it conducted beach assaults. The battalion attacked southwest along the RACH AP TUAT. The 3-47th Infantry moved to a PZ in the vicinity of its night defensive positions, and employed A, B and E Companies in airmobile assaults to the vicinity of WS908417, WS931430, and WS948408 respectively; the battalion attacked east along the RACH CAI COI. Three Regional Force companies of the CIAO DUC District were employed in blocking positions to complement the Brigade's operation. While reconning-in-force, C/3-60th Infantry encountered a booby trap rigged with a 105mm round in the vicinity of WS961457; four U.S. WHA, one Tiger Scout WHA and one Tiger Scout KHA resulted from its detonation. The booby trap incident occurred at 0648 hours, approximately 30 minutes after the company beached. Shortly thereafter, E/3-60th Infantry sustained three U.S. WHA from a booby trap in the vicinity of WS949437. Elements of the 3-47th Infantry also encountered booby traps during their sweep. E/3-47th Infantry sustained two U.S. WHA at 1025 hours in the vicinity of WS928407, and another U.S. WHA two hours later in the vicinity of WS944417. At 1210 hours the Brigade was tasked to deploy to Dong Tam and employ one battalion to defend the base. The 3-47th Infantry and 3-60th Infantry terminated their operations, embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB. The MRF subsequently departed the SA DEC anchorage at 1430 hours, and arrived at Dong Tam, closing at 1843 hours. The 3-60th Infantry was released, OPCON to the 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, and was tasked to secure FSPBs along Highway 4, north of Dong Tam. The 3-47th Infantry remained in a RRF posture.

s. 10 and 11 June 1968:

(1) Operation TRUONG CONG DINH continued on 10 June, with the MRF initiating reconnaissance-in-force operations in GIONG TROM District and TRUC GIANG District, KIEN HOA Province, to locate and destroy the 516th VC Battalion, 570 DCU and other enemy forces within the AO. The operation commenced 092305 June in accordance with OPORD 51-68 and the early deployment of B/3-34th Artillery from Dong Tam to establish temporary FSB TUCSON in the vicinity of XS6339. The battery

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completed its transit without incident, and was laid ready to fire (LTF) at 0320 hours, in support of the Brigade's subsequent deployment. C/3-34th Artillery was the first MRF unit to deploy to the AO. Escort- ed by Naval assault support boats, the battery conducted a night trans- it through the KINH GIAO HOA Canal to FSB FLAGSTAFF in the vicinity of XS555308. The battery was LRF at 0600 hours, B/3-34th Artillery redeployed to FSB FLAGSTAFF, following the infantry battalions.

(a) The two infantry battalions embarked ATCs at 0400 hours, and commenced their riverine deployment to the AO, escorted by assault support patrol boats. At 0625 hours the river assault boats received fire from both banks in the vicinity of XS581347. One monitor and one ATC were hit resulting in nine Navy and one Army WHA. The enemy's fire was suppressed by a heavy volume of boat fire, and the riverine movement continued. B/3-34th Artillery also encountered en- emy fire during its move from FSB TUCSON to FSB FLAGSTAFF at 0750 hours in the vicinity of XS5631. The enemy fire was quickly suppressed as the cannoneers employed "Beehive" and HE in direct fire on known and suspected enemy positions; one artilleryman was wounded. The battery proceeded to FSB FLAGSTAFF, closing at 0820 hours. The infantry bat- talions continued their movement south along the KINH GIAO HOA toward the beaching sites without further incident. Troop B/7-1st Air Cav- alry was employed to provide aerial reconnaissance, and a light fire team from TF 116 provided aerial escort for the riverine column until it arrived at the beaching sites. The 3-60th Infantry preceded the 3-47th Infantry (-) during the deployment. At 0832 hours elements of the 3-47th Infantry beached, employing B and E Companies in the vicinity of XS604246 while Company A remained embarked as the battalion's RRF. All beach assaults were without incident and unopposed. Elements of the 3-60th Infantry began their beach assaults at 0850 hours employ- ing Company A in the vicinity of XS610252, Company E in the vicinity of XS613250, and Company B in the vicinity of XS611250. C/3-60th Infantry deployed with the 3-34th Artillery and provided FSB security throughout the operation. Upon beaching, both battalions conducted reconnaisance in force operations northwest in zone. River assault craft initially remained in the vicinity of the beach sites and ad- vanced parallel and abreast with the infantry elements. The 3-60th Infantry reconned the southern banks of the river. Each battalion made a methodical search of its area. The 3-60th Infantry elements located and destroyed 25 enemy bunkers, apprehended 17 detainees, and found one CHICOM carbine and two VC uniforms. Elements of the 3-47th located and destroyed 50 enemy bunkers, located a small supply/munition cache, and apprehended two detainees. Neither battalion had enemy contact. Naval support elements, in another engagement at 1210 hours, killed four VC in the vicinity of XS576334.

(b) Elements of Ben Tre Section, operating south of Ben Tre City, reported light contact with a VC force. The 3-34th Artiller; provided general support fires to the ARVN unit in contact. Artillery was also employed in the western portion of the Brigade's AO (vicinity XS5130, south of Ben Tre) to support contacts developed by B/7-1st Air Cav, which deployed to the area to engage the enemy as he withdrew into the Brigade's AO. The cav troop accounted for six VC KIA in the vicinity of XS534287, and three VC KIA in the vicinity of XS462378. At 1425 hours the air cav troop engaged 25 enemy wearing black pajamas. The engagement continued until 1700 hours resulting in 11 VC KIA. The enemy was withdrawing south and southeast from Ben Tre into the Brigade's AO. The Air Cav troop made an assessment of the target area where artillery fires were employed south of Ben Tre. Thirty bunkers were destroyed; the majority of which showed evidence that the occupants were injured or wounded. Blood was smeared throughout the bunkers although no bodies were found.

(c) It was indicative that the enemy was withdrawing south and southeast of Ben Tre into the Brigade's AO. At 1400 hours the Brigade Commander decided to exploit the situation and ordered both maneuver battalions to backload on ATCs, move to and beach in the vicinity of XS5427 and XS5527. The battalions concluded their oper-

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completed its transit without incident, and was laid ready to fire (LTF) at 0320 hours, in support of the Brigade's subsequent deployment. C/3-34th Artillery was the first MRF unit to deploy to the AO. Escort- ed by Naval assault support boats, the battery conducted a night tran- sit through the KINH GIAO HOA Canal to FSB FLAGSTAFF in the vicinity of XS555308. The battery was LRF at 0600 hours. B/3-34th Artillery redeployed to FSB FLAGSTAFF, following the infantry battalions.

(a) The two infantry battalions embarked ATCs at 0400 hours, and commenced their riverine deployment to the AO, escorted by assault support patrol boats. At 0625 hours the river assault boats received fire from both banks in the vicinity of XS581347. One monitor and one ATC were hit resulting in nine Navy and one Army WHA. The enemy's fire was suppressed by a heavy volume of boat fire, and the riverine movement continued. B/3-34th Artillery also encountered en- emy fire during its move from FSB TUCSON to FSB FLAGSTAFF at 0750 hours in the vicinity of XS5631. The enemy fire was quickly suppressed as the gunners employed "Beehive" and HE in direct fire on known and suspected enemy positions; one artilleryman was wounded. The battery proceeded to FSB FLAGSTAFF, closing at 0820 hours. The infantry bat- alions continued their movement south along the KINH GIAO HOA toward the beaching sites without further incident. Troop B/7-1st Air Cav- alry was employed to provide aerial reconnaissance, and a light fire team from TF 116 provided aerial escort for the riverine column until it arrived at the beaching sites. The 3-60th Infantry preceded the 3-47th Infantry (-) during the deployment. At 0832 hours elements of the 3-47th Infantry beached, employing B and E Companies in the vicinity of XS604246 while Company A remained embarked as the battalion's RRF. All beach assaults were without incident and unopposed. Elements of the 3-60th Infantry began their beach assaults at 0850 hours employ- ing Company A in the vicinity of XS610252, Company E in the vicinity of XS613250, and Company B in the vicinity of XS611250. C/3-60th Infantry deployed with the 3-34th Artillery and provided FSB security throughout the operation. Upon beaching, both battalions conducted reconnaissance in force operations northwest in zone. River assault craft initially remained in the vicinity of the beach sites and ad- vanced parallel and abreast with the infantry elements. The 3-60th Infantry reconned the southern banks of the river. Each battalion made a methodical search of its area. The 3-60th Infantry elements located and destroyed 25 enemy bunkers, apprehended 17 detainees, and found one CHICOM carbine and two VC uniforms. Elements of the 3-47th located and destroyed 50 enemy bunkers, located a small supply/munition cache, and apprehended two detainees. Neither battalion had enemy contact. Naval support elements, in another engagement at 1210 hours, killed four VC in the vicinity of XS576334.

(b) Elements of Ben Tre Section, operating south of Ben Tre City, reported light contact with a VC force. The 3-34th Artillery provided general support fires to the ARVN unit in contact. Artillery was also employed in the western portion of the Brigade's AO (vicinity XS5130, south of Ben Tre) to support contacts developed by B/7-1st Air Cav, which deployed to the area to engage the enemy as he withdrew into the Brigade's AO. The cav troop accounted for six VC KIA in the vicinity of XS534287, and three VC KIA in the vicinity of XS462378. At 1425 hours the air cav troop engaged 25 enemy wearing black pajamas. The engagement continued until 1700 hours resulting in 11 VC KIA. The enemy was withdrawing south and southeast from Ben Tre into the Brigade's AO. The Air Cav troop made an assessment of the target area where artillery fires were employed south of Ben Tre. Thirty bunkers were destroyed; the majority of which showed evidence that the occupants were injured or wounded. Blood was smeared throughout the bunkers although no bodies were found.

(c) It was indicative that the enemy was withdrawing south and southeast of Ben Tre into the Brigade's AO. At 1400 hours the Brigade Commander decided to exploit the situation and ordered both maneuver battalions to backload on ATCs, move to and beach in the vicinity of XS5427 and XS5527. The battalions concluded their oper-

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ations and moved to backloading sites. The 3-60th Infantry embarked ATCs at 1500 hours in the vicinity of XS598253 and proceeded up the Ben Tre River. At 1530 hours the battalion's riverine column was ambushed in the vicinity of XS574291. Enemy fires consisting of small arms, automatic weapons and rockets were employed against the Naval escort and troop laden craft from the southern bank of the river. Within ten minutes, gunships were raking the area with machine gun and rocket fire, reinforcing the assault support boat fires. Following the gunships, artillery fires were employed throughout the area. The enemy fire was suppressed as the riverine column continued, entering the objective area to beach A and E Companies in the vicinity of XS546278, and B Company in the vicinity of XS547288 at 1550 hours. The 3-47th Infantry, in the meantime, had moved in the vicinity of XS599261 and started backloading on ATCs to move to the objective area. The battalion completed the transit at 1655 hours without incident and beached in the vicinity of XS560290. Elements of both battalions searched their areas and moved to establish defensive/blocking positions. By 2030 hours the battalions were established as follows: 3-47th Infantry in the vicinity of XS548267 and 3-60th Infantry with Company A in the vicinity of XS547277, Company B in the vicinity of XS545282 and Company E in the vicinity of XS547279.

(d) Throughout the day, the enemy avoided contact with the infantry battalions, and concentrated on ambushing the assault support boats. He succeeded in taking the initiative in his ambush attempts; however his initiative was not enough to inflict any considerable damage. Twenty enemy were killed by Naval craft during the ambushes. In one engagement sixteen were killed when three sampans engaged assault support boats of River Division 111. The engagement occurred just before sunset (1830 hours) when one of the three sampans, in the vicinity of XS576334, crossing in front of the assault boat column engaged the Naval boats with small arms and automatic weapons. Consequently, the three sampans were sunk and 16 VC KIA (BC) resulted; one Navy man was wounded in the engagement. The remainder of enemy KIAs for the day's operation were credited to the Air Cav troop; which accounted for 22 VC KIA, 47 sampans and 22 structures destroyed. Two additional VC were killed as a result of airstrikes employed, to exploit contact developed by the Air Cav.

(2) During the night of 10 June, no significant contacts developed as the infantry battalions awaited the enemy to continue exfiltration from the Ben Tre area; ambush patrols were employed by both battalions. As exhibited throughout the day, the enemy avoided physical engagements; however he endeavored to harass elements of the 3-47th Infantry with several mortar attacks. The first mortar attack occurred during the early morning hours, at 0336 hours and the last attack occurred at 0510 hours; no casualties resulted. At 0730 hours the Brigade continued its offensive operations northwest in zone. The 3-47th Infantry attacked toward the vicinity of XS572299, while the 3-60th Infantry attacked northwest to the vicinity of XS551301. The only engagement during the day occurred shortly after 1030 hours when B/3-47th Infantry reported firing and movement to their rear; a stay-behind patrol was employed which later killed one VC. Three soldiers were wounded when the company was engaged by one M-79 round. Elements of the 3-60th Infantry apprehended ten detainees and obtained one HOI CHANG during their sweep. Six casualties resulted when elements of the battalion encountered dogby traps while sweeping. Later in the afternoon both battalions embarked ATCs and deployed to the MRB which had relocated to Dong Tam. Results of the two day operation were 45 VC KIA, one POW, one HOI CHANG and one chicom rifle. Twelve bunkers, 54 sampans and 37 structures were destroyed. Several small quantities of ammunition and supplies were also captured. The Brigade and Task Force 117 sustained ten USA WHA and ten USN WHA.

t. 13 June 1968:

Operations continued on 13 June, with the conduct of airmobile and waterborne insertions in BINH DAI, TRUC GIANG and GIONG TROM Dist-

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completed its transit without incident, and was laid ready to fire (LTF) at 0320 hours, in support of the Brigade's subsequent deployment. C/3-34th Artillery was the first MRF unit to deploy to the AO. Escort- ed by Naval assault support boats, the battery conducted a night trans- sit through the KINH GIAO HOA Canal to FSB FLAGSTAFF in the vicinity of XS555308. The battery was LRF at 0600 hours. B/3-34th Artillery redeployed to FSB FLAGSTAFF, following the infantry battalions.

(a) The two infantry battalions embarked ATCs at 0400 hours, and commenced their riverine deployment to the AO, escorted by assault support patrol boats. At 0625 hours the river assault boats received fire from both banks in the vicinity of XS581347. One monitor and one ATC were hit resulting in nine Navy and one Army WHA. The enemy's fire was suppressed by a heavy volume of boat fire, and the riverine movement continued. B/3-34th Artillery also encountered enemy fire during its move from FSB TUCSON to FSB FLAGSTAFF at 0750 hours in the vicinity of XS5631. The enemy fire was quickly suppressed as the gunners employed "Beehive" and HE in direct fire on known and suspected enemy positions; one artilleryman was wounded. The battery proceeded to FSB FLAGSTAFF, closing at 0820 hours. The infantry battalions continued their movement south along the KINH GIAO HOA toward the beaching sites without further incident. Troop B/7-1st Air Cavalry was employed to provide aerial reconnaissance, and a light fire team from TF 116 provided aerial escort for the riverine column until it arrived at the beaching sites. The 3-60th Infantry preceded the 3-47th Infantry (-) during the deployment. At 0832 hours elements of the 3-47th Infantry beached, employing B and E Companies in the vicinity of XS604246 while Company A remained embarked as the battalion's RRF. All beach assaults were without incident and unopposed. Elements of the 3-60th Infantry began their beach assaults at 0850 hours employing Company A in the vicinity of XS610252, Company E in the vicinity of XS613250, and Company B in the vicinity of XS611250. C/3-60th Infantry deployed with the 3-34th Artillery and provided FSB security throughout the operation. Upon beaching, both battalions conducted reconnaissance in force operations northwest in zone. River assault craft initially remained in the vicinity of the beach sites and advanced parallel and abreast with the infantry elements. The 3-60th Infantry reconnooned the southern banks of the river. Each battalion made a methodical search of its area. The 3-60th Infantry elements located and destroyed 25 enemy bunkers, apprehended 17 detainees, and found one CHICOM carbine and two VC uniforms. Elements of the 3-47th located and destroyed 50 enemy bunkers, located a small supply/munition cache, and apprehended two detainees. Neither battalion had enemy contact. Naval support elements; in another engagement at 1210 hours, killed four VC in the vicinity of XS576334.

(b) Elements of Ben Tre Section, operating south of Ben Tre City, reported light contact with a VC force. The 3-34th Artillery provided general support fires to the ARVN unit in contact. Artillery was also employed in the western portion of the Brigade's AO (vicinity XS5130, south of Ben Tre) to support contacts developed by B/7-1st Air Cav, which deployed to the area to engage the enemy as he withdrew into the Brigade's AO. The cav troop accounted for six VC KIA in the vicinity of XS534287, and three VC KIA in the vicinity of XS462378. At 1425 hours the air cav troop engaged 25 enemy wearing black pajamas. The engagement continued until 1700 hours resulting in 11 VC KIA. The enemy was withdrawing south and southeast from Ben Tre into the Brigade's AO. The Air Cav troop made an assessment of the target area where artillery fires were employed south of Ben Tre. Thirty bunkers were destroyed; the majority of which showed evidence that the occupants were injured or wounded. Blood was smeared throughout the bunkers although no bodies were found.

(c) It was indicative that the enemy was withdrawing south and southeast of Ben Tre into the Brigade's AO. At 1400 hours the Brigade Commander decided to exploit the situation and ordered both maneuver battalions to backload on ATCs, move to and beach in the vicinity of XS5427 and XS5527. The battalions concluded their oper-

rict, KIEN HOA Province. The 3-47th Infantry and 3-60th Infantry were employed conducting recon-in-force operations to locate, and destroy elements of the 516th MF Battalion, 560th DCU and local guerrillas within the zone of operations.

(1) The concept of operation in accordance to OPORD 52-68, included a deceptive scheme of maneuver to obtain the element of surprise when introducing ground forces into the intended AO. The deceptive scheme involved establishing FSB OK CORRAL in the vicinity of XS630393, and deploying a Riverine Armored Reconnaissance Element up the CHO GAO Canal to the vicinity of XS605445 where a MEDCAP/DENTCAP would be conducted. The battery of artillery employed at FSB OK CORRAL was established (oriented north) to give the impression that the Brigade's operation would be conducted north of the SONG CUA TIEU. At the same time, the battery was capable of providing fire support to the riverine column entering the KINH GLAO HOA and SONG BA LAI, implementing the actual tactical scheme of maneuver, to beaching sites south of the SONG BA LAI. Launching of assault craft and repositioning of the Mobile Riverine Base also supported the deception plan.

(2) The MRF initiated the deception plan at 0315 hours when B/3-34th Artillery deployed to FSB OK CORRAL, followed by C Battery and A/3-60th Infantry. The artillery battalion (-) arrived at FSB OK CORRAL at 0700 hours; B Battery was laid ready to fire (LRF) at 0725 hours. At that time, C/3-34th Artillery and A/3-60th Infantry proceeded to FSB BADWATER in the vicinity of XS675360, and arrived at 0815 hours. The battery was LRF at 0830 hours. The two infantry battalions (-) departed the MRB at 0700 hours, with the 3-47th Infantry (-) preceding 3-60th Infantry (-). B/3-47th Infantry deployed to a PZ in the vicinity of FSB OK CORRAL and prepared for subsequent air-mobile assaults into the AO. Both infantry battalions entered the objective area and conducted beach assaults without incident. The 3-60th Infantry was inserted in the vicinity of RED #1, and east thereof (vicinity 648305), in the order of C, B and E Companies. The 3-47th Infantry (-) proceeded past the RED beaches, and at 1035 hours inserted A and C Companies on GREEN Beaches 1 and 2 in the vicinity of XS698276. All beach assaults were unopposed and without incident. Upon completion of the beach assaults, the 3-60th Infantry swept south east in zone, while A and C/3-47th Infantry swept northwest. At 1058 hours, B/3-47th Infantry's first element was airlifted into the AO, landing in the vicinity of XS683263. The entire company was introduced in the area by 1110 hours, and moved toward the vicinity of XS658281. The two battalions maneuvered in zone seeking out the enemy; however, no contact or engagements were made throughout the day. Several houses in the vicinity of XS679275 were reported, by A/3-47th Infantry, to have been booby trapped with chicom grenades on their doors. C/3-47th Infantry found a 15 pound chicom mine and 4800 rounds of small arms ammunition in the vicinity of XS687272. B/3-47th Infantry made no significant finds, but apprehended 15 detainees. Elements of the 3-60th Infantry located a 30 bed hospital and medical supplies in the vicinity of XS642098. The battalion also apprehended nine detainees. At 1730 hrs the Brigade began extraction of the maneuver battalions for deployment to DONG TAM. A new mission was received that required the MRF to deploy to CAN THO. Extraction was completed without incident, and at 2000 hours the battalions closed the MRB which had relocated to DONG TAM.

u. 17 thru 21 June 1968:

(1) Completing operations prescribed by OPORD 52-68, the Mobile Riverine Force shifted anchorage on 16 June from DONG TAM to CAN THO. The transit was completed in twelve and three-quarters hours, during which the embarked infantry battalions prepared for the forthcoming operations. At 170001 June, the 2nd Brigade was placed under the operational control of the Senior Advisor, IV CTZ. On 17 June IV Corps assets, to include the MRF, were employed in PHONG DINH Province to exploit and assess B52 airstrikes against the 303rd and 309th MF Battalions, and the TAY DO LF Battalions. The Mobile River-

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ine Force was tasked to conduct airmobile, riverine, and reconnaissance in force operations in CAI RANG, TRA ON, and PHUNG-HIEP Districts, to locate and destroy the 303rd MF Battalion, 301st MF Battalion and other elements in zone. To accomplish that mission, the Brigade employed the 3-47th Infantry by riverine movement to assault GREEN Beaches, in the vicinity of WS812014, to sweep southeast in zone, and the 3-60th Infantry (-) by riverine movement to assault RED Beaches, in the vicinity of WS905975, to sweep northwest in zone. Troop A/7-1st Air Cav and the 3-60th Infantry (-) would sweep and exploit the B52 strike area within the AO.

(a) The MRF commenced its operation at 0325 hours in accordance to OPORD 53-68, with the 3-34th Artillery (-) deploying from the vicinity of WS86034 to FSB GULCN in the vicinity of WS950005. Batteries B and C arrived at FSB GULCH at 0525 hours, and were LRF within 30 minutes. A/3-34th Artillery supported the operation from WS846070. The 3-47th Infantry departed the MRB at 0400 hours, and deployed by riverine movement into the AO. At 0614 hours the battalion employed Company A in the vicinity of WS810016, Company B in the vicinity of WS 810015, Company C in the vicinity of WS810014, and Company E in the vicinity of WS811019. Upon beaching unopposed, the battalion reconned in force. The 3-60th Infantry departed the MRB at 0540 hours, and proceeded to RED Beaches. The battalion employed Company A in the vicinity of WR910978, Company B in the vicinity of WR904975, and Company E in the vicinity of WR905975. The battalion then proceeded to sweep northwest in zone. A/7-1st Air Cav commenced its aerial reconnaissance of the B52 strike at 0700 hours. Enemy forces subsequently encountered by A/7-1st Air Cav were detected by the Man Pack Detector/E63, commonly known as the "People Sniffer". The "People Sniffer" missions were flown, by the Brigade's chemical section, in conjunction with the Air Cav aerial reconnaissance. When high readings were obtained, gunships responded and made a through reconnaissance of the area. When fired upon, the gunships took evasive action and engaged the enemy. A/7-1st Air Cav killed eight VC in the vicinity of WR895961 at 0800 hours. Ten minutes later, the troop reported seven more VC KIA in the same area after briefly exchanging fire with the enemy. Seven weapons were observed laying in the area of contact. The air cav troop continued its intensified reconnaissance throughout the area and subsequent engagements resulted in three VC KIA in the vicinity of WR890978, seven VC KIA in the vicinity of WR870954 and three VC KIA in the vicinity of WR890970.

(b) The Brigade commander ordered the 3-60th Infantry to move to the area of Air Cav engagements and establish contact with the enemy if possible. The 3-60th Infantry commenced its sweep of the area at 1100 hours, finding eight VC KIA, four AK-47, two M1 carbines, and one wounded female VC. A/3-60th Infantry found a sampan containing another female VC, who was unconscious, in addition to six AK-47 magazines and six chicom grenades. Companies A and B were briefly engaged with small arms fire while searching the area; no casualties resulted and the battalion continued its search of the area. The Air Cav troop continued its aerial reconnaissance, engaging VC fleeing throughout the area; as of 1745 hours, the troop accounted for 33 VC KIAs. Elements of the 3-47th Infantry conducted their operations without incident. The battalion maneuvered toward the 3-60th Infantry elements and established night defensive positions in the vicinity of WR846976 and WR872982. The 3-60th Infantry established its night defensive positions in the vicinity of WR871941. Throughout the day a total of seven air-strikes were employed resulting in seven bunkers and 31 structures destroyed, nine bunkers and 32 structures were damaged. The MRF operation had thus yielded 33 VC KIA, seven individual weapons, two POWs and one CD.

(2) On 18 June, operations continued with the 3-47th Infantry conducting airmobile operations from its night positions. E/3-47th Infantry was airlifted to an LZ in the vicinity of WR0836 and attacked northeast establishing contact with an estimated VC squad in the vicinity of WR904940. As the contact increased, A/3-47th Infantry was

airlifted at 1358 hours to the vicinity of WR904930, to reinforce Company E which was now engaging a VC platoon. Companies B and C were subsequently introduced into the area of contact to attack a VC bunker complex from which heavy volumes of fire were employed. During the battalion's engagement, seven U.S. WHA and two MIAs resulted from small arms fire. Enemy loses were 20 VC KIA; the majority of which were by gunships. A/7-1st Air Cav supported the ground forces and accounted for 17 VC KIA. During one engagement, an air observer was wounded when an LOH received ground fire from a bunker in the vicinity of WR904940. Three airstrikes were also employed in support of the 3-47th Infantry which continued its contact until 2200 hours. The battalion established night defensive positions and employed ambushes.

The 3-60th Infantry swept northeast from its night positions during the day. Earlier, at 0050 hours, A/3-60th Infantry engaged and killed three VC in a sampan moving in the vicinity of WR848974. E/3-60th Infantry was airlifted to vicinity of WR849974 at 0815 hours; while companies A and B moved northeast. A/3-60th Infantry sustained one U.S. WHA in the vicinity of WS905887 by booby trap. The battalion moved to backloading sites, embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB at 1745 hours.

(3) 19 June 1968:

(a) The 3-47th Infantry swept the area of the previous days contact. Elements of the battalion located one U.S. KHA, two VC KIA, one carbine, and four chicom grenades. After completing its sweep of the area Companies A and E were airlifted to the vicinity of WS700000 and attacked north. C/3-47th Infantry was later airlifted to the vicinity of WS869001. After conducting sweep operations the battalion was extracted and returned to the MRB.

(b) The 3-60th Infantry departed the MRB and made beach landing assaults in the vicinity of WS719038; the battalion then attacked south in zone. One VC was engaged and killed by B/3-60th Infantry at 1105 hours in the vicinity of WS713025. Another VC KIA, from an earlier airstrike, was also found in the vicinity of WS714025. B Company sustained two U.S. WHA from a booby trap while searching the area. A/3-60th Infantry established contact with a squad size force at 1520 hours in the vicinity of WS698225. During the engagement the company killed five VC, while sustaining two U.S. KHA and two U.S. WHA. No other significant contacts were encountered during the day, and at 2030 hours the battalion established night defensive positions.

(c) The 3-34th Artillery deployed from FSB GULCH to support the operation from a new FSB (LONGHORN) located in the vicinity of WS790045. The battalion (-) deployed earlier during the day and was LRF at FSB LONGHORN at 0715 hours. At 1515 hours a LCM-8 resupply boat of the 3-34th Artillery was ambushed and hit with rocket fire. One U.S. KHA and ten WHA resulted. In addition to three WHA of the 1098th Boat Company. During the days operation enemy loses were nine VC KIA, one POW, and two weapons captured in addition to several grenades, documents, and medical supplies. Four U.S. were KHA and 19 were WHA.

(4) 20 June 1968:

(a) The 3-47th Infantry departed the MRB at 0645 hours to assault GREEN Beaches in the vicinity of WS708106. The battalion beached unopposed at 1015 hours and attacked southwest in zone. No significant contact developed throughout the day and at 1600 hours, C Company was airlifted to the vicinity of WS70208 from whence it swept to GREEN Beach #1 in the vicinity of WS717070 to be extracted. B/3-47th Infantry was airlifted to the vicinity of WS660098 at 1645 hours and became OPCON to 3-60th Infantry. The 3-47th Infantry (-) completed its extraction to the MRB at 2100 hours.

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(b) The 3-60th Infantry remained in the AO the night of 19 June, employing ambush patrols. At 0155 hours, an ambush patrol of Company E engaged and killed four VC in a sampan in the vicinity of WS713030; one AK-50, two US M1, two SKS rifles and one chicom carbine were captured. Upon returning to its ambush position, the ambush patrol engaged another sampan, at 0215 hours, moving near its position four VC KIA and one VC WIA (female) resulted, in addition to one pound of documents, two chicom grenades, two M-16 and five AK-47 magazines being captured. The battalion spent the remainder of the morning without further incident. After night kits were extracted, the battalion was airlifted into a new AO and landed in the vicinity of WS677056, WS658055 and WS661099. The airlift was completed at 1205 hours, after which the battalion attacked southeast in zone. No significant contacts were encountered throughout the remainder of the day; however, eight U.S. WHA resulted from boobytrap incidents. Company C sustained the casualties while escorting B/3-34th Artillery in the vicinity of WS790046 at 1950 hours. The battalion established night defensive positions in the vicinity of WS680070 at 1930 hours.

(c) The 3-34th Artillery supported ground forces from FSB SAGE BRUSH in the vicinity of WS736045. C/3-34th Artillery departed FSB LONGHORN at 0310 hours and arrived at the new FSB at 0740 hours. B/3-34th Artillery followed Battery C at 1020 hours, and arrived at FSB SAGE BRUSH at 1110 hours. A/3-34th Artillery relocated to the vicinity of WR83590, arriving at 1340 hours. As B/3-34th Artillery was redeploying to the MRB from FSPB SAGE BRUSH it was ambushed at 1950 hours in the vicinity of WS790041. B-40 rocket and small arms fire engaged the battery resulting in one gun barge severely damaged; one 105mm howitzer was also destroyed. The ambush was quickly suppressed by assault support craft and the artillery barges.

(5) 21 June 1968:

(a) A and C/3-47th Infantry remained aboard the MRB as a Brigade RRF. B/3-47th Infantry was released from OPCON to 3-60th Infantry at 0922 hours and conducted an AML movement to the vicinity of WS8613 where they backloaded ATCs and returned to the MRB. After completing the security mission for the 3-34th Artillery, Company C backloaded ATCs at 1130 hours in the vicinity of WS827057, and returned to the MRB at 1450 hours. During the early morning hours C/3-60th Infantry engaged movement around its perimeter. At first light the company swept the area and found two VC KIA and one M-1 rifle in the vicinity of WS683077. The battalion was extracted from the AO by conducting airmobile operations to a backloading site located at WS803145. A/3-47th Infantry, while waiting to be extracted, found one VC KIA and web gear in the vicinity of WS 692073. The battalion embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB at 1055 hours.

(b) Total results of the five day operation were: five U.S. KHA, one U.S. KNHA, 44 U.S. WHA and one U.S. MIA. One gun barge and one 105mm howitzer was destroyed. Enemy losses were 84 VC KIA, five POWs, 22 detainees, nine AK-47, two M2 carbines, two chicom carbines, one M1, one AK-50, one BAR, and two SKS rifles were captured. In addition 43 bunkers, 49 structures and four sampans were destroyed. An unknown amount of equipment, medical supplies and documents were also captured.

v. 23 and 24 June 1968:

(1) On 23 June, the MRF commenced its deployment from a CAN THO anchorage to Dong Tam. The redeployment was conducted in accordance to Frag Order #1 to OPORD 54-68, which employed the two maneuver battalions in eagle float operations on the NICOLAI Canal and MANG THIT River while enroute to Dong Tam. The eagle float operations were directed toward clearing the waterways of enemy forces, and to destroy enemy fortifications in designated areas.

(a) Boats of River Division 111 and 92 with the two battalions embarked, departed the MRB shortly after 0500 hours to proceed to the Central Delta via the Nicholai Canal, Song Mang Thit, Song Co Chien, and Song Tien Giang. At 0735 hours the maneuver battalions beached in the vicinity of XS063064 and swept northeast along the Nicholai at approximately 1030 hours the infantry battalions embarked ATCs and continued the transit. The boat divisions and embarked troops established night positions at 1600 hours near the intersection of the Song Tien Giang and Song Ham Luong. Thirty-two bunkers were destroyed and ten detainees taken in a three hour sweep along the Nicholai Canal by 3/47th and 3-60th Infantry Battalions.

(b) At 0800 hours boats of the Flotilla not involved with escorting the maneuver battalions began the 110 mile transit to Dong Tam. At 1200 hours the ships of the MRB with ASPB escorts were underway on the first segment of the two day trip. Task Force Six Gun, escorted by River Division 112 boats, followed along a few minutes later. The USS BENEWAH played a psychological operations tape explaining our presence in the area for the benefit of listeners ashore, as the ships were passing through the Vam Nao Crossover. The ships anchored for the evening at 1900 hours after reaching the Song Tien Giang.

(2) On 24 June, the MRB departed the BASSAC Crossover at 0600 hours and continued its deployment to Dong Tam. The two infantry battalions embarked ATCs and commenced their deployment to Dong Tam. The 3-47th Infantry proceeded the 3-60th Infantry during the transit. The MRB arrived at Dong Tam approximately 1400 hours. The 3-47th Infantry closed the MRB at 1640 hours and assumed MRB security. During the transit, the 3-60th Infantry Bn, beached for a short time on the south bank of the Song My Tho about five miles west of Dong Tam to conduct familiarization firing and zero their weapons.

w. 26 June thru 5 July 1968:

The Mobile Riverine Force temporarily concluded OPERATION TRUONG CONG DINH on 26 June, and initiated Phase II of OPERATION TOAN THANG in LONG AN and HAU NGHIA Provinces. On 6 July, the Brigade employed 3-47th Infantry in security of Dong Tam Base and the 4-47th Infantry embarked ships of the MRB. Rotation of the two infantry battalions was completed in one day.

x. 7 thru 9 July 1968:

(1) Completing operations in LONG AN Province, the MRF continued OPERATION TRUONG CONG DINH on 7 July in accordance to OPORD 57-68. The target selected was elements of the 516th VC Battalion and other enemy units entrenched west of the "Crossroads" in KIEN HOA Province. The operation was conducted in coordination and cooperation with RF/PF elements in GIONG TROM, TRUC GIANG Districts. The Brigade's concept of operation was to employ the 4-47th Infantry in beach assaults on BLUE Beaches 1, 2 and 3 in the vicinity of XS529370 and XS546362; after beaching, the battalion would attack east and west concurrently. The 3-60th Infantry would deploy by riverine movement to establish a PZ in the vicinity of FSB WACO (XS598365); after which, the battalion would configure for airmobile combat assault to LZs south of the 4-47th Infantry's beach sites.

(a) The operation commenced at 0220 hours, when the 3-34th Artillery (-) deployed to FSB WACO. The battalion arrived at 0615 hours, and was LRF at 0630 hours. The 4-47th Infantry departed the MRB at 0345 hours and proceeded to the AO. The battalion entered the SONG BA LAI without incident and beached employing C and A Companies at 0715 hours on BLUE Beaches 1 and 2 (XS546362 and XS548362), and Company B at 0730 hours in the vicinity of XS529370. The 3-60th Infantry departed the MRB at 0415 hours and conducted a riverine movement to FSB WACO for airmobile insertion into the AO. The battalion arrived at the FSB at 0740 hours and configured for airmobile movement.

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Employment of the 3-60th Infantry was delayed pending development of contact, by 4-47th Infantry elements. The Brigade commander's scheme of maneuver was to employ the 3-60th Infantry at either of a series of LZs which would complement any contacts developed by the 4-47th Infantry. As of 0900 hours no contacts or engagements were made. The 3-60th Infantry introduced Company C into the AO at 0914 hours; the company was airlifted to an LZ located in the vicinity of XS505355 and completed the air movement at 0940 hours. B/3-60th Infantry remained at the FSB in a RRF posture. A/3-60th Infantry was airlifted to XS524323 at 1040 hours; the company employed one platoon to secure a helicopter which had mechanical trouble at that location. About the same time, E/4-47th Infantry was introduced into the AO, beaching in the vicinity of XS505376. Immediately upon beaching the company started its sweep and engaged two VC at 1100 hours in the vicinity of the beaching area; two VC KIAs resulted from the engagement. The only other engagement to occur during the day was at 0945 hours when an element of D/3-5th Air Cavalry was briefly engaged with automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of XS505370. The results of that engagement were not known; no friendly casualties were sustained from the ground fire.

(b) The battalions continued their operations and no significant contacts were made during the day. Nine airstrikes were employed on beaching sites and other targets in the AO. The airstrikes destroyed 29 bunkers and 21 structures, and damaged seven bunkers and 13 structures. The infantry battalions also destroyed 59 bunkers and apprehended four detainees who were later classified as one POW, two CDs and one IC. The 3-60th Infantry (-) established its night defensive positions employing Company A in the vicinity of XS541348, Company B in the vicinity of XS589368 and Company C in the vicinity of XS539348. The 4-47th Infantry, after completing another riverine insertion at 1700 hours, established night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS551355.

(2) On the morning of 8 July the MRF continue its operation. B/3-60th Infantry embarked ATCs in the vicinity of its night defensive positions and made a riverine assault landing in the vicinity of XS430404. The battalion employed A and C Companies in airmobile assaults to the vicinity of XS425360 and XS380380 respectively. The two companies were subsequently employed in eagle flights moving northeast within the AO seeking the enemy. A/3-60th Infantry captured one POW and his chicom rifle in a bunker in the vicinity of XS435378. B/3-60th Infantry beached without incident and moved east. After searching the immediate area, the company engaged five fleeing VC in the vicinity of XS431400; one VC KIA resulted. The battalion continued its operation without further incident. Concurrently with the deployment of the 3-60th Infantry, the 4-47th Infantry had embarked ATCs in the vicinity of XS555358 and deployed to conduct riverine assault landings in the vicinity of XS482381. The 4-47th Infantry beached without incident and moved west in zone. E/4-47th Infantry was briefly engaged with small arms and automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of XS460388. Shortly thereafter, the company apprehended an ARVN who stated that he had escaped from five VC. A/4-47th Infantry sustained three WHAs from a booby trap during its movement in the vicinity of XS484398. Another engagement occurred at 1500 hours when E/4-47th Infantry encountered sniper fire in the vicinity of XS458392. The remainder of the day was without incident, and the 4-47th Infantry embarked ATCs and returned to the MRF. The 3-60th Infantry remained in the AO, and established night defensive and ambush positions employing Company A in the vicinity of XS549293, Company B in the vicinity of XS544289, and Company C in the vicinity of XS542300. The 3-60th Infantry spent the night without incident. Two additional VC were KIA when B/3-34th Artillery engaged snipers firing in the vicinity of XS465428.

(3) At 0900 hours, on the morning of 9 July, the 3-60th Infantry (-) embarked ATCs in the vicinity of XS555297 and commenced

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movement to the MRB. The 3-34th Artillery (-) departed FSB WACO at 1030 hours, and deployed to Dong Tam. During the three day operation, the enemy sustained five VC KIA. The AOs, which are normally active, showed evidence of the enemy's desire to avoid contact with the ground forces.

y. 10 thru 13 1968:

(1) On 10 July, the MRF initiated operations in KIEN HOA Province to locate and destroy enemy forces and his equipment within HUON MY and MO CAY Districts. The operation was conducted in accordance to OPORD 58-68. Subsequent operations were initiated employing both the 4-47th and 3-60th Infantry in beach assaults, airmobile and eagle float operations. Aerial reconnaissance was intensified and "People Sniffer" missions were flown extensively to locate the evasive enemy. Eagle flight techniques were also extensively employed to broaden the possibilities of establishing contact with the enemy. Night ambush patrols were employed to interdict enemy activity.

(2) During the period 10 thru 13 July, the enemy continued to evade the Brigade. Sporadic engagements occurred on 10 July when E/3-60th Infantry and the 4-47th Infantry killed one and two VC respectively. With the exception of those brief engagements, the enemy evaded the maneuver battalions and frequently employed sniper fire. On 11 July, contact was limited to brief engagements by E/3-60th Infantry which killed two VC and captured another. The Brigade was tasked to deploy two infantry companies to pass OPCON to the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division which had establish contact with the enemy. At 1920 hours A and E/4-47th Infantry moved by air to the 3rd Brigade's TAOR. The 4-47th Infantry (-) continued its operation concurrently with the 3-60th Infantry. On 12 July, the 4-47th Infantry (-) was employed in an airmobile assault to XS3918 and moved southwest in zone. The 3-60th Infantry moved south to embarkation sites in the vicinity of XS438108 and XS478085. Both battalions embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB. Operations conducted on 12 July concluded the three day operation in MO CAY District. The 4-47th Infantry employed B and C Companies to conduct eagle float operations between the vicinity of XS414165 and XS455193 on 13 July. The 3-60th Infantry was tasked with MRB and FSB security, in addition to being the Brigade's RRF. A and E/4-47th Infantry remained embarked at the MRB, prepared to exploit any contact if encountered by the battalion. The 4-47th Infantry encountered no contact during its sweep through the area, but reported destroying 57 bunkers. The operation was completed at 1400 hours and the battalion (-) returned to the MRB.

z. 15 thru 17 July 1968:

(1) With the implementation of OPORD 59-68, the MRF continued Operation TRUONG CONG DINH, conducting reconnaissance in force, airmobile and riverine operations in CANG LONG, CHAU THANH Districts, VINH BINH Province. The target selected was the VC Base Area 487 located in CANG LONG District. Three enemy units were known to be indigenous to the area; they were the CANG LONG DCU, 513 Ranger Company and a newly formed 510 Battalion which was involved in training operations within the Base Area. Information of the 510 Battalion was provided from a Hoi Chanh who rallied on 27 June and provided the following information: the 510 Battalion had an estimated strength of 350 members, and was activated from local units and village guerrillas. On 8 July it was located in a treeline along the Bang Tang Stream in the vicinity of XS356042, and moved east the following day to LONG TRI Hamlet in the vicinity of XS378040. The Battalion remained in that area for a week and gave no indications of making a substantial move. Additional information of the CANG LONG DCU and 531 Ranger Company indicated their strengths to be 100 and 120 members respectively.

(2) The operation commenced on 15 July in coordination and cooperation with the 9th ARVN Division. The OPORD provided for effective coverage of a large scale area. The operation was planned on the

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assumption that contact would most probably be attained within the VC Base Area; and if contact was gained, the maneuver battalions would be positioned to offer immediate mutual support. A Complementary scheme of maneuver employed by the 14th ARVN Regiment prevented the enemy's withdrawal from the AO to the Southwest. A B-52 Airstrike, that was employed concurrently with the conduct of beach assaults, also complemented the MRB's operation in that the target of the air-strike was south and adjacent to the Brigade's AO. Initially a FSB was established by the 3-34th Artillery (-) on the south end of a large island in the CO CHIEN River, in the vicinity of XS398135. The 1-84th Artillery, located south of CANG LONG, employed four 155mm howitzers in support of the Brigade's operation. At 0440 hours the two maneuver battalions departed the MRB (vicinity XS4707) enroute to the AO.

(a) The 3-60th Infantry beached at 0715 hours employing B and E Companies in the vicinity of XS355115 and XS356114 respectively. A/3-60th Infantry beached in the vicinity of XS352115 and established a PZ for subsequent airmobile operations. Immediately upon beaching E/3-60th Infantry killed one VC and found some documents and six grenades. A and B Companies apprehended VC suspects as they search the areas of the beach sites. A/3-60th Infantry commenced its airmobile assault from the vicinity of XS353120 to XS348117 at 0824 hours. B and E Companies continued to move east in zone and located several small quantities of supplies and equipment. A/3-60th Infantry continued its airmobile operations moving from the vicinity of XS338118 to XS367050 and XS372048 in search of enemy forces. As of 1330 hours the battalion had not encountered any significant contacts or engagements. The 3-60th Infantry was employed by airmobile assaults to establish blocking positions and fix enemy elements which were in contact with the 4-47th Infantry. C/3-60th Infantry, which remained afloat as the battalion RRF, was introduced into the AO beaching in the vicinity of XS354118. The company moved to a PZ and was airlifted at 1600 hrs to the vicinity of XS379103. During the first airlift of C/3-60th Infantry, two helicopters were engaged and hit by enemy fire in the vicinity of the LZ; one door gunner was wounded. Elements of C Company, located on the LZ, established contact with a VC squad. By 1430 hours the entire company had completed its airlift to the area and established contact with the enemy. A dust off was requested for one U.S. WHA, and at 1520 hours the medevac helicopter was engaged and hit by enemy fires. The helicopter could not land in the area; it returned to the MRB because of mechanical difficulties resulting from the ground fire. At 1600 hours E/3-60th Infantry was airlifted to the vicinity of XS379103 to reinforce Company C in its contact. During its airlift, one soldier was accidentally killed and four others were wounded by helicopter fires which was returning enemy fire near the LZ. Both E Company and the assault helicopters were engaged in the vicinity of the LZ; one helicopter was downed by the enemy's fire. The two companies continued its engagement in the vicinity of the PZ, and estimated the contact to be with a VC Company. Beginning at 1815 hours B/3-60th Infantry was airlifted to the vicinity of XS385114 to exploit the contact. The first lift of B Company encountered enemy fire upon leaving the LZ. A portion of A/3-60th Infantry was airlifted to the AO to establish a blocking position in the vicinity of XS379102. The remainder of Company A was airlifted to FSB KENECADE. The 3-60th Infantry established its blocking positions and fixed the enemy.

(b) The 4-47th Infantry initially conducted its beach assaults at 0700 hours employing A and B Companies in the vicinity of XS372124 and XS370123 respectively. The two companies moved south in zone. The 3/E/4-47th Infantry was initially employed with elements of TF117 in a RARE operation moving from XS442068 to XS410045. C/4-47th Infantry beached at 0815 hours in the vicinity of XS370123. Shortly after beaching all elements of the battalion reported movement in their zones. Several detainees were apprehended and several significant enemy sightings were reported. 4-47th Infantry reported 25 VCs were fleeing east in the vicinity of XS375116; the enemy was not

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within range of small arms fire. B/4-47th Infantry also reported enemy troops moving in the vicinity of XS372118. At 0831 hours A/4-47th Infantry was engaged with small arms and automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of XS374115. Continuing its movement the company was engaged with B-40 rocket or mortar fire; no casualties resulted. B/4-47th Infantry was inserted at 1045 hours in the vicinity of XS374102. As the battalion continued its movement south, no significant contacts were established. However, Company A continued to receive mortar or rocket fire which resulted in two U.S. WHA. B/4-47th Infantry observed 15 VC running in the vicinity of XS374102. Artillery and gunships were employed against the enemy force. C/7-1st Air Cavalry reported seven VC KIAs during the engagement. C/4-47th Infantry was airlifted at 1345 hours to the vicinity of XS38211 to establish a block in order to fix the enemy. E/4-47th Infantry made a riverine movement, to the vicinity of XS383119 and beached at 1420 hours to engage enemy troops in that area. C/7-1st Air Cavalry, at 1440 hours reported 3 VC KIA in the vicinity of E Company. At this time C/4-47th Infantry was assaulting a tree line in the vicinity of XS382116 from which it was engaged with sporadic small arms and automatic weapons fire. During the engagement two VC were KIA and two POWs were captured. Company B moved to the vicinity of XS376106 and was encountering small arms fire. The company continued its engagement until 1900 hours, and reported six VC KIA. To complete the cordon of the entrapped enemy forces, C and E/3-47th Infantry were airlifted from Dong Tam at 1800 hours and employed in blocking positions. The two companies were placed OPCON to the 4-47th Infantry. C and E/3-47th Infantry were inserted in the vicinity of XS370122, and then moved south to establish blocks in the vicinity of XS3811.

(c) Throughout the day, the 3-34th Artillery and 1-84th Artillery (-) supported the maneuver battalions in their contacts. Ten VC KIAs were reported in the vicinity of XS351101 by the 3-34th Arty air observer. Initially D/3-5th Air Cavalry provided aerial reconnaissance and gunships support for the Brigade. The air cavalry troop reported four VC KIA after engagements. One aviator was wounded while flying a "people sniffer" mission. C/7-1st Air Cavalry provided gunship support throughout the day and accounted for 21 VC KIA during its engagements. As the enemy was encircled, artillery and airstrikes were employed throughout the area. As night came, a spooky flareship was employed to assist in confining and destroying the enemy. At the end of the day 46 VC were KIA and 41 detainees were apprehended. Numerous quantities of supplies and equipment was captured. One U.S. was KHA and 17 others were WHA. Army aviation assets assisted the Brigade in locating, fixing and destroying the enemy; however, helicopters were hit by enemy fire during the day.

(3) Throughout the night the enemy increased his movement and sporadically engaged friendly elements with shiper fire. Artillery was employed extensively wherever his movement was detected. On the morning of 16 July, both maneuver battalions swept the area of contact.

(a) The 3-60th Infantry conducted its sweep through the area and employed two platoons in Eagle Flight operations. C/3-60th Infantry located 2 VC KIAs during its search, and was later airlifted to reinforce the 1/C/3-60th Infantry which had established contact with the enemy during its eagle flight. The two platoons had moved from the vicinity of XS395135 to an LZ in the vicinity of XS394076. As the 4/A/3-60th Infantry was sweeping in the vicinity of the LZ, it killed one VC who was fleeing the area. The 4/A/3-60th Infantry and 1/C/3-60th Infantry made subsequent airmobile assaults to an LZ located in the vicinity of XS375100; the 4/A/3-60th Infantry preceeded the 1/C/3-60th Infantry and was engaged immediately upon landing with small arms and automatic weapons fire. Artillery and a light fire team were employed in support of the two platoons. In the meantime, E/3-60th Infantry developed contact at 1820 hours in the vicinity of XS385103. Company C (-) was airlifted at 1830 hours to locate a suspected enemy force in the vicinity of XS370049. At 2000 hours A/3-60

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AVDE-47MH-A

SUBJECT: Combat Operations - After Action Report

Infantry sustained several casualties when a gunship accidentally engaged elements of the company; three U.S. KNHA and four WNHA resulted. Two VC were killed later at 2130 hours when they attempted to enter the E/3-60th Infantry perimeter in the vicinity of XS383099.

(b) B/4-47th Infantry located and destroyed several small ammunition cache; while C/4-47th Infantry searched its area and found 1 VC KIA. The battalion continued its sweep until 1700 hours; at which time E(-)/4-47th Infantry was extracted from the AO to provide security for FSB RENEGADE. During the extraction assault support boats of River Division 112 were ambushed at 1700 hours. The boats had just completed backloading E/4-47th Infantry elements before being attacked from both banks of the DUA BO RIVER with rocket and automatic weapons fire. Monitor 112.1 received two direct RPG-2 or RPG 7 hits during the attack. The assault boats suppressed the hostile fire and continued to the fire support base. No friendly casualties resulted during the attack. As the 3-60th Infantry's contact increased it was decided to commit the 4-47th Infantry to exploit the contact. C/4-47th Infantry was briefly engaged at 1915 hours when its first air lift was leaving a PZ in the vicinity of XS372063. The company's first lift also encountered small arms and automatic weapons fire when it landed at XS381115. The remainder of the company was airlifted to the LZ to further develop the situation. B/4-47th Infantry was airlifted to the vicinity of XS371063 at 1920 hours and was immediately engaged with automatic weapons and small arms fire from the surrounding tree line. As the fire fight continued, a light fire team, artillery and a spooky flare ship were employed to support the engaged units. By 2025 hours, both B and C Companies remained in contact, and were being engaged from their North, South and East. The two companies of the 3-47th Infantry (C and E) were released at 2035 hours from OPCON to the 4-47th Infantry and were airlifted to Dong Tam. During their search of the area C and E/3-47th Infantry found 3 VC KIA, one rifle and one BAR and several items of clothing and supplies. Shortly thereafter, A and C/4-39th Infantry was placed under OPCON of the Brigade and arrived at FSB RENEGADE. The enemy broke contact at 2130 hours and the two battalions established night defensive positions.

(c) Throughout the day, D/3-5th Air Cavalry provided aerial reconnaissance and light fire teams support. The air cav troop reported one VC KIA at 1445 hours in the vicinity of XS395095, and one VC KIA at 1600 hours in the vicinity of XS37817. The air cav troop inserted its aero rifle platoon to search and clear the area of XS388068. During its sweep, the platoon destroyed six VC classrooms, 25 bunkers and six booby traps. During the day 15 VC KIA were accountable. Several of the bodies found were the result of the moderate fighting conducted on the preceding day. In addition, several quantities of small arms ammunition were found and destroyed.

(4) On 17 July, the Brigade continued its operations with the 3-60th Infantry sweeping from its night defensive positions to extraction points. B and E Companies moved to the vicinity of XS371111, embarked ATC at 1130 hours and returned to the MRB. A and C companies moved to the vicinity of XS375050 and embarked ATCs at 1550 hours for movement to the MRB. By 1810 hours the battalion had completed its extraction to the MRB. The 4-47th Infantry initiated sweeps throughout the area of its contact without any significant findings. B/4-47th Infantry sustained three WHA from booby traps ("Toe-poppers") in the vicinity of XS364055 and XS362058. At 1300 hours the battalion airlifted Company A to FSB RENEGADE for subsequent movement to the MRB. B and C Companies were airlifted later to the FSB, where they embarked ATCs and returned to the MRB. A and C/4-39th Infantry remained OPCON to the 4-47th Infantry until 1530 hours; at which time the two companies were airlifted to Dong Tam Base. At 0830 hours C/4-39th Infantry was airlifted to secure a down helicopter in the vicinity of XS408298. When it was determined that the helicopter was not servicable, it was destroyed in place, and the company returned to the AO. Aerial reconnaissance throughout the day was conducted by D/3-5th Air Cavalry. Throughout the day no significant engagements or contacts developed.

As a result of the three day operation the Brigade succeeded in killing 61 VC, and apprehended 56 detainees. Numerous quantities of VC supplies and equipment were also captured.

aa. 20 thru 22 July 1968.

(1) Completing operations in VINH BINH Province, the MRF departed to Dong Tam, arriving at 1220 hours. On 20 July the Brigade employed the 4-47th Infantry in beach assaults in KIEN HOA Province. The one battalion operation was conducted in accordance to Frag Order 1 to OPORD 60-68. The 4-47th Infantry (-) made beach assaults at 1350 hours in the vicinity of XS43407, XS462412 and XS477415. After landing unopposed, the battalion attacked south conducting saturation patrolling. A/4-47th Infantry sustained two U.S. WHA from a booby trap in the vicinity of XS473404. The battalion continued its operations without significant contact during the day, and established night defensive positions in the vicinity of XS480413, XS437403 and XS459408. E/4-47th Infantry killed one VC at 1910 hours in the vicinity of XS458409. Throughout the night, the battalion employed night ambush patrols.

(2) On 21 July the MRF continued its operation by establishing a Naval cordon around THOI SON Island; after which, the 3-60th Infantry and A/4-47th Infantry initiated search and clear operations. Thirty one assault support craft established the blockade around the island at 0400 hours. After which, the 3-60th Infantry and Vietnamese Regional Force troops beached on the north side of the island. Assault craft were deployed on both sides of the island to prevent sampans from leaving the AO. The 4-47th Infantry (-) was extracted from the south bank of the SONG MY THO opposite the island and returned to the MRB. A/4-47th Infantry was inserted on the south side of THOI SON Island and began to sweep toward the 3-60th Infantry. E/3-60th Infantry beached at 0653 hours and established contact with a VC squad in the vicinity of XS458427. C/3-60th Infantry was then inserted, conducting a beach assault in the vicinity of XS452426, to exploit E Company's contact. B/3-60th Infantry was employed in a beach assault at XS468428. By 0725 hours, the battalion was attacking southwest encountering sporadic engagements of sniper fire and booby traps. C/3-60th Infantry was engaged with sniper fire from a tree line in the vicinity of XS452426; one U.S. was WHA. C and B Companies encountered sniper fire at 1100 hours, and each company sustained two U.S. WHA. E/3-60th Infantry killed one VC in the vicinity of XS449424, and later sustained one U.S. WHA and one scout dog killed as a result of sniper fire. Three U.S. WHA also resulted from booby trap incidents. The 3-60th Infantry continued its movement to the vicinity of XS449417 and XS438412 where it established night defensive positions and ambushes. A/4-47 Infantry backloaded ATCs earlier in the day (at 1300 hours) and became OPCON to the 3-60th Infantry. The company beached at XS428410 and attacked toward the 3-60th Infantry. A/4-47th encountered no significant contact during the day and established its night defensive position in the vicinity of XS437413. On 22 July the 3-60th Infantry and A/4-47th Infantry were extracted from the AO and returned to the MRB. Results of the two day operation were 2 VC KIA, 3 POWs and 59 detainees apprehended. Friendly losses consisted of 12 U.S. WHA and one scout dog killed.

bb. 23 July 25 July 1968.

(1) The MRF continued offensive operations on 23 July in co-operation and coordination with elements of the 7th ARVN Division. The operation was conducted in GIONG THOM and TRUC GIANG Districts, KIEN HOA Province to locate, fix and destroy elements of the 516th MF Bn and 570th LF Co. Concurrently with the introduction of maneuver forces in the AOs, several B-52 strikes were employed against enemy forces and facilities located in the center of the adjacent AOs.

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