

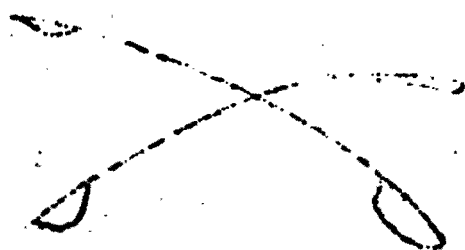
2nd Squadron 17th Cavalry

Unit History

For

1970

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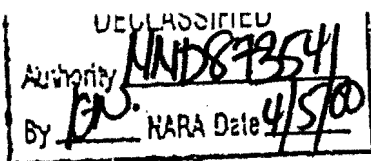


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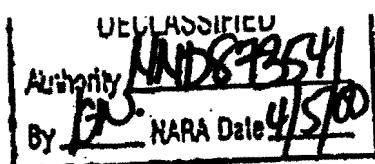


Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

January 1970 found the 2/17th Cavalry Squadron staging out of Camp Eagle, Republic of Vietnam, under the command and direction of LTC Bindup, Headquarters, and all Troops and the Ranger Company were located at Camp Eagle, except for C Troop which staged from Phu Bai Army Airfield, directly across Highway QL1 from Camp Eagle. New Year's Day started for A Troop on the DMZ in support of ranger team Shelby in contact. An OH-6A received AK-47 ground fire from an estimated platoon size element across the Laotian border. The aircraft received one hit in the tail rotor and was flown back to Camp Eagle with negative casualties to the crew. B Troop continued visual reconnaissance of the 1st Brigade AO and supported the rangers with overflights and LZ selection. C Troop also conducted sniffer missions throughout the Division Area of Operations. D Troop OH-6A received enemy ground fire from eight to ten enemy positions resulting in two sustained aircraft hits and one US WIA. The WIA was flown to 85th Evacuation Hospital. Delta Troop was inserted to support Ranger team Shelby who had made contact with an estimated squad of NVA. The Troop was monitoring a trail and observed eight NVA and engaged with claymores, fragmentation grenades, and small arms fire. The contact resulted in one NVA KIA and one US WIA.

The primary areas of operations for Company L, (Ranger), 75th Infantry, during January 1970 were the Da Krong Valley and the Khe Sanh Plains in North Vietnam. There was considerable increase in the number of enemy sightings and contacts during the month, indicating areas of heavy enemy activity. Twenty-three teams were deployed in January, observing the enemy on seventeen different occasions and determining the location of several large enemy forces in the area of operations. There were 15 enemy KIA's credited to Company L during January. Several teams made contact with the enemy shortly after insertion, presenting the possibility that the NVA were utilizing LZ watchers who were observing the insertion of the teams. Numerous teams deployed in the Da Krong Valley heard enemy signal shots at various times during their operation. Often these shots were along the Da Krong River, indicating enemy movement along its bank. The enemy encountered by the teams was well equipped, usually wearing green fatigues, load bearing equipment and AK-47 rifles.

The stage was set for another year as the "Eyes, Ears, and Teeth" of the Division continued to seek out, hamper, harass, and destroy the enemy. A Troop continued to work the northern region of the Division AO and support the 1st Brigade. B Troop sliced the middle recon zones and C Troop commanded the southern AO. All Troops went direct support of the 3rd, 1st, and 2nd Battalions respectively, and at the end of the month, the 2/17th Cavalry had destroyed more than 90 of the enemy; destroyed over 28 bunkers and 43 huts; one mortar and one 1 1/2 ton trailer, and sliced a number of 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine guns.



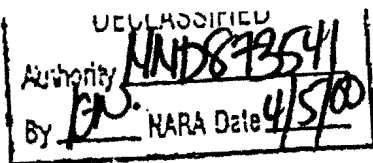
Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

During the month of February, ranger teams were employed along enemy infiltration routes in the Khe Sanh Plains area of Quang Tri Province, the Three-Mountain region of the Song Be River, and in the area approximately 30 kilometers southeast of Camp Eagle near FSB Thor and Pilo. A total of five enemy sightings were made by the 28 teams employed during the month. Nine were killed and Company L sustained one wounded.

Troop continued direct support to the 3rd Brigade, and B and C Troops were direct support of the 1st and 2nd Brigades respectively. Delta Troop was alerted south of FSB Tennessee to conduct a reconnaissance in force (RIF). They found numerous trails with no recent activity. The Troop did find and destroy one ton by ton foot hut and then when was extracted back to Camp Pilo. Troop F was formed in mid January and continued Squadron missions throughout the area of operations. The Troop was composed of A Company, 101st Airborne Battalion personnel and was augmented with OH-6A's to form the Troop.

Squadron moved into Operation Randolph Glen on 15 February 1970 through March 1970. A Troop stayed from Quang Tri Army Airfield with their national assets, while the 332nd AHC Detachment and a platoon crew remained at Camp Eagle. The Troop continued direct support to the 3rd Brigade and the co-rifle platoon provided ground reconnaissance and was the immediate reaction force for downed aircraft in the northern portion of the Squadron's area in the 3rd Brigade AO. Air Cavalry operations were controlled by Troop Commander or the Operations Officer to the Command and Control aircraft. The Troop flew reconnaissance missions, IFF's and supported air overflights, insertions, and extractions. Artillery was provided and controlled by the 5th Mechanized Division and was adjusted by the Troop aircraft. Medical ambulances were on call from the Brigade S-3 Air directed by the Troop.

All C Troops showed increased enemy activity during the period from 15 May to 31 March 1970. The Troops revealed extensive enemy presence in A Shon Valley, the area around Pilo Airborne, and in the vicinity of FSB Pilo. On 1 March, an C Troop OH-6A received heavy 51 caliber ground fire the aircraft was forced down at the A Shon Air Strip. The same day BFP log bridges were destroyed. On 3 March, 15 hootches were observed and numerous aircraft air kilometers west of Pilo Airborne. Hostile air was sent onto the target and a complete target destruction resulted. The battle in the Valley continued throughout the month and the enemy exchanged caliber fire with 20mm Cobra gunships. The Troops had been successful in attacking, delaying and harassing the enemy, but the infiltration continued.

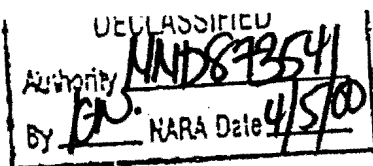


Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

During March, ranger teams continued to operate in Quang Tri Province and the area southwest of Camp Eagle. Teams were also employed in the Rueng Valley south of Camp Eagle. The 33 missions conducted during the month resulted in enemy sightings on 27 occasions. Eight enemy were killed and the company suffered eight wounded.

On April, 30 ranger teams were inserted throughout the Division Reconnaissance area, sightings the enemy 14 times. Missions assigned to Company I during the month of April emphasized the capturing of prisoners of war. Ranger teams conducted ambushes, sensor monitoring missions, and joint US/ARVN reconnaissance missions into their operations. The monitoring of sensor devices proved highly successful in detecting enemy presence and movement. Artillery and gunship support was employed in the areas of activation. Four ranger teams participated in US/ARVN combined patrols, with some difficulty encountered in coordination due to language difficulties and differences in tactics.

While operating on an early morning mission, an A Troop Hunter-Killer team (Scout OH-6A and one AH-1G Cobra), discovered five IVA swimming across a river. The OH-6A received AK fire from the enemy and in return, called the AH-1G Cobra who engaged the area using high explosives and fleshete rockets. As the Cobra furnished protection to the OH-6A, the Scout went down to attempt to recover one of the packs. The observer from the OH-6A dismounted his aircraft and while retrieving the pack, noticed that there were bodies, five additional packs, weapons and other equipment. At this time the Troop Commander decided to combat assault a squad from the Aero-rifle platoon to recover the weapons, equipment, and to search the bodies. At 0800 hours, 14 April 1970, a nine man squad from the A Troop aero-rifle platoon conducted a combat assault, utilizing two lift aircraft. No fire was received on approach or exit. The squad met with no enemy resistance and were able to complete their mission in thirty minutes, capturing six packs, one AK-47 50 rifle, one new Soviet made gas mask, personal clothing, food-stuffs, a radio, and some cleaning equipment. After gathering the items the squad was extracted back to Quang Tri and the items sent forward to the 1st S-2 for analysis, and then to Division G-2.



quadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

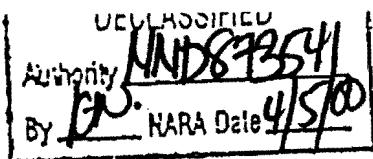
April, ranger team Arizona spotted an undamaged number of NVA crossing the river near FSB Holcomb. A Hunter-Killer team from A Troop was called in to monitor the area. During the reconnaissance, the OH-6A spotted two NVA crossing the aircraft with small arms fire. The Cobra gunships engaged the NVA with flashette rockets. The OH-6A dipped down and discovered three NVA dead and two more wounded. At 1550 hours, four UH-1H helicopters were assaulting the A Troop area-rifle platoon into the contact area. Moderate ground fire was received by all aircraft and the fourth aircraft relieved and the doorgunner was injured wounded. The platoon moved into the area and recovered a NVA body, six packs, and a new AK-47 rifle. The Kit Carson called out to the enemy and told them to surrender and that they would all be treated. After no reply was received the Troops continued to search the area. One uninjured NVA engaged the point man with his AK-47. The point man returned fire and killed the NVA. Moving further the platoon found two dead NVA and removed their packs. Near a small pond two more NVA were dead, their packs removed, and the platoon moved back to the LZ for extraction. During the ground operations, Cobra gunships killed six more NVA screening for the ground element.

Due to storm weather held B and C Troop from any significant activities in the reconnaissance zones or in the A Shau Valley. The Troop continued Squadron missions and support the Division Brigades. ARPs remained ready of downed aircraft security and air and artillery adjustment were led by the Troops.

With the Air Cavalry Troops recon the Division AD with A Troop working out of Tri and concentrating in the Da Krong and Khe Sanh Plains. Troops B and C also worked for the 3rd, 1st, and 2nd Brigade respectively during the period. Troop D was employed as a ready reaction force for downed aircraft and was capable for providing gun jeep escort on Highway 547 in the FSB Vaghol, Khe, and Birmingham area. D Troop was also employed ten man reconnaissance which provided screening missions and intelligence for the Division. Company (agers) 75th Infantry, conducted operations throughout the reconnaissance during the period, mainly in the Tennessee Valley, FSB Brick area and the Ruong Ruong Valley. The three Air Cavalry Troops conducted specific missions to include; first and last light security around fire bases, insert/extract teams, bomb damage assessments for B-52 strikes, and reconnaissance missions to determine the effectiveness of high performance aircraft strikes, 1 drops, flame drops, and artillery strikes. Pink teams were also provided Delts Project on request. On 6 May a Hunter-Killer team while on a visual reconnaissance mission. The enemy was engaged and resulted in four killed eight kilometers south of FSB Ripcord.

On 11 May a communications check was made by the rangers TOC, with antennas located east of FSB Spear. At 0600H, communications with the team were lost. An OH-6A was dispatched to establish communication but the team was found dead. B Troop ARP was alerted to recover the bodies and element.

A team spotted 12 NVA crossing a river at the Three-Forks area on 18 May. Due to delay to get clearance to fire, the team engaged the enemy, resulting in 4 KIA. ARA was then employed and they accounted for an additional three



Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Armable), Unit History for 1970.

May an OH-6A from B Troop while conducting BDA in the southern A Shau y received small arms fire. The crew has been forced to make a precautionary landing further north in the Valley. The aircraft was found to be non-flyable, was extricated along with the uninjured crew.

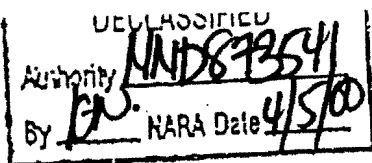
FSB Kathryn on 24 May C Troop's aero-rifle platoon were utilized on various false insertions. The operation was conducted in conjunction with a brigade move and was designed to confuse the enemy as to the location of troops that were actually inserted.

Supporting Delta Project on 28 May, a reconnaissance team from A Troop located an NVA base camp along Highway 616 in the Laotian Salient. Two NVA engaged one was killed. Further north three vehicles were engaged, resulting in two destroyed.

1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry continued during the month of June to conduct reconnaissance in the Division Reconnaissance Zones. A Troop continued to support 1st Brigade 5th Mech Infantry, 3rd Brigade, and the 54th ARVN Division. A Troop's missions continued for the Squadron including responsibility for securing downed aircraft, conducting bomb damage assessments for B-52 strikes, sky spots, artillery, and tactical air strikes and providing first and last reconnaissance a round US held FSB's. D Troop continued to provide a security force for downed aircraft and convoy security along route 547. Co L of the 5th Infantry moved their area of operations north from the A Shau y to the hills around Khe Sanh.

During the first week of June, the 9th Battalion, 66th NVA Regiment attacked FSB Tay and Tay Tavern. Both A and B Troops supported the 54th ARVN Division with link teams and Command and Control aircraft to repel the NVA attacks. On 7 June Troop A killed four NVA by Cobra gunships in Tay Tavern area. When the Cavalry men engaged the enemy, secondary explosions resulted. On the trail of the enemy located three packs, one bedroll, and two AK-47 rifles were captured.

On 17 June when the Squadron initiated its first Squadron level operation of the reporting period, the Troops continued their usual reconnaissance consisting on sniper and BDA missions.



Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

First week of July, A Troop continued its reconnaissance of the Khe Sanh and surrounding highlands and provided a joint team daily to the 3rd. B and C Troops concentrated on reconnaissance, bomb damage assessmentillery and airstrike assignments in the A Shau Valley and southern reconnaissance zones. On 6 July, Headquarters Troop moved and established a forward camp at Quang Tri. The following day the remainder of the Squadron closed on the North Army Airfield with their air and ground assets. The second major operation was under way.

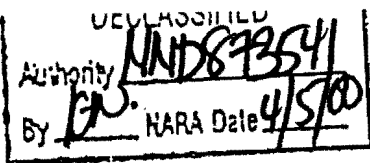
After destroying part of the 66th Regiment the previous month, the 2/17th Cavalry engaged against the 9th Regiment believed to have first arrived in south Vietnam from its sanctuaries in Laos. At approximately 1130H on 8 July, a pink team conducting a visual reconnaissance in the FSB Snapper area, observed NVA in the open moving along a fresh, well-beaten trail. The enemy was immediately engaged by the Cobra gunship. Additional pink team gunships were requested. In the initial engagement 50 NVA were killed. One hour later ten more were killed by helicopters in the same area. Continuing to recon the area, the pink teams observed groups of ten to twenty NVA, separated by 100-200 meters, all along the trail. The enemy was wearing green uniforms, with helmets, and carrying rice rolls and assault rifles and carbines. At 1358H, Delta Company and the Aero-rifle platoon of A Troop were inserted at the point of initial contact to sweep the area and capture a prisoner. The element placed a number of traps and enemy equipment on landing zone. On the trail UH-1H as it left the last of Troop D personnel.

The prisoner was immediately extracted to Quang Tri, where initial readout identified him as elements of the 9th NVA Regiment.

That evening, the Squadron continued to conduct visual reconnaissance of the area around two NVA/KIA vicinity FSB Snapper. That evening a wounded NVA was captured and evacuated to the 18th Surgical Hospital where he later died of wounds. Two hours later a LOR extracted a Hoi Chanh who was taken to Quang Tri for interrogation. In reaction to this activity, Operation Clinch Valley, was initiated.

On 10 July, the 3rd Brigade opened FSB Shepard and two battalions of the 3rd (ARVN) assaulted into FSB Smith. This started the reconnaissance in which the Squadron with extensive aerial gunship cover.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions, 3rd Regiment (ARVN) continued to operate in the area. A and B Troops checked possible infiltration routes into the battle area and possible escape routes used by the enemy. Operation Clinch Valley closed on 11 July, with the Squadron credited with 214 confirmed enemy KIA. As the Headquarters and B Troop moved back to Camp Ngoc to continue their

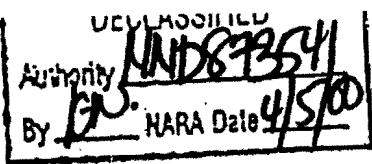


Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

During the period 27 to 29 June the 2/17th Cav. was involved in extensive operations in the vicinity of FSB Leatherneck. The Squadron relocated its main Operations Center to Quang Tri. Prior to concentrating the entire Squadron, A Troop conducted extensive visual reconnaissance in the area and developed a good deal of reliable intelligence. Five NVA wearing green uniforms with AK-47's were observed moving across a landing zone. The area was engaged with gunships resulting in two NVA killed. An estimated 200 log stored bunkers were observed. Fifteen pup tents, two camp fires, numerous tents oriented in all directions, six ponchos, and ten NVA were observed in the area engaged by gunships. It was felt that elements of the 304th NVA Division, specifically the 66th NVA Regiment, had a base camp and a hospital in the vicinity. It was this target that the Squadron sought to discover.

Finally, D Troop was committed on 19 June, and they discovered a complete hospital and bunker complex. Enemy contact was made resulting in one KIA by fragmentation grenade. All enemy equipment with the area totaled 1 RPG's, 71 Chicom grenades, two rolls of camo wire, 40 pounds of demolition, 1000 pounds of rice, 24 full rucks, 100 pounds of medical supplies, a complete supply of surgical instruments and one SIG rifle, 20 pounds of documents. A and B Troops' anti-rifle platoons and inserted with D Troop to assist in the situation. On the 19th the Squadron received operation control from Mac Bac Company, from 1st ARVN Division. The Mac Bac, a well trained and disciplined mobile strike force, normally employed by the 1st ARVN Division, was inserted and swept across the hospital-base area objective. The operation terminated as a complete success on 25 June and the Squadron's elements and the Mac Bac back to their base camps.

The Squadron in July remained "OUT FRONT" in the Division Reconnaissance. Having the same operational commitment as in the previous two months, having just completed a successful combined US/ARVN operation, the Squadron was anxious to launch into a new month. The rangers remained in the vicinity of the Laotian border and the Khe Sanh Plains, until 23 July when they moved to the 2nd Brigade area of Operations around Leach Island and south of FSB Leatherneck.



adren, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

1 July the Squadron conducted routine first and last light reconnaissance, bomb damage assessments, and visual reconnaissance missions. On 21 July near the FSB Bradley area, a IOH spotted 20 NVA in the open. Immediately four gunships engaged the target resulting in seven NVA/ATA. Additional gunships, and CS drops were employed in the area. A base was uncovered consisting of assorted sized bunkers. Two NVA were spotted in the bunkers and engaged by gunships. Both NVA were killed.

Early in the morning the 3rd Brigade evacuated FSB Ripcord. The Squadron provided a screen to the west for the operation. Upon completion of the extraction, of all troops, the 2/17th Cav assumed control of the Ripcord area. For the remainder of that day and all of the next. A, B, and C Troops employed a series of airstrikes and artillery concentrations, into the same infested area.

Early in the morning, the Squadron assaulted the FSB Ripcord area with a platoon from D Troop to extract the US bodies left behind by the 3rd Brigade.

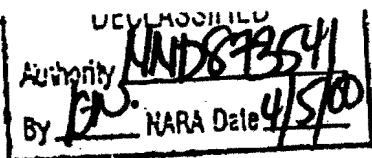
On 28th of August, the Squadron continued surveillance along the Laotian border to the DMZ. B Troop continued direct support to the 1st Bde as well as reconnaissance and first and last light missions throughout the AO.

D Troop continued to assist the rangers and BAVI's in the northern AO. D Troop remained IAW for Camp Eagle and acted as back up force for the BAVI insertions. D Troop also continued armed jeep convoy escorts for the

1st Bde. The Squadron provided aerial and ground reconnaissance, provided screening and support for various brigade elements; and supported numerous ranger insertion missions. The Troop reacted to numerous contact missions of both U.S. elements and supported numerous air mobile operations involving D Troop, the 1st Bde, the 1st ARVN, the 1st Bde, and the 1st ARVN. BDA's were also used and marked increase of 51 caliber anti-aircraft machine gun positions were observed and engaged.

The Squadron was utilized as direct support of both the 1st Bde and the 1st ARVN. The Troop continued its visual reconnaissance missions and provided support for downed aircraft in the division area of operations. BDA's were used for B-52 strikes, sky spots, artillery, tactical air strikes, and attacks employed by the troop.

The Squadron conducted aerial VNA's, BDA's and supported the rangers. The rangers included insertion of the AR P as security for ranger radio relay teams. In addition, the AR P was used as a security force for engineer LZ cutting teams and as a reaction force for downed aircraft in the division AO.



adron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

provided extensive ground reconnaissance, provided aircraft security and y, a ready reaction force for ground units in contact, and daily convoy. Also ambushes and sweeps of the Camp Eagle perimeter were provided, and served as the Base Defense Reaction Force. Delta was inserted with the Company on 16 August; secured and recovered two downed aircraft; re- d two ranger teams in contact; provided 31 days of convoy escort; and days of ground reconnaissance.

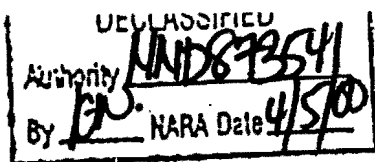
B (Ranger), 75th Infantry deployed 38 teams during the month of August. are inserted near FSB Leatherneck, in the Huong Huong Valley, and in the ear area. Fourteen enemy sightings were made and contact was initiated occasions. As a result of these contacts, two NVA/VC were killed. The y sustained three KIA and nine WIA.

sed enemy activity in the Elephant Valley called for immediate command ntrol by the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, and on 3 September 1970, 20 es from FSB quarters Troop, five from C Troop, and six from D Troop rched from Camp Eagle to Marble Mountain, Da Nang. A CP was immediately ished and the Elephant Valley belonged to the Cavalry. Enemy small arms to-matic fire slammed into the assaulting Cavalry, crippling two C Troop ft and wounding two crewmembers on 8 and 16 September. Seaty pressure and sed use of ARP's for ground operations slowly ebbed the enemy from his old.

detailed visual reconnaissance missions of the South, East, and West SB Spear determined to locate an unknown size enemy force. On 3 Sept- contact was made and pink teams killed six enemy soldiers three kilo- north-east of the firebase.

le, A Troop concentrated on supporting the ARVN units in the vicinity O'Reilly. Five aircraft were shot at, two receiving hits, and two NVA lled during the engagement. The Troop continued its visual reconnaissance northern reconnaissance zones and responded to URS's and performed aerial nd WDA's. The ARP was utilized near FSB Skilloh and FSB Leatherneck to SDA Arc Light.

worked mid month night missions with the F-4H aircraft, and on 15 e, F-4H spotted a truck depot southeast of The Sang. Later in the airstrikes were employed and pink teams post damage assessment revealed ey trucks destroyed. For the remainder of the month B Troop was in report of the 1st ARVN Division at FSB O'Reilly.



Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

Squadron returned from Marble Mountain, and C Troop worked the MSB Brskine. On the night of 18 September, and morning of 19 September, the Troop, BTR and Cobra gunships engaged and destroyed one four ton truck in that area. Follow up airstrikes destroyed another four ton truck, a 51 caliber anti-aircraft gun, and several bunkers. For the remainder of the month, C Troop worked the southern reconnaissance zones employing link teams and the BTR to support my forces in the area.

Troop continued supporting ARVN forces near MSB Barrett, and northwest of Binh Hoa. Numerous shot-outs and targets were encountered, and on 18 September the Mac Bao Company was inserted with A Troop providing command and control, screening link teams, and directing airstrikes. Activity shifted to the MSB O'Reilly area and A Troop continued support for the remainder of the month with visual reconnaissance, location and destruction of enemy mortar and gun positions, direction of BDA's of airstrikes, and flank security for maneuvering units.

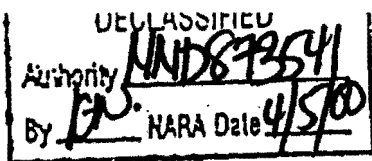
Troop continued to provide convoy escort, and was available for downed aircraft security and recovery. Additionally Delta provided ambushes and sweep operations. Campungle and served as its base defense reaction force. One platoon provided a convoy escort for B and C Troop on the mission to Da Nang.

In September, Delta Troop repelled 12 kilometers south of MSB Hist for reconnaissance in force. The Troop discovered two 100 pound caches of rice, and grain, and forwarding equipment. Due to low flood coverage, the troop remained on the ground for five days before extraction could be completed.

In the month of September 1970, Co L, (Bonger), 75th Infantry, employed units in the A Shau and the Huong Huong Valley. Thirteen enemy sightings were made and contacted initiated on six occasions. As a result of three consecutive BVA/VJ were killed, and the Company sustained one KIA.

Co L (Bonger) deployed a total of 24 teams during the month of October. Teams were inserted in the vicinity of the Dak Ma; four teams were inserted on route 547; and the remainder were inserted in or near the Quan, Huo Trang, and B Bo Rivers. Bonger's teams established contact with the enemy on several occasions and had visual sightings on eight occasions.

Troop continued surveillance of the northern reconnaissance zones and also provided reconnaissance and security for the 3rd Brigade and its subordinate elements. Troop of first and last light reconnaissance and location to contact missions, as in the two previous months, provided cover aircraft and a Command and Control aircraft flown by the Troop Commander, even the Mac Bao Company on different occasions. Lifts utilizing the aero-rifle platoon also continued. Troop A conducted bomb damage assessment of Aro Light strikes and provided support for BTR missions. The aero-rifle platoon also secured downed aircraft in the Division AO.



Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

was used in general support of the 101st Airborne Division and in support of the 1st Brigade. In addition to gathering intelligence and visual reconnaissance missions, the Troop provided downed aircraft recovery, high ambushes outside Camp Eagle perimeter, BDA's and support to rangers.

continued to stage from Phu Bai AAF in general support of the Division. Included aerial VR's BDA's, ground reconnaissance, support for the rangers, and standby for downed aircraft recovery.

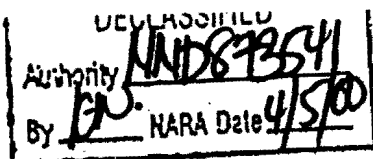
Troop operations were severely limited due to monsoon weather. Still, provided four days of ground reconnaissance, a reaction force for ground operations, (Once securing an area for ranger operations), ambushes and sweeps outside Camp Eagle and served as base defense reaction force.

Squadron was restricted from significant activity due to poor conditions throughout the month. Typhoons battered the base camp on two occasions and clouds and precipitation in the mountainous area of operation further restricted activity. The major significant activity occurred on 22 October when FLIR and SIGINT spotted and engaged approximately 20 NVA resulting in 19 confirmed kills.

Flying in the lowlands and large area of mountain fog placed new emphasis on the OH-6A Scout aircraft. Due to marginal weather and almost totally unusable areas, the LOH was found of performing emergency resupplies and missions. The LOH, by maintaining visual contact with its ground Cav easily moved into clouds and into hot LZ's when the weather is too restricted for UH-1H's.

During the monsoon season, there was little air and reconnaissance activity from the Troop during the first two weeks of the month. On 13 and 14 November along with a team of engineers was inserted to clear FSB Kelly's, Maureen, Myrna. A number of old 105 rounds, fragmentation grenades and blasting caps were disposed of. On 15 November, ranger team Bills was in contact with an ARVN unit. The ARVN and elements of Delta Troop were inserted just north of FSB Maureen, and while attempting to recover the ranger KIA received AK-47 fire, resulting in six ARVN wounded and another ranger KIA.

The (Ranger) 75th Infantry deployed 13 ranger teams during the month of November 1970. Emphasis was on reconnaissance around FSB's Ripcord and Kaytham. No contacts were initiated. The contact initiated on the 16th by ranger team Bills provided the needed intelligence for establishing the location of Battalion 803rd NVA Regiment. The Bills had two friendly KIA as a result of the contact. Due to inclement weather, ranger teams were shifted from the Kaytham area onto the Hiep Huong Valley, to determine infiltration of the NVA into the lowlands of Thanh Thien Province. No other contacts or sightings were made.



son, with Security (airborne). Unit History Dec 1970.

p continued its search of the northern reconnaissance zones and provided
mission and security to the 3rd Brigade. The high winds and heavy rain
in the zone were continued during the month. Troop from Co L, (Range
troop were sent to Troop to be deployed in the northern reconnaissance
Troop responded with overflights, inspections, and extractions and as
on 2 Dec for the ranger teams. ARVN support was restricted to the PSB Bar
during the month.

1st through 13th provided poor flying weather for the Squadron, and
Troops were restricted in reconnaissance missions. B Troop APT was
on 2 Dec to recover some wooden boxes spilled during a V. The boxes
out to be old American powder canisters and were returned to Camp Eagle.
p was held up until 11 December due to weather but on that day they
tioned their HQ on PWS Vaguel as a ready location for Delta Troop
Troop had mission to monitor sensor devices. The Troop also provided vis
sion in the Long Kong Valley for the majority of the month. FLIR
supported by the Troop but weather restriction also hampered missions.

Next five days, all elements of B, C, D, and Co E and HRT went ORCON to 1st
e, in a joint operations and artillery raid against a Huginantail base Camp
of PWS Mountain. The Galaxy killed 15 enemy and destroyed his suspected str
ect and supplies, many of which resulted in secondary explosions.

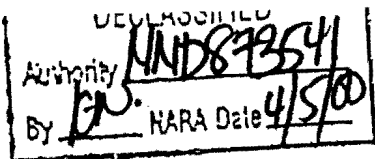
agers conducted ten long range reconnaissance patrols, employing six
in the Blue Bird Plains, and Vietnamese Southern regions. Their mission was
ack enemy infiltration routes from Laos in the Blue Bird Province.
were no significant sightings or contacts. Four teams were employed
area of Three-Lake and Blue Star Province. These teams
employed to check the infiltration routes used by the NVA from Laos into
lands of the Blue Bird Province. There were no significant sightings
enemy contact was initiated.

ndron received well deserved rest and enjoyed the year by viewing
e Christmas show on 24 Dec 1970. The 3rd and 4th Troops were
to provide security for the show and his old home. The majority of the
was able to see the spectacle.

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HISTORY OF THE 2D SQUADRON (AMBL), 17TH CAVALRY (1968)



SUPPLEMENT TO 2D SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY UNIT HISTORY

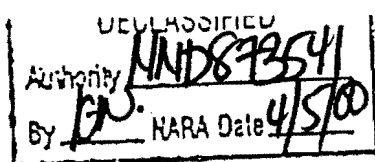
The beginning of 1968 found the 2nd Squadron in Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam following their deployment to same. The airborne cavalrymen continued in-country training and acclimatization in preparation for their first mission. On the 2nd of January the squadron, in its entirety, departed enroute to Song Be City, Phouc Long Province, near the Cambodian border. Its mission was the securing of an area for the division CP to set up in. The first priority was to set up an adequate base of operations. This required the clearing of several acres of thick underbrush and woodlines. The new base began to take shape on 10 January, while the combat troopers of the troop and the aero-rifle platoon patrolled the local area to insure that the area was not interfered with by the Viet Cong.

Then, on 15 January, the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry saw its first action. The aero-rifle platoon was on patrol when one squad was suddenly taken under attack by hostile forces. The hostile force had made a great error, however, as most of the platoon was very near to the action and began sweeping the enemy flank. As a result, the enemy lost at least 7 KIA by actual body count. The platoon then withdrew, calling in artillery behind it, and a sweep of the area the next day revealed many blood trails, indicating even greater casualties had been inflicted on the enemy. This small battle was to set the stage for the cavalrymen for the rest of the year.

Throughout the rest of January there was relatively little contact in the area of the cavalry. In the meantime, the squadron acquired 7 armored personnel carriers, M-113's, which were fitted with the ACAV kits and assigned to "B" troop. On the morning of 31 January, the day of the now infamous Tet offensive, the cavalrymen received an urgent call to go to the aid of Phouc Binh village which was just South of their perimeter. The armored platoon moved out and, in the afternoon of bitter fighting with VC/NVA forces, killed 56 of the enemy while suffering only light casualties themselves. It was another case of the squadron being proud in contact with hostile forces.

Then came the month of February and with it, two very significant events; the return of "A" troop to squadron control and the battle of Song Be City. On the 1st of February CPT Raymond C. Hartjen, CO of "A" troop, 2d Squadron, which had been with the 1st Brigade since June 1965, reported to LTC Julius W. Pecton, Squadron Commander, that his troop was returning to the squadron and was at the airfield, off loading at the Song Be airfield. This marked the reunion of many old friends and the start of a new history for the squadron. They were now, with the exception of "C" troop, working as a whole, and this small, not quite a full sized unit was to do the work of many larger units in its combat efforts.

On the 10th of February the squadron received word that the mission of the 2d Squadron was to be changed, in view of developments from the Tet offensive. The squadron began planning for a move back to Bien Hoa, knowing that their next assignment was the I Corps area, near the DMZ, which had been hit so heavy during the Tet attacks. On 17 February, however, the squadron suddenly received a call from the city of Song Be stating that they were under heavy attack and needed assistance. The squadron alerted "B" troop and one platoon of



op and the battle of Song Be began. First, an infantry company from the 1st Squadron was added to the squadron strength to aid in the relief of the city. "B" Company, under the command of CPT Joseph Rozelle, deployed along the road leading to the city and began to sweep North. The platoon of "A" troop and the infantry company moved on to the limits of the town where they came under heavy fire. At this time gunship teams from the 101st Avn Bn were requested and Black Angels swung into action. This entire operation was under the command of the Squadron Commander, LTC Julius W. Pecton, who was orbiting over the city and controlling the operation throughout the entire operation. During the three day battle the NVA regiment was routed from the city of Song Be, leaving behind 243 of their dead. The squadron had again met the enemy and had emerged victorious. When the troops arrived at Song Be they were a new unit to combat but when they departed, a scant two months later, they were seasoned combat veterans, with the beginning of an outstanding combat record which they were to continue in the future.

As soon as the battle was ended the squadron received the movement order to move to Bien Hoa. Again the squadron loaded onto C-130's and made the flight to Bien Hoa. The stay at Bien Hoa proved to be a very short one as they were immediately made to send the squadron North. Their equipment was to be moved by sea and all personnel by air. The point where they would link up was at Da Nang, RVN. This linkup was accomplished on 15 March 1968 and the squadron began the trip by road to Hue/Phu Bai and Camp Eagle. They arrived at Camp Eagle after an all day trip and linked up with the forward elements.

The squadron began to set up for operations but again their stay was a short one. On 20 March the squadron was moved to LZ Pinky, some 5 KM North of the administrative elements moved to LZ Sally with the 2nd Brigade Headquarters, another 3 KM North of LZ Pinky. LZ Pinky had been a staging area for the 1st AVN during the Tet offensive and was full of bunkers, trenches, etc. Contact was very minimal during the squadron's stay there and after they again received word to move out. This time it was to Camp Evans, approximately 15 KM North of Hue and 15 KM South of Quang Tri. The area of operation was to be along the infamous "Street of Joy". This was Highway 1 which runs through the area North of Hue, bordering on the DMZ, which was immortalized by Bernard Falls documentary of the same name.

The squadron immediately began combat operations in this AO. The first contact proved fruitless but there were definite signs of the enemy in the area. On the 20th of April, in a little village called Cao Bang, the squadron found a portion of the enemy. When the battle was over the VC/NVA had 33 dead and the squadron had captured 7 POW's. This was the first contact in that area which the cavalrymen soon came to detest.

The squadron AO was a vital supply link, the AN 10 bridge which spanned the Bo river and carried the traffic of highway 1, which consisted of numerous convoys moving North and South along the important highway. On the 24th and 25th of April the squadron experienced light mortar attacks and responded with artillery fire, which accounted for 12 enemy. On the 27th of April a large enemy force was contacted in Cao Bang, just

the bridge, and both "A" and "B" troops moved in to develop the contact. C Pecton was overhead directing the squadron, evacuating wounded, recon- fire and pinpointing enemy locations for his ground troops. He was assisted by Fred Crump, then squadron S-3, and there were many nights that these other cavalry leaders went without sleep to expedite the mission. This effort netted the squadron 44 enemy dead and 2 POW's.

During the period 1 and 2 May, "A" and "B" troops found and destroyed 25 in the vicinity of Cao Pang. This was the third encounter in this area. The tire area was levelled by bull dozers and roan plows to preclude further operations in the bunker complexes. Thus ended the confrontations at Cao

May the squadron received an urgent call to proceed to Ia Chu, located south of LZ Pinky. It developed into a battle that lasted all night long and came the enemy had lost 51 more men, by body count, to the airborne unit. The squadron, after this encounter, moved its base of operations to the coast and the troops moved out to the coastal plains South of Hue. The line set up an LZ which was to become known as LZ Forward. The squadron TOC was in the district headquarters at Phu Thu, located just South of Hue. It was a base of operations for all concerned and it did not take long to find out the enemy was there too. The first contact came on 28 May near the village of Dong, located near the bay of water which runs along the coast in this area. Troop found the enemy and a cordon was quickly thrown around the area. With the help of the ARVN's, a sister infantry company, some Navy PEP's and Marines and AMTRACS. The results of this encounter were phenomenal as it was a body count of 163 VC/NVA for the entire task force. The cavalrymen were responsible for the operation and on 31 May the cordon was terminated as a successful mission. On the 2d of June, "A" Troop, during a sweep operation, detected an estimated enemy battalion and another cordon was prepared. During the ensuing 12 days 107 more of the enemy fell, near the village of Vinh. The cavalrymen's cordon. These two highly successful operations, it was learned from intelligence sources, decimated the K-4 and K-10 enemy battalions and the 803rd NVA regimental headquarters. As they had in the past, the cavalrymen performed their mission to the utmost of their ability and at their motto of "Forward".

On the 25th of June, the cavalrymen bid farewell to their commander, LTC and welcomed the new Squadron Commander, LTC Robert B. Clark, III, to the unit. This proved not only to be a change of commanders, but a change of mission also. There had been many rumors about the 101st becoming an air mission unit, thereby making the squadron an air cavalry squadron with responsibility throughout the division area of operation. In order to begin the new mission, the squadron, which had been utilized much as an infantry battalion in preceding months, moved into the division base camp at Camp Eagle and to receive the air cavalry troop they had so long awaited. The line unit continued their patrolling and ambushing in the vicinity of Camp Eagle. Enemy contact dropped considerably during this period. The cavalrymen had a job to do in preparing their area to receive this new troop and many went into the preparation of it. At last on 12 July the advance

"D" Troop, 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav, arrived at Camp Eagle. They were followed by the main body. On 25 July "D" troop began its in-country training with the 101st Air Assault Helicopter Battalion and remained in that status until 1 August. The aero-rifle platoon of "D", 1/1 began their week of in-country training at Camp Evans and upon completion began combat operations using Camp Evans as their base of operations. During this period contact was almost nonexistent therefore the squadron's body count tapered off considerably and would not be expected to do so for the next three months. On 20 August "D" troop, terminating in-country training, was now combat ready. From 14 August until 30 September the squadron flew 32 combat assaults, 20 snatch missions, 67 light fire team missions and 256 aero-recon missions. Even though the squadron aggressively endeavored to find the hostile forces, contact was slight and the body count for the period was only 58 VC/NVA. During the following month (October) the squadron flew 185 aero-recon missions, 11 snatch missions, 62 light and heavy fire team missions and 14 combat assaults with almost no contact within the squadron's area of operation. The numerous heliborne missions coupled with extensive company and platoon size operations only netted 24 VC/NVA within the division's area of operation. On October 19 the squadron received nine new Huey "Cobras" which replaced the "Charlie" models as gunships for the squadron.

Although the squadron persisted in its efforts to find and engage the enemy throughout the months of November and December saw only 12 minor contacts which resulted in 1 VC/NVA killed and 6 taken prisoner. However, as a result of its efforts to find the enemy, the squadron uncovered and confiscated many caches of rice and ammunition. In addition, many bunkers and other sanctuaries used by the enemy were destroyed or damaged. The squadron also flew 1,193 aero-recon sorties, 52 snatch missions, 168 fire team sorties and 774 combat assault sorties.

The arrival of December also brought the arrival of a new Squadron Commander. LTC W. DeLoach relieved LTC Clark on 3 December and the squadron looks forward to greater achievements under his leadership in 1969.