

DECLASSIFIED
Authority ND878541
By SP NARA Date 4/5/00

2nd Squadron 17th Cavalry

Unit History

Box

1970

(Out Front)

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g. 472/270/33/27

Box #1 2/17th

History

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 the Mekong River 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. C Troop OH-6A received enemy ground fire from eight to ten enemy personnel 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 team was monitoring a trail and observed eight NVA and engaged with claymore mines, fragmentation grenades, and small arms fire. The contact resulted in one NVA KIA and one US WIA.

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 I Corps. There was considerable increase in the number of enemy sightings and contacts during the month, indicating areas of heavy enemy activity. Sixty-three teams were deployed in January, observing the enemy 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 insertion. 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's.

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 Brigades 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 oxygen cylinder and one 1½ ton trailer, and sliced a number of 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine guns.

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Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Armored), 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 Threem region of the Song Ba River, and in the area approximately 30 kilometers northeast of Camp Eagle near FSB Thor and Piko. 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 inserted south of FSB Tennessee to conduct a reconnaissance in force (RIF), found numerous trails with no recent activity. The Troop did find anti-troop one ton by ton foot but and then when was extracted back to Camp Eagle. Troop F was formed in mid January and continued Squadron missions throughout the area of operations. The Troop was composed of A Company, 101st Aviation 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 101st Aviation Battalion crews, while the 32 TC Detachment and a skeleton crew remained Camp Eagle. The Troop continued direct support to the 3rd Brigade and the co-rifles platoon provided ground reconnaissance and was the immediate reaction force for downed aircraft in the northern portion of the Squadron's AO in the 3rd Brigade AO. Air Cavalry operations were controlled by Troop Commander or the Operations Officer to the Command and Control craft. The Troop flew reconnaissance missions, RIF's and supported over flights, insertions, and extractions. Artillery was provided by the 5th Mechanized Division and was adjusted by the Troop commander. Tactical airstrikes were on call from the Brigade S-3 Air directed by the Troop.

1st C Troops faced increased enemy activity during the period from 15 January to 31 March 1970. The Troops revealed extensive enemy presence in A Shau Valley, the area around FSB Airborne, and in the vicinity of FSB 11. On 1 March, an C Troop OH-6A received heavy 50 caliber ground fire the aircraft was forced down at the A Lour Air Strip. The same day RSP logbridges were destroyed. On 3 March, 15 hootches were observed and numerous sightings six kilometers west of FSB Airborne. Tactical air was vectored onto the target and a complete target destruction resulted. The fire in the Valley continued throughout the month and the enemy exchanged caliber fire with 20mm Cobra gunships. The Troop had been successful in hitting, delaying and harassing the enemy, but the infiltration continued.

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

ng 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.

In April, 30 ranger teams were inserted throughout the Division Reconnaissance areas, sightings the enemy 14 times. Missions assigned to Company L during the month of April emphasized the capturing of prisoners of war. Ranger teams conducted ambushes, sensor monitoring missions, and joint US/ARVN reconnaissance patrols 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.

On operating on an early morning mission, an A Troop Hunter-Killer team (one OH-6A and one AH-1G Cobra), discovered five PVA 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. After the Cobra furnished protection to the OH-6A, the Scout went down to the river to see if he could recover one of the pack mules. The observer from the OH-6A disengaged his aircraft and while retrieving the pack, noticed that there were five bodies, five additional packs, weapons and other equipment. At this point 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 0700 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 during 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, one M-16 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 Division S-2 for analysis, and then to Division G-2.

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

April, ranger team Arizona spotted an undetermined number of NVA crossing a 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 using the aircraft with small arms fire. The Cobra gunships engaged the NVA with fleshette rockets. The OH-6A dived down and discovered three NVA dead and two more wounded. At 1550 hours, four UH-1H helicopters were sent assaulting the A Troop aero-rifle platoon into the contact area. Moderate ground fire was received by all aircraft and the fourth aircraft received hits and the door gunner was injured wounded. The platoon moved into the area discovered 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 be treated. After no reply was received the Troops continued to search area. One uninjured NVA engaged the point man with his AK-47. The point 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.

Bad 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. ARP's remained ready of downed aircraft security and air and artillery adjustment were led by the Troops.

In the Air Cavalry Troops recon the Division AD with A Troop working out of Tri and concentrating in the Da Krong and the Sanh Plains. Troops B and C also worked for the 3rd, 1st, and 2nd Brigade respectively during April. Troop D was employed as a ready reaction force for downed aircraft and was responsible for providing gun jeep escort on Highway 547 in the FSB Veghol, Me, and Birmingham area. D Troop was also employed ten man reconnaissance which provided screening missions and intelligence for the Division. Company (C) 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, insertion teams, tour damage assessments for B-52 strikes, and reconnaissance's to determine the effectiveness of high performance aircraft strikes, 10 drops, flame drops, and artillery strikes. Pink teams were also provided Delta 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 Ripsard.

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

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

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

On 24 May an OH-6A from B Troop while conducting a BDA in the southern A Shau Valley received small arms fire. The crew has 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 Iaotian Salient. Two NVA engaged one was killed. Further north three vehicles were engaged, one in two destroyed.

nd 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. als missions continued for the Squadron including responsibility for securing aircraft, conducting bomb damage assessments for B-52 strikes, sky spots, artillery, and tactical air air strikes and providing first and last reconnaissance around US held FSB's. D Troop continued to provide a reaction force for downed aircraft and convoy security along route 547. Co L or, 17th Infantry moved their area of operations north from the A Shau Valley to the hills around Khe Sanh.

In the first week of June, the 9th Battalion... 66th NVA Regiment attacked FSB 1 and Tun Tavern. Both A and B Troops supported the 54th ARVN Division with teams and Command and Control aircraft to sweep the NVA attacks. On 1 Troop A killed four NVA by Cobra gunships in Tun Tavern area. When the Cavalry men engaged the enemy, secondary explosions resulted. On the trail top located three packs, one bedroll, and two AK-47 rifles were captured.

17 June when the Squadron initiated its first Squadron line of command reporting period, the Troops continued their visual reconnaissance consisting on swift and BDA missions.

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

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

destroyed part of the 66th Regiment the previous month, the 2/17th Cavalry targeted against the 9th Regiment believed to have first arrived in south from its sanctuaries in Laos. At approximately 1130H on 8 July, a pink while 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 and ARA quested. In the initial engagement 50 NVA were killed. One hour later ten A were killed by helicopters in the same area. Continuing to recon the pink teams observed groups of ten to twenty NVA, separated by 100-200' tall along the trail. The enemy was wearing green uniforms, with helmets, carrying rice rolls and assault rifles and carbines. At 1358H, Delta and the Aero-rifle platoon of A Troop were inserted at the point of initial to sweep the area and capture a prisoner. The element placed a number smoke and enemy equipment on landing zone. on the trail UH-1H as it off the last of Troop D personnel.

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

y, the Squadron continued to conduct visual reconnaissance of the area g in two NVA/KIA vicinity FSB Snapper. That evening a wounded NVA was and evacuated to the 18th Surgical Hospital where he later died of Two hours later a 10H extracted a NVA who was taken to Quang Tri interrogation. In reaction to this activity, Operation Clinch Valley, was d.

of the 3rd Brigade opened FSB Sheppard and two battalions of the 3rd (ARVN) assaulted into FSB Smith. This started the reconnaissance in which the Squadron with extensive aerial gunships cover.

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

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

During the period 17 to 25 June the 2/17th Cav. was involved in extensive operations in the vicinity of FSB Leatherneck. The Squadron relocated its Cavalry Operations Center to Quang Tri. Prior to concentrating the entire Squadron, A Troop conducted extensive visual reconnaissance in the area and obtained a good deal of reliable, intelligence. Five NVA wearing green uniforms with AK-47's were observed moving across a landing zone. The area engaged with gunships resulting in two NVA killed. An estimated 200 log reinforced 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 LA by fragmentation grenade. All enemy equipment with the area totaled RPG's, 71 Chicom grenades, two rolls of camo wire, 40 pounds of demolitions, 1000 pounds of rice, 24 full rucks, 100 pounds of medical supplies, a complete supply of surgical instruments and one SK3 rifle, 20 pounds of documents. A and B Troops acre-rifle platoons and inserted with D Troop to control the situation. On the 19th the Squadron received operation control of Hac Bac Company, from 1st ARVN Division. The Hac 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. Operation terminated as a complete success on 25 June and the Squadron's elements and the Hac Bac back to their base areas.

Squadron in July remained "OUT FRONT" in the Division Reconnaissance. Having the same operational commitments as in the previous two months, having just completed a successful combined US/ARVN operation, the Squadron 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.

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

1 July the Squadron conducted routine fire and last light reconnaissance flights, bomb damage assessments, and visual reconnaissance missions. On 21 July the FSB Bradly unit, a IOW spotted 20 NVA in the open. Immediately 24 gunships engaged the target resulting in seven NVA/KIA. Additional strikes, and CS drops were employed in the area. A base was uncovered with assorted sized bunkers. Two NVA were spotted in the bunkers and engaged by gunships. Both NVA were killed.

July 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 flow of airstrikes and artillery concentrations, into the same infested area.

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

th of August, the Squadron continued surveillance along the Iaotian to the IPZ. B Troop continued direct support to the 1st Bde as well as reconnaissance and fire and last light missions throughout the AO.

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

provided aerial and ground reconnaissance; provided screening and security for various brigade elements; and supported numerous ranger insertions and actions. The Troop reacted to numerous contact missions of both U.S. elements and supported numerous air mobile operations involving D Troop, 1st Ruc Bac Company, and the A Troop anti-aircraft platoon. BDA's were also and marked increase of 51 caliber anti-aircraft machine gun positions located and engaged.

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

conducted aerial VR'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 ARP was used as a security force for engineer LZ cutting teams and a reaction force for downed aircraft in the division AO.

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

provided extensive ground reconnaissance, planned aircraft security and y, a ready reaction force for ground units in contact, and daily convoy Also ambulances and supplys of the Camp Eagle perimeter were provided, and t arved 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 ays of ground recon nissance.

B (Ranger), 75th Infantry deployed 38 teams during the month of August. were inserted near FSB Leatherneck, in the Ruong Ruong 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 F-100s from F-4s, 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-automatic fire slammed into the assaulting Cavalry, crippling two C Troop ft and wounding two crewmembers on 8 and 16 September. Severe pressure and ed use of ARP's for ground operations slowly elted the enemy from his old.

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

le, A Troop concentrated on supporting the ARVN units in the vicinity O'Reilly. Five aircraft were shot down, 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 BDA's. The AF was utilized near FSB Salloh and FSB Leatherneck to BDA's.

orked mid month night missions with the FAF aircraft, and on 15 r, FAF spotted a truck depot southeast of Khe Sang. Later in the airstrike were employed and pink teams sent damage assessment revealed ey trucks destroyed. For the remainder of the month B Troop was in port of the 1st ARVN Division at FSB O'Reilly.

troop, 37th Cavalry (Mobile), Unit History Oct 1970.

troop returned from Marble Mountain, and C Troop worked the PSC Brskne. On the night of 18 September, and morning of 19 September, the Troop, PSC and Cobra gunships engaged and destroyed one four ton truck in that ty. Follow up airstrikes destroyed another four ton truck, a 51 caliber and pit, and several bunkers. For the remainder of the month, C Troop the southern reconnaissance zones employing pink teams and the BHP st on my forces, in the area.

o continued supporting ARVN forces near PSC Barrett, and northwest of Phu Bai. Numerous shot-downs and targets were encountered, and on 18 Sep- the Hac Bao Company was inserted with A Troop proving command and control ft, screening pink teams, and directing airstrikes. Activity shifted PSC O'Reilly area and A Troop continued support for the remainder of the with visual reconnaissance, location and destruction of enemy mortar and gu ons, direction of USA's of airstrikes, and flank security for maneuvering nits.

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

September, Delta Troop rappelled 12 kilometers south of PSC Fist for assistance in force. The Troop discovered two 100 pounds caches of rice, and grain, and filtering equipment. Due to low fliod coverage, the troop ed on the ground for five days before extraction could be completed.

the month of September 1970, Co L, (Longer), 75th Infantry, employed is in the A Shan and theuong Muong Valley. Thirteen enemy sightings ed and contacted initiated on six occasions. As a result of three consecutive PVA/VJ were killed, and the Company sustained one WIA.

J. (Longer) employed a total of 24 teams during the month of October. ns were inserted in the vicinity of the Luk Ma; four teams were inserted route 547; and the remainder were inserted in or near the Quor, Ruo Tzang, g B Bo River. Longer teams established contact with the enemy on cessions and had visual sightings on eight occasions.

continued surveillance of the northern reconnaissance zones and also i reconnaissance and security for the 3rd Battalion and its subordinate elements form of first and last light reconnaissance and location to contact missio , as in the two previous months, provided cover aircraft and a Command trol aircraft flown by the Troop Commander; even the Hac Bao Company on different occasions. Riffs utilizing the aero-rifle platoon also con- Troop A conducted bomb damage assessment of Arc Light strikes and provi to support BIR missions. The aero-rifle platoon also secured downed in the Division AO.

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

o was used in general support of the 101st Airborne Division and in support of the 1st Brigade. In addition to gathering intelligence on visual reconnaissance missions, the Troop activated downed aircraft, night ambushes outside Camp Eagle perimeter, BDA's and support to ranger.

o continued to stage from Phu Bai AB in general support of the Division. Included aerial VR's BDA's, ground reconnaissance, support for the rangers, and by 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, (Once securing an area for ranger operations), ambushes and sweeps out- 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. The major significant activity occurred on 22 October when FLIR and FLG's spotted and engaged approximately 20 NVA resulting in 19 confirmed. 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 into clouds and into hot LZ's when the weather is too restricted for UH-1H.

the monsoon season, there was little air and reconnaissance activity for during the first two weeks of the month. On 13 and 14 November along with a team of engineers was inserted to clear PSB Kelly's, Maureen, Lynn. A number of old 105 rounds, fragmentation grenades and blasting caps were discovered. On 15 November, ranger team Bills was in contact with on US/VA. The ABP and elements of Delta Troop were inserted just of PSB Maureen, and while attempting to recover the ranger KIA received AK-47 fire, resulting in six ABP wounded and another ranger KIA.

5. (Ranger) 15th Infantry deployed 13 ranger teams during the month of 1970. Emphasis was on reconnaissance around PSB's Rincord and Kaythorn. my contacts were initiated. The contact initiated on the 16th by ranger 11s provided the needed intelligence for establishing the location of Battalion, 803rd NVA Regiment. The Bills had too friendly KIA as a of the contact. Due to bad weather, ranger teams were shifted from Rincord Kaythorn area onto the Iaeng Rueng Valley, to determine infiltration. By the NVA laos into the lowlands of Thua Thien Province. No other contact sightings or contacts were made.

ation, North Country (January). Unit History for 1970.

Group continued 1st scan of the northern reconnaissance zones and provided advise and guidance to the 3rd Brigade. Due to high winds and heavy rains in the zone, the flight declined during the month. Teams from Co L, (Bn) Infantry were sent to A Troop to be deployed in the northern reconnaissance. A Troop responded with overflights, insertions, and extractions and as a force for the ranger teams. ARVN support was restricted to the PSB Barracks the month.

1st through 10th provided poor flying weather for the Squadron, and C Troops were restricted in reconnaissance missions. B Troop ARV was sent on 2 Dec to recover some wooden boxes spotted during a V.L. The boxes turned out to be old American powder canisters and were returned to Camp Eagle. B Troop was held up until 11 December due to weather but on that day they positioned their M-60 on M-63 Voghul as a ready position for Delta Troop. Troop had insertions to monitor sensor devices. The Troop also provided visual reconnaissance in the Lang Haong Valley for the majority of the month. FLIR was supported by the Troop but weather restriction also hampered missions.

The next five days, all elements of P.G.D, and Co B and HMT went OPCON to 1st Co, in a joint operations and artillery raid against a Regimental base Camp of PAVN Meuseon. The Galley killed 15 enemy and destroyed his suspected strategic airstrikes, many of which resulted in secondary explosions.

Engines conducted ten long range recon mission patrols, employing six in the Binh Phuoc, and Vietnamese Shambu region. Their mission was to check enemy infiltration routes from Laos into the Thieu Phuoc Province, were no significant sightings or contacts. Four teams were employed over area of Thieu Phuoc and Vietnamese Laos border. These teams employed to check the infiltration routes used by the PAVN for Laos into plains of the Thieu Phuoc Province. There were no significant sightings enemy contact was initiated.

Adren received well deserved rest and closed out the year by viewing the Christmas Show on 25 December 1970. The night of the "spectors were to provide security for the Prince and his wife. The majority of the time we able to see the performances.

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

DEVMOOCBLL
Authority MD873541
By BU NARA Date 4/5/00

SUPPLEMENT TO 2D SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY UNIT HISTORY

he beginning of 1968 found the 2nd Squadron in Bien Hoa, Republic of
following their deployment to some. 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, Phuoc Long Province, near the Cambodian border.
Its mission was the securing of an area for the division CP to set up in.
Arrival the first priority was to set up an adequate base of operations.
quired the clearing of several acres of thick underbrush and woodlines.
base began to take shape on 10 January, while the combat troopers of
and the aero-rifle platoon patrolled the local area to insure that the
area was not interfered with by the Viet Cong.

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

roughout the rest of January there was relatively little contact in the
f the cavalry. In the meantime, the squadron acquired 7 armored person-
rriers, M-113's, which were fitted with the ACAV kits and assigned to "B" platoon.

On the morning of 31 January, the day of the now infamous Tet offensive,
alrymen received an urgent call to go to the aid of Phuoc Vinh village
was just South of their perimeter. The armored platoon moved out and, in
ernoon of bitter fighting with VC/NVA forces, killed 56 of the enemy while
ing only light casualties themselves. It was another case of the squadron
themselves proud in contact with hostile forces.

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

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

up and the battle of Song Be began. First, an infantry company from the was added to the squadron strength to aid in the relief of the city. "P" under the command of CPT Joseph Rozelle, deployed along the road leading the city and began to sweep North. The platoon of "A" troop and the in-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 Black Angels swung into action. This entire operation was under the of the Squadron Commander, LTC Julius W. Pecton, who was orbiting over a command and control ship throughout the entire operation. During the three day battle the NVA regiment was routed from the city of Song Be, left behind 243 of their dead. The squadron had again met the enemy and had emerged victorious. When the troops arrived at Song Be they new unit to combat but when they departed, a scant two months later, were seasoned combat veterans, with the beginning of an outstanding combat which they were to continue in the future.

soon as the battle was ended the squadron received the movement order return 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 were immediately made to send the squadron North. Their equipment was to by sea and all personnel by air. The point where they would link up Da Nang, RVN. This linkup was accomplished on 15 March 1968 and the began the trip by road to Hue/Phu Bai and Camp Eagle. They arrived March after an all day trip and linked up with the forward elements.

squadron began to set up for operations but again their stay was a e. On 20 March the squadron was moved to IZ Pinky, some 5 KM North of the administrative elements moved to IZ Sally with the 2nd Brigade Head- another 3 KM North of IZ Pinky. IZ Pinky had been a staging area for VA 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 Cuang Tri. The area of operation was to be along the infamous "Street of Joy". This I 1 highway which runs through the area North of Hue, bordering on the "Honkin, which was immortalized by Bernard Falls documentary of the same

squadron immediately began combat operations in this AO. The first proved fruitless but there were definite signs of the enemy in the 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 contacts in that area which the cavalrymen soon came to detest.

the squadron AO was a vital supply link, the AN 10 bridge which spanned Bo river and carried the traffic of highway 1, which consisted of num- supply convoys moving North and South along the important highway. On ngs of the 24th and 25th of April the squadron experienced light mor- ks and responded with artillery fire, which accounted for 12 enemy 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 assis- taj Fred Crump, then squadron S-3, and there were many nights that these other cavalry leaders went without sleep to expedite the mission. This ct netted the squadron 46 enemy dead and 2 POW's.

ng the period 1 and 2 May, "A" and "B" troops found and destroyed 25 the vicinity of Cao Peng. This was the third encounter in this area tire area was levelled by bulldozers and roan plows to preclude further tions in the bunker complexes. Thus ended the confrontations at Cao

May the squadron received an urgent call to proceed to Ia Chu, located 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 n. The squadron, after this encounter, moved its base of operations to e and the troops moved out to the coastal plains South of Hue. The line t up an LZ which was to become known as LZ Forward. The squadron TOC the district headquarters at Phu Thu, located just South of Hue. It was a of operations for all concerned and it did not take long to find out enemy was there too. The first contact came on 28 May near the village Borg, located near the bay of water which runs along the coast in this Troop found the enemy and a cordon was quickly thrown around the area help of the ARVN's, a sister infantry company, some Navy PFP's and Ma- s and AMTRACS. The results of this encounter were phenomenal as it h a body count of 163 VC/NVA for the entire task force. The cavalrymen sible for the operation and on 31 May the cordon was terminated as a essful mission. On the 2d of June, "A" Troop, during a sweep operation, ected an estimated enemy battalion and another cordon was prepared. ensuring 12 days 107 more of the enemy fell, near the village of Vinh e cavalrymen's cordon. These two highly successful operations, it was id out from intelligence sources, decimated the K-4 and K-10 enemy bat- and the 803rd NVA regimental headquarters. As they had in the past, the alvrymen performed their mission to the utmost of their ability and t their motto of "Forward".

the 25th of June, the cavalrymen bid farewell to their commander, ITC d welcomed the new Squadron Commander, ITC Robert B. Clark, III, to on. This proved not only to be a change of commanders, but a chance also. There had been many rumors about the 101st becoming an airmo- ion, thereby making the squadron an air cavalry squadron with respons- throughout the division area of operation. In order to begin the the squadron, which had been utilized much as an infantry battalion 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 ll continued their patrolling and ambushing in the vicinity of Camp enemy contact dropped considerably during this period. The cavalrymen 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

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"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 101st Air Assault Helicopter Battalion and remained in that status until of August. The aero-rifle platoon of "D", 1/1 began their week of in-training at Camp Evans and upon completion began combat operations using as their base of operations. During this period contact was almost heretofore the squadron's body count tapered off considerably and would to do so for the next three months. On 20 August "D" troop, terminating 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 and 256 aero-recon missions. Even though the squadron aggressively en-to find the hostile forces, contact was slight and the body count for a period was only 58 VC/NVA. During the following month (October) the flew 185 aero-recon missions, 11 snatch missions, 62 light and heavy fire missions and 14 combat assaults with almost no contact within the squadron's operation. The numerous heliborne missions coupled with extensive company 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 the "Charlie" models as gunships for the squadron.

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

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