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AVDACC

21 May 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General William J. Maddox Jr.

SUBJECT: Destruction of Armor by Attack Helicopters

The following is a day-by-day resume of F Battery 79th AFA operations against tanks in the An Loc area of Military Region III, Republic of Vietnam.

13 April 72 - 0800 hours

Coordinates: XT 754835 (An Loc)

Type Tank and Movement: T-54 Tank was parked

Ordnance: 2.75 inch FFAR W/MK-5 (HEAT) warhead

Range: 4,000 to 1,500 ft, 30 to 40 degree angle of attack

Point of Impact on Tank: Engine Deck Area

Number of Rockets: 56

Damage to Tank: Rockets hit in engine deck area, tank exploded in a fireball and black smoke. Confirmed by FAC, Sundog 36.

13 April 72 - 0810 hours

Coordinates: XT 754833 (An Loc)

Type Tank and Movement: T-54 Tank was moving

Ordnance: 2.75 inch FFAR W/M-229 (1711b) warhead

Range: 4,000 to 1,500 ft, 30 to 40 degree angle of attack

Point of Impact on Tank: Hit left front track area, tank began to spin and then stopped

Number of Rockets: 56

Damage to Tank: Tank lost left Track and received multiple 17 lb HE warhead hits.

Weather: 7,000 ft and six miles vis, with smoke

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15 April 72 - 0200 hours

Coordinates: XT 754884 (An Loc)
Type Tank and Movement: T-54 Tank was moving
Ordnance: 2.75 inch FFAR W/MK-5 (HEAT) warhead
Number of Rockets: 12
Range: 4,000 to 1,000 ft, 30 to 40 degree angle of
attack
Point of impact on Tank: Turret Area
Damage to Tank: Fireball from tank, confirmed by FAC,
Sundog 31
Weather: 3,500 ft broken and 3 miles vis, with haze

15 April 72 - 0905 hours

Coordinates: XT 756382 (An Loc)
Type Tank and Movement: T-54, Destroyed Tank was not
moving
Ordnance: 2.75 inch FFAR W/MK-5 (HEAT) warhead
Number of Rockets: 8
Range: 4,000 to 3,000 ft, 25 to 30 degree angle of
attack
Point of impact on Tank: Engine Deck Area
Damage to tank: Fire and Black smoke confirmed by
FAC, Sundog 31
Weather: 3,500 ft broken, 3 miles vis, with haze

15 April 72 - 0915 hours

Coordinates: XT 754835 (An Loc)
Type Tank and Movement: T-54, Tank was moving
Ordnance: 2.75 inch FFAR W/MK-5 (HEAT) warhead
Number of Rockets: 10
Range: 4,000 to 1,500 ft, 30 to 40 degree angle of
attack
Point of Impact on Tank: Unknown
Damage to Tank: Burst into flames, confirmed by FAC
Sundog 31
Weather: 3,500 ft broken, 3 miles vis, with haze

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15 April 72 - 0925 hours

Coordinates: XT 754755 (An Loc)
Type Tank and Movement: T-54, Tank was moving
Ordnance: 2.75 inch FFAR W/MK-5 (HEAT) warhead
Number of Rockets: 8
Range: 4,000 to 1,500 ft, 30 to 40 degree angle of attack
Point of impact on Tank: Unknown
Damage to Tank: Tank stopped moving and was smoking; confirmed by FAC Sundog 31
Weather: 3,500 ft broken, 5 miles vis, with haze

15 April 72 - 1430 hours

Coordinates: XT 767882 (An Loc)
Type Tank and Movement: T-54, Tank was not moving
Ordnance: 2.75 inch FFAR W/MK-5 (HEAT) warhead
Number of Rockets: 10
Point of impact on Tank: Top
Range: 4,000 to 1,500 ft, 30 to 40 degree angle of attack
Damage to Tank: Tank burst into flames confirmed by wing ship
Weather: 6,000 ft broken, 8 miles vis, with haze

11 May 72 - 1100 hours

Coordinates: XT 751082 (An Loc)
Type Tank and Movement: 2 PT-73's, Tanks were not moving, had set up road block
Ordnance: 2.75 inch FFAR W/MK-5 (HEAT) warhead and 2.75 inch FFAR W/H-229 (17 lb) warhead
Number of Rockets: 112
Range: 4,500 to 2,500 ft, 40 to 50 degree angle of attack
Point of impact on Tanks: Unknown
Damage to Tanks: Tanks were immobilized after the attack, confirmed by Ground Commander
Weather: 3,000 ft broken, 5 miles vis, with haze

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11 May 72 - 1215 hours

Coordinates: XT 752879 (An Loc)
Type Tank and Movement: 2 T-54, Tanks parked side by side
Ordnance: 2.75 Inch FFAR W/M-229 (17 lb); W/MK-5 (HEAT) warhead
Range: 4,500 to 1,500 ft, 20 to 25 degree angle of attack
Number of Rockets: 20
Point of impact on Tanks: Deck area and Turret
Damage to Tanks: Destroyed, Confirmed by Ground Commander
Weather: 4,000 ft broken, 4 miles vis, with haze

13 May 72 - 0755 hours

Coordinates: XT 048533 (An Loc)
Type Tank and Movement: 2 T-54s, firing on friendlies who were pinned down 50 meters west and 100 meters north and east
Ordnance: 2.75 Inch FFAR W/M-229 (17 lb); W/MK-5 (HEAT) warhead
Range: 2,000 to 1,500 ft, 20 to 25 degree angle of attack
Number of Rockets: 120
Point of impact on Tanks: Unknown
Damage to Tanks: Unknown
Weather: 2000 ft ceiling, aircraft attack through breaks in the overcast.

This engagement is of interest even though the tanks have not been confirmed as destroyed. Cobras were called in by ground advisors due to the low ceilings and proximity of friendly troops who were pinned down by tank fire. Numerous firing passes were made, tank-crews abandoned their vehicles and were killed by a combination of ground and AFA fires. Friendly troops then moved forward and captured the tanks.

JAMES F. HAMLEY
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding