

CONFIDENTIAL

during a sweep operation seven kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG (XT534-251). Enemy losses in this encounter could not be determined. The company continued its sweep moving to the southeast 1.5 kilometers where at 1505 hours a booby trapped hand grenade was detonated resulting in the wounding of two men.

One member of the Combined Reconnaissance and Intelligence Platoon of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry was wounded by a booby trap of unknown type that was tripped as the unit searched through an area three kilometers northeast of BAO DIEU (XT590185) at 0914 hours.

B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry continued its operations in the FIIHOL Rubber Plantation where at 1125 hours an armored personnel carrier detonated an anti-tank mine at a point five kilometers north of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT647216). The blast killed one man riding in the APC and wounded five others. The vehicle was a complete loss. Throughout the day, the troop's sweep resulted in the location and destruction of two hand grenades, one 155mm round and one 105mm round.

B 3 - 4 Cars  
1 KIA 5 WIA

Action was very light in the 3rd Brigade area. At 0855 hours a military police jeep departing the DAU TIENG Base Camp came under fire from an unknown number of enemy. One MP was wounded in this attack and the jeep was destroyed. The enemy fire was returned with unknown results. The CRIP of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry moved into the BOI LOI Woods for operation during the day, and at 0742 hours received a Hoi Chanh at a location six kilometers south of the DAU TIENG Base Camp (XT482396).

DT

Helicopters from B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry saw a action at 0940 hours during a bomb damage assessment mission of an Air Force air strike 6.5 kilometers southwest of TRUONG MIEP (XT351354). Flying over the strike area, the helicopter crew observed one enemy soldier trying to take evasive action. The enemy was engaged and killed by machine gun fire. The helicopter landed to capture one RPG-7 rocket launcher from his body.

6 December

Once again, no significant actions were reported in the 1st Brigade area of operations. Action continued to be steady in the 2nd Brigade area. At 0305 hours A Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry captured one enemy with an M-2 carbine during a sweep operation 6.5 kilometers north of DUC HOA (XT615029).

A2-14

At 0930 hours an infantryman from C Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry was wounded by a booby trapped hand grenade as his unit operated through an area seven kilometers southwest of TRANG BANG (XT431133). Remaining in this area, the company discovered two enemy bodies at 1025 hours. Moving 800 meters to the east, the company sustained two more men wounded when a booby trapped 105mm round exploded. This incident took place at 1157 hours.

C2-27

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

D Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry found a large enemy ammunition cache at 0945 hours as it searched an area three kilometers north of BAI DIEU (XT565196). Located in the cache were 110 RPG-2 rounds and boosters, 30 RPG-7 rounds, 127 82mm mortar rounds, 13 anti-tank mines, 150 pounds of plastic explosive, 64 hand grenades, 41 cans of 82mm mortar fuses, and 8,500 rounds of small arms ammunition. In the meantime, the battalion's C Company was conducting a sweep operation through an area 1.5 kilometers southeast of TRANG BANG (XT495174). At 1058 hours a C Company armored personnel carrier detonated an anti-tank mine wounding two men. In the immediate area A Company personnel located and destroyed a booby trapped hand grenade and an anti-tank mine.

B1-5  
cache

Action was unusually light in the 3rd Brigade area of operation for the day as only one significant action was reported. At 1030 hours a Rome plow taking part in a cutting operation along route 14 two kilometers southeast of THANH AN (XT548363) struck an anti-tank mine. The blast caused only minor damage to the plow, however.

Helicopters from C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry flying in general support of the division experienced two contacts with the enemy during the day. At 1615 hours an OH-6A helicopter flying nine kilometers southwest of TRANG BANG came under heavy ground fire. The aircraft received several hits but was able to return to its base. Other helicopters from the troop moved into this area in search of the enemy firing positions. At 1824 hours, an armed helicopter detected four enemy in a position a short distance from where the OH-6A had earlier taken fire. Sweeping in on the enemy with automatic weapons and rocket fire, the helicopter accounted for one enemy kill by observed body count.

C3-17 Air Cav

7 December

At 0105 hours TAY NINH Base Camp received 15 rounds of 82mm mortar fire which resulted in the wounding of two personnel. The only other significant action within the 1st Brigade occurred at 1045 hours when C Company, 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry captured seven VCI suspects and apprehended 15 other personnel for questioning. The action took place as the company conducted a search operation through an area two kilometers east of TAY NINH (XT265504).

TN-15-825  
C4-23

In the 2nd Brigade area of operations three infantrymen were killed and three wounded at 1200 hours when the C and D Companies, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry came under heavy fire during a sweep along the banks of the ORIENTAL River 11 kilometers southwest of TRANG BANG (XT417017). The companies returned the enemy fire with organic weapons and called in artillery and helicopter gunships for support. A sweep of the enemy positions, however, failed to reveal any enemy casualties.

Two men from D Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry were wounded at 1540 hours when they tripped a booby trapped hand grenade. The incident

64

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

occurred as the unit was sweeping through the village of THANH AN (XT4617) located two kilometers south of TRANG BANG. Earlier in the company had discovered and destroyed an anti-tank mine in the same general area.

Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry came under fire at 1600 hours as it conducted a sweep three kilometers northeast of TRUNG LAP (XT608239). One man was wounded by this fire which was returned by the mechanized infantry with unknown results. Company A joined C Company later in the day to establish a night position in this same area. At 1855 hours this position came under mortar attack which resulted in the wounding of 10 personnel. The night location returned this fire with supporting artillery and mortars, but the enemy losses to this counter mortar action could not be determined. At 2200 hours an ambush patrol from A Company set up a short distance from the night location of the two companies engaged an unknown number of enemy. After the firing ceased, the ambush patrol recovered one body, one RPG-2 rocket launcher, and three rounds of RPG-2 ammunition.

CI-5  
10 Wire

In the 3rd Brigade area of operations two Rome plows were damaged during cutting operations along route 14 southeast of THANH AN (XT5436). Both plows struck anti-tank mines as they cut down the heavy vegetation along the sides of the road.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry saw action during the day as it operated in and around THANH AN. At 1120 hours the company came under sporadic rifle fire from a point 3.5 kilometers northeast of the village. One infantryman was wounded by this fire. The unit returned the enemy fire with unknown results. Later that night at 2105 hours an ambush patrol from the unit engaged two enemy soldiers at a position 2.5 kilometers southeast of the village. This attack resulted in two enemy killed and the capture of two AK-47 rifles.

1-27

8 December

No significant actions were reported during the day in the 1st Brigade area of operations. In the 2nd Brigade area to the south, CU CHI Base Camp received one rocket round at 1824 hours which wounded one man. One man from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry was wounded by a booby trapped hand grenade as his unit swept an area 4.5 kilometers southwest of TRANG BANG (XT467176). The incident occurred at 1145 hours.

A Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor had three tanks damaged by anti-tank mines between 0700 hours and 0800 hours as the unit pushed through an area six kilometers northeast of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT7120). No personnel were wounded in the series of explosions that took place. Moving back to CU CHI later in the morning, the company discovered a small enemy weapons cache at a point 5.5 kilometers east of the base camp (XT726134). The find included three SKS carbines, one M-16 rifle and a one M-1 rifle.

A2-34  
3 Tanks

CONFIDENTIAL

Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry suffered one man killed at 0930 hours as the unit conducted a sweep operation three kilometers north of TRANG BANG (XT494225). The man died when he detonated a booby trapped claymore mine. Later in the day Companies B and D pushed into the HO BO Woods just south of the MUSEBOON in the SAIGON River (XT6229) for a search operation. Here they discovered seven cluster bomb units, a pair of binoculars, a 55 gallon drum of CS gas and an anti-personnel mine. During the search, however, a booby trapped hand grenade was detonated wounding three men. This incident took place at 1610 hours. B2-12

The night defensive position of A and C Companies, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry two kilometers northeast of TRUNG LAP (XT608-238) came under small arms and RPG attack from an unknown size enemy force at 0445 hours. The infantrymen repulsed this attack with organic weapons and the aid of supporting mortars and artillery. Five men within the position were wounded by the enemy fire. At first light, the companies swept the area surrounding their position and located two enemy dead, one RPG-2 rocket launcher, three AK-47 rifles and several assorted enemy documents. A+C 1-5

The battalion's E Company saw action during the day also. At 0857 hours a unit armored personnel carrier struck an anti-tank mine at a point three kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG (XT505225). Two men were wounded in the blast. At 1000 hours an element of the company searching an area one kilometer east of TRUNG LAP (XT607228) captured an enemy soldier and at 1325 hours a B Company APC struck an anti-tank mine which resulted in the wounding of five men.

The 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry working over a wide area of the 2nd Brigade area of operations experienced several incidents with anti-tank mine explosions. At 0845 hours a B Troop armored personnel carrier struck a mine as it moved through an area nine kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG (XT560250). Three men were wounded in this blast, and the vehicle was a total loss. A Troop A armored personnel carrier moving through the THAI MY village complex (XT513156) at 1050 hours detonated a mine which resulted in one man riding in the track being wounded and the APC receiving light damage. A C Troop tank was slightly damaged at struck an anti-tank mine during a sweep through the FILHOL Rubber Plantation two kilometers north of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT683182). 3-4  
minutes

In the 3rd Brigade area of operations, B Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry had two armored personnel carriers strike mines as the unit swept route 14 south of DAU TIENG. The first incident occurred at 1120 hours at a point along the road two kilometers south of the town (XT500445). No injuries were sustained in this blast. Four men were wounded, however, a short distance farther south along the road when the APC in which they were riding struck another mine at 1235 hours. B2-22

*Colorful*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Company B continued in action as the day wore on. At 2227 hours an ambush patrol from unit located in a position along route 14 five kilometers south of DAU TIENG (XT509436) ambushed four enemy soldiers. The results of this action were one enemy killed and one AK-47 rifle and 100 rounds of small arms ammunition captured.

*B 2-22  
Ambs. 14*

Company C, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry continued to escort and secure Rome plows cutting along route 14 to the southeast of THANH AN. At 1415 hours one plow ran into an anti-tank mine in the road at a point five kilometers from the village (XT572350). The plow received only moderate damage and continued to work. Throughout the day, the infantrymen working around the plows located two hand grenades, three cluster bomb units one RPG-2 rocket round and two anti-personnel mines.

*CL-27*

C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry reported one engagement with the enemy during the day. At 1820 hours a troop helicopter flying nine kilometers northwest of DUC HOA (XT555026) detected one enemy soldier who was taken under fire. The helicopter landed to locate the dead enemy and to capture the AK-47 rifle he was carrying.

9 December

Action continued light in the 1st Brigade as no significant actions were reported. In the 2nd Brigade area the CU CHI Base Camp received 10 122mm rockets at 0307 hours which resulted in the wounding of two personnel. At 1010 hours troop carrying helicopters of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company supporting division operations for the day observed and engaged eight enemy soldiers at a location five kilometers southwest of TRANH BANG (XT465145). A check of the area following the helicopter attack revealed four dead enemy soldiers. Two helicopter crewmen were wounded by the enemy's return fire.

*Cuchi 10 rockets*

A Company, 2nd Battalion, 14 Infantry came under fire as it swept through an area eight kilometers east of BAO TRAI (XT612049) at 0947 hours. The company returned the enemy fire and pushed into his position to locate one dead and capture one AK-47 rifle.

An ambush patrol from D Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry engaged and unknown number of enemy from a position 1.5 kilometers southeast of TRANH BANG. The ambush took place at 2020 hours, and after the firing ceased the patrol moved forward to locate four enemy bodies and two AK-47 rifles.

*D2-12  
4 BC*

A major action developed at 1150 hours when A Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry located an enemy base camp during a sweep operation in the HO BO Woods 11 kilometers north of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT635272). The mechanized company engaged the enemy with its organic weapons and called for artillery, helicopter gunships and Air Force air strikes to reduce the enemy position. When the supporting fires were lifted, the infantrymen assaulted into the base camp to locate 14 enemy

*A1-5  
14 BC*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

dead, one machine gun, two RPG-2 rocket launchers, two AK-47 rifle and numerous enemy documents. Two infantrymen were killed and two wounded in the fighting which took place.

An armored personnel carrier of the battalion CRIP was destroyed when it hit an anti-tank mine. The vehicle was moving along route 7A one kilometer northeast of BAV DIEU at 1345 hours when the explosion took place. No injuries were sustained.

At 1830 hours an ambush patrol from B Company of the mech battalion killed one enemy soldier who walked into the patrol's position located one kilometer northeast of TRUNG LAP (XT600225). The patrol also captured a pistol, two hand grenades and several enemy documents carried by the enemy soldier.

One member of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry was injured at 0825 hours when he detonated a booby trapped hand grenade as his unit searched through the THAI MY village complex (XT533151).

In the 3rd Brigade area of operations during the day three personnel from B Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry were wounded when the armored personnel carrier in which they were riding struck an anti-tank mine. The track was moving along route 14 four kilometers south of DAU TIENG (XT510426) at 1550 hours when the incident occurred.

B2-22  
←  
3 via

Four Rome plows were damaged and one man wounded in four separate anti-tank mine incidents that took place during the day as the clearing operations continued along route 14 four to five kilometers southeast of TRAM AN (XT5734-XT5833).

Helicopters from D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry flying armed aerial reconnaissance along the SAIGON River from the MUSHROOM to DAU TIENG during the day detected and destroyed three sampans hidden along the banks of the river. Low level checks of the target sites after the attacks revealed the body of one enemy soldier.

An ambush patrol from F Company, 50th Infantry killed two enemy soldiers and captured two pistols and numerous enemy documents in an engagement at 1715 hours. The ambush patrol was hiding in a location in the lower BOI LOI Woods four kilometers west of the MUSHROOM (XT529311) when the enemy walked into the killing zone.

F50

B Company, 65th Engineer Battalion sustained two men killed and one wounded when an anti-tank mine exploded as an effort was being made to remove it from route 19. The blast occurred at 1005 hours at a point on the road six kilometers east of GO DAU HA (XT457252).

B 65 EMBATT

10 December

Action continued to be light in the 1st Brigade area of operations. The 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry sustained damage to one of

CONFIDENTIAL

it armored personnel carrier when the vehicle struck an anti-tank mine while operating in an area six kilometers west of TAY NINH (XT170465). This incident occurred at 0340 hours.

Action was reported around TRANG BANG, TRUNG LAP and in the lower BOI LOI Woods in the 2nd Brigade area. At 0518 hours the night location of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry four kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG (XT513255) came under a mortar attack. Five mortars landed within the position wounding two personnel. Fire was returned with artillery and mortars with unknown results.

2-12

Two members of the battalion's D Company were wounded at 0745 hours when they detonated an anti-personnel mine as the unit conducted a sweep operation through an area one kilometer south of TRANG BANG (XT498178). Company B operated in an area 6.5 kilometers north of the city (XT508257) during the day. At 1220 hours the unit came under enemy fire which resulted in the wounding of one infantryman. The company returned the fire with organic weapons but was unable to account for any enemy casualties.

C Company of this battalion moved into an area in the lower BOI LOI Woods during the day to conduct search and destroy operations. At 1720 hours the unit's sweep brought it into contact with an unknown number of enemy at a point three kilometers west of the MUSHROOM in the SAIGON River (XT542237). A heavy fire fight broke out, and the infantry company called for artillery, helicopter gunships and Air Force air strikes to assist in eliminating the enemy position. Following the supporting fires the infantry assaulted into the enemy positions to account for eight dead and to capture one AL-47 rifle and one RPG-2 rocket launcher. Two infantrymen were killed and seven wounded in the battle.

C-2-12  
8 BC  
2  
7

The 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry centered its activities for the day in the area around TRUNG LAP. At 1115 hours B Company discovered one enemy body at a point 1.5 kilometers northeast of the village (XT601225). Six company personnel were wounded at 1945 hours when the armored personnel carrier in which they were riding struck an anti-tank mine one kilometer northeast of the village (XT609221).

1-5

B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry also conducted operations in the vicinity of TRUNG LAP during the day. At 2215 hours a tank was struck by a command detonated anti-tank mine at a location 5.5 kilometers northwest of the village (XT462240). The tank then went out of control and crashed into a nearby armored personnel carrier. One cavalryman was killed and five wounded in this incident. Both the tank and the APC were destroyed.

3-4  
one mine  
Tank & APC

Action continued to be light in the 3rd Brigade area with only one significant action being reported. At 1035 hours aerial observers detected

CONFIDENTIAL

an estimated 20 enemy moving through the MICHELIN Rubber Plantation at a point five kilometers east of the DAU TIENG Base Camp (XT512521). The enemy was engaged by artillery firing from the base camp. A later check of the target area revealed the bodies of six enemy.

Elsewhere in the division area, a long range patrol from F Company, 50th Infantry came into contact with an unknown number of enemy at a location in the lower BOI LOI Woods six kilometers from the MUSHROOM (XT504319). The engagement took place at 1550 hours. The patrol did not receive any casualties in the fire fight that took place, nor could enemy losses be determined. Seven members of B Company, 65th Engineer Battalion were wounded at 1035 hours when the truck in which they were passengers detonated an anti-tank mine while moving along route 7A two kilometers south of TRUNG LAP (XT586200).

11 December

No significant actions were reported again from the 1st Brigade area of operations around TAY NINH. Within the 2nd Brigade area action was heavy in the vicinity of TRANG BANG.

At 0433 hours the night defensive position of B and C Companies, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry located seven kilometers northeast of the town came under a ground attack. The infantrymen repulsed this effort with organic weapons and the support of artillery and an Air Force AC-47 "Spooky" gunship fires. A sweep of the area surrounding the night location after the firing ceased turned up six enemy bodies and one POW. One infantryman was killed and eight wounded in the fight.

Artillery Fire Support Base PERSHING located 6.5 kilometers northwest of TRANG BANG (XT518255) received three rounds of 82mm mortar fire at 0910 hours. One man was wounded in this attack by fire. The fire base returned the fire with artillery with unknown results.

A major action took place in an area nine kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG. (XT559252) when A and B Companies, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry on a sweep of the area encountered an unknown size enemy force. The contact began at 1050 hours and was supported by artillery, helicopter gunships and Air Force air strikes. As the enemy resistance continued during the day, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry and D Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry were moved into the area to reinforce the contact. The firing broke off at dusk as contact was lost with the enemy force. A sweep of the battale area located 12 enemy dead and one POW. Five U.S. troops were killed in the action and 13 were wounded.

At 2012 hours the Combined Reconnaissance and Intelligence Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry engaged an unknown number of enemy at a point two kilometers south of TRANG BANG (XT499172). D Company of the

2-12  
GBC

Pershing  
3-825  
1 Wia

A B 2-12  
D 2-27  
A 2-14  
12 BC  
1 PW  
5 KIA  
13 WIA



CONFIDENTIAL

battalion moved in quickly to assist the CRIP. Artillery was also called in to support the contact. Two infantrymen were wounded in the fight. Enemy losses could not be determined.

C Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry accounted for three enemy kills at 0855 hours when it came under fire during a sweep operation three kilometers north of TRUNG LAP (XT599250). Assaulting into the enemy firing positions, the infantrymen also captured one machine gun and one RPG-7 rocket launcher.

1-5

B Company of the mech battalion sustained one man wounded to a booby trapped hand grenade at 0945 hours. The incident took place at a point one kilometer northeast of TRUNG LAP (XT607223) as the unit swept through the area. Later in the day, Companies A and C moved into the northern BO BO Woods to conduct a search and destroy operations. At 1400 hours A Company engaged and killed two enemy at a location in the woods two kilometers south of the MUSHROOM (XT592292). Remaining in this same area the two companies came under heavy enemy fire at 1715 hours. With the assistance of supporting artillery fires the companies returned the enemy fire and drove off the attacking force. A search of the area after the fight revealed eight enemy bodies and one POW along with one AK-47 rifle. Five infantrymen were wounded in the fire fight.

1-5

8 BC  
5 Wild

C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry encountered a heavy action in the FILBOL Rubber Plantation north of the CU CHI Base Camp. At 0920 hours the troop came under heavy fire at a point five kilometers from the base camp (XT675218). The tanks and armored personnel carriers of the unit returned the enemy fire with artillery fires also being called in on the enemy. A search of the area after the contact terminated turned up four enemy bodies, one RPG-7 rocket launcher, two AK-47 rifles and seven rounds of RPG-7 ammunition. Three cavalrymen were killed and four wounded by the heavy enemy fire. Returning to the base camp after the action, a troop APC struck an anti-tank mine at a point 1.5 kilometer from camp resulting in the destruction of the vehicle and the wounding of two personnel.

C3-4

4 BC  
3 KIA  
4 Wild  
2 Wild

The 3rd Brigade area of operations continued to be relatively quiet with two significant actions taking place. At 1245 hours A Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry sweeping one kilometer east of THANH AN (XT540380) uncovered a cache of 1,400 pounds of rice. Earlier in the day at 0635 hours the CRIP, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry engaged three enemy soldiers seven kilometers east of DAU TIENG (XT562490). In a brief fire fight that followed, one enemy soldier was killed.

12-22  
Cache

Elsewhere in the division area, a long range reconnaissance team of F Company, 90th Infantry accounted for three enemy kills in an action that took place at 1741 hours 2.5 kilometers west of the MUSHROOM (XT545-319).

# CONFIDENTIAL

12 December

Action tapered off considerably throughout the entire division area during the day. In the 1st Brigade area B Company, 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry captured 200 pounds of rice, one round of RPG-2 ammunition, 10 pounds of medical supplies, one 45 cal pistol and five pounds of enemy documents as it searched an area in the CRESCENT 16 kilometers northeast of TAY NINH (IT395557).

In the 2nd Brigade area one man from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry was wounded at 1045 hours when he tripped a booby trapped hand grenade as his unit searched an area 5.5 kilometers south of TRANG BANG (IT466134). At 0600 hours a tank from 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor received minor damage when it detonated an anti-tank mine during a sweep of route 8A. The incident took place at a location six kilometers west of PHU CUONG (IT747143). Later in the day at 1037 hours, personnel from A Company of the armor battalion came under fire during a search of route 15 5.5 kilometers northeast of the CU CHI Base Camp. The company returned the enemy fire with organic weapons and later located one enemy dead and one RPG-2 rocket launcher.

Three infantrymen from C Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry were killed when their unit came under fire at 1400 hours during a sweep operation 2.5 kilometers north of TRANG BANG (IT492218). The company returned the enemy fire with organic weapons and artillery with unknown results. C Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry sustained four men wounded at 1703 hours when an armored personnel carrier detonated an anti-tank mine. The incident occurred as the APC was passing through TRUNG LAP village (IT595220). A booby trap of unknown type wounded a member of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry as that unit searched the THAI MY village complex (IT538151). The blast took place at 1020 hours.

2-12  
3 KIA

In the 3rd Brigade area of operations two personnel from D Company, 65th Engineer Battalion were injured when the truck in which they were riding detonated an anti-tank mine. The incident occurred at 1220 hours at a location in the lower BOI LOI Woods three kilometers northeast of the MUSHROOM. (IT558442). At 1425 hours A Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry located three enemy bodies, eight hand grenades, five claymore mines, 400 rounds of small arms ammunition, two RPG-2 rounds and several assorted enemy documents. The find took place at 1425 hours as the unit searched an area three kilometers southeast of THANH AN (IT560363). The night location of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry located at Fire Support Base MABONE within THANH AN received a Ho Chi Chanh who rallied at 0830 hours.

A2-22  
Mabone  
←

13 December

Action continued to be light in the 1st Brigade area of operations during the day. Only one significant incident occurred, and that involved

CONFIDENTIAL

a truck from the 338th Engineer Battalion which struck an anti-tank mine at a point six kilometers east of TAY HINH (XT170465). The explosion which took place at 1330 hours resulted in the wounding of four personnel and the destruction of the vehicle.

A major action took place in the 2nd Brigade area of operations when at 1201 hours A and B Companies, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry engaged a large enemy force during a sweep in an area 6.5 kilometers north-east of TRANO BANG (XT555203). The size of the contact became readily apparent and within a few hours A and B Companies, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry were lifted into the vicinity by helicopter to reinforce the two mechanized companies. Heavy artillery, helicopter gunship and Air Force air strike support was also provided to the troops in contact. When contact broke late in the afternoon, the infantrymen made a sweep of the area and discovered 22 enemy bodies. In addition, they located six AK-47 rifles, two RPG-2 rocket launchers, one 82mm mortar tube, 10 hand grenades, one RPG-7 round, 11 RPG-2 rounds and 1,500 rounds of small arms ammunition. Six infantrymen were killed and 14 wounded in the engagement.

AB 1-5  
+  
AB 2-12  
22 BC  
6 KIA  
14 WIA

In sweeping the battlefield after the fire fight ended, one armored personnel carrier from B Company of the battalion detonated an anti-personnel mine which resulted in the wounding of two personnel.

2 WIA

Within the 3rd Brigade area four minor incidents were reported during the day. At 1230 hours a truck from the 25th Supply and Transport Battalion was damaged when it struck an anti-tank mine while moving down route 14. The blast occurred at a point five kilometers south of DAU TIENG (XT512423).

D Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry conducted a sweep operation through an area in the BOI LOI Woods four kilometers northeast of BAO DON (XT465384) where at 1100 hours it discovered three enemy bodies and captured one AK-47 rifle and seven hand grenades.

Four members of B Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry were wounded when the armored personnel carrier in which they were riding struck an anti-tank mine buried in route 14 at a point five kilometers south of DAU TIENG (XT512423). The explosion which took place at 1510 hours totally destroyed the APC.

B 2-22  
34 tracks?

At 0115 hours the night defensive position of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry at Fire Support Base MAHONE near THANH AN village (XT538379) received a sudden attack by fire. The 10 RPG rounds which landed inside the perimeter wounded two personnel. The enemy fire was returned with unknown results.

Mahone  
10 RPG  
2 WIA

Elsewhere in the division area, D Troop, 4th Squadron, 4th Cavalry accounted for one enemy kill when at 1810 hours elements of the troop

**CONFIDENTIAL**

engaged three enemy soldiers at a point in the FIELOL Rubber Plantation five kilometers north of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT675213). The cavalrymen were supported by artillery fired from the base camp during this fire fight.

Helicopters from C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry experienced two engagements with the enemy as they conducted armed aerial reconnaissance along the ORIENTAL River 11 kilometers southwest of TRANG BANG (XT4110-XT4010). At 1700 hours a helicopter engaged and sank a sampan along the river bank accounting for one enemy kill in the attack. Twenty minutes later, another helicopter sweeping low over the contact site was shot down by heavy ground fire. One member of the crew was killed and two wounded in this action. The suspected enemy firing positions were heavily engaged with unknown results.

14 December

The 1st Brigade area of operations was quiet throughout the day with no significant actions taking place. In the 2nd Brigade area an ambush patrol from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry killed four enemy who walked into the patrol's kill zone at 2045 hours. The ambush patrol also recovered two AK-47 rifles from the bodies of the enemy. The ambush took place at a point 5.5 kilometers south of TRANG BANG (XT481134).

A major engagement began at 1305 hours when C Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry encountered an unknown size enemy force as it swept through an area 4.5 kilometers northwest of TRUNG LAP (XT565250). The company exchanged fire with the enemy and called in helicopter gunships and Air Force air strikes to hammer the enemy positions. The enemy withdrew shortly before dark, and the infantrymen moved into the abandoned positions to discover 20 bodies. One infantryman was killed and three wounded by the enemy's fire, during the battle.

At 0855 hours one member of A Company of the battalion was wounded when he detonated a booby trapped hand grenade as his company searched an area six kilometers east of TRANG BANG (XT550198). A Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor sustained four wounded and damage to a tank at 0920 hours when the tank detonated an anti-tank mine during an operation four kilometers east of TRANG BANG (XT533195).

In the 3rd Brigade area of operations elements of D Company, 65th Engineer Battalion working in support of brigade operations destroyed one anti-tank mine, three cluster bomb units, one claymore mine and seven hand grenades. These munitions were discovered at widely scattered locations throughout the brigade area and turned over to the engineers for demolition.

At 0915 hours B Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry sustained one man wounded and one armored personnel carrier destroyed when the vehicle detonated an anti-tank mine while moving down route 26 as it passes through the CAU KHOI Rubber Plantation eight kilometers east of TAI

B2-27

C2-12

20 BC  
1 KIA  
3 WIA

B-2-22

CONFIDENTIAL

NINH (XT34549). Seven members of the Battalion's A Company were injured at 1121 hours during a sweep of route 14 south of DAU TIENG. At a point five kilometers from the town (XT515419), the company's formation was hit by the detonation of a claymore mine. The company placed fire on the location where the mine was located, but a sweep of the area failed to reveal the results of this counteraction.

A 2-22  
? double speak

The 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry night location at Fire Support Base MAHONG near THANH AN village became the site of a major engagement at 1850 hours. At this time the base was rocked by approximately 100 rounds of 82mm mortar fire followed closely by a barrage of approximately 60 RPG rounds, 50 rifle grenades and a heavy volume of automatic and small arms fire. Personnel reacted to this stand off attack with a heavy counter fire of organic weapons, mortars and artillery. When the firing ceased, infantrymen from the base swept the area around the perimeter and located 13 enemy dead. Casualties within the base were 11 men wounded. Two trucks were destroyed, and two others received minor damage.

Mahong  
13 BC  
11 mia

15 December

In the 1st Brigade area of operations A Company, 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry pushed out of Fire Support BRAGG to sweep an area in the CRESCENT area 14 kilometers northeast of TAI NINH. At 0800 hours the company came under heavy fire which it returned with organic weapons. When the enemy's fire grew in intensity, the company called in support from artillery, helicopter gunships and Air Force air strikes to soften the enemy positions. The enemy broke contact early in the afternoon and withdrew. In sweeping the contact site, the mechanized company located 18 enemy bodies. Company losses in the battle were two killed and three wounded. One armored personnel carrier was destroyed by enemy fire and two were damaged.

A 4-23  
FSB  
Bragg

18 BC  
2 KIA  
3 mia

In the 2nd Brigade area of operations, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry conducted a search operation through an area seven kilometers southwest of TRANG BANG (XT436134) where at 1300 hours it uncovered an enemy cache consisting of three anti-tank mines, 11 claymore mines, 85 hand grenades and 88 rounds of 82mm mortar ammunition.

The 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry reported three significant actions during the day. At 0220 hours Fire Support Base PRESHING located seven kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG (XT516225) received seven rounds of 82mm mortar fire which wounded two personnel. The enemy fire was returned with artillery and mortars with unknown results. One member of D Company of the battalion was wounded at 0815 hours when he tripped a booby trapped hand grenade as his unit conducted a search of a village complex 1.5 kilometers south of TRANG BANG (XT494176). Remaining in this general area throughout the day to continue the search, another member of the company was wounded by a booby trapped grenade at 1313 hours.

Action was light in the 3rd Brigade area during the day. D Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry swept in a wide arc through an area one kilometer south of THANH AN village and throughout the day captured two hand grenades, one sampan and six outboard motors for sampans.

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Elsewhere in the division area D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry accounted for one enemy kill with an attack at 0919 hours on an unknown number of enemy detected in a location eight kilometers northeast of GO DAU HA (XT442302). Armed helicopters of the air cavalry troop swept in on the enemy with automatic weapons and rocket fire.

A long range reconnaissance team from F Company, 50th Infantry working in the HO BO Woods seven kilometers north of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT650-236) came under fire at 1000 hours from an unknown number of enemy troops. The patrol returned the enemy's fire and was supported by helicopter gunships. After the enemy were driven off, the helicopters landed to extract the team. Seven members of the unit had been wounded by the enemy's fire.

16 December

Fire Support Base MITCHELL, a newly constructed artillery fire support base located six kilometers west of TAY NINH (XT170460), came under a heavy mortar and rocket attack which killed one man and wounding six others. The enemy's fire was returned with unknown results.

*FSB  
Mitchell  
(XT170460)*

Elsewhere in the 1st Brigade area of operations, the CRIP of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry engaged an estimated two squads of enemy at 1745 hours. The action took place in the BOI LOI Woods six kilometers southwest of TRUNG MIT (XT374341) where the platoon was conducting a search operation. CRIP personnel called in artillery on the enemy positions and later moved in to discover three enemy dead.

In the 2nd Brigade area, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry captured one POW at 0740 hours during a sweep through an area four kilometers north of DUC HOA. At 1400 hours the company had moved to a point 4.5 kilometers north of the town (IS640975) where it captured one 50 cal machine gun, three AK-47 rifles and one 122mm rocket complete.

At 1125 hours, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry sustained one man wounded to a booby trapped hand grenade as it unit searched an area six kilometers southwest of TRANG RANG (XT453143). The company had earlier discovered and destroyed two similar booby trapped grenades in the same area.

B Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry operated one kilometer north of BAO DIEU (XT568178) where at 1100 hours it came under enemy fire which wounded one man. Returning the enemy fire, the company over ran the enemy position where it captured one CAR 15 rifle, two BAs and numerous spare parts for small arms. At 1653 hours the battalion CRIP that was working in this area sustained two men killed when the jeep in which they were riding struck an anti-tank mine. Two additional men were wounded in the blast and the jeep was destroyed.

In the 3rd Brigade area of operations the DAU TIENG Base Camp came under a mortar attack at 1710 hours. A total of 30 rounds of mixed 60mm

CONFIDENTIAL

and 82mm mortar fire struck the base camp wounding three personnel. Fire was returned by the camp's artillery with unknown results.

A Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry became involved in a small fire fight with an unknown number of enemy at 0830 hours. One infantryman was wounded in the fight which broke out as the unit conducted a sweep operation through the BEN CUI Rubber Plantation four kilometers southwest of DAU TIENG (IT445456).

A2-22  
#13

Long range reconnaissance teams from F Company, 50th Infantry (LPR) experienced two contacts with the enemy during the day. At 1846 hours one team operating in the HO BO Woods five kilometers north of TRUNG LAP (IT588271) engaged an unknown number of enemy. The team called artillery and air strikes to support the contact. A later search of the contact area located two enemy bodies, two AK-47 rifle and one M-16 rifle. A second team waiting in ambush along the SAIGON River seven kilometers north of the CU CHI Base Camp (IT670236) engaged a sampan loaded with enemy soldiers at 2120 hours. When the "Lerp" fired on the boat, it exploded in the water. A search of the area at first light the next morning revealed the bodies of 23 enemy soldiers.

Helicopters of C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry also had two contacts with the enemy during the day. At 1220 hours a troop helicopter flying six kilometers northwest of base of NUI BA DEN (IT210630) received ground fire. The aircraft struck back with automatic weapons and rockets and the crew called in artillery on the enemy position. A later check of the area found two enemy dead and one destroyed 51 cal machine gun. In the same area at 1615 hours helicopters detected an unknown number of enemy. These were taken under fire resulting in three enemy kills.

17 December

No significant actions took place in the 1st Brigade area of operations during the day. In the 2nd Brigade action was heaviest in the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry. At 1025 hours C Company under the operational control of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry discovered a complete 122mm rocket launcher, one 122mm rocket round and an 82mm mortar round at a location in the northern HO BO Woods one kilometer south of the SAIGON River (IT618305). Continuing its search in this area, at 1225 hours the company reported finding one AK-47 rifle, six blasting caps and miscellaneous documents and medical supplies. Moving back to the control of its parent battalion later in the day and shifting its operations to an area five kilometers north of DUC HOA (IT60-5018), the company came across another cache at 1430 hours. This find consisted of six AK-47 rifles, two RPG-7 rocket launcher sights, 18 AK-47 magazines, two RPG-7 rounds, four RPG-2 rounds, six 60mm mortar rounds, one can of 60mm mortar fuses, five pounds of C-4 explosive and 1,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

At 2020 hours an ambush patrol from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor located at a point near the SAIGON River seven kilometers northeast

CONFIDENTIAL

of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT714205) engaged and killed one enemy soldier. An ambush patrol from A Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry also accounted for one kill at 1940 hours when it engaged a small enemy force from an ambush position one kilometer north of BAO DIEU (XT573179). One patrol member was wounded by the enemy's returned fire.

A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry sustained two men wounded when a tank detonated an anti-tank mine at a position seven kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG (XT508260). This incident occurred at 1150 hours. At 1515 hours C Troop operating in an area six kilometers northeast of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT694211) came under heavy fire which wounded six men and destroyed one tank. The enemy fire was returned with organic weapons and artillery with unknown results.

In the 3rd Brigade area a major contact developed at 1055 hours when an enemy battalion size unit attempted to ambush the CU CHI-DAU TIENG logistical convoy. Quick reaction by security forces out posting the road and supporting artillery, helicopter gunships and Air Force fighter bombers succeeded in overcoming the ambush. In a fierce two hour fight 73 enemy were killed. Friendly losses in the battle were seven killed and eight wounded. A search of the battlefield after the firing ceased and the enemy withdrew resulted in the capture of the following enemy equipment and supplies: six AK-47 rifles, two SKS rifles, one machine gun, one RPG-7 rocket launcher, five gas masks, 39 rounds of 60mm mortar ammunition, 10 RPG-7 rounds, four RPG-2 rounds, one 75mm round, 73 hand grenades, seven RPG-2 boosters, 12 rounds of 82mm mortar ammunition, nine cans of 82mm mortar fuses and eight rifle grenades. Friendly equipment losses in the ambush were eight trucks and one jeep destroyed (See TAB F for a detailed analysis of this action).

17 Dec '68  
B2-22  
as outpost  
7 KIA, 8 WIA  
73 BC  
1st Ambush  
8 trucks dest  
1 jeep

At 1910 hours the CU CHI Base Camp received a light mortar attack consisting of four 82mm rounds. At 2355 hours another attack by fire took place as five 122mm rockets slammed into the base. Three men were wounded in these two attacks. Fire was returned in both cases with artillery counter mortar fire with unknown results.

18 December

Once again no significant combat actions took place in the 1st Brigade area of operations. In the 2nd Brigade B Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry captured a 82mm mortar tube at 1805 hours during a sweep of an area five kilometers west of DUC HOA (XT603017).

Action was relatively heavy in the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry area of operations around TRANG BANG. At 0728 hours D Company sustained one man wounded by a booby trapped hand grenade as the unit swept through an area two kilometers south of the town (XT498171). At 0800 hours the company located two carbines a short distance from where the booby trap



CONFIDENTIAL

exploded. Four personnel of B Company were injured when they detonated a booby trap of unknown type. This incident took place at 0815 hours as the unit pushed through an area 6.5 kilometers north of TRANG BANG (XT508259). Remaining in this area the company captured a prisoner at 0930 hours. The man was armed with a pistol that was also taken.

*Smart move*

At 0940 hours helicopter gunships that were supporting battalion operations detected and attacked an unknown size enemy force at a location 10 kilometers northeast of TRANG BANG (XT515292). The rocket and machine gun attack resulted in two enemy kills and the capture of one AK-47 rifle and one M-16 rifle. Two dairies were also removed from the enemy bodies. B Company moved into this area following the gunship's action, and in searching the area (XT5129) during the day uncovered the following: one AK-47, six rounds of RPG-7 ammunition, 50 small arms rounds and four POWs.

Action in the battalion area terminated at 1900 hours when Fire Support PERSHING (XT515256) came under a heavy 82mm mortar attack. Twenty-one personnel were wounded by the enemy fire that was returned by artillery with unknown results.

*F5B -  
Pershing  
21 wid*

A Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry made contact with an unknown size enemy force at 1003 hours at a location three kilometers northeast of BAO DIEU (XT595173). As fighting continued throughout the day, B Company moved into the area to reinforce A Company. Artillery helicopter gunships and Air Force fighter-bomber strikes were called in to support the infantrymen. Firing ceased at 1845 hours when contact was lost. A sweep of the battle area revealed 19 enemy dead, one AK-47 rifle, and machine gun and two RPG-7 ~~rockets~~ launchers. Battalion losses in the all day fight were two killed and 16 wounded. One armored personnel carrier was destroyed.

In the meantime, the battalion's C Company came into contact within the village of BAO DIEU at 1125 hours. Enemy fire was returned with organic weapons and artillery, but enemy casualties could not be determined.

The final action in the 2nd Brigade area occurred at 1855 hours when Fire Support Base STUART located one kilometer east of TRANG BANG came under a light small arms and RPG contact. The firing broke off quickly, and no casualties were taken. Enemy losses to the artillery and mortars which returned the fire could not be determined.

*Stuart*

In the 3rd Brigade area a convoy between DAU TIENG and THANH AN on route 14 came under fire at 1240 hours at a point one kilometer north of THANH AN (XT531389). The enemy fire which wounded eight personnel and damaged one APC was returned by the convoy and supporting artillery. Enemy losses were unknown.

*14 ambush  
convoy*

An ambush patrol from D Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry engaged three enemy soldiers at 1900 hours from a position two kilometers south-east of THANH AN (XT543368). A search of the area following this attack located one dead enemy.

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

19 December

Elements of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry made a helicopter borne assault into an area 14 kilometers northwest of the TAY NINH Base Camp (XT047604). Sweeping the area, the infantrymen captured three rifles, two shotguns, 440 pounds of rice, 220 pounds of salt, 20 hand grenades, several enemy documents, eight blasting caps, three 105mm rounds, one gas mask, one case of explosives, one anti-tank mine and 2,400 small arms rounds. The finds were made at 1130 hours.

No other significant actions were reported in the 1st Brigade area of operations.

In the 2nd Brigade area the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor lost two tanks in two separate incidents with anti-tank mines. At 1205 hours a tank detonated a mine at a point five kilometers northeast of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT700189). The second tank was destroyed at 1620 hours during a sweep 2.5 kilometers east of BOA TRAI. No personnel casualties were sustained in either incident.

A truck from 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry was damaged at 1250 hours when it struck an anti-tank mine at a point six kilometers north of TRANG BANG (XT504250).

At 1221 hours B Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry located two enemy bodies during a sweep through an area five kilometers west of CU CHI Base Camp (XT595173). C Company joined B Company in this general area (XT5817-XT5917) to continue the search. During the afternoon, the companies located one anti-tank mine, eight RPG-7 rounds, from RPG-2 rounds, five rifle grenades, 400 small arms rounds, eight RPG-7 boosters, five hand grenades and three M-79 rounds.

C Company established an ambush patrol during the evening at a location two kilometers southwest of BAU DIEU (XT550152). At 2005 hours this patrol engaged 10 enemy soldiers who walked into the ambush kill zone. After the firing ceased, the patrol located six enemy bodies and six AK-47 rifles.

C-1-5  
amb-  
660

Action was relatively quiet in the 3rd Brigade area. At 1110 hours two separate fire fights broke out, C Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry came under fire as it moved through an area one kilometer north of THANH AN (XT531389). A Company of the battalion sweeping a short distance away (XT534393) also received fire. The enemy fire was returned by the two companies and artillery was called in on the suspected enemy positions. No casualties were sustained in either company.

20 December

One significant action was reported for the day in the 1st Brigade area of operations. At 1945 hours an ambush patrol from D Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry engaged an estimated seven enemy soldiers from a position in a rubber plantation seven kilometers north of GO DAU HA

80

**CONFIDENTIAL**