

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 25th INFANTRY DIVISION
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SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 25th Infantry Division for Period
Ending 31 July 1948, RCS CSFOR - 45 (R1).

SEE DISTRIBUTION

Location: Vicinity of CU CHI Base Camp (XI 647153), CU CHI, RVN.
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History Detachment.
Map References: Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000, Series: L7014, Sheets:
6132 II, 6131 I, II; 6232 II - IV, 6231 I - IV; 6230 I - IV; 6331 III;
6330 I, III, IV.

1. (C) Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

A. General. The "Tropic Lightning" Division continued its participation in Operation TOAN THANG throughout the reporting period. (See TAB B for the Division Operations Plan 1-48.) All divisional resources and assets were committed to this operation which had commenced on 8 April 1948.

To date, Operation TOAN THANG has been divided into two phases: Phase I terminating on 312400 May and Phase II continuing through the end of the reporting period.

Most significant in the activities of the division between 1 May and 31 July were its counteroffensive operations to defeat the "2nd Phase Offensive" of the enemy against SAIGON-CHOLON and its search and destroy maneuvering to thwart and upset the enemy preparations for his "3rd Phase Offensive" of late July or early August.

The "2nd Phase Offensive" (the "1st Phase Offensive" being the TET Offensive of 31 January-10 February) commenced 2 May and continued until 15 May. Alerted by intelligence sources in late April of the impending enemy attacks into the capital region, the 25th Infantry Division maneuvered the bulk of its combat forces into the southeastern quadrant of its tactical area of operational interest to establish a screen beyond the western environs of SAIGON-CHOLON. Deploying itself in depth in western GIA DINH Province, eastern HAU PHIA Province and northern LONG BINH Province during the first few days of May, the Division effectively executed a mobile defense to block the enemy's main avenues of approach from the northwest, west and southwest. When the enemy main force units of the 5th and 9th VC/NVA and the 7th NVA divisions committed themselves to their approach marches beginning on 2 May, the 25th Infantry Division moved in force as required to successfully intercept and destroy the advancing enemy before he could reach his assault positions into SAIGON-CHOLON.

With his main ground thrust broken and turned back, the enemy then mounted his boastful "100 rockets a day" 122mm rocket-mortar assaults against the capital region. Mounting extensive day and night, ground/aerial patrols throughout a "rocket belt" 10-15 kilometers west of SAIGON, the "Tropic Lightning" Division systematically crushed this threat within a few days of its initiation.

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A general statistical analysis of the Division's operations between 1 May and 31 May 1968 reveals the following results:

- U.S. killed in action - 218 ..
- U.S. wounded in action - 1,156 (893 evacuated)
- U.S. equipment destroyed - 22 armored personnel carriers
 - five tanks
 - one helicopter
 - one 8" howitzer
 - two 155mm howitzers
 - one trailer
 - seven trucks

- U.S. equipment damaged (deadlined 24 hours or longer)
 - one 175mm howitzer
 - one tank retriever
 - ten trucks
 - 31 helicopters
 - two 155mm howitzers
 - two 105mm howitzers
 - ten tanks
 - 21 armored personnel carriers
- U.S. equipment captured
 - five individual weapons
 - two crew served weapons

- Enemy killed in action (confirmed by body count) - 2,275
- Enemy prisoners-of-war - 77
- Detainees - 237

- Enemy equipment and supplies captured
 - 478 individual weapons
 - 213 crew served weapons
 - 33.6 tons of rice
 - one star light scope
 - 471 hand grenades
 - 31,026 small arms rounds
 - 511 rocket, artillery or mortar rounds
 - 100 mortar fuses
 - 183 pounds

- Enemy documents captured
- Enemy equipment and supplies destroyed
 - 1,014 rocket, artillery or mortar rounds
 - 166 mines
 - 53,185 small arms rounds
 - 1,775 hand grenades
 - 151 sampans
 - 12.8 tons of rice
 - 18 crew served weapons
 - 26 individual weapons
 - 32 cluster bomb units
 - 1,600 pounds of salt
 - two bombs
 - 243 mortar fuses

In general, contact with main force enemy units throughout the 29th Infantry Division's tactical area of operational interest (TAOI) diminished considerably in June and July. With his 2nd Phase Offensive on SAIGON and subsequently threatened artillery assaults on the capital city totally defeated, the enemy demonstrated little willingness to fight. Rather, in June his main force units that remained outside SAIGON broke contact, dispersed and exfiltrated west into the northwest into WAR ZONE C. In executing this pull back the enemy avoided contact and when engaged was quick to disperse into smaller groups and disengage as quickly as possible. Intelligence sources clearly indicated the enemy's intent of withdrawing his depleted main force units to these traditional sanctuaries for replacements, resupply and retraining for future operations.

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With the departure of the enemy main force units from the SAIGON area, the 25th Infantry Division in June committed approximately a third of its combat forces to the continued defensive posture around SAIGON and deployed the remainder of the division to the west and northwest of the city into the western and central portions of the division TAOI.

The divisional units that remained in the immediate SAIGON area did so as a part of the Capital Military District, (later redesignated the Capital Military Assistance Command as a provisional U.S. Command under the control of II Field Forces to assist in the defense of SAIGON) or as elements under division control maneuvering in western GIA BINH Province outskirts of the city.

While these elements provided a defensive shield in and around SAIGON, the other Tropic Lightning combat forces moved from the immediate capital area to the west and northwest to pursue the dispersed enemy and to seek out and destroy his concealed weapons, ammunition and supply caches.

Extensive and wide ranging battalion size search and destroy and reconnaissance-in-force operations were conducted throughout the southern TAOI from the ORIENTAL RIVER on the south, the Cambodian border on the west, the TAY NINH-BAU CO-DAU TIENG axis on the north, and the SAIGON RIVER-THI TIENH RIVER axis on the east. These operations were characterized by coordinated daylight cross country search and destroy sweeps seeking enemy base camps and supply caches, village searches in coordination with Vietnamese officials, airmobile assaults against targets of opportunity. At night the division employed extensive platoon size ambushes along canals, rivers, roads, trails and other likely routes of enemy movement. In addition, extensive night time roving platoon size patrols were employed in suspected areas of night time enemy activity. On an average day in June and July, 50% of the combat forces were employed during the day and 50% at night.

In addition to the search and destroy type activities described above, the division was active in securing the principle means of radio communications throughout the southern portion of the TAOI. In addition to screening secondary roads, the division maintained a round the clock security operation on the extensive main routes of supply in the TAOI. These MSR's are route 1 from SAIGON to CU CHI to GO DA HAU, route 22 from GO DA HAU to TAY NINH City, route 4 from TAY NINH City to BINH CO, routes 13-26-239 from TAY NINH City to DAU TIENG and route 8A from CU CHI to PHU CONG (CU CHI-LONG BINH MSR).

The only portion of the TAOI that the division did not enter in force during June and July was the jungled and sparsely populated MRZ ZONE C north of the TAY NINH-BAU CO-DAU TIENG axis. This area was subject, however, to extensive surveillance activity both aerial and long range ground reconnaissance by squad and platoon size units. Extensive Air Force B-52 and tactical fighter strikes were placed throughout MRZ ZONE C upon enemy base camps, supply concentrations and other targets of opportunity.

Despite the division's all out efforts to seek out the enemy in June and July, the level of contact dropped to the point in which engagement with local force platoon size units in scattered and infrequent skirmishes became the norm. Considerable success was realized, however, in discovering weapons, ammunition and supply caches throughout the areas searched. The only consistent contact established by divisional units occurred in the final two weeks of July, when the 3rd Brigade, 101st Air Cavalry Division (OPCON to the 25th Infantry Division) engaged what was established as the 2nd Battalion, 27th VC Regiment along an axis from TRANG BANG (XT 489194) to TRUNG LAP (XT 585199).

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Statistically, "Tropic Lightning" Division operations against the enemy between 1 June and 31 July provided the following results:

U.S. killed in action	- 145
U.S. wounded in action	- 879 (499 evacuated)
U.S. missing in action	- 1
U.S. equipment destroyed	- three helicopters - six trucks - one tank - 11 armored personnel carriers - one M-42 - one 155mm howitzer
U.S. equipment damaged (deadlined 24 hours or longer)	- 35 helicopters - 34 trucks - 12 tanks - one M-578 - one M-42 - one FFS-4 radar - 22 armored personnel carriers
Enemy killed in action (confirmed by body count)	- 1,273
Enemy prisoners-of-war totalness	- 37 - 425
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Enemy equipment and supplies captured	- 298 individual weapons - 86 crew served weapons - 78.35 tons of rice - 54,117 small arms rounds - 426 pounds of medical supplies - 11 radios - 212 hand grenades - 337 pounds of sugar - four motorcycles - 904 rocket, artillery or mortar rounds - 22 protective masks - 2,000 Plaster - eight outboard motors
Enemy documents captured	- 137 pounds
Enemy equipment and supplies destroyed	- 763 rocket, artillery or mortar rounds - 430 mines - 18,831 small arms rounds - 1,623 hand grenades - 240 bazookas - 26.99 tons of rice - 19 crew served weapons - 25 individual weapons - five bombs - 12 cluster bomb units - 702 FG rounds - six outboard motors - 1,740 gallons gas - one protective mask - 857.5 pounds of explosive - 1,780 blasting caps - one radio - three rocket launchers

B. Chronology of Significant Combat Actions.

1 May

Contact with enemy forces throughout the divisional tactical area of operational interest (TAOI) on 1 May was relatively light and scattered. Almost all divisional maneuver elements had completed their redeployment into the southeastern quadrant of the TAOI by this date. Mounting intensive daytime battalion and company size reconnaissance-in-force and air mobile combat assault operations combined with platoon and squad size night stationary and mobile ambush patrols, the division established a virtual 24 hour-a-day screen to the northwest, west and southwest of SAIGON-CHOLON. Despite these balnketing maneuvers, only the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry experienced significant encounters with the enemy. The squadron's B Troop flying armed aerial reconnaissance along and east of the ORIENTAL RIVER between the 00 east-west grid line and DUC HOA and C Troop flying similar missions in the southern DOI LOI WOODS (center of mass XT935) and northeast of TRANG BANG along route 237 detected and engaged small groups of enemy on five separate occasions during the day. The armed helicopters accounted for 15 VC KIA by body count and destroyed one AK-47 and one sampan.

2 May

Divisional maneuver battalions and supporting organic and attached aviation units continued their search for the enemy along suspected avenues of approach in the SAIGON-CHOLON area from the northwest, west and southwest. Again, only the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry enjoyed any success in locating the enemy.

B Troop continuing its armed aerial reconnaissance of the area it had overflowed the previous day observed enemy movement north of DUC HOA in the vicinity of XT 5310. Engaging the area with automatic weapons and rockets, the gunships drew intense ground fire. Supporting artillery and Air Force tactical fighter air strikes were placed into the area. Following the lifting of these fires, the air cavalrymen went back into the area on low level reconnaissance and counted 25 enemy dead and four destroyed .50 caliber machine guns. Intelligence sources later identified the enemy as elements of the 271st VC Regiment.

Meanwhile, C Troop had turned its attention to reconnaissance of the IRON TRIANGLE (center of mass XT 7226) and the HO TO WOODS (center of mass XT6027). At 1700 hours the troop detected approximately 60 VC positioned in a tree line along a canal on an axis from XT 728181 to XT 740178 to XT 737173. The armed helicopters engaged the enemy force with their automatic weapons and rockets and then called in artillery and air strikes. A search of the target area subsequent to these attacks revealed 23 VC dead and numerous blood trails leading out of the area to the north. These dead were identified as being from elements of the 401st NVA Regiment.

3 May

On 3 May enemy movement within the division TAOI into assault positions for their planned attacks became more apparent, and the division reacted accordingly. At 1000 hours B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry continuing its armed aerial reconnaissance east of the ORIENTAL RIVER sighted an estimated 200 VC at XT 598068. This enemy force was immediately engaged by the gunships and artillery and tactical fighter air strikes were directed into the area. The 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry (Mech) which was maneuvering on a search operation a short distance to the south of the enemy position was directed to engage. By 1040 hours the battalion had moved into blocking positions along an axis from XT 5906 to XT 5904. This maneuver fixed the enemy position and by 1520 hours the fourth of the twenty third was reinforced by the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor and the

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4th Battalion, 9th Infantry. This combined force was designated TASK FORCE DUNLOP. The tank battalion took up blocking positions along an axis in the vicinity XT 5807, and the infantrymen occupied blocking positions from XT 6005 to XT 6105 to XT 6206. The enemy force was thus surrounded on three sides with a vast swamp area to its rear. The fires of four artillery batteries and eight air strikes were placed on the enemy throughout the day. A total of 35 enemy dead and one POW were confirmed by nightfall.

Elsewhere in the TACI, the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry identified an estimated enemy platoon in bunker positions at XT 80427. At 1045 the target was struck by helicopter gunships. A subsequent assault on the bunkers revealed six enemy bodies.

An ambush patrol from F Company, 50th Infantry (LW) at 2215 hours struck several sampans at XT 783105. The following morning six VC KIA were discovered in the vicinity of the ambush.

4 May

TASK FORCE DUNLOP continued with its mission of reducing the enemy force which it had backed up to a swamp. Taking the enemy under heavy fire with supporting artillery, helicopter gunships and air strikes, the ground units slowly tightened the vice on the besieged VC. By the end of daylight activities the task force had recovered an additional 26 enemy dead and three prisoners of war. Elements of the task force remained in their blocking positions during the night as supporting fires continued to pound at the enemy positions.

As TASK FORCE DUNLOP continued its operations, other divisional units engaged in light and widely scattered contacts with the enemy. Helicopters from B Company, 25th Aviation Battalion flying armed aerial reconnaissance along the ORIENTAL RIVER between GO DAU PA and TAY NHU observed and engaged an unknown size enemy force at XT 291335. The action resulted in 33 enemy dead and two POWs. The enemy force was later identified as a local force VC company from TAY NHU Province.

At 1730, A Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry (Mech) sweeping approximately four kilometers northeast of DUC HOA received fire from an unknown number of enemy at XS 623987. The company attacked into the position and accounted for 15 enemy dead and one POW. This enemy force was determined to be an element of the 273rd VC Regiment.

5 May

TASK FORCE DUNLOP was redesignated TASK FORCE DUBOIS at 1200 and continued its operations in the vicinity of XT 5906 - XT 5905. As ground forces swept into the enemy positions they discovered an additional forty enemy dead, most of whom had been killed by artillery and air strikes. Additionally large numbers of abandoned individual and crew served weapons along with ammunition, supplies and food were discovered. Contact was maintained with the enemy and supporting fires from helicopters, artillery and tactical air continued to be used in heavy volume.

At 1245, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry (Mech) sweeping along route 1 at a location approximately three kilometers southeast of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT 437120) engaged an estimated VC platoon. In a contact that continued until 1800 hours, the company supported by helicopter gunships accounted for 23 VC KIA. The enemy force was identified as a unit of the 7th VC local force battalion.

Also on the afternoon of 5 May, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry searching approximately three kilometers southwest of the SAIGON RIVER town of THU OUNG discovered a large enemy ammunition cache at XT 794117. In addition to large numbers of TFC rounds and hand grenades, the company captured 72 complete 122mm rockets and 21,500 rounds of small arms ammunition.

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6 May

TASK FORCE DAMS completed its operations against the enemy force in the general vicinity of XT 4005, XT 4006, XT 6105 and XT 5907. The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry and 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry (Mech) swept through the area during the day and discovered 113 additional enemy dead and substantial numbers of enemy weapons, ammunition and supplies. The total enemy casualties by body count in the four day engagement was 213 dead. From five prisoners taken in the battle, it was learned that the enemy force intercepted and blocked by TASK FORCE DUNLOP - DAMS consisted of a battalion of the 271st VC Regiment and that the survivors of the engagement, many of them wounded, had fled north through the swamp.

As the 4th of the 9th and 1st of the 9th prepared for their sniping up activities for the day, TASK FORCE DAMS sent the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry and 2nd Battalion, 31st Armor south into the vicinity of BOA TRAI to reinforce the ARVN - RF-PF garrison of that town which was attacked by a three battalion enemy force (the 247B, 247 and D-14 VC battalions) in the early morning hours. At XT 4805 the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry (Mech) closed with an enemy unit at 0730. Supported by helicopters and artillery, the battalion accounted for 44 enemy dead and captured one prisoner in an all day running battle to the west of BOA TRAI.

B Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry in a sweep one kilometer north of Route 1 midway between CU CHI and TRANG BANG (XT 948175) engaged an estimated VC platoon at 0815 and inflicted 18 KIA and one POW on the enemy before he broke contact and retreated to the west. The 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry (Mech) maneuvering near CU CHI in the vicinity of its C Company's contact of the previous day established contact with an enemy force of unknown size and claimed 12 VC KIA in the ensuing fire fight. At 1435, D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry following up on the 4th of the 23rd's contact earlier in the day near BOA TRAI, spotted 50 VC moving west away from the area of contact. The helicopters engaged the fleeing enemy and killed an additional 15 VC.

7 May

In the predawn hours of 7 May, A and B Companies of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry and C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry commenced a reconnaissance-in-force operation in the vicinity of XT 7303 approximately ten kilometers northwest of SAIGON-CHOLON. At 1115 hours this force ran into a large number of enemy: a force that was later identified as the 3rd Battalion, 88th NVA Regiment. After a heated encounter that lasted through the day and the night and into the following day, the US force supported by helicopter gunships, artillery and tactical air inflicted 199 dead on this enemy battalion. The survivors of the NVA battalion fled to the west.

Contact throughout the division TAOI became increasingly more frequent throughout the day, but most actions were with small infiltrating units.

8 May

At 0934 Company C, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry was sweeping at XS 743925 when it ran into an unknown size enemy force. Engaging the enemy with organic weapons the company accounted for 32 VC KIA and two prisoners before contact was lost. Later in the day at 1155 five kilometers to the northwest (XS 703942), the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry night defensive location engaged an unknown size VC force that moved into its position. In the fire fight that took place, 32 VC KIA were recorded and two POWs were taken. The two actions are believed to have involved the same enemy battalion of the 271st VC Regiment; the later fight taking place as the VC sought to evade the first US unit which took it under fire.

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Meanwhile, a short distance to the northeast of where the VC battalion was fighting its second battle of the day, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry was engaging a VC company. With the support of armed helicopters, the US troops drove off the advancing enemy who left 24 dead and two prisoners behind.

Further to the north, the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor was sweeping Route 1 south of HOC MON (XT 751020) in an area where it had a light contact the previous day. At 1245 the tankers came under fire. Returning fire with organic weapons and supported by armed helicopters, artillery and air strikes, the 2nd of the 34th Armor pursued the enemy all day and into the night. Contact was lost at 0200 on the 9th. Forty-four enemy dead were recovered and one prisoner was taken.

9 May

Throughout the first week of May, many division base camps, Artillery fire support bases and battalion night defensive positions had come under light but harrasing enemy stand off rocket and mortar attacks. In the darkness of the early morning hours of 9 May, this enemy tactic was intensified with two heavy assaults.

At 0100 the division headquarters at CU CHI Base Camp was struck by thirty rounds of mixed 122mm and 107mm rockets. The rockets all falling within a span of two minutes resulted in seven killed and 48 wounded. Damage to the base camp installations was light.

An hour later, Fire Support Base MAURY at XT 619022 came under a heavy mortar and rocket attack followed by a battalion size ground assault. A Company and the Scout Platoon of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry which were securing the artillery positions were reinforced by the battalion's B Company and I Troop, 3rd Squadron, 11th Cavalry. In a fight that lasted until 0600, US casualties were nine KIA and 68 wounded. Additionally two 105mm and two 155mm howitzers were destroyed by enemy sappers who had breached the perimeter defense. Fourteen enemy dead were counted the following morning and one POW was taken.

On the same day at 1450, A and B Companies and the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry made an air mobile combat assault into a swamp five kilometers east of DUC HOA (XS 6595) to check out a large enemy force reported to be in the area. Making contact immediately upon the landing, the infantry swept through the area with the support of helicopter gunships. In the contact that lasted until 2100, the infantryman recovered 46 enemy dead, took three prisoners and captured three 122mm rocket launchers and numerous other items of enemy weapons, ammunition and equipment. The prisoners later identified their unit as the 206th NVA Rocket Regiment.

10 May

Continuing their wide spread search for enemy units west of SAIGON, the maneuver battalions of the 27th Infantry Division established numerous small contacts on 10 May. The most significant of these involved C Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry which located an enemy force approximately nine kilometers west of SAIGON at XS 70914 at 1035. Pursuing the enemy which was later learned to be elements of the 271st VC Regiment to the north, C Company claimed 26 enemy dead and one prisoner in an all day fight which broke at 2118 hours.

11 May

Significant contact with the enemy west of SAIGON continued 11th and scattered throughout 11 May. At 1445 C Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry fixed an estimated VC platoon in a hedgerow at XT 915070 approximately three kilometers west of the SAIGON TRUTH. After calling in helicopter gunships and artillery to engage the entrenched VC, the

company assaulted the helipad at 2000 hours and discovered 15 enemy dead and numerous weapons, equipment and supplies.

12 May

The enemy stepped up the tempo of his activities west of SAIGON in the early morning hours of 12 May, he staged a battalion size attack on artillery Fire Support Base FIVE VI at XS 735940. Beginning at 0138 with a mass mortar barrage, the enemy staged several human wave assaults on the fire support base perimeter. Defended by personnel of the 3rd Battalion, 13th Artillery, 6th Battalion, 7th Artillery and 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery and elements of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, the fire support base perimeter turned back all assaults. By 0407, the enemy attack was broken. At daylight, 98 enemy bodies were counted outside the perimeter wire and numerous weapons, ammunition and supplies were found abandoned.

The attacking force later was determined to be a battalion of the 272nd VC Regiment.

Later in the day, C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mech) searching for the enemy in the vicinity of XS 7097 discovered an estimated platoon hiding in bunkers. Supported by artillery and air strikes, the company moved into the enemy positions and claimed 17 VC KIA and one POW in the action.

13 May

The 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry (Mech) which had for several days had the mission of clearing the MS9 (route 1) from GO DAU MA to the HOC MON Bridge (XT 712071) was again performing this operation when at 0850 it came into contact with an unknown size enemy force in the village of F BAN DIEM (XT 543147) midway between TRUNG BANG and CU CHI. In a running house to house battle that lasted throughout the day, the battalion accounted for 19 enemy dead and one prisoner. The prisoner identified his unit as a TRUNG BINH local force company.

At about the same time that the "Triple Deuces" were initiating their contact, Company D of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry was conducting a sweep through an area approximately five kilometers south of PHU COG (XT 795095). During the previous night, artillery had engaged a target in this area detected by radar. The infantrymen in their search discovered 15 VC KIA killed by artillery.

Again about the same time, elements of the 109th Light Infantry Brigade which had become OIC (operational control) on 12 May to the Tropic Lightning Division located the enemy in the vicinity of XS 7283. With initial contact made at 0820 by the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, Companies A and D of the 9th Battalion, 12th Infantry quickly moved to reinforce. Supported by armed helicopters, artillery and air strikes, these units pursued the estimated VC battalion until 2200 when contact was lost. Enemy losses for the encounter were established at 65 KIA by body count.

Far to the north in TAY BINH Province, the communications relay complex operated at the summit of MUI BAN DIEM (XT 281582) was attacked by enemy sapper forces at 2145 hours. Successful in their effort to breach the perimeter of the mountain top compound, the enemy destroyed the communications relay facilities with mortars and satchel charges. Although the enemy lost 25 KIA in the fight which transpired, 19 US troops died in the fight.

14 May

The 199th contact with the enemy in the vicinity of the previous day's encounter continued intense. Establishing a night defensive position at XS 720843, Company A, 5th of the 12th and Companies B and D

of the 2nd of the 3rd, came under attack at 0255 hours. In a battle that ran to until 0430, these infantry units supported by armed helicopters and artillery accounted for another 60 enemy dead. At about the same time (0300), C Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry was attacked in its night defensive position at XS 573837. In the ensuing fire fight, the company aided by helicopter gunships, artillery and air strikes killed 31 of the attacking enemy. Intelligence gained from documents captured by the 199th in these three engagements revealed that the enemy force in each case was an element of the 273rd VC Regiment.

15 May

On the 13th and 14th of May intelligence sources indicated that enemy units which had moved towards SAIGON beginning on the 3rd of May were now exfiltrating the area on movements back to their sanctuary areas. Divisional units were now employed to pursue the fleeing enemy. The A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry sweeping for the enemy in the northern HO TO WOODS intercepted a large enemy unit moving north at XT 560308. In an all day battle, A Troop reinforced by the Squadron's C Troop and supported by gunships, artillery and air strikes accounted for 82 VC KIA and captured three prisoners. The PS's identified their unit as the 7th Battalion, 9R-1, local force and reported that the battalion had been in constant contact for ten days with US and ARVN forces and had lost 400 of its 500 personnel either killed, wounded or missing. The survivors were pulling back into WAR ZONE C in northern TAY NINH Province.

14 May

On 14 May the pattern of contact with enemy forces throughout the division TAOI continued to move away from SAIGON further indicating the exfiltration of enemy units which had attempted to close on the city early in the month. At 1725 hours B Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry (199th Light Infantry Brigade) searching for enemy forces approximately one kilometer north of the KING SINC Canal (XS 440878) engaged an unknown enemy force. Attacking the enemy force as it moved west, the company killed 20 VC before the enemy unit was able to break contact. Flying late afternoon armed aerial reconnaissance missions over the HO TO WOODS and IRON TRIANGLE, C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry detected 150 to 200 VC at XT 732193. The enemy were engaged by the armed helicopters in addition to artillery and air strikes that were called in. A check of the area following the engagement revealed the bodies of 21 VC.

17 May

Searching for suspected enemy ammunition caches along the banks of the RICH TRA Canal north of SAIGON and west of the SAIGON RIVER, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry at XT 789073 located and evacuated 98 rounds of 75mm ammo, 40 anti-tank mines, 120 rounds of RPG-2 ammo, 24 rounds of 60mm ammo, 5 complete 122mm rockets, two AK-47 rifles and 20 pounds of medical supplies. The company also destroyed in place 162 rounds of 82mm mortar ammo. At 1555 while flying the QU CHI Base Camp "rocket belt" the Division Artillery Command and Control helicopter detected an enemy rocket position in the northern FILMOL PLANTATION (XT 648225). Earlier in the day, at 1220 hours B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry flying reconnaissance in the same general area engaged another rocket site at XT 620207 resulting in two VC KIA and eight 122mm rockets destroyed. Sweeping the position with its automatic weapons and calling in artillery, ten 122mm rockets were destroyed and ten VC KIA were accounted for. The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry conducted reconnaissance in force operations eight kilometers north of DUC TA located 22 VC killed by artillery and air strikes and located and destroyed in place 43 82mm mortar rounds.

18 May

Pressing the search for enemy forces and equipment, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry located and evacuated the following from XT 754167: six light machine guns, 20 AK-47 rifles, two 75mm recoilless rifles, five 82mm mortar, one 60mm mortar, one .51 cal machine gun, one 12.7 mm anti-aircraft machine gun, five PRC-10 radios, two anti-tank mines and 600 rounds of small arms ammo.

19 May

Continuing to search for enemy forces north of DUC HOA, the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry engaged an unknown size force at XT 631042 at 0840. The contact was initiated when D Company made an air mobile combat assault into a "hot" landing zone. D Company was reinforced during the day by A and C Companies as well as supported by artillery, armed helicopters and air strikes. A total of 18 VC KIA were located after contact was broken late in the day. Documents found on the enemy dead identified the enemy unit in contact as the 3rd Battalion, 272nd VC Regiment.

20 May

The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry following up on its contact of the previous day searched the area surrounding the battle area. At 0955 at XS 634993 Company B took a small VC force under fire and accounted for nine VC KIA as well as capturing numerous individual weapons and ammunition. Meanwhile, at a location seven kilometers north of TAN SON NHUT Air Base, C Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry on a search and destroy operation ran into an estimated VC platoon hiding in bunkers along a canal bank. Engaging the enemy with organic weapons, artillery and armed helicopters, C Company destroyed the enemy platoon in place accounting for 25 VC KIA.

21 May

The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry which had been stalking the 3rd Battalion, 272nd VC Regiment for several days north of DUC HOA found their prey at 0318 when the enemy battalion attacked the 4th of the 9th night location at XS 634993. Turning back the enemy assault with the aid of supporting artillery and air strikes, the infantry pursued the enemy as they pulled back. In heavy fighting which ended late in the afternoon of the 21st several kilometers to the north of the night defensive position, the 4th of the 9th accounted for 44 VC bodies and two POW's. Air Force tactical air strikes flown in support of the battalion were credited with an additional 25 VC bodies that were located.

22 May

The 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry (Mech) searching for enemy forces had moved in the Southern BOI LOI WOODS north of TRANH BINH, received an attack on its night defensive position at XT 533290 at approximately 0005 hours. The enemy assault was repulsed and broken by 0345 when the enemy withdrew leaving 29 dead around the perimeter wire and two POW's. The enemy also left behind two machine guns, six RPG rocket launchers, six AK-47 rifles, 34 hand grenades and 57 RPG rounds.

Later in the morning (0340), Troops A and B of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry searching in an area a short distance to the northeast of the 1st of the 9th's contact (XT 574278) came into contact with an unknown size enemy force. In a running battle which lasted all day, the cavalrymen supported by helicopter gunships, artillery and air strikes accounted for another 23 VC dead. Far to the north of these actions, at the TAN BINH Base Camp, an enemy summer unit at 0500 attacked and overran four gun positions of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery on the base camp perimeter. Seven VC KIA were accounted for by the defending artillerymen, but the enemy succeeded in destroying one 175mm gun and one 8" Howitzer.

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24 May

The 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry continuing their pursuit of the 3rd Battalion, 272nd VC Regiment in the DUC HOA area located an estimated enemy company three kilometers south of the town at XS 429985. The battalion's A Company engaged the VC force with organic weapons, artillery, armed helicopters and air strikes between 0830 and 1915 hours. After contact with the enemy was broken, A Company discovered 19 VC KIA. To the north, the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry continued its search for enemy forces and weapons and ammunition caches immediately north of TAN SON NHUT Air Base. At 1045 hours B Company came across an estimated VC platoon at XT 824046. After a fire fight which included support from armed helicopters and artillery, 12 VC KIA were accounted for and two POW's were taken.

25 May

On 25 May, the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry was relocated from the DUC HOA area to a new battalion area of operations northeast of HOC MON where it established a new base camp at XT 778035. Conducting a company size combat assault and sweep to the northwest of the battalion base camp, A Company engaged an unknown number of VC between 1005 and 1430 hours at XT 784084. Supported by artillery, armed helicopters and air strikes, the infantry accounted for 23 VC KIA in the engagement.

27 May

Combat action in the division TAOI on 27 May was focused on the area 14 kilometers west of SAIGON at XS 471925 where the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry was located in a night defensive position. At 2250 on the 26th, the battalion's night position came under mortar fire which was intermittent until 0330 hours when the position came under a massive ground attack. The 4th of the 23rd held off the human wave assaults with the aid of armed helicopters, artillery and air strikes. At dawn, the 4th of the 23rd was reinforced by A and C Troops of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry. The combined US force moved out of the NDP at first light and pursued the enemy which was attempting to break contact. The firefights in the general vicinity continued until 1600 hours. The enemy body count within the NDP and the surrounding area was 243 VC KIA as compared to six US fatalities. In addition, three personnel were taken who identified their mauled unit as the 2nd Battalion, 273rd VC Regiment. Also captured were 28 AK-47 rifles, 11 RPG-2 rocket launchers, 16 machine guns, six 60mm mortars, 49 60mm mortar rounds, 58 hand grenades, 142 RPG-2 rounds and 22,500 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Meanwhile to the north, B Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry and B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry joined forces to engage an unknown size VC force northeast of HOC MON (XT 830043 to XT 842045) in a running battle that lasted from 0855 until 1700 hours. By the end of the day the two companies had accounted for 15 VC KIA and large amounts of captured enemy ammunition and supplies.

29 May

The 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry searching for enemy weapons and ammunition caches in the western FILMOL PLANTATION (XT 62022) discovered and evacuated a supply of weapons which included 67 individual weapons and three crew served weapons.

30 May

The ground troop (D) of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry which had been conducting road clearing and security operations on the MSR from TAY NINH to GO DAU HA for over two weeks without incident suddenly found the enemy at 0935 on 30 May. Having drawn sporadic

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small arms fire along the road at XT 335345, elements of the Air Cavalry troop probed the area from which the fire had come and encountered an estimated VC company. The cavalrymen called in supporting artillery, helicopter gunships and air strikes on the enemy position. Sweeping through the area following the lifting of supporting fires, D Troop discovered 14 enemy bodies.

In the meantime, B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry sweeping northeast of HOC MON along the SAIGON RIVER (XT 839049) engaged a small enemy force heavily dug into a bunker complex. Supported by artillery, armed helicopter gunships and air strikes, the infantrymen overran the enemy positions. They accounted for 11 VC KIA and captured five AK-47 rifles, two RPG-2 launchers and one pistol.

31 May

B Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry conducting a reconnaissance-in-force operation along the SAIGON RIVER approximately six kilometers northeast of HOC MON (XT 791096) encountered an unknown size enemy force at 0855 hours. Armed helicopters, artillery and air strikes were called in to attack the enemy positions. Sweeping into the location occupied by the enemy, the infantrymen located 14 VC bodies and captured two AK-47 rifles, one RPG-2 rocket launcher, one 9mm pistol and two pounds of documents. At the same time, a short distance to the southwest of the B Company contact (XT 823047), C Company detected an estimated two VC squads hiding in bunkers. Supporting fires were placed on the enemy positions, and C Company discovered six VC KIA when it assaulted the enemy bunkers.

2 June

Conducting a search and destroy mission seven kilometers west of SAIGON, the 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry received fire from an estimated 40 VC at XS 708856. Returning fire with organic weapons and calling in supporting artillery and air, the company maintained contact with the enemy from 1355 to 1945. VC losses in the firefight were 21 KIA. In the meantime, D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry which had been flying armed aerial reconnaissance over the ROI LOI WOODS, HO BO WOODS and IRON TRIANGLE detected an unknown number of VC in bunkers at XT 728186. In a battle which commenced at 1115 hours the enemy were hit by armed helicopter, artillery and air strikes. Checking the area following the engagement, the cavalrymen discovered 38 VC KIA.

3 June

D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry continued its armed aerial reconnaissance throughout the ROI LOI, HO BO WOODS and IRON TRIANGLE on 3 June and detected a rocket firing site at XT 625306. Attacking the position at 1130 and calling in airstrikes, the helicopters succeeded in destroying 27 122mm rockets and 2 rocket launchers as well as accounting for two VC KIA.

4 June

B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry flying armed aerial reconnaissance along the ORIENTAL RIVER south of BAO TRAI had five separate engagements with small groups of VC moving in the vicinity of the river. The engagements resulted in 17 VC KIA and six enemy sampans destroyed. Helicopters of D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry flying similar missions along the SAIGON RIVER in the vicinity of PHU HOA DOFO destroyed 13 enemy sampans throughout the day.

5 June

The night defensive position of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry at XT 483196 came under a heavy mortar attack and company sized ground attack at 0113 hours. Receiving a total of 60 mixed 60mm and 82mm mortar

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rounds, the cavalrymen reacted swiftly to the ground attack before it could get seriously underway. Fire was placed on the enemy by organic weapons, armed helicopters and artillery. A search of the perimeter area following the abortive assault located seven VC KIA, one POW, two AK-47 rifles, two RPG rocket launchers, nine RPG rounds, eight hand grenades and six mines.

6 June

Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry conducting an air mobile combat assault at 0745 hours near the SAIGON RIVER town of PHU LONG, landed in a "hot LZ" at XT 051048. As the company landed it drew heavy small arms fire, automatic weapons and rocket fire from an unknown size enemy force in the area. The infantrymen returned fire and called in supporting artillery, armed helicopters and air strikes. At 1140 hours, A Company was reinforced by B Company, and at 1400 hours Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry moved in to reinforce the two companies of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry. All three units remained in contact with the enemy throughout the day and into the night. When the infantry swept through the area of contact the following day, they discovered 46 VC KIA and one POW. Documents taken from the dead enemy and the POW identified the enemy unit in contact as the 1st Battalion, 101st NVA Regiment.

8 June

B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry flying armed aerial reconnaissance along the ORIENTAL RIVER from HIEP HOA to BAO TRAI and east of BAO TRAI engaged small groups of enemy on three occasions during the day accounted for 10 VC KIA.

10 June

An ambush patrol from Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry engaged approximately 20 VC at 0340 hours at XT 815055. The ambush resulted in 15 VC KIA and the capture of 12 AK-47 rifles and 1000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

13 June

C Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry (Mech) sweeping through a swamp midway between SAIGON and DUC HOA (XS 695950) at 0915 hours discovered and confiscated a large enemy ammunition cache. Located in four sunken sampans, the cache included 10 complete 122 rockets, 82 82mm mortar rounds, 12 cans of 82mm fuses, 24 cans of 82mm primers and 5,250 AK-47 rifle rounds. At 1000 hours B Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry sweeping through the SAIGON "rocket belt" received fire from an unknown size enemy force at XT 784072. The company returned the fire and called in armed helicopters, artillery and air strikes on the enemy positions. Sweeping through the area later in the day, the infantrymen counted 13 NVA KIA and captured two AK-47 rifles, one .30 caliber machine gun and two RPG-2 rocket launchers.

14 June

The 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division with two battalions (3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry and 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry) became OPCON to the 25th Infantry Division. The brigade arrived at the CU CHI Base Camp on 14 June and began preparations for operations within the Division TOI.

15 June

An ambush patrol from C Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry engaged 25-30 enemy at 2355 hours. The enemy force walked into the ambush set by the C Company element at XS 724993. In the fire fight that ensued 15 NVA were KIA from the claymores, hand grenades, small arms and automatic weapons fire of the ambush.

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16 June

A short time later at 0250 hours, the night defensive position of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry at XS 740998 came under a heavy mortar attack followed by a human wave ground assault by an estimated battalion sized enemy force. The bunkered perimeter of the night location met the enemy assaults with a heavy volume of fire. The enemy outside the perimeter were also taken under fire by supporting helicopter gunships, artillery and air strikes. The following morning a search of the area beyond the perimeter revealed 72 enemy KIA and resulted in the capture of 29 AK-47 rifles, 13 RPG rocket launchers, three machine guns, 20 RPG rounds and 400 small arms rounds. One prisoner was also taken. The attacking enemy unit was identified as the 1st Battalion, 272nd VC Regiment.

18 June

On 18 June, D Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry searching for enemy arms and ammunition caches northeast of HOC MON discovered a large supply hidden in a tunnel at XT 793070. The company confiscated 32 122mm rocket war heads, six carbines, seven RPG rocket launchers, 13,480 small arms rounds, 88 RPG rounds and 88 82mm mortar rounds. The 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne which had moved from CU CHI Base Camp to an area of operations in the TRAPEZOID south of the MICHELIN PLANTATION had been searching in vain for enemy forces in this area. It's first significant contact occurred at 0420 hours on the 18th when a D Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne on a night patrol engaged an unknown size enemy force. Searching through the area of contact at first light, the company located seven VC KIA.

19 June

Company C, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry conducted a helicopter borne assault at 1054 hours into a landing zone five kilometers north-east of HOC MON. As the company landed, it came under fire from an unknown enemy size force occupying the terrain adjacent to the landing zone. Four helicopters were damaged by the fire, but were able to exit the landing zone. The infantry returned the enemy fire and called in armed helicopters and artillery for supporting fire. At 1430 hours, elements of Companies B and D linked up with C and the combined units remained in contact throughout the day. A sweep of the contact area the following morning discovered 44 VC KIA, seven AK-47 rifles, eight RPG-2 rounds, 25 hand grenades and miscellaneous medical supplies. The enemy unit in contact was identified as elements of a battalion of the 101st NVA Regiment.

21 June

Shifting its area of operations from the TRAPEZOID south of the MICHELIN PLANTATION to western HAU NGHIA Province southwest of TRANG BANG, the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division engaged in a significant combat action on 21 June. At 1142 hours Company A, 1st Battalion, 504th Airborne was searching east of the CHIANG RIVER at XT 430113 when it ran into the base camp of an estimated VC company. In the heavy fire fight that followed, A Company was reinforced by C Company and A Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne. Helicopter gunships, artillery and airstrikes were also brought to bear on the enemy positions. After the contact which lasted through the day and night of 21 June, the area was searched and disclosed 64 VC KIA and the capture of 13 AK-47 rifles, two RPG-2 rocket launchers, two machine guns, 29 hand grenades, 19 RPG-2 rounds and 5,000 rounds of small arms ammunition. The enemy unit in contact was later identified as the 267th VC Battalion.

22 June

In the early morning hours, the DIVARTY radar at PHU HAO DONG detected unidentified movement between its location and HOC MON.

The target was engaged with artillery. The following day helicopters flew over the area, engaged and located 15 VC KIA: resulting from artillery. 17

23 June

The reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion, 504th Airborne conducting a night search and destroy operation along the west bank of the ORIENTAL RIVER discovered a large enemy ammunition cache. At 0210 hours the platoon uncovered 106 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, one 120mm mortar round, 110 RPG rounds, 429 60mm mortar rounds, three 82mm rounds and 1,000 rounds of small arms ammunition at XT 420105.

28 June

B Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry (Mech) conducted a combined search and destroy operation north of TRUNG BANG with the 34th ARVN Ranger Battalion. The force came under fire from an unknown size enemy force at XT 500233. Supported by artillery, armed helicopters and air strikes, the joint force swept into the enemy positions and accounted for 20 VC KIA and four POW's.

30 June

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry (Mech) conducting a road clearing and security mission on the MSR between TAY NINH and TRUNG BANG received fire from an estimated enemy company at 0900 hours in the vicinity of XT 358332. At 0920, Company B reinforced by the battalion heavy mortar platoon moved north from TRUNG BANG to reinforce A Company. At 1005 a platoon of C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry also moved north from TRUNG BANG to reinforce, and at 1141 hours two mechanized ARVN companies from TAY NINH moved into the area of contact. After a preparation by armed helicopters and mortars and a CS drop, B Company and the platoon of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry assaulted into the rubber plantation to the east of the road from which the enemy fire had originated. In the contact which continued until 1905 hours, 21 VC KIA were discovered, two POW's were taken and two AK-47's and one machine gun were captured.

Earlier in the day, the night defensive position of the 1st Battalion, 504th Airborne at XT 492235 came under attack from an estimated two companies at 0005 hours. In the contact which lasted until 0230, the paratroopers supported by armed helicopters and artillery turned back the enemy assault and accounted for 38 NVA KIA and the capture of 12 AK-47 rifles, nine RPG rocket launchers, two machine guns, 2,000 rounds of small arms ammunition and 40 hand grenades. The attacking companies were later identified as elements of the 2nd Battalion, 279th VC Regiment.

3 July

Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, participating in the squadron's road clearing and security mission of the MSR between TAY NINH City and SAIGON, drew fire from an estimated enemy platoon at 0130 at a point on the MSR four kilometers southeast of GO DA HAU (XT 413231). The cavalry troop returned the enemy's fire with organic weapons and called in artillery, helicopter gunships and air strikes to hit the enemy positions. Contact with the enemy lasted until 0245 hours. Sweeping through the area at first light, the troop discovered four VC bodies and one AK-47 rifle. At about the same time that this contact was taking place, ten kilometers to the northeast (XT 538264) the night defensive position of D Company, 1st Battalion, 504th Airborne Infantry came under attack by an unknown size enemy force. Meeting the attack with organic weapons and supporting artillery, the company fought off the enemy charge. Sweeping into the area from which the enemy came, the company located 13 VC KIA and captured two machine guns, two rocket launchers, four AK-47 rifles and one field radio.

4 July

The 25th Infantry Division's major administrative and logistical base camps located at QU CHI, TAY NINH and DAU TIENG had come under frequent stand off mortar and rocket attacks during the reporting period. However, all of these attacks were minor in nature involving small amounts of ordnance and were conducted more for harrassment than any other purpose. The one exception to this norm was the attack which took place on the DAU TIENG Base Camp beginning at 0220 hours and lasting until 0450. During that period of time, the base camp received 42 107mm rocket rounds and 515 rounds of mixed 82mm and 60mm mortar rounds. This massive artillery assault was combined with two separate ground probes on two sectors against the base camp perimeter. These probes were met by bunker line personnel and reaction forces from the Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry and the Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery. In both cases, the ground probes were repulsed with the enemy breaching the perimeter in only one location. Results of the attack in the way of U.S. losses were five KIA, 55 MIA, 12 quarter ton trucks, five 3/4 ton trucks, three 2 1/2 ton trucks, three 5 ton trucks, one APC, and six buildings damaged. Enemy losses were recorded at 16 KIA, six AK-47 rifles and one rocket launcher captured, and 434 satchel charges, 61 RPG rounds, 45 60mm mortar rounds, 16 grenades and four mines destroyed.

8 July

Tropic Lightning maneuver elements continued to push their search for enemy supply caches. Searching along a canal bank one mile southwest of the SAIGON RIVER town of PHU CONG (XI 799124), C Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry uncovered and captured a large supply cache containing 538 rounds of small arms ammunition, 238 40mm rounds, 18 82mm rounds, 50 rifle grenades, 40 pounds of medical supplies and one AK-47 rifle. Later in the day, at 1832 Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry, sweeping an area approximately three kilometers northeast of TRANG BAN (XI 520217) engaged an unknown size enemy force. The fire fight that followed was supported by armed helicopters, artillery and an Air Force "Spooky", a gatling gun armed C-47 cargo aircraft. Pushing through and overrunning the enemy positions, the paratroopers recovered 21 VC KIA. Four troopers died in the contact and 13 were wounded.

9 July

At 0920 hours, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry sweeping west of the SAIGON RIVER one kilometer southwest of PHU LONG (XI 843046) discovered 12 VC KIA by artillery. Movement had been detected in the area the previous night by radar and the movement was engaged by artillery. Three destroyed AK-47 rifles and two unserviceable RPG rocket launchers were captured along with three RPG rounds and 14 hand grenades. Searching several kilometers to the northwest of the 2nd of the 14th discovery (XI 758124) at 1150 hours, B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry discovered a cache consisting of one AK-47 rifle, 3,300 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 170 pounds of explosives and 35 blasting caps.

10 July

Flying armed aerial reconnaissance at 1140 hours approximately seven kilometers northwest of TRANG BAN, D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry detected approximately 50 VC in bunkers and spider holes at XI 473257. Assaulting the enemy with their rockets and automatic weapons and calling in artillery and air strikes, the air cavalrymen alerted the nearby 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry to the presence of the enemy unit. At 1547, Companies

C and D of the battalion made a helicopter borne assault on the enemy positions. Overrunning the bunkers, the cavalrymen recovered 27 enemy bodies, and captured 15 AK-47 rifles, six RPG rocket launchers, 1,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 15 RPG rounds and 25 hand grenades.

11 July

Pursuing the remnants of the enemy force they attacked to the northeast by following blood trails, C and D Companies, 1st Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry discovered an additional six enemy bodies, four AK-47 rifles, 17 RPG rounds, 25 pounds of medical supplies, 350 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 2,000 pounds of rice, 35 pounds of sugar, one RPG rocket launcher, one pound of documents, 40 82mm rounds, 30 mortar fuzes and seven hand grenades.

12 July

Flying armed aerial reconnaissance eight kilometers east of the CU CHI Base Camp (XT 714127) at 1145, Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry detected a sampans on a canal. Checking out the contents of the boat, the air cavalrymen captured nine complete 122mm rockets.

15 July

At 1040 hours a forward air controller for the 25th ARVN Division detected 10-20 VC unloading two sampans on a canal one kilometer east of the Cambodian border. Air strikes were called in on the site and helicopters of C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry flew into the area to follow up the air strikes. The helicopters engaged several VC in bunkers near the spot where the two sampans lay destroyed. Checking out the results of the attack in the position, the air cavalrymen discovered six VC bodies and determined that the cargo in the sampans had exploded.

16 July

Companies B and C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry searching for enemy arms and weapons caches along the west bank of the SAIGON RIVER one kilometer south of PHU LONG (XT 8404) captured 1,345 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 22 hand grenades, three RPG rounds, two 60mm mortar rounds, nine 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, and 2 AK-47 rifles.

19 July

The 2nd Brigade Combined Reconnaissance and Intelligence Platoon (CRIP), a joint US-Vietnamese unit, acting on intelligence, assaulted a house four kilometers north of DUC HOA (XT 60908) where a VC meeting was supposedly taking place. Sneaking up on the house at 2230 hours, the CRIP succeeded in surprising the meeting and in the fire fight that took place killed 9 VC and took one PW. Three pistols, one AK-47 rifle and one carbine were captured. The dead VC were later identified as high ranking VC cadre. At 1955, an ambush patrol from D Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry, set up along a trail at XT 749157 ambushed a VC party. The results of the ambush were 7 VC KIA of the seven man party and the capture of five AK-47 rifles, one RPG rocket launcher, one pistol, 1,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 10 RPG rocket rounds and 50 rounds of 9mm pistol ammunition.

22 July

At 1056 B Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry was sweeping three kilometers northeast of TRUNG BANG (XT 52204) when it encountered an unknown size VC force. Supported by

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helicopter gunships, artillery and air strikes and reinforced by the battalion's C and D companies, the contact with the enemy force continued throughout the day and into the night. A sweep of the area the following day resulted in the discovery of six VC bodies. At the same time to the west of the paratroopers contact, 3 Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry sweeping four kilometers north of GO DA HAU (XT 392301) engaged an unknown size enemy force. Armed helicopters, artillery and air strikes were called in on the enemy positions, and 3 Company was reinforced by companies A and C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mech). The contact lasted through the day and into the night. At first light, a sweep of the area revealed 13 VC KIA.

24 July

C Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry flying armed aerial reconnaissance along the Cambodian border at 1800 hours detected a platoon size enemy force at XT 340200 eight kilometers southwest of GO DA HAU. Attacking with automatic weapons and rockets and calling in artillery and air strikes, the air cavalrymen observed the enemy withdrawing to the west in the direction of CAMBODIA. A low level reconnaissance of the area after the contact revealed 8 VC KIA.

25 July

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry sweeping three kilometers northeast of TRUNG BINH (VT 511219) at 0815 came into contact with an unknown size enemy force. C Company was reinforced by A and B Companies of the battalion and the contact was supported by helicopter gunships, artillery and Air Force fighter strikes. Contact was maintained until 1200 hours. Sweeping into the enemy positions, the paratroopers recovered 35 VC KIA and captured two AK-47 rifles, one machine gun, one 81mm mortar and 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition.

C. Combat Aviation Support Operations. During the period of this report, 3,627 Air Force fighter bomber sorties were flown in support of 25th Infantry Division operations. These strikes which totaled an estimated 4,574 tons of ordnance consisted of daily preplanned air attacks on known or suspected enemy targets and immediate close air strikes in support of troops in contact. In addition, 146 B-52 missions (sorties not known) were flown against targets located in the division TAOI. These targets were known or suspected enemy base camps and supply areas and were flown on preplanned or mission divert bases. Confirmed results of these air operations (figures not included in those cited in paragraph 1) are as follows:

Enemy KIA	- 876
Bunkers destroyed	- 4,355
Structures destroyed	- 619
Secondary explosions	- 139
Secondary fires	- 142
Sampans destroyed	- 78
Bridges destroyed	- 20
Trench lines destroyed	- 4,790 meters

Air Force units which provided support to the division during the period of this report were C Flight of the 44th Air Commando Squadron flying out of BIEN HOI Air Base; the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing consisting of the 391st, 557th, 558th and 559th Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of CM BINH BAY; the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing consisting of the 180th, 136th, 308th, 304th and 305th Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of TUY HOI Air Base; the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing consisting of the 120th, 352nd, 614th and 615th Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of PHU TINH

Air Base; the 174th, 355th, 414th and 612th Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of PHU CHT Air Base; the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing consisting of the 90th, 510th and the 531st Tactical Fighter Squadrons flying out of BINH HOI Air Base; and the 8th and 13th Tactical Fighter Squadrons of the Australian Air Force flying out of PHAN RANG Air Base.

Army combat aviation support for the combat operations of the 25th Infantry Division was provided by the organic 25th Aviation Battalion and 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, the 12th Aviation Group, three separate aviation companies, two Air Ambulance Detachments and the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry.

Tactical troop lift and aerial resupply throughout the division TAOI was made available on a daily basis by the 128th and 173rd Assault Helicopter Companies of the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion; the 68th, 118th and 190th Assault Helicopter Companies of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion; the 147th and 205th Assault Helicopter Companies of the 222nd Combat Aviation Battalion; the 116th and 187th Assault Helicopter Companies of the 242nd Combat Support Helicopter Company of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion. All these units are organic to the 12th Aviation Group.

Aerial reconnaissance support to the division was made available by the 75th Support Aircraft Company (Mohawks), the 174th Reconnaissance Aircraft Company (Bird Dogs) and the 184th Reconnaissance Aircraft Company.

Armed aerial reconnaissance and helicopter gunships were provided to the division daily by the organic 25th Aviation Battalion and D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry; B and C Troops of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry; and the 334th Armed Helicopter Company (Gunship) of the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion.

Air ambulance service to the division was provided by the 15th Air Ambulance Detachment and the 57th Air Ambulance Detachment of the 4th Medical Company (Air Ambulance). The 150th provided air medical evacuation service working out of the CU CHT and THY NINH Base Camps and the 57th provided similar service working out of the DMU TING Base Camp.

D. Principle Command and Staff. The identification of the principle command and staff personnel within the 25th Infantry Division for the reporting period is as follows:

Commanding General	- Major General F. K. Moon (1 May - 31 July)
Acting Division Commander	- Brig General William T. Gleason (3 July - 31 July)
Assistant Division Commander(M)	- Brig General Donald D. Hunter (1 May - 22 June)
	- Brig General Glen C. Long Jr. (11 July - 31 July)
Assistant Division Commander(S)	- Brig General William T. Gleason (1 May - 18 June)
	- Brig General Carleton Foy Jr. (19 June - 31 July)
Chief of Staff	- Col. Burton F. Hood
ACofS G-1	- LTC Stanford Touchstone (1 May-31 Jun)
	- LTC Ernest F. Conina (9 May-31 Jul)
	- LTC Harry Rubin (14 Jul-31 Jul)
ACofS G-2	- LTC Albert Stubblebine
ACofS G-3	- LTC Chandler Goodnow (1 May)
	- LTC Alfred M. Bracy (21 May-31 Jul)
	- LTC Walter I. Brent
ACofS G-4	- LTC Vincent I. Grosky
ACofS G-5	- COL Fremont T. Hodson
Commanding Officer, 1st Brigade	- COL Raymond O. Miller
Commanding Officer, 2nd Brigade	- COL Leonard R. Jaens (1 May-31 Jun)
Commanding Officer, 3rd Brigade	- COL Lewis J. Ashley (4 Jun-31 Jul)

Commanding Officer, DIVARTY	- COL Gordon Sumner Jr.
Commanding Officer, DISCOM	- COL James L. Brownell
Commanding Officer, 725 Maint Bn	- LTC Kenneth D. Cowan
Commanding Officer, 25th S&T Bn	- LTC John K. Henderson
Commanding Officer, 25th Med Bn	- LTC Elliott Schofield (1May-20May)
	- LTC Barber S. Fikusch (21May-30Jul)
	- LTC George R. Helsal (1Jul-31Jul)
	- LTC John W. Sorbet
Commanding Officer, 129th Sig Bn	- LTC Peter V. McGurl
Commanding Officer, 25th Avn Bn	- LTC Henry A. Flertzheim (1May-11Jun)
Commanding Officer, 69th Engr Bn	- LTC James W. Atwell (12Jun-31Jul)
Commanding Officer, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry	- LTC Richard T. Simpson
Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry	- LTC Alfred M. Tracy (1May)
	- LTC Thomas C. Nunn (2May-31Jul)
Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry (Mechanized)	- LTC Thomas C. Lodge (1May-25Jun)
	- LTC Clifford C. Neilson (26Jun-31Jul)
Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry	- LTC Ernest Cordina (1May-7Jun)
	- LTC Stanford Touchstone (8Jun-31Jul)
Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry	- LTC Alfred G. Skelton Jr. (1May-31Jul)
	- LTC John F. Kenny Jr. (25Jun-31Jul)
Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry	- LTC Donald J. Green
Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry (Mechanized)	- LTC King J. Giffman
Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry	- LTC Roy K. Flint
Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor	- LTC John H. Tinton Jr. (1May-20Jul)
	- LTC Theodore E. O'Connor (21Jul-31Jul)
Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery	- LTC Alan H. R. Dean (1May-24May)
	- LTC Leslie T. Forney (25May-24Jul)
	- LTC John F. Cooper (25Jul-31Jul)
Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery	- LTC F. Lmer Heard, Jr.
Commanding Officer, 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery	- LTC Billy J. Leathers (1May-8May)
	- LTC Forest E. Pierce (9May-31Jul)
Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 13th Artillery	- LTC Homer W. Keifer, Jr.
Commanding Officer, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry	- LTC Glenn K. Otis (1May-25May)
	- LTC Clevers A. Riley (26May-31Jul)
Adjutant General	- LTC Clarence A. Riser (1May-31Jun)
	- Major Donald M. Edwards (1Jul-21Jul)
Chaplain	- LTC William F. Fauth (22Jul-31Jul)
	- LTC Parker C. Thompson (1May-22Jul)
	- LTC Duncan C. Stewart (23Jul-31Jul)
Finance Officer	- LTC George B. Jarrett
Information Officer	- Major Andrew J. Sullivan (5May-31Jul)
Inspector General	- Major Otis G. Wilson (2May-31Jul)
Judge Advocate	- LTC Jack Norton
Troopst Marshall	- LTC William McClain (1May-7Jul)
	- Major Ronald S. Duran (7Jul-13Jul)
	- LTC Malcolm R. Smith (13Jul-31Jul)
Surgeon	- LTC Rainer S. Fikusch

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B. Personnel. During the months of May, June and July, the aggregate division personnel strength averaged 103.1% of the authorized strength.

Enlisted personnel strength during the period maintained a fairly constant level of 103.4%. As of 31 July, the assigned units of the division were authorized 15,810 enlisted personnel with 16,277 assigned and 15,771 present for duty. Units attached to the division had 64 enlisted personnel authorized, 37 assigned and 36 present for duty as of the last day of the reporting period.

Officer personnel strength for the period averaged 97.7% of authorized strength. This represented a two percent drop in strength from the average of the preceding quarter.

Officer and warrant officer personnel strength within assigned divisional units as of 31 July stood at 1,161 assigned with 1,217 authorized. On the same day 1,145 officers and warrant officers were present for duty. Attached units were authorized four officers and warrant officers. On 31 July three were assigned, all three being present for duty.

From 1 May to 31 July, the personnel input to the division was 292 officers, 38 warrant officers and 4,360 enlisted personnel for an aggregate input of 4,690 personnel. Personnel losses both programmed and unprogrammed approximated this level.

Personnel casualties for the period numbered 22 officers and 323 enlisted personnel killed in action, 87 officers, six warrant officers and 1,331 enlisted personnel wounded in action and evacuated, one officer and 23 enlisted personnel non-battle deaths and one officer and 27 enlisted non-battle injuries requiring evacuation.

Personnel shortages continued to exist in Infantry Captains and non-commissioned officers in the grade of E-7 with 110 POS and in the grade of E-8 in the 16 POS. A change in authorization involving artillery, armor and cavalry units created a shortage in turret mechanics.

C. Organization. The organization list of the 25th Infantry Division for the period 1 May to 31 July is as follows:

ASSIGNED

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Infantry Division
25th Administration Company
25th Military Police Company
25th Aviation Battalion
65th Engineer Battalion
125th Signal Battalion
3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry
Company F, 50th Infantry (LFP)
390th Quartermaster Detachment
25th Military Intelligence Detachment
Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Band, Division
725th Maintenance Battalion
25th Supply and Transportation Battalion
25th Medical Battalion
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery
1st Battalion, 8th Artillery
2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery
7th Battalion, 11th Artillery
3rd Battalion, 13th Artillery
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade

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- 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry (Mechanized)
- 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry
- 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry
- 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor (-)
- 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mechanized)
- 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry
- 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry
- 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry (Mechanized)
- 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry
- 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry
- 18th Military History Detachment
- 9th Chemical Detachment
- 66th Tracker Dog Platoon
- 15th Public Information Detachment
- 20th Public Information Detachment
- 38th Scout Dog Platoon
- 44th Scout Dog Platoon
- 46th Scout Dog Platoon

ATTACHED

- 257th Field Artillery Detachment
- 258th Field Artillery Detachment
- Battery B, 9th Battalion, 2nd Artillery
- 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery (until 8 June)
- 1st Aviation Detachment
- 372nd Radio Research Company

In addition to the above assigned and attached units, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Brigade, 101st Air Cavalry Division were placed under the operational control (OPCON) of the 25th Infantry Division.

The 199th Brigade was OPCON to the division from 12-23 May with its organic battalions being the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry; the 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry and the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry.

The 3rd Brigade, 101st Air Cavalry Division became OPCON to the 25th Infantry Division 14 June and remained in that status through the end of the reporting period. Organic units of this brigade were, the 1st Battalion, 504th Airborne Infantry, 2nd Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry; the 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry and A and C Batteries, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Artillery.

Throughout the reporting period, battalions of the 25th Infantry Division were in turn, placed under the operational control of the Capital Military District (CMD) which was later redesignated Capital Military Assistance Command, a provisional command organized to assist in the defense of SAIGON.

Tab A provides a daily record of the 25th Infantry Division's organization for combat from 1 May to 31 July.

Throughout the reporting period several divisional units were reorganized under new TOE. These are as follows:

1. 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mech), 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry (Mech) and the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry (Mech) to TOE 7-45C per USARPAC GO 226 dated 7 May 1968.
2. 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor to TOE 17-35G per USARPAC GO 218 dated 22 April 1968.
3. 15th and 20th Public Information Detachments to TOE 45-900E PAC 1/68 per USARPAC GO 268 dated 28 May 1968.

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4. 3rd Battalion, 13th Artillery to TOE 4-3593 per USMTC GO 272 dated 29 May 1968.

5. 18th Military History Detachment to TOE 20-173 P&C 1/68 per USARPAC GO 278 dated 29 May 1968.

6. 9th Chemical Detachment to TOE 3-5003 P&C 1/68 per GO 297 dated 17 June 1968.

G. Training. The 25th Infantry Division continued to pursue an active internal training program during the reporting period. The heart of this training program was the Division Replacement Training Course, the Division Demolitions and Explosives Course, and the Lightning Combat Leaders Course all provided by the 25th Administration Company.

The Division Replacement training course, an intensive five day and five night Vietnam oriented field training block of instruction required to be taken by all divisional replacements was completed by 4,145 personnel between 1 May and 31 July. The Mines and Booby Trap Course, a four hour course of instruction in enemy mine and booby trap tactics required to be taken by all newly arrived divisional personnel, was completed by 4,841 personnel.

The lightning Combat Leaders Course (LCLC), an eight day field leadership course for fire team and squad leaders, was completed by 552 junior leaders. Five hundred and sixty nine personnel received the four hour block of instruction comprising the Division Demolitions and Explosives Course. In addition, a four hour course of instruction in tunnel destruction was attended by 574 students.

Other divisional courses of instruction, the instructing unit and the number of trainees for the period of this report are as follows:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTING UNIT</u>	<u>STUDENTS</u>
Small Arms Inspection	725 Maint Bn	59
Generator Maintenance	725 Maint Bn	50
Kitchen Management	29th S&T Bn	72
TSEC/KY-3B Maintenance	125th Sig Bn	111
Crypto Accounting	125th Sig Bn	21
TSEC/KY-8 Maintenance	125th Sig Bn	54

Selected division personnel also attended specialized courses of instruction offered by non-divisional organizations between 1 May and 31 July. These courses by title, the instructing unit, location and number of trainees are shown below:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STUDENTS</u>
Jungle Environmental Survival	Fleet Airborne Electronic Training Unit, Pacific	Clark AFB Philippines	9
Jungle Survival School	Fleet Airborne Electronic Training Unit, Pacific	Clark AFB Philippines	3
JUSPAO ORIENTATION Transition/Cumery	HQs, MACV 334th Armed Helicopter Company	SAIGON BIEN HOA	2 4
Cable Splicers Course	SE Asia Signal School	LONG BINH	1
Technical Facilities Control	SE Asia Signal School	LONG BINH	1
Imagery Interpretation	1st H/RS	TRU SON NHUT	4
Photo Interpretation	1st H/RS	TRU SON NHUT	4