

7 Feb 69

OPERATION GREEN LIGHTNING
AFTER ACTION REPORT

This operation was conducted by the 4th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade. The ^{1st} 8th Battalion, 12th Infantry along with the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry initiated the action against the 24th NVA Regiment in the ^{Chu Pa} Chu Pa Mountain area northwest of Plei Djerang on 7 February 1969.

For this operation, the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry utilized Companies A and D as mobile searching and attacking ^{forces} forces. Companies B and C were utilized as blocking forces.

Combat action was initiated on 7 February 1969. Companies B and C were placed in their blocking positions. Meanwhile, Companies A and D crossed the line of departure at 0800 hours. Preceding their departure, artillery and air strikes were used to prep the objective area.

That day Company A swept and cleared 900 meters in zone red with negative findings. Company D swept and cleared a distance of 1200 meters in zone blue also with negative findings.

Company C ^{moved} moved into a final blocking position on 8 February 1969 at grid coordinates YA 904677. While moving into this position, Company C discovered a large permanent type NVA base camp and training area.

Upon initial contact, Company C moved back in order to call in artillery and airstrikes on the entrenched enemy. Darkness precluded a sweep of the contact area.

At the same time, Company A cleared and swept 1000 meters in zone red with negative findings. Company D cleared an area in zone blue of 1400 meters with negative results.

The ^{aero} aero rifle platoon of the 1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry was attached to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry to expedite the movement of Company C in taking its objective.

The insertion of the aero rifle platoon placed the NVA between that platoon and Company C. This action placed the NVA in an untenable position. Company C then attained its objective without difficulty.

Once this position at YA 908672 was occupied by Company C and the element from the 1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry it was observed that the NVA had reoccupied an area previously swept and cleared by Company C. This action indicated to the Battalion S-2 that this area contained something of considerable importance to the NVA.

Meanwhile, an element from Company B engaged a large NVA force in a fire fight. This enemy force was just working into the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry's area of operation. Immediately upon contact, a platoon was dispatched to reinforce the friendly element.

The arrival of the reinforcements heated up the fire fight. By means of fire and maneuver, fire superiority was gained and the enemy routed.

Contact had continued until after darkness. Support from 81mm mortars and gunships was utilized. Three enemy

undisclosed number of (illegible)
dead and an undisclosed number of wounded were effected
before the enemy retreated under the cover of darkness.

Also on this day, Company A swept and cleared a distance of 700 meters in zone red. Company D swept a distance of 800 meters in zone blue. Both companies had negative findings.

The fourth day of the operation, 10 February 1969, revealed the NVA reinforcing their element at grid coordinate YA 904677. With this information from Company C, Company A was dispatched toward this position in preparation for an attack on 11 February 1969.

Prior to being dispatched to this area, Company A had swept and cleared a distance of 900 meters in zone red. Company D operated in zone blue and cleared a distance of 1200 meters.

The morning of 11 February 1969 dawned with a full scale attack by the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry. The objective of the attack was to seize the high ground and sweep and clear the surrounding terrain.

At 0730 hours, non-persistent gas was dropped onto the objective. This action was followed by an indigenous 81mm mortar barrage utilizing 260 rounds. Artillery fire from Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, using 105mm howitzers, was fired to the west of the objective as blocking fire. This action completed total coverage for the attacking force.

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After the attack area had been prepped by both artillery and gas, two air strikes were called in on the objective. Napalm was dropped onto the objective area resulting in 39 secondary explosions.

Company A then seized the objective without resistance. The area was immediately swept and cleared. Enemy casualties and seizures of equipment are included in the recapitulation.

Operation Green Lightning continued into its sixth day with Company A occupying and completing sweeps of the objective area. It was discovered that the contact area contained a large NVA base camp to include classroom facilities, mess hall, and a large ammunition cache.

Company C was further to the west and discovered a larger ammunition cache. At this location, YA 899680, it was notable that two 122mm rockets complete with warheads were found. Again, enemy casualties and equipment are included in the recapitulation.

Company D completed a sweep covering 900 meters and discovered and ^{neutralized} an enemy base camp. This action was in zone blue at coordinates YA 909677.

On 13 February, Companies A and D were placed on con to the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry on the Chu Pa Mountain.

This action was taken to relieve Company B of that battalion which was surrounded. Also, security was provided by the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, Companies A and D, in the evacuation of the casualties of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry.

Companies B and C continued to search and clear their respective areas.

Companies A and D remained with the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, until extractions and evacuations were completed. Upon this action the operation was completed.

The following is a list of accomplishments by the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, in terms of enemy casualties inflicted and equipment seized during the operation:

25 NVA KIA's---3 VC KIA's

2---122mm rockets	4---cases of TNT
130---B40 rockets	3---bags of C4
3---B41 rockets	35-40,000 ---AK47 rounds
1260---82mm mortar rounds	5000---SKS rounds
371---60mm mortar rounds	800---51 cal machine gun rounds
30---rifle grenades	16---mortar fuzes
63---claymore mines	3---caps of charges
70---blasting caps	misc.---shovels & picks
1---pair binoculars	misc.---cooking utensils
3---fish nets	

250 Bunkers Destroyed