

SUMMARY OF 1st BATTALION 12th INFANTRY'S CONTACT ON 24 APRIL 1969

On the morning of 24 April 1969, the 2nd Platoon of Company B(-), while conducting a sweep operation North of LZ Sioux(the same area in which Company C had made contact on 20 April) initiated contact with 4 NVA soldiers. Development of the contact indicated an estimated 50 NVA soldiers located in bunkers. The remainder of Company B (-), with the exception of a 5 man detail left to secure the Patrol Base (LZ Caddo) then moved immediately from the Patrol Base to an attempt to flank the enemy. This movement was designed to relieve the pressure on the Platoon, allow them to break contact, and extract their wounded. During the flanking movement, the Company (-) made contact with snipers who evidently were trying to outflank the 2nd Platoon. Members of this Platoon were close enough to the bunker complex to throw hand grenades into several bunkers. One of these grenades caused 2 large secondary explosions inside one of the bunkers(later it was reported that this bunker contained a 75mm RR with ammunition). Due to the close proximity of the troops to the bunkers, artillery could not be employed directly on the complex, however it was directed to the rear and to the flanks. The Squads of this Platoon continued their flanking movements in an effort to reduce the pressure on their point. At this time the enemy was out of their prepared positions and were trying to outflank the 2nd Platoon. The Platoon was able to break contact and extract their wounded, however they could not extract 2 of their members killed during the initial contact. The Platoon withdrew and joined the Company (-). Artillery was then employed on the complex as well as air strikes.

At 1030 hours, the 2nd Platoon of Company A was airlifted from LZ Mile High to LZ Delaware. This allowed the 1st Platoon of Company B to move at 1050 hours from LZ Delaware, down the finger to the North West towards the contact area. Upon closing LZ Ouachita (Hill 1247) they were moved into a blocking position at

YB 891015 in an effort to block the enemy route of escape to the North. After Company C initiated contact, this Platoon moved to a position at YB 892012, and on the morning of 25 April, they moved back to Hill 1247.

At 1100 hours, Company C was instructed to call all of their elements back into their Patrol Base. They departed this Patrol Base (LZ Caddo) at 1400 hours to assist Company B. Their 3rd Platoon was left at LZ Caddo to secure the Patrol BASE.

Three air strikes were directed into the contact area between 1455 hours and 1550 hours. These air strikes caused 3 large secondary explosions, uncovered 3 separate bunker complexes, and destroyed approximately 15 bunkers.

Company C closed LZ Sioux at 1450 hours and moved down the ridge to the East North East at 1545 hours. Approximately 150 Meters from LZ Sioux, the lead Platoon received fire from 1 sniper in a rock cave. The point man was killed in this initial contact. This sniper was then killed by small arms fire and artillery fire killed an additional 5 NVA soldiers.

At this time (1800 hours), Company C was ordered to break contact and withdraw to LZ Sioux. Their withdrawal was covered by a large volume of small arms and artillery fire.

Company D was directed to close all of their elements into their Fire Base (YA 816998) and move into a blocking position at YB 872022. They departed the Patrol Base at 1630 hours, leaving 1 Platoon to secure the Patrol Base.

Action to date has resulted in 2 KIA's and 7 WIA's from Company B, and 3 KIA'S and 5 WIA's from Company C. There are 11 confirmed NVA KIA's.