

COMPANY C 1ST BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96262

AVDDB-12I-C

20 May 70

SUBJECT: After Action Report of Cambodian Operation

TO: Commanding Officer
1st Bn 12th Inf
4th Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96262

The following is a sequence of events in Company C from 7-15 May 1970:

- a. 7 May 70 Company C was airlifted from Oasis to LZ Invasion at approximately 1600 hrs and rendezvoused at Invasion securing it with Company A.
- b. Company C on 8 May 70 moved out of FSB and found several individual hooches containing clothes and rice. A total of 7 hooches and eight hundred pounds of rice were found and destroyed.
- c. On the 9th of May 70 Company C moved towards Objective White. Three engineers were inserted, but they carried only 25 sticks of C-4. At approximately 1400 C Company discovered a large hooch-bunker complex. It consisted of 15 buildings, 15 by 30 by 5, and 30 bunkers, 4 by 8 by 6, with 2½ feet of overhead. The complex had been occupied within the last 48 hrs by 30-40 individuals. Total rice destroyed was two tons. Also destroyed were clothes for 30-40 individuals as well as miscellaneous cooking and living gear. Captured in action were 3 muskets, 50 rounds of AK ammo, and 3 magazines. About 5 pounds of documents were recovered. As the company moved into a night location, it came upon a way station consisting of 6 hooches each for one individual. Two additional hooches were under construction. These hooches contained a few clothes and cooking gear. Very little food was found. The area had been occupied within 48 hrs by approximately 4 individuals. The way station had been destroyed the following day. The village and way station had been found on the NE boundary of Objective White.
- d. On the morning of the 10th of May 70 two platoons RIFed out of one night location while a third platoon secured an LZ for resupply. Resupply completed, my company SP'ed at 1300 hrs moving west. Upon sighting smoke rising out of a far wooded area I requested and received gunship and artillery support. After the area was thoroughly prepped, my unit advanced to find a

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small hooch complex in an area saturated with bunkers. Most bunkers were in groups of 6-7 and measured 4 by 5 by 5. Two large bunkers near the hooches measured 10 by 12 by 6 with 3 feet of overhead. The hooches contained clothes and equipment of approximately 6 individuals, including 75 rounds of AK ammunition. The hooches and equipment were destroyed, while the bunkers were not due to a lack of C-4. That night I was informed that my battalion would be redeployed and that my element would search and clear Objective White. I would be OPCON to 1/22.

e. On the 11th of May 70 I came under the operational control of 1/22 at 0800 hrs. At 0815 one of my returning ambushes was brought under small arms fire by approximately 5-10 individuals at both the front and rear of the squad. At that time I had my first platoon (minus) react in relief of that squad. The initial squad was extracted along with its 2 WIA's. The first platoon moved into the contact area to secure equipment dropped by the first squad in contact. Grid of contact area was YA564476.

The platoon was pinned down by the enemy in a far wood line. At this time the third platoon was moved into the contact area while additional support was requested. Artillery was employed and I was told by the 1/22 that gunships would be requested. However, noting that there were gunships over me I contacted my own battalion as I knew that the gunships belonged to them. I was, however, unable to use those gunships, being told that they would only cover a final extraction near by.

Artillery fires were slow initially due to the heavy air traffic. Once cleared, however, it was very effective. Approximately 700 rounds were expended from 3 batteries. Gunships worked the contact area in conjunction with the artillery. The Air Cavalry did an outstanding job scouting ahead for us and covering my element's movement.

My two platoons finally were able to secure and sweep the wood line and medivac completed. There were 2 enemy KIA's and 2 blood trails. Friendly losses were 2 KIA's and 2 WIA's.

My elements continued north into Objective White following a trail network discovered by the Air Cav. Four more hooches were found and about 500 pounds of rice. We also found an area of what had been about 4 hooches with bunkers. This area had been hit by a B-52 strike. Six bodies were found as well as ruck-sacks and assorted equipment for 8-10 individuals. Also found were one MG-magazine, 100 rounds of AK ammo, and one bayonet.

At this point I had the only element in Objective White and had searched approximately one square km. We went into a night location as darkness closed at YA 556476. That night I was advised that I would be extracted from Objective White at 0830 the following day and returned to my battalion.

f. On 12 May 70 C Company moved to a PZ for extraction. My unit waited there running short range security RIF's until we were extracted at approximately 1500. Essentially the day was wasted. I took Class 5 resupply at the PZ, but due to my lack of knowledge of the bird arrival time I did not accept any other resupply. Consequently my company did not receive any clean clothes which were desperately needed. We received rations from our own battalion once we were in the LZ. This prevented any movement in the LZ area prior to the following morning.

g. On the 13th of May 70 C Company minus one platoon moved out towards a suspected cache site. An abandoned village-bunker complex was discovered. It consisted of 24 buildings, 15 by 25 by 6, and 21 bunkers, 4 by 10 by 5, with 3-4 feet of overhead. All hooches and 19 bunkers were destroyed. The area had not been used in 6 months. We continued to the suspected cache site. A search was conducted in the PM for the cache. Results were one hooch-bunker complex of 15 hooches and bunkers. The last use of the area was 6 months prior. The one platoon which had been left behind set up an ambush that night with negative results.

h. On the 14th of May 70 C Company continued to search and clear the cache area with negative results. At 1000 we were instructed to return to initial LZ for extraction to FSB. Extraction was conducted at 1500. Night location was near FSB Comanche.

i. On the 15th of May 70 C Company moved by Chinook to Plei Djereng at 0930 hrs.

j. General Comments:

1. In the initial resupply my unit felt an acute ~~initial resupply~~ problem due to the surprise of this as well as the continual problem of poor division resupply. I was issued only 6 maps. Medical supplies requested were not received. My company had not received SP's in 6 days. One half of the men in my unit have flat air mattresses and some do not have one at all.

2. While in the field I received no resupply of medical items. I also received no heat tabs, no mosquito repellent. The lack of clean clothes, which my unit did not receive, caused a definite health problem. The lack of sanitation contributed to almost 100% of my unit having prickly heat.

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