

CONFIDENTIAL
COMPANY, 50TH INFANTRY (LRP)
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96225

AVDCCV-L

SUBJECT: AFTER ACTION REPORT LRP TEAM NO. 22

24 JANUARY 1969

THRU: COMMANDING OFFICER
3d Squadron 4th Cavalry
ATTN: S-2
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96225

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
ATTN: AC of S, G-2
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96225

In compliance with headquarters, 25th Infantry Division, regulation 381-1, dtd. 18 Nov 67, the attached report is submitted.

ARTHUR TOMASCHEK
1LT Infantry
Operations Officer

DOWNGRADED AT THREE YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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16/20/8 8/22/94
DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, NND PROJECT NUMBER NND 873541, BY 28/20/94, DATE

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, NND PROJECT NUMBER NND 873541, BY RB/DeH, DATE 8/22/94

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LRP AFTER ACTION REPORT

REPORTING UNIT: LRP TEAM NO. 22 DATE OF REPORT: 24 JAN 69

DATE-TIME GROUP AND COORDINATES OF INSERTION: 231350 JAN 69 XT518340 DATE-TIME GROUP AND COORDINATES OF EXTRACTION: 241110 JAN 69 XT520341

TEAM MEMBERS AND POSITIONS:

- 1. TEAM LEADER SGT BESSER
- 2. ASST TL SGT VAN RENSSELAER

METHOD OF INSERTION: UH1D

TEAM MEMBERS

- SP4 HAMPTON PFC MOTT
- SP4 MORELAND PFC KEMP
- SP4 REGENTHAL PFC SULLIVAN
- SP4 MC FAUL KCS SAI
- SP4 BOND

METHOD OF EXTRACTION: UH1D

REASON FOR EXTRACTION: CONTACT KIA AND WIA

MISSION: Team 22's primary mission was to ambush enemy personnel and, if the opportunity arose, capture an enemy soldier.

231350 Team 22 was inserted by UH1D in the vicinity of coordinates XT518340. The team moved off the LZ on an azimuth of 200 degrees and had moved approximately 15 meters when they came upon two bunkers (See sketch No.1). The bunkers were well camouflaged; had approximately two to three feet of packed earth for overhead cover; one had ground level firing apertures; and the outside walls of the overhead cover were slanted on a 45 degree angle. The interior dimensions of the bunker that was checked out by the team were five feet high by five feet long by five feet wide (Sketch No.2). Inside the bunker checked out by the team was a tunnel entrance two and one half feet wide by three feet high (See sketch No.2). The team leader began to check out the tunnel but stopped when noises could be heard coming from within the tunnel. The team did not throw grenades into the bunkers or tunnel entrance, or stay in the vicinity of the bunkers to allow the situation to develop because, there was no cover, very little concealment, and the team had no idea how large an enemy force was in the area. The team had no place near the bunkers where they could set up an adequate defensive OP from which they could monitor the area. The team estimates that the bunkers were less than one week old. There were freshly cut trees in the area and foot paths with battle boot prints less than 4 hours old on some of them. The team returned to their LZ, then moved out on an azimuth of 90 degrees.

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NUMBER NND 873541, BY RB/DeH, DATE 8/22/94

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- 231600 The team arrived at an old VC defensive position located in the vicinity of coordinates XT520340. In the area the team found six foxholes approximately two feet square by four feet deep. The team estimates that the holes had not been used in from three to four weeks. There was, however, a foot path running through the position from North to South with battle boot prints on it that were less than 24 hours old.
- 231730 Team 22 monitored an estimated three to six enemy personnel talking and moving from the East to West on a trail 10 meters to the North of their OP. The team determined from the voices that one of the enemy personnel was a woman. The team did not engage the enemy with small arms because they could not see them.
- 231800 Team 22 monitored four volleys of rockets or mortars. The team leader was unfamiliar with the sound. He estimates that from six to eight rounds were fired per volley. The sound was on an azimuth of 125 degrees at an undetermined distance. Because a fix on the enemy could not be made artillery was not called.
- 232150 Team 22 monitored three single shots and voices on an azimuth of 270 degrees approximately 400 meters from their position. The team called in artillery on the enemy with unknown results.
- 240830 Team 22 began moving out of their OP on an azimuth of 45 degrees.
- 240905 Team 22 had moved to a position located in the vicinity of coordinates XT520341 when they spotted a large bunker (See sketch No.3). The point element began moving towards the bunker to check it out. When the point element was approximately 10 meters from the bunker they were engaged by a short burst of AK47 fire from a foxhole five meters to the Northeast of the bunker. The team got down on line approximately ten meters to the West of the bunker and began returning fire. The team became pinned down by semi-automatic fire from the bunker. The shots were all well aimed at anything that moved. The team requested gunships. Shortly after the firing had begun the team monitored voices and movement of an estimated 20 to 25 personnel on an azimuth of 160 degrees approximately 125 meters from their position. The enemy was moving towards the team. The team's Kit Carson Scout knelt up to see where the enemy fire was coming from and was subsequently wounded by an AK47 round.
- 240920 Centaur gunships came on station and began making gun and rocket runs on targets as directed by the team leader. During one of the rocket runs being made on the west side of the bunker one of the rockets went off course, hit a tree, and exploded over the team's position. The rocket killed one man, wounded five others and destroyed the assistant team leaders radio. Aero rifle element 35 was inserted by UH1^D and moved to a position approximately 30 meters to the Northeast of the team's location.

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Because the team members could not stand up with out drawing fire, it became necessary for the team to leave their ruck sacks behind in order to pull their casualties to the aero rifle position. (Note: Out of eleven team members on the patrol only five did not require assistance.) The assistant team leader also left his PRC-25 radio which had been destroyed by shrapnel from the rocket too allow him to have greater freedom of movement in applying first aid and helping to evacuate the wounded personnel.

241055 Team 22 linked up with the aero rifle element.

241110 The wounded personnel and the team leader were extracted by UH1D and a LOH in the vicinity of coordinates XT521341. Three team members remained with the aero rifle element.

NOTE:

1. While in route to the aero rifle element's position the team discovered that the CAR-15 belonging to the man that had been killed was missing. The weapon had not been "abandoned" or left behind intentionally. The team leader was under the impression no weapons had been left in their old position.

2. After the WIA's had been extracted the aero rifle element moved back and secured a position ten meters to the East of where the team had been located. From this position one of the team members moved out and gathered up the equipment the team had left behind. The PRC-25 radio that had been destroyed and an undetermined number of M-26 fragmentation grenades taken off the ruck sacks were missing. Also the missing CAR-15 could not be found in the immediate area. ~~No sweep of the area was conducted.~~ After the equipment had been gathered up the aero rifle element and the three remaining team members were extracted by UH1D.

3. The bunker (the team received fire from) was approximately fifteen feet square. It had approximately four feet of overhead cover reinforced with logs and tin roofing material. The outside walls were covered with plastic ponchos and slanted on a 45 degree angle. (The team received fire from three foxholes, their approximate location are shown in sketch No. 3.) The team also observed what appeared to be two thatched roofs serving an unknown purpose in the vicinity of the bunker.

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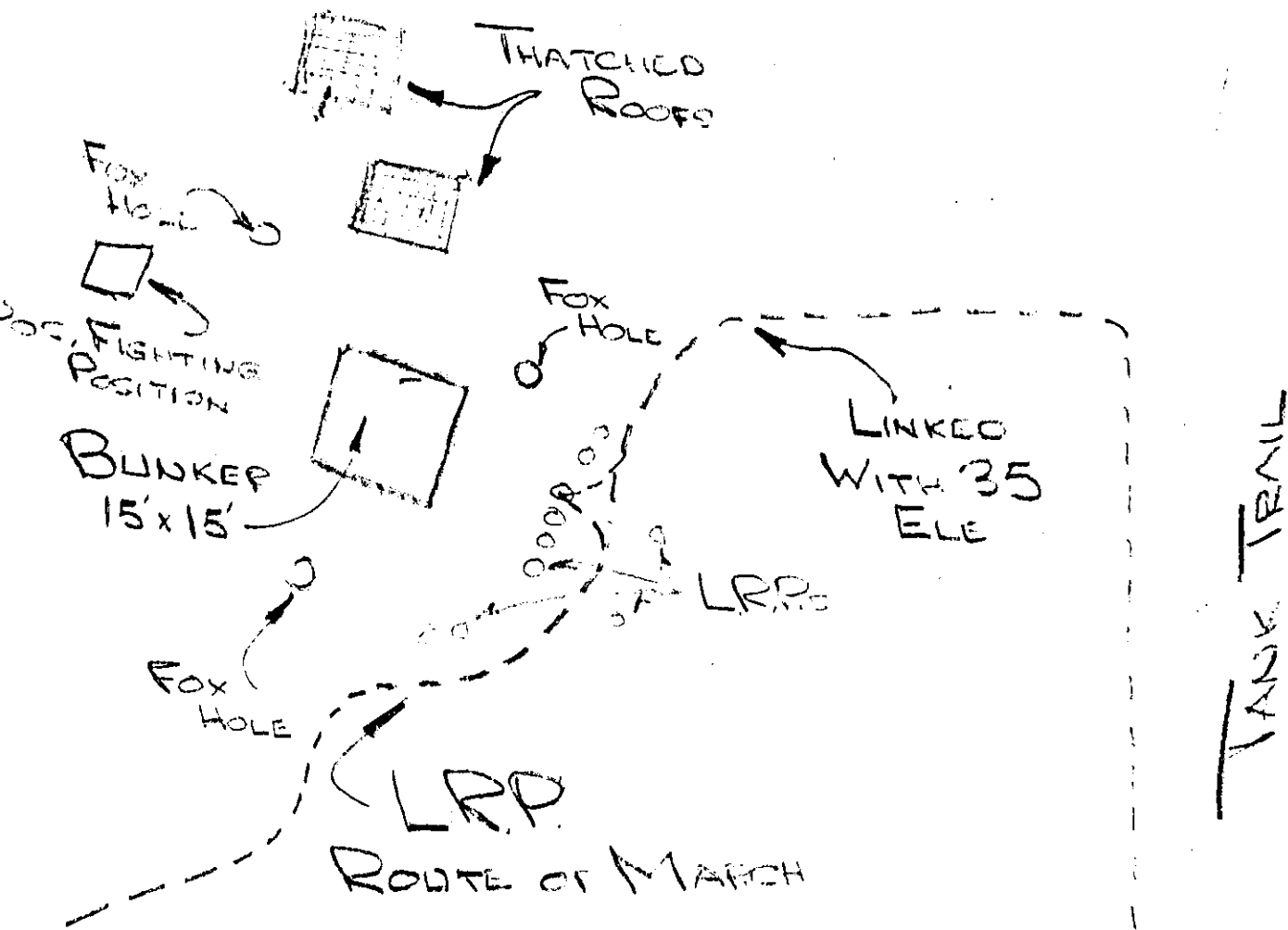
TEAM 22

Sgt. BESSER
24 JAN, 1968

SKETCH 1102



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MEDICAL
L.2.

UNCLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

CO 3D SQDN, 4TH CAV, 25TH INF DIV

CG 25TH INF DIV

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FROM: S3

TO: G3

MFR: SELF
EXPLANATORY

SUBJECT: (C) SITREP NO. 21 for 231800 - 241800 Jan 69

A TROOP; NDP FSB HAMPTON. EST 3 LPS. AT 232018 JAN LPS IN POSITION. AT 240653 JAN DEPARTED NDP TO BEGIN SWEEP OF MSR FROM CP22 TO C-07 AND RIF MISSION. AT 241540 JAN, XT496297, LOCATED 10 TUNNELS AND FIGHTING POSITIONS 2x3x5 WITH COOKS, WEAPONS AND FOOD. DESTROYED TUNNELS. AT 241650 JAN, ALL A TRP CLOSED NDP FSB HAMPTON.

B TROOP; AT 240735 JAN DEPARTED CU CHI BASE CAMP TO CONDUCT RIF WITH TROOP MINES TANKERS VIC XT322253. TANKERS CONTINUE TURN-IN OF M48A3. AT 241605 ALL B TRP CLOSED NDP FSB HAMPTON.

Cleared for
Release by:

C TROOP; NDP TRP (-) XT450265, 1 SUB ELEMENT XT458252. EST 3 LPS. AT 231956 LPS IN POSITION. AT 240706 JAN DEPARTED NDP TO BEGIN ROAD CLEARING AND OUTPOST MISSION. AT 241615 JAN ALL C TRP CLOSED IN NDP AT XT455282.

JERRY H HUFF
MAJ, Armor
S3

D TROOP; CONDUCTED DUSK PATROL. MAINTAINED STATUS TO SUPPORT OPN PIZZA AND RAG BOATS. PROVIDE 1 C&C SHIP FOR SQDN OPNS. PROVIDED 1 SCOUT TEAM TO 3RD BDE. MAINTAINED STATUS TO COVER B TRP OPN. AT 240825 JAN EXTRACTED LRP TEAM 14. AT 241011 JAN AERORIFLES INSERTED IN SUPPORT OF LRP TEAM 22. AT 241205 JAN AERORIFLES AND LRP TEAM 22 EXTRACTED.

F Co (LRPs); CONTINUED TO CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE IN AO SABER. AT 240720 JAN TEAM 14 INITIATED CONTACT WITH 4 PERSONNEL, 1 VC (BC), 1 CARBINE, EXTRACTED AT 240825H. AT 240900 JAN TEAM 22 MADE CONTACT WITH ESTIMATED 300-25 ENEMY FORCE. 3 US WIA, 1 US KIA (EVAC). AT 241011 JAN AERORIFLES INSERTED IN SUPPORT OF TEAM 22. AT 241205 JAN AERORIFLES AND TEAM 22 EXTRACTED. AT 241625 TEAM 26 WAS INSERTED AT XT577291.

24 1800
JAN 1969

for Thomas J. Mackin 1/1/69
JERRY H HUFF
MAJ, Armor
S3

Samuel W. Bartholomew
SAMUEL W BARTHOLOMEW
CPT, Armor
Adjutant

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Downgraded at 3 Year Intervals;
Declassified After 12 Years
DOD DIR 5200.10