

DAILY SUMMARIES FROM 1-50th DAILY STAFF JOURNAL (DA Form 1594)

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NOTES:

1. Boxes show selected detailed expanded details.
2. This period with A Company was my personal baptism of fire while attached to understudy CPT Neglia, A Co CO.

20 May 1969. At 0745 Scouts took control of the bridges and road security from Co A. At 0945 Co A assumed control of AO Coron. At 1025 B/1-503 at BR970965 found a tunnel complex large enough for 50 people. It was 5' 10" x 3' and 100 meters long. In the tunnel they found 2 lbs of C4 and 2 blasting caps. At 1345 B/1-50th assumed control of the bridges and road security from the Scouts. At 1413 on Bridge 8 a person was run over by a truck resulting in a broken leg. At 1447 B/1-503 heard some firing and went to investigate resulting in 2 men running away. They were engaged from 400 meters resulting in 1 VC KIA and 1 detainee BR937839. At 2300 Hawk 52B Co A rec'd frag grenades and SA fire from the NE about 30 meters away. There 2 KHA, 1 WIA and 1 man in shock (friendly). A patrol was sent out into contract area, neg results. BR968799.

21 May 1969. At 0710 B/1-503 engaged 1 VC at BR969855. Results 1 VC KIA, 1 SKS and 6 rds CIA. At 0725 approx 15 VC opened up on 2 tracks from Co A at BR974797 then fled to village at BR975790. Neg cas. At 0930 B/1-503 engaged 1 VC at BR967853. He was hiding in a tunnel. The VC was carrying a Thompson submachine gun and was dusted off. At 2053 Hawk 52B of Co A spotted 1 VC 75-100 meters in front of their ambush. Did not engage BR968797.

22 May 1969. At 0010 Hawk 52A of Co A sprang ambush on 4 indiv. Area was checked with neg results. Neg cas. At 0845 hamlet chief says 1 plat VC at BR957792. Chief stated it was same plat that ambushed the ARVN ¾ ton 5-7 days ago. Scouts alerted to move to area. LOHs requested. Co set up a blocking force at BR9558798 SE to BR961790. At 1000 people stated in village at BR957792 said VC were in village last night. Also found a base plate for a 60mm. At 1145 three 105 rds were found in sand at BR985899. EOD requested. At 2030 3d plat hawk Co A spotted 3 indiv at 300 meters west of them. A hasty ambush was set up and waited for further readouts. Neg results.

23 May 1969. At 0550 Co A ambush opened fire on 1 man moving in front of their position. Neg results. At 0710 picked up 1 detainee male 30-35 BR975745. At 0820 Hawkeye 2M spotted personnel moving along trail toward village BR982786. Told to keep under observation. At 1250 Co A picked female detainee (26 yrs old) carrying 1 qt blood plasma. Said she got it from her husband. Sent to LZ Uplift. At 1500 Co A picked up 3 detainees, 1 carrying documents indicating she was a supply point for VC. Other 2 suspected VC wives. At 2105 Co A 1st plat hawk spotted 3 people moving up in their area (BR966800). Sprung ambush at 2115 and followed up with company reaction force. Cleared area, neg results. Hawk stayed in original position. Reaction force returned to CP.

24 May 1969. At 0410 Co A initiated ambush on 1 man 50 meters NE from their position. Swept area and found blood stains. Support 20 illum 81mm, 1 illum 105mm. Res: neg cas. At 0615 3/B/1-503 made contact 3 VC at 300 meters moving north. Fled in all directions. Spotted 1 unk wpn. All were wearing black PJs. After making sweep found 2 ½ gal water, 4 bowls cooked rice, Female detainee 20-25 no ID BR953867. Only adult in village. Believed to be VC. At 0900 A/1-50th picked up 2 boys age 11 & 14 were uncooperative. Parents ran from village at approach of US troops BR990789. At 0930 A/1-50th had 1 female detainee. Admitted working for the VC. Also says VC plat loc at BR990789. Age 40. At 1015 picked up 4 more female detainees, no IDs. At 1330 EOD completed destroying of tunnel BR... loc. 100% destroyed. At 1400 A/1-50th had 1 detainee, muscular sweating, no ID. Another detainee 18yrs old picked up 20 min. later. Both had NV money. At 2201 A/1-50th 2A element spotted movement and fired claymore. Neg findings.

25 May 1969. At 0240 Co A received SA fire, 1 satchel charge and 4 RPG rockets. Neg casualties. Fired 105 illum, neg results. Seven RPG rockets came in at 0410 from SE. Shot up are at 200-300 meters. Neg. ca., neg res. At 0630 3/B/1-503 spotted 4 VC at BR971061. Initiated contact at 5 meters. 3 VC KIA, 1 fled north. CIA 1 M1 rifle, 2 pistol belts, five M26 grenades. VC who fled had an automatic carbine. At 0750 A/1-50 had 1 detainee male no ID BR992788. At 0800 B/1-503 had 5 detainees 1 male 55 yrs old 4 females 14-15 yrs old. NP questioned them. Admitted to being VC sympathizers. At 0830 Scout ambushed, 1 friendly WIA. Swept area, neg results. At least 5 VC in ambush. At 1305 BR9x8875, 1/B/1-503, 2/B/1-503 found VC base camp 2-3 days old. 3 new fires est 6 VC stayed there. At 1430 Hawks nest reported 25-30 persons going up mountain BR97791. A couple came back down, then about 20 went back up carrying baskets. At 1815 one US jeep and 3 personnel from 2/47 advisors team ambushed at BR921728. Scouts were called out of Uplift. Two tracks left from Phu My to go to assist. Swept area, neg results. 1 VN warrant officer wounded, extracted to Uplift. At 2135 Co A CP spotted flashlight 200 meters to the SE. Engaged with 50 cal & SA. Neg res.

26 May 1969. At 0845 A/1-50th reported a large volume of fire coming from BR966761. It was further reported that firing was from a RF blocking force who spotted 3 VC Unk results. 0930 1/A/1-50th reported finding a bunker and tunnel complex at BR963772. CS was thrown in tunnels, neg res. 1130 B/1-503 found 10 foxholes at BR957685 used recently. Can hold 20-30 people, 2 cooking fires, 1 straw hooch 3x6, 1 pair black PJ. 1500 Bridge 4 rec'd SA fire from SE, neg cas. It turned out to be RFs bird hunting. 1550 a track from A/1-50th 4th plat hit a mine on hwy 505. Command detonated 155mm mine. 6 people dusted off only 2 seriously wounded. The track was completely destroyed. BR986788. The village near the track caught on fire as a result of exploding ammo. 2005 Bridge 1 reported spotting 70 people with wpns moving N to NE. A provisional element was combat assaulted near village at BR935767. PZ 2030. B/1050th set up as a blocking force along the road between Bridge 1 & 2. Village area was checked out. Scouts and 2/B/1-50th cordon the village overnight and will check it in the morning.

27 May 1969. 0555 1/B/1-50 cordon of village begun at this time. 0725 Sweep of village complete at this time, neg res. 1200 A/1-50th 2 plt found 20 SKS rds in a hooch BR980789. 1320 B/1-503 4 m3n were seriously wounded when they tripped a booby trap at BR919873 Dustoff called. 1707 V/1-503 at BR974864 spotted 5 VC, 1 carrying wpn. Was engaged from 200 meters, neg results. 2035 A/1-50th on a joint ambush with RFs spotted 1 VC engaged and killed him. During the fighting an ARVN Lt was shot. He was dusted off.

28 May 1969. 0730 B/1-50th caught 10 detainees at BR961857, 7 at BR975850. Most of them males of military age. 0825 A/1-50th captured 1 female at BR992801 with 1 bottle of penicillin and six 105 rds without powder. 1025 A/1-50th BR990802 A VC ambush was blown resulting in 2 KHA, 4 WHA. Ambush was claymore detonated. Also found six 105 rds. EOD was requested to check out the area. The plat sgt was killed. 2020 Bridge 1 reported 5 people moving west in a column at BR935766 moving toward Scout ambush. They disappeared after initial report. A/1-50th reported one M79 rnd fired from a village at BR950816 landed wounding 1 man slightly in the leg. SA fire was returned in the direction of the village, neg res.

1855 B/1-503 One US troop was out in field to urinate and his M79 accidentally went off and the rd went into the RF Co 736 compound and wounded 1 man slightly in the leg by a piece of frag. Dustoff called.

29 May 1969. 0800 B/1-503 found 2 frags that were thrown at the RFs in previous days action. Also found that 1 of the grenades was booby trapped. 0920 Hawks nest spotted VC at BR924878. Fired 81mm and arty, possible 2 KIA. 1020 B/1-50th Bridge 4 reported 1 civilian came to the bridge. He had holes n his body. Believed to be bullet holes. Further readout gathered the following information 15 yr old boy tripped a booby trap approx 200-300 meters east of the bridge. Neg bullet wounds they were frag wounds. 1816 Opn was begun LZ BR995783, LZ 2 CR006781 both LZs were cold. 1822 LZ 2 rec'd AW fire from the north, neg cas or damage. 1840 100 meters north of LZ 2 ranger 7 made contact with 2 VC armed with AK47s. 1 WIA, 6 detainees. 1925, B/1-503 at BR947864 engaged 1 VC res 1 KIA. 1956 SRAP rec'd AW fire from the west, neg cas or damage. 2020 A/1-50th has approx 146 detainees at his loc BR986794. Effective 300600 through 310600 May 69 no offensive opns will be taken. All units to report any incident ASAP.

30 May 1969. 0730 point element of Ranger 7 had a claymore blown on them at CR002805. 7 people dusted off, 2 KIA, 5 WIA. Fired on two indiv. 1 VC KIA, 1 VC CIA plus 2 grenades from dead VC BR996804. 0930 B/1-503 rec'd fire from 2 VC fire returned 1 VC KIA, 1 M1 rifle CIA. 1010 SRAP rec'd 4-5 rds at BR995825. Neg cas. 1350 VC informed 172MI of loc of 1 command detonated claymore. Co A was notified. 1945 Bridge 2 reported 10 rds of 81mm exploding 50-600 meters NE of Bridge 2 BR927785. Neg cas or damage. 1000 1 VC captured by CC. 1300 extraction of Scouts, PZ 1300, LZ 1325; 1/B/2-503 PZ1322, LZ 1337; 1/B/1-503 PZ 1300, LZ 1325.

31 May 1969. 0705 B/1-503 rec'd AW fire from 100 meters. They saw at least 10 young men running SE. After the contact villagers brought 2 wounded women and dustoff was called BR981951, neg US cas. 0845 B/1-503 3e plat again rec'd AW fire from est 7 VC resulting in 1 friendly KHA and 1 WIA. Dustoff was called. As a result of the action 4 detainees which were captured earlier were killed. 0930 CC picked up 1 detainee at BR977877. The indiv was fleeing from right of the above contact. 1120 B/1-503 found 8 fox holes about 1 month old at BR942873. At BR945873 they found 16-17 foxholes about 6 months old. They formed a circle around the top of a hill. 1820 Hawks nest reported spotting 1 indiv with rucksack. B/1-503 was informed. They proceeded to the loc and spotted 2 indiv. They shot 1 who had a rucksack with a bag of rice. The one that got away had a M1 rifle BR931867. He fled south.

B/1-503 had a five man patrol with 4 detainees returning to their CP. They were crossing a river in a sampan when unk size element of VC opened up with full AW fire killing 1 GI and two detainees. Also one other GI was wounded in the leg. The two remaining detainees tried to escape. One tried to grab a weapon but it was knocked from his hand. They then ran from B/1-503 people. B/1-503 element warned them to stop, when they didn't they opened fire and killed them both.