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By <u>T</u> NARA Date <u>5/21/99</u>

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS
 1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY
 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE
 APO San Francisco 96250

11 June 1968

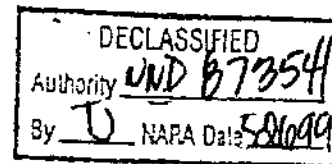
SUBJECT: After-Action Report - Battle at Trinh Van (I)

1. (U) Operation: Cochise
2. (U) Period Covered: 25-26 May 1968
3. (U) Location: Trinh Van (I)(H), My Trinh (V), Phu My (D), Binh Dinh (P), Republic of Vietnam (BR873728).
4. (U) Command Headquarters: 1st Bn (M), 50th Infantry
5. (U) Reporting Officer: Captain Richard P Guthrie
6. (C) Task Organization:
 - a. Co B 1/50 Inf
 - b. 1 Section, C Btry 4/60 Arty (AW) (SP) (Dusters)
 - c. Team GO:
 - (1) Co C (-) 1/50
 - (2) 1 Platoon, B 1/69 Armor
7. Supporting Forces:
 - a. 7/15 Arty
 - b. 7/13 Arty
 - c. FAC Det, 173d Bde (21st TASS)
8. Intelligence: Following the 11 May contact (See After-Action Report, this Hq, dtd 30 May 68) just north of the subject area, there were indications that the enemy had evacuated the area only temporarily. Several reliable sources indicated the presence of an undetermined size GP. Additionally, Phu My District Agents twice indicated that an enemy force was in the low ground in a general location northwest of Phu My. Another supporting reason for the selection of Trinh Van as an objective was that enemy activity had been noted in the area during the 11 May contact, but time and space factors did not permit a thorough search and clearing of the area.

Downgraded at 3 yrs
 intervals, declassified
 after 12 yrs.

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(1) Co C (-) 1/50
 (2) 1 Platoon, B 1/69 Armor



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SUBJECT: After-Action Report - Battle at Trinh Van (1)

9. Mission: Co B conducts Reconnaissance In Force 250730 May along axis BOLF and secures Objective TACK (BR870728). Team GO follows Co B and occupies block position SLIP (BR877731).

10. Execution:

- a. At 0721 and 0722, 25 May, Co's B and C (-) respectively departed night locations for movement to their objectives. The area through which they moved was well seeded with anti-tank mines and consequently their progress was slow. At 0835 an aerial observer reported sighting at BR864723 of a series of well fortified and camouflaged automatic weapons positions, which showed signs of recent work or construction. This information was relayed to both companies and to Brigade Net Control, but was not acted upon because it was 1000 meters south of the objective area.
- b. At 0903, the minesweep team with Co B discovered an anti-tank mine at BR898716. This location was secured awaiting arrival of EOD and the companies continued to march toward the objective area.
- c. The Companies moved west in a wedge formation; Co B on the south side of the axis checked the stream bed, Co C on the north. Lead elements of Co B had just crossed the north-south intermittent stream at BR874728 when at 1106 hours both companies came under a heavy attack from the west, northwest and northeast. Gunships, artillery and TAC Air were requested and arrived on station in minutes. The enemy was again well dug in, well camouflaged and well armed. Anti-tank rockets, machine guns, automatic rifles and mortar fires rained into the friendly positions. The Artillery forward observer was seriously wounded and later died when the Co B command track took a direct hit from an enemy 60mm mortar. As LT James H Lee, CO Co B, attempted to maneuver and flank the enemy position, his command APC threw a track near the crossing site. He extracted his element from the west side of the stream bed, removed the casualties from his APC, and attempted to attack toward the Northeast from where incoming fires were being received. Enemy mortars and rockets were too effectively registered on the area and LT Lee ordered his company to withdraw back to Co C's location for Dustoff.
- d. When the contact began, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1/50 and elements of 1/69 Armor at LZ Uplift were alerted to be prepared to move to reinforce the elements in contact. Because a tank platoon from Co A, 1/69 Armor had just arrived at LZ Uplift bound for another mission, 10 APC, 50 Infantrymen and 5 tanks that were volunteered were available for reinforcement of Co B and Team GO.

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