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APPENDIX C TO ENCLOSURE 1

SUBJECT: AFTER ACTION REPORT - BATTLE OF TRUNG THUAN

1. (U) OPERATION: PERSHING II
2. (U) PERIOD COVERED: 23 January 1968
3. (U) LOCATION: Trung Thuan (H), My Chanh (V), Phu My (D), Binh Dinh (P), Republic of Vietnam (BR 965663)
4. (U) COMMAND HEADQUARTERS: 1ST BN (M), 50TH INFANTRY, 2D BDE, 1ST AIR CAV DIV
5. (U) REPORTING OFFICER: CAPT. LIN JOHN A TOPFER
6. (C) TASK ORGANIZATION
  - a. A Co 1/50
  - b. C Co 1/50
  - c. 1st Bn 41st ARVN Inf Regiment
  - d. Popular Forces
7. (C) SUPPORTING FORCES:
  - a. A Troop 1/9 Cav (GS)
  - b. 2/20 Arty (ARV) (GS)
  - c. D Btry 7/13 Arty (105) (DS)
  - d. B Btry 7/15 Arty (8") (GS)
  - e. 2d Bde Aviation Platoon (GS)
  - f. 15th Medical Bn (GS)
8. (C) INTELLIGENCE: Previous intelligence reports indicated a general buildup of enemy in My Chanh (V). More recent reports indicated an enemy intent to attack the pacified area in Phu My District. On the night of 22 Jan these reports were realized when a Popular Forces outpost at Chanh An to the east of Trung Thuan was attacked. Reports indicated that the enemy would ambush relief forces moving to the assistance of the Popular Forces along highway 504.

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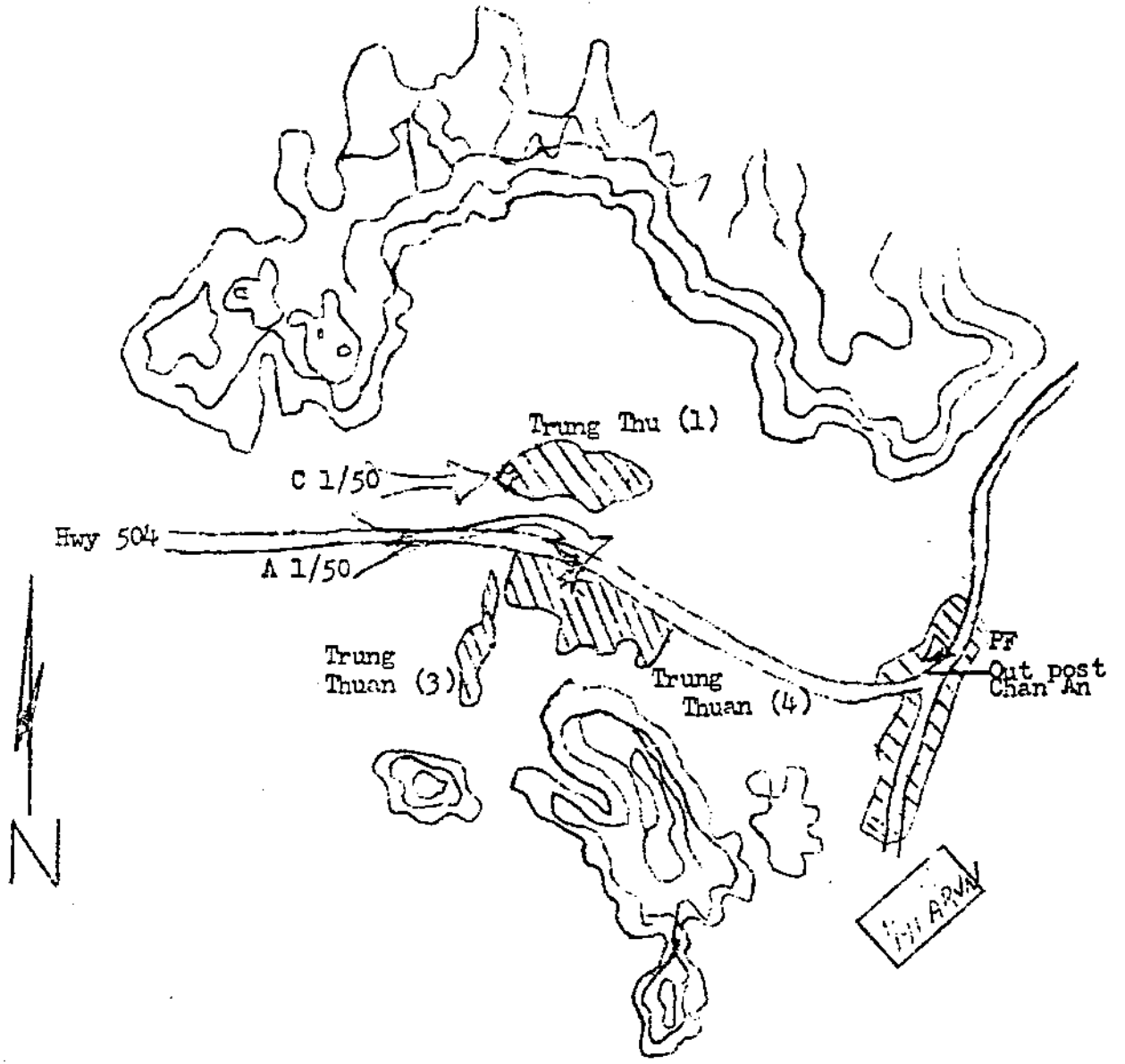
9. (C) MISSION: Assist the Popular Forces Outpost and destroy the enemy.
10. (C) CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS: A 1/50 is to move along highway 504 to assist the FF outpost. 1/41 is to occupy blocking positions to the southeast. C 1/50 is on standby alert.
11. (C) EXECUTION: At 0620 hours A 1/50 began their move to reinforce the PF. The FF's captured a PW from 95th Bn, 2d VC Regt, 3d NVN Div. The PW stated that the main portion of the battalion was in ambush positions along hwy 504. A 1/50 was notified of this and at 1006 hours hit the ambush site. Tube artillery and ARA were called for and began pounding the area. The enemy responded with intense automatic weapons, recoilless rifle, rocket and mortar fire. C 1/50 was committed to the north of A 1/50 contact at 1050 hrs. They closed at 1146 hours and had only sporadic contact. Meanwhile the battle A 1/50 was engaged in raged across a front of approximately 800 meters. ARA, gunships of A 1/9 Cav and Scout birds continued receiving heavy fire as they flew over the contact area. At 1524 hours it became evident to the enemy they were being decisively defeated and began retreating to the southwest. At 1604 hours the battle ended. A 1/50 commenced police of the battle area and continued until darkness halted the operation. The next day A Company completed police of the battle area. Enemy body count was 137 killed and 33 weapons captured. Friendly casualties were 4 killed and 21 wounded.
12. REPORTING OFFICER'S ANALYSIS: This action more than any other in my experience, is indicative of the awesome firepower and total combat effectiveness of a mechanized infantry company. As can be ascertained from the foregoing, almost this entire action was fought by A 1/50. Of the total body count this company accounted for 124. This is not to say supporting arms were not required. Quite the contrary, ARA, tube artillery and scout ships played a vital role. Without doubt this action could not have been as neatly executed were it not for their tremendous support. However I feel the swift and total action can be attributed to the mechanized infantry. I doubt that any other unit could kill 124 while losing only 4 in a matter of some six hours under similar circumstances.

*John A. Toffler*

JOHN A. TOPFER  
Captain, Infantry  
Reporting Officer

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SKETCH MAP - BATTLE OF TRUNG THUAN



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