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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO San Francisco 96250

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15 September 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report.

THRU: Commanding General
II FFORCEV
ATTN: 8-3 D & T
APO 96227

12 25P.

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff
For Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington D.C. 20310

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In accordance with MACV Directive Number 335-8, the following report
is submitted.

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- Name of Operation: Operation HOLLANDIA. Headquarters, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) [UJ.]
- Type of Operation: Search and destroy / clear and secure.
- Date of Operation: 090100H June - 171630H June 1966 / OPORD 8-66.
- Location: Long Hai Peninsula. 18 OACSFOR
- Command Headquarters: 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate)
- Reporting Officer: Brigadier General PAUL F. SMITH.
- Task Organization: 19 OT-RD-66X108

TF 1/503d - LTC GOAD, Commanding

1/503d Inf (minus one reinforcement platoon of 50 persons)
Sqd Engr
RRU Team
FAC Team
National Police

003 650

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TF 2/503d - LTC WALSH, Commanding

2/503d Inf (-)
Sqd Engr
RRU Team
PAC Team
National Police

TF 3/319 - LTC NRODIN, Commanding

3/319th Arty (-)
One (1) Company 2/503d Inf
One (1) Platoon APC's, D/16th Armor
Plt E/17th Cav

TF PUMA - LTC SIGHOLTZ, Commanding

D/16th Armor (-)
E/17th Cav (-)
Reinforcement Plt 1/503d Inf
Sqd Engr

TF HHC (-) - MAJ HUTTON, Commanding

HHC (-) (for movement only)
Engr Co (-)

Brigade Control

Co A/82d Avn Bn
173d MP's
Arty Btry (Bien Hoa)

8. Intelligence:

a. Enemy Situation Before Operation: The operational area was believed to contain elements of one VC Provincial Mobile Battalion, the 860th Local Force Battalion. The 274th Regiment was believed to be located approximately 15 km (kilometers) to the northwest of the AO and the 275th Regiment approximately 35 kilometers to the northeast. The controlling headquarters of the two regiments (5th Division) was also believed to be

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within Phuoc Tuy Province. The VC provincial headquarters was thought to be located to the east of the AO, and the area was believed to contain caches, base camps, and several tunnel complexes.

b. Enemy Situation During Operation: Seventy-six contacts were made with VC forces during this operation, forty-seven of which were VC initiated. VC forces encountered were platoon-size or smaller and believed to be local force elements. The clearing operations conducted in Long Hai Peninsula produced no major intelligence items. However, this operation provided the only current information on base camps, defensive positions, and tunnel and cave locations in the AO. The lack of major installations or defensive works is significant in that the area appears to be used only by small local force elements under the most austere conditions. No unit identifications were ascertained. Aircraft in support of Bde operations received small arms or automatic weapons fire on 6 separate occasions with 1 aircraft sustaining a hit.

c. AO (Area of Operations):

(1) Weather Conditions: The climate in the AO was typical of tropic zones affected by monsoons. Winds were gentle to moderate, generally from a southwesterly direction. Rainfall was normal, occurring during late afternoon and early evening hours. Visibility was generally good, with ceilings of approximately 10,000 feet lowering to approximately 1000 feet during showers.

(2) Terrain: The AO was dominated by the following four hill masses: Nui Da Dung (YS 451564), elevation 173 meters; Nui Dien Ba (YS 462530), elevation 312 meters; Nui Chau Yien (YS 477514), elevation

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323 meters; and Nui Hon Thung (YS 446542), elevation 214 meters. The remainder of the area is flat to gently rolling with an elevation of less than 50 meters. The jungle areas are generally dense with trees up to 100 feet and secondary growth up to 20 feet, providing excellent concealment and some cover from direct fire weapons. East of the hill masses were rice paddies and swamp land.

9. Mission: The 173d Abn Bde (Sep) conducted air and ground assaults to clear the Long Hai Peninsula and secure a construction site, vicinity YS 438520, NLT 142400 June 1966.

10. Concept of Operation: The 173d Abn Bde (Sep) conducted this operation in four phases. Initial deployment emphasized cover of darkness, speed of achievement, and maximum surprise.

Phase I - All Bde elements displace from Objective INDIAN to Position PACIFIC.

Phase II - Movement south along Route Tan to arrive at Position's LYNX and PANTHER.

Phase III - Commences clearing, search and destroy operations.

Phase IV - Continue clearing, search and destroy operations to the west and SW of AO 4.

11. Execution:

D - Day (9 June 1966)

a. Operational Summary: Operation HOLLANDIA commenced with the Brigade departing at 0100 hrs Position PACIFIC into AO HOLLANDIA.

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1/503d Inf departed Position PACIFIC and moved by truck to Dat Do (YS 485600). They moved south by foot to Positions LYNX and PANTHER, closing at LZ BOBCAT at 0508 hrs. B/2/503d Inf, Bn CP and Mortar Platoon departed Position PACIFIC in the vicinity of Checkpoint VICTOR at 0545 hrs. 2/503d Inf plus Mortar Platoon continued by trucks LZ COUGAR. C/2/503d Inf departed LZ AMAZON by helicopter at 0535 hrs, closing at LZ COUGAR at 0600 hrs. TF 3/319 and an advance CP departed Position PACIFIC at 0003 hrs and moved by vehicle to Position LION. The Fire Support Base was established at Position LION at 0215 hrs and the Forward CP became operational at 0545 hrs. TF PUMA departed Position PACIFIC at 0029 hrs and continued screening and blocking operations along Route Green at 0130 hrs. At 0700 hrs, HHC (-) departed Position PACIFIC and closed Position LION approximately 0830 hrs. 1/503d Inf conducted search and destroy operations in vicinity of Positions LYNX, PANTHER and LZ BOBCAT. 2/503d Inf conducted search and destroy operations, moving in a northeasterly direction from their morning position.

TF PUMA conducted blocking and screening operations along Route Green. At 0020 hrs the MP escort and TF 3/319 received 3 rounds of sniper fire at YS 445599. There were no casualties, so the convoy continued movement. At 0631 hrs, TF PUMA contacted an unknown-size VC force at YS 471569. TF PUMA pursued the VC but the VC broke contact, fleeing to the SW. A search of the area produced VC psychological warfare leaflets. Results were: No US casualties and VC casualties were unknown.

After closing at Position PANTHER, A/1/503d Inf had contact

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with eight VC, resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC) and the capture of 1 US carbine, 2 helmets and 2 sets of web gear. At 0800 hrs, A/1/503d Inf received sniper fire at vicinity YS 485548, resulting in 2 US WIA, VC casualties unknown. At 1131 hrs, B/2/503d Inf contacted 4 VC in vicinity YS 436563. US elements set off a booby trap and exchanged fire with the VC. Results were: 4 US WIA, VC unknown. At 1510 hrs, A/1/503d Inf received several rounds of sniper fire at YS 485548, resulting in 1 US WIA, VC casualties unknown. At 1935 hrs, B/1/503d Inf had contact with 2 VC in vicinity YS 488531, resulting in 3 US WIA and unknown VC casualties.

Civic Actions and Psychological Operations: At 1400 hrs a MED-CAP team treated medical patients in the village of Phuoc Loc, vicinity YS 497570. One seriously wounded Vietnamese female civilian was evacuated by vehicle from the village of Lo Gon, YS 510545, to Bde Fire Support Base, vicinity YS 435583. The wounded female was then evacuated by helicopter to the 36th Evac Hospital for treatment. The woman was wounded during a fire fight between ARVN and VC forces.

Twenty-thousand leaflets were dropped in the area.

D + 1 (10 June 1966)

b. Operational Summary: Operation, "HOLLANDIA" continued. 1/503d Inf continued patrolling and occupation of blocking positions in the vicinity of Positions LYNX, PANTHER, and TIGER. Co B sighted 17 VC at 0845 hrs, vicinity YS 498532. VC were brought under artillery and small arms fire. A patrol checked the area with negative results. At 1530

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hrs, 4 VC in civilian clothes without weapons surrendered to Co B, vicinity YS 441540. At 1950 hrs, Co B sighted 2 VC, vicinity YS 493530, and took them under fire with unknown results. 2 03d Inf continued search and destroy operations in the zone. Co A remained as security for the Fire Support Base, Position LION, and as Bde Reaction Force. B/2/503d Inf conducted platoon size patrolling east of Position ROSE. At 1055 hrs, B/2/503d Inf patrol detonated a booby trap at YS 434568, resulting in 2 US WIA. At 1330 hrs a grenade detonated at YS 440562. No US casualties resulted and no VC were sighted. C/2/503d Inf conducted patrolling SW of Position POPPY. At 0945 hrs, Co C elements at YS 455545 detonated a Claymore mine, resulting in 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA. C/2/503d Inf discovered a VC camp 100 meters north of that location at 1515 hrs, vicinity YS 455556. TF PUMA continued screening along Route Green with elements of D/16th Arm on the north and elements of E/17th Cav on the southern portion of the route. Small arms fire was received and returned by the patrol at YS's 464568 and 465570 at 1055 hrs, resulting in no US casualties, VC casualties unknown. At 1955 hrs, VC detonated a trip flare, YS 479559, and were taken under fire. Results were: 1 VC KIA (EST).

D + 2 (11 June 1966)

c. Operational Summary: Operation "HOLLANDIA" continued. 1/503d Inf continued to occupy blocking Positions LYNX, PANTHER and TIGER. They also conducted extensive patrolling to the west, from these positions. C/1/503d Inf moved 1 platoon to hill '327', vicinity YS 477503, at 0541

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hrs, conducting search and destroy operations in route. Co C also checked the area in Grid square YS 4751 and YS 4851. No signs were noted of enemy activity or habitation. At 0950 hrs, B/1/503d Inf heard 3 rounds of small arms fire from YS 488431. The fire was directed at a passing helicopter. B/1/503d Inf discovered a VC defensive position containing 30 foxholes, 10 of which had overhead cover. The position was prepared for all-around defense and was capable of supporting a company of VC. At 1115 hrs, C/1/503d Inf found an OP with a ladder and several associated huts, vicinity YS 477514. They appeared to be very old and were destroyed. C/1/503d Inf also found some communications equipment at 1431 hrs in a cave extending from YS 479570 to YS 482509. A key set for the radio was found along with radio logs. A key code for identifying planes and ships was also in the cave. Medical items consisting of one stethoscope and ten vials of medicine from Chile and Ireland were also discovered at the same time. All of the above were evacuated. 2/503d Infantry continued toward Positions ROSE and POPPY, with Companies B and C, respectively, conducting search and destroy operations enroute. The Reconnaissance Platoon of 2/503d Inf conducted long range patrolling action out of the BN CP area. A/2/503d Inf remained attached to TF 3/319. At 1357 hrs, 2/503d Infantry request a bunker-tunnel complex, vicinity YS 457537, be struck by TAC Air NLT 120730H June. VNAF aircraft were available at 1800 hours, and 3 aircraft, with 500 pound bombs, struck the target area. As the FAC passed to make an assessment, he received ground fire, vicinity YS 462536. A light fire team was dispatched and expended its ordnance on the target.

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No assessment of damage was possible due to darkness in the area. At 1320 hrs, C/2/503d Inf received incoming small arms fire and made contact with 3 VC. Fire was returned and the VC were pursued without results. Contact was broken by the VC at 1330 hrs. C/2/503d Inf contacted an estimated 2 to 3 VC at 1650 hrs. The VC fired one rifle grenade into C/2/503d Inf area, resulting in 6 US WIA. Fire was returned with M-79's and mortars. The VC broke contact at 1710 hrs and were ^{pursued} pursued without results. There were also 2 US KIA, as a result of the above encounter.

TF PUMA continued to screen and block in AO 2 while conducting patrolling actions from the position. TF PUMA dispatched a mounted patrol to investigate a report VC ambush site, vicinity of YS 500556. The report came from a sector intelligence report. The patrol returned at 1445 hrs without finding anything to substantiate the report. At 1320 hrs a patrol from C/2/503d Inf received one round of sniper fire. The area was checked without results. Another TF PUMA patrol found a 45 caliber pistol (SN 57306) and a homemade knife at 1435 hrs, vicinity YS 482559. A patrol from TF PUMA fired, vicinity YS 499555, and received small arms fire from three directions. The VC force was believed to be 6-8 in size. TF PUMA reinforced the patrol, which stayed in contact until 1645 hrs, when the Viet-Cong broke contact. Artillery and a light fire team were employed. Results were 2 US WIA and 1 US KIA. Three VC were detained. As a result of the light fire team strike, a secondary explosion was observed, vicinity YS 510560. It was further investigated with negative results. Task Force 3/319 continued to sup-

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port Bde operations from Position LION. At 0935 hrs men from B/3/319th Arty were digging a latrine when a VC booby trap was activated, resulting in 3 US WIA. The booby trap consisted of a US fragment grenade hidden in bushes at YS 43565839. An ambush patrol from A/2/503d Inf sighted 2 to 3 VC at YS 438585. The VC had semiautomatic weapons and broke contact at 1905 hrs. Results were no US casualties and unknown VC casualties. A mobile Engr team reinforced with MP gun jeeps and APC's was dispatched south along Highway 15 to clear the road. Results of this inspection revealed two cuts in the road at YS 46954815, impassable to sheeled vehicles, which would require one/half ($\frac{1}{2}$) days work to repair. Also a rock barricade had been constructed at YS 471480 which was cleared. There was no enemy contact made and no mines encountered.

Civic Action and Psychological Operations: One MEDCAP team treated 215 medical patients and 37 dental patients in Phuoc Tinh (YS 392506). 25,000 leaflets were dropped and a 30 minute loudspeaker mission was flown over the area bounded by YS 435565 and YS 485505; and YS 457496 and YS 464563. Foodstuffs consisting of 24 cases of pumpkins, 2 cases of cabbage, 16 cases of bacon, 1 case of evaporated milk, 1 case of peppers, 13 cases of margarine, 8 cases of flour, 2 cases of prok sausage, and 1 case of yeast were distributed in Dat Do and Long Dien.

D + 3 (12 June 1966)

d. Operational Summary: Operation HOLLANDIA continued with 1/503d Inf moving to the south and west of Positions LYNX and PANTHER

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with Co A at 0800 hrs. At 0815 hrs, A/1/503d Inf found 400 lbs of polished rice which had been booby trapped. It was destroyed by burning. A/1/503d Inf found 15 VC footprints at 0900 hrs, vicinity YS 477538. One set was made by boots, the remaining by sandals. They were followed but disappeared shortly thereafter. At 0930 hrs A/1/503d Inf found a VC encampment at YS 481546. The area contained foxholes and a large well, 400 pounds of polished rice, and a 60mm mortar round. All were destroyed. At 1125 hrs A/1/503d Inf discovered a VC mess hall with two burner stones. The mess was capable of feeding 50 personnel. In the same area they discovered a pith helmet and documents. The mess hall was destroyed and the documents delivered to S-2. At 1130 hrs B/1/503d Inf received automatic fire in their perimeter, YS 494409. They returned the fire with unknown results. At 1300 hrs A/1/503d Inf sighted one VC with weapon. They fired as the VC fled south. At 1540 hrs A/1/503d Inf discovered a bunker complex defended with claymore mines and booby traps. It was occupied by an unknown-size force of VC. The company took the VC under fire, who in turn fled south. The US forces suffered 6 WIA. VC casualties were unknown. The company moved in and destroyed the bunker system. The claymore mines and booby traps were blown in place. At 1915 hrs A/1/503d Inf, located YS 472542, suffered 1 KIA when their security force was moving out from the perimeter and encountered two VC mines. There were no other casualties from this action. At 0833 hrs B and C Companies 2/503d Inf began their moves south and west. The Reconnaissance Platoon moved from the CP location in a patrol to the west, following a circular route. At 1035 hrs

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Reconnaissance Platoon heard what they believed to be a mortar round YS 45152509, a distance of 800 to 900 meters. An inspection was made with negative results. At 1200 hrs the Engineers attached to C/2/503d Inf encountered 1 VC. Fire was placed on the VC and he fled south. Shortly thereafter another VC was engaged at the same location. The area in question contained a large number of mines severed by fire. The Engineers cleared the area and pursued the VC. The Engineers suffered 4 WIA during the action. Once through the area they found fresh blood trails and captured 2 claymore mines. At 1715 hrs an Engineer element of C/2/503d Inf made contact again with 3 VC in dark uniforms and equipped with automatic weapons. The VC opened fire and the Engineers returned fire. The VC broke contact and fled south. At YS 477335, C/2/503d Inf received one round of sniper fire at 1811 hrs, resulting in 1 US WIA. TF PUMA continued their screening and blocking mission along Route Green to the south. At 1855 hrs, TF PUMA reported receiving one 81mm mortar round. They were unable to locate the mortar's position. No casualties were sustained. TF 319 continued to support the Bde from Position LION. At approximately 2043 hrs incoming rounds were received by elements in the perimeter. Fire was returned with negative results.

Civic Action and Psychological Operations: One MEDCAP team treated 187 patients in the village of Phuoc Lam (YS 450515).

D + 4 (13 June 1966)

e. Operational Summary: Operation HOLLANDIA continued with the

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1/503d Inf conducting squad-size saturation patrolling utilizing the checkerboard method. A patrol from A/1/503d Inf located a piece of detonating wire and blood in the area where VC had detonated two mines the previous night. B/1/503d Inf found a hole 10 feet x 10 feet and 8 feet deep with a wooden ladder leading into it. The area was checked for tunnels, but none were found. At 1920 hrs, A/1/503d Inf received one round of sniper fire. Fire was returned and the VC fled. There were no casualties. At 1915 hrs, B/1/503d Inf received 1 VC, YS 492507. B/Co fired upon the VC with unknown results. At 2015 hrs, B/1/503d Inf observed and fired upon 2 VC, YS 491506, with unknown results. 2/503d Inf conducted a squad-size saturation patrols, also utilizing the checkerboard method. The Reconnaissance Patrol of 2/503d Inf detonated an AP mine, YS 450535, at 1522 hrs. There were no casualties or property damage. 2/503d Inf did not have contact during the day of 13 June, 1966.

TF PUMA continued to screen and block the woodline east from village, Tam Phuoc. At 1600 hrs, a patrol from TF PUMA located a battalion-size base camp, YS 472559. There were 20 holes, 10 feet in diameter and six feet deep, with interconnecting tunnels. In the area, there were eating utensils, 2 entrenching tools, 1 fatigue jacket, 2 pair of black pajamas and 2 pair tennis shoes. All were destroyed or evacuated.

Civic Action and Psychological Operations: At 0900 hrs, MEDCAP treated 99 medical and 11 dental patients in the village of Cho Ben (YS 424575). At 1430 hrs, a MEDCAP team treated 78 medical and 30 dental patients at the village of Hoi My (YS 503557). Eight-hundred pounds of

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rice which had been located by C/1/503d Inf on 12 June were recovered for future use.

D + 5 (14 June 1966)

f. Operational Summary: Operation "HOLLANDIA" continued with 1/503d Inf conducting saturation patrolling within their battalion area. Co A conducted a search and destroy operation south from YS 483523 to YS 481515. They engaged 6 VC in a hut at 0735 hrs, and the VC fled southwest. At 0845 hrs, A/1/503d Inf engaged an unknown-size force, YS 484516, believed to be the same force contacted earlier. Results: US casualties none, VC casualties unknown. Several VC documents, medical supplies, and clothing were captured. At 1349 hrs elements of Co A engaged 1 VC, results unknown. At 2215 hrs, Co A received 6-8 rifle grenades in their position, resulting in 5 WIA. Co B, 1/503d Inf conducted patrolling to the south without contact. C/2/503d Inf conducted patrols to the northwest without contact. 2/503d Inf conducted saturation patrolling in their assigned area. Co B conducted search and destroy operation, moving south to YS 442540 without contact. At 1900 hrs Co C elements observed 3 personnel moving on a hill west of their position YS 543523. Personnel were taken under suppressive fire. Results unknown. Co A continued security for Bde CP and Position LION. At 1600 hrs a patrol of Co A located a fortified position, YS 436579; documents, cooking utensils, and 3/60mm mortar rounds were found at the site. TF PUMA continued its mission with D/16th Armor and E/17th Cav, screening &

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blocking the northern and eastern side of AO (from YS 453584 to YS 486524). At 0945 hrs, D/16th Armor elements, YS 472559, found 21 Chinese hand grenades, two 20 lb bombs, one 105mm howitzer round (rigged for demolition), and assorted fuzes. At 1200 hrs, TF PUMA reported finding several caves, YS 474531, negative VC contact. At 1030 hrs, a patrol of E/17th Cav observed 2 VC, YS 447542, but were unable to engage due to a limited field of fire. VC moved east out of observation. At 1700 hrs, elements of E/17th Cav received estimated 20 rounds of sniper fire from YS 510540. No VC were observed, no casualties resulted. At 1730 hrs, an element of D/16th Armor (SPAT) received 1 round sniper fire, negative results. 3/319th Arty continued to support Bde operation at Position LION. A/32d Avn Bn continued to provide helicopter support for all Bde operations.

Civic Action and Psychological Operations: MEDCAP teams treated 124 patients and 23 dental patients at Phuoc Lio, YS 489569. Four-hundred pounds of paddy rice and canned goods were distributed at the same location. Forty-thousand "Chieu Hoi" leaflets were dropped in two straight lines south from YS 480700 to YS 517530 and south from YS 440570 to YS 470480. Children of wounded mother (Refer, operational summary 9 June) were taken to Vung Tau for a visit with their mother in the Hospital.

D + 6 (15 June 1966)

g. Operation Summary: Operation "HOLLANDIA" continued with A/1/503d Inf receiving at 1205 hrs, 1 incoming rifle grenade at YS 481530, resulting in 2 US WIA. Fire was returned, results unknown. At 1400 hrs,

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E/1/503d Inf found assorted medical items in a cave, YS 484515. 2/503d Inf continued search and destroy operation in zone without contact. TF PUMA continued blocking and screening along Route Green to Positions LYNX and PANTHER. At 1335 hrs, elements of TF PUMA detonated a grenade rigged with a trip flare, YS 471562, resulting in 6 US WIA. At 1255 hrs, a patrol from E/17th Cav made contact with 6 VC, YS 483526, resulting in 1 US KIA, 1 VC KIA (est). 1515 hrs, Bde published FRAG O-1. At 1753 hrs, C/2/503d Inf began moving by helicopter to LZ vicinity YS 485560, completing the move at 1809 hrs. This company moved SW, establishing a squad-size ambushes on the northern part of Position X. At 1830 hrs, C/2/503d Inf tripped a grenade, YS 460572, resulting in 1 US WIA. 1/503d Inf began an airlift of C/1/503d Inf at 1820 hrs to an LZ in vicinity of YS 485560, closing at 1830 hrs. C/1/503d Inf established a squad-size ambush site also in the northern portion of Position Y.

Civic Action and Psychological Operations: A MEDCAP team treated 37 medical patients and 13 dental patients in An Ngia (YS 442590). Another team in Long Hoi (YS 448492) treated 58 medical and 2 dental patients.

D + 7 (16 June 1966)

h. Operational Summary: Operation "HOLLANDIA" continued. 1/503d Inf conducted patrols of squad-size in area Y and Z. 2/503d also conducted saturation patrols of squad-size in areas X and Z.

TF PUMA maintained two squad-size Reaction Forces for rapid reaction of both battalions. At 0930 hrs, A/1/503d Inf received one

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grenade and small arms fire and exchanged fire. There were no casualties. At 1230 hrs, C/1/503d Inf located 3 homemade Claymore mines which they destroyed in place, 15 lbs of medical supplies, and a diary. At 1607 hrs, A/1/503d Inf had 1 WIA from a sniper. At 1530 hrs, B/1/503d Inf engaged 3 to 5 VC, resulting in 1 US KIA and unknown VC losses. At 1745 hrs, B/1/503d Inf contacted an unknown-size VC force, resulting in 1 US WIA and VC casualties unknown. At 2040 hrs, C/1/503d Inf engaged 2 to 3 VC, resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 VC KIA (est). At 1050 hrs, C/2/503d Inf located 7 Viet Cong tunnels with blood trails in the area; however, no VC were found. At 1830 hrs, the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 2/503d Inf contacted 5 VC, resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 VC KIA (est). At 1830 hrs, an OP (out post) in the vicinity of the Fire Support Base, investigating the movement of an unarmed Vietnamese, tripped a booby trap resulting in 1 US WIA.

Civic Action and Psychological Operations: MEDCAP teams treated a total of 157 patients in the village of Hoi My (YS 503558), Phuoc Loi (YS 498570) and Dat Do (YS 483603).

D + 8 (17 June 1966)

h. Operational Summary: Operation "HOLLANDIA" continued with 1/503d Inf conducting saturation patrolling in squad-size of areas Y and Z. 2/503d Inf conducted squad-size saturation patrolling in area X. TF PUMA maintained Reaction Forces for 1/503d Inf and also for 2/503d Inf. C/2/503d Inf was helilifted from area X to the vicinity of the battalion

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CP, closing there at approximately 1100 hrs. A/1/503d Inf conducted search and destroy operations, moving in a southwesterly direction and closing in the vicinity of the Battalion CP early in the afternoon. C/1/503d Inf was helilifted to the vicinity of the Battalion CP, closing there at approximately 1600 hrs. There were five contacts with the VC during this period. C/1/503d Inf located the body of a VC KIA (suspected to be from a contact which occurred 16 June). TF PUMA apprehended 3 VCS at 1425 hrs, YS 486574. A patrol from A/2/503d Inf located a 250 lb bomb, YS 443587, which was turned over to the ARVN for destruction due to friendly structures in the area. Operation "HOLLANDIA" terminated on 18 June, at 1630 hrs, with elements closing at Bien Hoa.

Civic Action and Psychological Operations: The following food-stuffs and building materials were given to the families of Phoc Hai who suffered casualties from possible friendly fire: 4 bags of rice, three 100 lb bags of bulgar and 125 empty 105mm howlitzer ammunition crates.

12. Supporting Forces:

a. Army aviation units supporting the 173d Abn Bde (Sep).

Co A, 82d Avn Bn

173d Avn Flt

145th Avn Bn

74th Avn CO

Sorties Flown:

Combat Assault 218

Armed Helicopter 275

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Resupply	797
Command and Liaison	667
Command and Control	199
Medical Evacuation	2
Aerial Reconnaissance	45
Psychological Warfare	0
RRW	1
Miscellaneous	<u>63</u>
Total sorties	2,267

Highlights of Aviation Activities:

a. For the first time since the arrival in Vietnam, the Bde was deployed at night. Two companies of the Bde, in a night combat assault, moved into separate LZ's. Although this was first for the Bde, the air crew and the troops performance was flawless.

Company A/82d Avn Bn flew 735 sorties, transporting 338.2 tons of large equipment in support of the operation.

b. Air Force: A total of 46 TAC Air sorties were flown, expending a total of 3,210 tons of ordnance. Also, 25 FAC sorties were flown during the operation.

The Air Force provided fire on call and quick reaction missions throughout the operation.

c. Artillery: How and when employed.

- (1) On all missions, 9 - 17 June, 1966.
- (2) 3/319th Arty was in general support of the Bde.

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For a specific operation, batteries were placed in direct support of a particular unit.

(3) Statistical Breakdown:

(a) 3,244 artillery and 4.2 mortar rounds were expended in support of all artillery missions.

(b) 347 missions were fired in support of Operation "HOLLANDIA."

13. Combat Services Logistical and/or Administrative:

a. General: To support Operation HOLLANDIA a forward Brigade Supply Operations Center (BSOC) was established in Vung Tau (YS 305483). Included were supply, transportation, maintenance, and medical facilities of the 173d Support Battalion. A small BSCO element was also located in the vicinity of the Brigade CP to handle the supply distribution and emergency requests of units. Vung Tau support agency (a sub-area of 1st Logisitics Command) provided all classes of supplies to the 173d Brigade Supply Operations Center at Vung Tau except ice, bread, milk, and certain class II and IV items.

b. Supply and Transportation: Resupply of all units was accomplished by road convoy from Vung Tau to Bde base. Resupply of bread, ice, milk, and certain class II and IV items was accomplished by ~~HH~~ HH-1B from Vung Tau direct to the Infantry companies. A total of 35 CV-2 sorties were flown in support of Operation HOLLANDIA. A total of 380 sorties were flown in support of Operation HOLLANDIA. A total of 383.6 tons of all classes of supplies were handled on Operation HOLLANDIA. The

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Bde's Inf Bn's moved to AO "HOLLANDIA" by ~~MM~~ ^{MM}-1B and two and a half (2½) ton trucks and returned from the operation to Bien Hoa by the same means of transportation.

c. Maintenance: Co D maintenance/173d Spt Bn provided direct support at Vung Tau, employing 2 officers and 23 EM. A small maintenance contact team was also located with the BSCO in the Bde CP area. Back-up support from Co D was provided by the 553d Ord Co at Vung Tau. Maintenance capability was provided for vehicles signal items and armament. A total of 54 jobs were received, of which 39 were completed and 15 uncompleted at the end of the operation.

d. Medical: Co B medical/173d Spt Bn operated a forward clearing station, vicinity BSCO, Vung Tau. A Bde aid station with FLA and Dust-off capabilities was located in the vicinity of the Bde CP. During daylight hours, Dustoff helicopters were deployed from the clearing station to Vung Tau and were manned by five (5) officers and twenty-three (23) EM. The 36th Evacuation Hospital at Vung Tau provided back-up support to Co B. When required, because of severe wounds, injured personnel were evacuated directly to the 36th Evacuation Hospital. Wounded personnel coming into the Bde clearing station were treated as necessary and then either evacuated to the 36th Evac Hospital or returned to duty. Co B treated 34 patients on Operation "HOLLANDIA". The 254th Med Det (Air Ambulance from Long Binh) provided the Dustoff support, flying 100 missions and carrying 84 patients. Under the MEDCAP program, a total of 1,281 medical patients and 196 dental patients were treated.

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e. Operation "HOLLANDIA" resulted as stated in the following:

VC Losses

KIA 4 (BC)
KIA 4 (est)
VCC 4
VCS 28

US Losses

KIA 9
WIA 68
MIA 0

Ralliers None

Refugees None

Enemy Equipment Losses

Weapons:

Homemade Knife 1
US Carbine 1
US 45 Cal. Pistol 1
US M-1 Rifle 1
Chicom automatic rifle 1

Ammunition/Munition:

s/a ammunition rounds 81
Hand Grenades 24
66mm mortar rounds 5
155mm mortar round 1
105mm mortar rounds 4
Claymore mines 5
Unknown type firing devices 2
20 lb AF bombs 2

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Enemy Equipment Losses

Ammunition/Munition:

250 lb bomb 1

Communications:

AN-GRC-9 radio 1

Communications wire 100 feet

Food:

Rice 12 tons

Salt 440 lbs

Installations:

Base Camps 2

Mess Halls 2

Miscellaneous:

Stethoscope 1

Cooking Ovens 2

Cooking Stoves 4

5 gal Pots 8

Watch 1

Steel Pith Helmets 6

Web Gear 2 sets

US Field Pack 1

Flash Lights 3

VC ponchos 3

VC sandals 1 pair

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Enemy Equipment Losses

Miscellaneous:

Weapons Magazine 1

Other:

Equipment for Polishing Rice

DOCUMENTS: 732

Commander's Analysis: This operation met only small guerrilla elements who apparently were intimately familiar with the terrain. In this type operation the advantage is decidedly with the enemy. Consideration should be given to scaling off such area and keeping friendly forces in the area long enough for them to gain familiarity with the area. Additionally, friendly forces remaining in the area will force VC elements into movement for food and water. Once he is forced into movement, friendly forces would enjoy equal or better advantages.

The operation was not particularly suited for utilization of tactical air for interdiction of close air support due to the fact that there were very few VC contacts.

The Long Hai Peninsula area should not be considered a major VC stronghold but rather a lightly defended, difficult area, from a terrain standpoint, from which small VC elements can conduct harassment and interdiction missions as well as gather intelligence on coastal shipping. It is unlikely that the VC elements in the area constitute a single force of greater than company strength. The forces in the area appear to operate primarily as small scattered elements, usually as squad or team size.

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FOR THE COMMANDER:

to E. B. ROBERSON

E. B. ROBERSON
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

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