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

AVBE-BE

22 November 1968

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Attack on Camp Radcliff, 11 Nov 68

Commanding General
173d Abn Bde
ATTN: AVBE-SC/MHD
APO 96250

1. At 111528H November, Camp Radcliff and the An Tuc District Headquarters came under a combined mortar and recoilless rifle attack. The enemy was reported to have come into An Tuc the night before and held the civilians in their area captive during the attack.

2. Sequence of Events:

a. 1528 - City of An Tuc, District Headquarters MACV, An Tuc Dispensary, Bridge 20, the old market, and Camp Radcliff came under attack with mortars and 75mm recoilless rifle fire.

b. 1532 - Alert sounded at Camp Radcliff.

c. 1532 - Hawkeye on station.

d. 1533 - Quick Strike TOC deployed reaction element of B/1-50th to Bridge 20.

e. 1535 - D/2-1 Air Cav alerted, moved to orbit SE of An Khe, received A/W fire from BR490418.

f. 1538 - Mortar fire ceased.

g. 1540 - Artillery began firing counter-mortar fires under direction of Hawkeye. Upon completion, Hawkeye directed D/2-1 Air Cav into the area.

h. 1547 - Reaction element arrived at Bridge 20.

i. 1605 - D/2-1 Air Cav was relieved by A/7-17th Cav. Hawkeye then moved to check area north of An Khe.

j. 1617 - Hawkeye spotted 2 mortar tubes in vicinity BR498418 although the area was obscured by smoke from artillery fire. Eight personnel were also spotted and taken under fire by 4 Huey-Cobras. One Cobra from the A/7-17th Cav took 2 hits.

ANNEX B

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YRS.

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k. 1625 - A/7-17th Cav inserted an Aero-rifle platoon to check area at BR498418. They found 6 expended recoilless rifle cases, 4 B-40 cases and some NVA pieces of cloth. At 1730 hours they were extracted because of weather and closing darkness.

l. 1800 - Alert terminated by Quick Strike TOC.

3. Casualties:

a. Friendly:

- (1) 4 KHA WN in An Tuc
- (2) 29 WIA WN in An Tuc

b. Enemy:

- (1) KIA - 1
- (2) WIA - unknown.

4. Damages:

- a. An Tuc Dispensary (Damaged).
- b. District Headquarters (Damaged).
- c. 647th QM: 13,643 barrels POL, 5 transfer pumps, and associated pump equipment (Destroyed).

5. Discussion:

a. Based on intell gathered by MACV from civilians that in four (4) days, elements of the Main Force Battalion (Gia Lia Prov) moved from their last location (BR459315) to the vicinity of An Tuc (BR495428) with the mission of destroying the District Headquarters.

b. When the attack on the District Headquarters started, 3 each 82mm mortars rounds and one (1) 75mm recoilless rifle round hit the dispensary and adjacent area, killing two (2) Vietnamese civilians. Approximately nine (9) rounds impacted vicinity An Khe Market Place killing two (2) Vietnamese and inflicting slight building damage. Upon receiving notification of the attack, the reaction platoon from B/1-50th (M), located at LZ Schueller, deployed to Bridge 20.

c. Moments after the reaction element reached Bridge 20, gunships were on station reporting contact with the enemy. While engaging them, the gunships reported a fire in the POL storage area of the 647th QM.

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d. The 647th QM area received approximately twenty (20) of mixed 82mm mortar and 75mm recoilless rifle, starting a large fire. The District Headquarters received thirty to forty (30-40) 82mm mortar rounds, some impacting as close as one hundred (100) meters from Bridge 20.

e. At 1625, the ground troops of A/7-17th Cav were combat assaulted into the area east of the 48 grid line, discovering several blood trails, expended ammunition, but no personnel.

f. The reaction element, located at Bridge 18 where they had been deployed to secure the convoy which had stopped there, reported a pipeline fire at location BR505460.

g. The convoy started moving again at 1700 hrs with negative incidents being reported. Quick Strike TOC terminated the alert at 1800 hrs.

6. Conclusion:

a. The enemy was able to move a considerable distance within a short period of time without our knowledge.

b. The enemy mortared the 647th QM area in an effort to conceal their real objectives, the District Headquarters, An Tuc Dispensary and An Tuc Market place (the latter two being American sponsored activities).

c. The enemy used approximately 60 each 82mm mortar rounds, 10 each 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, and small arms to conduct their attack and withdrawal.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

s/ Harry B Wilson
t/ HARRY B WILSON
1LT, Infantry
Adjutant

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