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Authority MND 974285

By *PA* NARA Date 10/16

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

AVBE-BE

9 November 1968

SUBJECT: After-Action Report - Attack on Camp Radcliff, 30 Oct 68

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

1. General: At 300200 October 1968, Camp Radcliff came under a mortar and sappers attack. The sapper actions were confined to the 560th Maintenance Shop Area, the 58th Field Depot Storage Yard, the 86th Engineer Operation Area, and the vicinity of Tower #1 along the Greenline (BR448455). An estimated five (5) or six (6) sappers were able to penetrate the perimeter. Indications were that they entered and exited from the same location in the vicinity of Tower #1.

2. Sequence of Events:

- a. 0200 - Guards change on Tower #1, mortars and S/A fire reported by 3d Provisional Company and the 504th MPs located at the main gate.
- b. 0204 - Quick Strike TOC sounded alert to all on Camp Radcliff.
- c. 0215 - LZ Schueller reports under mortar attack, flare ship and gunships on station vicinity of Tower #1.
- d. 0220 - Mortar attack ceased.
- e. 0230 - Reinforcing company prepared to deploy.
- f. 0240 - Reinforcing company in position in supplementary positions at 3d Provisional Rifle Company.
- g. 0335 - CO 1/50th reported large fire in the QNSAC area.
- h. 0336 - Called for damage assessment from all tenant units on Camp Radcliff.
- i. 0505 - Quick Strike TOC terminated alert with exception of QNSAC reinforcing company.

0620 - Reinforcing company released from 3d Provisional Rifle Co.

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YR INTERVAL  
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ANNEX-A

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k. 0700 - All units on Camp Radcliff began sweep of their areas.

3. Casualties and Damages.

a. Casualties:

(1) US - WHA (11)

(a) 2 WHA 3d Provisional Rifle Company.

(b) 1 WHA 647th QM.

(c) 2 WHA 15th Admin Company (1st Air Cav Div R).

(d) 6 WHA R & R Detach (1st Air Cav Div R).

(2) VN - WHA (1) 3d Provisional Rifle Company (Greenline Guards).

(3) US - KHA (1) 3d Provisional Rifle Company.

(4) VN - KHA (2) 3d Provisional Rifle Company. (Greenline Guards).

(5) Injured - Five (5) US personnel sustained injuries while moving from their billets to the available bunkers.

b. TO&E Property Damage or Loss:

(1) 560th Maintenance Company:

2 each, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Ton Truck Cargo (Destroyed)  
4 each, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  Ton Trailer (Destroyed)  
1 each, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Ton Truck Van (Destroyed)  
1 each, 3/4 Ton Trailer (Destroyed)  
1 each, Adding Machine (Destroyed)  
1 each, Shop Office (Destroyed)  
1 each, Electric Shop (Damaged)  
1 each, Maintenance Shed (Damaged)

(2) 647th QM Company:

1 each, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Ton Cargo (Damaged)

(3) QNSAC TMP Annex:

1 each, 37 passenger bus (Damaged)  
1 each, 37 passenger bus (Destroyed)

(4) 58th Field Depot:

43,784 Barrels MC 70 Asphalt (Destroyed)  
1,923 Barrels Soil Binder (Destroyed)

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(5) 86th Engineer Detachment:

- 1 each, Carpenter Shop (Damaged)
- 1 each, Vietnamese Labor Lounge (Damaged)
- 1 each, Plumber Shop (Damaged)

(6) 1st Air Cav Div:

(a) 15th Admin Area:

Building #1, #2, #3, #11, F-080, F-099, and XO's (Damaged)

(b) R & R Area:

2 Buildings (Damaged)

(c) DEROS Area:

1 Building (Destroyed)

(d) Battalion Area:

Field Grade BOQ - 3 rooms (Damaged)

4. Discussion:

- a. By stealth, an estimated squad of sappers managed to penetrate four (4) lanes of defensive wire in the area of Tower #1. They were believed to have been carrying explosive charges, RPG rockets, and AK-47 rifles. By an unknown prearranged signal, they hit their targets and Tower #1 simultaneously. About this time, approximately eighty (80) each 82mm mortar rounds started falling in the 504th MP area, 1st Cav Div Rear, and the Qui Nhon Sub Area Command (Provisional) areas, covering the enemy's withdrawal route. At this time, the lighting system at Tower #1 was destroyed by a RPG round.
- b. Approximately twenty (20) minutes before the attack was initiated, the OIC, 3d Provisional Company, and NCOIC had been in the location of Tower #1 and tried to return when the attack started, but were hindered by mortars and S/A fire. Tower #1 was in the process of changing guards when hit, resulting in there being only one man in the tower at the time. While trying to use the radio, he was hit by a RPG round and fell out of the tower. The sleeping area for the tower was destroyed and the men inside were subjected to small arms wounds as well as the explosion. One American was wounded while trying to reach the tower, later dying of wounds. Of the other three personnel in the sleeping area, 2 Vietnamese were killed and one seriously wounded.
- c. As the reinforcing company was moving into position, gunships were firing into the area where mortar flashes had been spotted. Flare ships were used at this time.

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- d. Word was also received at this time that LZ Schueller was under a mortar attack in which they received approximately fifteen (15) each 82mm mortar rounds, all landing outside the perimeter. Negative damage was reported. One patrol of the Short Range Ambush Platoon, 1-50th at an ambush site (BR348458) in the vicinity called in artillery fire on the enemy mortar position.
- e. The 3d Prov Reinforcing Co remained in position until daybreak when the 3d Provisional Company conducted a sweep of the area. Findings reported were four (4) explosive charges with firing devices found in the entry lane, the cut wire was confirmed, and from the locks of the wire, a portion of the outer row of wire had been cut approximately two (2) weeks prior to the attack. Several empty AK-47 shell casings were found in the vicinity of Tower #1, a B-40 rocket within the 2d row of wire and, one undetonated mortar round. All units on Camp Radcliff conducted sweeps in their areas with negative findings reported

5. Conclusion:

- a. The sappers had cut a portion of the wire approximately two (2) weeks prior to the attack.
- b. The sappers were able to enter Camp Radcliff without being detected.
- c. The sappers positioned themselves so as to damage all the targets at the same time.
- d. The enemy mortared LZ Schueller as a diversionary attack.
- e. The enemy used approximately eighty (80) each 82mm mortar rounds, small arms fire, and approximately five (5) RPG rounds during the attack and as cover to withdraw.

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 BY: [Signature]  
 NARA Date: 10/16

s/ Anthony J. Juliano  
 t/ ANTHONY J. JULIANO  
 MAJ, INF  
 S3

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*Juliano*  
 JULIANO  
 S3