

30 OCTOBER

1. OPERATIONS SUMMARY:

Giving the maneuver battalions huge chunks of real estate to cover (Areas SHOE, EARL and JIM) the 1st Brigade continued its push to cover the areas west of the PLEI ME camp.

The 2/12 Cav moved by foot and air to new company bases of operations, generally north and west of their initial positions, continuing search and destroy sweeps. A 2/12 engaged briefly but sharply upon landing in its L-Z and inflicted casualties upon the enemy.

A 2/8 Cav began moving by foot at 0740 hours from PUNT to Objective MAGGIE (ZA143073) just south of PLEI ME. The area was reported to have been receiving enemy fire. The company closed on the objective without opposition late in the afternoon. B 2/8 Cav screened with two platoons south from HOMECOMING. The remainder of the company stayed at HOMECOMING. C 2/8 Cav and 2/8 CP group (Fwd) moved by air from PUNT to Objective DOT (ZA909172), closing at 1600 hours. They were joined by A 2/19 Arty, moving from CHARGER CITY.

In its area around CHARGER CITY, the 1/12 Cav continued its company-sized searching sweeps, maintaining at least one platoon as a reaction force.

The 1/9 Cav Sqn moved its command post to PLEI RING DO (ZA218345) just adjacent to the 1st Brigade C-P, and provided added depth to its defense. From this base squadron scouts swarmed over the woods and streams of the rolling country west of PLEI ME and made numerous contacts, drawing heavy automatic weapons fire in most instances. Fire habitually was returned by the scout and weapons ships, but in most instances there was no way of assessing accurately the results of firing passes. But it was obvious that the enemy was being kept stirred up and on the move. That night the squadron again put its rifle elements in night ambush positions on Highway 19.

2. TASK ORGANIZATION:

1ST BRIGADE

No change

DIVISION

No change

3. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY:

Maintaining unit integrity was becoming increasingly difficult for many elements of the 33d Regiment as Cavalry helicopters seemed to be everywhere, firing into carefully camouflaged positions and causing individuals to either break and run or reveal positions by returning the aircraft fires. And a new element of danger had been introduced. Infantry units began air assaults in widely separated points throughout the general area through which the 33d must pass.

At times these landings were far enough from regimental units so that battle could be avoided, but in other cases, the cavalymen found retreating elements and sharp fire fights, always costly to the N-V-A would result. And with each such engagement, further fragmentation of N-V-A units would occur.

As the small unit actions increased, the Cavalry obtained its first North Vietnamese captives and more and better intelligence concerning the enemy forces was becoming available to commanders.

4. ACTIVITIES STATISTICS:

FRIENDLY LOSSES

KIA 0

WIA 1

MIA 0

ENEMY LOSSES

KIA - 6(BC) 11(Est)

WIA - 21 (Est)

VCC 8

VCS 0

WPNS - 9x Chicom
Assault Rifles
18x hand grenades

EQUIP - 150 rounds
7.62 mm ammo

3 Indiv issues
clothing and
equip

1500 pounds of
rice