

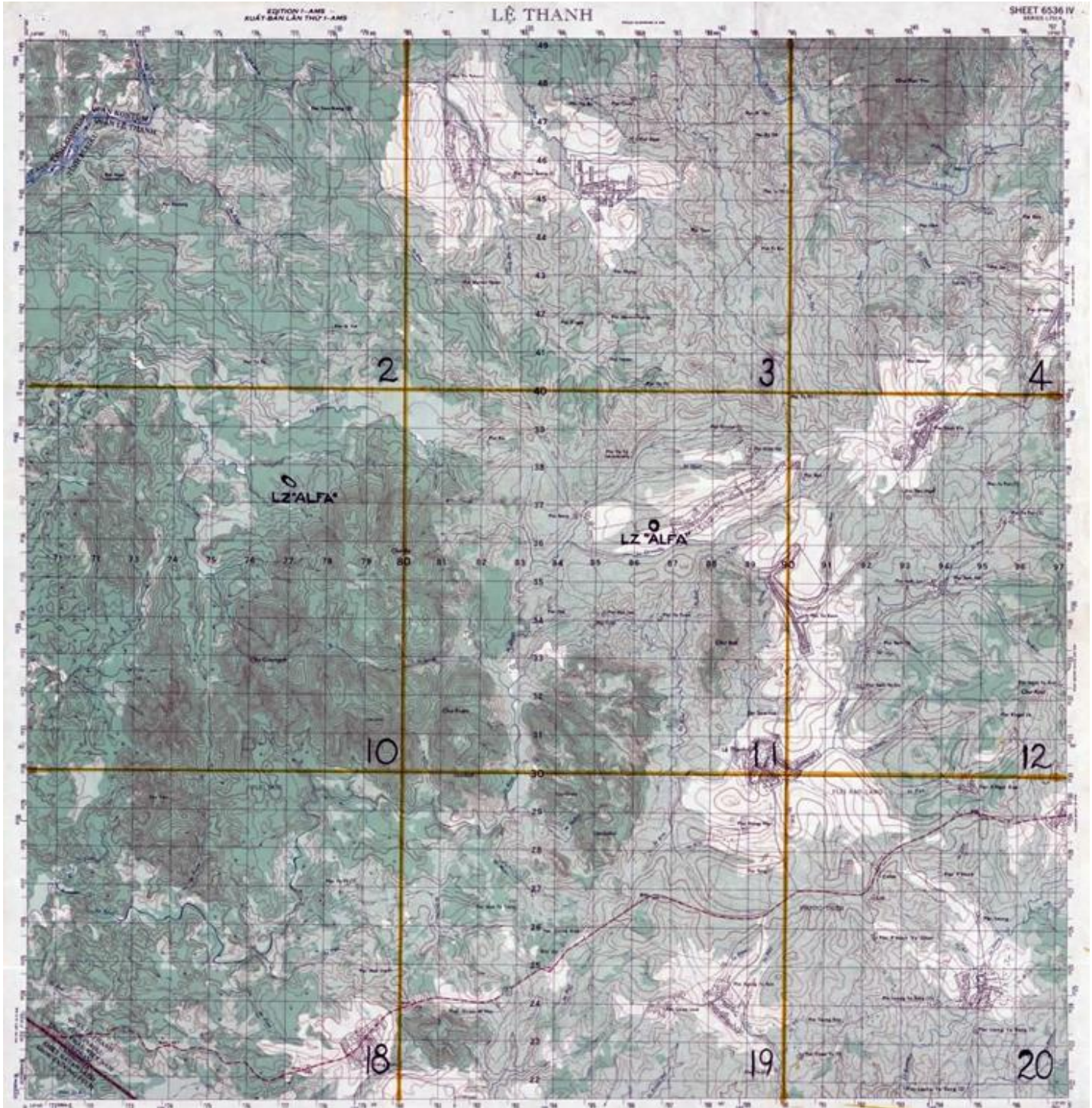


WELCOME TO "A WALK WITH THE 35TH"



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28-29 May 1966



CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 3D BRIGADE TASK FORCE
25th Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96355

AVDC-C-OP

31 August 1966

SUBJECT: Distinguished Unit Citation (U)

THRU: Channels

TO: Headquarters
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. (U) Pursuant to authority contained in paragraph 201, AR672-5-1, recommend the Distinguished Unit Citation be awarded to Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry for extraordinary heroism in action against a heavily armed enemy vicinity Landing Zone TEN ALFA in Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam during the period 28 through 29 May 1966.

2. (C) Company A conducted a helicopter lift into Landing Zone TEN ALFA, vicinity YA769376, 28 May 1966 to reinforce Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry which was in contact with a superior and well equipped North Vietnamese Army force. Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry had a total strength of 136 personnel at that time. At 1700 hours Company A, consisting of 156 personnel and supporting mortars, began landing in TEN ALFA and closed shortly thereafter. Upon its closure the perimeter was reorganized. The enemy launched an estimated multibattalion night offensive against the 292 personnel of the two units 290116 May, with the main effort directed against the Third Platoon, Company A. The enemy operation was well coordinated and controlled. At 0135 hours the defenders were issued an ultimatum, "You have two and a half hours to surrender." The ultimatum was answered by the besieged friendly force with intensified firing. The fighting spread along the eastern portion of the perimeter. The NVA forces assaulted in waves demonstrating a pattern of attacking, withdrawing, reconsolidating and attacking again. Between 0212 and 0250 hours a second enemy force attacked the artillery supporting the besieged forces at TEN ALFA. Battery A, 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery was relocated with 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry ~~minus~~ approximately ten kilometers to the east in Landing Zone ELEVEN ALFA (YA865366). This was an obvious attempt by the enemy to silence or at least divert the defensive fires needed by the besieged force at Landing Zone TEN ALFA.

3. (C) At approximately 0330 hours the enemy broke contact with the friendly force at Landing Zone TEN ALFA and withdrew to the north. Throughout the action, during the hours of darkness, the men of Company A

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performed with cool professionalism and individual courage. The enemy's hammering blows were smashed and his columns shattered. The training, leadership and esprit de corps of the personnel of Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry payed off.

4. (C) At approximately 0615 hours, platoon size sweeps outside the perimeter were conducted to clear the area. A battalion size defensive position was discovered complete with entrenchments and communications. The enemy body count reached 80 at this time. As the sweep continued, contact was again made with the enemy and the platoons were forced back to their defensive positions inside the perimeter. All but approximately one squad of the Second Platoon returned to their former positions. The squad, with the platoon leader, occupied a position in front of the Third Platoon's perimeter position. It was actually an extension of the Third Platoon's position. Again the enemy attacked supported by 82mm mortar fire. At 0936 hours a force, initially estimated to be a company, attempted to maneuver against the perimeter. In some locations the fighting closed to less than 20 meters. Supporting helicopter gunships discontinued their strafing runs in fear of hitting friendly troops. As the fighting raged, three resupply ships flew in, under fire, to deliver desperately needed ammunition. The defenders gained fire superiority. The squad from Company A in the "extended position" managed to bring classic enfilade fire upon the right flank of the enemy's main assault force. This was coupled with several individual acts of heroism. Subjected to withering flanking fire and finally blocked by the men of the squad from Company A in the "extended position", this enemy force withdrew.

5. (C) The fighting continued with a slow easing of enemy pressure. By 1212 hours the fighting had subsided to a degree which permitted helicopters to land with additional reinforcements. The 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry minus was closed in Landing Zone TEN ALFA. The perimeter was reorganized and sweeps were conducted to push out to approximately 150 meters. This provided reasonable security for the landing zone. During this period snipers and harassing activities continued. At 1745 hours the enemy resumed 82mm mortar fire, but counter-mortar fire effectively silenced them. At 2000 hours Landing Zone TEN ALFA was reported secure.

6. (C) Company A suffered 9 KIA, and 42 WIA out of a total strength of 6 officers, 150 enlisted men. As of 30 May 66 the following enemy losses were reported:

- a. Personnel: 241 KIA (Body Count).
- b. Equipment captured:
 - 5 12.7mm anti-aircraft machineguns
 - 1 caliber .50 machinegun

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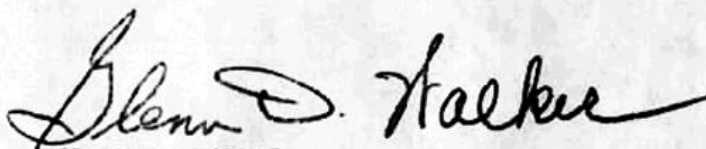
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- 1 SG-43 heavy machinegun w/extra barrel
- 4 RPD light machineguns
- 1 RP-46 light machinegun
- 29 automatic weapons
- 22 AK 47 (7.62mm assault rifle)
- 14 SKS carbines
- 1 82mm mortar base plate and bipod
- 1 field telephone
- 2 Chicom radios (one 71 type B)

7. (C) This action, in effect, uncovered a large enemy force (two regiments and divisional troops) which had apparently moved into the area to attack the U.S. Special Forces Camps of Duc Co and Plei Dierenz. For twenty hours, Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry courageously and with great professional skill defended Landing Zone TEN ALPHA against major elements of the North Vietnamese Army's 66th Regiment. The casualties suffered by the enemy were so great, he was soon forced to withdraw from the area.



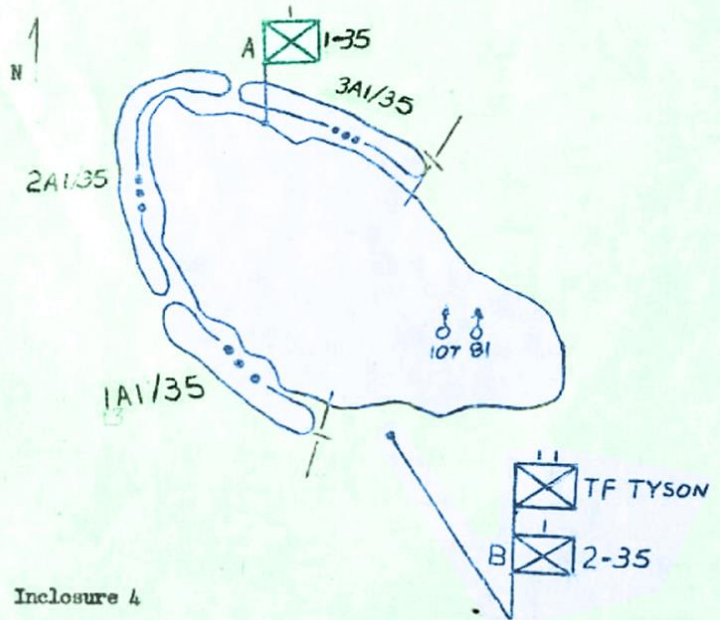
GLENN D. WALKER
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

6 Incl:

- 1 - Proposed Citation
- 2 - Map of Area of Operation
- 3 - Schematic of Area of Operation
- 4 - Schematic of Area 281715-290900 May 66
- 5 - Schematic of Area 290900-291335 May 66
- 6 - Schematic of Area 291335-301041 May 66

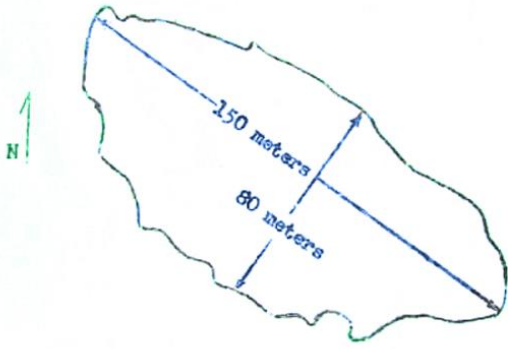
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SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION 281715-290900 MAY 1966



Inclosure 4

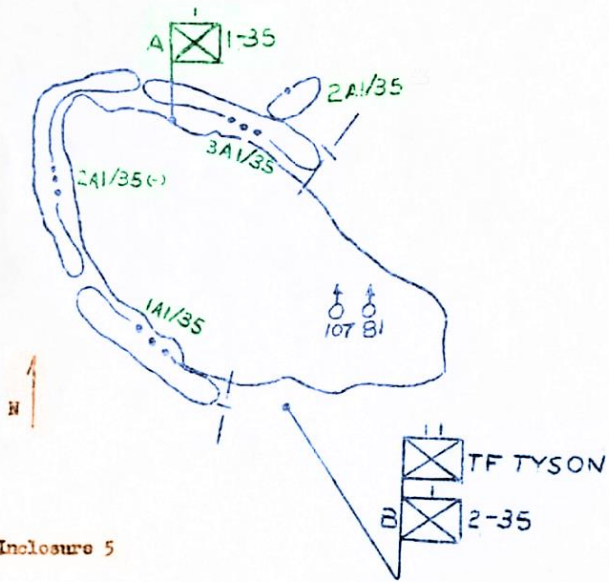
SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION



LANDING ZONE TEN ALFA

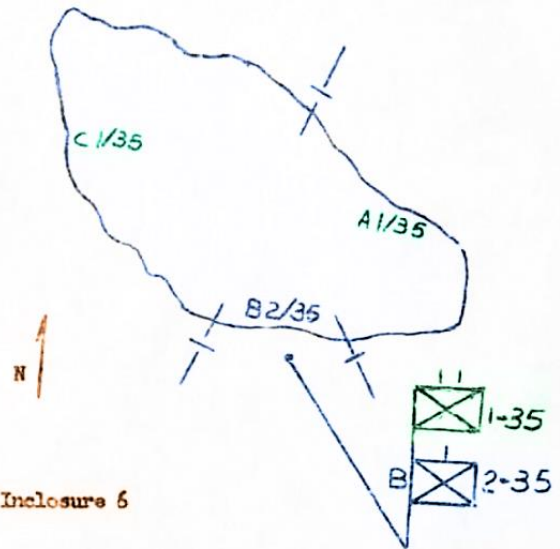
Inclosure 3

SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION 290900-291335 MAY 1966



Inclosure 5

SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION 291335-301041 MAY 1966



Inclosure 6

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PROPOSED CITATION
DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

for

COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY IS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING HEROISM IN ACTION AGAINST HEAVILY ARMED NORTH VIETNAM ARMY FORCES VICINITY LANDING ZONE TEN ALFA IN PHUKU PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, DURING THE PERIOD 28 THROUGH 29 MAY 1966. ON THE AFTERNOON OF 28 MAY 1966 COMPANY A WAS ORDERED TO CONDUCT A HELICOPTER LIFT INTO LANDING ZONE TEN ALFA TO ASSIST COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY WHICH WAS HEAVILY ENGAGED BY A DETERMINED AND WELL EQUIPPED ENEMY. THE COMPANY LANDED AT 1700 HOURS. DURING THE NEXT 20 HOURS THE ENEMY CONDUCTED A MULTI-BATTALION OPERATION, BESEIGING THEM WITH A DETERMINATION AND INTENSITY OF EFFORT UNIQUE TO THIS THEATER OF OPERATIONS. THE ENEMY EQUIPMENT INCLUDED 60MM AND 82MM MORTARS, LIGHT AND HEAVY MACHINE-GUNS, AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. OUTNUMBERED AND SURROUNDED COMPANY A FOUGHT VALIANTLY SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY AS SUCCESSIVE WAVES ATTACKED THEIR POSITION. WITH GREAT PROFESSIONAL SKILL, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF COMPANY A COURAGEOUSLY DEFEATED EACH ENEMY ATTACK. GALLANT ACTS AND INSPIRED LEADERSHIP WERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY. WHEN THE ROAR OF BATTLE SUBSIDED WITH ONLY THE STENCH OF DEATH AND CARRIAGE LINGERING OVER THE FIELD, 241 ENEMY BODIES LAY BEFORE THEIR LINES AND A QUANTITY OF EQUIPMENT WAS CAPTURED. EVEN NOW THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT AMAZES THE MOST EXPERIENCED VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM CAMPAIGNS. BY THEIR HEROIC STAND, A PAGE WAS WRITTEN IN AMERICAN MILITARY ANNALS THAT WILL FOREVER HONOR THE MEN OF COMPANY A AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE AMERICAN ARMED SERVICES.

Inclosure 1

AVFA-GA (31 Aug 66) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Distinguished Unit Citation (U)

12 SEP 1966

Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96240

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, APO 96307

1. (U) Timely reinforcement and a skillfully executed defense of Landing Zone Ten Alpha by Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, were marked by gallant leadership and many individual acts of heroism on the part of members of the company.

2. (C) At the cost of 9 U.S. personnel killed and 42 wounded, Company A contributed significantly to the success of Operation PAUL REVERE I, in which 241 enemy were killed, 79 small arms and crew-served weapons were taken and a key avenue of approach to Pleiku was denied to the North Vietnamese Army's 66th Regiment.

3. (U) Award of the Distinguished Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy to Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division is highly recommended.

6 Incl
nc

SIGNED
STANLEY R. LARSEN
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding