

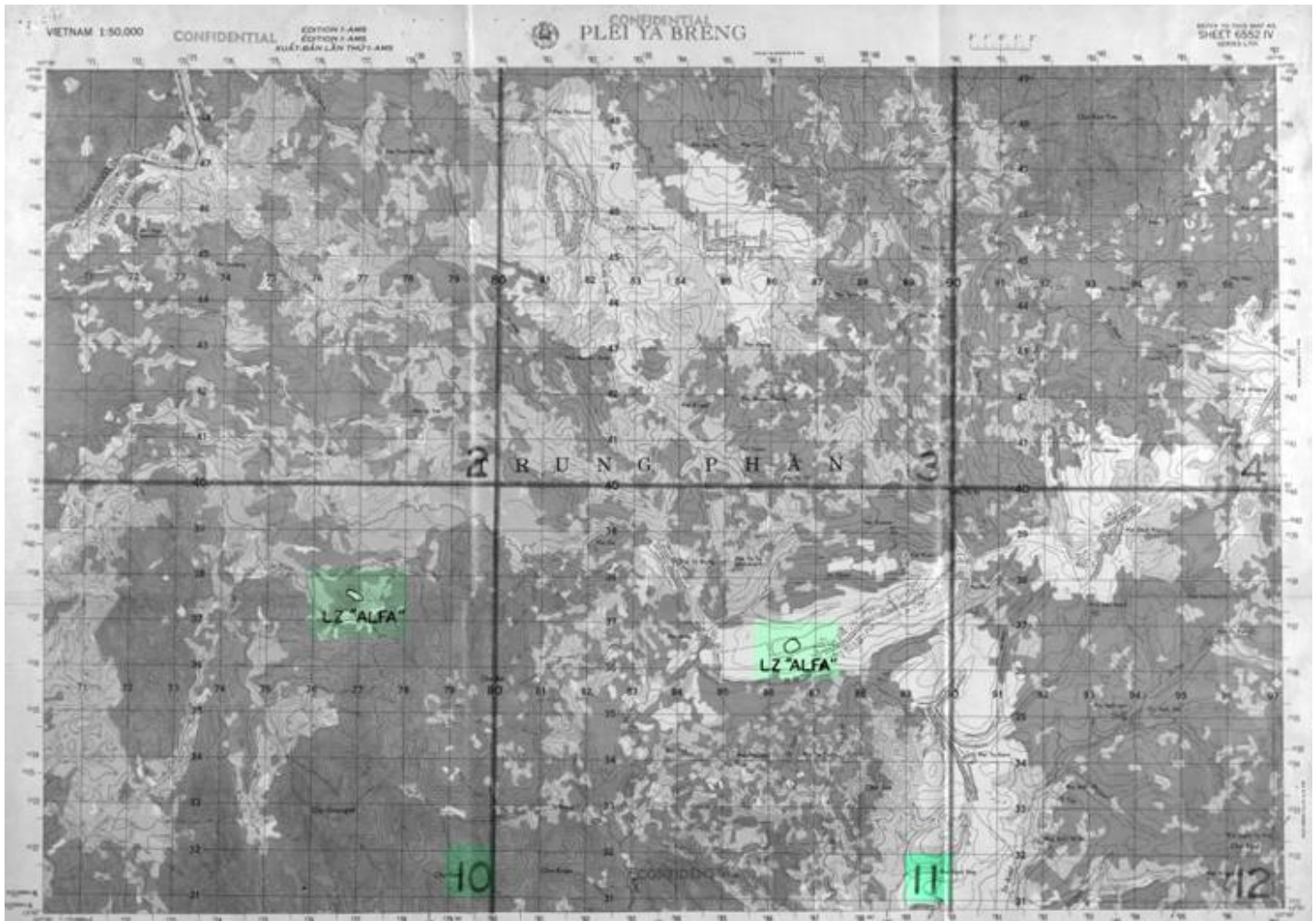


WELCOME TO "A WALK WITH THE 35TH"



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AREA MAP LZ 10 ALFA MAY 28-29 1966



CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 3D BRIGADE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96355

AVDC-C-OP

17 August 1966

SUBJECT: Distinguished Unit Citation (U)

THRU: Channels

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

1. Pursuant to authority contained in paragraph 201, AR 672-5-1, recommend the Distinguished Unit Citation be awarded to Company B, 2d 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. Company B began lifting into Landing Zone TEN ALFA, vicinity YA769376, 281055 May 1966, and immediately made contact with an estimated reinforced platoon size North Vietnamese Army force. At this time there were 63 personnel from Company B in the landing zone. The intense enemy fire precluded closing the balance of Company B at that time. In the ensuing engagement five 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine guns were captured and ten NVA killed. Sniper fire and light contact prevailed until about 1430 hours when the rest of Company B was lifted in and sweeps were conducted to clear the area. At this time there were 126 personnel from Company B in the landing zone. A bunker and a machine gun position were engaged and destroyed. At 1700 hours Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry consisting of 156 personnel was lifted into the landing zone and the perimeter around Landing Zone TEN ALFA was organized.

3. The enemy launched an estimated multi-battalion night offensive against the 292 personnel of the two units in Landing Zone TEN ALFA, 290116 May. 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 NV assaulted in waves, demonstrating a pattern of attacking, withdrawing, reconsolidating and attacking again. From 0212 to 0250 hours a second enemy force attacked the artillery supporting the besieged force at Landing Zone TEN ALFA. Battery A, 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery was colocated with the 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.

SUBJECT: Distinguished Unit Citation

4. At approximately 0330 hours the enemy broke contact and withdrew to the north. Throughout the action, during the hours of darkness, the men of Company B performed with cool professionalism and individual courage. The successive hammering blows of the enemy were smashed and his columns shattered. The training, leadership and esprit de corps of the members of Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry payed off.

5. At about 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. Again the enemy attacked supported by 82mm mortar fire. At 0936 hours a force, initially estimated as a company, attempted to maneuver against Company B. Well placed 81mm mortar fire and accurately delivered small arms fire, coupled with several individual acts of heroism, forced the enemy to reverse direction and move parallel to friendly lines. Subjected to withering flanking fire and finally blocked by a friendly element in an extended position, this enemy force withdrew. The battle continued; in some locations the fighting closed to less than 20 meters. Supporting helicopter gunships discontinued their straffing runs in fear of hitting friendly troops. As the heavy fighting raged, three resupply ships flew in, under fire, to deliver desperately needed ammunition. The defenders gained fire superiority.

6. At about 1043 hours a report was made that two large anti-aircraft guns plus a heavy caliber machine gun were firing from the east. Two A1E engaged them. In an effort to get the armament where it was needed, the second A1E dropped two tanks of napalm too close, and it hit the command post of Company B. Nine friendly were burned in various degrees. The task force commander had the A1E make two dry runs to orient the pilot correctly; then he okayed a hot pass which was right on target.

7. 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 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.

8. Company B suffered 7 KIA and 45 WIA out of a total strength of 6 officers, 130 enlisted men. As of 30 May 66 the following enemy losses were reported:

a. Personnel: 241 KIA (Body count)

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b. Equipment captured:

- 5 12.7mm anti-aircraft machineguns
- 1 caliber .50 machinegun
- 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)

9. This action, in effect, uncovered a large enemy force (two regiments and divisional troops) which had apparently moved into the area to attack the Special Forces Camps of Duc Co and Plei Djereng. For twenty-six hours, Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry courageously and with great professional skill defended Landing Zone TEN ALFA 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 Incls:

- 1 - Proposed Citation
- 2 - Map Area of Operation
- 3 - Schematic of Area of Operation
- 4 - Schematic of Area 281055-1430 May 66
- 5 - Schematic of Area 281430-1715 May 66
- 6 - Schematic of Area 281715-291212 May 66

SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION

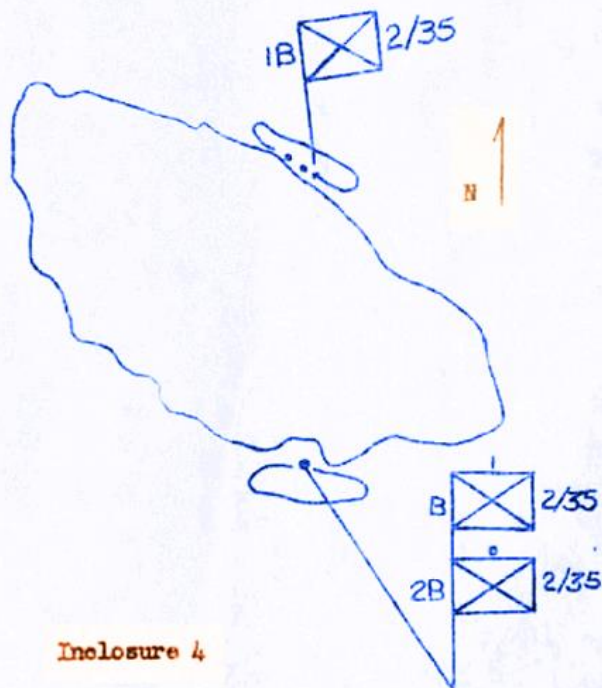


LANDING ZONE TEN ALFA

Inclosure 3

SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION

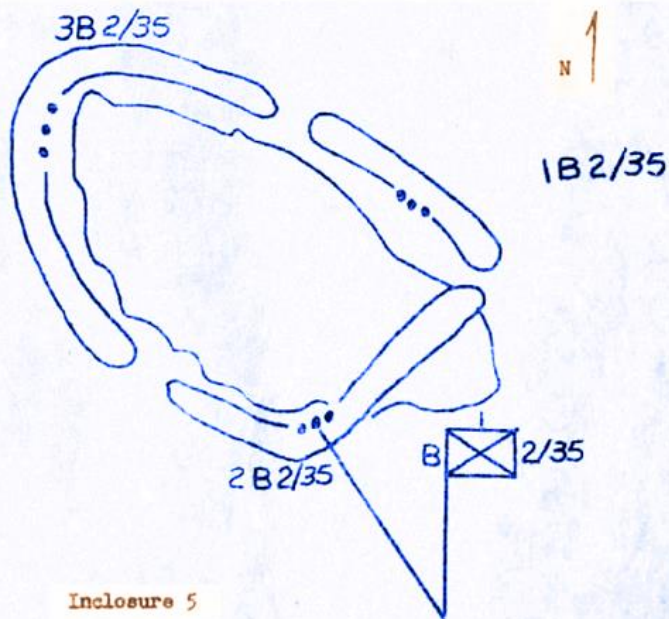
281055-1430 MAY 1966



Inclosure 4

SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION

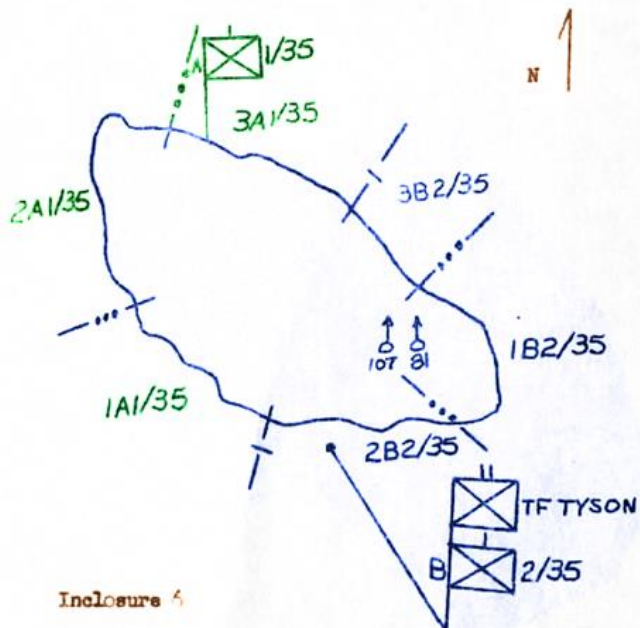
281430-1715 MAY 1966



Inclosure 5

SCHEMATIC OF AREA OF OPERATION

281715-291212 MAY 1966



Inclosure 6

PROPOSED CITATION

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION

for

COMPANY B, 2D BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, COMPANY B, 2D 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 PLEIKU PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, DURING THE PERIOD 28 THROUGH 29 MAY 1966. COMPANY B BEGAN LIFTING INTO TEN ALFA 281055 MAY AND WAS IMMEDIATELY OPPOSED BY A DETERMINED AND HEAVILY EQUIPPED ENEMY. SUBSEQUENTLY REINFORCED BY COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY, THE MEN OF COMPANY B FACED THEIR CHALLENGERS. FOR 26 HOURS, THE ENEMY CONDUCTED A MULTI-BATTALION OPERATION, BESEIGING THEM WITH A DETERMINATION AND INTENSITY OF EFFORT UNIQUE TO THIS THEATER OF OPERATIONS. THEY ATTACKED REPEATEDLY IN WAVES - WITHDREW AND ATTACKED AGAIN. WITH GREAT PROFESSIONAL SKILL, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF COMPANY B 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 CARBIDE LINGERING OVER THE FIELD, 241 ENEMY BODIES LAY BEFORE THEIR LINES AND A QUANTITY OF EQUIPMENT THAT EVEN NOW AMAZES THE MOST EXPERIENCED VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM CAMPAIGNS. BY THEIR HEROIC STAND, A PAGE WAS WRITTEN IN AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY THAT WILL FOREVER HONOR THE MEN OF COMPANY B AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICAN ARMED SERVICES.

Inclosure 1

AVFA-GA (17 Aug 66) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Distinguished Unit Citation (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96240

4 SEP 1966

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

1. Victory at Landing Zone Ten Alpha, Pleiku Province, was sparked by the intrepid spirit displayed by the gallant officers and men of B Company, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry. Not only were 241 enemy killed and 79 small arms and crew served weapons taken, but a key avenue of approach to Pleiku was denied to a numerically superior hostile force.

2. The outstanding actions of B Company contributed significantly to the success of Operation Paul Revere I. Accordingly award of the Distinguished Unit Citation to B Company, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division is strongly recommended.

6 Incl
ns

STANLEY R. LARSEN
Major General, USA
Commanding