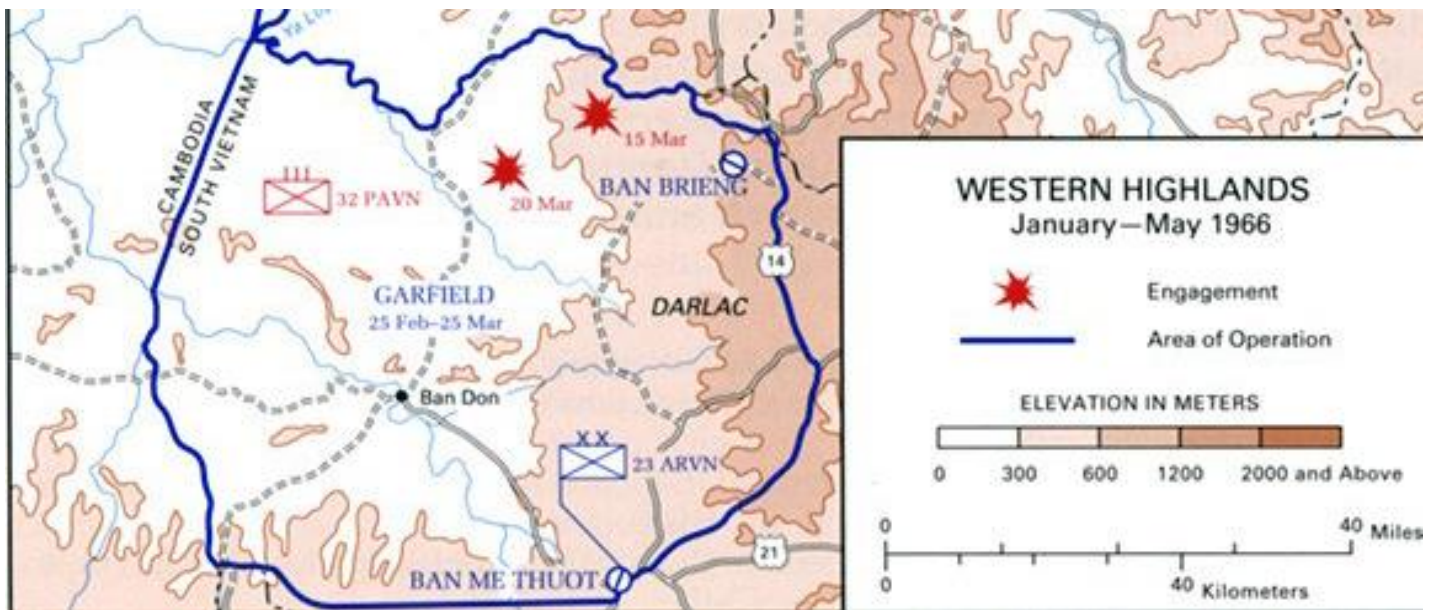
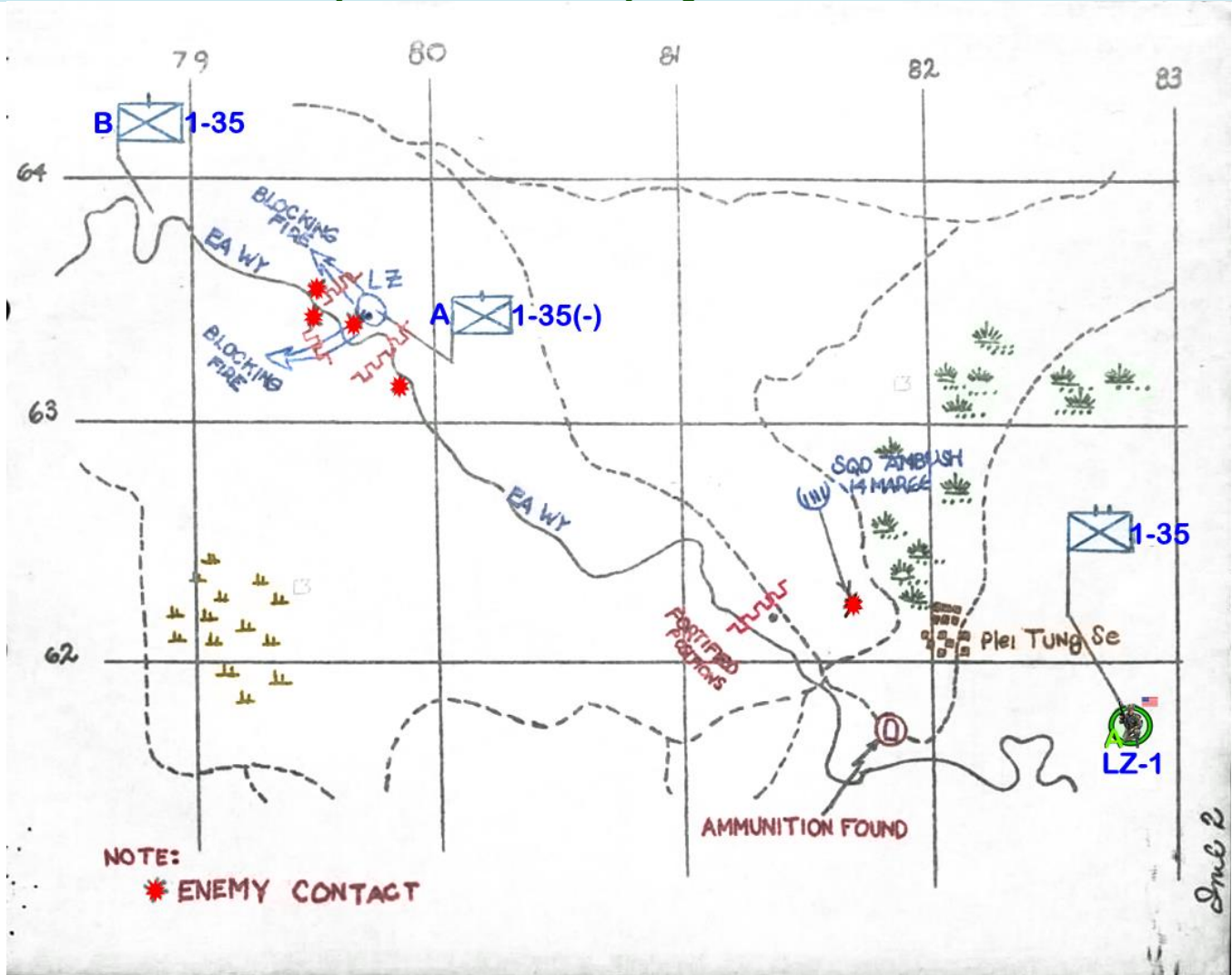




# WELCOME TO "A WALK WITH THE 35TH"



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

AVDC-C-OP

28 September 1966

SUBJECT: Valorous Unit Award (U)

THRU: Channels

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

1. (U) Pursuant to authority contained in AR 672-5-1, recommend the Valorous Unit Award be awarded Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy vicinity AQ7963 in Darlac Province, Republic of Vietnam, 15 March 1966.

2. (C) During Operation GARFIELD, conducted by the 3d Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division, Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry conspicuously distinguished itself against a heavily armed and determined North Vietnamese Army force. A reinforced squad of the 3d Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry departed Landing Zone 1 (Z'828618) to establish a night ambush vicinity AQ816622. At approximately 141845H March 1966, prior to arriving at the proposed ambush site, the squad encountered a North Vietnamese Army force. The squad engaged the NV<sup>A</sup> force with fire. The enemy force was estimated to be of squad size (four men were actually observed). The enemy broke contact and withdrew in the direction from which they came (south - southeast). The squad immediately pursued the enemy without regaining contact until the jungle canopy and the fleeting minutes of daylight made it too dark and impractical to pursue any further. Because the squad was of insufficient strength to hold off an appreciable enemy counter-ambush in the selected ambush site, it was ordered to return to Landing Zone 1.

3. (C) At approximately 150315 March 1966, the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry's base of operation was ineffectively mortared with 81mm and 82mm mortar rounds. The incoming rounds (approximately 50-60) were observed exploding to the northwest, short of the perimeter by approximately 150 meters. (The enemy engaged by the ambush squad the previous night was probably a "pace party" and the ambush affected their accuracy.) The 4.2 inch mortar platoon personnel immediately manned their weapons and delivered counter mortar fire within three minutes. While a shell report was being made, suspected enemy positions were engaged by Battery C, 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery for approximately 10-15 minutes.

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4. (C) The company commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry organized a pursuit force that was to be conducted at first light. At 0638 hours 3d Platoon, Company A proceeded to clear the Ea Wy Stream from Plei Tung Se, west. The platoon was supported by an airborne FAC. At 0705 hours near the previous night's ambush site, vicinity AQ819618, the 3d Platoon found 7 rounds of 81mm and 5 rounds of 82mm mortar ammunition and a booklet with mortar firing tables. They also found a document which contained the history of the attacks in which the enemy participated during the last year. The mortar canisters had been damaged by small arms fire and M79 fragments.

5. (C) The platoon leader dispatched runners to return the captured equipment and documents to the battalion base of operation at 0725 hours. The platoon continued its sweep west. At 0918 hours vicinity AQ814622 the platoon found fortified positions which they destroyed. The platoon moved about 2800 meters from their base by noon when the platoon leader was ordered to terminate the search. At that instant, the point man of the base squad discovered a communication wire and proceeded to follow it. The wire led into an enemy position. One NVA who was observed by the point man, was immediately engaged and killed. The enemy position was in the vicinity of AQ798632. All hell broke loose at 1215 hours - the enemy initiated heavy, concentrated fire - and the platoon, particularly the left squad, found itself heavily engaged, but sufficiently effective to hold its own against superior numbers and fire power. The enemy was initially estimated to be company size (later believed to be a reinforced company or two companies). The platoon leader maneuvered his elements to better firing positions. After positioning his men, he called for an artillery smoke round to identify his position. Although the jungle canopy was not extremely heavy, he was unable to spot two smoke rounds that were fired. This was due to the heavy ground vegetation in the area. However, he was able to contact the airborne FAC who successfully marked his position with smoke. A1E aircraft provided close air support and were able to bring their ordnance to within 75-100 meters of the friendly troops at approximately 1230 hours. This was the first of sixteen sorties flown in support of the friendly troops during the action. The platoon leader who was wounded during the initial firing, requested assistance and resupply of ammunition at approximately 1240 hours.

6. (C) A platoon of Company A, with the company commander, an artillery FO and 4.2 inch mortar FO, arrived in the area to reinforce the engaged platoon at approximately 1315 hours. Upon their arrival, the enemy made a suicidal charge toward the LZ (AQ797634) inflicting several friendly casualties, but at an extremely high cost in enemy casualties. The supporting artillery FO immediately began to fill the gaps between the time one close air support aircraft expended his ordnance and the time the next one was on station. Another platoon of Company A was landed at approximately 1345 hours. Upon its arrival the company commander was able to overrun the enemy's battle position. At 1350 hours the enemy was reported withdrawing to the west and south. Pursuit was initiated to the west along the Ea Wy Stream.

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7. (C) To preclude the enemy's escape during the pursuit, the artillery and close air support were shifted to the north and south flanks of the Ea Wy Stream on likely avenues of egress. The battalion commander, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry positioned Company B approximately 1000 meters west of the initial contact to serve as a blocking force. The area between the two rifle companies was searched for approximately three hours with the north and south flanks sealed off with close air support and/or artillery fires. This plan proved very effective. By 1522 hours Company A reported having killed twenty of the enemy and Company B had killed one.

8. (C) At 1531 hours Company A was again in a fire fight with dug in enemy forces. They reported the action continuing at 1550 hours in the vicinity of AQ795634. At 1615 hours Company B made contact again in the vicinity AQ795635. Company A located a number of bunkers at 1650 hours. At this time Company B was about 150 meters south of the Ea Wy Stream and Company A was about 80 meters south. At 1726 hours Companies A and B were reported linked up. On the night of 15-16 March both harbored at a landing zone located at AQ797634.

9. (C) The net result of the action prior to darkness on 15 March was:

a. Friendly casualties:

(1) 11 KIA.

(2) 27 WIA.

b. Enemy casualties:

(1) 36 NVA KIA (BC).

(2) 100 NVA KIA (POSS) (This was derived through subsequent interrogation of PW).

c. Enemy equipment losses:

(1) 12 SA weapons.

(2) 1 M79.

(3) Assorted small arms ammunition.

Captured documents of intelligence value revealed that the enemy units were the C-2 and C-3 companies of the 635th Battalion, 32d NVA Regiment. Six Bronze Star medals with V device have been awarded personnel of Company A for heroic actions during this engagement.


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10. Following the triggering of his ambush and a heavy but ineffective mortar attack on the battalion base of operation, the commander of Company A promptly and prudently organized a pursuit force, consisting of a rifle platoon and a airborne PAC to track down the enemy force at first light. The diligent and relentless efforts of the platoon found the enemy, and their courage and professional skill held him at bay until the rest of Company A arrived to destroy him. Company A attacked the enemy's battle position, destroyed him there or drove him from the battle field. When he fled, Company A aggressively tracked him down in a well coordinated operation employing infantry, artillery and close air support. This action resulted in the virtual destruction of two companies of the 635th Battalion, 32d North Vietnamese Army Regiment.

11. The demonstrated leadership in Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, its aggressive execution of the pursuit and several individual acts of heroism establish the company as a praiseworthy organization and one that is due recognition.

  
GLENN D. WALKER  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

3 Incl:

- 1 - Proposed Citation
- 2 - Schematic of Area of Operation
- 3 - Map of Area of Operation

PROPOSED CITATION  
VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

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 VALOROUS UNIT AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING HEROISM IN ACTION AGAINST AN ARMED NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY FORCE IN DARLAC PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, 15 MARCH 1966. FOLLOWING A NIGHT DURING WHICH A FRIENDLY AMBUSH WAS TRIGGERED AND A PORTAP ATTACK WAS DELIVERED ON THE BATTALION BASE OF OPERATION COMPANY A ORGANIZED A PURSUIT FORCE, USING A RIFLE PLATOON AS A NUCLEUS, WHICH SET OUT AT DAWN 15 MARCH 1966. THE DILIGENT AND RELENTLESS EFFORTS OF THE MEMBERS OF COMPANY A TRACKED DOWN THE ENEMY ESTIMATED TO BE TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY COMPANIES. ALTHOUGH HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED AND IN DANGER OF BEING ANNIHILATED, THE PURSUIT FORCE FIXED THE ENEMY UNTIL THE REMAINDER OF COMPANY A REINFORCED THEIR POSITION. THE REINFORCEMENTS BRAVED INTENSE HOSTILE FIRE WHEN THEY LIFTED INTO THE AREA TO SUPPORT THE BESIEGED PURSUIT FORCE. WITH EXEMPLARY COURAGE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILL, COMPANY A ASSAULTED THE ENEMY BATTLE POSITION, PENETRATED THEIR LINES, DESTROYED THE ENEMY OR DROVE HIM FROM THE BATTLE FIELD. COMPANY A THEN EXECUTED A CLASSIC MOP-UP OPERATION WHICH COMPLETELY CLEARED THE ENEMY FROM THE AREA. WITH INSPIRED LEADERSHIP, AGGRESSIVE EXECUTION, AND SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL ACTS OF HEROISM COMPANY A FOUND, FIXED, FOUGHT, AND RENDERED THE BETTER PART OF TWO NORTH VIETNAM ARMY COMPANIES INEFFECTIVE. BY THEIR BRAVERY AND AGGRESSIVE CONDUCT, A PAGE WAS WRITTEN IN AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY THAT WILL FOREVER HONOR THE MEN OF COMPANY A AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE AMERICAN ARMED SERVICES.

Inclosure 1

AVFA-GA (28 Sep 66)

1st Ind

17 OCT 1966

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Valorous Unit Award

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350

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

1. Aggressive and skillful application of counterinsurgency tactics by Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, 25th Inf Division, during Operation GARFIELD on 15 March 1966, culminated in a decisive defeat of a numerically superior NVA force. Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry was in contact over a period of a night and a day with elements of two NVA companies. During this period a determined attack launched against Company A was repelled with heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy force. Contact was maintained with the fleeing enemy through aggressive and timely action that brought further casualties to the enemy and rendered the two NVA companies ineffective for immediate combat operations.

2. This inspiring display of heroism and aggressiveness by Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, contributed immeasurably to the overall success of Operation GARFIELD and is most worthy of official recognition.

3. Approval of the Valorous Unit Award to Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, is recommended in recognition of the valor and professional competence exhibited during their engagement on 15 March 1966.

3 Incl  
nc



STANLEY R. LARSEN  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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