



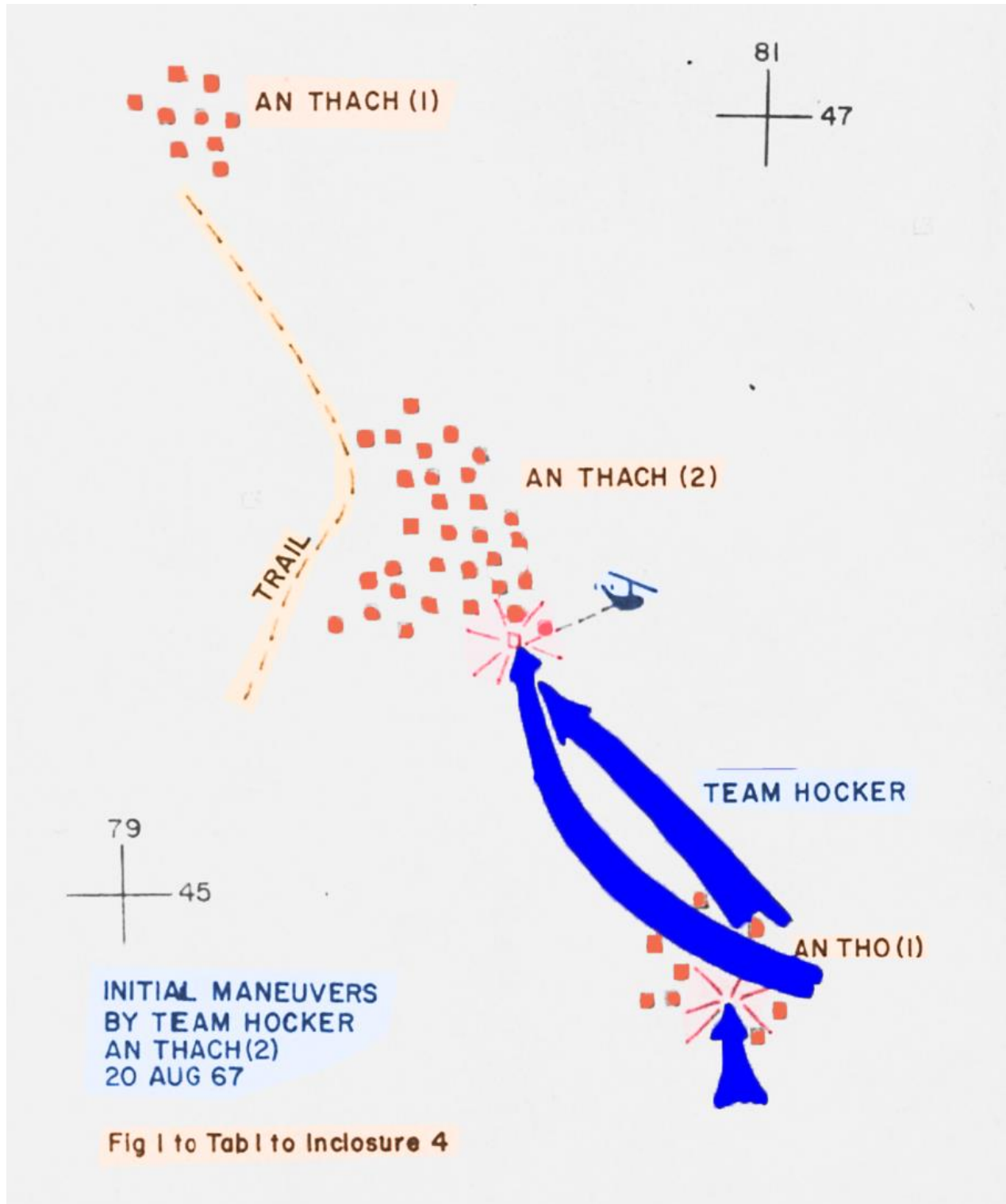
WELCOME TO "A WALK WITH THE 35TH"



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BATTLE AT AN THACH

20 AUG 1967



Battle of An Thach

1. On the 20th of August as Team Hocker (consisting of C/2-34th Armor (-) and the Recon Platoon of 2-35th Inf) was moving from a night location for a detailed search of the hamlet of An Tho, vic BS812454. The 2-35th Inf received a report from the 174th Aviation Company that at 1118 hours a helicopter resupply ship to Team Hocker had received small arms ground-to-air fire about 500 meters northwest of Team Hocker's location. A heavy tank section (3 tanks) was dispatched from the combined arms force to check the area of the ground-to-air fire, vic An Thach hamlet. The tank section immediately became heavily engaged from several enemy positions. The rest of the combined force moved to the northwest to join the tank section. Observer helicopters were requested to screen the flanks and advise as to the enemy movement. The Brigade FAC, already airborne, was over the area in less than 5 minutes and was able to provide the Team Commander with valuable information on enemy movement. Gunships were requested and reported on station as the combined force began a sweep through An Thach hamlet. By 1315 hours, eleven enemy had been killed and two US soldiers were wounded. As was becoming characteristic, the Communist force did not attempt a rapid withdrawal, but instead attempted to gain surprise by changing positions in the network of tunnels and trenches.

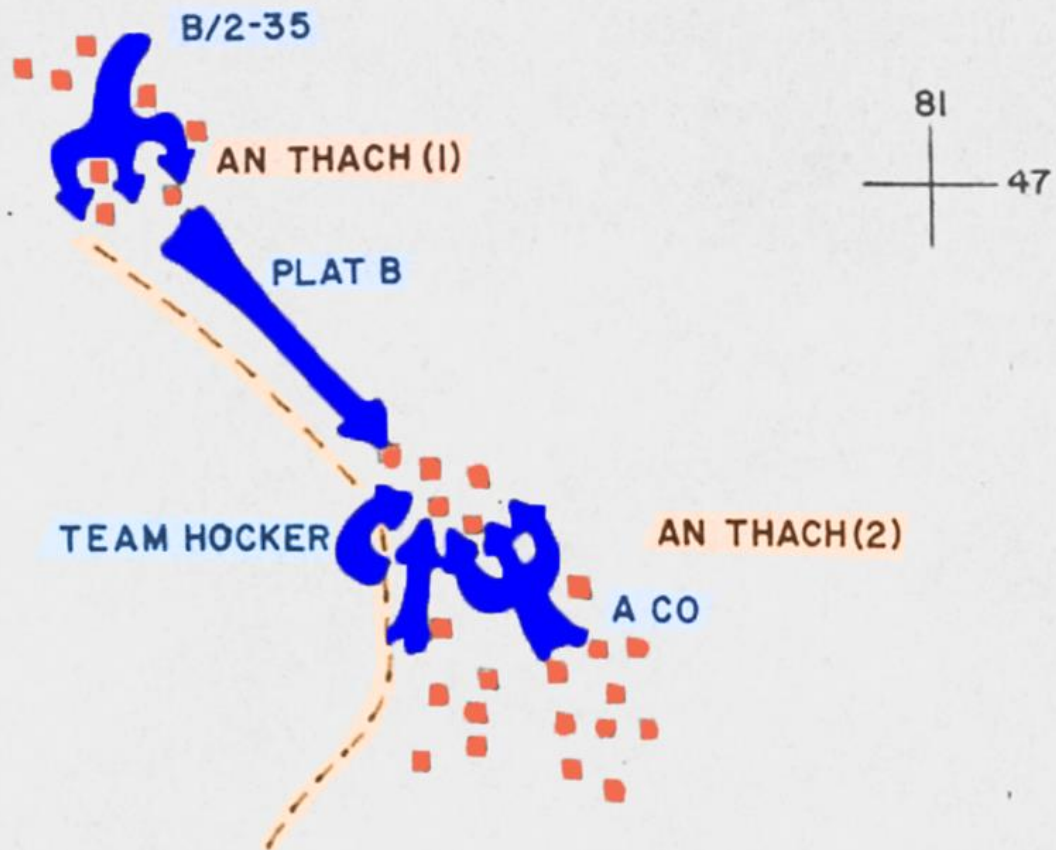
2. Company B, operating north of the contact area was moved southwest to block the northwest portion of the hamlet. Realizing that he was trapped, the enemy resistance became so fanatical that one soldier made a suicidal charge on a tank. The enemy chose to die rather than surrender and fought to the last man. Between 1400 - 1417 hours, Team Hocker pushed through the last point of resistance killing fourteen (14) enemy, many at point blank range. As Team Hocker reached the western edge of An Thach hamlet, they requested permission to reverse their course and conduct a detailed search of the battlefield. By 1420 hours a total of 26 enemy had been killed and nine weapons, including a 60mm mortar, captured. The sweep back through the area produced several more minor contacts and additional Communists killed. Both A and B Companies reported contacts as several VC attempted to evade the devastating firepower of Team Hocker. "Aloha" observation helicopters, while screening the flanks and reporting enemy movement to Team Hocker, scored seven kills during the afternoon. By 2000 hours, contact had terminated and all units had moved to night location.

3. As the units moved to their night locations, more than 50 enemy bodies littered the battlefield. The violent assault by Team Hocker left the enemy company completely annihilated. A captured personnel roster indicated that the contact was with the 2d Company, 97th Battalion, 2d VC Regiment, 3d NVA Division and that the present for duty strength was fifty-three, but twelve were on other assignments. The unit was equipped with 27 weapons as indicated by a captured weapons roster. The victory, without the loss of a US life, can only be attributed to the aggressive tactics and thorough search techniques of the combined tank-infantry team, which reflects tribute to their professionalism.

The 2d Company, 97th Battalion, 2d VC Regiment suffered the following losses:

- (1) Enemy personnel..... 53 KIA
- (2) Enemy weapons captured:

- (a) 60mm mortar (complete)..... 1
- (b) M-79..... 1
- (c) SKS..... 9
- (d) Soviet Machinegun..... 1
- (e) BAR..... 1
- (f) AK-47..... 1
- (g) Chicom SMG..... 1
- (h) M-16..... 1
- (i) M-1..... 1
- (j) 45 cal pistol..... 1



THE MOPPING UP
AN THACH (2)
20 AUG 67

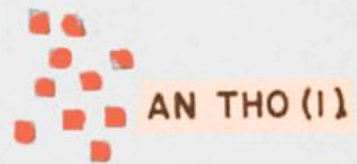
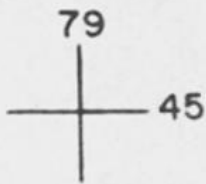


Fig 2 to Tab I to Inclosure 4

EXTRACT: INTSUM NO 121 (3D BDE TF) 21 AUG 67

3. SUMMARY OF EN ACTIVITY

A. GROUND ACTIVITY

(1) DUC PHO

(K) 201148H, BS812455, C 2-34 & RLCON 2-35 REC'D AN FIRE FROM AN AREA FROM WHICH GROUND TO AIR FIRE HAD BEEN REC'D EARLIER. B 2-35 & A 2-35 MOVED TO AREA. GUNSHIPS WERE DISPATCHED AND FIRED ON SUSPECTED EN LOC. CONTACT LASTED THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON RESULTING IN 53 EN KIA, AND 19 WPNS CAPTURED.

4. EN PERSONNEL AND EQUIP LOSSES

- A. 55 EN KIA FOR PD
- B. 32 DETAINEES FOR PD
- C. 32 INNOCENT CIVILIANS
- D. 18/1
- E. EQUIPMENT FACILITIES

(1) WPNS: 10 SKS'S(SN'S 8171864, 8174964, 10088079, 8173479, 8174301, 10100730, 8172739, & 8170372), 1 X M-79(SN13343), 1 X 60MM MORTAR(SN 26512), 1 X CHICOM SMG(SN 37442), 1 X M-1 CARBINE(SN 5060800), 1 X .45-CAL PISTOL(SN 2105712), 1 X M-16(SN 632784), 1 SOVIET LMG(SN 215406), 1 X AK-47(SN 10064430) & 1 BAR(SN 660338)/201148H/2/35 INF/BS812455

(2) EQUIPMENT

- (A) NEG.
- (B) 2 X 105MM RDS, 50 CBU BOMBLETS, AND 1 HOME-MADE BOOBY TRAP.

(3) FACILITIES

- (A) NEG.
- (B) 1 BUNKER

"A TRUE COPY"

Bobby L. Moore
BOBBY L. MOORE
Captain, OMLC