

**OPERATION PUTNAM PARAGON**

**5 TO 12 October 1970**

**Richard Cazeault, Delta Co. 2/35th, 1970,  
has provided much of the material for the 1970 era.  
Our heartfelt thanks for Caz's contributions  
to preserving the history of the 2D Battalion 35th Infantry. Salute!**

**These men went on to other units within Vietnam. So that they might not be forgotten...  
3/28/71 B Sp4 Richard Boehm Age 19 Mandan, North Dakota with the 196th LIB,  
Rocket/Mortar  
5/15/71 B Sp4 Lawrence Dance Age 24 Chester, Virginia with the 101st, Booby Trap**

**THIS WOULD PROVE TO BE THE LAST OPERATION IN WHICH THE 2/35TH PARTICIPATED.**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

**HEADQUARTERS, 2D BATTALION 35<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY**

**APO San Francisco 96262**

**15 October 1970**

**Commanding Officer**

**2d Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Inf Div**

**ATTN: S3**

**APO San Francisco 96262**

**1. General:**

**a. during the period 5 Oct to 12 Oct, 2-35 Inf rejoined Operation PUTNAM PARAGON under the operational control of 2d Bde, 4<sup>th</sup> Inf Div. This Operation was located 50 kilometers NE of CAMP RADCLIFF, RVN. 2-35 Inf forward command post was located at LZ AUGUSTA (BR 801728)**

**b. Task Organization:**

<b>A/2-35 Inf</b>	<b>BN CON</b>
<b>B/2-35 Inf</b>	<b>RCN PLT</b>
<b>C/2-35 Inf</b>	<b>B/4-42 Arty (DS)</b>
<b>D (-) 2-35 Inf</b>	

**c. Commanders & Principal Staff:**

POSITION	NAME	PERIOD
BN CO	LTC EARL R PERRY	5 Oct – 12 Oct
BN XO	MAJ WILLIAM J HARDENBURGH	5 Oct – 12 Oct
BN S1	1LT KIT M H JOHNSTON	5 Oct – 12 Oct
BN S2	CPT FRANK G BROWN	5 Oct – 12 Oct
BN S3	MAJ CHESTER GARRETT	5 Oct – 12 Oct
BN S4	1LT RALPH W JAMES	5 Oct – 12 Oct
BN S5	CW2 BERNARD PREVOST	5 Oct – 12 Oct
BN SPT PLT LDR	2LT THADDEUS YOST	5 Oct – 12 Oct
A CO	CPT MELVIN BANKS	5 Oct – 12 Oct
B CO	CPT JEFFERSON D KIRBY	5 Oct – 12 Oct
C CO	CPT WARD K ODOM	5 Oct – 12 Oct
D CO	CPT RICHARD D O'CLAIRE	5 Oct – 12 Oct
E CO	1LT THOMAS M WAJER	5 Oct – 12 Oct
RECON PLT LDR	1LT GEORGE LANIER	5 Oct – 12 Oct
4.2 MORT PLT LDR	1LT WILLIS M MUSKA	5 Oct – 12 Oct
B/4-42 ARTY CO	CPT PAUL MULLEK	5 Oct – 12 Oct
B/4-42 ARTY LO	ILT MICHAEL J PITTIGLIO	5 Oct – 12 Oct

d. Mission: 2-35 Inf moved on 050700H Oct 70 to LZ PEGGY; conducted an airlift in assigned AO to conduct a secure relief in place of the 1-12 Inf located at FSB AUGUSTA; conduct search and clear operations in assigned AO w/saturation patrol and ambush techniques; be prepared to commit one rifle platoon as reaction force OPCON to K-75 Rangers.

## 2. Intelligence:

a. Weather: The weather remained mild during the period that this battalion was operating off FSB AUGUSTA. Only one day of rain was experienced. The northwest and northeast monsoons were in transitional stage and because of this, little rain was received, however, a morning mist was ever present until 0900 hours daily.

b. Terrain: The terrain consisted of rugged mountain peaks. The area was covered with multi-canopied forests, however, LZ's for operations and resupply were abundant. There were numerous mountain streams in the area, thus the availability of water was not a problem.

c. Enemy: It was expected that the battalion would find elements of the 400<sup>th</sup> Sapper Bn, 1<sup>st</sup> Inf Bn, 300<sup>th</sup> Arty Bn, 200<sup>th</sup> AA Bn, and 5<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn in our area of operations. Numerous indications of recent enemy activity were found in our area, however, no documents were found to indicate which enemy elements were operating in the area. Only one major find was made during this operation, B Co, vic BR 849743, found a bunker complex large enough to

accommodate an NVA company-sized unit. Various material and equipment were found within the complex. The battalion made no contacts with the enemy during this operation.

### 3. Operations:

a. A Company: On 051424H Oct 70, A Co completed and airlift from LZ PEGGY to FSB AUGUSTA and began the security mission at that location. A Co remained on the firebase throughout the entire operation. On 12 Oct, A Co closed the firebase and conducted an airlift to LZ PEGGY. Upon arrival at LZ PEGGY, A Co conducted a convoy move to CAMP RADCLIFF.

b. B Company: On 051231H Oct 70, B Co completed and airlift from LZ PEGGY to LZ vic BR 861750 and departed the LZ to begin search and destroy operations in their assigned AO. On 080945H Oct 70, B Co located a large bunker complex consisting of 29 bunkers. Various equipment was found inside the bunkers. It was estimated that this complex could accommodate a company-sized element. The area was used within the last 7-10 days. B Co made no contacts with the enemy during this operation. On 12 Oct, B Co conducted a final extraction from the field to LZ PEGGY and moved by convoy to CAMP RADCLIFF.

c. C Company: On 051256H Oct 70, C Co conducted an AL from LZ PEGGY to vic BR 823734 and began search and destroy operations in their assigned AO. On 8 Oct, 1/C found a grave which was estimated to be 3-4 months old. The grave was dug up and found to contain one body wrapped in an NVA poncho. 1/C was unable to determine what the cause of death was. C Co made no contacts while operating in this AO. On 12 Oct, C Co conducted a final extraction from the field to LZ PEGGY and moved by convoy to CAMP RADCLIFF.

d. D Company: On 051456H Oct 70, D Co (-) conducted an airlift from LZ PEGGY to LZ vic BR 821758 and departed into their AO to begin search and destroy operations. 1/D was placed OPCON A/5-16 Arty. On 8 Oct, vic BR 846763, 3/D found a LOH which was estimated to have been there for approximately one year. There was no tail number visible on the LOH, however, it did not appear to have been disturbed. D Co (-) made no contacts during this operation. On 12 Oct, D Co (-) conducted a final extraction from the field and convoyed to CAMP RADCLIFF. 1/D returned to the control of D Co at this time.

e. Recon Platoon: On 051325H Oct 70, Rcn Plt conducted an AL from LZ PEGGY to LZ vic BR 807687 and moved into their AO to begin RIF operations. Rcn Plt made no contacts with the enemy and made no significant findings while operating in this area. On 12 Oct, Rcn Plt conducted a final extraction from the field and convoyed to CAMP RADCLIFF.

### 4. Training: The battalion received and filled quotas to Division schools as follows:

	QUOTA	ATTENDED
NCO Leadership	2	2
Sniper School	1	1

5. Logistics: Battalion trains were located at LZ UPLIFT with a forward resupply point for emergency Class I and V located at FSB AUGUSTA. Transportation to and from LZ PEGGY was provided by 8<sup>th</sup> Group.

6. Organization: There was no major change in the organization during this operation.

**7. Other: Aid stations were located both at the forward fire base and at the rear area at CAMP RADCLIFF. Casualties were evacuated to 17<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital at CAMP RADCLIFF.**

**8. Commanders Analysis: This operation was not long enough to present a good analysis as nothing of significance occurred. About the only thing that can be said was the absence of enemy activity. Based on the intelligence reports the suspected enemy units never materialized. The concept of giving a battalion one helicopter to conduct resupply was one that should have been adopted years ago. Nevertheless, the Bn suffered from a lack of coordination, thus the helicopters suffered inefficient use. By thorough planning and staff coordination all of the problem areas were solved.**

**One outstanding achievement on the Bn was the ability and ease with which the Bn convoyed to its staging area and combat assaulted or air lifted in its area of operation. The training that the Bn received on its last operation was instrumental in the ease by which the Bn moved and deployed to its new AO.**

**FOR THE COMMANDER:**

**Chester Garrett  
MAJ, Infantry  
S3**