

**The complete details of the Battle are
contained in the OCTOFOIL dated Mar 68 Vol #1**

Battle of Bau Bang

Combat action was scattered the first few months in country until March when the 1st Brigade and 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, joined the multi-division Operation JUNCTION CITY. In the pre-dawn hours of March 20, Troop A, 3d/5th Cav, was attacked by elements of the 273d VC Regiment near Bau Bang, about 34 miles north of Saigon. A furious six-hour firefight left 230 enemy dead, while friendly losses amounted to four killed and 67 wounded.

Operating on two fronts—the jungles around Bearcat and the marshes of the Mekong Delta—the Old Reliables continued to score impressive victories over guerrilla forces.

The Delta combat emphasized the need for a flexible strike force capable of navigating the meandering waterways. In June the solution came with the formation of the second Mobile Riverine Force in U.S. history. Based on concepts and strategy developed during the Mississippi Delta campaign of the Civil War, the MRF has proved to be a logical and effective means of pursuing the elusive and native Viet Cong.