

on Highway 1 in advance of a mid-day convoy from Blackhorse. The convoy escorted by C Troop's 2d platoon arrived at Gia Ray at 1:00 p.m. The troop's 1st Platoon had preceeded the convoy and had established a blocking position at Boa Toan 3½ miles east of Tan Phong. During the 2d Platoon's road march a tank hit a mine ten minutes out of Blackhorse.

B Troop's 2d Platoon with 1/2/43 ARVN, and 3d Platoon departed the base camp at 7:00 a.m. to assume their daily road side positions. The 3d platoon established its in the vicinity of the Highway 20 junction while the 2d Platoon and ARVNs proceeded west to secure Fire Support Base 4 where C Battery, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery [105T] was positioned. The 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery was an element of the 54th Artillery Group. The 2d Platoon would stay at the fire support base as both security and as a ready reaction force. The 1st Platoon then ran the daily convoys without incident.

The Birddogs escorted and secured a MEDCAP team the following day to Hung Nghia and conducted a route reconnaissance as well as their routein daily mission of checking the base camp's perimeter and escorting convoys to and from Xuan loc. At Gia Ray A Troop's 3d Platoon conducted the routein sweep of Route 333 and Highway 1 then established a ready reaction force position at the road junction while the 2d Platoon secured engineers working at the bridge site Cau Gia Leu west of Suoi Cat. During the day the 2d Platoon took one round of sniper fire which caused no casualties. And B Troop continued with its convoy mission. During the day C Troop along with ARVN elements moved onto Highway 1 and established a ready reaction force position at Boa Toan for the 18th ARVN Division. Subsequently C Troop established a blocking position that extended east to Ap Binh Phu.

At early evening one of C Troop's ambush patrol positons saw lights moving to the south and subsequently took them under fire. The patrol was withdrawn. Later in the night C Troop was alerted for a possible movement to assist an ARVN outpost under attack 9 miles south of the base camp. The alert was cancelled an hour later. And at Gia Ray A Troop conducted a thunder run from the quarry to the road junction.

The next day the Birddogs escorted and secured a MEDCAP team to Trung Hung Dao. While out at Gia Ray A Troop routinely swept Route 333 and Highway 1. And B Troop ran the daily convoy to and from Blackhorse. And C Troop carrying ARVN forces swept Route 2 south to Suoi Ca and then established a blocking position for the ARVNs. The 1st Platoon searched Suoi Ca then established a blocking position. Meanwhile, D Troop, less its aerial rifle platoon, went into

action for the first time in support of the Mobile Riverine Force which was operating in the Cam Son base area west of the 2d Brigade's base camp Dong Tam. Intelligence had predicted several enemy battalions in the area prior to the 2d Brigade launching its four day operation in Dinh Tuong Province IV Corps. D Troop had the reconnaissance mission of covering the eastern Cam Son and western Ban Long area of the 2d Brigade's flank. During the day D Troop elements detected a squad of the enemy in the Ban Long area and troop gunships killed five of them.

The next day the Birddogs escorted and secured a MEDCAP team back to Tran Hung Dao. For the 5th Cavalry the day would be spent changing missions. A Troop would move to Blackhorse and assume B Troop's convoy mission. B Troop would take over C Troop's base camp security mission. And C Troop would move to Gia Ray and take over A Troop's security mission there.

At Gia Ray A Troop's 1st Platoon conducted the daily road sweep while the 2d Platoon established a ready reaction force position at the road junction. When the sweep was completed the 1st Platoon relieved the 2d at the road junction who then returned to the quarry. C Troop's 1st and 3d Platoons established ready reaction force positions at Boa Toan and Ap Binh Phu. At mid-morning the 3d Platoon received two RPG rounds that missed their targets. Then at 1:50 p.m. A Troop's 3d Platoon returned to Blackhorse and assumed responsibility for the convoy back to Long Binh later in the afternoon. Relieved at Gia Ray the remainder of A Troop departed the quarry at 2:50 p.m. and was followed in by its 1st Platoon. C Troop's 1st and 3d Platoons then proceeded onto Gia Ray and joined the troop there. At early afternoon a troop element received small arms fire but there were no casualties.

Meantime while its 2d Platoon continued to secure Fire Support Base 4 B Troop's 3d Platoon had established its daily ready reaction force position in the vicinity of the Highway 20 road junction. And the morning convoy with the 1st Platoon in escort reached Blackhorse at 1:10 p.m. A Troop's 3d Platoon would run the convoy back to Long Binh.

On 30 July the Birddogs escorted and secured a MEDCAP team to Ap Nui Tung. While at Gia Ray C Troop conducted a dismounted patrol to the northwest of the quarry. And at Blackhorse A Troop's 1st and 2d Platoons moved up onto Highway 1 to establish the daily ready reaction force positions in advance of the daily convoy from Long Binh to Blackhorse and back. The 2d Platoon established its position adjacent to the Highway 20 road junction while the

1st Platoon continued onto Fire Support Base 4 and relieved B Troop's 2d Platoon there. And A Troop's 3d Platoon ran the daily convoy without incident. Meantime at mid-morning B Troop's 1st and 3d Platoons with ARVN elements moved south into Phuoc Tuy Province. The 3d Platoon established a blocking position alongside the road in the vicinity of the Courtenay airstrip. While the 1st Platoon and ARVNs who had moved to the west started sweeping back to the east.

The following day the Birddogs escorted and secured a MEDCAP team to Hung Nghia. And at Gia Ray C Troop's 1st and 3d Platoons following the morning road sweep outposted the road for an ARVN convoy. While A Troop's 2d Platoon departed Blackhorse and established its daily position near the Highway 20 road junction. After the morning convoy to Blackhorse had passed the 1st Platoon escorted C Battery from Fire Support Base 4 to Long Binh then returned and established its ready reaction force position at the site. During the movement to Long Binh they had taken sniper fire. Meantime B Troop conducted a reconnaissance to the east of Blackhorse then southward to Cam My.

The following day 1 August the Birddogs escorted and secured a MEDCAP team to Thoi Giao. While at Gia Ray C Troop's 1st and 3d Platoons completed the daily road sweep to Cau Gia Leu where the 1st Platoon established a ready reaction force position while the 2d Platoon continued onto Tan Phong to pick up a platoon vehicle at the road junction that the Birddogs had escorted there. While A Troop continued with its daily convoy mission. And B Troop's 1st and 3d Platoons with two ARVN platoons conducted a route reconnaissance to Cam Tam then followed Routes 321 and 25 to Xa Dau Giay located on Highway 1.

On 2 August the Birddogs escorted and secured a MEDCAP team to Suoi Tre. At Gia Ray C Troop in addition to its daily road sweep ran a dismounted patrol to the south of the quarry. And A Troop continued with its convoy mission. And when its 1st Platoon returned to the base camp that evening it escorted some 11th Cavalry vehicles from the Highway 20 road junction on to the base camp. Meanwhile at mid-morning B Troop's 1st Platoon swept Route 2 north to Xa Thoi Giao. The platoon was followed by engineers who would repair mine damage to the road. Earlier in the morning a low boy being escorted by a 919th Engineer Company tank hit a mine 1½ miles north of the base camp and the tank had taken small arms fire. In the mine incident two men had been wounded. And during the day the ARVNs had conducted two reconnaissance patrols.

The following day the Birddogs escorted and secured a MEDCAP to Cam My.

While at Gia Ray C Troop conducted its routine road sweep. And then after the perimeter at the quarry was fired on the troop sent a patrol to the northwest to investigate. And A Troop ran its daily convoys without incident. And when its 1st Platoon returned to Blackhorse that evening it escorted seven 86th Engineer Battalion [Combat] vehicles with it from the Highway 20 road junction. During the night B Troop's 2d Platoon had conducted an all night patrol of Route 2 and Highway 1 between Blackhorse and Xuan Loc, and made runs at 1:45 a.m. and 4:15 a.m.

During the morning B Troop's 1st and 3d Platoons with ARVN elements conducted a reconnaissance 9 miles south of the base camp. In one Viet Cong complex 16 bunkers, 4 mortar positions, and 2 machine gun positions were destroyed. And a second complex was destroyed as well. At 6:45 p.m. B Troop's 3d Platoon was sent to secure a downed 11th Cavalry helicopter 5 miles northwest of Xuan Loc. And subsequently the Birdogs escorted a Headquarters Troop VTR to the 3d Platoon's location to assist in the evacuation of a tank then returned to Blackhorse. The 3d Platoon then RONed with the downed helicopter.

The following day 4 August the Birdogs escorted and secured a MEDCAP to Cap Rung. At Gia Ray C Troop's 1st Platoon conducted the daily road sweep then outposted the road. The troop was relieved by the 1st Squadron, 11th Cavalry at 11:00 a.m. then road marched back to Blackhorse and stood down for maintenance and future missions.

A Troop's 1st and 2d Platoons left the base camp and established their daily ready reaction force positions as the 3d Platoon ran the morning convoy to Blackhorse. Both the 1st and 2d platoons were placed under the operational control of the 11th Cavalry at 12:00 p.m. as the 1st Squadron relieved A Troop of its convoy mission. The return convoy to Long Binh would be run by the 1st Squadron. And at early evening the 1st and 2d Platoons returned to Blackhorse and stood down.

B Troop continued to secure the base camp until relieved at 12:00 p.m. by the 1st Squadron. The troop's 3d Platoon secured the downed helicopter until it was evacuated at mid-morning. And the troop's 1st Platoon with one platoon of ARVNs and elements of the 27th Engineers conducted a reconnaissance of Route 2 south to the Courtenay airstrip. The troop also stood down as its missions were completed. The next day the 5th Cavalry continued its stand down. But at 7:50 a.m. B Troop's 1st Platoon departed the base camp and moved south into AO Mustang where the platoon secured landing zones for

reconnaissance by unit commanders along Route 2 south of the Courtenay Rubber Plantation.

The 5th Cavalry moved south on Route 2 the next day 6 August into Phuoc Tuy Province and AO Mustang. A Troop moving as the first march unit departed the base camp escorting the other squadron elements and ARVN quartering parties. The Birddogs carrying the 11th Cavalry LRRP's moved with A Troop also. A Troop established a troop perimeter 9 miles south of Blackhorse and secured the landing zone for the ARVNs on the west side of the road. B Troop escorting the squadron's tactical operations center and one platoon of the 919th Engineers established a fire support base and squadron command post approximately 2 miles northwest of A Troop's position. While C Troop marching as the third and final march order escorted A Battery, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery [105T] and the squadron trains to the fire support base then moved and established a perimeter 3/4 of a mile to the north. All 5th Cavalry elements were in the field by late morning.

During the afternoon both A and C Troop's sent platoons out on reconnaissance missions. A Troop's 2d Platoon conducted its reconnaissance a mile west of the fire support base. And C Troop's 3d Platoon conducted its to the northwest and investigated a base camp area inside the Courtenay Rubber Plantation. B Troop's 3d Platoon moved onto Route 2 and established a ready reaction force position on the road as the troop's 1st Platoon escorted a convoy to Blackhorse and back. And during the day the ARVNs were airlifted into the field.

The following day the Birddogs linking up with the 11th Cavalry LRRP's on the southern edge of the rubber plantation during the afternoon then it secured two landing zones before returning to the fire support base. During the afternoon Assistant Division Commander, Brigadier General Morgan G. Roseborough visited with the 5th Cavalry at the fire support base.

At early morning A Troop commenced a reconnaissance mission and the troop's 2d Platoon found 4 huts with bunkers and 5 graves-two bodies about a month old. At mid-day the 1st Platoon heard hand generated transmissions in a foreign language but were unsuccessful in locating its origin. Then in early afternoon the troop's 3d Platoon found 100 pounds of food. During the day B Troop's 3d Platoon ran two convoys to Blackhorse and back while the 1st Platoon occupied a ready reaction force position near the Courtenay airstrip. At mid-afternoon B Troop's 2d Platoon went under C Troop's operational control for several hours. During the morning C Troop's 3d Platoon found

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800 pounds of rice less than a mile from the fire support base and later found a 55 gallon drum filled with rice. At late morning the troop's 2d Platoon found what appeared to be a Viet Cong rest area and the 1st Platoon had contact with an estimated 7 Viet Cong in fortified positions a mile east of Route 2 with unknown results. And at mid-afternoon the 2d Platoon received light fire in a base area 7/10 of a mile northwest of the fire support base. B Troop's 2d Platoon coming under C Troop's operational control set up a blocking position. At early evening a patrol received enemy fire and troop elements moved against it with unknown results. During the day ARVN forces conducted a reconnaissance mission and found 2 bunkers about a mile west of their position and a little later received enemy small arms fire and observed 2 Viet Cong moving south.

The following day 8 August the Viet Cong had made their presence felt in the early morning hours when they first fired on a B Troop ambush patrol position causing no casualties and next fired two rounds of mortar fire and employed a claymore and small arms against ARVN forces that resulted in one casualty. During the morning both A and C Troop with two ARVN platoons each conducted search and destroy operations in designated areas then returned. A Troop then conducted reconaissance patrols around the troop's perimeter. During the afternoon C Troop's 2d and 3d Platoons returned to the base camp the 2d Platoon had found the previous day. While the 1st Platoon conducted a reconnaissance farther to the northwest. During the day B Troop ran the daily convoys between the fire support base and Blackhorse. And the troop sent its 3d Platoon to secure engineers improving a regional force outpost

The following day the 5th Cavalry moving its operations away from the road sent its three line platoons with ARVN forces to the west into the area the 11th Cavalry had operated in in June during Operation Akron. The squadron's westward movement was a three axis advance. The squadron's tactical operations center, A Battery, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery, and 919th Engineers all remained at the fire support base secured by A Troop's 1st Platoon, B Troop's 2d Platoon, and one company of ARVNs. With three light observation helicopters D Troop was participating in the operation. During the morning the division's Commanding General, Major General George G. O'Connor¹³ and an aide visited the squadron at mid-morning.

A Troop, less its 1st Platoon, with one company of ARVNs departed its position at 8:10 a.m. and advanced west along axis White heading for objective Cat 4½ miles to the west of Route 2. B Troop departing at 7:33 a.m. advanced

west on axis Blue for objective Dog 5 miles west of the road. A Troop dropped the ARVNs off and they continued their movement along the northern portion of axis White and found a base camp during their movement. And C Troop departing at 7:15 a.m. advanced on axis Red for objective Rat $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the west of the road. C Troop too found a base camp but their's was a fairly old one. During the night the ARVNs closed for the night with A Troop's 2d Platoon.

During the day one of D Troop's helicopters was hit by small arms fire and forced to land at the fire support base. The helicopter was later flown on to Bearcat. Also, B Troop's 2d Platoon ran two convoys to Blackhorse and back during the day.

The next day 10 August A Troop continuing its advance seized objective Cat by mid-morning. While B Troop continued its mission in objective Dog area. And C Troop continued to secure blocking position in vicinity of objective Rat. During the day the troop conducted a composite dismounted patrol to the southeast. While the ARVNs secured the blocking position near objective Cat.

Back at the fire support base A Troop's 1st Platoon conducted an afternoon reconnaissance to the vicinity of Ap Hean and found a suitcase with black pajamas and a notebook. Later the platoon discovered a tunnel with overhead cover. And B Troop's 2d Platoon ran two convoys to Blackhorse. While the Birdgogs escorted a tank from A Troop to the fire support base. And D Troop provided two light observation helicopters for command and control purposes for the day.

The following day the squadron command post moved $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles to the north and established a new fire support base at that location. D Troop again provided two light helicopters for command and control purposes to the squadron. A Troop conducted a dismounted patrol during the morning and found an ammunition factory just north of objective Cat. Also the troop secured the landing zone for the extraction of the ARVNs. And the troop's 3d Platoon had to RON at the location it had shared with the ARVNs because of a vehicle with track trouble. A Troop then moved its command post to a new location $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of the new fire support base. B Troop conducted a dismounted patrol before moving to its new location slightly northwest of A Troop's new location. During the day C Troop was quite active. Its dismounted patrol reported automatic weapons fire then spotted 9 Viet Cong, and followed a blood trail with negative results. And its 1st Platoon fired at an unknown number of Viet Cong. By mid-afternoon C Troop completed filling a tunnel with CS gas

