

DECLASSIFIED

DIVING MISSION:
DEBILITATOR: Capt F.J. VOGEL
M&S: VIETNAM 1:50,000: AMS
L7014; SEEMP 6541 IV

1ST FORCE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY (REIN)
PHU BAI, RVN
DTG 261420H Feb 68

DIVING REPORT

1. SIZE, COMPOSITION AND EQUIPMENT:

- A. COMPOSITION: 1 OFFICER, 7 ENLISTED, 1 USN
- B. SPECIAL ATTACHMENTS: NONE
- C. COMM. AND OBSERVATION EQUIPMENT: 1 PRC-25
- D. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: 2 TWIN 72'S, 6 TWIN 90'S, 8 REGULATORS, AND 1 RUBBER BOAT.

2. MISSION: CONDUCT COMBAT DIVING OPERATION IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION HUE CITY TO DETERMIN THE PRESENCE AND LOCATION OF ENEMY EXPLOSIVE CHARGES RIGGED ON BRIDGES AT THE FOLLOWING COORDINATES: YD775227, YD768223, YD768228, YD764234, YD760209, YD758209, AND YD752209.

3. TIME OF DEPARTURE AND RETURN: 240800H/261420H: DEPART AND RETURN BY 1ST MARINE CONVOY

4. ROUTE: N/A

5. SYNOPSIS: THIS MISSION COVERED A PERIOD OF 5 1/2 HOURS. 8 BRIDGES WERE INSPECTED; HOWEVER DUE TO THE TACTICAL SITUATION, ONLY ONE BRIDGE WAS INSPECTED BY DIVING. DIVING TEAM RECEIVED A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATE 20-25 ROUNDS OF 81 OR 82MM MORTAR AND AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF SA/AW FIRE IN 4 SEPARATE INCIDENTS

6. OBSERVATION OF ENEMY AND TERRAIN:

A. ENEMY: 241230H: YD775228 ATTEMPTED TO CHECK CAUSEWAY, RECEIVED UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF SA/AW FIRE FROM ENEMY POSITIONS ON NORTH SIDE OF CAUSEWAY, ABORTED MISSION DUE TO TACTICAL SITUATION.

241300H YD768223 RECEIVED 4-5 ROUNDS 81 OR 82MM MORTARS FROM CITADEL; ENTERED WATER AND INSPECTED BRIDGE SUPPORTS, FOUND NEGATIVE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES RIGGED ON SUPPORTS BUT OBSERVED CONSIDERABLE ORDNANCE ON RIVER BOTTOM, INCLUDING SA AMMO, LAAW'S, 81MM MORTARS, 241400 EXITED WATER, RECEIVED APPROXIMATE 6 RDS 81 OR 82MM MORTAR FROM CITABEL.

241600H YD768228 WHILE ATTEMPTING TO INSPECT BRIDGE RECEIVED 4-6 RDS 81 OR 82MM MORTARS AND UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF SA/AW FIRE FROM UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ENEMY ON EAST SIDE OF RIVER. RETURNED SA/AW AND M-79 FIRE WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. ABORTED DIVE DUE TO TACTICAL SITUATION.

251030H YD758209 YD760209 INSPECTED BRIDGES BUT DID NOT DIVE DUE TO TACTICAL SITUATION, AREA NOT YET CLEARED OF ENEMY. BRIDGE AT YD760209 IS BLOWN AND IMPASSABLE.

251130H YD752209 ATTEMPTED TO INSPECT BRIDGE; HALTED APPROX 100M "E" OF OBJECTIVE DUE TO APPROACHES TO BRIDGE BEING TOO OPEN TO ENEMY FIRE FROM ISLAND AND FROM NORTH BANK OF RIVER.

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251430H YD768228 INSPECTED BRIDGE BUT DID NOT DIVE DUE TO TACTICAL SITUATION, AREA NOT YET CLEARED OF ENEMY.

251600H YD764234 INSPECTED BRIDGE BUT DID NOT DIVE DUE TO TACTICAL SITUATION, AREA NOT YET CLEARED OF ENEMY.

251630H YD768223 WHILE RETURNING FROM WALLED CITY RECEIVED 5-6 RDS 81 GR 82MM MORTARS FROM UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ENEMY VIC YD775229; DID NOT RETURN FIRE DUE TO LACK OF OBSERVATION.

- 7. OTHER INFORMATION: SONG HUONG AND TRIBUTARIES IS EXCELLENT AREA FOR DIVING OPERATIONS: WATER IS RELATIVELY CLEAR AND ONLY MINOR TIDAL CURRENT WAS NOTICEABLE. HOWEVER, WATER TEMPERATURE, APPROX 50 TO 55°F, WAS A RESTRICTING FACTOR IN SUSTAINED UNDERWATER OPERATIONS. ALL BRIDGES INSPECTED WERE EASILY ACCESSIBLE FROM THE SHORE.
- 8. RESULTS OF ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ENEMY: NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES, ENEMY CASUALTIES UNKNOWN.
- 9. CONDITION OF TEAM: OUTSTANDING, BUT VERY, VERY COLD AFTER DIVING.
- 10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: BRIDGES DID NOT APPEAR TO BE RIGGED TO BE BLOWN BY THE ENEMY. MORTAR FIRE RECEIVED AT APPROX 241400H AT YD768223 IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN AN ANTI-SWIMMER TACTIC AS ROCKETS APPEARED TO BE AIMED TO IMPACT IN WATER, NEAR DIVERS' POSER, AS OPPOSED TO ON THE BRIDGE ITSELF & WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN BLOWN. STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE USE OF WET SUITS FOR ALL FUTURE DIVING OPERATIONS UNDER SIMILAR WEATHER AND TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS. RECOMMEND EXTENSIVE DIVING OPERATIONS IN SONG HUONG AND TRIBUTARIES TO RECOVER WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT LOST OR DISCARDED OVERBOARD.
- 11. EFFECTIVENESS OF SUPPORTING ARMS: N/A
- 12. COMMENTS BY DEBRIEFER: NONE
- 13. PATROL MEMBERS:

CAPT F. J. VOGEL
DIVIN OFFICER
TEAM LEADER

- CAPT. VOGEL, F.J.
- CPT. UHRL, E.J.
- BN SCHOLLMER, R.C.
- SGT HUGHES, R.L.
- CPT THOMPSON, C.D.
- CPT DOBSON, C.D.
- CPL BUDA, R.F.
- CPL SCHIFF, R.E.
- CPL SHAW, W.J.

DISTRIBUTION LIST:

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S-2 VMO-3	(1)
S-3 VMO-3	(1)
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CO, 5TH MAR	(1)
MAG-36	(1)
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MAG-11	(1)
Co. S-2	(1)
Co. S-3	(1)
CO, Co "C" 1ST RECON BN	(1)

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