AVDE-CT

9 June 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commanding Officer
3d Brigade lolst Abn Div
(Airmobile)

- 1. The purpose of this memorandum is to describe the events of 9 Junt 69 in the AO of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry.
- 2. The sequence of events, based on the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry TOC Log, is at Tab A. In retrospect it appears that the enemy attack at 0740 hours was designed to draw reaction forces from Bastogne to the east to facilitate the main attack west of Bastogne (vic YD603080). However, a C Troop Platoon remained at Bastogne during the contact at 0740 hours and was thus available for commitment west of Bastogne. An A Troop Platoon bringing an infantry Platoon to the initial contact area was at Bastogne when the second attack commenced at 1145 hours. This element, along with a tank platoon from C Go 2/34 Armor, was available for immediate commitment. The mortar attack on Bastogne was probably intended to hold reaction forces at Bastogne, but never played any role in the action because of the promot countermortar fire executed on and south of hill 342 (vic YD634078). The reaction forces to the attack were thus three cavalry platoons, one infantry platoon and one tank platoon. A high volume of suppressive fire was laid down on both sides of the road vicinity of the attack site and Air Cav, ARA, TAC Air and Artillery was used to support the infantry sweep. The results of the contacts are shown below:

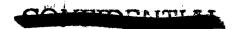
10 NVA KIA (BC)
(1) 12.7 AA weapon
5 AK-47's
10 RPG rounds
1 Map, 1 letter, 2 photos
Miscellameous other equipment detailed at TAB B

3 US KIA (EM, 27th Eng) 16 US WIA (lightly wounded) (4)5 ton trucks destroyed

Security along route 547 is provided by: (1) convey escort by tracked vehicles; (2) prepositioning tracked vehicles in overwatching positions which are changed hourly; (3) visual reconnaissance by Air Cav elements and; (4) personal LOH reconnaissance. I believe this approach is fundamentally sound. I further telieve the reaction forces reacted promptly and violently to the situation. The area for improvement lies in effecting coordination with the engineer elements to insure that the optimum distribution of escurity is made and to insure that engineers follow rudimentary security procedures. It has been SCP for all convoys, regardless of size, to be escorted along rte 547 by a minimum of two tracked vehicles ( TAB C). However, establishing MP checkpoints and close liaison with the engineer elements has proven insufficient. The three engineer 5 ton trucks that were attacked were moving east from Cannon to Bastogne to pick up road building materials. These vehicles were unescorted and were moving without the knowledge of the unit charged with security along route 547. The . ammunition resupely convoy that was ordered to remain at Eastegne for cavalry security moved out with its own and MT security only. The last truck in that convoy was hit by an RPG. Two of the three engineer KIA's were sitting on a culvert without wearons, steel helmets, or Flak jackets when they were struck by RCG's None of the engineers in the 5 ton trucks had steel helmets or flak jackets and most of their wounds were from RPG fragments. It is recognized that no security system, short of utilizing prohibitively large infantry forces near route 547, can prevent the enemy from initiating these attacks. At any one time there are some 30 dump trucks, numerous graders, 2 leaders and a dozen work sites in progress along the road. Security for each vehicle would slow the engineer effort unacceptably. However, the presence of tracked vehicle security along the route, will have some deterrent effect and in those instances where the enemy chooses to attack vehicles with cavalry escort, he will be fought and fixed until additional assets can be committed. The CO, 27th Engineer Battalian has agreed to my Troop Commanders physically restraining engineers from departural assets. they have weapons, ammunition, steel helmets and flak jackets TET MASSAMMILASSIN. minimize losses during the initial minutes when security election that the reasons to an enemy contact. DOD DEG 5200.10

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THOMAS E. CARPENTER III

LTC, Armor Commanding

TABS A Sequence of Events

b Detailed list of equipment captured

c LOI, Fire Base and Convoy Procedures

## COMPANY

0740 10/3-5 (-) returning to Eastogne from minesween to east had two RPG's fired at vehicles (18 and 12) by unknown size enemy. Negative hits. A Pink Team was requested by S3 Air, 3/5 Cav. Fink Team came on station at 0750H. 10/3-5 put suppressive fire into area (YD637096).

0835 Tro C 3/5 (-) enroute to area of contact. C/3-5 (-) is preparing to put dismounts into area.

0840 Fresh footprints found on trail YD635105. 3N/2-327 is being moved to area of contact by 2A/3-5.

0923

10/3-5 on ground sweeping area vic YD623100.

0945 1C/3-5 spotted 2 enemy on ground. Enemy had been killed by 90mm and Cal .50. Results 2 KIA (5' 4", 120 lbs, were wearing brown shorts and shirts, age 20-21 yrs). 2 AK-47, 7 full 4K mag, 5 RPG 7 rockets (2 fired, 3 new), webgear.

10/3-5 spotted two more enemy and flushed them toward 20/3-5 who was located on the road.

1105 2A/3-5 instructed by S3 to drop 3A/2-327 at Bastogne and then secure convoy.

1110 S3 instructed 21/3-5 to take 31/2-327 to contact site and then return to Bastogne to secure convoy.

1145 Three Engineer 5 ton trucks moving east along 547 were attacked by an estimated enemy plt.

1150 2A/3-5 from Bastogne reacting to the attack.

1159 S3 3/5 Cav reports IOH shot down. No casualties.

1200 C 2/34 instructed to react from LZ Ann with a plt of tanks.

1211 9 Trp C instructed to mount up 3A/2-327 and move them to second area of contact.

1255 C 2/34 has 3 tanks at contact site and 2 more on the way.

1255 TAC Air requested for grid YD600088.

1300 FCL established on road. (Arty to south and ARA/Tac Air to North).

1306 S charges C 2/34 and 2A/3-5 with responsibility for escerting convoy to LZ Ann then to Hlaze.

1325 TAC Air on station and utilized vic YD600088.

1331 Trp C reports 10 rds 82mm incoming on Bastogne. One man lightly wounded (No medevac.) Counter mortar fired by mortars at Bastogne and artillery from Blaze.

1445 Convey closes Blaze.

1510  $3\Lambda/2-327$  (grid YD597094) receiving S/A fire from NW, three personnel wounded (No medevac).  $3\Lambda/2-327$  close contact area 2 NVA KIA. Found NVA wallet w/pictures and NVA money on bodies.

1516 Tro C found one NVA KIA and one PW wounded (YD607080), 1 AK-47. (1530H PW died). Results 2 NVA KIA.

1531 (1433H) C Co 2/34 Armor reports one tank slid off road ID575059. Two injured EM medevaced.

1540 Tro C f

Tro C found 2 more NVA KIA (YD607080).

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YR
INTERVALS DECLASSIF.
IED AFTER 12 YRS
DOD DIR 5200.10

TAB A



1649 S3 S/3 Cav reports total NVA KIA (BC) 8 vic second contact

area.

1715 lst LZ for B/2-501

1811

B/2-501 LZ complete

1908

CO 3/5 Cav reports PZ and LZ times of E/:-501 are 1904 and 1907

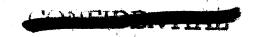
respectively.

1947

CC 3/5 Cav reports insertion of D/3-187 completed.

COMPLETE

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YE INTERVALS DECLASSIE-MED AFTER 12 YRS DOD DIR 5200.19



### ITEMS CAPTURED BY TROOP C VIC YD403080

(1) 12.7 AA MG #101663 RP 46 3 AK-47 #1963 3440, 51057, 5001572 7 RPG rounds 1 RPG launcher 808970 11 AK-47 magazines 7 full, 4 empty 3 pr Ho Chi Minh Sandals 7 Chicam grenades 4 RPG - 7 boosters 3 boxes MG ammo 1 full, 1 half full, 1 empty 2 back packs (basket type) 4 hammocks 4 plastic ponchos 6 pr trousers (OD) 3 handkerchiefs 3 plastic packs 3 bags rice approx 8 lbs total (uncooked) 2 bags salt (2) Ist aid kits 7 towels 4 rice bowls I powdered milk can used for cocking 1 embroidered handkerchief 1 letter dated 15 Jan 1969 9 sheets writing paper 2 photos l fountain pen 1 pencil 6 small plastic bags 1 comb in shape of plane 2 MVA 10 P bills 1 NVA 5 P bill 1 NVA 2 P bill 1 NVA 1 P bill 6 hand - written documents 1 NVA postage stamp l cooking pot 4 shirts (OD) 1 pr OD socks 2 NVA pith helmets 3 pr shorts l pr gloves 3 plastic belts 2 pieces of parachute OD 3 NVA canteens 1 MVA pistol belt with grenade pouches and harness 4 tooth brushes 3 bags cooked rice (1 1b each) 1 ruptured cartridge extracter, hammer and cleaning rod in tool roll 1 spoon

TAB B



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20 May 1060

STRINGT: LCI, Fire Pase and Convoy Procedures

TO: See Distribution

1. The following procedures will be adhered to by tenant units at FP matogne, I7 Ann, FP Haze, FP Cannon, or units passing through the area of operations of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry:

#### a. Convor:

- (1) All convers originating from outside the area of operations will remore to the Militamy Police control point at Pinningham giving the number of vehicle by type, ST time, destination and any other information relevant to conver security. If contact is not made with MP personnel at Pinningham, convey elements will halt at Pastoone and coordinate with the CO, C Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cayalary.
- (2) The control of convoy movement, (rate of march, interval, etc) is the resmonsibility of the senior man tasked to secure that convoy.
- (3) The 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalur will directly coordinate all convey movements with S3, 27th Engineer Pattalion to insure road conditions and mad construction are duly considered.
- (4) The convoy security element will keep a radio on the command frequency of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalmy.
  - (5) Crossing of check roints will be remorted to the 3d Smundron, 5th Cavalratical Operations Center.
  - (6) If a wehicle breaks down along the mute of march the following actions will be taken:
- until it reaches a fixed hase.
- (h) A monort giving Incotion of the downed vehicle, reason for the delaw and estimated time when the vehicle will be moving will be rendered to the 3d Soundron, 5th Cavelry TCC. Padio contact with the MOC will be maintained and hourly simples at a quarter to the hour will be made until the vehicle closes.
- (c) All around dismounted security will be placed out to a distance of 50 meters from the downed vehicle.
  - (7) Fersonnel will ride with wearons at the ready at all times.
  - (8) In the event of enemy contacts
    - (a) All personnel will immediately return fire and continue to march.
- (b) If the med is impassable, nersonnel in the soft vehicles will dismount and fight.
- (c) Immediately a report will be submitted to the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry TCC. Peaction forces cannot be committed unless the TCC knows they are needed.
  - h. Stimulag and bathing regulations in nearby streams:
    - (1) During 0800 1900 hours only.
    - (?) Under watch of a minimum of two armed guards in unescribed smon emily
    - (3) Monswirmers will not narticipate.
    - (4) Puddy system will be used.

### 2. Perimeter Security:

- s. All newly arrived units will be tasked to mull their nortion of the security load.
- h. The sector commander of the sector in which personnel from new tenant unit are mosted will:
- (1) Walk the sector with the commander of the new unit, clearly delineating sectors of fire, areas of resmonsibility and pointing out likely avenues of approach.
  - (2) "stablish land line and radio communications with the new unit.
- (2) Provide the commander of the new unit with a detriled sketch of the perimeter.
- (4) Rrief the new commander on emergency purotechnic gipmals, reaction force drills, sammer tactios.
- c. Tearonability for manning a bunker includes reasonability for bunker improvement, especially fields of fire, and bunker nolice.
- 4. MewJw arrived units will immediately plan and execute for internal defense. Priority will be to construct fighting resitions near where personnel gleen. (See attached standing order preparation of fighting positions).

THOMAS T. CARRIGATED JII
ITC, Amor
Commanding