

C COMPANY, 4TH ENGINEER BATTALION

IN DECEMBER 1965, COMPANY D, 65TH ENGINEER BATTALION ARRIVED IN VIETNAM AND BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF THE BASE CAMP NOW KNOWN AS ENGINEER HILL NEAR PLEIKU. TODAY - FIVE YEARS AND SCORES OF FIREBASES AND LANDING ZONES LATER - THAT UNIT, NOW DESIGNATED C COMPANY, 4TH ENGINEER BATTALION, IS PREPARING TO LEAVE VIETNAM. THE LIST OF COMBAT OPERATIONS COMPLETED, MISSIONS ACCOMPLISHED AND FIREBASES BUILT CONSTITUTES A CHRONICLE OF U.S. ARMY OPERATIONS IN THE HIGHLANDS.

COMPANY C, 4TH ENGINEER BATTALION WAS ORIGINALLY PART OF THE 3RD BRIGADE TASK FORCE OF THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION. IN MARCH 1967, THE TASK FORCE WAS REDESIGNATED AS THE 3RD BDE, 4TH INF DIV, AND REDEPLOYED TO THE COAST AS PART OF TASK FORCE OREGON. CONCURRENT WITH THE EXCHANGE OF BRIGADE DESIGNATIONS, CHARLIE COMPANY BECAME PART OF THE 4TH ENGINEERS. FOR THE NEXT YEAR, CHARLIE COMPANY SUPPORTED OPERATIONS FROM BONG SON IN THE SOUTH TO DA NANG IN THE NORTH - OPERATING QUARRIES, MAINTAINING MSRs, CLEARING LZs, UPGRADING ROADS AND DESTROYING ENEMY CACHES AND FORTIFICATIONS.

THE COMPANY DISTINGUISHED ITSELF BY CLOSE COMBAT SUPPORT AND TREMENDOUS EFFORTS TO RESTORE LAND COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE TET OFFENSIVE OF 1968. FOLLOWING TET, "CHARGIN' CHARLIE" MOVED WITH THE 3RD BRIGADE TO KONTUM, TO BEGIN NEW OPERATIONS IN THE HIGHLANDS IN EARNEST. FOR THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS, THE COMPANY WAS ENGAGED IN HIGHLY ACTIVE COMBAT SUPPORT MISSIONS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY UNDERTAKING CONSTRUCTION OF FSB MARYLOU - A TASK THAT TOUCHED EVERY PHASE OF BASE CAMP CONSTRUCTION AND REQUIRED A LEVEL OF TECHNICAL SKILL AND PROFESSIONALISM RARELY DEMANDED OF A COMBAT ENGINEER COMPANY. THESE EFFORTS WERE RECOGNIZED BY THE MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION, AWARDED IN MAY 1969.

TWO YEARS OF CONTINUOUS DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE 2ND BRIGADE COMMENCED IN NOVEMBER 1968. IN EVERY OPERATION SINCE, COMPANY C HAS PROVIDED MINESWEEPS, CONSTRUCTION, DEMOLITIONS, LAND CLEARING AND OTHER ENGINEER SKILLS AS THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESSES OF THE BRIGADE. COMBAT ASSAULTS INTO THE PLEI TRAP VALLEY TO CLOSE A MAJOR NVA SUPPLY ROUTE, AND INTO CAMBODIA TO DESTROY ENEMY SANCTUARIES WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS PERIOD.

FROM EARLY OPERATIONS NAMED LONGFELLOW, PAUL REVERE, PERSHING, AND MACARTHUR, THROUGH THE MORE RECENT OPERATIONS HINES AND BINH TAY I - AT PLACES NAMED OASIS, ENGLISH, BALDY, ARMAGEDDON, MARYLOU, HARD TIMES, JOHN HENRY, AND UPLIFT - COMPANY C, 4TH ENGINEER BATTALION, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION HAS SERVED WITH DISTINCTION AND VALOR.

That record of achievement must belong to

[THIS CEREMONY IS TO BID FAREWELL TO] A ^{UNIQUE} [VERY SPECIAL] UNIT OF THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION. YOUR UNIT, CHARLIE COMPANY OF THE 4TH ENGINEER

BATTALION, PREDATED THE DIVISION'S ARRIVAL IN VIETNAM BY OVER 10 MONTHS AND HAS NOW SERVED HERE CONTINUOUSLY FOR JUST ONE MONTH SHORT OF FIVE YEARS.

Today because of your success, we gather in ceremony to your success.

DURING THIS FIVE YEAR PERIOD, YOUR UNIT PARTICIPATED IN EVERY MAJOR OPERATION UNDERTAKEN IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. THE EARLY DAYS WERE FILLED WITH HEROISM AS THE ^{allied forces} [EXHAUSTED ARVN, BOLSTERED BY THE THIN RED LINE OF AMERICAN FORCES] FOUGHT DESPERATELY TO SHORT CIRCUIT THE MASSIVE NVA INVASION WHICH THREATENED TO CUT THE COUNTRY IN TWO. THE MOST DECISIVE BATTLES OF THE WAR WERE FOUGHT AT THAT TIME AND THE ENEMY WAS REBUFFED SUCCESSFULLY. THIS ALLOWED TIME, FIRST FOR US TO BUILD UP OUR COMBAT STRENGTH AND, SECONDLY, FOR ARVN AND THE GVN TO BEGIN THE MASSIVE RECUPERATION AND RECONSTRUCTION NECESSARY FOR THEM TO PRESERVE THEIR FREEDOM AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

TIME AFTER TIME THE ENEMY ATTEMPTED TO RECOVER HIS POSITION [AND SAVAGE BATTLES RAGED AT SUCH PLACES AS DAK TO, AN LAO, AND PLEI TRAP,] CULMINATING FINALLY IN THE ENEMY'S DESPERATE LUNGE DURING TET OF 1968. EACH TIME, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FAILED IN THEIR OBJECTIVES, SUFFERED ENORMOUS LOSS OF LIFE AND WAR MATERIEL AND WERE FORCED AGAIN BACK TO THEIR REMOTE SANCTUARIES. EACH TIME CHARLIE COMPANY WAS THERE TO HELP THE INFANTRY BLUNT THE ATTACK, PURSUE THE ENEMY AS HE WITHDREW, AND THEN RECONSTRUCT THAT WHICH HAD BEEN DAMAGED AND CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT THE FIREBASES AND ROADS NEEDED TO FURTHER LIMIT THE ENEMY'S CHANCE OF SUCCESS ON HIS NEXT ATTEMPT.

NOW THE TIME HAS COME THAT WE [AND YOU] HAVE [LONGED FOR,] WORKED FOR, AND SOME OF YOUR BROTHER ENGINEERS AND PREDECESSORS IN CHARLIE COMPANY HAVE DIED FOR. THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND ITS ARMY HAVE GAINED THE STRENGTH NEEDED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES FROM EXTERNAL FORCE AND ALLOW THE PEACEFUL REVOLUTION WHICH HAS BEEN INITIATED IN THIS COUNTRY TOWARD REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE, TO EVOLVE INTO FRUITION.

[HISTORY WILL JUDGE, I FIRMLY BELIEVE, THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA KNEW NOT ONLY WHEN IT HAD TO ACT IN DEFENSE OF A HAPLESS PEOPLE, BUT KNEW HOW AND WHEN TO RETURN TO THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE NOT ONLY THE RIGHT BUT THE MEANS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY.]

YOU CAN BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF YOUR SERVICE HERE AND THE SERVICE OF YOUR FINE UNIT. YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN A VERY REAL SENSE - A PHYSICAL SENSE - TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD FOR YOUR SONS AND GRANDSONS. [ARMED AGGRESSION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED. THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO SEEK PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND TO RESIST EXPANSION THROUGH CONQUEST HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED. THIS LESSON HAS NOT BEEN LOST IN THE COUNCILS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD DESPITE THEIR PROPAGANDIZING AND BLUSTER. YOU HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO BE A PARTICIPANT IN A GREAT STRUGGLE AT A CRUCIAL PERIOD IN HISTORY.] YOU MET YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A FREE MAN, USED ACTION TO BACK UP YOUR IDEALS, AND PROVED YOURSELVES WORTHY OF YOUR COUNTRY'S GRATITUDE AND HONORS. I KNOW YOU HAVE ACTED BECAUSE WHEREVER I HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE TROOPS OF CHARLIE COMPANY - ON THE FIRE-BASES, ON THE ROADS, ON THE PROJECTS HERE AT RADCLIFF - YOU HAVE BEEN BUSILY, QUIETLY AND COMPETENTLY AT WORK; BUILDING, HELPING, SUPPORTING.

YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED YOUR MISSIONS WITHOUT FAIL AND IN SO DOING HAVE
ENABLED THE DIVISION AND THE U.S. ARMY IN VIETNAM TO SUCCESSFULLY
ACCOMPLISH THEIRS.] ON BEHALF OF THE DIVISION AND THE ARMY I THANK YOU
AND WISH YOU FAREWELL AND GOD SPEED.]

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