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POOR QUALITY ORIGINAL

XS603177

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Giong Trom Operation 14-15 Feb 1970

I. Intelligence Data.

a. Area to the west and southwest of Giong Trom District towns is currently held as the operational area of the D-263 and 516-A VC Ens. The D-263, which is believed to be comprised primarily of NVA troops, consists of approximately 200 men. The 516-A En is rated and has a strength of about 250 men. Both battalions are equipped with 75 mm RR, 82mm mortars and 12.7 AA guns in addition to small arms.

b. The terrain is characterized by sparse vegetation with occasional clusters of coconut groves. The enemy has made excellent usage of existing conditions by placing his revettments in places most advantageous for a defense. Current visual reconnaissance of the area reveals many well camouflaged bunkers and gun emplacements.

II. Listing of Events.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
0945	MAJ O'Dell received air lift package consisting of 1 C&C, 3 gunships, and 6 slicks. Proceeded to Giong Trom to select LZ's.
1030	First lift complete at LZ1, XS 601184, cold LZ.
1045	Second lift complete at LZ1, XS 601184, cold LZ.
1100	Third lift complete at LZ1, XS 601184, cold LZ. This is the final lift for the 1st landing zone. The 103 RF, 589 RF, PF plt consisting of 1 squad from 529, 532, 535, ID 39, and advisors from Giong Trom were inserted.
1115	First lift complete at LZ2, XS 588174, cold LZ.
1130	Second lift complete at LZ2, XS 588174, cold LZ.
1220	Third lift complete at LZ2, XS 588174, cold LZ. 855 RF, 258 RF, and MAT 22 were inserted. 307 RF, 298 RF, 255 RF, ID13, and MAT 91 are reserve elements standing by at Ben Tre airfield.
1240	589 RF company and PF plt in contact at XS 611189 with estimated 2 platoons VC. Swamp Fox 19 went to contact area and had negative sighting. At approximately 1300H contact was broken, negative results.
1520	589 RF company and PF plt in heavy contact at XS 618176 with estimated company of VC. Swamp Fox 19 was over area and received ground fire. One round hit the flap mortar and he had to leave station.
1530	TOC called 7th Division TOC and requested gunships and C&C. Called Vung Tau and requested Black Pony support.

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GROUP-4
Downgraded at 3 year interval
Declassified after 12 years

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<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
1535	103 RF and ID 39 in heavy contact at XS 616183. They were trying to maneuver in support of the 589 RF company.
1535	TOC requested standard lift package from LTOC. Alerted reserve forces to get ready to insert.
1540	Vietnamese Field CP lost radio contact with the 589 RF company. Swamp Fox LL over contact area. Was informed by 7th Div TOC that lift package was on the way to Ben Tre airfield.
1555	C&C and guns directed to pick up Maj O'Dell, S-3 advisor and counterpart. Rest of package going to Ben Tre airfield.
1558	103 RF company and ID 39 have broken contact.
1615	Black Poney was diverted by DMAC.
1640	C&C ship reported sighting 35-40 bodies on ground, presumed to be friendly.
1655	First lift of the reserve force inserted (235 RF, 298 RF, 307 RF, ID 13, and MAT 91) at XS 605183, cold LZ.
1710	ID 13 in light contact, gunships suppressed the fire, negative results.
1715	Second lift complete at XS 605183, cold LZ.
1725	Gunships took fire north of the landing zone, put in strike with negative known results.
1725	Giong Trom reports they have 10 RF WIA.
1810	Third and final insertion complete, cold LZ.
1815	(est) 7th Div TOC advised by LL that 10th Regt was going to insert troops in support of the sector operation.
1830	Air Package released to 10th Regt.
1830	(est) 7th Div TOC advised by LL that plan for 10th Regt to support the sector operation was changed. 10th Regt was not going into Giong Trom area.
1855	MAT 91 has light contact at <u>XS 603177</u> , 1 VC KIA. Contact broken at 1900.

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<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
1903	103 RF, and LD 39 has heavy contact at XS 614180. Stated they were surrounded and requested to be extracted.
1905	TOC requested gunships and Black Pony from Div TOC.
1915	LTC Andrews talked to DSA of 7th Div. Explained the situation and asked for insertion of Division forces. DSA stated he would try to get the air cav package and would assist us in any way possible.
1920	Contact was broken. Black Pony on the way to the area.
1945	Black Poney on station over area.
2030	Black Pony having difficulties locating friendly units.
2050	Black Pony leaving area, could not put in strike due to situation on ground. Could not identify all friendly units.
2055	TOC requested Night Hunter Killer Team from Div TOC.
2105	Results at this time are: 11 RF KIA, 15 RF WIA, and 13 RF MIA.
2110	Field CP moving to Gieng Tron District town.
2130	Night locations: 103, LD 39, Gieng Tron Advisors, at XS 615173; 589, 235, 307, 298, FF plt, LD 13, and MAT 91 XS 608180.
2140	Received message from Div TOC we would not be getting night hunter killer.
2200	Fire Dragon over the area, Negative targets.
2303	MAT 91 reports a light probe from the north, negative results.
2305	TOC called Div TOC, requested SPAT to give air coverage over area.
2320	SPAT 19 on station over area.
2322	MAT 91 reports they received 1 round of 60mm mortar, 1 RF WIA.
2355	TOC called Div TOC, requested 1 slick with gunships for 0700 to resupply units in the field.
0030	MAT 91 in heavy contact, 2 American advisors WIA, interpreter WIA, Lien Doi commander KIA. Unknown VC size force with small arms, automatic weapons, and 57 ER fire. Fire Dragon was returning, SPAT could not locate enemy fire. No radio contact with MAT team.

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<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
0032	TCC called Div TCC, requested Black Pony, Night Hunter Killer Team, Shadow, and Vampire Flight.
0040	TCC called Div TCC, requested dust off with gunships.
0100	Mr Kotzebue and Province Chief requested troop support from 7th Div.
0100	Vietnamese reported 1 American had died, did not know identity.
0115	Shadow on station coming into contact area.
0130	Dust off on station without gunships for pick up of the American and Vietnamese casualties.
0215	Black Pony on station.
0220	Vietnamese TCC reported that contact lasted only 15-20 minutes.
0250	Vietnamese report 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA, Lien Doi commander KIA, 5 VN WIA.
0305	Dust off complete, 1 US and 7 VN; US WIA SFC Gary L. Proudty, <u> </u> US KIA was 1LT Theodore F. SAS, <u> </u> Black pony supported the dust off. Reason for dust off delay was no American on ground. Vietnamese had to build fires on ground to identify their position.
0450	SPAT put in a/s at KS 582202, 3 sampans destroyed and one large secondary explosion.

Total Results:

Friendly		Total
589 - 18 KIA	ID 13 - 7 KIA	29 KIA
22 WIA	5 WIA	36 WIA
13 M-16 lost	US - 1 KIA	1 US KIA
7 M-79 lost	1 WIA	1 US WIA
2 AN/PRC 25 lost	PF - 4 KIA	22 M-16 lost
	9 WIA	7 M-79 lost
	9 M-16 lost	2 AN/PRC 25 lost

Enemy

9 KIA
1 machine gun
1 pistol
1 M-79
1 Kilo Document
1 Field pack

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