

OPERATION JOHN PAUL JONES and OPERATION SEWARD

With all three of its battalions together for the first time since early April, the 1st Brigade prepared in mid-July 1966 for participation in Operation JOHN PAUL JONES in Phu Yen Province. The brigade's mission was to secure Vung Ro Bay and the highway north of Tuy Hoa, at the same time protecting the harvesting of rice in the area. This operation continued until 5 September. It was succeeded by Operation SEWARD, involving a similar mission of providing security for the rice harvest in Phu Yen Province. This operation extended from 5 September to 24 October. The enemy suffered over 200 casualties.

Brigade activity during these two operations consisted of saturation patrolling and night ambushes, with occasional sweeps of the adjacent mountain areas to the west of Tuy Hoa and Tuy An. Most of the enemy encountered were local squads. From 24 August to 10 September, Company C, 1-327th, was assigned a special security operation for an engineer base camp area in the Ninh Hoa area on the coast forty miles south of Tuy Hoa. When not committed to offensive operations, units of the brigade conducted perimeter defense, maintenance, training and recreational activities. In addition, the civil affairs sections and medical platoons of the battalions coordinated civic action projects and administered medical treatment to the local civilians. On 17 August, during a lull in Operation JOHN PAUL JONES, LTC Frank L. Dietrich assumed command of the "O-Deuce" from LTC Henry E. Emerson, the "Gunfighter," who had commanded the battalion since its arrival in Vietnam. In late October, battalions of the brigade relinquished responsibility for their areas of operations to elements of the Korean 9th (White Horse) Division and the U. S. 4th Infantry Division, the latter having just arrived in Vietnam in early October.