

OPERATION NATHAN HALE

While the 1-327th and the 2-502d were engaged in Operations AUSTIN II, AUSTIN VI, HAWTHORNE, AND BEAUREGARD, the 2-327th had continued at Tuy Hoa the objective of Operation FILLMORE: to protect the coastal area of Phu Yen Province. On 19 June, the 2-327th, less one company that had joined the rest of the 1st Brigade for Operation HAWTHORNE, was placed under the operational control of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), and given the mission of fixing a suspected enemy force west of Tuy An. The operation was designated Operation NATHAN HALE. Two companies moved into position by helicopter and began search operations. Both companies were attacked and prevented from linking up. The battle continued for two days, during which the enemy launched fanatical assaults. On the third day, Company B arrived from Dak To, and together with every available man from the battalion headquarters, enabled the battalion to resume the offensive. A brigade from the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) also attacked the enemy. The two U. S. forces thereby destroyed two NVA battalions, later identified as belonging to the 188 NVA Regiment. The 2-327th accounted for 237 enemy killed and 14 captured before the operation ended on 1 July 1966.