

19 June 1967 – Operation Coronado

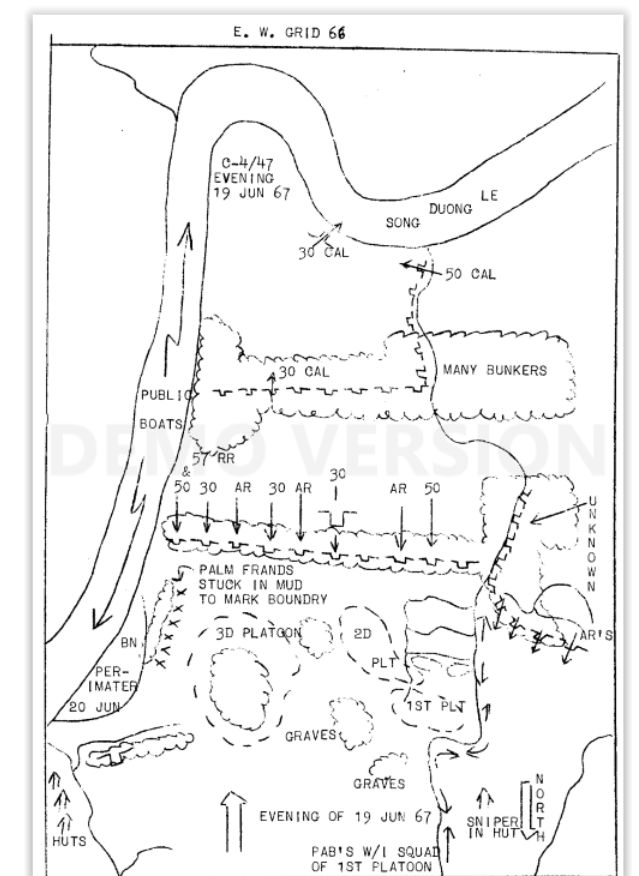
In MY OPINION, some facts to put the 19 June Operation in context:

- The Mobile Riverine Force (MRF), with the combined units of the 2nd Bde, 9th Inf Div, and the Navy's Task Force 117 was activated in early May, 1967 – less than a month before the 19 June operation.
- The MRFs first operation was in Cam Sam on the Mekong River – this operation in the “Snoopy Area” was a major event – then the MRF moved to and anchorage near Nha Be, a riverport right out of Saigon, where the brigade launched operations into the northern part of the Rung Sat Special Zone.
- On 18 June the MRF moved to a new base for operations in eastern Long An Province.
- The MRF was new and was having “learning pains” on creating a combined Army and Navy force.
- The Long An terrain was different from the Mekong area we operated in before – key was far more streams and far less foliage along the stream banks. The lack of foliage allowed the Navy Monitors and ATCs to acquire targets and destroy them.
- In my opinion, every Soldier on the battlefield on 19 June owes a tremendous debt to our Navy comrades.
- Credit must be given to the discipline and competencies of the 5th Nhe Be Battalion.
 - They were very, very good.
 - They allowed /4-47 to move by their ambush site without firing – waiting for troops in the open.
 - They had constructed strong bunkers and spider holes.
 - They placed markers throughout the ambush site to facilitate command and control.
 - They “humped” in an incredible amount of weapons and ammunition to their site.
 - They were adept at “slipping away” during the night of 19-20 between our units.
 - Again, they were very, very good.

My purpose in presenting this research it to try to identify locations and movements on 19 June. Only those who were there can describe what happened at those locations. The best narrative that I found is *The Boys of 67*, Key to understanding the event.

I did find some very conflicting information in the various sources. They key source is 4-47 Infantry June 1967 After Action Report. Maps of the battle in different sources different from the official records. Casualties vary from source to source.

Please, if you view the charts overlaid on the 1967 maps, understand that locations are close, but not exact. It took some interpolation to determine unit locations.



4-47 AAR Sketch of VC ambush site

Our Lost Friends

A/4-47

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-----|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| AGUADO | ROBERT CHARLES | 1LT | Chicago | Illinois | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Long An |
| BERTOLINO | FRED GORDON | 1LT | Bushnell | Illinois | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Long An |
| BROWN | DENNIS WILLIAM | SGT | Moline | Illinois | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| COSSINS | JACK EDWARD | SP4 | Henderson | Nevada | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| ENGEL | ALLEN NORBERT | PFC | Mount Calvary | Wisconsin | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| FIELDEN | WAYNE SAMUEL | SP4 | Sherman | Texas | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| GOOD | PAUL EUGENE | PFC | Sharpsville | Pennsylvania | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| HARPER | MONTE RAY | SP4 | Palmdale | California | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| HILDENBRAND | CHARLES JOHN | PFC | Chardon | Ohio | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| HILL | JOHN ROBERT | SP4 | Van Nuys | California | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| HINCH | JAMES GARY | SP4 | Wichita Falls | Texas | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| LEE | JOHN PATRICK | SP4 | La Crescenta | California | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| LUNDY | RICHARD COLEN | CPL | Galax | Virginia | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| PRICE | BOBBY WAYNE | PFC | Mount Vernon | Kentucky | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| RAINE | DAVID SHELTON | PFC | San Bernardino | California | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| RANDOLPH | GEORGE | SSG | Cottonport | Louisiana | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| SAIZ | RONALD JAMES | SP4 | Denver | Colorado | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| SANDSTEDT | DANIEL JOSEPH | SGT | Omaha | Nebraska | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| SELLERS | LLOYD ANDREW III | SP4 | Euclid | Ohio | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| SHAFFER | WILLIAM PAUL | PFC | Batavia | New York | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| SMITH | JAMES BUFORD | PFC | Phil Campbell | Alabama | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| STEPHENS | CLYDE WAYNE | CPL | Wichita Falls | Texas | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| STEVENS | EDWARD HOWARD | SP4 | Annapolis | Missouri | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| SUEDMEYER | MERILL LAWRENCE | PFC | Nashville | Illinois | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| WEATHERLY | JACKIE DON | SP4 | Sacramento | California | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| WEST | NOEL THOMAS | SP4 | Tacoma | Washington | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| WINTERS | JOHN LANE | SP4 | Galveston | Texas | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| WRIGHT | ROBERT FRANK | SP4 | Bremerton | Washington | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| ZUM MALLEN | PHILIP OTTO | 1LT | Homewood | Illinois | 670619 A Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |

D/15th Engr

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|---------|--------------|-----|----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|
| ADAMSKI | DENNIS JAMES | SP4 | Appleton | Wisconsin | 670619 D Co 15th Eng Bn | Long An |
|---------|--------------|-----|----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------|

C/4-47

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|------------|-----------------|-----|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| CRAYTHORNE | ROBERT EARL | SP4 | Duncan | Oklahoma | 670619 C Co 3rd Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| GORDON | THOMAS LESLIE | SP4 | Sylacauga | Alabama | 670619 C Co 3rd Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| ST PETERS | JOHN DONALD | PFC | Brighton | Illinois | 670619 C Co 3rd Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| CARA | ROBERT JOSEPH | SP5 | Philadelphia | Pennsylvania | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| FINK | HUBERT JOSEPH | SP4 | Glendale | New York | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| FRAKES | KENNETH DEAN | SP4 | Lancaster | California | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| GEIER | WILLIAM MICHAEL | SP4 | Maywood | Illinois | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Binh Dinh |
| HENRY | DAVID FRANKLIN | PFC | Hurst | Texas | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| JINDRA | ROBERT JAMES | SP4 | Wickliffe | Ohio | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| JOHNSON | TIMOTHY ALAN | SP4 | Lancaster | California | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| RICE | CAMERON A | CPL | Petaluma | California | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Long An |
| ROBIN | DAVID ALAN | CPL | Richmond | California | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| SCHULMAN | SHELDON BORIS | 1LT | Skokie | Illinois | 670619 C Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |

C/3-47

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|--------|---------------|-----|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| MILLER | GEORGE DANIEL | PFC | Indianapolis | Indiana | 670619 B Co 3rd Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| MOTON | EDDIE LEE JR | PFC | Talladega | Alabama | 670619 B Co 3rd Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |
| MARTIN | JOSEPH THOMAS | SP4 | San Luis Obispo | California | 670619 B Co 4th Bn 47th Inf | Gia Dinh |

There were probably more deaths in the 2 Dust-Off helicopters that were shot down – it will take research to determine if true.