

UNCLASEFTO

070:4350

VV STN826
RR RUMFKRF
DE RUMSBB 016C 2051240
ZNY EEEEE
R 231240Z JUL 68
FM CTF ONE ONE SEVEN
TO TF ONE ONE SEVEN
INFO ZEN/CO SECOND BDE NINTH INF DIV
RUMFKRF/ USS BEKAR
RUMFKRF/ USS INDRA
BT

JMC 07
7 APR 68
CARV
CTU1701

NDMO	211
NDMO	211
NULY	211
NATH	VLA
NAPV	VLA
NPHC	211
NWZE	213

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DAILY INTERNAL INFO SUMMARY 07-23

TWO NAVYMEN WERE KILLED AND 10 WERE WOUNDED TUESDAY IN AN AMBUSH OF RIVER DIVISION 91 BOATS 10 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF BEN TRE.

THE TWO LEAD ASPB'S, MONITOR 91-2 AND ATC 91-12 WERE HIT HARDEST IN THE BARRAGE OF ROCKET, RECOILLESS RIFLE AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE FROM BOTH BANKS OF THE RACH BEN TRE AT 0540.

KILLED IN THE ATTACK WERE THE BOAT CAPTAIN AND A CREWMAN OF ASPB 91-4 WHICH WAS HIT HARD WITH RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE AND WAS IN DANGER OF SINKING BEFORE THE SURVIVING CREWMEN WERE ABLE TO BEACH IT. TWO OTHER CREWMEN ABOARD ASPB 91-4 AND

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TWO ON ASPB 91-2 WERE WOUNDED SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO REQUIRE EVACUATION FROM THE BOAT. LESS SERIOUSLY INJURED WERE FIVE OF THE SEVEN CREWMEN ON ATC 91-12 AND ONE ABOARD MONITOR 91-2.

THE AMBUSH WAS SPRUNG AS THE DIVISION 91 BOATS PASTED THE POINT WHERE THE RACH ONG HUONG SPLITS OFF FROM THE RACH BEN TRE. A HELICOPTER FIRE TEAM PLACED A STRIKE ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS AND THE TROOPS OF 3/60 INFANTRY WERE BEACHED TO SLEEP THROUGH THE AREA. NO ENEMY GROUND FORCES WERE ENCOUNTERED, HOWEVER, AND THE TROOPS WERE LATER EXTRACTED AND MOVED TO THEIR ORIGINALLY PLANNED BEACHING AREA SEVERAL KILOMETERS SOUTH ON THE KINH GIONG TRAIL.

ARMY ELEMENTS WERE LEFT IN THE VICINITY OF THE BEACHED ASPB TO PROVIDE SECURITY AND COMBAT SALVAGE BOAT-3 WAS SUMMONED TO THE AREA TO BEGIN SALVAGE OPERATIONS. AS THE CSB AND ITS FOUR RIV DIV 112 ESCORTS PASSED THE INTERSECTION OF THE RACH BEN TRE AND THE KINH GIAO HOA, THEY ALSO WERE THE VICTIMS OF A BRIEF ATTACK WHICH WAS QUICKLY SUPPRESSED WITH NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES.

THE ASSAULT BOATS OF RIV DIV 112 WERE INVOLVED IN A MORE SUBSTANTIAL AMBUSH FARTHER DOWN THE RACH BEN TRE AT 1400. AGAIN

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THERE WERE NO U. S. CASUALTIES IN THE ASSAULT WITH ROCKETS, RECOILLESS RIFLES, AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

IN CONTRAST TO THE ASSAULT BOATS, THE GROUND FORCES HAD NO SIGNIFICANT CONTACT TUESDAY. THE ONLY TWO VIET CONG KILLED DURING THE DAY WERE PICKED OFF BY ARMY HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS IN A BRIEF ENGAGEMENT IN THE AFTERNOON.

EN2 C. C. ROY, THE ENGINE MAN ABOARD CCB 111-1, WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST OVERBOARD TUESDAY MORNING WHILE HIS BOAT WAS ALONGSIDE THE SPHINX. THE BOAT WAS UNDER GOING LAST MINUTE REPAIRS BEFORE GETTING UNDERWAY FOR THE AO, AND ROY WAS LAST SEEN GOING BACK ABOARD THE SHIP TO GET SOME OIL. AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH OF THE AREA WHICH BOTH ASSAULT BOATS AND PER'S TURNED UP ONLY THE OIL CAN WHICH THE MISSING MAN WAS CARRYING WHEN HE LEFT THE CCB.

FILMING TUESDAY'S OPERATION SOUTHEAST OF BEN TRE WAS A TEAM ON MOTION PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM COMBAT CAMERA GROUP PACIFIC. THEY ARE PREPARING A DOCUMENTARY FILM FOR CINCPACFLT ON NAVY OPERATIONS IN THE PACIFIC. ALSO ON THE OPERATION WAS THE CINCPACFLT HISTORIAN, CDR STAFFORD.

MR B ALFA RELOCATED FROM DONG TAM TO BEN TRE TUESDAY MORNING, CLOSING THE NEW ANCHORAGE AT ABOUT 2950.

BT

0001 012-00..... N1 N2 N3 N4 N5 N6 S00..... CRR0/11/13/15... CRR02

CTG117.2... CTE117.1.1

TOD:23/2205Z JUL 68/TMG

TOD:23/2035Z JUL 68/AAE

UU:JDP/SUPVR:.....⁹

TOD:23/2131Z JUL 68/NDM0/NDM0/NUJY/NDPC/NNZE

NNNV...