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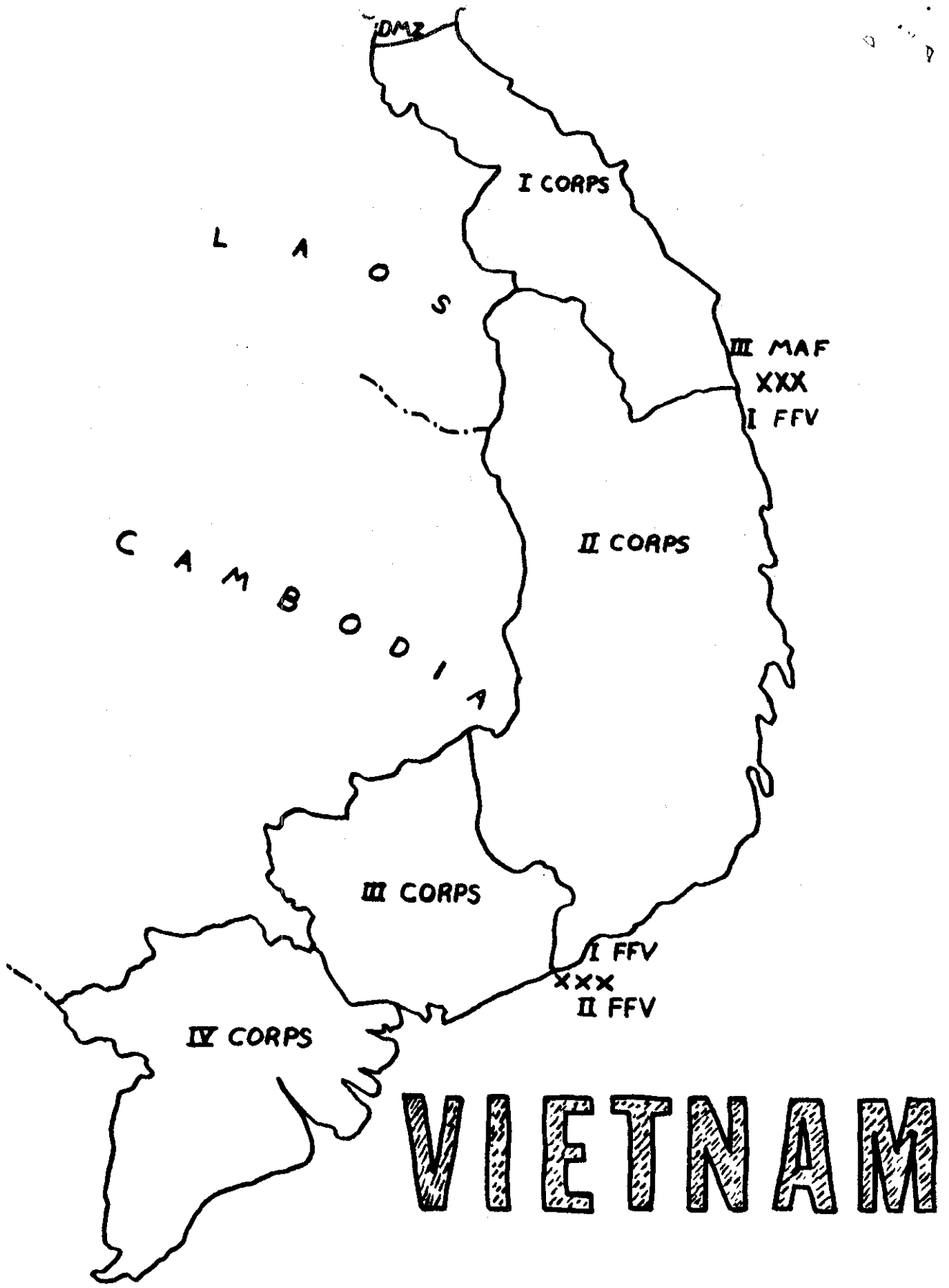
MAC V HISTORY OF THE WAR: YEAR 1967

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

GROUND OPERATIONS

Nineteen Sixty-Seven was a year of progress. The successful military operations of 1966 continued throughout the new year in all areas of the Republic. Long-time enemy strongholds and base areas were penetrated for the first time in strength. Enemy military personnel left their units and joined the government's cause in greater numbers than ever before. More enemy were killed than ever before. By year's end, enemy military strength was at the lowest level since late 1965 or early 1966. And about 30 percent of his maneuver battalions were considered not combat effective.

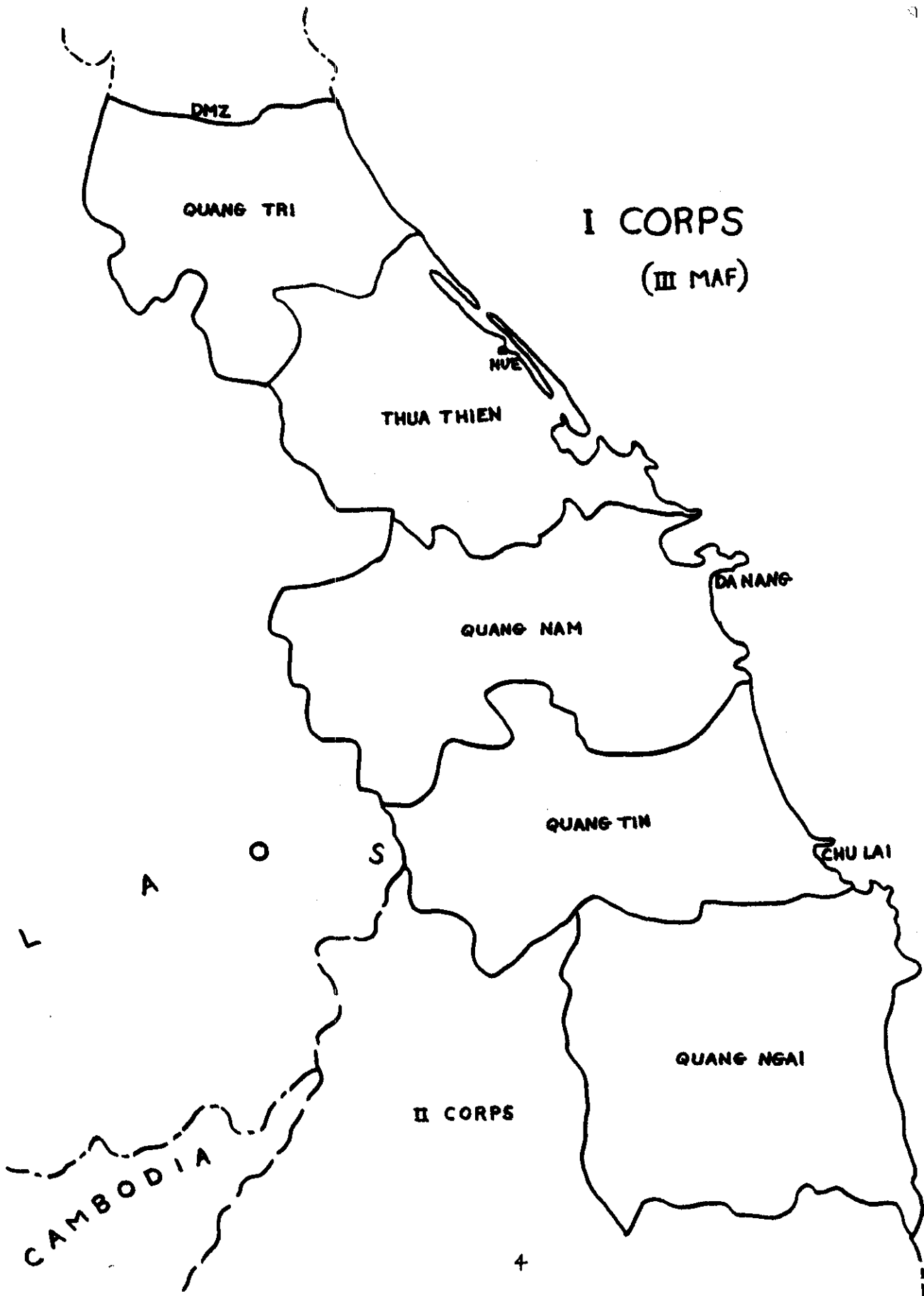
This summary of major ground operations will be presented by Corps Tactical Zones. While the list is by no means complete, it will serve to show the dramatic efforts undertaken throughout the Republic to defeat the Viet Cong insurgents and the invading North Vietnamese forces.



GENERAL

The Republic of Vietnam is almost 500 nautical miles long and varies in width from 35 miles at the DMZ to about 185 miles just north of Saigon. There are some 66,000 square miles of territory (about the size of the State of Washington), which is divided for operational control into four Corps Tactical Zones. About 16.5 million people live in South Vietnam, of which approximately 50 per cent live in the area from Saigon to the southern tip of the Republic.

Sharing almost 1,000 miles of national borders with Cambodia and Laos, the Republic also has about 1,500 miles of coast line. The weather is generally hot and humid in the south and along the coast, but cools significantly in the interior mountains. The Northeast Monscons drench the northern portion and the central coasts of South Vietnam from November to April, while from May until October the Delta and central regions of the Republic feel the effects of the Southwest Monsoons.



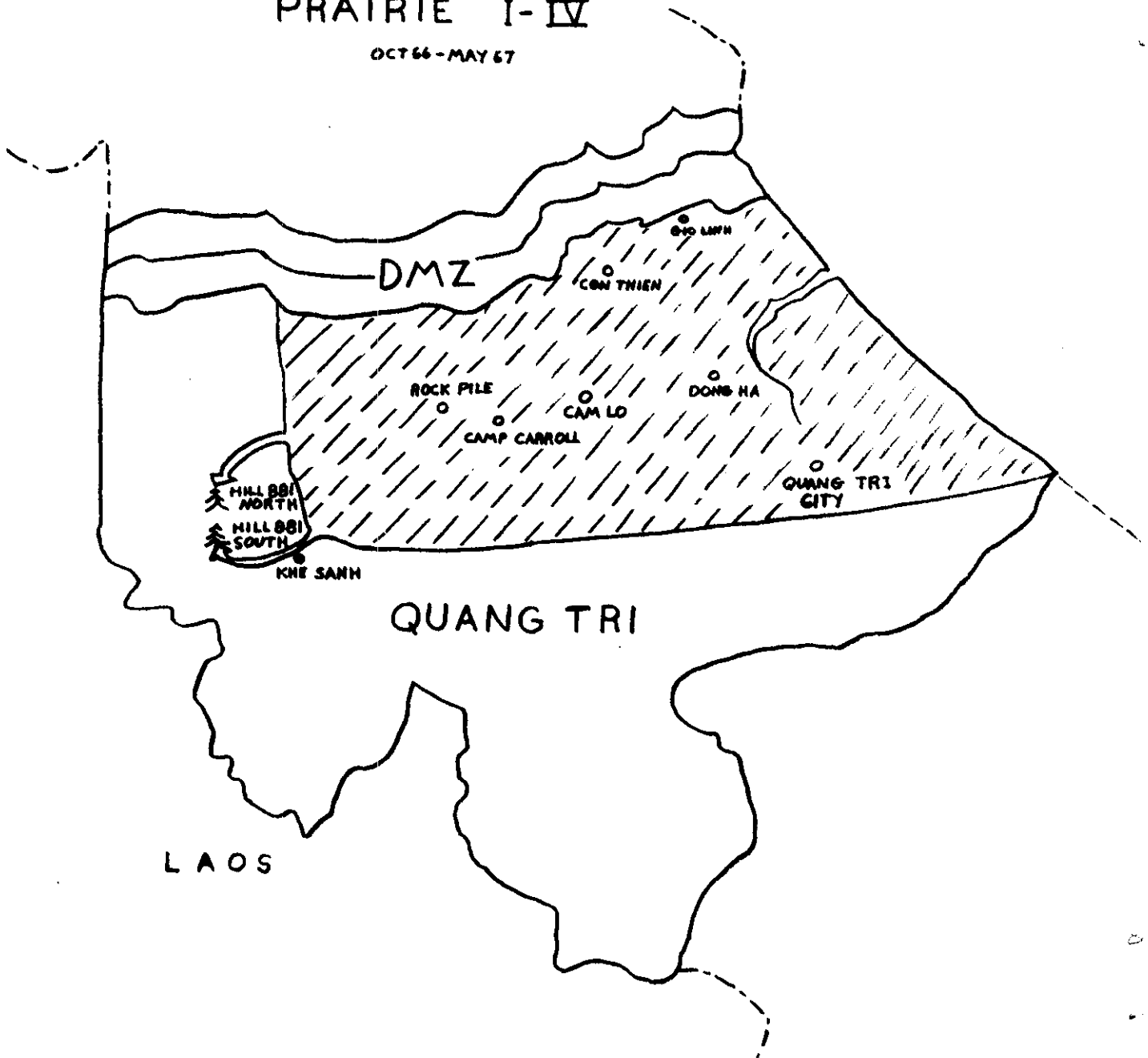
I CORPS

This is the smallest of the Corps Tactical Zones in area and population. It is narrow and generally very rugged. Some of the mountain peaks are in excess of 2,000 feet. The coastal plains are fertile and will support two rice crops per year.

Forces in this area are under the operational control of the Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF). Until April when the Army's Americal Division (formerly Task Force Oregon) moved to Quang Ngai Province, Leathernecks of the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions were responsible for operations throughout the entire corps. The addition of the Americal Division made it possible for the Marines to concentrate their efforts along the DMZ and the northern provinces.

PRAIRIE I-IV

OCT 66 - MAY 67



OPERATION PRAIRIE I-IV

Faced with the ever-present threat of about 35,000 North Vietnamese soldiers in the vicinity of the DMZ, elements of the 3rd Marine Division continued operations in northern Quang Tri Province. PRAIRIE was initiated in August 1966 as a multi-battalion search and destroy operation, and was carried over into the new year. PRAIRIE I forces, maintaining contact with the 324-B NVA Division, grew in strength to nine battalions, then settled down to a regiment size operation which was terminated 31 January.

PRAIRIE II, conducted by the same units, had heavy contacts in February and March. Artillery missions into and north of the DMZ were authorized in February for the first time to augment air strikes during periods of poor visibility. Rockets were employed by the enemy for the first time in the northern provinces. PRAIRIE II ended in mid-March with almost 700 enemy killed and was followed by a month-long operation in the same series, PRAIRIE III.

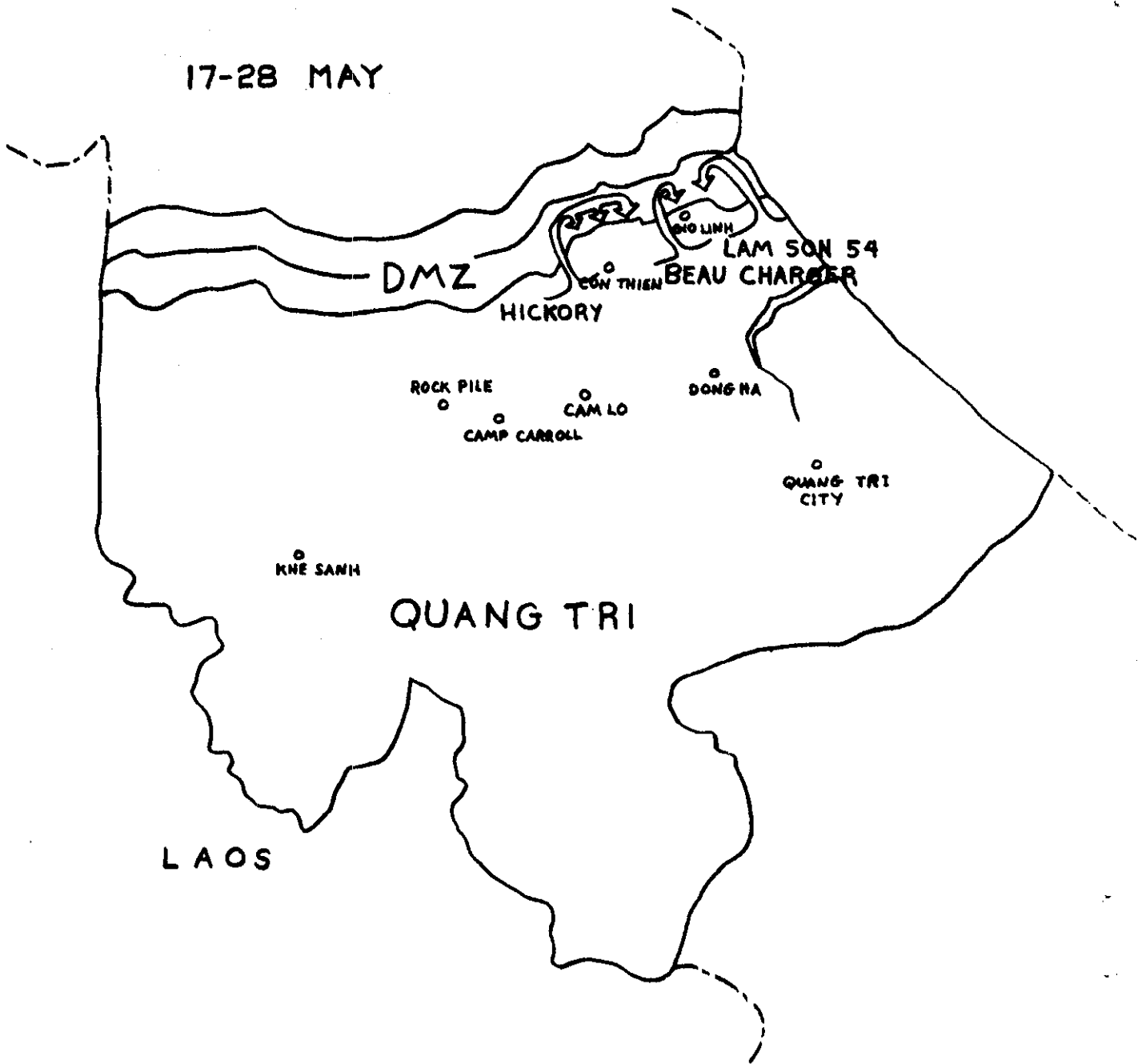
The enemy refused to become heavily engaged during PRAIRIE III which was characterized instead by many small unit actions south of the DMZ.

Four days after PRAIRIE IV was initiated in April, a significant contact was made near Khe Sanh. The battle began on 24 April when a forward observation post on Hill 861, about 5 miles north-

west of Khe Sanh, was attacked by an unknown number of enemy. By 26 April, it became apparent that the enemy force in the area was at least a reinforced battalion in well-prepared positions. Additional Marine units were brought into the battle area, and on 30 April, Hills 881 (North) and 881 (South) were assaulted. By evening that day, Hill 881 (South) was seized, but heavy fighting continued on the slopes of the northern hill. Fighting remained heavy until 3 May when only sniper fire was received by Marines. Mopping-up operations continued until the 6th. The enemy threat in the area was broken, at least for the time.

In view of the well-prepared positions the enemy force was occupying, much of the credit for the success of the ground troops must be given to the heavy air support which pounded the enemy fortifications throughout the engagement. Marine casualties were 131 killed and 393 wounded, but the enemy had lost 764 of his best men in the fight for the hills.

17-28 MAY



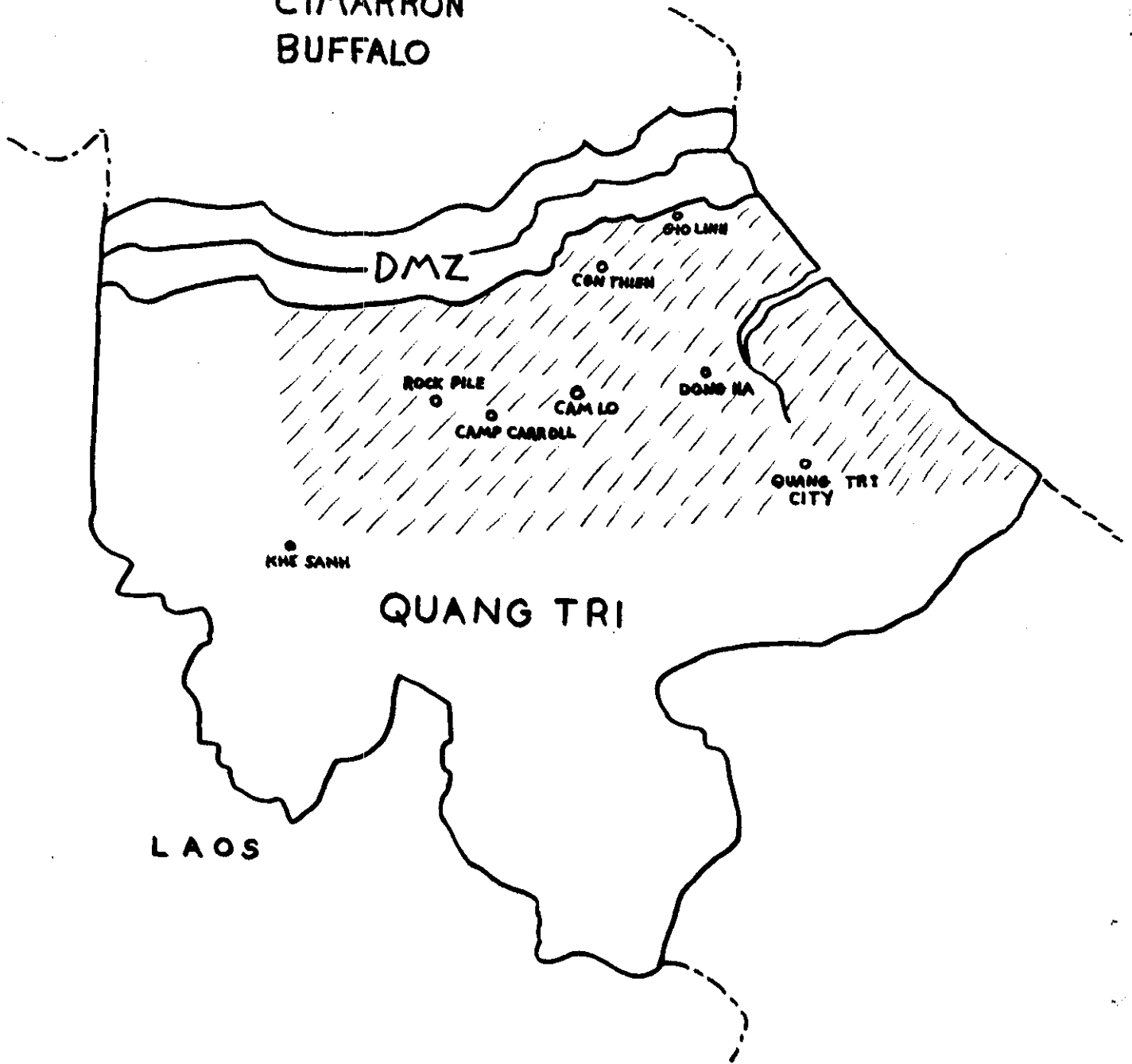
ASSAULTS INTO THE DMZ

In May, U.S. forces went into the Demilitarized Zone for the first time. Working in coordination with elements of the 1st ARVN Division, units of the 3rd Marine Division conducted multi-battalion assaults into the southern portion of the zone. The purposes of the ventures were to destroy enemy forces and installations and to clear the southern part of the DMZ of civilians endangered by hostilities in the area.

During the period 17-28 May, the Allied forces conducted Operations HICKORY, BEAU CHARGER and LAM SON 54. ARVN units operating to the east made significant contacts with NVA forces while the Marines met moderate resistance in carrying out their missions.

At the same time, all civilians in the zone were encouraged to move to the refugee settlement at Cam Lo. Housing was provided and medical attention was given at the relocation center. Water was provided first by truck, then by pure water wells dug by Marine Corps engineers. Cholera and plague inoculations were given to almost 4,300 persons. When the operations were completed, the Government of Vietnam estimated that 9,629 civilians were being cared for at Cam Lo.

CIMARRON
BUFFALO



LAOS

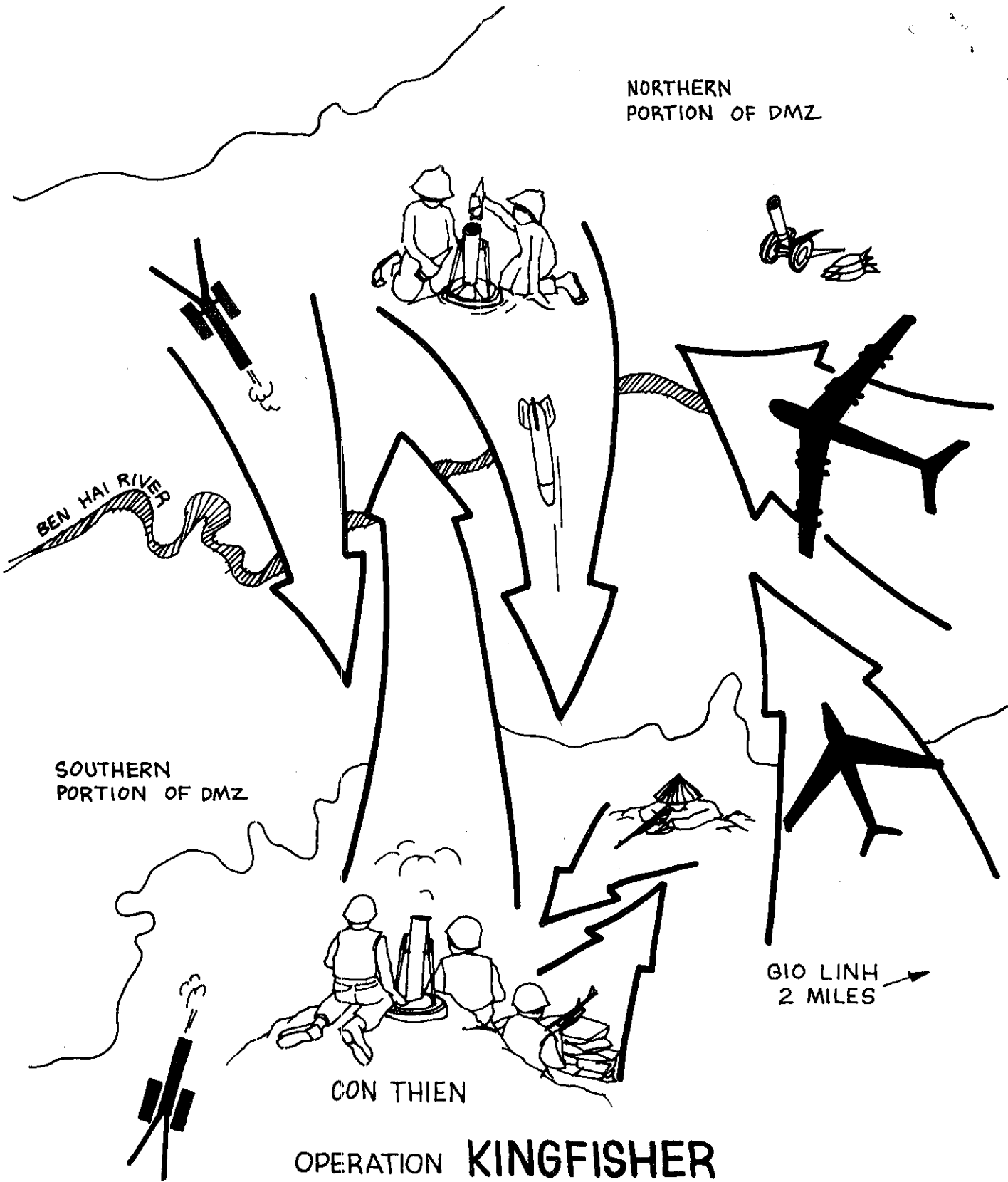
CIMARRON AND BUFFALO

CIMARRON, a month-long operation, was begun on 1 June and was a continuation of 3rd Marine Division operations in the eastern portion of Quang Tri Province. The enemy refused to become involved in large-scale fights and the operation was terminated on 2 July. It was significant, however, that the enemy used flame throwers on occasion and were observed wearing steel helmets and flak jackets from time to time.

Following on the heels of CIMARRON, Operation BUFFALO was a multi-battalion 12-day operation conducted in the same area. On 7 July, an air observer spotted a large enemy force about 2 miles northeast of Con Thien and directed air strikes and artillery missions into the area. The results were devastating: 200 enemy were killed without the loss of a single American. Later the same day, another 150 enemy were killed in the same general area by Marines on the ground and by air observer-directed fire. The operation was characterized on the ground by "find-um, fix-um, fight-um and mop-um-up" actions, during which the Leathernecks of the 3rd Marine Division and supporting arms killed 1,103 enemy soldiers.

Before BUFFALO terminated on the 14th, the enemy used 152mm artillery against Marine positions for the first time. The enemy also employed artillery rockets to supplement his heavy field artillery, and the two forces stood off and hit each other at long range.

NORTHERN
PORTION OF DMZ



SOUTHERN
PORTION OF DMZ

GIO LINH
2 MILES

OPERATION KINGFISHER

CON THIEN - MARINES GIVE MORE THAN THEY GET

Overshadowed by the headlines of "rockets falling like rain" on Con Thien was the fact that U.S. Marines killed over 1,100 enemy soldiers in one of the most costly defeats the enemy has suffered in the Republic.

Action was generally light and sustained in Operation KING-FISHER from mid-July until the enemy focused his attention on Con Thien and other Marine combat bases along the DMZ in September. Con Thien is 14 miles inland and 2 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, and lies across a major infiltration route from North Vietnam.

During September, the Marines there were subjected to the heaviest shelling of the war. Supported by mortars, heavy artillery and rockets, the enemy tried to overrun the Marine positions and drive them from their fortifications. Although the defenders suffered many casualties (196 killed and 1,917 wounded during the period 1-24 September), the Marines stood their ground and threw back more than they received. However, of the number only 31 were killed by enemy shelling and mortaring at Con Thien itself. They directed one of the greatest massings of fire power in support of a single division in the history of modern warfare onto the attacking enemy forces and his weapons positions. Artillery, tactical aircraft, naval gunfire support ships and B-52 Stratofortress bombers delivered tons of ordnance on the enemy in and

north of the DMZ. Marine and Air Force fighter pilots flew some 5,200 close air support sorties. Pilots from the 1st Marine Air Wing alone dropped 2,587 tons of ordnance on enemy positions in support of the KINGFISHER troopers during the period 1-24 September.

Confronted with unacceptable losses and a determined force of Marines at Con Thien, the enemy was forced to pull back.

JUL-OCT
(NOV-PRESENT)

ENEMY INFILTRATION
ROUTES

DMZ

KINGFISHER

ARDMORE
(SCOTLAND)

ROCK PILE

CAMP CARROLL

CAM LO

DONG HA

(KENTUCKY)

(LANCASTER)

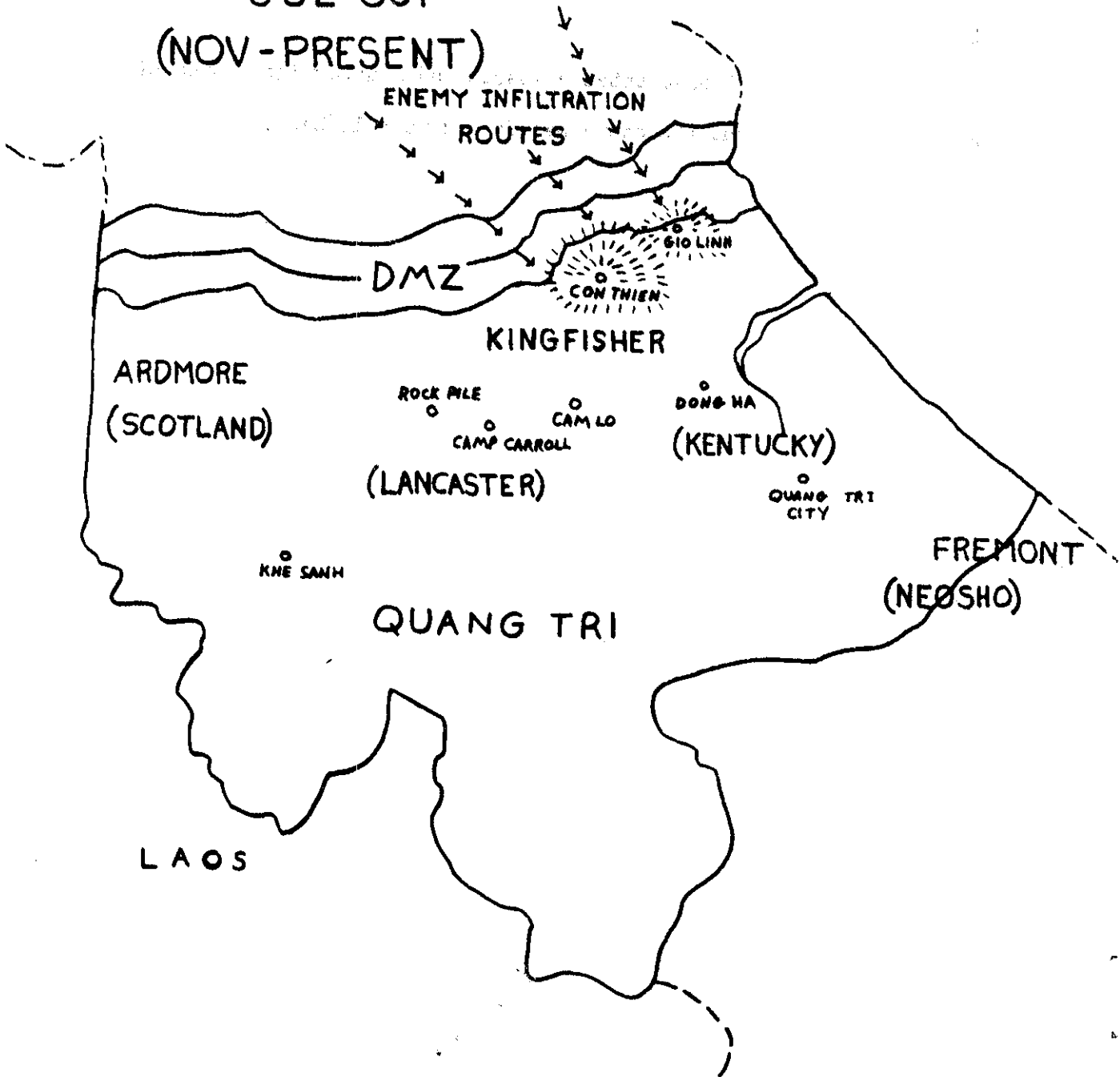
QUANG TRI
CITY

KHE SANH

FREMONT
(NEOSHO)

QUANG TRI

LAOS

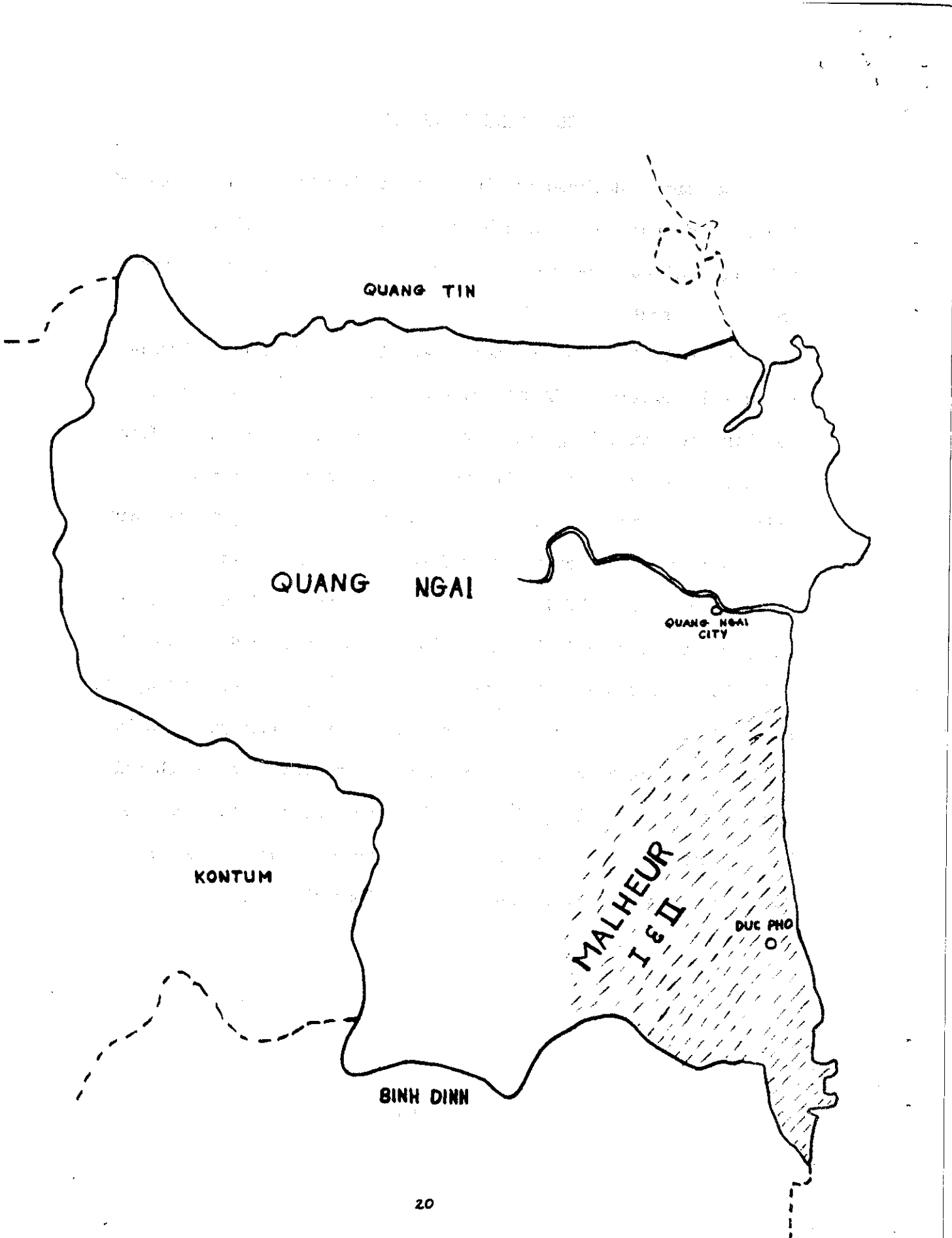


ELSEWHERE IN THE DMZ

The Northeast Monsoons hit on 10 October this year. Although the seas of dust became seas of mud, the Marines continued to actively seek out the enemy and improve their defensive positions in the area south of the DMZ.

On the last day of October, Operation KINGFISHER was terminated and Operation KENTUCKY and LANCASTER began in that area. Leathernecks conducting these operations remain under threat from the North, but carry on their missions of preventing massive infiltration via the DMZ route. At the end of the year, these operations had accounted for almost 350 enemy soldiers killed.

ARDMORE and FREMONT, other operations conducted in the northern provinces from July through October, were replaced by SCOTLAND and NEOSHO. Marines participating in SCOTLAND in western Quang Tri Province are keeping an eye out for enemy forces attempting to infiltrate the Khe Sanh area. Conducting battalion size search and destroy operations along the Quang Tri/Thua Thien border, NEOSHO Marines work primarily against enemy lines of communication and deny him access to the rice-rich areas along the coast.



ARMY TROOPERS ARRIVE IN MARINELAND

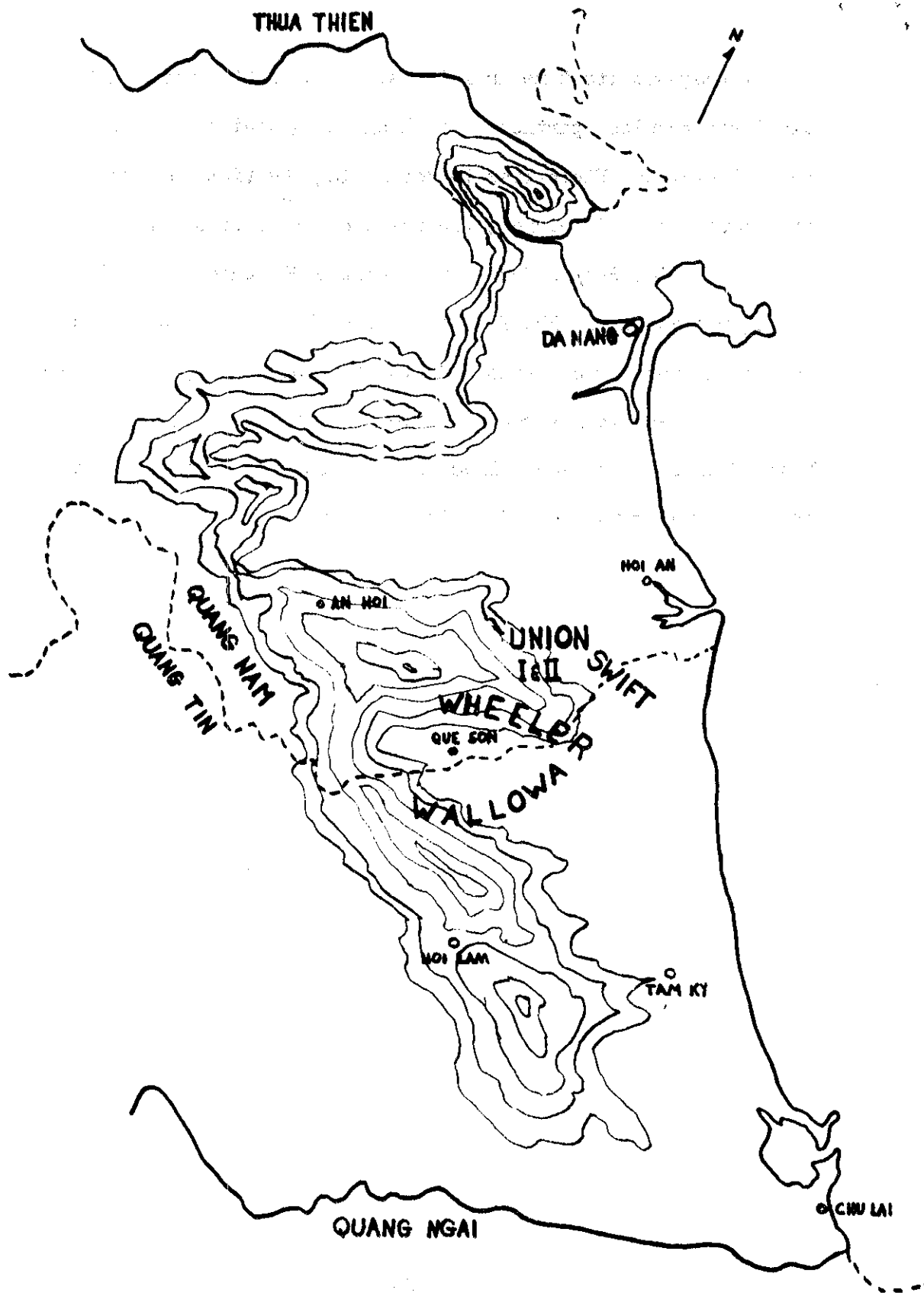
In April, Task Force OREGON was organized and deployed to Quang Ngai Province in southern I Corps. This task force, the largest Army division size unit in Vietnam, gave the Commander, III MAF additional strength which allowed him to realign his forces and shift more Marines to the north.

Composed initially of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division; and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, the Army troopers forecast things to come when they killed almost 400 enemy soldiers while losing 51 of their comrades during Operation MALHEUR I.

MALHEUR II was initiated in June and produced even better results. In almost daily contacts with the enemy, the soldiers killed 488 Viet Cong and NVA fighters before the operation was terminated on 2 August. Thirty members of the task force were killed during the operation for a 16.2:1 kill ratio. During July, the infantrymen killed 27 enemy for every man they lost. In addition, large food caches and stores of weapons and ammunition were captured or destroyed during the search and destroy operation.

Throughout its time in I Corps, the AMERICAL Division has had excellent results, particularly along Quang Ngai's coastal plain, in assisting the Vietnamese in destroying the Viet Cong guerrilla structure and, to a degree, the political infrastructure.

In the Duc Pho/Mo Duc area, almost 3,900 enemy were killed during Operation MALHEUR I & II, HOOD RIVER and COOK and other search and destroy operations during the year. Some 300 members of the "hidden" infrastructure have been identified by name. Many of these have been killed or captured, and others are being tracked down by the AMERICAL Division troopers.



QUE SON VALLEY

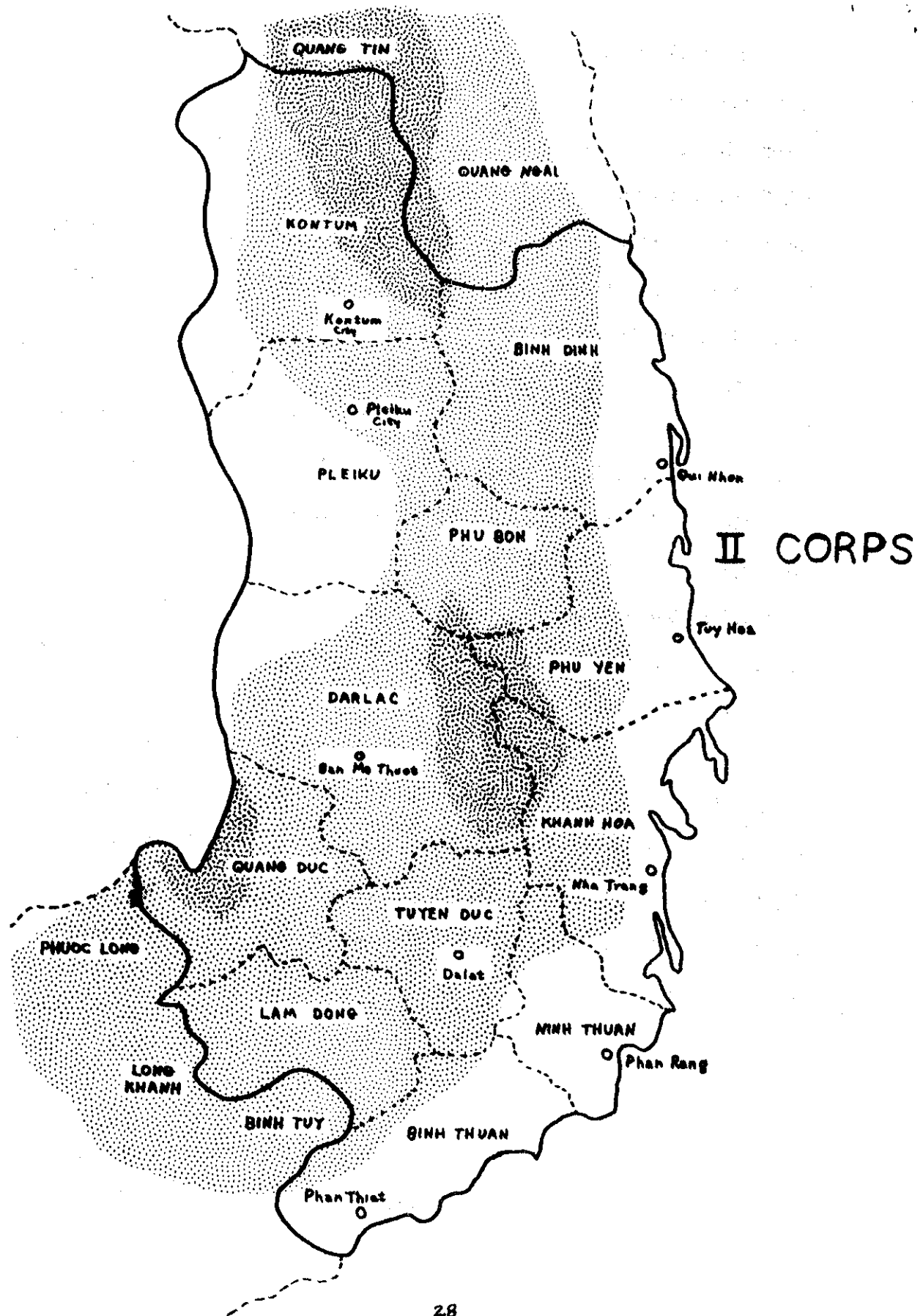
While the 3rd Marine Division was working along the DMZ and the areas to the south, the 1st Marine Division (Task Force X-RAY) was heavily committed in central and southern I Corps. About the time Task Force Oregon was deploying to southern Quang Ngai Province to beef up the forces under the control of III MAF, Marines from the 1st Division were conducting search and destroy operations along the Quang Nam and Quang Tin border region.

UNION I, initiated in mid-April, was such an operation. Denying the enemy access to the rice-rich valleys and population centers south of Da Nang was the primary mission of the operation. Operating in the rugged terrain of the Que Son/Hiep Duc/Tien Phuoc Valley, the 1st Marines had several sharp engagements with the enemy. Supported by close air strikes and naval gunfire support missions, the Leathernecks killed over 850 enemy before the operation terminated on 17 May.

Driving back into action on 26 May, the Marines initiated UNION II in the same valley areas. Before the first day of the operation was over, 161 North Vietnamese soldiers had fallen to the Leathernecks. On 30 May, a small concentration of irritant gas was detected in the area of operations. In 11 days of contacts with the enemy, Marine ordnance had accounted for 701 NVA and Viet Cong dead and the operation ended 5 June.

Numerous other battalion size operations were conducted in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces during the next three months before SWIFT was launched early in September. The significance of SWIFT was both in the number of enemy killed (over 500 in 12 days), and in the fact that this was the last operation by the Marines in that area before Task Force OREGON shifted forces to the north and assumed responsibility for the valley.

Task Force OREGON initiated Operation WHEELER in Quang Nam Province on 10 September with the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. On 4 October, OREGON's 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) kicked off Operation WALLOWA in Quang Tin Province. Both operations were directed against the 2nd NVA Division. On 7 November the two operations were combined into WHEELER/WALLOWA, and continued to hit hard at the enemy's resources of men, weapons and munitions caches and food stores. As of the end of the year, over 3,100 enemy had been killed by the Army troopers and supporting arms. In support of the operation, Marine and Air Force pilots had flown some 2,350 close air strikes into the operational area. B-52 crews flew day and night missions against the enemy positions. Task Force OREGON was officially designated the AMERICAL Division on 25 October.



II CORPS

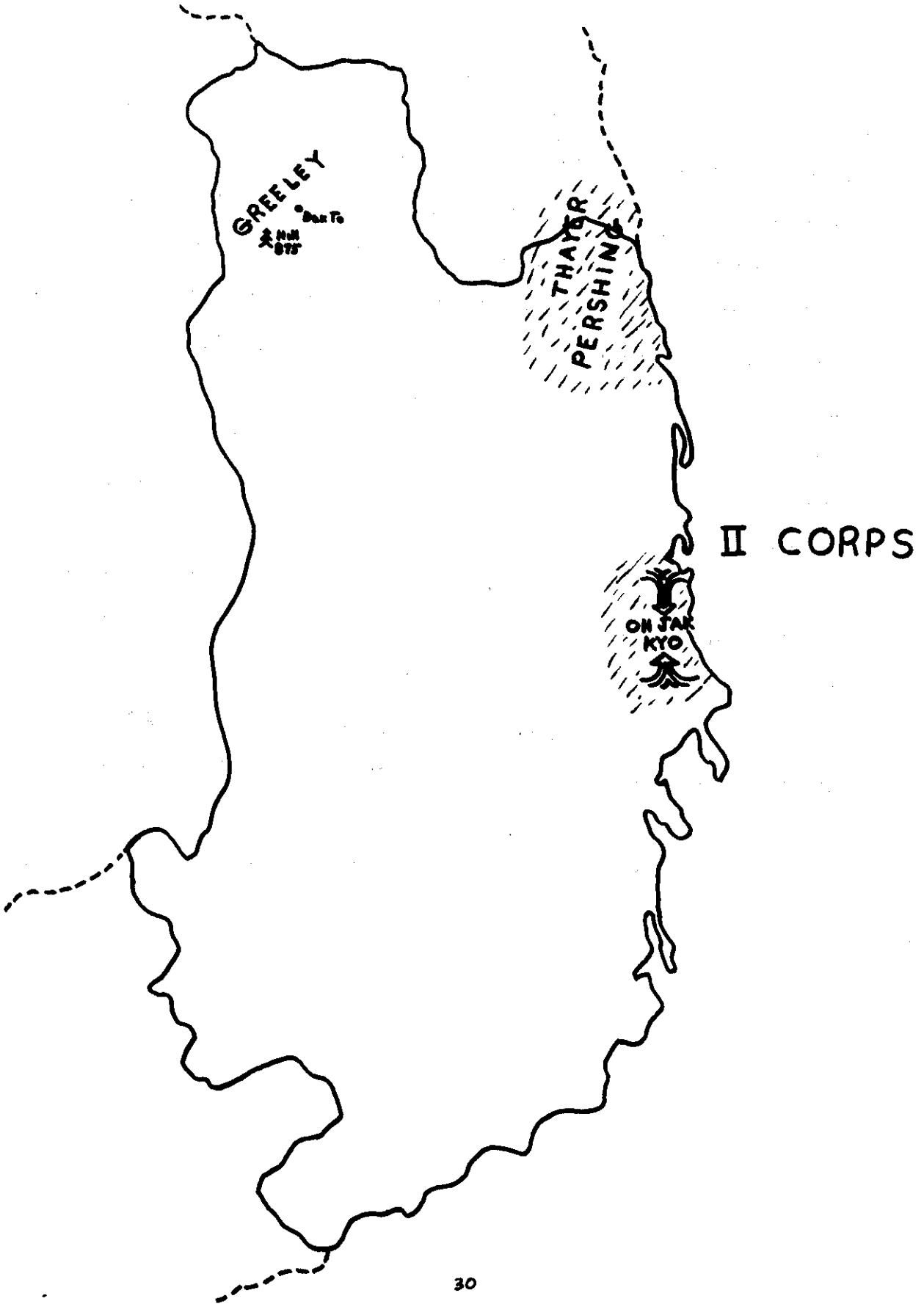
II CORPS

II Corps, the largest of the Corps Tactical Zones, encompasses 12 provinces. The area is divided geographically into two regions, the Central Highlands and the Central Lowlands.

The northern portion of the Central Highlands varies in elevation from 600 to 1,600 feet, with some peaks much higher. It is covered with bamboo and tropical broad leaf forests, interspersed with farms and rubber plantations. The southern portion of the Highlands lies at the 3,000-foot level. It slopes gradually toward the Cambodian border to the west and falls off sharply and steeply toward the sea on the east.

The Central Lowlands, along the coast and in the river valleys, are fertile and extensively cultivated. Most of the population lives in this portion of the corps area.

Operations in II Corps were highlighted by continuous progress of the 4th Infantry Division in the Highlands, a highly successful performance of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in the northern Lowlands area, and the link-up of the two ROK divisions along the coast to the south.



NORTHERN LOWLANDS OPERATIONS

THAYER II, initiated by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in October 1966, continued into 1967. On 3 January, the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division joined the 1st Cav. Although the enemy avoided large contacts in January, he still suffered losses at a high rate. The operation was terminated following TET (8-12 February) with 1,757 enemy killed.

Following THAYER II, the 1st Cav immediately launched Operation PERSHING in the same general area. Like the preceding operation, PERSHING was designed to force the enemy from the food and manpower resources of the coastal region. In addition, the operation attacked the guerrilla structure in the area and assisted the Vietnamese in seeking out the VC political infrastructure.

Action centered along the Bong Son Plains in February and March. Several sharp clashes in the area of operations left 969 enemy dead by the end of March.

During April, direct contact with the enemy was light and scattered. Heavy losses were inflicted when the enemy chose to stand and fight, while friendly casualties were caused mainly by mines, booby traps and snipers on the plains.

In May, the PERSHING area of operations was extended into southern Quang Ngai Province. This put further pressure on the enemy since Task Force OREGON was conducting MALHEUR in the province at the time.

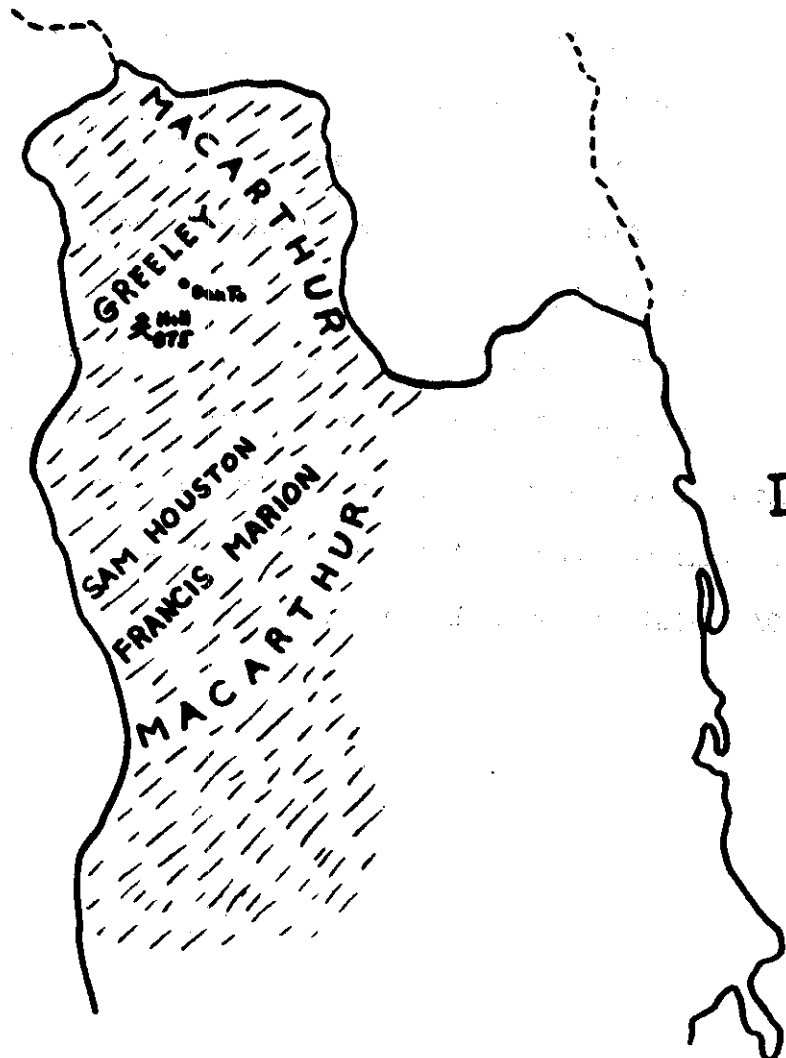
In June, the cav division's 3rd Brigade was withdrawn for employment in the GREELEY area in Kontum Province, but by the end of June, almost 2,350 enemy had been killed by the PERSHING air cav troopers. Several significant contacts in September left another 413 enemy dead, and in November the division attained a 19.7:1 kill ratio.

PERSHING continued into the new year. During 1967, the ground forces had been supported by 3,534 close air strikes flown by Air Force pilots. Stratofortress crews continued to support the operation with their heavy bomb loads. Marine Corps pilots flew almost as many support strikes. And over 5,000 enemy soldiers had been killed by the PERSHING troopers by the end of the year.

SOUTHERN LOWLANDS OPERATIONS

Since their arrival in-country, Republic of Korea forces have enjoyed noteworthy success in battle and in civic action programs. Operation OH JAK KYO, the largest operation conducted by ROK forces in Vietnam to date, was initiated on 8 March along the coast of central Vietnam in Phu Yen Province. The operational area is populated by about 126,000 people, living mainly along the coast and Route 1. Conducted by the 9th and the ROK Capitol Divisions, the operation successfully linked the two tactical areas of responsibility on 18 April.

When the operation terminated on 31 May, 940 enemy soldiers had been killed with light losses to the ROK forces. The operation bears the name of a bridge where, in an old Korean tale, two lovers used to meet. Thus the name of the operation symbolized the meeting of the two ROK divisions along the coast.



II CORPS

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

The 4th Infantry Division initiated Operation SAM HOUSTON on 1 January in the western highlands of Pleiku Province. Contacts were heaviest along the Cambodian border in February and March, and by the time the operation was terminated on 5 April, 733 enemy had fallen to the infantrymen. The ground forces received over 1,200 support strikes by Air Force tactical fighter bombers during SAM HOUSTON.

On the 6th of April, the 4th Division initiated FRANCIS MARION in the same general area. Although the rugged terrain had long been favored by the enemy to infiltrate men and supplies into the Republic, the NVA and Viet Cong refused to engaged in large engagements in April and May. On 9 June, the enemy attacked with mortars and rockets in the Pleiku area, but melted away and played the "cat and mouse" game before a significant engagement could develop.

Air Force strike crews flew over 4,700 sorties in support of the ground forces before the operation terminated on 11 October. In addition, many B-52 missions were directed against enemy positions in the FRANCIS MARION battle area.

In killing 1,203 enemy, the 4th Infantry Division soldiers had scored a victory which foreshadowed a major battle in November.

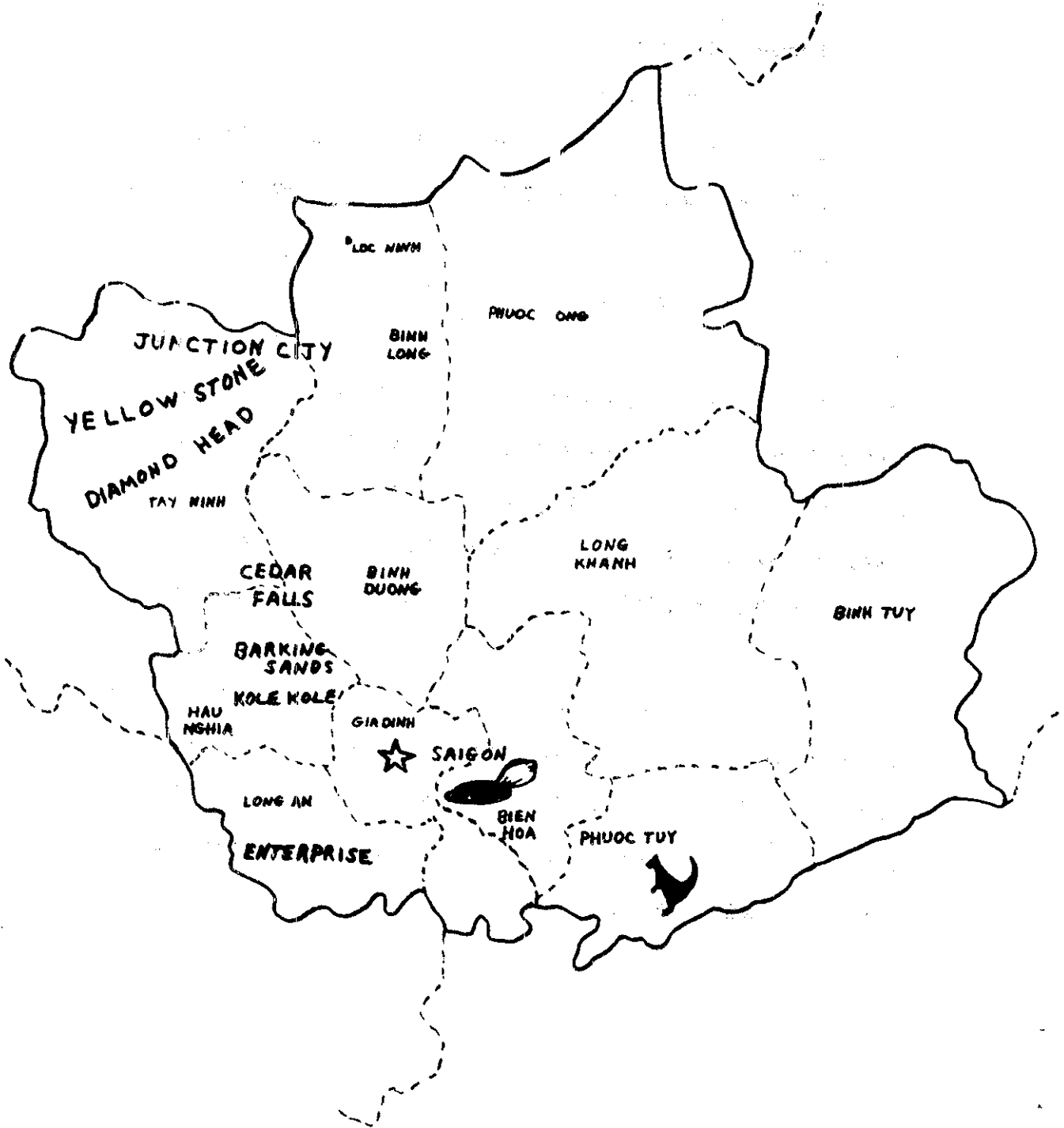
Following on the heels of FRANCIS MARION, Operation MACARTHUR was relatively quiet for the first three weeks. Then on the 3rd of November, enemy units infiltrating into the Dak To area were

attacked. Dak To lies on a valley floor, surrounded by high mountains. Peaks in the area run 800 to 1,300 meters in elevation. The slopes of the mountains are steep and thickly covered with hardwood trees with double and triple canopies. Elements of four enemy regiments were identified in the area. ARVN units to the northeast made and maintained heavy contact, and by the 20th, had killed 247 enemy soldiers and fully secured the northern flank of the action.

Forcing the enemy slowly back southwest of Dak To, American units were also heavily engaged. On the 15th of November, the enemy shelled the airfield at Dak To. A few days later, fighting centered around Hill 875 about 16 miles southwest of Dak To where paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade were rooting out the enemy forces from well-prepared fortifications. After five days of bitter fighting, Hill 875 was secured at noon on the 23rd. During the period 1-26 November, 1,641 NVA soldiers were killed.

During the "Battle of Dak To" Air Force strike crews and AC-47 Dragonships were airborne over the battlefield day and night. The 26-day fire fight saw over 2,000 air strikes flown into the Dak To area. When the battle ended, Army field commanders praised the air crews for their efforts in helping to defeat the enemy forces.

III CORFS



III CORPS

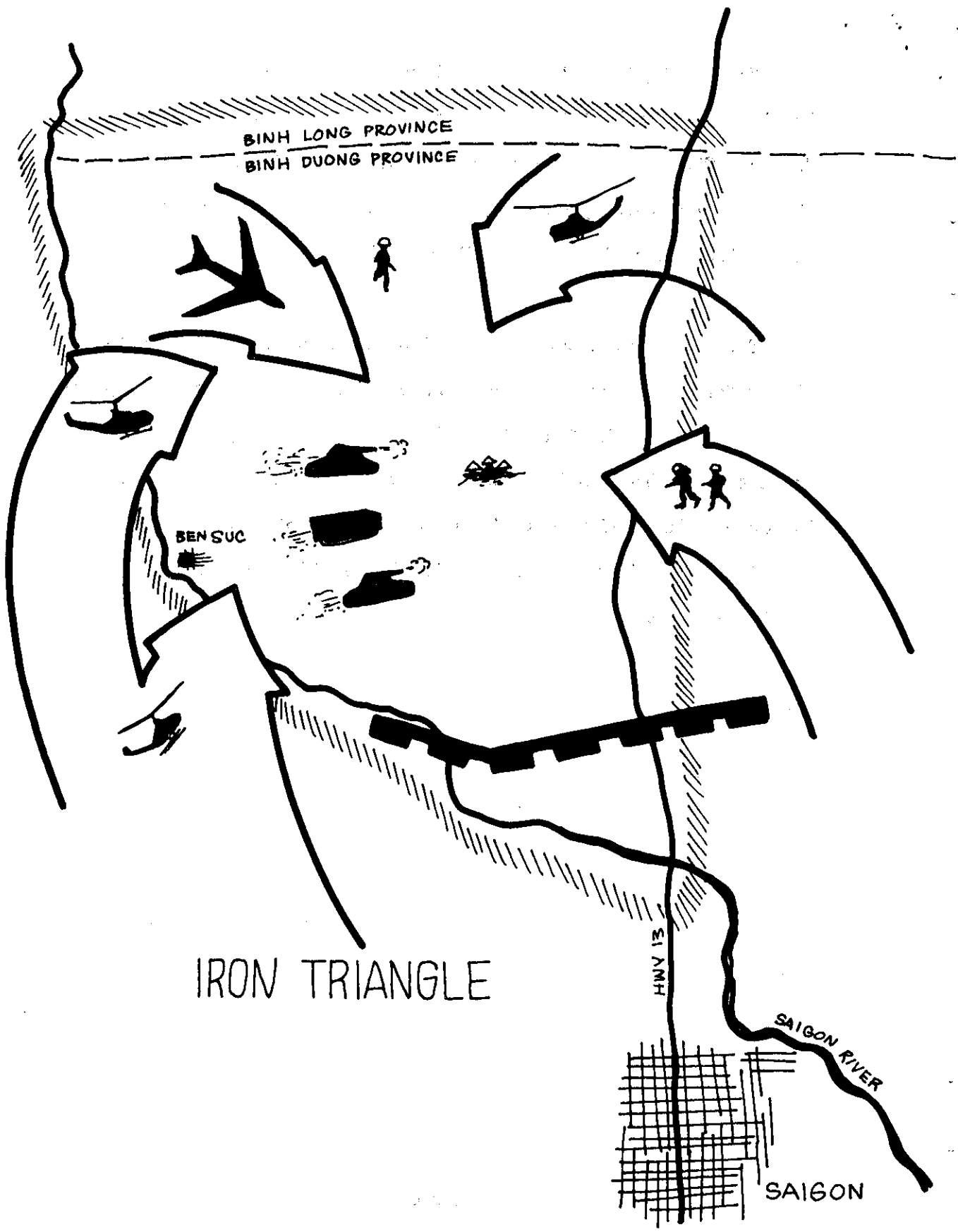
Although not usually considered the delta region, III Corps Tactical Zone includes the northern portion of the Mekong River Delta. Topographers call the area the transition zone because the mountains of the Central Highlands change to flatlands where most of the terrain is under 625 feet in elevation. Much of it has been cleared for cultivation of rice, but large tracts of rain forest still stand along the Cambodian border and central provinces of the zone. It includes the most heavily populated areas of the Republic, including the capital city of Saigon. Of almost 5.5 million people living in the corps area, about 2.3 million live in the Saigon/Cholon complex.

Large scale operations have been conducted in the corps area throughout the year. These operations have penetrated enemy base areas and have extended the area under government influence dramatically. Lines of communication have been opened and secured allowing for a better flow of goods to market. And as security of the countryside increased, the pool of manpower available for recruitment into the enemy forces decreased.

Most noteworthy of the military operations in this corps area during 1967 were multi-division penetrations into the "Iron Triangle" and War Zone "C". These and other major operations are discussed in greater detail on following pages.

Making significant contributions to the Free World effort in Vietnam throughout the year were Australian and New Zealand forces. These units have enlarged their area of influence in Phuoc Tuy Province, protecting rice harvests, conducting search and destroy operations, and adding to the security of the countryside.

The Royal Volunteer Regiment from Thailand assumed responsibility for their area of operations in Bien Hoa Province in September. The men of the "Queen's Cobra Regiment" have given a good account of themselves in combat in the short time since arriving in force. Just before Christmas, they killed 54 enemy soldiers in a fight that lasted less than two hours while suffering very light casualties.



CEDAR FALLS

During January, one of the most significant battles of the year was fought. Operation CEDAR FALLS took place in an area long dominated by the Viet Cong. The tactical area of operation, centered about 30 miles from Saigon, was called the "Iron Triangle" because of its geographical shape and the strength of the known enemy fortifications.

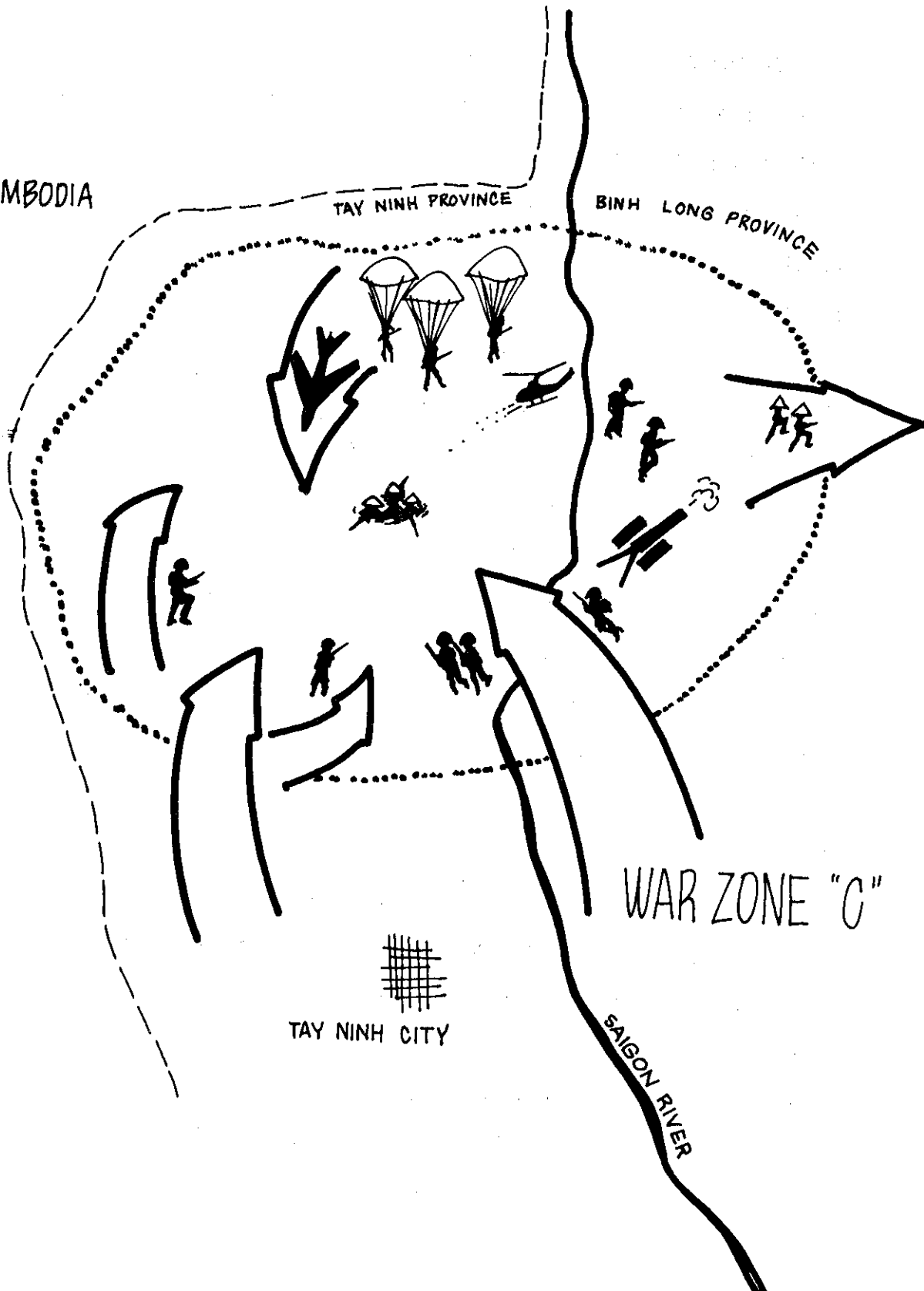
On 8 January, a multi-division force moved into the area. Elements of the 1st Infantry Division were air-assaulted to seal and secure an area around the village of Ben Suc. The 25th Infantry Division moved into blocking positions to the south and west. Other elements of the 1st Division went into positions along the eastern and southern flanks, and several battalions air-assaulted to seal the northern area.

After a "horseshoe" was formed, the 11th Armored Cavalry swept through the open end. The II FFV units then methodically searched the area of operations for 17 days. On the 19th, a vast underground "city" was discovered. Hospitals, mess halls, munition factories and living quarters were found. Some 3,700 tons of rice were captured or destroyed, enough to feed 13,000 troops for a full year. The operation terminated on 26 January with 720 enemy soldiers killed. Air Force pilots had flown over 1,100 sorties in support of the ground forces during the operation.

CAMBODIA

TAY NINH PROVINCE

BINH LONG PROVINCE



WAR ZONE "C"

TAY NINH CITY

SAIGON RIVER

JUNCTION CITY

The largest battle of the war to date started shortly after dawn on 22 February. A U.S./ARVN multi-division force launched a major offensive into War Zone "C" to hit at the heart of COSVN and VC/NVA forces and installations in the area. Phase I sealed the Cambodian border to prevent the enemy from escaping the attacking forces. Phase II shifted emphasis to the eastern zone to destroy enemy forces and installations and lasted about one month.

The operation, JUNCTION CITY, began with a coordinated airborne, airmobile and ground assault into the western portion of the War Zone. The first day of the operation saw more than 210 tactical air strikes hit enemy positions in the operational area. The U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division and two Vietnamese Marine battalions sealed the area to the west and the south. The U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade conducted airborne and airmobile operations in the northern portion, while the U.S. 1st Infantry Division was employed to the north and east. Once the encirclement was completed, ground forces swept through the operational area. During the first five days, airlift crews hauled nearly 6,000 passengers and 2,900 tons of equipment and supplies for the ground forces.

The area of operations shifted to the eastern portion of War Zone "C" in mid-March. On the 21st, the enemy, employing mortar,

recoilless rifle and small arms fire, launched human-wave assaults against Allied positions. Point blank artillery was fired into the attacker's formations and broke their assaults. Artillery was again used to good effect to support four battalions of infantrymen pursuing the fleeing enemy. As a result of this attack by the enemy, 603 of his soldiers were lost.

On 31 March and 1 April, 581 more enemy were killed with the loss of only 11 friendly soldiers killed and 77 wounded when the enemy launched a regimental-size attack at a U.S. infantry battalion. Reinforced by two other infantry battalions and supported by helicopter light fire teams, artillery and tactical air, the enemy force was beaten back with heavy losses.

The operation which began as a multi-division effort on 22 February, was concluded with a multi-battalion size organization on 14 May. Throughout the massive operation, tactical fighter bomber crews hit the War Zone "C" battle ground with more than 4,000 close air support strikes. The enemy lost over 2,700 men and 491 individual and almost 100 crew-served weapons.

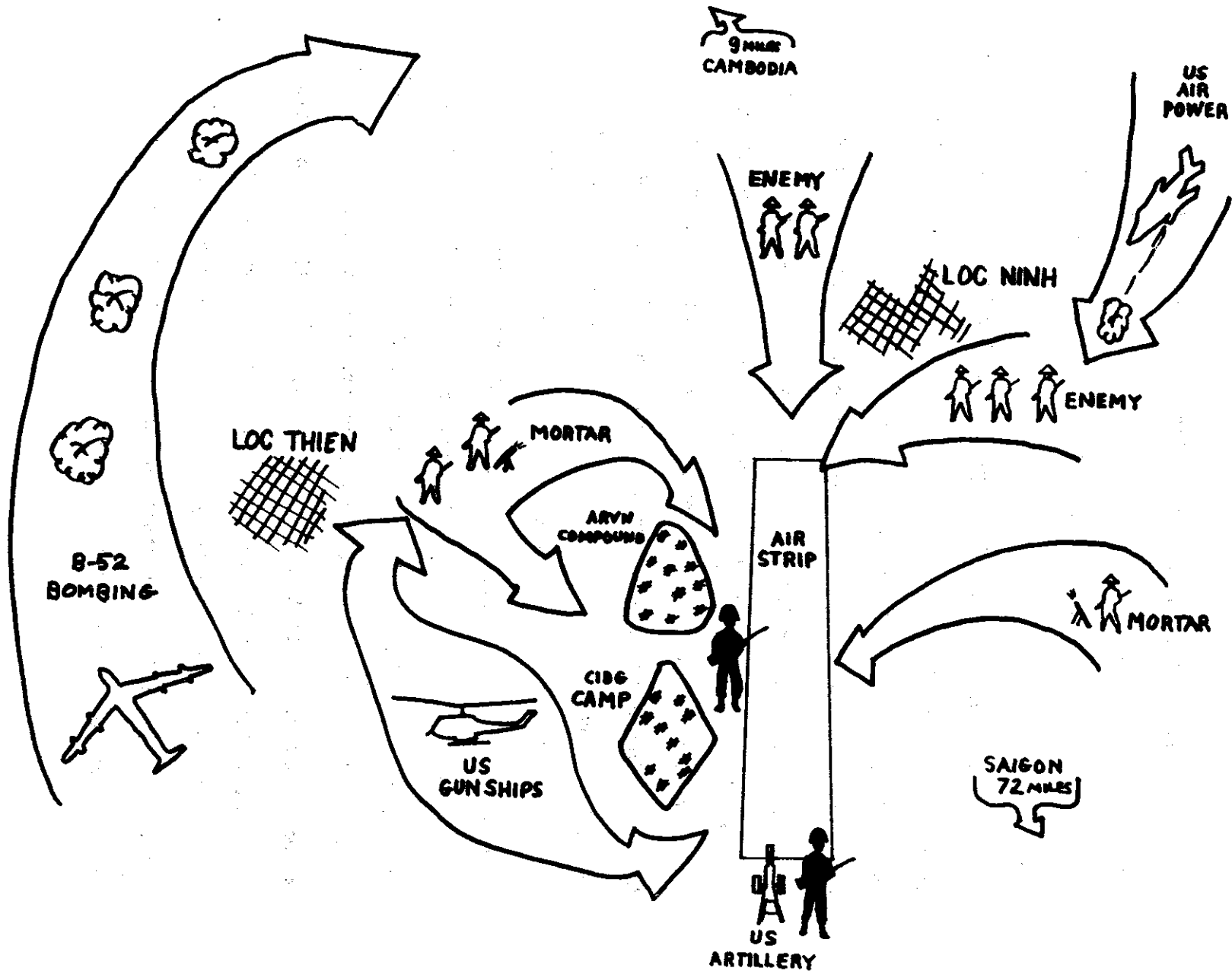
PROGRESS WITHOUT FANFARE

Banana-shaped Long An Province lies south and swings to the west of Saigon. Operation ENTERPRISE, continuing at year's end, was initiated by 9th Infantry Division units in this area on 13 February.

Working closely with RVNAF Regional and Popular Forces, the Americans are helping to extend the area of security and government influence in this Delta province. Forming "Buddy" teams with the Vietnamese forces, 9th U.S. Army Division infantrymen conduct numerous small unit actions throughout the operational area. These teams, sent out on an almost daily basis and using air mobility to maneuver company-size units, have maintained constant pressure on the enemy forces and cadre. Contact has become less frequent as the Allied forces continue to seek out the elusive but hard-hit enemy. In the 10½ months the operation was conducted this year, almost 1,500 enemy soldiers fell to the "Buddy" teams.

Although not particularly impressive in terms of enemy killed, operations KOLE KOLE, BARKING SANDS and DIAMOND HEAD (all conducted by the 25th Infantry Division) are representative of the major share of the U.S. effort in Vietnam. Numerous small unit operations have led to increased influence over the countryside in this heavily populated area. Particularly noteworthy has been the severe weakening of the guerrilla structure and the inroads made on the VC infrastructure in these areas of operations.

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LOC NINH - NEW FIGHTING SPIRIT - SONG BE

Shortly after midnight on 29 October, Loc Ninh District Town was hit by mortar fire. A heavy ground assault followed the mortar barrage. Within a few minutes, two AC-47 Dragonships were over the scene providing flare illumination and firing on the enemy formations. The outer defenses of the subsector headquarters at the ARVN compound were penetrated at 0220 hours. During the same time period, the CIDG camp about 2 kilometers southwest of Loc Ninh, was attacked by fire. Even so, the camp defenders dispatched elements to relieve the pressure on the subsector headquarters. Elements of the ARVN 5th Division reinforced the CIDG units, and together they expelled the enemy force from the compound. U.S. artillerymen, set up at the end of the air strip, lowered their howitzers and fired point blank into the flank of mass formations of enemy troops as they tried to storm across the strip to reach the compound.

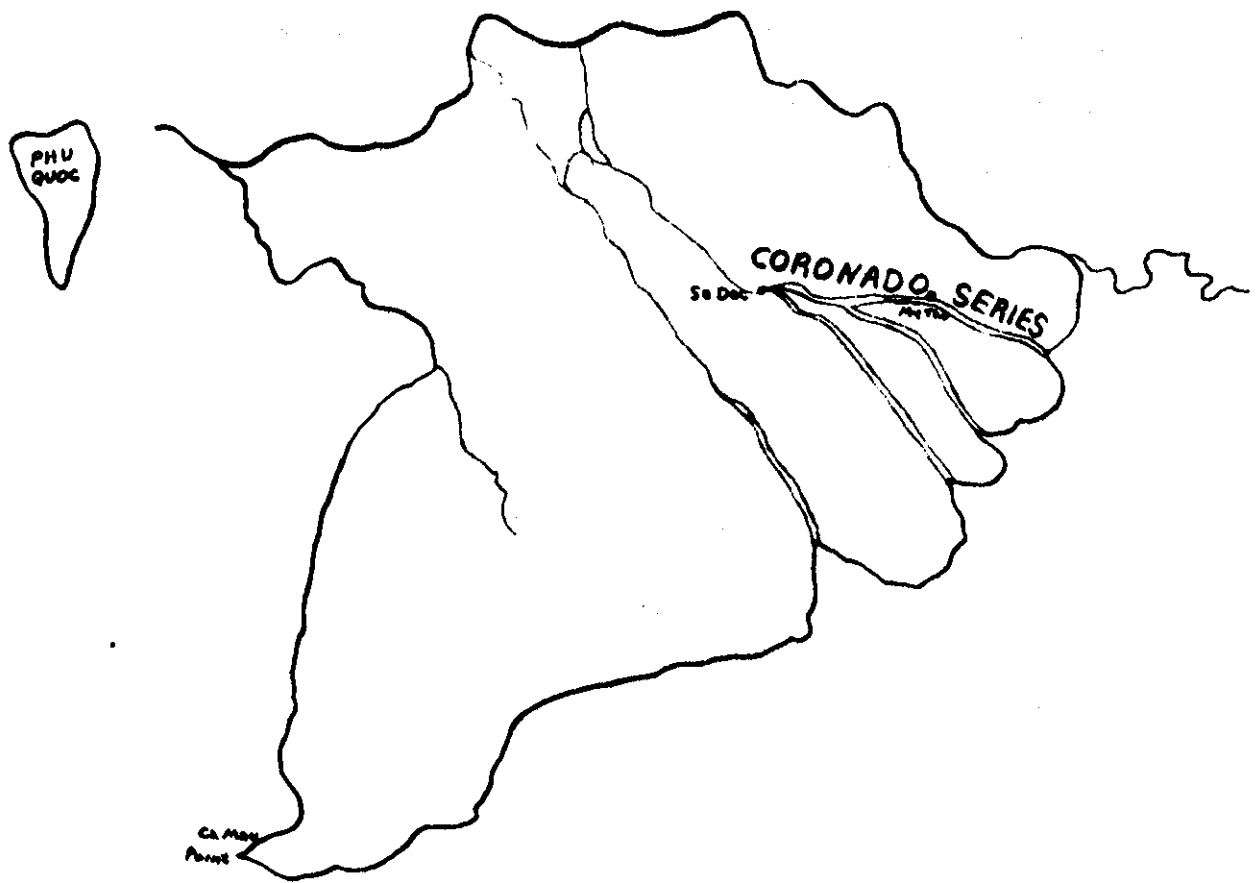
The die-hard efforts of the enemy during the three-day effort to capture Loc Ninh (29-31 October) cost him 371 killed by ARVN units. In addition, 369 enemy were killed by U.S. forces in actions in and around the vicinity of the subsector headquarters. Mopping-up operations continued until the 8th of November. At the cost of 50 friendly troopers killed, the Allied forces had killed 860 of the enemy.

Why the enemy chose to expend lives at such a rate is difficult to understand in the light of an earlier action near Bong Be.

Early on 27 October, the enemy launched an attack on a small ARVN compound. Over 200 rounds of mortar and recoilless rifle fire, followed by waves of attacking soldiers, hit the installation. The attackers made it to the perimeter of the outpost on three occasions, but were driven back by the defenders and supporting fires. The enemy suffered 134 known killed as opposed to 13 friendly troopers killed.

The two enemy-initiated actions near the villages of Loc Ninh and Song Be during October and November are indicative of the fighting spirit of ARVN and local para-military forces. Fighting tenaciously and aggressively, the Vietnamese have disproved the myth of Viet Cong superiority.

IV CORPS



IV CORPS

Except for isolated peaks, the land in IV Corps does not rise over 10 feet above sea level. Rice is the chief crop of the fertile soil. Canals criss-cross the area, dense rain forests cover the western portion, and mangrove swamps abound along the coast.

The primary responsibility for ground operations rests with ARVN commanders; however, during the year the Mobile Riverine Force was established at its base at Dong Tam and began to play an important role in this zone. The Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) is made up of elements of the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division and the Navy Task Force 117, and frequently includes Vietnamese ground forces.

Living on Navy barrack ships, and launching operations aboard shallow draft assault craft, the Army troopers are able to make lightning sweeps in areas previously not readily accessible. Close fire support is provided from artillery pieces and mortars mounted on water craft, and helicopters provide resupply and medevac missions from pads mounted on assault craft. Specially designed gunboats, named after the old Monitors of the Civil War, escort the ground forces into the battle area, and provide direct fires into enemy positions in support of the maneuvering elements.

OPERATION CORONADO

Operation CORONADO was initiated on 1 June by the MRF. Techniques and procedures developed during the operation produced a highly maneuverable and potent fighting force.

On 19 June, the first major action involving all the assets of the MRF unfolded. On that day, 256 enemy were killed. The operation terminated on 25 July with 478 enemy known killed by the unique fighting force.

Extensions of that operation, CORONADO II through IX, have dealt the enemy further blows. Operating in conjunction with ARVN forces in Long An and Dinh Tuong Provinces and in the Rung Sat Special Zone, the soldiers and sailors have killed over 1,100 enemy in the CORONADO series which continues at year's end.



AIR NORTH

"The most debated and least understood aspect of the Vietnam war." In these words, Admiral U. S. G. Sharp has described the air campaign over North Vietnam. Although debated in Congress, in world capitals, in homes and on the street corners, the air campaign has been an essential and effective effort to accomplish specific objectives.

The primary objectives of the air campaign in the North are to reduce the flow of men and supplies from North Vietnam to South Vietnam and to increase the cost to North Vietnam of continuing the flow. General W. C. Westmoreland has credited the bombings in North Vietnam with saving many Vietnamese, U.S. and other Free World soldiers in the South.

During 1967, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps pilots struck hard at the enemy's war supporting resources. As has been the case since the first strike north of the 17th Parallel on 7 February 1965 (a retaliatory strike following the Gulf of Tonkin incident was conducted in August 1964), only targets of a military nature have been targetted.

During the year, all major MIG-capable airfields in the North were hit with the exception of commercially used Gia Lam near Hanoi. Kep and Hoa Lac were hit in April. In October, Phuc Yen was hit. In an effort to deny their use by enemy pilots, the jet-capable fields