

VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

2D BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

CITATION

THE VALOROUS UNIT AWARD IS AWARDED TO THE 2D BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, UNITED STATES ARMY FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON 5 MARCH 1966. THE 2D BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY IS CITED FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE AT THE LO KE RUBBER PLANTATION, BINH DUONG PROVINCE. ON THIS DATE, THE 2D BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY WAS ACCOMPLISHING ITS MISSION OF BLOCKING A VIET CONG MAIN SUPPLY ROUTE WHEN IT WAS ATTACKED FROM FOUR SIDES BY A WELL-EQUIPPED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED REINFORCED VIET CONG REGIMENT. AT 0615 HOURS, BATTALION AMBUSH PATROLS DISCOVERED THE VASTLY SUPERIOR VIET CONG FORCE MOVING IN TO ATTACK THE BATTALION. THESE PATROLS ALERTED THE BATTALION AND FOUGHT THEIR WAY BACK TO THE PERIMETER, DISRUPTING THE INSURGENT ATTACK AS THEY DID SO. AT 0630 THE REINFORCED VIET CONG REGIMENT LAUNCHED FOUR POWERFUL ATTACKS UNDER THE COVER OF INTENSE MORTAR, SMALL ARMS, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, AND .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN FIRE. INITIAL ATTACKS CAME FROM THE NORTH AND NORTHEAST AND WERE FOLLOWED BY ATTACKS FROM THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST. WITH INDOMITABLE COURAGE THE MEN OF THE BATTALION REPELLED ALL ATTACKS WITH DEVASTATING MORTAR, MACHINE GUN, RIFLE AND GRENADE FIRE. DESPITE THE FACT THAT NUMEROUS CLOSE AIR SUPPORT STRIKES AND MASSIVE ARTILLERY FIRE WAS CALLED IN ON THEM, THE VIET CONG PERSISTED IN THEIR SUICIDAL ASSAULT ON THE BATTALION POSITION FOR A PERIOD OF OVER SIX HOURS. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE RUNNING LOW ON AMMUNITION, THE MEN OF THE BATTALION DROVE OFF THE VIET CONG REGIMENT AND WHEN IT

WITHDREW THEY PURSUED AND ATTACKED ITS REAR GUARD INFLECTING FURTHER CASUALTIES ON THE REGIMENT. THE GALLANT STAND OF THE 2D BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF 450 VIET CONG AND THE CAPTURE OF 7, WHILE SUSTAINING ONLY 26 CASUALTIES. IN ADDITION, A VAST QUANTITY OF EQUIPMENT, AMMUNITION AND WEAPONS, INCLUDING FOUR .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS, WERE CAPTURED. AFTER THE BATTLE A LARGE QUANTITY OF DOCUMENTS, CONTAINERS, WEB EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING AND BLOODY BANDAGES FOUND IN THE BATTLE AREA INDICATED THAT A VASTLY SUPERIOR HOSTILE FORCE HAD ATTACKED FOR OVER SIX HOURS AND HAD DEPARTED IN A ROUT. THE CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM OF THE 2D BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY IS IN KEEPING WITH THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS SIGNIFICANT BATTLE.