

TARKINE DEFENSE FORCE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS ONLY

Capital Rgt/6th Coy.

AFTER ACTION REPORT.....13 March 5623 (72-1105 Imp)
CAPT. A. van DIEMEN, commanding

Situation

Two platoons of 6th Company were sent to the area south of Jonson's Farm in pursuit of fleeing rebels presumed to be IOTA terrorists who had previously attacked a TDF vehicle park. Jon Jonson is known to be a vocal sympathizer and propagator of the IOTA propaganda message.

Terrain was flat, covered by moderate-density jungle. Visual range was under 1km. Weather was partly cloudy and warm. Action occurred at midday.

For overview of Operational Area ("OA") see attachedmap.

Tactical Plan

The two platoons would advance NORTH in parallel and in phase, in echelon formation, engaging and destroying any enemy forces encountered. 1ST PLN would advance up the WEST side of teh OA, and 2ND PLN would advance parallel to and approx. 1km west of Jonson Road.

At PHASE LINE 5, 2ND PLN would wait for 1ST PLN to turn EAST and rendezvous. Then 1ST PLN would cross Koala River under cover from 2ND PLN. After clearing the area just NORTH of hte river, 1ST PLN would return. 2ND PLN would then search the buildings of Jonson's Farm under cover from 1ST PLN. Any civilians were to be interrogated and weapons or other evidence of IOTA activities seized except weapons permitted by law.

1ST PLN would then advance SOUTH through the central area of the OA, engaging and destroying any enemy units encountered.

2ND PLN would advance SOUTH in parallel and in phase with 1ST PLN remaining approx 1km EAST of Jonson Road.

Both platoons would exit OA off the SOUTH map edge.

Action

At PHASE LINE 1, 3RD SQUAD of 2ND PLN was engaged by heavy fire, including RAM grenades, from a dug-in camouflaged enemy infantry force of section or platoon size ("ENEMY UNIT 1") and took casualties. 3RD SQUAD leader SGT DINGO returned fire, killed an enemy rocket or RAM grenade gunner, and caused the enemy unit to flee NORTHWEST from its prepared position. SGT DINGO is recommended for award of MCUF.

1ST and 2ND SQUADS of 2ND PLN were on 3RD SQUAD's LEFT approx 500m and continued to advance north. 1ST and 2ND SQUADS were engaged by heavy fire, including RAM grenades, from a large, dug-in, camouflaged enemy force estimated at platoon strength ("ENEMY UNIT 2") located at NORTH EDGE of CLEARING A. 1ST SQUAD took casualties and returned fire, dislodging the enemy unit.

2ND SQUAD of 2ND PLN advanced NORTH approx 500m and was engaged by a third enemy force of section or platoon size ("ENEMY UNIT 3"), dug in to the NORTH of 3rd SQUAD's position. 2ND SQUAD took casualties and withdrew to cover to the SOUTH.

1ST SQUAD of 2ND PLN pursued ENEMY UNIT 2, but was pinned down, in the enemy's former position, by heavy fire from that same unit.

1ST PLN passed PHASE LINE 1 and CCO ordered execution of code order ALFA, a turn EAST to engagement with enemy units. Within 10 minutes, elements of 1ST PLN engaged ENEMY UNIT 1 fleeing WEST away from their engagement with 2ND PLN.

ENEMY UNITS 1 AND 2, reinforced by additional units from the NORTH, formed a defensive square and engaged 1ST PLN with heavy volume of fire, inflicting several casualties.

As the main body of 1ST PLN approached the position of the reinforced ENEMY UNIT 1, the enemy broke and moved EAST toward the weakened 2ND PLN, which was holding a NORTH-SOUTH line anchored by 1ST SQUAD on the south and 2ND SQUAD approx 1 km north. 3RD SQUAD was holding a position to the EAST of the line, and heavily engaged by ENEMY UNIT 3, dug in about 700m NORTH.

The ENEMY UNIT 3 unleashed a heavy volume of fire which killed the PLATOON COMMANDING OFFICER 1ST LT HOBART, who had been rallying the men of 2ND SQUAD, and 2ND SQUAD LEADER SGT DOLERITE.

When ENEMY UNITS 1 and 2, moving EAST, came into visual contact with 1ST SQUAD and 2ND SQUAD of 2ND PLN, those units engaged with their assault rifles, killing several enemy and forcing half of the enemy force to break away to the NORTH.

ENEMY UNIT 3 broke off and fled to the NORTH at that time.

1ST and 2ND PLNs held their positions and called in medevac for wounded personnel, terminating the engagement.

RESULTS

TDF lost 5 KIA. 12 soldiers suffered serious wounds and 1 suffered a lightwound but as of this writing all are expected to recover and return to duty. The 13 wounded soldiers, listed in the appendix, are recommended for award of TDF WOUND MEDAL.

Enemy forces - tentatively identified as an IOTA terrorist element - lost 4 KIA and 1 seriously wounded, who was taken into custody for medical treatment and interrogation.

The field of battle was not of strategic importance, and is believed to be private property of Jon Jonson, owner of Jonson's Farm.

ANALYSIS

This action resulted in a draw, with the main body of the enemy escaping after inflicting substantial casualties. Our poorly-equipped and inadequately-trained soldiers acquitted themselves well, but were unable to take advantage of surprise or tactics.

The lack of personal armor, even flak jackets, allowed any shots fired to take our men out of action. The lack of artillery forced us to move into range to engage dug-in and hidden enemy forces. The lack of vehicles denied us the ability to use the road to get behind and cut off the enemy's probable line of retreat.

Our orders called for 2ND PLN to pursue any enemy force that withdrew from engagement. This order played into the enemy's series of ambushes.

Our platoons were too far apart to coordinate quickly and effectively. They should have moved north and then south together to cover the area.

The personal bravery and willingness to sacrifice exhibited by our officers and men gives no cause for complaint.