

TANKS IN THE WIRE

Written by

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Based on Route 9 Problem: The Battle for Lang Vei

54 INT. TOC - SAME

54

Field telephone buzzes.

WILLOUGHBY picks up handset and presses it to his ear.

WILLOUGHBY

TOC.

LINDEWALD (O.S.)

We hear engine noises on ROUTE 9.

WILLOUGHBY

Roger, OUT.

Field telephone buzzes again as WILLOUGHBY places handset into cradle but before he releases his grip. He picks it back up immediately.

WILLOUGHBY (CONT'D)

TOC.

LONGGREAR

We hear TANK noises on LANG TROAI ROAD.

WILLOUGHBY

Roger, OUT.

WILLOUGHBY hangs up field telephone and turns to SCHUNGEL.

WILLOUGHBY (CONT'D)

Engine noises, sir, on ROUTE 9 and LANG TROAI ROAD.

SCHUNGEL walks to map. Finger traces TANK engine noise report locations.

SCHUNGEL

They're coming for us. My gut's always right.

CLOSE ON: WALL CLOCK: 10:30 P.M.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE ON: WALL CLOCK: 12:42 A.M.

55 INT. TOC OBSERVATION PLATFORM - SAME 55

NICK FRAGOS peers through view port. Trip flare on southeastern perimeter bursts into bright white light startling him.

Shocked by what he sees.

Two NVA soldiers wearing camouflaged pith helmets and khaki uniforms calmly clip CAMP's razor wire. TANK idles behind. TANK commander shines spotlight around CAMP. Two more TANKs move up.

BRU open fire killing the two enemy soldiers.

CLOSE ON: FRAGOS.

FRAGOS

Why don't you just roll over the wire?

56 EXT. NVA TANK - SAME 56

NGHIEM sees his two soldiers fall in hail of tracer fire. Extinguishes his spotlight. Drops down, shuts hatch.

NGHIEM

(in Vietnamese, subtitled)  
Driver, forward!

TANK bucks, bulls ahead.

57 INT. TOC OBSERVATION PLATFORM - SAME 57

FRAGOS cranks field telephone, hollers into handset.

FRAGOS

We have tanks in the wire! Get me some illum!

FRAGOS jumps from deer stand, meets SCHUNGEL cresting the TOC stairs.

SCHUNGEL

Show me what we've got.  
(hollers down the staircase to WILLOUGHBY)  
Call for air and artillery on LANG TROAI ROAD! Get a flareship in here now!