

THE FACE OF BATTLE

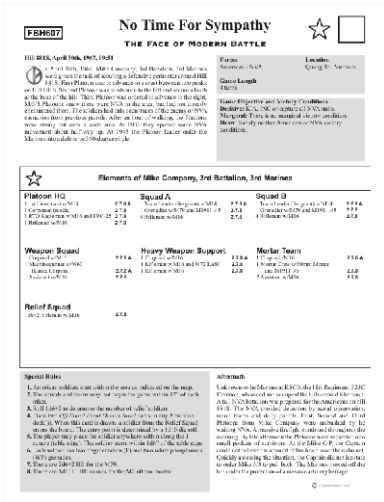
**The Hill Battles
Khe Sanh, Vietnam: 1967**



Scenario Book For Skirmish Gaming

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3rd Marines battle NVA forces around Khe Sanh!



Scenario Briefing

The Hill Battles Khe Sanh, Vietnam: 1967 Scenario Book For Skirmish Gaming

April 24 - May 11, 1967

During the spring of 1967, the "First Battle of Khe Sanh" or "The Hill Fights" took place. In extremely bitter fighting with North Vietnamese troops, the 3rd Marines cleared Hills 881S, 881N, and 861 overlooking Khe Sanh Combat Base.

The Hill Battles, Khe Sanh 1967, is the first scenario book for **THE FACE OF BATTLE** Skirmish rules for 1950 to present. The book includes 12 detailed scenarios, background information, orders of battle, a detailed history of Khe Sanh combat base from 1918 to 1967, maps, scenario briefings, United States Marine and NVA unit organizations, the M50 Ontos, weapons, and much more.

No Time for Coffee

During the fall of 1966, the small force at Khe Sanh Combat Base were constantly bumping into NVA patrols. On October 16th, 1966, 3 clicks south of Khe Sanh, elements of Alpha Company encountered NVA near a deserted French Coffee Plantation.

Frequent Voices

Echo's Staff Sergeant was ordered to scout Hill 881S and the trails around Hill 861. While checking his radio, the Sergeant was shocked at what he heard. All frequencies were suddenly filled with NVA chatter. The patrol headed out, never sure when or where they would encounter the enemy.

Into Thin Air

A quick-reaction team is sent by chopper to assist Echo Company. As the Medevac helicopters started to arrive, the NVA began pounding the landing zone with 82mm mortars.

The Hill Battle

A routine patrol. Tagging along was an odd mixture of fire teams, light and medium mortar support and an M50 ONTOS. As the group headed into the jungle a Marine commented, "It is too quiet. There are no noises whatsoever. I figure the enemy is there... Watching."

Carnage on 861

Although the Marines encountered NVA forces on 861 during the previous month, they had largely ignored the hill. Unknown to the Marines, a large NVA force had secretly moved in 861, 881N and 881S. The NVA had planned multi-pronged attacks on the Marine bases in Quang Tri province.

No Time For Sympathy

On April 30th, 1967, Mike 3/3 were given the task of securing a defensive perimeter around Hill 881S. Suddenly the unit was surrounded. This was a fight to the end!

Lurch and Stop

On the morning of April 29th, 1967, three companies of Marines were given orders to move south of Hill 861. The Company had just been issued the new M16. The poor performance of the weapon added to the frustration of the unit. As the lead platoon approached the knoll, they found Marine helmets, kits, and shot-up weapons. Where was the enemy?

Top of the Draw

At the base of 881S was a draw where Hotel Company were to descend into and then take the opposite hillside. Unknown to the soldiers of Hotel, the NVA had hit Mike 3/9 the previous day in the same area. The draw was narrow and covered in knee-high elephant grass, small bushes and shrubs. As the lead elements of Hotel Company approached the bottom of the draw the Marines felt very exposed.

Before Night Falls

First Platoon of G/2/3 was given the task of assaulting the bunker sitting on top of a very steep incline. The squads slowly advanced up the hill without incident. At the crest the enemy prepared for battle.

Incoming! Incoming!

First and Second platoon of Echo Company encountered NVA forces at the base of hill 881N and were under heavy mortar fire. The forces regrouped to take the mortar positions. As they advanced on the hill, the familiar *kathunk* sound of mortar fire filled the air.

Break Left Break Right

Echo Company was fighting for their very existence and the situation was rapidly getting worse. Elements of Foxtrot Company were to be flown in to support Echo and destroy the NVA inside the perimeter. F/2/3 were to land at first light.

Lurking Death

Foxtrot Company must proceed into a ravine approaching Hill 778. The enemy is waiting...

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