

**A Battery 4th 42nd FA Central Highlands
October 31, 1968 Motor Attack 4th Infantry Division
By BC John Courte**

On October 31, 1969, we came under intense mortar and rifle fire at Plei Mrong. One of the gun crewmen, I can't recall his name, was wounded in the leg and had to be evacuated. Fortunately, he was the only casualty. The fire came from a tree line about two clicks away and the guys in FDC did a great job of targeting. We fired low angle almost direct fire into that enemy position and the mortar and rifle fire stopped. We also spotted secondary explosions and we think we hit their ammo reserve. I remember one of the crew chiefs was sergeant Jernigan. All the gun crews really came through that night. . It was pretty hairy for awhile, we came through the night. The next day, the infantry went through the suspected enemy position, but found nothing. I remember that incident well because I had been BC for for a few weeks when that happened. I don't recall how long we were there, but we shared the firebase with a Vietnamese SF base. We also had a contingent of 8" guns from a II Corps Arty outfit that was pretty bad. I recall an incident where one of the 8" crewmen punched out a Vietnamese and we almost had a major incident on our hands. Fortunately, we were able to make peace with their Dai Wie. He later gave me that AK 47 that is in one of Ron Fowlers pictures.