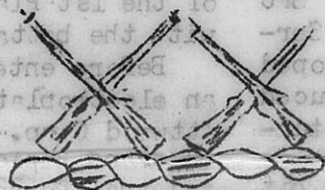


SYKES REGULARS



REPORTER



1ST BATTALION

20TH INFANTRY

Volume 1, No. 16

LZ LZ, VIETNAM

December 31, 1969

LTC ARTHUR F. FISCHER IS SYKES' REGULARS' CO

The 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry acquired a new commanding officer during the Change of Command ceremony held Dec. 26th at LZ Bronco. After six months of service as a SYKES' REGULAR, LTC Robert E. Wilson passed the battalion's colors to LTC Arthur F. Fischer, former AMERICAL DIVISION Inspector General.

Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey, Division Commanding General, praised the battalion's leadership and made special mention of the significant accomplishments along QL-1 and the great strides taken toward the pacification of the area. He then went on to comment on LTC Wilson's command:

"In the past six months, LTC Wilson has demonstrated outstanding leadership. The decorations he has earned stand as a tribute not only to himself, but to all the men of the battalion. LTC Wilson, to you and your entire battalion, we thank you for an outstanding job."

Surely, the SYKES' REGULARS will miss LTC Wilson as the man who gave heart to his men by frequently joining them on the ground to participate in the action. He never hesitated to support his men, and when necessary, would walk miles in "Grunt" fashion to confer with them.

He expressed his sincerest appreciation to the men of his command and asked that those present at the ceremony pass on his best wishes for a Happy New Year.

LTC Fischer (Cleveland, Ohio) comes to the battalion with 22 years of service in the Army, over four of which he served as an Enlisted Man.

His first assignment as an officer after graduation from Ft. Benning's Officer Candidate School in 1952 was as the company commander of a training company at the Transportation Center at Ft. Eustis, Va. In 1953, he was assigned to the 3d Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment

in Panama, where he served as Co. K's CO and as the battalion's communications officer. He returned to CONUS in 1956 and was assigned to Ft. Ord, Calif, where he was Assistant Brigade S-3.

Fourteen months later, he returned to Ft. Benning where he attended the Advanced Officers Course and the Airborne School.

In November, 1958, he was assigned to the 1st Battle Group, 17th Infantry in Korea, and while there served as Headquarters Company Commander, Battle Group S-3, and with the Division G-3 Staff.

Returning again to CONUS in 1959, he served for two and one-half years with the 101st Airborne Division, in which he commanded Troop B, the 17th U.S. Cavalry's recon unit, the "eyes and ears" of the division.

In 1964, he went to Headquarters, USAREUR, serving with the Intelligence Division as Chief of the Soviet Satellite Bloc countries. Two years later, in 1966, he was reassigned to the 1st Brigade, 3d Infantry Division, in which he served as Brigade S-3 and as the Brigade Executive Officer.

From 1966-68, he was assigned to Ohio University's ROTC unit in Akron, Ohio, and in 1968 attended the Command General Staff College at Ft. Leonardwood, Mo.

He served from 15 July of this year until 26 December as the AMERICAL DIVISION's Inspector General before assuming command of the SYKES' REGULARS.

LTC Fischer graduated from West Tech High School in Cleveland. He attended Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Omaha.

His wife and child currently reside in Hawaii.

TO THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY

LIZ COOKS DO A DAZZLING DINNER

The men of Landing Zone Liz can easily boast of one of the finest Mess Hall staffs this side of the South China Sea.

As a forward fire support base, Liz is subject to an occasional delay of rations resupply, a situation that puts the cook's imagination to the test. SFC Francis Kelly (Seneca, Ill.), Mess Sergeant, and his hard-core crew coped magnificently Christmas Day and produced an outstanding dinner, replete with turkey, sweet potatoes, shrimp cocktail, mince meat pie, and pumpkin pie. For a bit of color on the festive day, the menu was flavored with egg nog, "guaranteed by Seagrams," and with a touch of wine donated by SSG Lonnie Riggloman (Romney, W. Va.), commo chief on Liz.

The men who go through the kitchen often fail to appreciate the hours of hard work that go into such a meal. Specialists Jim "Javo" Drinville (San Bernadino), Tony "Toad" Dashnaw (Saranac, N.Y.), Ron "Curly" Fahrenbach (Pittsburgh), Jim "Nute" Miller (Philadelphia), Bob "Uncle Rob" Allen (Atlanta), and Joe "Chopper" Delozier (Camden, N.J.) all pooled their efforts beginning Christmas Eve to produce the dinner that made the day a whole lot brighter.

SANTA CLAUS COMES TO THE FIELD

Santa Claus made a special guest appearance for the benefit of the SYKES' REGULARS Christmas Day. He appeared in his beard and bright scarlet garb, posing with the alias of SP/4 George Dunn (Downington, Pa.), PLL clerk for the battalion's Motor Pool.

CW2 Walter Miller, battalion maintenance officer, suggested the idea that Dunn make the rounds of the battalion in the outfit supplied by Dunn's mother.

He took a Huey "slick" instead of a sleigh and eight reindeer to visit Liz, Delta Co., and Bravo Co. He helped the men hand out candy and soda to the Vietnamese children.

"I really enjoyed the whole thing. As soon as I saw the guys smiling when I got to the field, I felt it was all worth it. The kids didn't know what I was, and I must have been some sight to see," he said.

SGT TILTON IS NCO OF THE WEEK

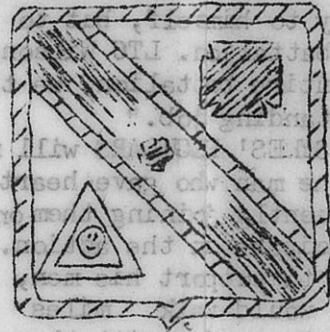
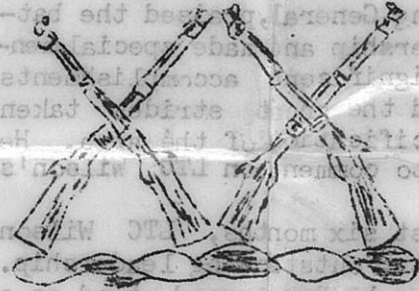
The SYKES' REGULARS' NCO of the Week for the week of Dec. 23-29 is SGT Thomas Tilton (Grand Rapids, Mich.) who is serving temporarily as the 1-20's liason with MACV at Duc Pho.

A product of Ft. Benning's NCO School, he has been with Bravo Co. for five and a half months, acting as Platoon Sergeant of the 1st Platoon for most of his time with the battalion.

Before entering the Army, he worked as an electroplater of marine parts at the Attwood Corp. in Grand Rapids. He attended Grand Rapids Junior College for a year and transferred to Michigan State University for a year. Upon completion of his active service in the Army, he plans to return to MSU to work for a degree in civil engineering.

He completed his Basic Training at Ft. Knox, Ky., and did his ALT and OJT at Ft. Polk, La.

1ST BATTALION



20TH INFANTRY

TO THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY

SYKES' REGULARS CONFIRM 9 ENEMY KILLED AND 11 DETAINED

The SYKES' REGULARS experienced an unusual week, colored by the holiday mood on the one hand, and by the business of combat on the other. During scattered incidents throughout the week, the battalion reported nine Viet Cong killed and eleven detained. Five VC "Chieu Hoi'd" to the Allies, and 31 Vietnamese civilians were detained for interrogation.

Bravo Co. accounted for most of the action occurring Dec. 21st. In the morning, the 2d Platoon detained three civilians, one of whom had a fake ID, three kilometers east of LZ Liz.

Later, the 1st Platoon, working with PFs from the 185th Popular Forces Platoon, detained seven VC in the vicinity of Van Truong, just east of Highway One. Three men from the 1st Platoon were C/Ad with five PF troops to an area west of the Song Cau to set up a blocking force for other elements of Bravo Co. conducting a sweep to the west from the opposite side of the river. One of the PFs spotted a VC who evaded into a tunnel for concealment. In the tunnel with him were four more VC, one of whom emerged as soon as the Allied team arrived. After firing a few rounds and throwing two concussion grenades into the hole, the other four turned themselves in.

"The PFs had everything well under control," explained SP/4 Walter Edmonds (Mobile, Ala.). The men went on to detain two more enemy in the area.

The next day, Bravo detained 19 civilians for questioning and found an enemy tunnel, four kilometers southeast of Liz, which contained several items of enemy gear. Among the equipment found were two ammo cans, four uniforms, three ChiCom grenades, and a flag with an image of a sickle on it.

Dec. 23d, Delta Co.'s 2d Platoon uncovered a tunnel complex, six kilometers south of Liz, and the Recon Platoon reported having found a home-made grenade, packed with powder and a firing device, nine kilometers east of the firebase. That afternoon, Bravo's Ranger Squad fired on three evading VC, one of whom had a weapon. As a result of the contact, the squad confirmed one enemy wounded. The Rangers also found a tunnel complex in the area, six kilometers southeast of Liz, as well as a 2,400 pound rice cache. That evening, Bravo reported that a VC trooper had "Chieu Hoi'd" to the Allies at a hamlet on the Red Ball.

No significant incidents were reported

No significant incidents were reported during the cease-fire called for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. One VC guerrilla, however, enjoyed a unique Christmas when he "Chieu Hoi'd" to Bravo Co.

Activity picked up Dec. 26th, though, when the battalion accounted for eight VC killed and seven civilians detained for questioning. Bravo's 1st Platoon had pursued a group of 30 VC who evaded to the north, near Delta's position. Delta detained three Vietnamese found in the area, one of whom was carrying VC propaganda. Recon, working with an element of ARVNs, was active in the morning and found two ChiCom grenades and a carbine with two clips and 25 rounds of ammo. The platoon then engaged and killed two enemy carrying six ChiCom grenades and an M47 magazine full of ammo. Later, the men turned in two civilian detainees.

That afternoon, Bravo's 2d Platoon picked up two civilian detainees and Delta uncovered an enemy tunnel, some 40 feet long, just northwest of Liz.

In the evening, Bravo's 1st and 2d platoons killed five VC in four different incidents. The 2d Platoon detected movement to its south, called for illumination, and saw a VC. He fired on the men and was killed by the return fire. Minutes later, the platoon spotted 15 to 20 VC moving toward its location. The men blew their claymores and engaged the enemy with small arms fire that resulted in two VC KIA. In two separate ambushes, elements of the 1st Platoon confirmed three enemy killed.

Dec. 26th, Bravo detained three VC, two of them enemy nurses. The company also reported having detained two Vietnamese civilians who evaded the PFs near the Twin Villas. In the afternoon, Recon and the ARVNs operating with the platoon, teamed up to account for one enemy KIA, six kilometers east of Liz.

Dec. 27th, Bravo reported another Hoi Chanh, and Dec. 28th, an element of PF soldiers picked up two more Hoi Chanhs.

SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

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The REPORTER is an authorized publication supervised by the Administrative Section, HHC, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army.

 SYKES REGULARS
