

SYKES REGULARS



REPORTER

1st Battalion



20th Infantry



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LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

March 21, 1970

CAUGHT 'EM WITH THEIR PANTS DOWN

Thanks to Charlie Co.'s 3rd Platoon, there are a couple of NVA soldiers running around the battalion's AO wearing fig leaves and trying to borrow some britches.

Last Friday, the platoon was moving south of Liz, about half a kilometer south of the Tra Cau River. Breaking through the underbrush, the men came upon a stream and encountered four armed NVA. Two of the enemy soldiers, however, had shed their uniforms and weapons to enjoy a dip au naturel.

The other two NVA were the first to spot the Americans and opened up with AK fire. The men promptly returned the fire and the four enemy scrambled out of the area.

The two swimmers not only left their clothes behind but pistol belts, packs, hand grenades, and AK ammo as well.

FLICKS ON THE RED BALL

Movies have made their debut in the Vietnamese countryside by the Red Ball. Duc Pho's Revolutionary Development team has been showing flicks this week to the resettled fishermen and their families who have taken up residence near Buddha.

Most of the movies are educational in nature and have included speeches by presidents Nixon and Thieu.

The people have been exposed to some Western culture too it seems. Straight from the hip cowboy flicks are reportedly the most popular with them.

DELTA'S MILLER IS NO. 1 OF WEEK

The Sykes' Regulars' NO. 1 of the Week is SGT Larry D. Miller, Co. D's 1st Squad leader, 2nd Platoon. He has been in RVN now for ten months and did his Basic at Ft. Bragg and AIT at Dix.

He hails from Bridgewater, Va., and completed two years of pre-pharmacy training at Bridgewater College. Upon separation from active duty he plans to return to college to major in English Literature.

ROOMS (?) JII HONG KONG

Although hotel rooms are available for personnel arriving in Hong Kong on the R&R Aircraft, all other prospective visitors to the city during the period 15 March to 13 September 1970, are cautioned not to travel unless in receipt of confirmed hotel reservations. Hotel accommodations in Hong Kong are becoming extremely tight and this situation is expected to get worse during Expo 1970 in Japan. Requirements for reservations in connection with leave on other than R&R aircraft should be made as far in advance as possible.

CHARLIE CO. MAKES GOOD

Six weeks ago, the men in Charlie Co.'s 2nd Platoon received some advice that they ought to learn how to shoot straight. It seems that they had let an NVA officer run out from in front of them and evade through an open rice paddy.

The platoon had been working just south of the South OP one afternoon when it spotted and engaged two uniformed NVA officers with packs and weapons. One of the enemy was wounded and dusted off and the men confiscated a pack containing enemy documents on friendly locations. The other NVA managed to evade though the men were sure he had been hit and couldn't explain how he got away.

This week, the platoon was in the same area on a routine patrol and found the NVA's body about 200 meters from the site of contact almost two months ago. He was found with a cocked pistol in his hand as well as binoculars, frags, ammo, and a pistol belt.



THE MILITARY MAN PERSONIFIES YOUNG AMERICA--SECRETARY KELLY

(The following is an excerpt from Assistant Secretary of Defense Roger T. Kelley's February 3 speech concerning "Youth and Our Nation's Security" given in Washington, D.C.)

I want to say something this evening from which you can draw your own conclusion about youth and our nation's security. Too often, it seems to me, adults generalize and emotionalize about youth on the basis of superficial evidence--the cut of their clothes, the length of their hair. Young people may be considered responsible by their elders if they conform to the viewpoint and the life style of middle age, and immature if they oppose it.

When young people enter the Armed Forces, the supply sergeant, the barber, and the commanding officer eliminate many of the external symbols of individual taste and personality. So, when one deals with youth in the military, as I do, it is easier to judge youth based on performance rather than just appearance.

And the Armed Forces offer a good sample of American youth, for the military has over three million American men and women, which makes it one of the largest organizations in America with a common mission.

The average age of its members is 22.6 years, which makes the military probably the youngest adult organization in America.

The military man personifies young America--rich and poor and middle class, black and white, scholar and drop-out, big city type, small town and farm boy. He speaks with the accent of Harlem and Harvard, of River City and Richmond, of Laramie and Los Angeles. He is the raw muscle of America. He enters the military forces no longer a boy and yet not quite a man.

For most young people, military service is a two-year experience. They enter it during their 19th year, bringing with them all the talents and all the biases acquired during their youthful lives. Most of them re-enter civilian life two years later, during their 21st year, with the indelible imprint of their military experience. Whether this is good or bad, whether it makes for a better or worse society, depends upon what the Armed Forces do for them. Let's look first at what they do for the Armed Forces.

The most critical test of youth in the Armed Forces today is Vietnam. Many say it is the most difficult war in American history. Its objective, which is widely misunderstood in America, is to secure the independence and self-determination of South Vietnam by convincing North Vietnam of the futility of aggression. The objective, I repeat, is to give the people of South Vietnam the right of self-determination.

A noted newspaperman and military historian, Brigadier General S.L.A. Marshall, has called our foot soldier in Vietnam, "The finest American fighting man of all times." By the standard of all the experts who have observed him, he compares with the best of his counterparts of earlier generations, and there is no higher standard against which he could be measured.

The mind's eye may now behold the combat soldier with rifle ready, prepared for the kill. This has always been the ugly part of war--the part which our fighting man accepts with courage even when it entails the greatest personal sacrifice--his own life. This doesn't mean that our young fighting man is caught up in the nobility of his sacrifice. He detests war, would prefer having no part of it, but accepts his role in it as a difficult but necessary duty to his country. The typical young American's attitude toward war and military service was well expressed by Lieutenant John K. Andrews, USN, when he said, "I realized enroute to my Officer Candidate School Commission that many of us would never have volunteered for the program if it had not been for the uncomfortable pressures of the draft and we made no secret of it, but I also saw then and since that few among us fail to grow in courage, unselfishness, and leadership, during our Navy service."

He went on to say, "To those who decry all war, we who are in the business can confess a deeper abhorrence of it than any civilian is equipped to feel. Fighting wars mean ending lives and we fervently prefer to help build fuller lives for all men. But we do insist that war, terrible as it is, is yet a lesser evil than oppression, injustice and dishonor."

(Secretary Kelley then went on to his second central point--which is, what do the Armed Forces do for America's Youth?)

First, military life stresses the infinite dignity and worth of the individual because this is the principle on which our country is founded. The central figure in the Armed Forces is the (SECRETARY KELLY continued page four)

BATTALION SUMMARY

MARCH 9

Recon turned in a civilian detainee, military aged, found about a kilometer east of OD Lake.

MARCH 10

Alpha's 3rd Platoon picked up two civilians whose IDs appeared to be false, and Bravo Co. turned in three.

Bravo's 3rd Platoon was on an afternoon patrol just west of the Cau River when the RF soldiers working with them spotted movement in a nearby treeline. The RFs flushed out and detained the VC who had been trying to hide in the treeline. After an immediate interrogation, he said he would lead the Allied patrol to a bunker complex a kilometer to the south.

When the men approached the complex, they took fire from three VC who quickly broke contact and evaded, leaving behind a ChiCom GKC semi-automatic rifle.

Bravo Co. later turned in a detainee for questioning and detained two prominent VC, one wounded, in action just west of the South OP.

MARCH 11

Charlie Co. picked up one civilian detainee and Alpha Co., working just north of OD Lake, spotted and engaged 30 VC with weapons moving 200 meters to their front.

HAIR & FAREWELLS

Replacements:

HHS

- SF/4 Richard Allen--Youngstown, Ohio
- SF/4 Francis J. Connors, Jr.--New Haven, Ct.
- SF/4 Felix M. Johnson--West Point, Miss.
- SF/4 Daniel Jackling--Monrovia, Calif.
- PFC Jimmy C. Williams--Smithville, Tenn.
- PFC Larry W. Melhorn--Devonia, Tex.
- PFC John T. Zajac--Chicago Heights, Ill.

A Co.

- SGT Lee W. Gullickson--Phoenix, Ariz.

C Co.

- SGT Steve P. Simpson--Memphis, Tenn.
- SF/4 Michael J. Feltus--Aurora, Ill.
- SF/4 Willie D. Moore--Jackson, N.C.
- PFC Roger Cole--Martinsburg, W. Va.
- PFC Efrain Ramos--El Paso, Tex.

D Co.

- SGT Nathan Bates--Memphis, Tenn.
- SGT Thomas Slingsby--Old Saybrook, Ct.
- PFC Thomas L. Vincent--Cincinnati
- PFC Richard M. Rose--Huntington, Calif.
- PFC John W. Simpson--New Paris, Ohio
- PFC Byron D. Rodd--San Leandro, Calif.
- PFC James Roncoroni--Phillipsburg, N.J.
- PFC Larry T. Pike--San Diego
- PFC Steve R. Perkins--Manhattan Beach, Cal.
- PFC James F. Koch--San Diego, Calif.
- PFC Allen P. Rabun--San Diego, Calif.
- PFC Stan J. Steele--Rapid City, S. Dak.
- PFC Augustine R. Perez--Pearsall, Tex.
- PFC Willie Hope, Jr.--Traillake, Miss.

E Co.

- PFC Bruce D. Miller--San Diego
- PFC Larry T. Pike--San Diego
- PFC Glenn B. White--San Diego

(DEPARTURES page four.)

Arty fire was called, but the men were unable to come up with any significant findings.

MARCH 12

Charlie Co.'s 2nd Platoon destroyed three enemy tunnels just south of the Tra Cau River, and then went on to find the body of an NVA officer killed six weeks previously.

Bravo's 2nd Platoon received information from a Vietnamese child that VC were planting booby traps near the Twin Villas. Reacting to the intell, the Platoon detained one VC and found a hole in a ~~booby~~ where weapons had formerly been stored.

MARCH 13

Charlie Co.'s 3rd Platoon scared off four NVA from a swimming hole south of Liz.

MARCH 14

Alpha's 3rd Platoon spotted five enemy personnel 100 meters from their scrub bush location in the 515 Valley north of Liz. The men checked the area but all they found were the VC's racing slippers.

MARCH 15

Bravo Co. turned in four Vietnamese detainees whose IDs seemed to have been tampered with.

The Night Hawk gunship team reported four VC killed just east of the mountains by the 515 Highway.

Delta Co. discovered a mammoth tunnel complex in the 515. One branch extended 1000 meters long and another was 500 meters in length.

HOW TO RAISE A CROOK

By Your Chaplain, Eugene W. Scott

1. Begin from infancy to give the child everything he wants. This way he will grow up to believe that the world owes him a living.
2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. It will encourage him to pick up "cuter" phrases that will do the top off your head later.
3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is twenty-one and then let him decide for himself.
4. Avoid the use of the word "wrong." It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later when he is arrested for stealing a car that society is against him and he is being persecuted.
5. Pick up anything he leaves lying around like books, shoes, clothing. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing the responsibility onto others.
6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feed on garbage.
7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of children. Then they won't be too shocked when the home is broken up.
8. Give the child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?
9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that every desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustrations.
10. Take his part against the neighbors, teachers, and policemen. They are prejudiced against your child.
11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourselves by saying, "I never could do anything with him."
12. Prepare for a life of grief—you will have it.

"TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT." Proverbs 22:6



DEPARTURES:

HHC

- SP/5 Thomas Greenwalt—Hastings, Nebr.
- SP/5 George Lawrence—Stanley, N.C.
- SP/5 Charles E. Black—Houston, Tex.
- SP/4 Kirk Snyder—Washington, D.C.

A Co.

- SSG Robert McKissic—Cleveland, Ohio
- PFC Arthur Thomisee—Campti, La.
- PFC Coy D. Jeffers—Inlet, Fla.

E Co.

- SP/4 Randy L. Jacob—Marshall, Mich.

E Co.

- SP/4 Phillip B. Pain—Martie Falls, Tex.

SECRETARY KELLEY (continued)

individual members whose life and worth derive from his relationship to God. There are those in our society who disagree it should be this way, preferring that God be optional in the military. But God is everpresent, and military people are reminded of His presence and dependence on him in many ways. This is the way the Armed Forces, with Congressional and Executive guidance, and the support and understanding of the American people, are determined it shall be in the future.

In the Armed Forces young people learn how to lead, by learning first to follow. This may appear to stress the obvious. But in these confused times a special point needs to be made about leadership to answer a dissenting minority whose stock in trade is challenging the symbols of authority.

From the first day of training the military man begins to learn the principles of organized activity. He comes to realize that it cannot be every man for himself, because his life and the lives of others depend upon how each does his job as an integral part of the total unit. In the magnificent tradition of the Marine Corps, young men are taught that "If you have but one principle, let it be that no man will ever feel that you have let him down."

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