

SYKES REGULARS

REPORTER



1ST Battalion



20th Infantry



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LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

March 28, 1970

AFTER DISCUSSING IT WITH THE NVA, BRAVO'S AMBUSH NETS TWO

VAN TRUONG---A force of forty NVA soldiers apparently misread their map last Thursday night and walked square into an ambush set up by an Allied team composed of Bravo Co.'s 1st Platoon, RF and Vietnamese Recon soldiers. In the harried, face to face encounter that ensued, the enemy lost at least two dead and dragged off a number of their wounded into the darkness.

SGT Frank Gehlen (Toppenish, Wash.) had led the Allied element 500 meters across the Cau River into the Gaza Strip and set up in location using a narrow row of bamboo for concealment.

At approximately 9:00 pm the men had a sighting to their front. A lone VC scurried through a hedgerow and disappeared. The men were now alert to enemy presence in the area, but certainly didn't expect what was to happen.

Ten NVA soldiers in full uniform suddenly appeared on line directly in front of the row of bamboo.

SSG Jim Shaner (Spencerville, Ohio) and SGT Chester Bolton (Fayetteville, N.C.) found themselves looking straight into the muzzles of an AK47 and an SKS only inches away.

The men had assumed that the NVA were part of their own element. "They were fully uniformed with complete pistol belts and steel pots. We thought at first that they were the RFs moving around," Shaner explained.

The unlikely merging of the two opposing forces had the NVA troops baffled, too. They were looking for a larger NVA element that they were to link up with. With both sides levelling their weapons at each other at point blank range, one of the NVA soldiers asked if Shaner's element was NVA. The Recon soldier in position to Shaner's left immediately answered yes--that the Allies were NVA.

Still baffled and with his AK still in Shaner's face, the NVA started to back off, partially accepting the affirmative answer. The Allies took the slight advantage and opened up with small arms and hand grenades. But the battle wasn't over.

"When they backed into a hedgerow they linked up with 30 more NVA with weapons and in a cluster. In all, there were

40 of them. That's no exaggeration. That's how many there were," Shaner added.

After the enemy regrouped, they opened up with AK fire and grenades and started moving back toward the Allied position. Then SP/4 Richard Brown (Williston, S.C.) opened up with the 60. The gun scattered the assaulting NVA and they immediately withdrew, taking their wounded and all but two of their dead with them. The men policed up the two NVA dead, a carbine, and hand grenades.

Early the next morning, a tracker dog team confirmed Shaner's estimate of the presence of at least 40 NVA. The tracks and blood trails were so numerous that the dogs were unable to distinguish sin-

gle tracks that could be followed.

RE-UP CORNER

The Army in Vietnam is short around 500 men in the field of door gunner. If you can qualify you can reenlist to be a door gunner today. Requirements:

1. Have a 100 or above on the motor mechanics test.
2. Pass the flight physical.
3. Have three 90 or above scores on your ACB tests taken at the reception center where you entered the Army.
4. Have your Unit Commander's recommendation.

If you would like to be a door gunner, see SFC Patton, the battalion's RE-UP NCO.

A weapon with grit
May only click
When a hit is needed quick!!!

CHARLIE CO. UNCOVERS BASECAMP

Charlie Co. uncovered a sizable enemy base camp this week tucked away in the thick undergrowth deep in the Con Vu mountains, eight kilometers southwest of Liz near the Bui Nhui river.

A Roi Chanh working with the company was leading the 2nd Platoon and part of the CP through the mountains when the men came onto three tin-covered hooches each with a well camouflaged bunker. The VC who were going about their routine chores for the day quickly fled when the men approached.

"They had been down at a stream washing their clothes when we came up," explained SSG Frank Hill (Layonne, N.J.). "Their black pajamas were still in the water."

The VC left behind all their chickens, pigs, rice, utensils, as well as scattered ammo including smokes, illumination casings, plastic mortar cannisters, and loose automatic rifle rounds.

HIS ONE MISTAKE

By Your Chaplain, Eugene W. Scott

He wore his rain shoes when it rained. He brushed his teeth thrice a day...with a nationally advertised toothpaste. The doctors examined him twice a year. He slept with the windows open. He stuck to a diet with plenty of fresh vegetables. He relinquished his tonsils and traded in several worn-out glands. He golfed---but never more than 18 holes at a time. He got at least eight hours sleep every night. He never smoked, drank or lost his temper. He did his "daily dozen" daily. He was all set to live to be a hundred.

The funeral will be held Wednesday. He's survived by eight specialists, three health institutions, two gymnasiums and numerous manufactures of health and anti-septics.

His one mistake: HE FORGOT GOD, lived as if this world was all, and is now with those who say, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." (Jeremiah 8:20).

Dear friend: Are you making this mistake? It certainly isn't necessary. God says to hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized for the removal of all past sin and you shall be saved.

"For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:36, 37).

"SOLDIER'S DEPOSIT" YIELDS BIG DIVIDENDS FOR THE RVN SOLDIER

The "Soldier's Deposit" (or Uniformed Services "Big Ten" Savings Deposit Program) represents an outstanding savings opportunity for the man in Vietnam. As an investment program, it produces a ten per cent return, compounded quarterly, which may well be the highest nonspeculative yield that can be obtained anywhere. An overseas serviceman can make deposits in five-dollar multiples on a cash or an allotment basis and can draw interest on principal up to \$10,000. Money deposited up to the tenth day of the month draws interest from the first. Although in most cases money cannot be drawn from the account until return to the United States, the soldier's funds will be made available to him in the event of any bona fide emergency or for an R&R to a nongold-flow area such as Hawaii. To the man with long range financial plans, the program is invaluable. Although a soldier is often suspicious and thinks of "angles" involved in an institutional program of this kind, the "Soldier's Deposit" was actually created and designed solely for his benefit.

The men then trailed down a dry creek bed, up the side of a hill and found three more hooches all part of the same basecamp. The men confiscated what material was still usable and destroyed the rest of the encampment.

RECON GETS TWO IN THE FOOTHILLS

Recon again demonstrated its high level of combat efficiency this week by accounting for two enemy killed in operations in the Nui Lons northwest of Liz.

Thursday afternoon, the platoon discovered a tunnel-cave complex hidden in the rocky terrain of the foothills. The men flushed a uniformed NVA soldier from one of the caves and killed him as he tried to evade. He had been harboring four 30-pound satchel charges as well as 150 pounds of rice. The men also policed up enemy documents and cooking utensils. Arty was called in to work over the area and destroy the complex.

The next morning, the platoon was sweeping in the same area and surprised another enemy soldier. He was wounded in the initial engagement and the blood trails he left led the men to a cave where he was found KIA.

TO THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY

BATTALION SUMMARY

MARCH 16

Recon turned in a Vietnamese civilian for questioning; Bravo Co. turned in three. None of the detainees had identification.

Delta Co., operating two kilometers east of OD Lake destroyed a 70-meter long tunnel.

Recon, in the 515, opened up on 10-15 enemy personnel moving southwest. A check of the enemy position revealed numerous blood trails, drag marks, sandals, and a belt laden with frags.

MARCH 17

Recon's Will Scarlet element sprung a predawn ambush on a VC soldier moving northwest of Liz down the 515 Highway. Although he managed to evade, the squad thought he had been wounded.

In the lowland area southwest of Liz near An Loi and An Tay, Charlie Co. uncovered a number of indications of former enemy presence. The men found an old automatic weapons position and destroyed a small tunnel. A can inside containing an explosive appeared to be some kind of phosphorous grenade upon detonation. The company also found a rectangular fighting position four feet deep and 150 feet to a side. It contained about 75 individual and two automatic weapons positions.

Delta and Bravo companies each turned in two detainees, none of whom had IDs.

MARCH 18

In the foothills two kilometers west of its find the previous day, Charlie Co. spotted and fired on 10 VC/NVA carrying a total of three weapons. The enemy returned fire and then broke contact. Arty and air strikes were called, but little could be found of the enemy or their gear.

Six kilometers to the east, Delta Co. fired on four VC with packs and a weapon. The enemy were able to evade, however.

Bravo Co. turned in six Vietnamese for questioning, none of whom had IDs.

MARCH 19

Recon killed one VC and captured four 30-pound satchel charges, three kilometers northwest of Liz in the foothills just past Highway 515.

Bravo Co. detained two civilians for questioning, and during its night ambush the 1st Platoon killed two NVA.

MARCH 20

Delta Co. destroyed a 100-foot long tunnel near the Song Bac, five kilometers south of Liz.

Bravo Co. turned in three detainees for interrogation, and Alpha Co. received a Hoi Chanh who turned himself in at Liz.

Recon registered another enemy killed in the same area as its kill the previous day.

MARCH 21

Bravo Co.'s 3rd Platoon flushed out and killed two evading VC during a patrol just east of the Red Ball outside the village of An Truong. The two VC had been wearing uniforms that they attempted to discard when they were spotted.

Charlie Co. uncovered an enemy base-camp deep in the mountains eleven kilometers west of Bronco.

Delta Co. destroyed two more enemy

SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

Battalion Commander LTC Arthur F. Fischer
Adjutant CPT Boyd Harris
Correspondant SP4 Toby Progers
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of its find the previous day, Charlie Co. tunnels just south of the Song Tra Cau; Recon picked up two rice-carrying Vietnamese a kilometer west of Liz. The pair had no identification and the platoon's Kit Carson Scout felt strongly that they were VC.

MARCH 22

Bravo Co. turned in three Vietnamese whose IDs seemed false, and Alpha Co. detained one.

Alpha Co. also uncovered a one-ton rice cache a kilometer northwest of Liz. Later, the 3rd Platoon's Hoi Chanh led the men to an ammo cache near the railroad berm that yielded 100 rounds of AK47 ammo and three 57 recoilless rifle rounds.

CPT MULLEN IS CHARLIE CO.'S CO

Captain Edward J. Mullen (Youngstown, Ohio) has taken over the command of Charlie Co., replacing CPT James J. Donovan (South Orange, N.J.), who after six months as the company's CO is now working at Division G-3 in Chu Lai.

On his previous tour in RVN, CPT Mullen was evacuated to the States for wounds received after serving six months with the Americal Division's 1/52nd Inf, 198th Bde, as a platoon leader.

He holds credentials from the Jungle Warfare, Ranger, and Airborne schools, and prior to joining the 1/20 he was the commanding officer of a training company at Ft. Benning's Ranger School.

For three months prior to assuming command of Charlie Co., he acted as this battalion's Adjutant.

the supervision of the S-1, 1/20, 11th Inf, Bde, APO San Francisco 96217 as an authorized publication. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army.

SSG HILL IS NCO OF THE WEEK

Staff Sergeant Frank H. Hill of Bayonne, N.J. is the Sykes' Regulars' NCO of the Week. He currently serves with Charlie Co. as the platoon sergeant of the 2nd Platoon.

A graduate of St. Peter's College, Jersey City, N.J., with a B.S. degree in accounting, he worked for several years with the New York Stock Exchange in a number of capacities including accountant and pneumatic engineer.

Upon completion of his active duty, he plans to complete work for a law degree.

HAILS & FAREWELLS

Departures:

HHC

- CW2 Walter Miller--Lake Hopactcong, N.J.
- LSG David Mamros--Portland, Ore.
- SGT Michael Greer--Muncie, Ind.
- SGT Frank Pride--Andersonville, Ga.
- SP4 Feliciano Rodriguez--Mayasuez, P.R.
- SP4 Bruce Albinson--Patterson, N.J.
- SP4 Arnold Slone--Pippa-Passes, Ky.
- SP4 Patrick Burke--Cradell, N.J.
- SP4 Harold Siegel--Westminster, Calif.
- PFC Johnny Garnett--Phoenix, Ariz.
- PFC Harold Bass--Lubbock, Tex.

C Co.

- SGT Jerry N. Groce--Worth, Mo.
- SP4 Robert Yancey--Alexandria, Va.
- PFC William J. Wright--Richmond, Va.

E Co.

- SP4 Paul J. Elwart--Warren, Mich.

Replacements:

HHC

- SFC Ramos J. Delgado--Fayetteville, N.C.
- SGT Richard J. Horton--West Isler, N.Y.
- SP4 Raymond A. Lowe--Frichard, W.Va.
- PFC Ronald Brown--New Orleans, La.
- PFC Timothy R. Brown--Redondo Beach, Cal.
- PFC Charles T. Austin--Montgomery, Ala.
- PFC Winfred Stevens--Vinton, La.

A Co.

- SGT Michael L. Bombai--Des Moines, Iowa
- SGT John E. Parsons--Union, Ky.
- SGT Stanley P. Johnson--Chattanooga, Tenn.
- SGT Ernest Simmons--Warner Robins, Ga.
- PFC Kenneth W. Slack--Hall Summit, La.

B Co.

- PFC Clifford I. Wright--East Peoria, Ill.
- PFC Samuel Suikkonen--Hawthorne, Calif.
- PFC James E. Shaw--San Antonio, Tex.
- PFC Micheal W. Phillips--Louisville, Ky.
- PFC Joseph P. Shawcroft--Seattle, Wash.
- PFC Paul G. Schossek--Hamburg, W.Y.

C Co.

- SGT Vincent A Alagia--Rosedale, N.Y.
- SGT Robert F. Anderson--Queons, N.Y.
- SGT Clarence Bohm--Richfield, Wisc.
- SGT Randolph James--Tacoma, Wash.
- SP4 Edward F. McLaughlin--Rome, N.Y.
- PFC Terry Dove--Billings, Mont.
- PFC Richard Begeal--Deposit, N.Y.
- PFC Billy L. Anderson--Byrdstown, Tenn.
- PFC Donnie W. Rich--Belfast, Me.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

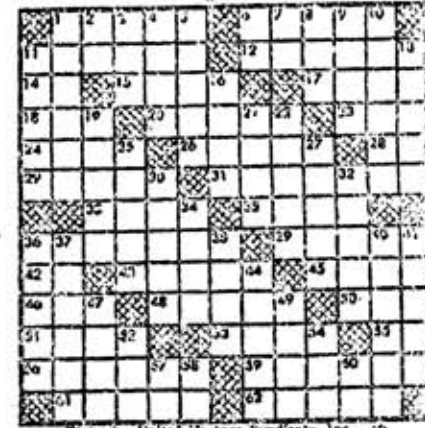
- 1-Trades for money
- 6-Fold
- 11-Subservient
- 12-Lasso
- 14-Conjunction
- 15-Crests
- 17-Links of Siamese cunnemy
- 18-Exile
- 20-Repulse
- 21-Whetted as written
- 24-Organ of hearing
- 26-European capital
- 28-Tartan's dolly
- 29-Terrace, flut boards
- 31-Soldiers
- 33-Declines
- 35-Precipit
- 35-Without end
- 39-Temp-d
- 42-Tropic not
- 43-Fragment
- 45-Chief god of Memphis
- 45-Lanine
- 48-Ward
- 50-Native metal
- 51-Pitcher
- 53-Isolated valley
- 55-Printer's measure
- 56-Book cover
- 59-Keenness fly
- 61-Condensing looks
- 62-Periods of time

DOWN

- 1-Continued story
- 2-Printer's measure
- 3-Illuminated

- 4-Dan
- 5-Clumber
- 6-Place (abbr.)
- 7-Note of scale
- 8-Period of time
- 9-River islands
- 10-Shred
- 11-Fashions
- 13-Famous Russian rulers
- 16-Quarrel
- 18-Wet out
- 21-Goddess of discord
- 22-Liquid measure
- 25-Meanly looks
- 27-Precipitous
- 30-Decause
- 32-Measure of poetry
- 34-Challenge

- 35-Tenmy duck
- 37-Tenon tool
- 38-Ful of wine
- 40-Fondle
- 41-Subject of discourse
- 44-Wholly
- 47-Mon's nickname
- 40-Otherwise
- 42-Female ruff
- 51-a-cadon
- 57-Apothecary's weight (abbr.)
- 58-Thrust or ring
- 60-Initials of 19th President



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C Co. continued

- PFC Augustus Waters, Jr.--Chicago
- PFC John R. Prindle--Madison, Wisc.
- PFC Brian A. Sjoedin--Karlstad, Minn.
- D Co.**
- SSG Paul E. Bredigheimer--Perham, Minn.
- SP4 Vernon J. Cain--East Bonne Terre, Md.
- PFC Joseph Capone--Inwood, N.Y.
- PFC Larry E. Reeder--Russel Springs, Ky.
- PFC Wilburt Smith--Bassett, Va.
- PFC Tom L. Sherburne--Pebble Beach, Calif.
- PFC Vernon D. Sandlin--Middleton, Ohio
- PFC Stephen L. Strahan--National City, Calif.
- PFC Johnny Bustamantez--Westminster, Calif.
- PFC John I. Halliburton--Dallas, Tex.
- E Co.**
- SGT James V. Bailey--Rock Hill, S.C.
- SP4 Oddis R. Lee--Empire, Ala.
- PFC Jesus M. Rivera, Jr.--Mercedes, Tex.

