

# SYKES REGULARS

REPORTER



1<sup>ST</sup>

Battalion



20<sup>th</sup> Infantry



Volume 2, No. 18

LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

May 10, 1970

## RECON COMBINED OPERATION NETS 15 VC, 6 WEAPONS

In some of the heaviest fighting seen recently in Southern Quang Ngai Province, a combined element of AMERICAN DIVISION soldiers, National Police Field Force (NPF), and Vietnamese Reconnaissance soldiers killed 15 VC and confiscated six enemy rifles near the village of Mo Duc, ten miles north of Duc Pho.

The Recon Platoon was trucked to Mo Duc's MACV compound from Liz on a priority intelligence report that a well-armed VC unit was working out of a small hamlet near Mo Duc.

At 1:30 a.m., the platoon moved out from the compound with one squad of NPF soldiers and took up a position east of the hamlet. Meanwhile, a squad of Vietnamese Recon soldiers, stripped down sapper fashion, moved to the west side.

Three hours later, after tightening their blocking position to the east, the Americans fired their small arms over the hamlet to flush the VC into the Vietnamese position. \*\*\*\*\*

The ploy worked perfectly as the enemy rushed out of the hamlet square into the Vietnamese chaymores, producing the night's first enemy casualties.

The VC then reversed their direction, moving toward the Americans and NPFs, and the two sides exchanged heavy fire.

The enemy barraged the U.S.-NPF position with AK47 fire, rocket propelled grenades, and Chicom hand grenades, but were unsuccessful in their attempt to inflict casualties.

Shark gunships moved in, and after placing their fire on the enemy just east of the hamlet, the VC withdrew with their wounded and what weapons they could take.

After the firefight, 15 VC lay dead, four were detained, and six suspected accomplices in the hamlet were held for interrogation. The Allies also picked up four AK47s and two SKS assault rifles.

## SIX SOLDIERS BAPTIZED

A man's commitment to his faith can be one of the most meaningful and significant events in his life, but in Vietnam it's often difficult to pursue the faith. The isolation and lack of contact with the organized church renders the formality of the church inaccessible to most.

Chaplain Schott has recognized the needs of these men and has sought earnestly to bring the church closer to them. In the past few months he has helped at least six men reaffirm their ties with God and has baptized them in the waters of the Song Tra Cau at the South Bridge on Highway One. It is appropriate at this time to recognize them for the step that they have taken.

(SOLDIERS BAPTIZED continued page

MAJ HONJIYO LEADS THREE-MAN RESCUE PARTY INTO NUY LONS

Controlling a combat assault mission into the foothills of the Lon mountains, nine miles northwest of Duc Pho, MAJ William T. Honjiyo (Hanapepe, Kauai, Hawaii), battalion executive officer acting as battalion commander during LTC Fischer's temporary absence, spotted a LOH plummet into a mountainside after taking fire from enemy gunners on the ground. He then led a three-man party up the side of the mountain and successfully extracted the LOH's two dazed crewmen.

He had been supervising ground operations of Alpha Co. from his Command and Control chopper after the infantry troops had been airlifted into the mountains. The operations later yielded three VC killed.

The LOH had been low-level flying, seeking out enemy positions in the thick jungle terrain when MAJ Honjiyo saw it go down. The control helicopter's pilot, MAJ Frederick G. Blackburn (Kansas City, Mo.) set down on a small knoll at the base of the mountain and MAJ Honjiyo, his radioman, and the chopper crew chief immediately set out on foot, armed only with two rifles and a pistol, to contact the LOH's crew.

Trailing up through the jungle and along a streambed, the three men noticed several indications of recent enemy presence in the area. There were enemy blood trails on the ground, a result of gunship preparation of the area immediately prior to the insertion of the infantry. The radio-man, SP4 Fred Shorett (San Bernadino, Calif.), spotted several spider holes hewn in the rocks along the trail.

As the Major's party approached the site of the downed LOH, a Huey chopper was hovering overhead and one of the LOH's crew was trying to ascend the rope ladder that had been lowered. Because of the threat of enemy fire from concealed positions in the jungle and the danger of the stunned crewman falling, the Major motioned him off the ladder and waved the Huey out of the area.

The three men then contacted the LOH's pilot and gunner who were uninjured but dazed from the shock of the crash.

They then stripped the chopper

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of what gear they could carry and made it back down the mountainside where they were extracted by the waiting control ship.

The support elements from Alpha Co., sent in for security, spotted further indications of enemy presence at the site of the wreckage and uncovered an enemy rifle.

When asked why he, the acting battalion commander, should personally initiate the rescue operation, MAJ Honjiyo responded, "The LOH had been badly banged up and judging from its condition we felt the crew must be in pretty bad condition. We were closest to them, and there really was no alternative.

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SGT MOORE IS NCO OF WEEK

Bravo Co.'s SGT Herman Moore (Chicago) is the Sykes' Regulars NCO of the Week. He has been in-country now for more than ten months and is currently the assistant squad leader of the 3rd Platoon's 3rd Squad.

Originally from Mississippi, he is a professional barber and a graduate of Tyler Barber College in Nashville, Tenn.

He did his Basic at Gordon and AIT at McClellan. Upon completion of his active duty, he plans to barber in New Orleans.

SYKES' REGULARS ARCHIVES SHOW SEVEN MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS

The battalion's history files include summaries of the action that earned seven of its members the Medal of Honor during the past century. The following excerpts give an insight into the proud tradition of the Sykes' Regulars and the men that have provided its inspiration.

**CAPTAIN LOUIS J. SACRISTI**--Awarded 31 July 1889 for having saved from capture a gun of the 5th Maine Battery at Chancellorsville, Va., on 3 May 1863 and for having voluntarily carried orders which resulted in saving from destruction or capture the picket line of the First Division, Second Corps at Auburn, Va., on 14 October 1863, while a First Lieutenant.

**CAPTAIN JAMES MORRISON CUTTS**--Awarded 2 May 1891 for gallantry in action at Wilderness, Spottsylvania, and Petersburg, Va., in 1863.

**MAJOR GENERAL LLOYD WHEATON**--Awarded 16 January 1894 for distinguished gallantry in the assault on Fort Blakely, Alabama, April 9, 1865, leading the right wing of his regiment, sprinting through an embrasure against a strong fire of artillery and musketry, the first to enter the enemy's work, while serving as Lieutenant Colonel.

**BRIGADIER GENERAL MARION PERRY HAUS**--Awarded 27 November 1894 for most distinguished gallantry in action against hostile Apache Indians led by Geronimo and Natchez in the Sierra Madre Mountains, Mexico, January 11, 1866, while First Lieutenant and commander of the expedition.

**BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN PATTERSON**--Awarded for gallantry in action at Chapel House, Virginia on 1 October, while serving as First Lieutenant.  
(MEDAL OF HONOR cont page 4 )

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11 STATES TO HOLD PRIMARIES SOON

Eleven states will hold primary elections in June to select candidates for general election of November 3.

Primaries in California, New Jersey, Iowa, Mississippi, South Dakota, and Montana will be June 4; New Mexico June 3; South Carolina June 9; Maine June 15; and Delaware and New York June 16.

New York and Delaware, however, prohibit absentee voting in primary elections but permit qualified Armed Forces voters and the spouses and dependants of Armed Forces voters to vote by absentee ballot in the November general elections. The Federal Post Card Application may be used to obtain a ballot.

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SOLDIERS BAPTIZED continued--  
SGT Darold Marcus (B Co)  
SP4 Ralph Tichota (B Co)  
PFC Willie Brown (C Co)  
PFC Jack Scott (HHC)  
PFC Charles Thompson (B Co)  
SGT Robert Turner (C Btry, 1/82)  
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SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER  
Battalion CO LTC Arthur Fischer  
Adjutant CPT Boyd Harris  
Correspondant SP4 Toby Prodgars

The REPORTER is published weekly under the supervision of the Administrative Section, HHC, 1st Battalion 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade APO 96217, as an authorized Publication. Opinions expressed herein not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army

## MEDAL OF HONOR continued

FIRST LIEUTENANT DONALD E. RUDOLPH (Then Technical Sergeant) was acting as platoon leader at Munoz, Luzon, Philippine Islands, on 5 February 1945. While administering first aid on the battlefield, he observed enemy fire issuing from a nearby culvert. Crawling to the culvert with rifle and grenades he killed three of the enemy concealed there. He then worked his way across open terrain towards a line of enemy pillboxes which had immobilized his company. Noaring the first pillbox, he hurled grenades through its embrasure and charged the position. With his bare hands he tore away the wood and tin covering and then dropped a grenade through the opening he made, killing the enemy gunners and destroying their machine-gun. Ordering several riflemen to cover his further advance, Sergeant Rudolph seized a pick-mattock and made his way to the second pillbox. Piercing its top with the mattock, he dropped a grenade down the hole, fired several rounds of his rifle into it, and smothered any surviving enemy by sealing the hole and the embrasure with earth. In quick succession, he attacked and neutralized six more pillboxes. Later, when his platoon was attacked by an enemy tank, he advanced under covering fire, climbed to the top of the tank, and dropped a white phosphorus grenade through the turret, destroying the crew. Through his outstanding heroism, superb courage and leadership, and complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Rudolph cleared a path for an advance that culminated in one of the most decisive victories of the Philippines Campaign.

CORPORAL MELVIN MAYFIELD-- Company D, 20th Infantry, on 29 July 1945,

displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while fighting in the Cordilleras Mountains, Luzon, Philippine Islands. When two Filipino companies were pinned down under a torrent of enemy fire which converged on them from a circular ridge commanding their position, Corporal Mayfield, in a gallant single-handed effort to aid them, rushed from shell hole to shell hole until he reached four enemy caves atop the barren fire-swept hill. With grenades and his carbine, he assaulted each of the caves while enemy fire pounded about him. However, before he had annihilated the last hostile position, a machine-gun bullet destroyed his weapon and slashed his left hand. Disregarding his wound, he secured more grenades and dauntlessly charged again into the face of point-blank fire to help destroy a hostile observation post. By his gallant determination and heroic leadership, Corporal Mayfield inspired the men to eliminate all remaining pockets of resistance in the area and to press the advance against the enemy.

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### THE GREATEST BRIDGE!

By Your Chaplain, Eugene W. Scott

Upon recent reading I discovered some amazing facts about the Mackinac Bridge. These facts are as follows:

Total length of bridge and approaches: 25,474' (5 miles)  
Total length of steel superstructures: 19,243' (3 1/2 miles)  
Length of suspension bridge: 8,614' (over 1 2/3 miles)  
Length of center span: 3800'  
42,000 miles of cable used  
12,580 wires in each of two main cables  
Main cables 2 1/2 inches diameter

(BRIDGE continued page 4)

## BRIDGE continued

Tower piers go 210' below water and 552' above  
70 feet wide between cables  
150 feet clearance over water

To join the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan, a dream since 1887, required four years, \$99,800,00 and several lives. The facts, figures, and comparisons could continue. It is a tremendous engineering marvel.

But is it the GREATEST BRIDGE?

The main center span of the Golden Gate bridge is 4,200 feet which is 400 feet longer than the center span of Mackinac, and so there are those who say it is the greatest.

But even this is not the very GREATEST BRIDGE!

Bridges span a distance to join two sides of a river or a bay or two parts of a state, but the GREATEST BRIDGE spanned a far greater gulf. The widest gulf in all the universe is that between God and man. That gulf has been bridged by God's own Son, Jesus Christ, who came to fulfill the dreams and prophecies of thousands of years.

The cost of Mackinac was \$99,800,000. The cost of bridging the gulf between God and man was far greater! If merely money were needed, either God or man could have raised any amount. But salvation cannot be purchased so easily. The blood of a perfect man was needed to atone for sin.

"...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...but with the precious blood of Christ." (I Peter 1:18,19)

Before the Mackinac Bridge was built, ferries carried people across. So you ask, are there not other ways for me to make my peace with God? Will not my good life or my church membership or my sin-

cerity in following my own ideas satisfy God? The answer is NO! Good as these may appear to be, they cannot bridge the great gulf between God and man. God says:

"For there is one God, and one mediator (bridge) between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." (I Timothy 2:5)

Bridges have failed. The Tacoma Narrows suspension bridge swayed violently in the winds and collapsed on November 7 1940. The Mackinac has therefore been designed to withstand the strongest conceivable winds. Yet if an atomic bomb were dropped on it it would go up in vapor. Can Jesus Christ guarantee salvation for anyone--no matter how wicked or perverse, no matter how old or young, no matter how ignorant or educated? The answer is a wonderful YES!

"He is able to save them to the uttermost who come unto God by Him." (Hebrews 7:25)

