

SYKES REGULARS



REPORTER

1ST Battalion



20th Infantry



Volume 2, No. 25

7 July, 1970

LTC FISCHER BIDS FAREWELL

My departure from the command of the "Sykes' Regulars" is a true moment of sentiment for me. I am proud to have had the privilege to command the battalion. You have lived up to every aspect of the American soldier. I wish to extol the men of the 1/20th for the continuous cooperation you have given me in the last six months.

History has paid tribute to the men who served in "Sykes' Regulars" since its origination in 1861 by President Abraham Lincoln. These men have distinguished themselves with valorous deeds and outstanding accomplishments in every major American battlefield since the Civil War. I firmly feel that the "Sykes' Regulars" of today have lived up to all the traditions set by their former comrades. You too have the right to be proud and hold your head high because you have earned it with your sweat and blood.

Without your teamwork and devotion to duty the mission assigned to us in the Duc Pho area could not have been as prolific as it has been. This was accomplished only through the efforts of each man doing his job in the tradition of the battalion, "TO THE LIMIT OF HIS ABILITY."

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to LTC Fischer.

CPT BEAVERS RESCUES 12 ON GAZA STRIP

Cpt Donald Beavers (VanNys, Cal.) recently led a squad of men from Recon into dangerous enemy territory after receiving word that two VC wanted to surrender. The men were being hunted by their former comrades and time was growing short. They were hiding in an area with a high concentration of VC where allied forces had been engaged in contact for the past two months.

CPT Beavers and two Vietnamese officials from the Duc Pho District immediately went out to the area and joined the Recon Platoon. 1LT Warren Waterbury (Ashland, Ky.) and a squad accompanied Cpt Beavers on the mission.

Enroute the men spotted an unknown number of VC, but avoided contact due to the mission. They reached the location of the first man and signaled their presence by firing three shots. The hiding man was a province level propaganda cadre and had concealed himself in a mangrove swamp. He told Cpt Beavers that five VC had just come within 50 meters of his location.

Cpt Beavers interrogated the man and ascertained the location of the second Chieu Hoi, who was the brother-in-law of the cadre member. "We moved out swiftly because time was getting short," said Cpt Beavers. "As we neared a field in the area where the second Chieu Hoi was hiding the first man signaled to us that we were approaching a heavily booby trapped area. We cautiously navigated and just before we reached the second man we sighted five guerrillas and engaged them until they were driven from the area."

"We found the second Chieu Hoi, who had been a VC extortionist. He asked us to take his entire family with us because the VC would kill all ten of them if they were left behind."

Carrying the family's belongings and two small children the men moved as quickly as possible to get out of the area. They then spotted six armed guerrillas in a woodline 500 meters away. They were able to stay ahead of the VC preventing them from cutting off their exit and making it back to the day laager position.

hip to neutralize the threat. The wounded soldier had an automatic weapon and a VC pack that contained items of equipment including several VC uniforms. 1LT Franklin K. Nelson (Arlington, Texas), the new company commander, estimated that the detainee was a VC supply sergeant.

The other three VC managed to escape into the brush and headed towards the mountains, according to Stephens. After calling in a dustoff for the wounded detainee, the men proceeded to check the area.

They found the polished rice, that was processed and ready for consumption, in plastic bags concealed under a foot and a half of loose dirt in a nearby graveyard. The five tone cache was evacuated by helicopter to Duc My for distribution to the people.

CHARLIE CO

NETS NEW CACHE

IN HAMLET NEAR LIZ

Charlie Company found another rice cache and seems to be living up to its nickname of the "Rice Baggers". Earlier this week they uncovered five tons of polished rice in a hamlet north of LZ LIZ after a brief fire fight.

The second squad of the second platoon, led by Sp4 James Stephens (Washburn, Mo.) were reacting to an intelligence report from a security chief in Duc My Province.

The men were joined by a group of Popular Forces who surprised a group of four VC as they entered the village.

The VC opened fire on the men as they tried to escape. Stephens and his squad successfully used fire and maneuver to engage one of the VC guerrillas.

Stephens advanced to within 30 meters of the enemy soldier and fired two shots that hit the VC in the leg and



There will be no more "burrcuts" in the Army according to personnel officers in the Pentagon, unless a soldier volunteers to have his head shaved.

A message sent to all Army commands in advance of a published change to current regulations says, "Degrading or depersonalizing actions, such as requiring the heads of soldiers to be shaved, are forbidden."

The advance change takes the prerogative of determining hair styles away from field commanders. "The choice of hair style is an individual decision," the directive says.

The new Army regulation requires that the hair on the top of the head be neatly trimmed but "will not be cut to within one inch unless the individual specifically makes a request for it to be cut shorter." The maximum length is three inches.

The flare sideburn is out, according to the regulation, but sideburns that are neatly trimmed may extend to the center of the ear canal. The guidelines do not specifically address Afro or any other kind of hair style, but says "the bulk or length of the hair will not interfere with the normal wear of all standard military headgear required in the performance of duty." The sides and back of the hair will be trimmed and evenly tapered, but "not be shaven or excessively clipped, unless specifically requested."

Commanders will have the responsibility of seeing that personnel under their command present "a neat and soldierly appearance." But the acceptability of hair style will have to be judged by the specific criteria detailed in the regulation, rather than at the whim of the local commander.

With the change, the Army grooming regulation will be more explicit than the other services. The Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps all have broad regulations, allowing local commanders leeway to determine exactly what constitutes "neatly and closely trimmed." However, Navy and Marine Corps regulations do say the hair on the top should not be more than three inches in length.

O.K. it is time to face the facts. At any time in the past year have you said something like, "Many today are turning their backs on responsibility and they would rather leave, or even destroy, our American way of life, than help make it work." If you have then answer the question: Have you applied for an absentee ballot so you can vote in your state's primary election? Hopefully you are going to get that ballot



ABSENTEE VOTING..

YOUR VOTE COUNTS..

ONLY IF YOU CAST IT!

After all, you don't want to be guilty of turning your back on your responsibilities and voting, while a right is also one of our foremost responsibilities.

Furthermore, a serviceman or woman who is too lazy or too indifferent to vote is throwing away the precious right. Don't disregard your right to have a voice in your government, whether it be at the federal, state or local level. Be sure to exercise your right to vote.

R & R IN MANILA, PART TWO

CURRENCY

The unit is the Peso (P) divided into 100 centavos (c). The Peso is roughly equivalent to \$0.25. Coins are 1, 5, 10, 25 and 50 centavo (Sentimo) denominations. Free market foreign exchange rate for the U.S. dollar fluctuates between P3.90 to P5.00. Be sure to know the value of your money before leaving the R & R center. Only carry enough money for the day's needs. You can put your money in the safe at the hotel, which are provided for your protection.

CASHING CHECKS

Personal and Cashiers checks up to \$50 may be cashed at the American Embassy or the American Express Bank at Sangley Point Naval Station. There is no limit on U.S. Government checks. Your R & R hotel will re-convert your local currency to U.S. dollars on your day of departure, but only if you initially had your currency at that hotel.

U.S. Savings Bonds can be cashed at the First National City Bank of New York, in either of their two branch offices in down town Manila on Jaun Luna Street or the Port Area branch on Bonifacio Drive. Hours are from 0900 to 1430 hours Monday through Friday.

If your prefer, you can have money wired to you in care of the Red Cross at Sangley Point Naval Station. You will be notified by the R & R Center when the money arrives.

TELEPHONES

Local calls or calls to military bases in the Philippines may be made free of charge at the USO club. The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company handles overseas calls. It will cost \$12 to call any part of the United States for three minutes for a person to person call. A station to station call is also \$12 dollars during the week, but the rates reduce to \$8.90 on Sunday.

TAXICABS AND JEEPNEYS

Taxis charge 20 centavos for the first quarter mile and each additional 250 meters will cost 10 centavos. Fare on taxi meters is pesos, not in dollars and it covers the entire trip. There is no charge per person. Converted jeep-type vehicles called jeepneys, carrying about ten passengers, usually have a charge of 10 centavos per person for any distance on a specified route within the city.

TIPPING

Tipping is not a standard practice except in first-class restaurants. Usually a ten per cent service charge is added to bills at these establishments. It is a custom to leave a tip at your table.

AMERICAN MILITARY FACILITIES AT US NAVAL STATION, SANGLEY POINT

The Naval Exchange is open 0900 to 1700 hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Purchases at the exchange are limited to P10.00 only. Any purchase over that amount will require a merchandise control form available at the R & R Center. There are also Marine and Navy Enlisted Men's Clubs, GPO Club and Officer's Mess.

SHOPPING

Philippine handicrafts are world famous and shopping in Manila is a delight for the curio and souvenir hunter. Girl guides are available at the USO. Local products are very inexpensive and imported items are costly. Things to buy while in Manila include carved wooden ware, brassware, linens and embroideries. Also included on the list are guitars, shell ware, wicker furniture, coral jewelry, silver filigrees and abaca articles. The main shopping center is in the Ermita district of Manila. Many of the souvenir and handicraft shops stay open through the traditional two-hour noon closing and some stay open till 2100. The main shopping street is A. Mabini.

Sgt Clyde C. Shirron has been selected as Sykes' Regulars NOO of the Week. He is the squad leader of Recon's Little John element.

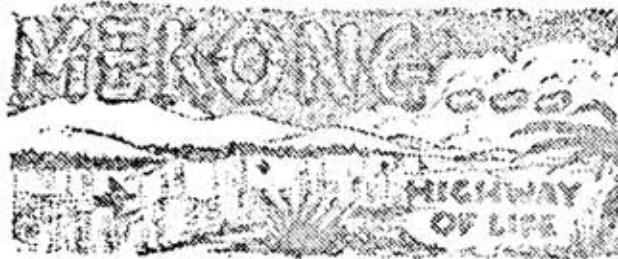
Shirron is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, and will be on his way home in 70 days. He attended the University of Arkansas for two years as a Business major. He plans to complete his education at the University of Arkansas when he ends his present tour in Vietnam.

He had his Basic and AIT training at Ft. Polk, La. He then graduated from NOO School at Ft. Benning, Ga. and completed his OJT phase at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

Battalion CO	LTC Arthur Fischer
Adjutant	LLT James E. Hardy Jr.
Correspondant	SGT Chuck Merdzinski

The REPORTER is published weekly under the supervision of the S-1, HHC, 1st Bn, 20th Inf, 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. AFPS material is used.



The 2,600-mile Mekong River irrigates the largest rice-growing area in the entire world and has been Indochina's major highway in peace and war, according to the National Geographic Society.

Rising in the 16,000-foot-high Tibetan Plateau in China's Tsinghai Province, the Mekong runs 1,100 miles in Tibet and China. For the remaining 1,500 miles in the Lower Mekong Basin, it runs through Laos, Cambodia and the Republic of Vietnam before emptying into the S. China Sea.

Tubling over rapids as it turns and twists through towering mountain gorges, the river is known to the Tibetans as Dza-Chu, or the Water of the Rocks. To the Chinese it is Lan-Tsan Kiang, the Turbulent Water.

The river becomes broader and quieter as it passes through Laos. Laotians and Thais, who live on opposite banks, call it the Mae Nam Khong, the Mother River. Europeans contracted this to Mekong. To Cambodians, it is Tonle Thom, The Big Water. In the Delta, it becomes the Cuu Long Giang, or River of Nine Dragons. Regarding eight as an unlucky number the Vietnamese included a small off-shoot of the river.

In the 12th century, troop carriers sailed up the river from Vietnam into Cambodia seeking foe during a 30-year war between Kambuja and Champa.

With the Chams, or early Vietnamese in 1177, was a foreign adviser. A Chinese mandarin shipwrecked on the Vietnamese coast six years earlier taught the Chams to use a crossbow. Then he led their war fleet up the Mekong to victory over Angkor. The Chams pillaged Angkor and slew its king. His successor then raised an army and defeated the Chams. Angkor was finally destroyed by a Siamese army and the capital moved to Phnom Penh at the junction of the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers on Page _____

ACROSS

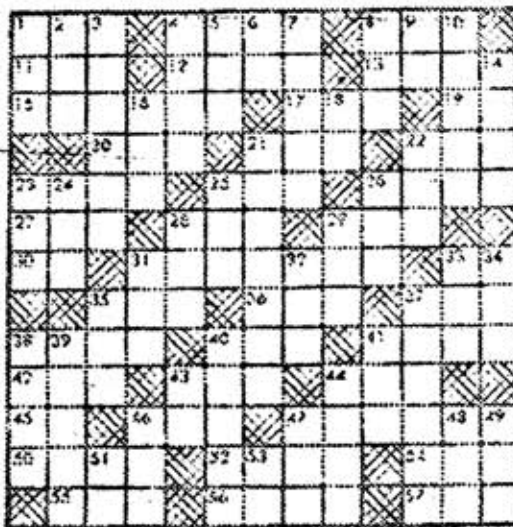
- 1-Chinese pagoda
- 4-Covers
- 8-The self
- 11-Snake
- 12-City in Russia
- 13-Lease
- 15-Rumor
- 17-Organ of hearing
- 19-Prefix: not
- 20-Consumes
- 21-Fondle
- 22-Hawaiian rootstock
- 23-Quarrel
- 25-Short sleep
- 26-Suspend
- 27-Crony (colloq.)
- 28-Torrid
- 29-Three-toed sloths
- 30-Indefinite article
- 31-Fingerless gloves
- 33-Above
- 35-Small rug
- 36-Goal
- 37-Devoured
- 38-Cease
- 40-Bitter vetch
- 41-Solar disk
- 42-In what manner
- 43-Hostelry
- 44-River island
- 45-Part of "to be"
- 46-Emmet
- 47-Ants
- 50-Skillful
- 52-Heroine of "Lohengrin"
- 54-Openwork fabric
- 55-Posed for portrait
- 56-Imprudent
- 57-Period of time

DOWN

- 1-Sailor (colloq.)
- 2-Poor Gym's mother
- 3-Beg
- 4-Civil injury

5-Worthless

- 6-Hebrew letter
- 7-Stumber
- 8-Be mistaken
- 9-Earth goddess
- 10-Vegetable
- 14-Tidy
- 16-Grain
- 18-Near
- 21-Sample
- 22-Dance step
- 23-Resort
- 24-Shallow vessel
- 25-Negative
- 26-Pronoun
- 28-Strike
- 29-Conjunction
- 31-Chart
- 32-Abstract being
- 33-Southwestern Indian
- 34-Writing implement
- 35-Cut
- 37-Be present
- 38-Herringlike fish
- 39-Heavy volumes
- 40-Go in
- 41-Goal
- 43-Preposition
- 44-Oriental nurse
- 46-Unit of Siamese currency
- 47-Worm
- 48-Afternoon party
- 49-Pigpen
- 51-Note of scale
- 53-A state (abbr.)



Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. ©

For Use in Authorized Service Newspapers Only



SPORTS QUIZ

1. Who was the leading scorer in the NFL in 1969?
2. Who was the leading scorer in the AFL in 1969?
3. Who is the all-time grand slam homerun leader in the National league?
4. Which major league operates on an international basis?
5. What team in the NBA missed the playoffs in 1970 for the first time in 14 years?
6. Name the player from South Africa who has starred in the pro golf tours for years.
7. What team established a new NHL record for ties in the 1969 and 1970 season?
8. Name the player whose baseball career was placed in jeopardy through an accident during military training?
9. Who won the small college national basketball title in 1970?
10. Who led the NFL in passing in 1969?
11. Name the winner of the Indianapolis 500 this year.
12. Who was the last pitcher to win 20 games for a last place team?

ANSWERS

1. Fred Cox, Minn. Vik., 121 pt.
2. Jim Turner, NY Jets, 129 pt.
3. Gil Hodges, 14
4. The NHL and the NEL have teams in the US and Canada.
5. The Boston Celtics
6. Gary Player
7. The Phil. Flyers with 24
8. Carlos May, White Sox
9. Philadelphia Textiles
10. Sonny Jurgenson, Washington Redskins.
11. Al Unser.
12. Robin Roberts, 502