

# SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

## 1ST BATTALION 20TH INFANTRY

Volume 3, No. 1

LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

29 January, 1971

### CHARLIE COMPANY SQUAD KILLS

#### DISTRICT CHIEF, WOUNDED SNIPER

While on a reconnaissance patrol recently, the 1st squad of the third platoon of company C had a very profitable day when they killed a new District Chief and wounded the sniper that was accompanying him.

After checking an old railroad bridge which Artillery had been shelling, squad leader Sgt Ronnie Ray (Moore, SC), while walking point, spotted an ammo can in a spider hole. With extreme caution, Sgt Ray moved closer for a better look and decided that it was a booby trap. Pfc George Wendall (Laplata, MD), the squads demolition man, was called forward to apply his skills.

While Pfc Wendall was preparing the charge, Sgt Ray deployed his men along the railroad berm for security. After the charge was placed in the spider hole and detonated, Pfc Wendall was getting his equipment together when Pfc Larry Mueller (Hamburg, Minn) informed the squad leader that he had spotted two VC, one carrying a weapon and a pack, crossing a near by rice paddy.

Sgt Ray immediately positioned his squad along the railroad berm in a hasty ambush emplacement. Pfc Mueller then shouted for the insurgents to stop and was answered with fire from the VC carrying the weapon. Sgt Ray's squad then opened fire with their M-16's and M-60 machinegun and killed one VC and wounded the other as they fled toward a near by tree line.

The squad then moved through the area finding the dead insurgent and his wounded comrade. A dust-off was called  
(cont. pg. 2)

### RECON SQUAD NETS FIVE NVA

While moving through an open area of rice paddies to set up their night ambush a squad sized element of E company's Recon platoon encountered an estimated 30 NVA soldiers moving in their direction.

Reacting to the situation quickly, the squad moved into a hasty ambush emplacement. However, the enemy soldiers spotted the element and opened fire with their automatic weapons.

Immediately, Sp 4 Larry Osborn (Hartsville, Mo), Sgt Dennis M. Dervin (Memphis, TN), Sgt Raymond G. Campbell (Portsmouth, Va.), and Sgt John L. Slabich (Brooklyn, NY) got on line and, with supporting fire from Sgt Ronald F. Sturgill (Alexandria, Va.), Sp 4 Craig H. Goin (Port Angeles, Wa.), Sgt Robert P. Brown (Horseshoe, Ill.), and 1Lt James P. Ellis (Casper, Wyo.), assaulted the enemy that initiated the contact.

Sp 4 Osborn, Sgt Dervin, Sgt Campbell and Sgt Slabich, using their M-16's to put out a heavy volume of fire, repeatedly exposed themselves to heavy enemy fire advance within 15 to 20 meters of the enemy positions.

Due to the aggressiveness of the Recon squad, the enemy was unable to break up its tactical maneuvering and was forced to retreat.

Upon a sweep of the contact area, five dead enemy soldiers, numerous packs and Chicom grenades were found.

### A COMPANY SURPRISES VC

A squad of men from A company surprised a patrol of six to eight VC recently and did very well for themselves.  
(cont. pg. 2)

## KILL SEVEN

While preparing their night defensive position recently, the Recon platoon of E company sighted 15 fully equipped NVA soldiers moving from a heavily overgrown area into a open area. Reacting instantly, 1Lt James Ellis (Cheyenne, WY) and Sgt Rocco Cipriano (Yonkers, NY), who made the initial sighting, called for artillery and gunship support.

Within minutes artillery was pounding the area indicated by the platoon leader and his platoon sergeant. Following a thorough pounding, gunships were called in under the direction of Lt Ellis to work over the area.

Having successfully engaged the enemy, the Recon platoon was then inserted into the area by helicopter.

Upon landing, the men in the first chopper quickly and aggressively began a sweep through the area. After moving about 200 meters, the men encountered an enemy bunker and moved into position to engage it.

While successfully suppressing the enemy, the remaining two groups of men were inserted and also moved up to engage the enemy position. With an extremely heavy base of fire being supplied by the rest of the platoon, Sgt Robert P. Brownlee (Hometown, Ill), Sgt Richard C. Combs (Jeffersonville, Ind), and Sgt Tom M. Day (Metamora, Mich) maneuvered themselves into a position where they could throw hand grenades into the entrance of the bunker. A gunship was called to fire rockets on the bunker. As a result, of this action, two enemy soldiers inside were killed, one M-47 rifle, two packs, and various papers were captured.

Moving from the initial contact area Sgt Ronald F. Sturgill (Alexandria, Va.) spotted a lone NVA soldier and crossed an open area, exposing himself to enemy fire, to engage him and kill him at close range.

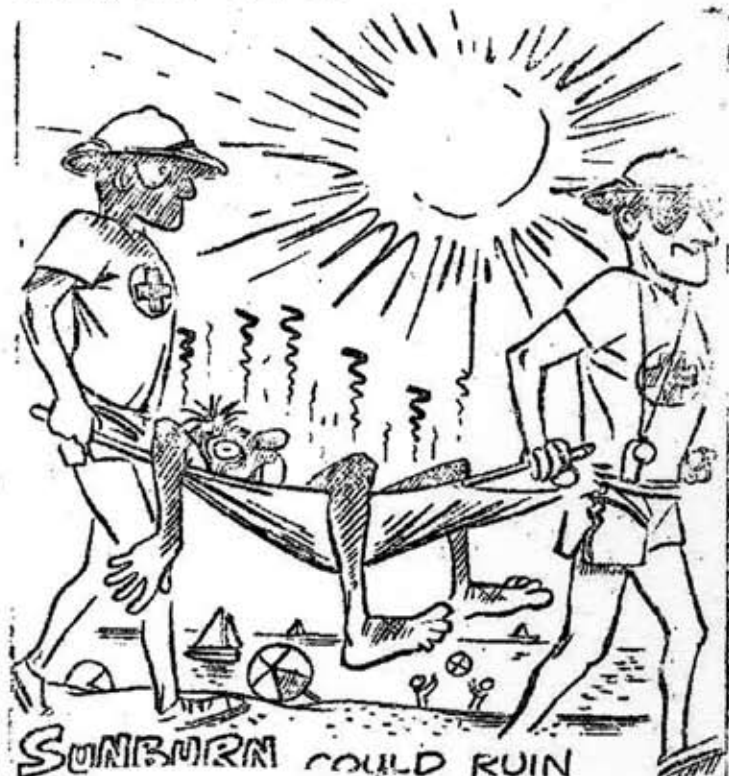
In the meantime, while moving quickly and alertly, Pfc Felipe Borrero-Garcia (Humacao, PR), heard movement to his front. Reacting instantly, he fired his  
(continued pg. 4)

While on a sweep through several villages recently, the third squad of Delta company's first platoon, along with five ARVN soldiers and a MACV Captain, killed one VC soldier.

The action occurred as the squad moved through a village from the east side. Pointman Pfc Fred Curbow (Garrison, Tex.) saw a Vietnamese male, dressed only in a pair of shorts, standing on a berm observing. An ARVN soldier moved to the point and identified the man as a VC.

Immediately, two men were sent around the south side of the village to surround the area. As the squad moved up on the insurgent, a Vietnamese woman shouted a warning to him and he promptly jumped off the berm and into a ditch and started to evade. However, the aggressiveness of the third squad spoiled his attempt as they quickly moved up to engage and kill him before he could escape.

A search of the area produced some freshly washed clothes and, on a nearby trail, a booby trap believed to have been set by the dead VC.



SUNBURN COULD RUIN  
YOU GET YOUR  
TAN GRADUALLY !!

(District Chief cont)

for the wounded man and while waiting for the evacuation helicopter, the wounded man divulged to an interrogator that the dead man was a new District Political Chief who had just taken over two days before, and that he was a sniper. Also learned from the wounded man were locations of 30 to 40 booby traps in the area and more valuable information from documents which the insurgents were carrying.

### DROPS GET SMALLER

The latest word on adjusted DEROS dates was recently put out. Those personnel affected are people who DEROS on the dates listed below.

DEROS or ETS	HOME
MAR.	JAN.
4	25, 26, 27, 28
5	29
6	30
7	31
8	FEB 1
9	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
10	7, 8, 9, 10

To date, the drops are beginning to get smaller and at the present time there is no word to indicate that they will stay smaller or get larger.

### VALOR AWARDS FOR C COMPANY SQUAD

On 18 January, 1971, Major General James L. Baldwin came to Fire Support Base Bronco to present Impact Awards to men of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry's C company.

The men, all members of the first squad of the third platoon, were decorated for their valorous actions on 4 January, 1971, while on a reconnaissance patrol.

AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR VALOR WAS:

SGT RONNIE RAY

AWARDED THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR WERE:

PFC CHARLES E. WOOD

PFC GARY J. MADER

PFC GEORGE T. WENDELL

(A Co. cont)

The squad, led by Sgt Jim Stringfield (Harriman, Tenn) of the third platoon, had just established their night position along a heavily used trail and had set out mechanically detonated claymores about 30 meters from their perimeter. The squad had just settled down and the guard was just beginning when the silence was shattered by the explosion of a claymore.

Immediately, Sp 4 James Crawford (Fort Gibson, Ny) raced to M-60 machinegun and began firing at an object that was laying in the and in the area of the explosion. While Sp 4 Crawford raked the area with M-60 fire, Pfc Robert Fantone (Rochester, Ny.) and Sp 4 Allen Barfield (Houston, Tex) moved up to throw hand grenades into the same area.

As the action continued, other members of the squad saw two to four men, one with a weapon, evading from the area and engaged them with small arms fire.

A call for artillery illumination was put in and while awaiting this "light" the mortar platoon fired for the squad. With light now being provided, Sgt Tom Walker (Paola, Ks.) and Pfc Fantone moved to the area for a look.

Reaching the area, Sgt Walker and Pfc Fantone found the four VC, all appearing to have been killed by small arms fire, various articles of clothing, equipment, and some medical supplies.

In a last attempt to eliminate the evading insurgents, an artillery fire mission was called into the area into which they evaded.

Their actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on them, the 23rd Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

# CHAPLAIN'S

# CORNER

BY CHAPLAIN MERLE D. BROWN

Today the Body of Christ seems to "hurt all over." I suppose no age has been as devastating in criticizing the church as our age. There is pain and we seem powerless in trying to help. The Body of Christ as our own body needs healing in the fellowship of love. We should have the healing of Christ.

Membership in the Body of Christ is not exclusive or selective. "Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—we are all made to drink of the same Spirit," says Paul. The color of ones skin, his economic, social, or cultural status are no criteria for membership in the Body(church) of Christ.

Admittedly we hurt all over. But the wounds would be healed if there were a loving, caring, keeping, forgiving, understanding community of faith. "Behold how they love one another," was the prevailing gossip about the early Christians. Part of loving is caring as expressed in the following verses:

"A friend in everyman's need, He may be  
you, me, black, Indian, Chicano, white  
non-conforming, alienated from God and man,  
on welfare, an unmarried parent, retarded,  
convicted of crime, an alcoholic, on drugs,  
a draft resister, emotionally disturbed,  
physically disabled, aged in body,  
disoriented in mind.

Whoever he is, whatever he may have done,  
he needs a friend, someone to stand alongside him,  
not necessarily condoning or condemning, but one who loves him  
one who cares about him, who brings healing, or a cup of water,  
or himself.

A friend in everyone's need, even the friend needs a friend,  
and finds love given is love received--- a blessing,  
a satisfying of his own need."

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

John 10:10

"The vital words in a Chaplain's vocabulary are not--politics, strategy, or tactics--but sharing, serving, and sustaining. Our primary purpose is..... to support men and women who have left home, comforts and private dreams in answer to the call of the country they call their own."

CHAPLAIN (MAJOR GENERAL) FRANCIS L. SANYSON

## SNEKY DELTA SQUAD

### TRAP VC

The second squad of first platoon of D company moved before day light to set up their lay ambush position. The squad was moving around the southeast side of Big Red when the squad leader, Sgt William Kalua (Halualoa, Hå) halted his men for a break.

In an effort to observe any movement in the area, Sgt Kalua climbed a near by tree for a look. Observing toward the beach, nothing of importance was sighted. However, when he looked in the opposite direction it was a different story.

Sitting along a small stream running through the area were two Vietnamese males who appeared to be fishing. Sgt Kalua alerted his men and they promptly went into action.

The five men of the squad low crawled for about 100 meters and silently moved to within 10 meters of the men before showing themselves. Taking them completely by surprise, they had only time to surrender.

After securing the two VC, a search was made. Found behind some bushes near by were two packs, each containing a hand grenade and some clothing.

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Battalion Commander LTC Thomas W. Brogan  
Adjutant LLT Jerry L. Brown  
Correspondent SP4 Mark L. Cook

RECON continued)

M-16 and killed one NVA soldier with a weapon.

Moving onward, another enemy position was found and the element moved forward to engage it. With extremely effective suppressive fire being laid down by the remainder of the platoon, Sgt Cipriano and Sp 4 John G. Stoll (Bethlehem, Pa) were able to charge the position and kill the soldiers who occupied it.

With the contact now over, Lt Ellis had his men sweep through the area once again. After a thorough search, there were seven dead soldiers found, four credited to Recon and three to artillery and gunships, one M-47 rifle, and various packs.

### IMPACT AWARDS FOR RECON

The men of the Recon platoon of B company were recognized for their valorous actions against a hostile force when Major General James L. Baldwin presented them Impact Awards in ceremonies conducted on 16 January, 1971. The following men were decorated.

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR VALOR WAS PRESENTED TO:

SP 4 LARRY P. OSBORN	SGT ROBERT BROWNE
SGT THOMAS M. DY	SGT RAYMOND BROWN
SGT RICHARD C. COLBS	SGT RONALD STURGILL
SP 4 JOHN G. STOLL	SGT JOHN L. CRABICH
SGT DENNIS M. DEWIN	SGT ROGER CIPRIANO
1LT JAMES P. ELLIS	

THE ARMY COMMENDATION FOR VALOR WAS PRESENTED TO:

SGT DENNIS DEWIN	SGT STEVEN POTES
SGT RONALD STURGILL	SGT EDGAR BEASLY
SGT ROBERT BROWNE	1LT JAMES ELLIS
SGT JAMES EHRHOLT	SP 4 CRAIG GOLD
PFC FELIPE BARRERRO-GARCIA	

Their actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit on them, the 23rd Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

The REPORTER would like to extend it's congratulations for a job well done.

(Two KIA'S cont)

The area that two insurgents had evaded from was thoroughly searched and one Chicom grenade was found. The two lead insurgents each carried small notebooks and one of them was dressed in a NVA uniform.

#### CHARLIE COMPANY AWARDS

In awards ceremonies conducted at the stanlow area, the following individuals of C company were decorated by LTC Thomas W. Brogen, commander of the 1st Battalion 20th Infantry.

AWARDED THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (1st O.K LEAF CLUSTER) FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WERE:

SGT BILLY ANDERSON  
SP4 RICHARD BEGEL  
SP4 WAYNE KETTLER  
SP4 DONNIE RICH

AWARDED THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT WERE:

1LT WALTER TUCKER  
SP4 ROYAL VANNATTA  
SP4 CARL MC CLAFFERTY  
SP4 CHARLES BUCK  
PFC GEORGE CAPPEL  
SP4 MICHAEL FERRIER  
PFC ROY OTIS  
PFC BEN WILSON  
PFC JOHN WOODARD  
SGT JESSE CRANK

AWARDED THE COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE WERE:

1LT DAVID HODGES  
1LT MICHAEL KOSAKOWICH  
1LT RONALD SABLIS  
SFC BURWOOD PARAZORE  
SSG CLIFTON BLACKWELL  
SSG ANDREW ADAMS  
SGT JEFFERY FACOT  
SP4 BRIAN ASTEM  
SP4 HUMBERTO BUTCHER  
SP4 EARL LEWIS  
PFC LEE DENISON  
PFC KENNETH CONAWAY  
PFC CARL YATES  
PFC LARRY GREENE

(continued pg 7)

#### BROGO COMPANY C.P.'S KILL

#### TWO, CAPTURE WEAPONS

Company B was leaving the field for retraining and refitting on LZ LIZ. All elements, with the exception of the main C.P. and second platoon C.P. had been extracted and those were just being picked up when Sharks flying security for them saw and engaged a group of VC in a woodline.

The two elements were then reinserted into the "hot" contact area to finish the action that the Sharks had initiated.

Once on the ground, 1Lt Frank Korona (Uniontown, Pa) deployed his squad sized element into a good defensive position and then began an assault on the wooded area where the Sharks had worked out. Approaching the wood line, Lt Korona's men received heavy automatic weapons fire.

The squad, consisting of 1Lt Thomas Glover, Sp4 Peter Bradt, PFC [unclear], Pfc Leonard Smith, Pfc [unclear], Sp4 John [unclear], Pfc Steve Spieth, and PFC [unclear], layed down a heavy volume of fire and was successful in silencing the enemy weapons and enabled their advancement. Crossing the wood line two dead insurgent with weapons, killed in the initial contact of the gunships, were found. However, more VC, also with weapons, had been wounded by the advancing element were now trying to crawl away.

Lt Korona and his men seeing these fleeing insurgents immediately opened up on them, mortally wounding one, while the other still attempted to crawl. Lt Korona then fired an accurate, deadly burst from his M-16 to kill the remaining VC.

As the contact ended, Lt Korona had the area searched with the results being four VC killed in action, three M-47 rifles captured in action, one M-50 rifle captured in action, and numerous Chicom grenades and AK magazines captured in action.

The gunship support from the security choppers were credited with two of the KIA's.



1990-1991  
1991-1992  
1992-1993

1993-1994  
1994-1995  
1995-1996