

SYKES

REGULARS

REPORTER



1ST BATTALION



20TH INFANTRY

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LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

November 12, 1969

CHARLIE CO. CAPTURES FOUR VC

Without having fired a shot, Charlie Co.'s 3d Squad, 3d Platoon, led by a squad leader on his first mission, surprised and captured four Viet Cong recently, five miles northwest of Duc Pho.

Staff Sergeant Wayne Cook (Knoxville, Tenn.) led his ten-man squad through a treeline enroute to its ambush site, when the point man, PFC Harry Rhine (Lackeyville, Pa.), suddenly found himself face to face with a VC, 10 yards away. The VC apparently assessed the situation, deciding that the odds weren't in his favor. So he threw his hands in the air, and the men tied him up before settling into their ambush site.

They didn't see any more movement that night and were returning to their fire-base the next morning with their captive when they spotted another VC clad in a green uniform and squatting down near the treeline.

"He jumped up and ran into a bunker. We tried to flush him out with some hand frags, but that didn't work. So we threw in some smoke grenades," explained PFC Robert Phillops (Brewer, Me.). After a number of various grenades were expended in the bunker, a VC emerged, coughing and sputtering.

"But he wasn't the one we were after. This guy was wearing a tan shirt, and the one we had spotted was in a green uniform," said PFC Don Townsend (Baltimore), the squad's grenadier.

They kept up their persuasive tactics until yet another VC came gagging out of the bunker. But still, no green uniform.

Finally, SFC Angel Delacruz (Honolulu), who had flown to the site in the battalion's Charlie-Charlie, grabbed one of the VC and entered the bunker armed with a .45 calibre pistol. He found the enemy sitting in a cubby hole with his discarded uniform next to him on the floor.

St. Vincent's thought for the day: a stone without a purpose is merely a rock.

THEY PRATTLE IN POLISH

The pitched and varied tones of the Vietnamese language have most of us baffled, but at least it's possible to master the term "no bic." However, if you're around SP/4 Joe Wrzesinski (Chicago) and SP/5 Dennis Wisniowski (Dunelle, N.J.), you'd better learn how to say "nye rozumia."

Both "Skis" are fluent in the Polish language, and when they met for the first time the other night they flew into a guttural dialogue that immediately excluded everyone else from the conversation. Neither had encountered anyone who spoke Polish since they entered the Army.

Wisniowski, assigned to the Recon Platoon, left Poland five years ago where he attended technical school. After a stop-over in Canada, his family settled in New Jersey where he worked at an auto center specializing in foreign cars.

Wrzesinski lived in W. Germany until he was eight-years-old, when his Polish-speaking family moved to Chicago. He attended Wright Jr. College in Carbondale, Ill., and then worked as a product engineer for Automatic Electric.

Both possess extensive language capabilities. Wrzesinski speaks German as well as Polish and does pretty well with English, too, in his job as the battalion commander's ETO. Wisniowski, besides Polish, also speaks German, Russian, and Ukrainian.

You bic?

SSG McDONALD IS "NCO OF THE WEEK"

Staff Sergeant William McDonald (Jamestown, Tenn.) is the Sykes' Regulars' "NCO of the Week," for the week of Nov. 5-11. On his second tour in Vietnam, he is currently serving as Field First for Delta Co. In his previous tour he was an FO for 81mm and 4.2 mortars with the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi, 25 miles northwest of Saigon.

SSG McDonald is married and has a two-year-old son. In his last assignment before joining the 1-20 he was a Drill Sergeant at Ft. Benning

CHARLIE COMPANY

SYKES' REGULARS IN PRODUCTIVE WEEK

Action in the Sykes' Regulars' TAOR was moderately light this week as the battalion reported sporadic incidents of contact and accounted for 1,400 pounds of rice confiscated, five Viet Cong captured, and seven VCS detained.

The morning of Nov. 3, Delta Co.'s 1st Platoon fired on an evading VC/NVA, who dropped in a river, four miles west of Duc Pho. The men searched for the body and the weapon the enemy was carrying, but were unable to find anything. That afternoon, a Warlord team spotted a trench line and punji pits in the Gaza Strip and fired on a VC/NVA who evaded into a tunnel. The Cobras put fire on the site but were unable to confirm any results. That night, Bravo Co. reported that one of its elements exchanged fire with an unknown size enemy force, two hundred meters from its position, but the contact yielded negative results.

Early Tuesday morning, Nov. 4, Bravo Co. returned mortar fire on the enemy, who had been firing RPGs and small arms on the friendly position. No results could be confirmed, however. Charlie Co. fired on a VC/NVA wearing a poncho, but he evaded north of its position. Later in the morning, Bravo Co.'s 2d Platoon picked up a military age VCS male, who the Vietnamese said was VC.

That afternoon, Charlie Co., working in the Highway 515 Valley, destroyed a tunnel complex some thirty feet in depth with bamboo air entrances running into it. Alpha Co., turned in three VCS to MI for questioning. That night, Bravo Co. reported three separate incidents of contact, but no results could be determined.

Two days later, Alpha Co. detained a 40-year-old VCS, who the interpreter said was VC. He was carrying some definitely incriminating documents. In the afternoon, the Recon Platoon confiscated 600 pounds of rice, five miles north of Duc Pho.

The next morning, Nov. 7, Delta Co. uncovered an 800 pound rice cache hidden in the floor of a hooch. The men also picked up an AK-47 ammo pouch with a round in it. Bravo Co. captured a 25-year-old VC after contact with the enemy, six miles north of Duc Pho.

The morning of Nov. 8, Recon checked out the area in front of its claymores, fired the previous night, and found blood trails and a poncho liner. A search revealed no further results. In the late

Five Sykes' Regulars were awarded Silver Stars in a ceremony held this week in the hamlet of Van Truong on the Red Ball, three miles north of Duc Pho.

Maj. Gen. Bowman, commander of the 3d Marine Amphibious Force, presented the awards to Capt. Dennis Newbury (Youngstown, O.), 1LT William H. Vincent (Colum-

bus, O.), 1LT Richard L. Gibson (Independence, Mo.), SP/4 James E. Fox (Hollywood, Fla.), and SP/4 William C. Phillips (Portland, Ore.). 1LT Vincent also received a Bronze Star for service.

Brig. Gen. Cooksey, acting division commander, was present at the ceremony.

FIVE ENEMY KIAs AND ONE FRIENDLY WIA ON LZ

Hooch #44 on LZ Liz obtained information from unidentified intelligence sources recently that the enemy was conducting food-carrying operations in its TAOR.

The four men assigned the task of providing security for the hooch heard enemy movement as they were settling into their night encampment.

"We had a fairly good idea where they were coming from," said SGT Joe McMurray (Glens Falls, N.Y.), resupply NCO for the South CP. "There was a hole not too far from where I was sleeping, so we decided to set a trap near it."

For two nights the men sprung their well laid traps and reported two enemy KIAs the first night and three the second.

"We use cheese for bait if we can get it. Tootsie Rolls are good, too," explained SP/4 Ron Peterson (Billings, Mont.), a TOC duty NCO.

The friendly WIA? Peterson got his finger caught in the mouse trap.

TO THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY

SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

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