

# SYKES REGULARS

## REPORTER



1ST BATTALION

20th INFANTRY

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LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

December 17, 1969

### ALPHA CO. CONFIRMS NINE

Alpha Company's 2d Platoon, working with an element of the CP and four men from the 106th PF Platoon, routed an enemy stronghold this week, west of Liz, and confirmed nine enemy either killed or captured.

The platoon was on a search mission in the Highway 515 Valley when the point man of the left file, PFC Frank Wootan (Fairfax, Okla.), spotted a VC, evading into a hedgerow. The men followed him and came upon a trail leading to a tunnel, which they blew with a charge of C-4.

After an initial probe of the tunnel by one of the PF troops, Wootan and PFC Tom Thieson (Climbing Hills, Iowa) entered and spotted a VC lying wounded on the floor.

"Then another VC from the back of the tunnel threw a ChiCom at us. It blew us against a wall and I turned around, threw a frag back and fired my M-16. Then we scrambled out," explained Wootan.

The Charlie-Charlie was flown in and unloaded some 43-pound cratering charges. 33G Nguyen Hoa, the battalion interpreter, attempted to get the enemy inside to Chieu Hoi, but when they refused to comply, Hoa told a Vietnamese detainee picked up in the area to enter the tunnel and explain to the enemy exactly what the situation was.

The detainee then brought out the wounded VC as well as two AK-47s and a carbine. Three more enemy followed and said five of their comrades had been killed by the initial blast.

The platoon also uncovered two radios and a medical kit in the mission.

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TO THE  
LIMIT OF  
OUR ABILITY  
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### OPERATION WARMTH

Delta Company's 2d Platoon seems to have made some friends in Dayton, Ohio. For the past two weeks, the men have received a deluge of mail from people in the Dayton area who have become interested in starting a personal relationship with the guys over here.

About three weeks ago, the Dayton Daily News initiated "Operation Warmth" and ran an article listing the names and addresses of the men in the platoon. Since then, they have averaged nearly five letters a day from a variety of families and individuals--clergymen, lawyers, secretaries, school children, nurses, and coeds.

Some of the correspondents have included pictures, and all seem to be very much concerned with the welfare of the men in the field and are doing their part to foster the men's morale.

Little Lisa Henderson, a 13-year-old from Fettering, Ohio, wrote a touching Christmas letter to SP/4 Don Criss (Evans, Colo.), typical of the spirit of "Operation Warmth."

"I wanted to write this to thank you for being over in Vietnam and fighting for our country. Please write back and Merry Christmas--your friend, Lisa."

Undoubtedly, the operation has proved to be successful. SP/4 Rich Karakis (Cicero, Ill.) explained the men's response to letters from Dayton. "We're trying to answer them all, and, of course, we certainly appreciate their concern. It's a great idea."

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# CHARLIE COMPANY

## SPORADIC ACTIVITY DURING RAINY WEEK

Alpha Co. monopolized the most significant action this week by reducing enemy strength by nine personnel, but the Sykes' Regulars as a whole reported five enemy killed, five captured, three weapons confiscated, and eight Vietnamese detained for interrogation.

Delta Co. began the week by detaining one Vietnamese civilian for questioning, Dec. 9.

The next morning, Bravo's 2d Platoon picked up a 26-year-old detainee with no ID. Charlie Co's 2d Platoon picked up three detainees who were swimming in the Song Cau in an attempt to evade a sweep by Bravo Co. None of the detainees had IDs and one was carrying a green uniform. The same day, Delta's 3d Platoon found a bear trap-type booby trap inside a hooch.

Dec. 11, Bravo's Ranger Squad detained a civilian, strongly suspected to be VC. The company's 1st Platoon picked up another Vietnamese who attempted to evade, was wounded, and decided to Chieu Hoi.

Later that evening, the Rangers captured a VC inside the company's perimeter. He was found hiding in a bunker containing a substantial quantity of explosives.

### SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

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## SGT ROCKWELL IS "NCO OF THE WEEK"

SGT Howard E. Rockwell, Delta Co.'s Mortar Platoon Sergeant, is the Sykes' Regulars' "NCO of the Week" for the week of Dec. 10-16. He has been with Delta for seven months and served with the 2d Platoon for two months before joining the mortarman.

SGT Rockwell hails from the leafy little village of Danisport, Mass., a cozy town tucked away above Hyannis on Cape Cod.

He holds a degree from East Coast Aeronautical Tech in Lexington, Mass., and worked for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft as an aeronautical technician in Hartford, Conn., before entering the service.

### YOU BETTER SHOW UP, PETERSON!

When duty called on a Sykes' Regular recently, he felt unable to comply with his obligation.

SP/4 John T. Peterson, the battalion's Awards Clerk, received a letter from the Los Angeles County Court House telling him to appear for jury duty.

"I got a note with the jury duty papers saying that if I didn't show up I'd better have a pretty good reason," explained Peterson, who has four months yet to serve in Vietnam.

