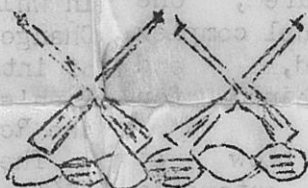


# SYKES REGULARS



1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION

## REPORTER



20<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY

Volume 1, No. 15

LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

December 21, 1969

### SYKES' REGULARS

Upon my departure from this command, it is appropriate that I pay special tribute to those SYKES' REGULARS who are, today, offering faithful service to our country. I am proud to have had the privilege to command men who are living up to the proud traditions established by our predecessors.

Your total effort in the support of my orders has been a team effort with each man displaying a steadfast devotion to duty, "TO THE LIMIT OF HIS Ability."

Each of you have, by professional performance in battle, been aggressive when it was required, yet you have displayed restraint when the pacification situation required it. You have taken no nonsense from the enemy, yet you have shown an understanding of the innocent civilians of South Vietnam. Valor has been a common trait among you, as attested to by the many awards presented

to men of our command and by the deeds of those who left their blood mingled in the soil of this land. By your obvious disciplined pride and enthusiasm in belonging to SYKES' REGULARS you have brought honor to the JUNGLE WARRIORS and you have earned the respect and admiration of your AMERICAN comrades.

I charge each of you to never tarnish your image by some careless or irresponsible act.

I bid you farewell; MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR; and may God bless the "finest bunch of Grunts in this man's Army."

*Robert E. Wilson*  
ROBERT E. WILSON  
LTC, Inf  
Commanding



PRODUCTIVE WEEK FOR SYKES' REGULARS

Although the Sykes' Regulars experienced light contact this week, the battalion effectively kept the enemy off balance throughout the AO and registered one enemy killed and four captured, one automatic rifle captured, a tunnel complex and an enemy basecamp uncovered, and eight Vietnamese civilians detained for interrogation.

Dec. 15, Delta Co. struck a blow at enemy firepower by finding an automatic rifle stashed in a hedgerow and a large cache of ammunition, three miles southwest of Liz. Included in the ammo cache were 1800 rounds of automatic rifle rounds, 500 rounds of machine gun ammo, and some grenades. The men also found some polished rice, canned food, and two pairs of NVA pants.

The next day, Dec. 16, Bravo Co.'s 1st Platoon fired on three evading VC. The contact resulted in one enemy dead and two wounded. Two Vietnamese detainees were also picked up in the area.

Recon captured a VC the following day in the same area. He was carrying a poncho and some time fuse.

The next day, four miles south of Liz, Charlie Co. destroyed a tunnel complex with an entrance some 15-20 feet deep.

Dec. 20, Bravo Co. reported one enemy captured and three civilians detained for interrogation.

Charlie Co., however, accounted for the day's most significant action. The 1st Platoon destroyed a barge booby trap attached to some bamboo strips. The device was set up with a blasting cap and a TNT booster for detonation. In the same area, about three miles south of Liz, the platoon found 300 rounds of machine gun ammo.

Meanwhile, the company's 2d Platoon made two significant discoveries a mile to the south. In the first find, the men uncovered 10 rounds of carbine ammo, two sand bags of rice, and what appeared to be a factory for making blasting caps. The platoon then went on to uncover an enemy base camp consisting of solidly constructed bunkers and fighting positions. The men found signs that indicated that the enemy had vacated the site not more than a couple of hours prior to the platoons arrival.

A BIT OF THE BATTALION'S HISTORY

The battalion we serve in has a history both unique and fascinating, yet few men within the command are aware of its origins or the well known campaigns in which it has participated. As the Change of Command approaches, it may be of interest to know some of the battalion's history prior to its deployment to the Republic of Vietnam in 1967.

The SYKES' REGULARS originated in 1861 under the direction of President Abraham Lincoln and during the Civil War was known as the 2d Battalion, 11th Infantry under the command of General Sykes' Division of Regulars.

After the war, the unit was redesignated the 20th Infantry Regiment and General Sykes selected the regiment for his own command. It served in the Indian wars of the American Western Expansion era and fought in the Battles of the Little Big Horn.

The SYKES' REGULARS subsequently saw action throughout the world and was active in the South American War, the Phillipine Insurrection, both World Wars, and the Korean Conflict. Some of the unit's major involvements have been in the battles of Caney and San Juan Hill, Manila, New Guinea, Lone Tree Hill, Luzon, and the Purple Heart Valley, which is said to be one of bloodiest battlegrounds in the world.

To date, the battalion has earned the Presidential Unit Citation, Three Distinguished Unit Citations and two Meritorious Unit Citations, and seven of its men have been awarded Congressional Medals of Honor.

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SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

Battalion Commander LTC Robert Wilson  
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The REPORTER is an authorized publication supervised by the Administrative Section, JJC, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army.

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