

SYKES REGULARS

REPORTER



1ST BATTALION

20TH INFANTRY

Vol. 1, No. 17

VIETNAM

January 6, 1970

SFC BATTLE IS NOO OF THE WEEK

The SYKES' REGULARS' NOO of the Week for the week of Dec. 30-Jan. 5 is SFC Fred L. Battle of Clarksville, Tenn. He is currently the platoon sergeant of Delta Co.'s 1st Platoon and has been with the company since Nov. 27th.

He is no newcomer to combat in Vietnam, having spent a previous tour with the 1st Airborne Division as a rifle squad leader of Co. B, 2nd Bn, 327th Inf, 1st Bde.

SFC Battle is married, and prior to joining the 1-20 was one of those Drill Instructors at the U.S. Army Training Center at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

DONUT DOLLIE DEROSSES

Short, dark-haired Carolyn Koppel (Youngstown, Ohio) has left for home after spending a year in South Vietnam as a Donut Dollie. She spent her last five months in-country with the AMERICAN DIVISION, visiting the men on its firebases.

Carolyn made a special effort every week to make it to Liz. Although she was kept busy in Chu Lai as the Program Director for the Donut Dollies there, she managed to get out to the 1-20 just about every Monday and usually showed up with either Tee Johnson (Picayune, Miss.) or Laurel Mader (Chicago), both of whom are still here.

One of her cohorts described her as being "vivacious, friendly, fun, open-minded, warm, generous, expressive, understanding, likeable, easy to talk to, anxious to do things, and willing to help

With those credentials, I'm sure we're all sorry to see her go.

TO THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY

OUR CANINE COMPANY

The SYKES' REGULARS have a number of prominent figures in their midst, none of whom wear stripes, get paid, or pull details. They are the unsung, unheralded heroes of the battalion. They are Vietnamese indigenous dogs.

In the field, the little fawn-colored canines can be seen scampering everywhere, usually with the children. In the battalion's rear area and on Liz, the dogs are hooch-hold pets, cared for and fed by the men who have adopted them.

Among the celebrities in the rear are Brenda, the mascot of the Mess Hall. She gained battalion-wide fame last October when the cooks ripped up the dining hall floor boards to rescue her and her pups from a flashflood during the heavy rains. Tiny is another of the rear dogs, attached to commo, and recently produced a litter of seven pups.

Alpha Co. and the S-1 shop share the attentions of Tripper, probably the friskiest of all the dogs in the rear. He snaps, yelps, and even growls.

Nervous in the Service is the Top Kick dog for S-1. He's the watchdog for the battalion's files and often volunteers for day bunker guard. He occasionally disappears for days at a time and a battalion spokesman has hinted that during his sorties he acts in a TDY capacity as an undercover agent, ferreting information from his canine contacts in the field.

The battalion's ranking dog, Fletcher, is stationed on Liz, however. He makes a daily round of the hill, inspecting the bunker line, the latrines, hooches, and occasionally supervises the night operations in TOC. According to his 201 file, he has been on Liz since the French were here in the early 1950's.

Although he is often accused of being FLETCHER continued on next page

CHARLIE COMPANY

SHORT SPORTS REPORT by 3SG Tom Ebert

ACTIVITY LIGHT IN 1-20's AO

With the close of the 1969 college football season, millions of football fans find themselves in the same boat as at the beginning of the season: without a true football king, a team that is unquestionably the Number 1 team in the nation.

The two major polls, AP and UPI, have crowned Texas as the best, but ask anyone in Pennsylvania, Ohio, or California who the greatest is, and you get three more champs--Ohio State, Penn State, and Southern Cal. It makes a person wonder just how accurate the wire polls are.

The people who selected the nation's best in the final poll are the same ones who put Michigan State, Air Force, South Carolina, and Georgia in the pre-season top 15. Try to find them now in the top 35.

The final poll doesn't provide any more accuracy. For example, Texas, the mythical national champs, beat Notre Dame by only 4 points. Purdue, ranked 18th, beat the 5th rated Fighting Irish by 14 points. Purdue lost to Michigan, No. 9, by 11, and Michigan State beat Michigan by 7. Michigan State lost to Ohio State, No. 4, by 26 points, and Ohio State lost to Michigan by 12 points. This means that Michigan State should be able to beat Texas by at least 15 points. Rather hard to believe, but that's our present poll system in action.

Until a play-off similar to the pro's can be arranged to determine the National Title, we will have to go with the opinion system, and with no less than 7 organizations crowning national champs, we will sometimes find two champs in the same year (1966-- Michigan State/Notre Dame). So with everybody getting into the act, the REPORTER will make it's top 20 team list for 1969.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Texas | 11. Nebraska |
| 2. Ohio State | 12. Purdue |
| 3. Penn State | 13. Florida |
| 4. Southern Cal | 14. UCLA |
| 5. Arkansas | 15. Houston |
| 6. Mississippi | 16. Tennessee |
| 7. Missouri | 17. Stanford |
| 8. Notre Dame | 18. Auburn |
| 9. Michigan | 19. Toledo |
| 10. Louisiana State | 20. Colorado |

Activity was relatively light in the battalion's AO this week as the SYKES' REGULARS detained 16 Vietnamese civilians and one VC, and uncovered two enemy tunnel complexes.

Dec. 29th, Bravo Co. picked up a 25-year-old Vietnamese civilian, no ID, who was found near a tunnel concealed by bamboo and straw. In action on the Gaza Strip, Alpha Co. found a freshly dug grave containing the body of a VC. The company spotted five VC evading from the area, and wounded and detained one of them.

Dec. 30th, Alpha and Bravo turned in a total of ten civilians for questioning. One of the detainees was picked up near where a firing device was found along with two ammo cans containing .51 calibre and AK47 brass. Meanwhile, an element of ARVN's from the North Bridge picked up a VC carrying a Thompson sub-machinegun.

New Year's Day and the day following were relatively quiet. Jan. 3d, however, Bravo's 1st Platoon uncovered a 900-pound rice cache, and the PFs working with the company's 3d Platoon detained two civilians found in an area into which two VC, packing weapons, had evaded. Charlie Co.'s 1st Platoon found an enemy tunnel complex, which the men blew with shape charges. The company also detained a 35-year-old civilian with no ID, and who had pack-strap marks on his shoulders.

Jan. 4th, Bravo and Charlie each detained one civilian for interrogation.

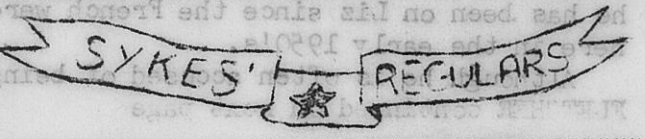
evil Jas. SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

Battalion Commander LTC Arthur Fischer
REPORTER OIC CPT Edward Mullen
REPORTER NCOIC 3SG Tom Ebert

Correspondent SF/4 Toby Prodggers
The REPORTER is published weekly under the supervision of the Administrative Section, HHC, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, APO 96217 as an authorized publication. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army.

FLETCHER continued
devoid of personality, he does his job coolly and efficiently, and doesn't feel he has to prove himself to the troops by making the effort to eat the steaks they put in front of his nose. He makes a point of never walking more than ten feet at a time, and never yelps, growls, or barks.

In short, Fletcher cleverly masks his brooding intellect and ferociousness. He's content in letting us all deceive ourselves in thinking he's just another dumb dog.



COMMANDER IN CHIEF PRESENTS THE PROBLEM AND ASKS OUR HELP CONCERNING DRUGS

The following is an excerpt taken from a speech made by President Nixon at a recent Governors' Conference concerning the problem of drugs:

...I am going to use statistics that are deliberately cautious but which certainly can be sustained by any reasonable objective observance, the number of people in the United States who use marijuana is 8 million. The number of people who use heroin--and when they use it, that means they will not be able to get off of its use--is 180,000.

But now putting it in another dimension, the number of people of college age who use marijuana, or have used it, is one-third of all the college students of the Nation. The number of students of high school age who have used marijuana is 16 percent.

Now let's look at where those various groups break down. There has been sort of a general thought that so far as drugs were concerned, we find them in the ghettos, among the deprived, those who are depressed and turn to drugs as a last resort. That may have once been the case. It is not the case today.

The prime concern, as far as drugs, has moved to the upper middle class, those families who have better opportunities than others who have less of this world's goods. Consequently, we see that the problem is not limited to any region of the country or any segment of the society. It hits the young as well as the old and is indeed a national problem.

Now, what is its effect? Here we get some arguments. There are those who say marijuana has perhaps as little effect as alcohol has, and that all depends on the quantity in either case.

There are others who point out that when we start with marijuana, then the inevitable result is to move on to LSD or whatever provides the bigger thrill, until eventually the individual moves to heroin, or the so-called hard narcotics, from which there is no recovery. But we do know from hard statistics. I notice that Mayor (Walter) Washington is here from Washington, D.C., who has major responsibilities. We were talking about the problem of robberies in the city the other day, and it is interesting to note that over half of the robberies in the city are committed by people who are addicted to drugs, which indicates either cause or effect, or both. Whether one leads to the other or vice versa is not really material to the point. There is a direct relationship in one way or the other.

We can also go further in terms of that effect. In the City of New York alone, I was looking at some statistics that were presented by Mr. (Daniel P.) Moynihan, and in one week 100 people

died in the City of New York because of over doses of drugs, heroin or some other types. That is an indication of what drugs can do.

But let's put it in another broader, more important dimension. When we look to the history of civilization that have turned on a broad, general basis to drugs, and particularly when that affliction reaches the leader classes of these civilizations, those civilizations inevitably lose their spirit. They go down. They are destroyed. This is what happened.

The question is, is it going to happen to America? We have many problems in this country--material problems, problems we will deal with in this conference. We will deal with problems of the environment and other problems that can be dealt with in a material way. But when the spirit of the people is destroyed, it is almost impossible to restore that spirit.

There is not any question but that when drug addiction becomes a national malady, affecting all segments of the population, that there is the danger that the spirit of the nation may certainly be impaired.

I have learned a lot in these presentations. I must say that when we first started, I thought the answer was more penalties. I thought that the answer was simply enforce the law and that will stop people from the use of drugs. But it is not that.

When you are talking about 13-year-olds and 14-year-olds and 15-year-olds, the answer is not more penalties. The answer is understanding.

It is very important to be quite precise, to distinguish between marijuana and LSD and heroin so that we will be able to make the case against each, on the facts as they are, rather than on the facts as we thought they were before we received the knowledge which we are going to receive in this briefing today.

We are glad that all of you are here so that we can get the facts, and so that all of us can go back to our communities and be able to wage a campaign of information and education that will reach all of the people in the States of the Nation, because that campaign of education and information, in my opinion is probably more important than the criminal penalties.

That is part of the process. But when you get to the point that you have to apply criminal penalties to users and dispensers of drugs, then the damage has already been done. What we are trying to do is get at it before that point. We ask your assistance in that.