

# SYKES REGULARS

1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION 20<sup>TH</sup> INF



Volume 1, Number 23

LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

February 19, 1970

## VERTICAL BUTT STROKE AND HOLD!!

SOUTH BRIDGE, QL1---In a brief, point-blank encounter with a small band of VC guerillas just north of Duc Pho, one of Bravo Co.'s soldiers took a direct hit in the chest by an automatic rifle round fired by a VC five feet in front of him. Having run out of ammo, SF/4 Abelardo Loya (Weslaco, Tex.) then charged the VC and put him out of the fight with a couple of swift butt strokes to the head.

The action began early one morning this week when the company's 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon was on a long-range patrol sweeping south of the Tra Cau River near LZ Bronco. LLT Russell Dandridge (Rockville, Va.), leading the patrol, stopped his men for a short break and posted Loya and PFC Donald Lunsford (Georgetown, Tex.) on the squad's left flank.

The two men moved off to the left down a small trail when they broke through a dense

hedgerow in the undergrowth. On the other side of the hedgerow were four VC guerillas who had just been supplied with their morning meal.

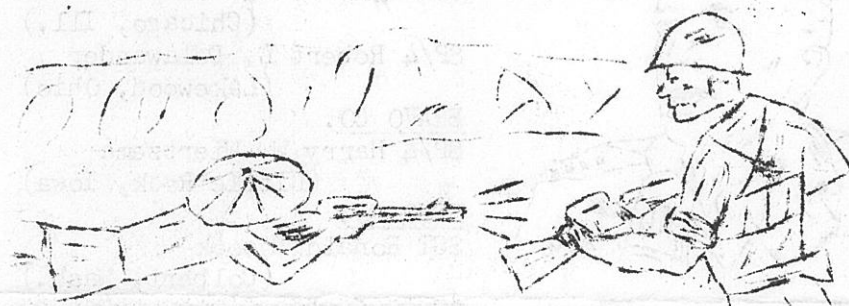
"We walked right up on them, and they were as surprised as we were. They opened up on us from about 15 feet away, and we started firing," explained Lunsford.

Two of the VC managed to evade, but Lunsford dropped one who was running to his left. Loya was also directing his fire to the left when he turned to his front and encountered the remaining VC who was in the prone position firing at him from point-blank range.

"I hit him in the right arm, and he dropped his rifle. Then he picked it up and started firing again. I pulled the trigger of my M-16, and it just 'clicked.' I knew I was out of ammo, but there was no place to go, so all I could do was keep moving toward him," Loya recalled.

Firing constantly, the VC hit Loya in the chest from five feet away, but the round smashed through the two belts of M-60 machinegun ammo he was carrying and impacted against the bandolier of M-16 magazines he was wearing around his chest.

"He kept on firing, but (LOYA continued on page 3)



## THE OLD "HIDE THE DUMMY IN THE BED" TRICK

VAN TRUONG---One night this week, an alert assistant hamlet security chief broke up an intricate VC sapper plan to assassinate him and infiltrate the Allied compound on Highway One, two miles north of Duc Pho. His actions also lead to the detention of 8 VC, and he did it all with the old "hide the dummy in the bed" trick.

Mr. Vo Dinh Khoi, assistant security chief of Van Truong hamlet where Bravo Co. bases its pacification operations, was lying in bed in a house with two Popular Self Defense Force (PSDF) soldiers.

Pretending to be asleep, he heard a VC sapper enter the house and tell the two soldiers that he was going to assassinate Mr. Khoi. He then attempted to threaten them into confiscating as many weapons from the Allies as they could find.

The sapper planned to kill Mr. Khoi with a grenade implanted under his bed. The explosion would be the signal for other sappers already in the perimeter wire to begin a two-fold operation. First, a sapper platoon position on the north side of the compound were to engage Bravo's 1st Platoon, and another group of sappers along the highway to the west were to slip inside the wire, destroy the company's mortar position, and then sweep east through the compound.

Mr. Khoi overheard the sapper's plan to assassinate him and then crept out of the house after placing a bundle of clothes in his bed to deceive the VC. He watched the VC check the bed on two occasions while waiting until the preplanned time to strike.

Alert to the presence of other sappers in the area, one of the PSDF soldiers heard a faint noise in the wire by the highway. Mr. Khoi directed fire in the area, and the sappers outside immediately dispersed. He then apprehended the would-be assassin and confiscated the grenade. (MR. KHOI continued on page 3)



# CHARLIE COMPANY

## GEN. CHAPMAN BELIEVES VIETNAMIZATION KEY TO SUCCESS

Vietnamization is practical and working and can lead to a successful conclusion of our efforts in Southeast Asia, General Leonard F. Chapman Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, told reporters after returning from a 12-day trip to the Western Pacific.

He said, "I'm thinking of a good deal more than the military situation. I'm rather, in fact, thinking about the improvements in the economic situation, the communications, the highways--many of the highways are open and traffic flows freely--the planting of the miracle rice, the fishing, the education--it is quite impressive (to see) the numbers of children that are now going to school in Vietnam, as compared to 15 years ago. Something like 3-million as compared to 400,000, including some 40,000 students in five universities now whereas 15 years ago there were about 2,000 in one. And there are similar quantum increases in both grammar school and high school. Many of those schools were built with the assistance of the American soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen over there."

General Chapman added, "Then there is the political structure which appears to be strengthening. Refugees are being returned to their original homes or relocated to new areas. So on balance, I think (the process of Vietnamization) is moving in the right direction and with measurable progress.

"I do want to point out, however, that the enemy is still there. Although there is what is sometimes described as a lull in the fighting, the fighting is still going on nevertheless. The enemy has the capability of launching heavier attacks if he chooses to do so. So there is a possibility of more heavy fighting. I think we must be prepared for setbacks. I don't think we can expect to have an unbroken string of successes from now until the successful conclusion of our effort. We have got to expect setbacks. We have got to be prepared for them and we have got to be prepared to view them in the context of the total situation.

"I think it will continue to be a test of our national determination to face transient adversity and get on with the main task at hand. I have often thought that the test of a nation as in a man is not whether he makes any mistakes but how he stands up to ad-



versity."

When asked how long it would be until the ARVN can take over the complete combat role in the I Corps, Gen. Chapman responded,

"To begin with, they could handle it completely now if the NVA would go back up north where they belong and stay there. If the NVA divisions and regiments stay in and around I Corps as a threat, that would have to be put in the context of the whole country. I do not think you could focus on I Corps because the combat units must be mobile, they must be able to shift around to meet the threat. The 1st and 2nd ARVN Divisions and the 51st Independent Regiment are fine fighting outfits. They can take the NVA on now in reasonable terms and meet them head-to-head and lick them. They have done so a number of times.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Malaria is not a pleasant experience. Solely for your own protection, roll your sleeves down at night, use bug juice and TAKE THE PILL.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## HAILS

&

## FAREWELLS

The new arrivals to the 1/20 this week are:

- HHC  
PFC Jesse Annunciation  
(Houston, Tex.)
- PFC Larry E. Donner  
(Greenville, Pa.)
- PFC Charles B. Jenkins  
(Matoaka, W.Va.)
- PFC Charles W. Trammel  
(Stone Fort, Ill.)
- PFC Allen D. Yates  
(Elkville, Ill.)
- PFC Duane D. Zabel  
(Brandon, Wisc.)

## BRAVO CO.

- SGT Richard A. Eskew  
(Litchfield, Ill.)
- And four men left the battalion enroute to CONUS after completing their tours of duty in Vietnam:

- HHC  
SSG Delbert Eishon  
(Chicago, Ill.)
- SP/4 Robert L. Delawander  
(Lakewood, Ohio)

## BRAVO CO.

- SP/4 Harry W. Wiertzema  
(Little Rock, Iowa)

## ECHO CO.

- SGT Ronald Bockook  
(Colbert, Wash.)

\*\*\*\*\*

## DOD, RED CROSS SEEK AID

The Department of Defense Combined Overseas Federal Campaign-Pacific will be conducted during the period 15 February through 31 March 1970. Contributions are distributed to charities which fight heart disease, cerebral palsy, and other illnesses.

Although there will be no campaign in Vietnam, individuals who desire to contribute voluntarily to this worthy cause may do so by contacting their local representative of the American Red Cross.

\*\*\*\*\*

## RETRAINING SCHEDULE

- 18-21 Febr:  
Co. C & elements of Co. B
- 21-24 Febr:  
Co. A & elements of Co. B
- 24-27 Febr:  
Co. D & elements of Co. B
- 27 Febr-2 March:  
Recon & elements of Co. B

\*\*\*\*\*

TO THE  
LIMIT OF  
OUR ABILITY



BATTALION SUMMARY

The SYKES' REGULARS reported several incidents of contact throughout the battalion's AO this week. In all, the action produced three VC KIA and seven detained, 25 civilians detained for interrogation, one Hoi Chanh extracted, and an AK47 captured.

FEB. 9

The detention of a VC inside the wire at Van Truong led to the rout of a sapper plot there, and resulted in a total of eight VC detained. (See related story page 1.)

Charlie Co. uncovered a tunnel and a bunker, five kilometers south of Liz. The tunnel, which the men blew, contained a 55-gallon barrel of CS gas.

FEB. 10

Bravo Co. detained a civilian for questioning, and Shark gunships, working six kilometers southeast of Liz, fired on and killed an evading VC.

FEB. 11

Bravo Co.'s 1st Platoon, working with RF and PFElements, detained two suspected VC, and Recon turned in three.

SP/4 Abelardo Loya of Bravo Co. did a little John Wayne-ing just north of Bronco. (See related story page 1.)

FEB. 12

Bravo Co. detained a total of nine Vietnamese for interrogation; Delta turned in three. Recon also detained two civilians who were found near a small ammo cache, three kilometers southeast of Liz, which contained two hand grenades and a full AK47 magazine.

FEB. 13

Delta Co. reported having fired on three VC moving east from the mountains. The men KIA one of the VC, but the others evaded.

Charlie Co.'s 3rd Platoon, three kilometers south of Liz, found a trench containing a VC flag, a .59 calibre ammo can with AK47 rounds inside, two hand grenades, and medical supplies.

FEB. 14

Charlie Co. detained 4 Vietnamese, and Bravo Co. turned in two.

Delta Co. destroyed two, well concealed tunnels that were pointed out by the village chief of Pho Ngia, three kilometers north of Liz.

FEB. 15

Bravo Co. turned in two Vietnamese for interrogation and Delta Co., operating in the 515 Valley, blew a bobby-trapped mortar with a trip-wire detonator.

LOYA continued

I knew I had to keep moving at him. When I reached him I knocked away his rifle and finished him with a couple of quick butt strokes to the head," he added.

After the skirmish, Loya and Lunsford policed up two enemy hand grenades, eight blasting caps, the VC's rifle, and seven magazines of ammo. The 1st Squad later detained four VC rice suppliers and two civilians who were found in the area.

Loya was treated for superficial wounds in the chest and then moved on with his squad to continue the mission.

\*\*\*\*\*  
MR. KHOCI continued made he was carrying. Two other sappers were also detained within the wire. One was supposed to open a gate for his comrades, and the other was to steal as much explosive as he could gather.

The sapper confessed his plan and gave out the names and locations of the other VC involved. A quick, pre-dawn strike the next morning into the outlying hamlets by the 147th Popular Forces Platoon netted five more VC implicated in the plot.

\*\*\*\*\*  
they had left behind.

The Arty was apparently effective because the next morning when the men swept across the river PVT Steve Meservey (New York City, N.Y.) found the fallen VC's AK47 sticking up out of the mud.

\*\*\*\*\*  
EDUCATION BENNIES

We cannot give education by injection,

BUT  
you can improve your educational level by High School GED tests in  
MATHEMATICS  
LITERATURE  
GENERAL SCIENCE  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
ENGLISH

Next time you're on Liz, contact your First Sergeant who will make arrangements with the Brigade Education Advisor for testing.

HOI CHANH FOR BRAVO

Bravo Co. received intelligence Saturday that a VC soldier working out of the Gaza Strip wanted to Chieu Hoi to the Allies. Plans were arranged in advance for his extraction the following day.

In a two-ship lift, the company's 1st Platoon, led by SSG Will Spillman (South Gate, Cal.), was C/Ad just west of the Cau River and immediately fanned out to skirt a woodline where the VC had arranged to meet the men. He soon emerged from the undergrowth, obviously pleased that the rendezvous had been successful and that his VC career was now at an end. He then led the platoon across the river into the Strip where he pointed out his little three-man VC nest, which the men blew with a Claymore.

The Hoi Chanh went on to explain that his two cohorts had argued about plans to Chieu Hoi, and for some unknown reason decided to abandon the 1/20's AO and make a trek to Saigon to discuss the matter.

\*\*\*\*\*  
MESERVEY GETS AN AK

Late Friday night, Charlie Co.'s 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon was set up in an ambush site on the east bank of the Cau River. SGT Paul Webster (Rockville Center, N.Y.) spotted a group of armed VC moving south along the opposite bank and directed his men to open up on the enemy.

SP/4 Steve Miles (North Beach, Md.), the platoon's Medic, saw one of the VC fall as the rest of the enemy group scrambled to get out of the area. LLT Jeffrey O'Donnell (El Cerrito, Calif.), the company's FO, kept sporadic Arty fire all night across the river to keep the VC from returning to retrieve whatever



**SGT FRYE IS NCO OF THE WEEK**

The SYKES' REGULARS' NCO of the week is SGT Robert E. Frye (Williamsburg, Pa.). He has been with Delta Co. for 11½ months and is currently the squad leader of the 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon.

"He's been exceptional in every phase of his job in the field. He's shot snipers out of trees, averted VC ambushes, and has been about as effective a leader as a man can be in the field," said SP/4 Ken Leslie (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.).

Upon separation from the Army in a couple of weeks, SGT Frye plans to return to the fields of another type---the farmlands of Pennsylvania.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE BIBLE**

and **GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GARAGE**  
(From Your Chaplain, Eugene W. Scott)

George Washington owned and operated a garage and filling station in Philadelphia from 1776-1790. His mechanic installed used spark plugs in Ben Franklin's car and billed him for new ones.

This effort at deception so enraged Franklin that he challenged Washington to a duel. Washington accepted the challenge, and Franklin was shot on April 1, 1779.

An X-ray picture showed that the bullet had fractured Franklin's spine. Surgery was unsuccessful and Franklin died at his home in Walla Walla, Washington, thirty years later.

Lies are lies regardless of who may believe them. George Washington was the first President of the United States. If no one believed this fact, it would still be true.

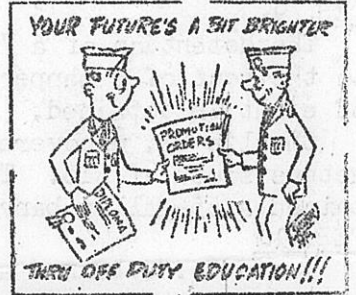
Truth is Truth regardless of who may or may not believe it. Our Bible contains the Truth about God's plan for man regardless if some people do not believe it.



**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Answers on Page —

- ACROSS**
- 1-Arabian garment
  - 4-Solicitude
  - 8-Former Russian ruler
  - 12-Parcel of land
  - 13-Region
  - 14-Comfort
  - 15-Witty remark
  - 16-Parts of paragraph
  - 18-Lessen
  - 20-Care for
  - 21-Symbol for cerium
  - 22-Chicken
  - 23-Goddess of discord
  - 27-Cheer
  - 29-Parent (colloq.)
  - 30-Test
  - 31-Teutonic deity
  - 32-Hog
  - 33-Possesses
  - 34-Proceed
  - 35-Old-womanish
  - 37-Fastener
  - 38-Vessel
  - 39-European
  - 40-Stroke
  - 41-Conjunction
  - 42-Word of sorrow
  - 44-Go in
  - 47-Preserved
  - 51-Collection of facts
  - 52-Great Lake
  - 53-Gull-like bird
  - 54-Small bird
  - 55-Flaps
  - 56-Lamb's pen name
  - 57-Poem
- DOWN**
- 1-Girl's name
  - 2-Stupid person (slang)
  - 3-Clip to
  - 4-Crate
  - 5-Exist
  - 6-Leased
  - 7-Consumed
  - 8-Presents
  - 9-Algonquian Indian
  - 10-Peer Gynt's mother
  - 11-Things, in law
  - 17-Printer's measure
  - 19-Symbol for tellurium
  - 22-Ugly, old woman
  - 24-A state (abbr.)
  - 25-Shakespearian character
  - 26-Narrow opening
  - 27-Peruse
  - 28-Wild buffalo of India
  - 29-Expire
  - 30-Sunburn
  - 32-Gratifies
  - 33-Strike
  - 36-Preposition
  - 37-Light color
  - 38-Vegetable
  - 40-Adhesive substance
  - 41-Symbol for tin
  - 43-Chinese mile
  - 44-Girl's name
  - 45-Wife of Geraint
  - 46-Evaluate
  - 47-Fondle
  - 48-Period of time
  - 49-Bons of body
  - 50-Silkworm



Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 8

For Use in Authorized Service Newspapers Only

**McKISSIC'S CORNER**

It's difficult for a RE-UP Sergeant to describe the opportunities of a reenlistment more simply than just saying: job and retirement security, a respectable position in the community, cash awards and bonuses, ample opportunity for advancement, travel, family medical programs, choice of assignment.

It's a Good Idea To



RE-UP!

**SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER**

Battalion Commander  
Adjutant

LTC Arthur F. Fischer  
CPT Edward J. Mullen

Correspondent

SP4 Toly Prodoers