

04-08-96

From: Lazarov

11:00 AM

Date: Monday, 08-Apr-96 11:00 AM

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\ Internet: ()

To: Daniel Pope

\ Internet: ()

Subject: Re: Frag order.

Dan,

WILCO, reference your instructions and deadlines, also, yes indeed there is more below the "sign off line" on your message, I found it and archived it all. I recommend that we decimate this info search with the next Newsletter to all our guys who are respondents thus far, and sent with first packet as new addresses for old names become available. Dan, I wish I had kept a copy of ALL

the paperwork I personally transmitted to FIRST FIELD FORCE every morning before I crashed for some shuteye in AN KHE. Again, when we were at the AN KHE hill before the company stood down I was pissing blood for not being allowed to take a team out (patients my ass I wanted to kill some commies) as often as I wanted. Kept bugging the old man (MAJ Hudson), but MSG Staves, Wayne G., the then Operations Sgt (Field's First Sgt) was on my case continually and had me working off my Secondary MOS 96B4PS at the TOC nights (so that the SOB can sleep well at night knowing that I myself a Team Leader will not let our teams down if they got into night contacts, needed fire support etc. I must say, for me this was my most unhappy times with C/75th for which I have as a senior speedy four volunteered out of 5th HQS, NHA TRANG (that translates House Beach). My only relief came in the form of 1LT/Cpt Robinson, Darrel, the most level headed and professional officer (Ops Officer) I came across while my entire time in Nam (19 OCT 69 - 11 APR 72), and I really mean it, because to date I think of him as the man who should have stayed in our better our Army. One of the KIA's was "Dutch's" own RTO who he shot himself while having split the team to check some hootches at a base camp he had walked into. Dutch's name I believe was SSG Shultz and according to COL Hudson he went to OCS and retired as a Cpt., I remember "POP" Carter 3rd Plt Sgt did not like him at first site and passed him onto the 4th Plt Sgt (whose name escapes me now). Hudson's comment the other day was simply "those were the hazards of war". Dan, after I was Naturalized US citizen in Honolulu, Hawaii, my security clearance was upgraded to TS. While at our last stand in AN KHE every morning before I went to sleep I brought the previous 24 hours patrolling info (minus the casualty reports which were transmitted immediately as a Spot Report after a team gets into contact and status of the individual is reconfirmed from the ER/TRIAGE folks of the hospital to which medevaced to) for courier transmittal to the Comm Center, and I picked up all traffic for us brought it back to TOC - Staves/Robinson/Hudson - and went to sleep. Dan I am telling you here, that if we can get our hands, from the Pentagon historical pukes, on this documents it will show the entire Intell/Ops 24 Hours C/75 activities log, which was kept by Staves during the day and by me personally (when I was not allowed to take a team out) at nights. This should have all contacts/sitings, results by team #, GMT time, 8 digit coordinates UTM (universal Transverse Mercator), in addition, the Insertion Coordinates, teams Primary EE Routes, Alternate PZ's, Possible projected ambush sites overlays, when available agent reports pertinent to the AO's will be also infused in the briefings of the team leaders at the TOC prior to their VR of their AO's when each team leader was to submit his team's roster (blood types/allergies etc) ammo loads, and sign for their SOI's etc. You know the routine if you have been

an TL/ATL! Prerecorded Artillery Impact Points (to shift fire from) were given if available, also they were briefed by Staves/Robinson/Hudson as to our availability of air support on stand by of all its flavors, fast movers/gunnies/medevacs/FAC's etc. Dan, it is painful for me to recall all of our casualties for that period of time, somehow I felt guilty in letting the guys down and of being asleep while during the days our teams got into some serious contacts. Normally, my field experience prevailed, and I had a feel from the TL's night's Sitrep contacts (normally via an X-Ray site One, or Two to TOC) whether they are in a very hot AO with a possibility of a hasty/walk-onto ambush etc. I made sure I communicated my fears to everyone in the TOC to stay alert and often times I stayed up mornings after bringing the messages from the Comm Center to assure myself that "Nothing BAD Happens" with i team i suspected was in very hot AO. MSG Staves (who definitely knew his S..t, and I had learned a lot from him in terms of controlling an overburdened net with two and sometimes three teams in contact simultaneously crying for limited air support. He and I had a standard joke those days "Do not let anything happen while I am asleep ((he slept in the TOC bunker above me nights))), and if it does anyway make sure that I know first before Donald Duck gets into it" Dan, you must understand that I was not a school trained SMOS 96B, and cut my teeth into it OJT while at Smoke Bomb Hill, Bragg, with 4th PSYOPS, then composing/printing leaflets for dump during late 68 and the Cino-Soviet border fiasco. However, I would like to think that even though deprived from going to the field when I wanted to, our guys just the same got the best Order of Battle Intell Sgt on duty nights the company ever had, aside from the taxpayers having gotten their money's worth on my puny E-5's pay. Donald Duck (Col Hudson), Robinson and Staves (if he is alive, since I cannot find him on the Switchboard) and the Platoon Sgts who crowded in the TOC when the shit hit the fan, are the only ones that could judge my performance of those days away from the field, and of personal frustration, and yes it hurts me to be called a REMF by my friends like John L. Rotundo, (even though jokingly) who was one of the guys out there in the field I took care of! Dan, I cannot help getting emotional at times (the Slavic blood in my veins I guess) and do admire the composure of dudes like Tom Sharkey for instance who never lost it during all of his contacts I personally monitored! Let's refocus here again on our KIA's. As I was saying those Daily Reports, that were transmitted to NHA TRANG are a veritable gold mine, John L. told me that the info he was given by the Pentagon of those days greatly underrated the importance of our company's doings! He was given brief encounters/sightings etc. log from the Two Corps Hqs, I guess? Now, having spent my latter military career in Strategic Hqs such as EUCOM (Pentagon East) I begin to understand that the picture resolution we are looking for in those daily company activities may have never been transcribed as given, for the a.. holes in those Hqs were interested only in the BIG PICTURE stuff. Never the less I will C.M. on this issue as directed!

- Laz.

P.S. Please, archive my statements above for posterity of the later days of C/75th, talk to "Pop" Carter, Darrel Robinson and Col Hudson for further enlightenment, for each and everyone of us retains different impressions of the times passed!