

1st 46th THE PROFESSIONALS



VOL 1 NO 12 DEC 27

BATTALION OUTSTANDING IN OLD HAU DUC OPERATION "PROFESSIONALS" PREVAIL OVER ENEMY FORCES

A frightening operation in and around the Old Hau Duc Valley brought outstanding recognition and rewards to 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry. Companies Alpha, Bravo, Delta and a small element from the Reconnaissance platoon were transported from LZ Professional into the new area of operation. In support of the "professional" troops, the "Flying Mortar Squad" and artillery were brought in.

The Battalion's area of operation was located around suspected NVA and local VC infested areas.

"The primary mission of the Battalion," stated MAJ. C. W. Buttermore (Pittsburg, Pa.), "was to gather information and intelligence about the enemy. We were to recon in force so as to locate and identify what, if any enemy elements were working in the area and to determine what would be required to drive them out."

For the first four days of the mission, no enemy contact was made. On the fifth day, action started when Delta Company uprooted an enemy base camp and Company training center north west of Hau Duc

Village, resulting in the capture of various weapons and one enemy kill. Still in the fifth day, Alpha Company's point man, SP/4 Carlos Lopez (San Visdro, Calif.), prevented the possible loss of lives when he detected two separate ambushes. SP/4 Lopez halted the company and informed the company RTO. Artillery was processed in the area on both occasions.

On the sixth day, Alpha Company's "Dirty Dozen" sprang an ambush on a platoon size enemy force, killing seven of the enemy.

The seventh day brought action for companies Bravo and Delta. Bravo Company pounded an enemy element with 81mm mortars, killing six NVA. "They were actually firing their small arms weapons at the falling mortar rounds," said CPT James Bradley (Miami Springs, Fla.), Bravo's Company Commander.

During the same period, Delta Company fought their way through an estimated company of NVA. Enemy casualties were unknown.

On the eighth day, orders were issued
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ued for the battalion's forces to be returned to LZ Professional. All elements were extracted safely and flown back to familiar grounds.

"That was the scariest mission I've ever been on," Said SP/4 Robert Sponco (Philadelphia, Pa.), Alpha Company's machine gunner. "I guess it was just the thick foliage and the weird environment. It was unbelievable, but I'm certainly glad we have completed our mission, and we're back in our own AO."

The "Professionals" were very successful in their mission, gathering the much needed information, identifying the enemy elements in the area, forcing the enemy into contact, and capturing and destroying his equipment.

All companies played a major role in the accomplishment of the mission, with Delta Company gaining most of the glory. RELATED STORY ON PAGE 5.

DRAGON VALLEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CLOSED BY "DEFENDERS"

With information received from Brigade, the "Defenders" of Charlie Company were sent on a search and clear mission through Dragon Valley.

"We were told of three enemy complexes to be on the look out for," stated 1LT David C. Shehorn (Mesa, Ariz.). "They were an enemy warehouse, bunker fortification and hospital. We had no luck with the first two, but from information received from a Hoi Chanh, we had a good idea of the exact location of the enemy hospital."

The first platoon remained behind and set up an ambush, as the second and third platoons pushed on towards the suspected medical complex.

"As we neared the area, the two platoons split, one going up the hill, while the other moved on around the base," stated SGT. John T. Kolley (Jacksonville, Fla.). "We hoped this would cut off any enemy who might have tried to escape in that direction."

About half way up the hill, the point man from the third platoon spotted several large hooches and carefully maneuvered in.

Realizing this was the enemy medical complex, third platoon radioed for the second platoon to sweep up the hill in their direction.

"I guess the company was just a little bit too late," said SP/4 Richard V. Odoms (Vanderburgh, Ala.), "for they found bandages with fresh blood on them all over the place, but no one was

around."

Charlie Company had uncovered a one-hundred and fifty bed hospital. This included fifteen hooches thirty foot by forty foot with full bunker basements, with about two feet of overhead cover, plus other smaller shacks. Also found were large amounts of medical supplies to include bottles of vaccine, bandages and medicines.

"We radioed for a tracker team to be flown out to us, so we could follow the fresh trails," said SP/4 Roland J. Loibold (Benton, Wis.), "but due to the inclement weather it was impossible for them to be sent out."

The medical complex and supplies were destroyed and the "Defenders" pushed on in the hope of finding some of the enemy who had earlier evaded when Charlie Company had pushed into the hospital.

SOMEONE WHO CARES

The infantry soldier is the most used and worked man in the United States Army. He has the dirty and tiring job that never ends. He earns his pay and works twenty-four hours a day for it. It is seldom when someone takes it upon himself to try and do something extra for the Infantry soldier. However, sometimes, someone does remember and does something for the infantry field troop as SSG. James E. Bakor (Pittsburgh, Pa.) did.

"I am an M.P.," stated SSG. Bakor, "and when I arrived here in Vietnam I was assigned to this battalion. Right off I was impressed by the work of the infantry field troop and quickly formed a high opinion of him. I learned what these men do and I respect them and their job."

For the work the infantryman does, SSG. Bakor thought they should be remembered in a special way. He commented, "People sometimes forget the soldier who lives in the field. I wanted them to know someone was thinking of them."

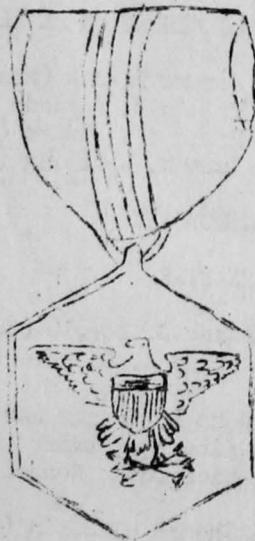
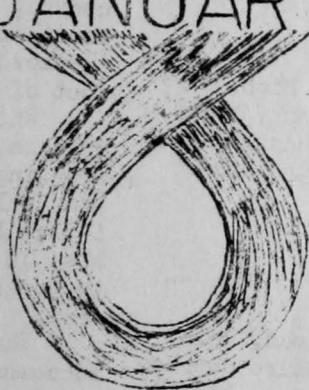
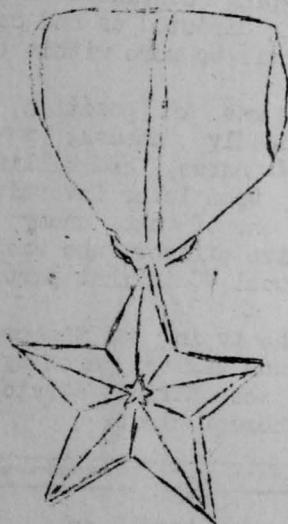
SSG. Bakor developed and implemented the idea of having a raffle. First a roster of all the men E-5 and below, who are in the field, was compiled and each man assigned a number. These numbers were drawn from a hat and a gift package presented to the man whose number was selected.

"I started gathering different items that I know were hard for the field troop to obtain," SSG. Bakor said.

These items included lighter fluid, flints, candles, good cigars and other

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AWARDS FOR JANUARY



HHC

BRONZE STAR

CW3 Arthur H. Welching (El Paso, Texas)
 SSG Jimmy Gildon (Los Angeles, Calif.)
 SGT Thomas a. Stockwell (Detroit, Mich.)
 SP/4 David M. Cullen (Merrick, N.Y.)

SP/4 Paul L. Karabinos (Bayonne, N.J.)
 SP/4 Jerry L. Schofield (Jacksonville, Fla.)
 PFC Patrick D. Lake (Cleveland, Ohio)

ARMY COMENDATION MEDAL

SFC John E. Plum (Tucson, Ariz.)
 SSG James E. Baker (Pittsburgh, Pa.)
 SGT Raymond W. Hite (Dayton, Ohio)
 SP/4 Edward R. Burke (St. Albans, N.Y.)
 SP/4 James Frasier (Yemassee, S.C.)
 SP/4 Lee George (Catchesie, La.)
 SP/4 Lester P. Holda (Camden, N.J.)
 SP/4 Gerald H. Nickel (Lehigh, Kan.)
 SP/4 Richard T. Sauto (Cleveland, Ohio)
 SP/4 Ernest Toney (Grovertown, Ga.)

ALPHA COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

SGT Richard Gross (Hutchinson, Kan.)
 SGT Steven M. Hempel (Carmichael, Calif.)
 SGT Donnie Holloway (Robertsdale, Ala.)
 SGT Dennis Holtz (Elroy, Wis.)
 SGT Ronald Paul (Jacksonboro, Tenn.)
 SGT Jesse Spencer (Cumberland, Ky.)

ARMY COMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Fred L. James (Ann Arbor, Mich.)

BRAVO COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

1LT Edward A. Miller (Annandale, Va.)
 SGT Richard Ayres (Long Beach, Calif.)
 SGT Leonard Gager (Pinkville, Mass.)
 SGT John D. Lawson (Vallejo, Calif.)
 SGT Phillip E. Thomas (Springfield, Mass.)

ARMY COMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Harry Castleberry (Osawatomie, Kan.)
 SP/4 Stanley Hilling (Salem, Ohio)
 SF/4 Ronald T. Sneed (Natalie, Va.)
 SF/4 Gerald Stiemsma (Randolph, Wis.)

CHARLIE COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

SSG Frank C. Blanch (Espanola, N.M.)
 SGT John W. Barnard (Huntsville, Ala.)
 SGT Jimmy W. Hisaw (Shreveport, La.)
 SGT John T. Kelley (Jacksonville, Fla.)
 SGT Ronald G. Nereson (Hayden, Col.)
 SP/4 Charles B. Hancock (Richmond, Va.)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

AWARDS

CONT.

CHARLIE COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

SP/4 Ernest Ivy (Imboden, Ark.)
SP/4 James H. Robinson (Mt. City, Tenn.)
SP/4 Ernest H. Williams (Memphis, Tenn.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Jerome Bancuk (Muskegon, Mich.)
SP/4 Wilson N. Mercado (New York, N.Y.)
SP/4 Richard V. Odams (Moss Point, Miss.)
SP/4 Vern R. Whitting (Kearns, Utah)

DELTA COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

SGT Larry J. Beegle (Springfield, Ohio)
SGT Ronald A. Ditchie (St. Claire Shores, Mich.)
SGT John L. Kinney (Anoka, Minn.)
SP/4 Elbert, y. Iwane (Kealakekua, Hawaii)
SP/4 Richard N. Kendall (San Mateo, Calif.)
SP/4 Thomas H. Stein (San Diego, Calif.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Larry J. Duff (Bonneville, Ky.)
SP/4 Robert L. Lowe Jr. (Archie, Mo.)
SP/4 Fritz D. Smith (Pigeon, Mich.)
SP/4 Larry E. Spencer (Marion, Ind.)
SP/4 Earl Wilson (Kite, Ga.)

ECHO COMPANY

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Paul T. Bendert (Endicott, N.Y.)
SP/4 John L. Fenton (Chicago, Ill.)

NVA TYPES OWN OBITUARY

Charlie pecked his last "P" on the pica when Echo's Reconnaissance platoon pounded on his pad door.

The Recon team, working in conjunction with Charlie Company's second platoon, pushed through dense terrain in an attempt to find an enemy hospital, in which intelligence reports of late have indicated a friendly caucasion as being held.

While the second platoon from Charlie Company remained behind to secure a defensive position, Echo continued ahead on their reconnaissance mission.

"We were moving along as quietly as



possible, when the point man heard something that sounded like typing," said PFC John E. McCormic (Caraway, Ark.). "We started maneuvering in the direction of the noise. As we drew closer we could hear talking and tell for sure someone was busy typing away."

PFC Roger Ball (Pineknot, Ky.) added, "Sergeant spears, (SSG Virgil Spears Lakeland, Fla.), thought the talking and typing would cover our movement and aid us in going undetected as we closed in on the enemy. Although the talking ceased, the typing continued and its constant ticking directed us and covered our movement until we were within twenty feet of them."

When Recon was in position, they unleashed a deadly ambush, severely wounding an NVA nurse, and killing two NVA soldiers. Upon later investigation it was learned one of the enemy KIA's was an executive officer, who was there to organize local VC in that particular area.

Through the typing of the enemy, a successful ambush was triggered by Recon and Charlie's secretarial service was brought to an abrupt close.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE

SOMEONE WHO CARES

personal articles There was even a cigarette lighter engraved with "1st Bn, 46th Inf." and a new survival knife.

"After I had collected enough material for a good raffle," stated SSG. Bakor, "I asked CSM Rose if he would be the one to draw the numbers. With his consent, we held the raffle and the next day CSM Rose took the gifts out to LZ Professional where they could be placed on the company resupply helicopter and distributed to the men who had won."

Through the efforts of SSG. Bakor, several men in the field received the much-welcomed personal items and all of the infantry field troops know they were remembered. SSG. Bakor stated, "I think this raffle was a success and hope to see another one soon. It would be nice if everyone in the trains area would get together for a big raffle and offer something for the men in the field. They deserve it."

CSM Rose commented, "I think this raffle was a very outstanding contribution to the infantry soldier and I am proud of SSG. Bakor's efforts."

A new raffle is now under way so if you are someone who cares and have something you would like to donate, please contact SP/4 Hancock or SP/4 Carrigan in the S-1 office. Check your foot locker wall locker, desk, etc, now. All items are welcomed.

COLLECTION BOX LOCATED IN S-1

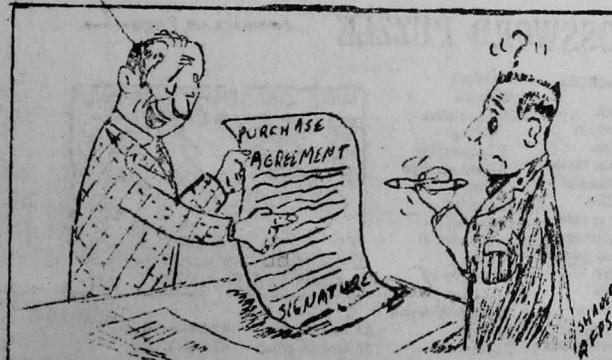
EDITORIAL

WHAT CAN WE SELL YOU (SUCKER)

Our Government is constantly endeavoring to help you from being cheated when you buy products that are unreliable or unsafe. Likewise, it tries to help you when you sign credit purchase agreements for merchandise and money.

In the latter case, when you take out a loan, you are actually buying money from the lender. You agree to pay him an "interest" for the term of the loan, while you repay it.

Public Law 90-321, passed last year affects about 90 per cent of all credit business in the United States—or more than \$100 Billion a year. This bill is known as the "Truth in Lending" law and requires full disclosure of all finance charges covering the purchase of cars, consumer goods, personal loans, and virtually every charge that is part of a credit transaction.



However, our Government cannot be looking over your shoulder when you sign a purchase agreement. But, it does provide the information that can help you BEFORE you sign the contract. One such booklet is DOD PA-10 entitled Credit: Master or Servant? You can get a copy through normal channels within your service.

If you have the slightest doubt about the intricate terminology of the contract, which is one of the reasons for "misinterpretations" of the agreement you may sign, see your legal assistance officer. His knowledge of law and his assistance may save you hundreds of dollars.

Don't be "taken in" by buying or borrowing in haste. Legal Assistance Offices' files are jammed with "I thought it meant. . . ."

One such case involves a serviceman who borrowed \$1,000 on a long term contract. The company required that he take out an insurance policy with an affiliated company on himself and his

wife. After the company put the squeeze on him later for payment it was discovered the cost of the loan, interest charge, carrying charge and insurance of the original loan was 700 per cent—or \$7,000. He had signed the contract. The man had to pay.

Don't rush into signing a contract. Read it carefully. If it is too complicated, let your legal assistance officer see it. And, get the booklet, CREDIT: Master or Servant? It was written specifically for you. It could save you a lot of money—and headaches. (APPS)

"VIKINGS" FILLAGE NVA

While on a search and clear mission in the north eastern corner of Hau Duc Valley, Delta company dislodged a sizable cache and bluntly demolished an enemy base camp and training center.

"We had split the company into two separate elements," said SSG Alfred Larson (Baltimore, Md.). "We did this in order to sweep the high ground as well as cover more area."

While sweeping the higher area, the point element of Delta's second platoon encountered movement around a well camouflaged hooch. They maneuvered toward a more advantageous position to set up a surprise attack. However, before this could be accomplished, the enemy soldiers started to leave the area. Delta's element unleashed a deadly volley of small arms fire into the dispersed soldiers, killing an arms room guard.

"I feel that there would have been more enemy KIAs if the undergrowth had not been so thick," said SP4 Rayford Celo (Counterpoint, Calif.).

Being quite sure they had driven the enemy away, the friendly element pushed toward the encampment, surrounding six camouflaged shelters and several bunkers.

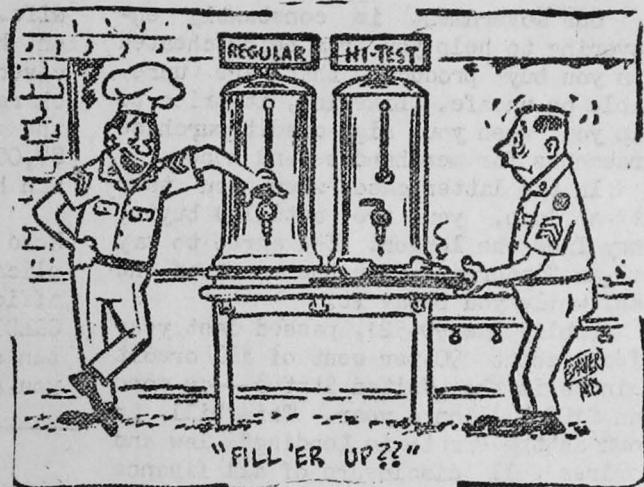
"Some of the shelters were organized like training classes having benches, chairs and things like that," stated SP4 Mark J. Duffy (Boonville, Ky.).

A very close and careful search of the area revealed a 51 caliber anti-aircraft weapon, (5) AK-47's, (1) SKS, (1) 30 caliber automatic weapon, grenades, medical supplies, documents, packs and food.

GRINS OR GRUNTS



SEASONS GREETINGS

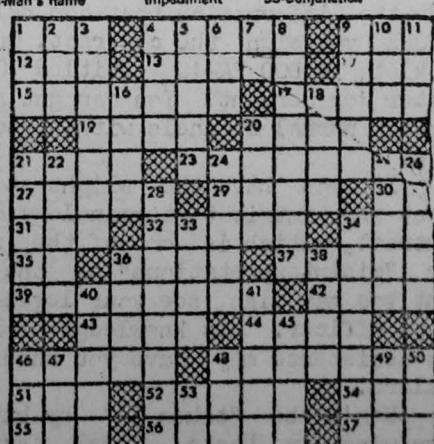


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers on Page 7

ACROSS

- 1-Knick
- 4-Mountain nymph
- 9-Prefix: three
- 12-Goddess of healing
- 13-Out of date
- 14-Possesses
- 15-Three-pronged spear
- 17-Chore
- 19-Opening
- 20-Jlock
- 21-Reach across
- 23-Choke
- 27-Fall guy (slang)
- 29-Landed
- 30-For example (abbr.)
- 31-Mature
- 32-Eel fisherman
- 34-Equality
- 35-Sun god
- 36-Edible rod/stock
- 37-Marsh bird
- 38-Scoffing
- 42-Direction
- 43-Sospstone
- 44-Word of sorrow
- 46-Trumpeter bird
- 48-Outlawed baseball pitch
- 51-Number
- 52-Memoranda
- 54-Man's name
- 55-Greek letter
- 56-Embrace
- 57-Tattered cloth.
- 4-Unlock
- 5-Rages
- 6-Superlative ending
- 7-Conjunction
- 8-Gives up hope
- 9-Unit
- 10-Hurried
- 11-Suffix: adherent of
- 16-Lairs
- 18-Temporary shelter
- 20-Heraldic device
- 21-Masts
- 22-Herethen
- 24-Claw
- 25-Jumps
- 26-Long-legged bird
- 28-Gaby horse
- 33-Man's name
- 34-Turkish coin
- 36-Athletic group
- 38-Tidy
- 40-Babylonian hero
- 41-Yawns
- 45-Speech impediment
- 46-Devoured
- 47-Obtain
- 48-Music: as written
- 49-Guido's high note
- 50-Outfit
- 53-Conjunction



- 1-Soak
- 2-Ventilate
- 3-Personal

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

SANTA CLAUS LOOKING GOOD

Christmas came a few days early this year to the men of Bravo Company as Santa Claus took on a new look for the "Professionals" as the fat jolly bearded old man was transformed into a beautiful young mini-skirted Claus, who visited the forward fire support base passing out presents and joy to 1/46th troops.

CPT. Robert G. Nivens (Harpersville, Ala.), who made arrangements for the Christmas Miss to visit the "Hill," was presented with the problem of finding a female who measured up to the Professional standards.

"In Vietnam, finding a round-eyed girl is difficult enough, finding one who wanted to be a sexy Santa and fly out to a forward support base sounded impossible," said CPT. Nivens. "However, upon checking into the matter I found Miss Ellan Keneshea, a hostess for the Sand Paper Service Club here in Chu Lai. At first I was apprehensive, but when I approached her and presented her with the idea she readily volunteered and was highly enthusiastic. She filled the bill and the Santa Suit just perfect."

CPT. Nivens accompanied the lovely lass as they flew out to LZ Professional. There they landed on the VIP Pad and were promptly greeted by CPT. John M. Levitz (Honolulu, Hawaii), Echo Company Commander. The group was ushered into TOC where formal introductions were made and Miss Keneshea was presented to LTC. Peter J. Foss (Framingham, Mass.), MAJ. John T. Moore (Chatham, Mass.), Chaplain Francis M. Leinen (Cerrihi, Calif.) and CSM Vinson Rose (Clarksville, Tenn.).

After this CPT. Nivens and CPT. Levitz escorted Miss Claus around the bunker line where for an hour and a half she talked to the infantrymen, spreading Christmas cheer.

"We then went through the 4.2 and 81 mm mortar pits and on up to the artillery area," commented CPT. Nivens. "Here our young miss, with the aid of battery personnel, fired a round from one of the 105 howitzers. We next visited the quad-fifty and the 106 recoilless rifle where she conversed with these soldiers."

With the completion of the tour, the party moved to bunker twelve where a special Christmas service was presented by Chaplain Leinen. 2LT. Drake Erbe (Milton, Wisc.), from Bravo Company, then directed the singing of carols and Miss Claus passed out Red Cross Christmas presents to the troops. Christmas

dinner was served and even though some things were missing, Christmas came to LZ Professional.

After dinner, Miss Keneshea continued to visit with the troops, talking with them as the Christmas spirit grew along with the morale of the men.

As the Christmas Miss headed for the helicopter pad, cheers from the infantrymen accompanied her. All personnel involved were impressed by the outstanding contribution made by Ellan.

CPT. Levitz commented, "This was highly unusual; everyone enjoyed it. This was a great diversion from the usual operations of a forward fire base!"

Chaplain Leinen said, "The whole idea was very beneficial to the morale of the "Professionals."

CSM Rose added, "This was a real morale booster for the troops."

LTC. Foss summed it up, "Our Miss Christmas was truly a fine person. She had such a dynamic personality and was so friendly and outgoing, a very easy person to talk to. Even though we were away from home and loved ones and were without snow, this was a good representation of Christmas in Vietnam."



THE PROFESSIONAL

LTC. Peter J. Foss, Commanding

CPT. Jesse C. Sellers, 10

SP/4 Charles B. Hancock, Editor

SP/4 James A. Carrigan, Asst. Editor

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