

The Girdle

January 1, 1974

Vol 3. No 3

Recon Has Busy Week

On the run from one element of recon, three VC had the misfortune to run head on into another. The collision was fatal to all three.

The face to face confrontation occurred when three elements of recon were heading back to LZ Debbie after searching an area three miles southeast of Duc Pho.

"My element had just come from our ambush position," said squad leader Sergeant Robert Carter, Norfolk Virginia, "and we were walking toward Debbie on a well used trail."

Walking point for the eight man element was Specialist Four Orlando Avila, San Antonio, Texas.

"I came to a bend in the trail, said Avila, "and when I rounded the corner, I saw the three VC walking toward me. They saw me too, and we both started shooting."

The VC point man only got off two shots, Avila said, before his SKS rifle jammed. Avila's M-16, however, was in good working order, and his burst of fire killed

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"The men on the last bird saw five VC in the open about 250 yards from the LZ. They could see that three were carrying weapons."

So said recon platoon leader First Lieutenant Peter L. Barili, Salisbury New Hampshire, in describing the start of the early evening action that would net the Girdlets two kills and four captures.

The enemy were spied when recon was being inserted into an area four miles southeast of Duc Pho.

"We immediately called for gunships," said Barili, "and they worked over the area with rockets and machineguns. After they pulled out, we swept the area but couldn't find anything."

The element under Barili doubled back over the area, and headed for the beach 700 meters away to link up with another element that was set up as a blocking force. On the way they spotted a hootch.

"When we approached the hootch, small arms fire came from inside",
continued on page 4

With the addition of Vermont, eight states are now offering a Vietnam veteran's bonus. The bonuses range in amounts from a flat \$100 in Illinois, to a maximum rate of \$750 in Pennsylvania.

The only military paperwork needed is the DD214 separation form. Since the states vary in the amount paid, and also application procedures it would be best to get the straight story from the appropriate state offices.

Here's the list of states and the respective addresses to get more information:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Vermont
Military Dept. of Veterans Affairs,
State Veterans Affairs Office,
City Hall,
Montpelier, Vt., 05601</p> <p>2. Connecticut
Office of the Treasurer,
Vietnam Bonus Division,
15 Lewis St.,
Hartford, Conn., 06115</p> <p>3. Delaware
Veterans Military Pay Division,
1224 King St.,
Wilmington, Del., 19081</p> <p>4. Illinois
Illinois Veterans Commission,
211 W. Jefferson St.,
Springfield, Ill., 62704</p> | <p>5. Louisiana
Department of Veterans Affairs,
Vietnam Bonus Division,
Old State Capitol,
Baton Rouge, La., 70801</p> <p>6. Massachusetts
Treasurer's Office,
Room 227, State House,
Boston, Mass., 02133</p> <p>7. Pennsylvania
Vietnam Bonus Bureau
19 S. 2nd St., P.O. Box 415
Harrisburg, Pa., 17108</p> <p>8. South Dakota
Veterans Department,
State Capitol,
Pierre, S.D. 57501</p> |
|--|---|

MAJARIA LOSERS BOX

COMPANY	No. Of Cases (1970)*
Alpha.....	2
Bravo.....	5
Charlie.....	5
Delta.....	4
Echo.....	5
HHC.....	1

*Nov-Dec

LTC Robert A. Witter.....En Commander
 1LT Billy J Orr.....Adjutant
 PFC Gene Colling.....Editor

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE GREEN MACHINE!

ORIGINAL DEROS:

ADJUSTED TO:

18-19 Feb
20-21 Feb
22 Feb
23 Feb
24 Feb
25 Feb

1 Jan
2 Jan
3 Jan
4 Jan
5 Jan
6 Jan

Charlie Company

Sp4 Stephen Karpel.....20Feb
Sp4 Danny Hood.....20Feb
Sp4 Lonnie Luk Jr.....22Feb
PFC Thomas Riggs.....23Feb
PFC James Swanson.....24Feb

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Sp6 Harold Gates.....25Feb
PFC John Kubik.....22Feb
SGT Michael McKenna.....22Feb

Alpha Company

Sp4 Michael Forrest.....25Feb
Sp4 James Fryman.....20Feb
PFC Alphonza James.....25Feb
Sp4 Jerome Sheska.....22Feb
PFC Morris Turner.....25Feb

Bravo Company

Sp4 Wayne Gacnik.....22Feb
Sp4 Christopher Liourse.....21Feb
PFC Eugene Taylor.....23Feb

Delta Company

Sp4 James Polk.....22Feb

Echo Company

Sp4 Joe Gunter.....25Feb
SGT Edward Kupa.....20Feb

Malaria is a Horror Show

two VC and wounded the third.

The wounded VC took off down a hedgerow, Avila said. Part of the element gave chase, headed him off, and killed him.

"They were apparently trying to evade another element moving behind them when they bumped into us," said Carter.

The reason the VC only got off two shots was evident when it was discovered that one of Avila's bullets had smashed the chamber of the SKS.

Trail—continued from page 1

Twilight Raid-----

said Barili. We returned the fire until everything inside was quiet."

Inside the hootch the Gimlets found two VC killed along with a .45 pistol, an M-2 carbine, and six hand grenades.

The element continued on toward the beach. As they moved down a trail, they spotted a man running into a family bunker that was located a short distance off the trail.

"It looked suspicious, so we ordered everyone out of the bunker," said Barili. The only people to come out were women and children, so we yelled in telling the man he had one more chance to come out."

The men did a double take when not one, but four VC hesitantly walked out of the bunker.

"When we finally met the other element on the beach, we had a few stories to tell them," said Barili.

All officers and enlisted men who have served with the 23rd Division from 1967 on are eligible to join the Division's Veterans Association

Benefits include a monthly newsletter, voting privileges, monthly meetings, annual reunions, and eligibility for office.

To apply for membership write:

23rd Division Veterans Association
P.O. Box 1281, Boston, Mass., 02104

Don't let Malaria Make You a Vegetable



The heat is one of the hard facts of life in Vietnam, and it can kill you if you aren't careful. Heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat rash and sun burn can be avoided if you are careful. Heat stroke is the most dangerous of these injuries and may be fatal.

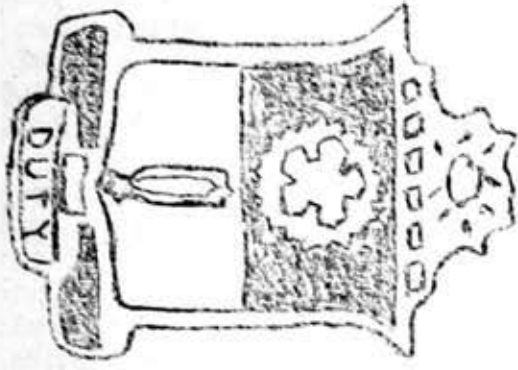
The two most important ways to prevent yourself from becoming a heat casualty are to be sure that you drink enough water and take extra salt. Approximately six to eight quarts of water per day per man should be available for troops engaged in tactical operation.

If you are a new arrival in Vietnam, you are probably more susceptible to salt water depletion than a man who has been here longer. Troops engaged in field operation may lose from one to 12 quarts of water each day by sweating. Be careful, take extra salt. Heavy salting of food at mealtime is the best way to ingest extra salt. However, in extremely hot weather and when doing prolonged hard work, salt in your drink is necessary.

The most serious heat injury, heat stroke, is recognizable because the casualty will normally have red, dry, hot, non-sweating skin, may be unconscious or delirious, and in some cases, may have convulsions. Steps should be taken at once to lower the victim's body temperature. This can be done by removing the casualty's clothing, pouring water over the patient and fanning.

Heat exhaustion, which results from salt and water depletion shows, symptoms of wet, pale skin. If the casualty is conscious, give him water containing two ground-up salt tablets per canteen. For heat rash, wash with soap and water, and expose the rash to air, but not to direct sunlight. Try to wear clean clothes and keep the skin clean. Also, increase your fluid intake.





SEAN

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11th Infantry Brigade
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Name

Number

City

State

Zip

