

The



Ginlet

February 3, 1971

Vol 3, No 5

Ducks Rout VC

← meters for our four armed cars and on road security



The day was warm as the midafternoon sun beat down. What had been a quiet, routine day for the "ducks" on road security abruptly changed into a fire fight with a suddenly bold enemy.

One duck and a command jeep were set up just south of Sa Huynh on QL 1 when the driver of a civilian bus stopped and told the men that a truck had overturned two kilometers to the south.

"We immediately took off for the location," said Staff Sergeant James Neal, Kingsport Tennessee, "and as soon as we saw the truck we could see that an ambush had just occurred."

The 2½ ton truck carrying 20 flame throwers had overturned when it went out of control and ran up the side of a berm.

"We found a wounded GI near the berm, and he told us that the truck had been ambushed by 10 to 12 VC," said Specialist Four John Lewis, Boynton Beach, Florida.

Specialist Four Mary Jackson, Pleasure Ridge Park Ky quickly administered first aid to the wounded man and stayed with him until he could be dusted off.

Small arms fire from the high ground bordering the road made it evident that the VC were still close by. As Private First Class Bender Johnson, Thomaston Georgia, returned fire with the duck's twin 73 caliber machineguns, Neal called in an accurate barrage of artillery rounds on the high ground. After a half hour of sporadic firing, the enemy broke contact.

"The quick reaction by the men on the ducks undoubtedly prevented the VC from capturing the flame throwers," said Battalion Commander LTC Vernon B. Sones.

Hill 56 overlooks an area of fertile rice paddies and small villages. Long a VC stronghold the district surrounding the hill was once presented a citation by Ho Chi Minh for its efforts against South Vietnamese and American forces.

A ceremony 25 January marked the completion of the outpost atop the hill. The joint effort by Bravo Company and RF 147 was a major pacification effort in the Rice Bowl.

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OP Patty

Awards For Two Medics

Sp4 Lucas Montanez

During the period 20 October 1970 to 23 January 1971, Sp4 Lucas Montanez has distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious achievement while serving as a platoon medic with Co C 4th Bn 21st Inf. During this period, Sp4 Montanez has shown the highest degree of professional competence and devotion to duty as he unselfishly administered medical assistance to the men of C Co.

On four separate occasions Sp4 Montanez has been credited with saving the lives of five of his fellow soldiers who had suffered traumatic amputations due to hostile booby-traps. On 20 October 1970 one man was wounded; 8 January 71 two men were wounded; 20 January one man was wounded and on 23 January 71 another man suffered a traumatic amputation of both legs. On each occasion Sp4 Montanez's quick, calm, and diligent work while under great stress was responsible for stopping the bleeding and keeping the man alive until he could be medically evacuated to B Co 23rd Med at FSB Bronco.

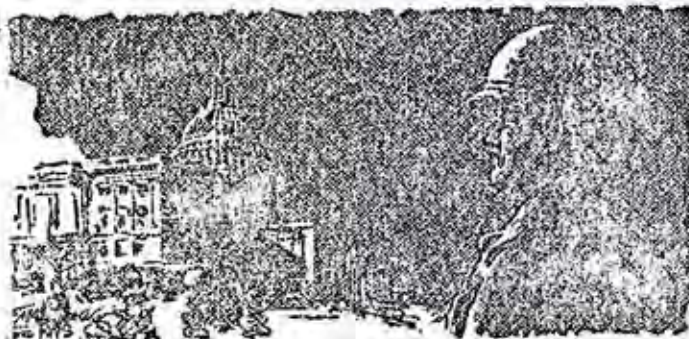
His cool and professional ability has gained for him the confidence of all who work with him and has brought great credit on himself, his unit and the United States Army.



PFC Jimmy Wilson

During the period 14 January 1971 to 23 January 1971, PFC Jimmy J. Wilson distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious achievement while serving as a platoon medic with Co C 4th Bn 21st Inf. PFC Wilson's primary MOS is 11B10, but prior to his entrance into the U.S. Army he had some nursing training. When he learned that his company was short of medics he volunteered to perform that duty. During this period he has displayed the highest professional competence and composure under extreme combat stress. He has gained the respect and confidence of both his fellow enlisted men and superior officers alike. He has also earned the praise of the Brigade Surgeon of Co B 23rd Med at FSB.

On 23 January 1971 he was faced with the task of treating a double traumatic amputee. PFC Wilson's quick action and competence are credited with helping to save his comrade's life. His sterling performance of duty and deep concern for his fellow soldier are in keeping with the highest military traditions and have brought great credit on himself, his unit and the United States Army.



The Long...

Headquarters and Headquarters

SFC Elmer Womack
SSG William Stalfort
Sp4 Glenn Levier
SFC Robert Giles
SFC James Lewis
SSG Henry Periz
Sp4 William Carter
FC Robert Fink
PFC Michael Frattali

Alpha Company

Sp4 David Harris
PFC Roger Bollenbacher
PV2 Andrew Colow
PFC John Weaver
PV2 Nunez Rodriguez

Bravo Company

PFC Santiago Periz
SFC Jose Antuna Pagan
PFC Salvador Sanchez
PFC Arthur Tatamantes
SFC Howard Pruett
PFC David Williams



Bravo Company--continued
SGT Michael Goowin

Charlie Company

PFC Luis deArellano Ramirez
PFC Jimmy Wilson
PFC Thomas Pearson
Sp4 Melvin Williams
PFC David Ruiz
PFC Steven O'Brien
PFC Richard Parsons
PFC Robert Puhman
PV2 James Warden
PFC Larry Franklin
PFC Jose Sanchez
PFC Kenneth Rollins
PFC Dale Sorenson
PFC John Traxler
PFC Patrick Terry
PFC Robert Abbott
PFC Joe Hunt

Delta Company

SGT Gary Hertel

Echo Company

Sp4 Craig Teichmiller
PFC Richard Hetrick



And The Short

Bravo Company

Sp4 David Bauer.....7Feb
1SG Douglas Howard.....13Feb
SGT Dennis Haraldson.....10Mar

Charlie Company

Sp4 Samuel Dillard.....9Mar
Sp4 Jon Green.....10Mar

Delta Company

Sp4 Ralph Orban.....2Feb
SFC Charles Roberts.....2Feb
Sp4 Michael Kuesch.....9Feb
Sp4 Deuward Atwood.....16Feb

Echo Company

Sp4 Dennis Dykes.....10Feb
Sp4 Fred Rowe.....10Feb

*Headquarters and Headquarters Company

MSG Robert Williams.....7Feb
PFC Donald Williams.....10Feb
SGT Darrel Dahlberg.....16Feb
SFC Frederick Mills.....16Feb
Sp4 Ralph Harrison.....10Mar
Sp4 Colon Davila.....10Mar

*Alpha Company

Sp4 Douglas Ingram.....1Feb
SGT Harry Cyphers III.....2Feb
Sp4 William Brower.....13Feb
SGT Glen Hughes.....16Feb

LTC Vernon B. Sonas.....Bn Commander
1LT Billy J Orr.....Adjutant
PFC Gene Colling.....Editor

Patty—continued from page 1

For their role in the well constructed outpost, First Lieutenant Ken Kroeger San Antonio Texas, and his company were presented the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and Certificate of Achievement respectively.

The outpost, named Patty after Kroeger's wife, will be manned by elements of Bravo Company and RF 147.

In remarks to the men after the ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Vernon B. Sones expressed his satisfaction in the well constructed bunkers and fighting positions. "Already we can see the beneficial results of your efforts as more and more land is being farmed around the hill," he told the men.

Shortimer Advice

Servicemen leaving the Army will now be aided in receiving assistance from the National Urban League Veterans Affairs Program.

The program provides advice on benefits available under the GI Bill and other Federal programs, counseling as to available educational and training programs, information about programs designed to assist in preparation for better job opportunities and other services.

Although the League's program is aimed primarily at minority group servicemen, all personnel may participate.

Under the new Army policy, servicemen within 90 to 120 days of separation who have decided not to reenlist will be advised by the Army that the League is assisting servicemen in their return to civilian life. The Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense also administer programs which benefit service men.

The program is voluntary and releasing names and other relevant information to the League will be done only with the serviceman's consent.

4-21 Recap

14Jan.—Bravo Company on OP Patty spotted 8-10 VC/NVA in the open moving south through the Rice Bowl. The enemy were engaged with machinegun fire and artillery. A Bravo Company BRRP team moving toward the enemy location sighted 10 VC in the open and again called in artillery on the enemy location.

16Jan.—Recon made contact with 7-10 VC/NVA on the beach northeast of Duc Pho. Gunships were called in and one platoon of C Co was inserted as a reaction force. An element of recon found one 4.2 round and one sand bag full of pcna 30 meters from the contact site.

16Jan.—Alpha Company found a small base camp consisting of three bamboo and thatch hootches, one with a bunker inside. Clothing and propaganda leaflets were found scattered in the hootches.

22Jan.—On patrol in the mountains south of Duc Pho, Charlie Company made contact with two VC. The enemy were engaged with small arms fire and broke contact. A scout dog picked up the trail, and a short time later sounded an alert. Movement was spotted in the bushes to the front. The point element engaged with small arms fire, and immediately automatic AK47 fire returned. Two VC were then seen fleeing the area.



GRUNT OF
THE MONTH

Alpha Finds Cave Complex

Hidden in the maze of a natural rock formation, the VC cave complex was virtually invisible until an Alpha Company patrol chanced upon it. Following the path of a stream that flowed past the rock formation, patrol leader Sergeant William Fischer, Anacortes, Washington, and his men spotted the entrance of the well concealed cave.

"We were working along the boundary of our AO and the 173rd's," said Alpha Company Commander Captain Mitchel Kotula, San Diego California. We knew from past experience that the VC like to store equipment along an AO boundary, so we were especially careful in searching the area."

Walking through the cave entrance, the "Gimlets" found a 200 meter long cavern that could accommodate up to 100 sleeping positions

"We found ammo cans filled with used gauze dressings and inoculation vials, which led us to believe that the cave had been used as a hospital," said Kotula.



The cavern was equipped with the convenience of running water--of sorts. Split and hollowed out bamboo shoots carried water from the stream to the cave.

Documents, diaries, and various articles of equipment were found scattered throughout the cave. Still warm fire places indicated a hasty evacuation

"We found one ammo can that was particularly interesting to everyone," said Kotula. It contained the personal items of a VC nurse, including love letters from her boy friend."

NOTE: Anyone wishing to apply for door gunner must have six months in country and six months retainability.



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