



10TH INFANTRY BRIGADE



# TRIDENTS

"JUNGLE WARRIORS"

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 37

DUC PHO, VIETNAM

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12, 1969

## 11TH BDE WRAP-UP

Action was light this past week for the "Jungle Warriors" as they accounted for 22 enemy killed, nine detained, and two weapons captured.

On Oct. 11th the men of B Co., 4-3, found a hidden tunnel while operating in an area 12 miles west of Duc Pho. After hollering into the tunnel and not receiving an answer the men threw in a grenade and then went inside to search it out. Inside they found one VC had been killed by the grenade and also found digging tools. Later in the day the 2nd platoon of B Co., 1-20, found a complete metal working shop one mile west of Duc Pho. Powder and explosives indicated that this was a fully-equipped VC mine factory.

The next day D Co., 3-1, captured one VCS who was spotted moving around to the right side of their NDP. The man did not have an ID or weapon. Later in the day D Co., 4-21, moved into a ville six miles south of here and spotted one man running from the ville. He was engaged, with small arms fire.

On Monday the Command and Control chopper for the 1-20, picked up two VCS two miles northwest of Duc Pho. About an hour later the Recon platoon of 4-21, made contact with five NVA 14 miles south of Duc Pho. When contact was broken a sweep of the area showed that one NVA had been killed. A young man clad in black pajamas tried to evade from the men of B Co., 1-20, but was killed by accurate small arms fire in an area two miles west of Duc Pho. In the last action of the day the Command and Control chopper for 4-3, received small arms fire from a ground position 12 miles northwest of here. They stayed in the area and directed mortar fire onto the enemy position. A low-level pass showed that one NVA had been killed.

On the 13th, the Warlords of B Co., 123rd Aviation Bn. killed four enemy in early morning action. In the afternoon they killed two more enemy bringing their total to six for the day. Two VCS were discovered hiding in a tree trying to watch the activities of A Co., 1-20. The two men said they belonged to the Farmers Association.

(CONT'D PAGE 4)



## VILLAGER WARNS GIs

"Beaucoup VC" came the whisper in the night. SGT Thomas G. Tilton (Grand Rapids, Mich.) of B Co., 1/20, who was leading a ten man squad to an ambush position four miles northwest of Duc Pho, stopped abruptly. A figure emerged from the shadows of a small hamlet, his finger on his lips in the international plea for silence. "Beaucoup VC" he repeated insistently. This time he pointed a direction.

SGT Tilton quickly deployed his men into a hasty ambush position. Less than a minute later a uniformed, armed figure appeared, followed by three others. The squad opened up when he reached their position killing him instantly. The other three scurried into the darkness.

The man was an NVA leader of a rice-carrying party. An AK-47, a bag of rice and documents were in his possession.

But the real prize of the day was the life-saving cooperation of the villager. "He knew both of us were there, but chose to inform us," said SGT Tilton. "As it was they walked into us but without this tip-off it would have been the other way around."

CPT Boyd Harris (Pontiac, Ill.) CO of B Co., said that this type of cooperation from the people of the local hamlets is becoming commonplace.

"The people have accepted us here," he said, "We have eliminated the VC infrastructure and made this a fairly secure place to live."

# COMMAND INFORMATION

## SQUAD LEADER'S DUTIES (BY CPT BOYD HARRIS, CO, B CO., 1-20)

The job of squad leader is one of the most difficult yet rewarding jobs in the army. It is undoubtably one of the most important jobs in an infantry company. Brilliant tactics, planning and organization for a mission accomplish nothing if the squad leader does not successfully lead his men in the accomplishment of the mission. Thus in the final analysis the success of any mission depends on the squad leader's ability to insure that each man in his squad knows his part in the mission and carries it out correctly. Only in this manner will the company succeed.

### LEADERSHIP

Leadership is a difficult subject to learn and master. Many books have been written about it. In short, leadership is the ability to get someone to do what you want them to do. There are many methods of leadership ranging from authoritarian to persuasive. As a squad leader you will find some men who merely need a suggestion to do something. With other men you must be harder. Persuasive leadership in which you show respect for subordinates is the best method. Your men will do a better job if they like and respect you. This will inspire them to work harder. However, with some men this will not work. In these cases you will have to use your authority and perhaps disciplinary measures. Do not back down and don't worry about some men not liking you. You can't please everyone. You will be liked and respected by your good men, if you do your job well and use your power and authority wisely when necessary.

### THE SQUAD LEADER AND HIS MEN

A good squad leader knows their personality, their home, their history. He knows what makes them tick and what he must do to insure that they do their job. In short he understands human nature and he understands his men.

### THE MISSION AND WELFARE OF THE MEN

The mission and welfare of the men go hand-in-hand. A successful mission is one that is accomplished well with no casualties. You must accomplish your mission and while you are

doing it YOU must take care of your men. a. In order to accomplish your mission you must insure that you have a good simple plan, and one for any situation that may develop during the mission. Plan for all possible contingencies.

1. What will you do if hit from the right, left or front? Continually practice drills for these situations. Each man should know his part.

2. Does every man have his proper equipment and ammunition? Always check this before you move out. The claymores, grenades, or magazines carelessly lost might be the ones that could save lives or might be the ones the enemy uses against you.

It is essential that all squad leaders know and enforce the company tactical SOP.

1. Have good security at all times and keep your men dispersed.

2. When on the move constantly check your men to insure that they are alert, dispersed, and in proper formation.

3. In day or night positions insure that someone is alert on guard in each position. Check on this systematically.

4. Inspect each man's weapon and equipment daily. YOU are responsible for this man's life. If he fails to clean his weapon you have failed. Save your men's lives by making them do their job.

5. When a man leaves the field you are responsible to insure that he does not take with him critical items such as starlight scopes, claymores, and demo kits. Check him.

b. Insure that each man takes care of himself. Insure that he bathes, shaves, and takes care of his feet. Sometimes it is necessary to physically inspect your men. (CON'D ON NEXT PAGE.)



# TRIDENT

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## WRAP UP CONT'D

The following day a sweep of the area outside their NDP showed that one VC had been killed when he set off a trip flare outside the perimeter of B Co., 3-1. In a similar incident B Co., 1-20 found that they had killed one NVA during the night and also captured his weapon. Four miles north of Duc Pho the Recon platoon of 1-20 engaged an element of NVA killing two of the enemy.

Thursday morning the Shark gunships of the 174th Assault Helicopter Co. killed one evading VC 19 miles north of Duc Pho. In the only other action of the day B Co., 4-3, engaged a squad of VC ten miles west of Duc Pho. When contact was broken they found four VC killed and captured an AK44 and four rucksacks.

The last day, C Co., 4-21, detained two VCS about 25 years of age who tried to evade from the unit. A short time later in the same area they engaged and killed one NVA and captured the enemy's pack. At noon two VC were spotted by B Co., 4-3, at the unit's old NDP site. Artillery was directed against the enemy killing one. C Co., 4-3, engaged and killed an NVA ten miles west of here as they moved through the area. The last action occurred when a leader of a Youth Organization was captured by Alpha 1-20.

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## SAVE — A — LIFE

Your field experiences in Vietnam have made you a strong, tough soldier. You have picked up little tricks which help, master the terrain, win the people and second guess the enemy. Many of these things are second nature to the seasoned soldier and are not found in text books. Why not share them with the men of the 11th Brigade in the TRIDENT? The life it saves may be your buddies!!! Give us a call at Duc Pho 148 or stop in at the Press Center.

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### PLT. LEADER SUCCUMBS TO BURNS

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2LT. Paul Marchant, platoon leader of the 59th Scout Dog Platoon, died yesterday as a result of burns received here in a accident on Oct. 7. He was being treated at an Army hospital in Japan.

Two other men injured in the same flash fire incident are expected to recover.

2LT. Marchant, a resident of Moline, Ill. attended Moline High School and Blackhawk College. He was commissioned from Infantry OCS at Fort Benning Ga. in Dec. 68 and had been in country since May of this year.

A memorial service is planned. Notification of time and place will be made in the Daily New Sheet.



## DON'T BE A DUD

Increasing concern over security of weapons and ammunition has generated recently on LZ Bronco, as a result of several reported violations of arms control regulations.

These regulations are defined under USARV regulation 210-5-67 and AR 190-11, dated 14 Nov. 66 which outline the physical security precautions for protection of weapons and ammunition. Such precautions are further governed under each unit's SOP.

Specifically, these regulations state that all weapons will be physically secured at all times regardless of the situation. All excess ammunition including grenades will be secured in the ammunition storage area or arms room.

Personnel desiring access to the ammunition supply point for the requisition of ammunition should see the unit supply sergeant.

According to Doctor (CPT) Charles Weddle (Lebanon, Ind.) A&D, there have been no accidental discharges or grenades but several instances of casualties produced by weapons discharging accidentally on LZ Bronco.

SP4 Mike L. Jones (McPherson, Ka.), 23rd MP Co., attested to this stating that there have been no known cases of accidental discharges of grenades in the rear area within the past year. But who can say how many accidental deaths have been prevented by stringent enforcement of safety regulations?

The recent crackdown on arms control violations is designed to prevent potentially dangerous situations from occurring and to minimize needless casualties on LZ Bronco.

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### (THE SQUAD LEADER CONT'D FROM PG 3)

In summary, being a good squad leader is a difficult job in war. It is a continuous, problem that you must work hard at every day. You can never let up. What is your reward? The respect and admiration of your men and your officers, the prestige of being an infantry leader and your peace of mind and self respect because you know you've done your best and what is right.

## CHAPLINS CORNER

### BY CHAPLAIN BENZING

Some years ago a great actor was asked at a function to recite for the pleasure of all his friends and guests. He consented and asked if there was anything they would especially like to hear. After a minute's pause, an old minister asked for the 23rd Psalm. A strange look came over the actor's face and then he said, "I will on one condition--that you recite after me."

Impressively the actor began the Psalm. His voice and intonation were perfect. Holding his audience spellbound, there was a great burst of applause when he finished. As it died away, the old man rose to his feet and began to recite the Psalm. His voice was not remarkable, his elocution was not perfect, his tone was not faultless; but when he finished, there was not a dry eye in the room. The actor rose and his voice quivered as he spoke, "Ladies and gentlemen, I reached your eyes and ears, but he has reached your hearts! The difference is just this: I know the Psalm but he knows the Shepherd!"

Too often religion becomes no more than the mere recitation of creeds or confessions or intellectual knowledge of certain facts passed down from generation to generation. No doubt tradition is important and has its place, but a personal knowledge of the living God is essential. This vital relationship between God and man is stated in the 23rd Psalm when David writes, "The Lord is my Shepherd." David realized that between him and God was the same relationship that exists between the shepherd and his sheep. God as the Shepherd is the Protector, the Sustainer, the Provider, the Deliverer, and the Guide. Can you with the Psalmist testify, "The Lord is MY Shepherd?" Do you know the Shepherd as well as you know the Psalm? Knowing Him is loving Him.

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( THE SQUAD LEADER-CON'D FROM PAGE 2)  
During monsoon season this is critical. Whenever possible have your men dry their feet, powder them and put on dry socks.

As a squad leader you must continually think and forecast the needs of your men in terms of the mission. Do you have a plan for dust-offs at night? Do you have flashlights, C-4, trip flares? Do you have firing stakes at night for night positions to mark sectors of fire? Do you have a plan for linking up with friendly personnel at night, such as flashing lights or firing shots? Does everyone in your NDP know the positions on his right and left and where the CP's are? Are your men dug in well? Does every man know the location of friendly units? Is every man completely informed? ( THE SQUAD LEADER-CONT'D ON PAGE 4)



### NVA ON DIET

Rice denial operations in the AMERICAL Division's area of operations continue to cripple the enemies' means of obtaining much-needed food. One such operation was concluded recently by members of Alpha and Bravo companies of 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry, Popular Forces (PF) Units and a contingent of Vietnamese rice-harvesters.

The joint US-ARVN venture took place 17 miles west of Duc Pho. Much of this area is now under the military control of the Republic of South Vietnam.

The site where the ripe rice crop abounded was first cordoned off by A Co., B Co., 4th Bn, 3rd Inf, and five platoons of PFs.

Two "Chinook" loads of Vietnamese soldiers from Bato were then CA'ed into the cordon and quickly moved through the area, searching and clearing the ground. When the location was secured, two "Chinooks" landed discharging the seventy-five civilians.

As the blocking units probed the surrounding terrain the workers harvested the rice. They worked energetically, for the rice they gathered would feed their families.

By the days end the harvesters had accumulated 18,000 pounds of rice stalks and 6,000 pounds of rice grain.

"To bring this war to a successful conclusion, rice denial operations will continue to play a vital role in reducing the effectiveness of the enemy," said Lieutenant Colonel Robert Fernandez (Fort Leavenworth, Kansas), battalion commander.

As the last conex was being loaded with rice, the VC tried to infiltrate the cordon, but the blocking force opened up on the enemy. Six VC lay dead after the brief firefight.

The rice was extracted by chopper to Bato, where it would be distributed to the villagers. Thus as the sun slowly set the enemy was minus much-needed rice and men. But another segment of the population carried home three tons of rice to their families under the protection of combined US-Vietnamese forces. The pacification program had progressed another stride.