

SYKES REGULARS

REPORTER



1ST Battalion

20th Infantry

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LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

April 3, 1970

THE MEDICAL CORPS ON THE RED BALL

The presence of American troops in the Duc Pho area has, no doubt, severely restricted the scale of VC operations in this part of Quang Ngai Province. Most important, however, is the isolation of large segments of the population from enemy harassment.

The people are now becoming free to begin restructuring their lives within the framework of a pacified environment. And this pacification necessarily implies a program of medical care.

This battalion's program of medical aid along Highway One is indeed an extensive one. It is designed to offer to as much of the population as possible aid in the forms both of medical supplies and of the aidman's patient skill.

Three times a week a Medcap team sets up along the highway, principally at Buddha, the Twin Villes, Van Truong, and the North Bridge.

The battalion surgeon, Dr. (CPT) Harry S. Prim (Dothan, Ala.), and his crew of four aidmen take out a shopload of medical supplies on each sortie and treat from fifty to a hundred people. Shots are given, medicine is dispensed, and minor sores and injuries are treated. If the team encounters any serious injuries or illnesses, it makes arrangements for the patients to be immediately evacuated to the 23rd Med for treatment.

The aidmen also keep track of people whose ailments are of a chronic nature. In such cases they give the patients slips providing for treatment at Bravo Co's aid station at Van Truong.

The program also keeps a jeep available for Bravo Co's medics stationed along the highway. When a person needs help beyond the capability of the medic, he calls for the vehicle which is immediately dispatched to bring the patient to Bronco.

The aidmen who take part in the program see marked improvements in the physical condition of the people who have sought their help.

"You can tell these people are cleaner, have fewer sores, and are generally in better health," said SP4 Henry Bush (MEDCAP continued page 3)

RECON KILLS ONE VC, DETAINS ONE, AND GETS AK

Recon's platoon leader attempted last Thursday to squeeze into a spider hole his men had uncovered but as it turned out, it's a good thing the hole was too narrow for him.

First Lieutenant Warren T. Waterbury (Ashland, Ky.) was leading a sweep through a group of hedgerows adjacent to the Gaza Strip, two kilometers northwest of Van Truong. Recon had been conducting operations in the area with tracks from E Troop, 1/1st Cav. when one of his men spotted the hole, well concealed in the undergrowth.

"I made it down as far as my shoulders, but couldn't go any farther, so I felt around with my feet and took a look with my flashlight. I noticed there was something off in a corner," Waterbury explained.

When he crawled back out, he had a concussion grenade dropped in the hole as a further precaution for clearing it. Immediately after the explosion, a VC emerged with his hands in the air, and another crawled to the entrance where he died.

The platoon's Kit Carson Scout, Huynh Bong, then checked out the hole and came up with an AK47, a pistol, a frag, and two pistol belts.

RECON PROMPTS A HOI CHANH AND AN AK

One morning early this week, the Recon Platoon was returning to Liz from its ambush position in the 515. In a group of hooches west of the firebase, the platoon's Kit Carson Scout, Huynh Bong, found a Vietnamese female concealing enemy documents, (RECON continued page 3)

WANT TO KNOW YOUR FUTURE?

By Your Chaplain, Eugene W. Scott

Would you like to sit down in your bunker and write out your future? You can. This world is one of law and order. If you know the law, you can use it to your advantage.

If you plant radishes, you'll get radishes. You don't expect pansies.

If you plant wheat, you know you'll reap wheat.

You know this law of nature cannot be broken. The One who wrote that law for nature wrote the same law for us:

Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Gal. 6:7)

You are perfectly positive about getting corn if you plant corn, but you may be like others and think you can sow one thing in your life yet reap another. God says don't be deceived. You may think you can live for yourself. Sure you can—but you will also die by yourself. You know: "Plant corn; get corn."

Can you think evil, read evil, or watch evil without these becoming a part of you? Sow the wind, and you'll reap the whirlwind!

Perhaps you haven't done any outstanding evil. Getting ahead in the world is most important for you. Good and well. But then don't expect to be welcomed into the next life. You'll reap what you sow.

For he that soweth in his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit, shall reap everlasting life. (Gal. 6:8)

Wouldn't you like to reap life everlasting?

A doctor, and anyone else with a goal in life, has to be willing to sow many long years of preparation to reap the rewards of his profession. Is it not a tremendously good investment to sow to the Spirit for the few years you are on this earth in order to reap life everlasting?

"I do not know what the future holds, but I do know who holds the future."

AUTHORITIES WATCH MAIL CLOSELY

The Bureau of Customs and the Department of Defense have joined in a concerted effort to discourage military personnel from using the mails to send home illicit war souvenirs as well as marijuana and other drugs.

Commissioner of Customs Myles J. Ambrose said intensified inspection of mail packages arriving at U.S. ports of entry has resulted in a marked increase in seizure of contraband. He called the flow of illicit war souvenirs "a veritable flood," and warned that "serious consequences" could ensue if the tide was not

SGT LARRY JOHNSON IS NOO OF WEEK

The SYKES' REGULARS NOO of the week is SGT Larry E. Johnson of Pocahontas, Ark. He has served with Charlie Co. since September and is currently responsible for computing for the Mortar Platoon.

He completed both AIT and Basic at Ft. Polk, La., and has two years under his belt at Southern Baptist Junior College in Walnut Ridge, Ark.

Upon completion of his active duty, he plans to finish his work toward a Bachelor's degree at Arkansas State in Jonesboro.

turned.

He said the real problem, as far as the military is concerned, is the traffic in illicit war trophies and stolen weapons. He said such traffic has increased during the Vietnam conflict.

He explained that military personnel who mail contraband are violating Federal statutes as well as military regulations. He said, "People who mail contraband are violating, first of all, postal regulations. Because the packages come from across the border, the general smuggling laws are also violated. If the item crosses state lines, the Treasury Department's tax regulations are violated. So there is no want of legal authority for prosecution in these cases."

Deputy Commissioner Rains said some war trophies can be brought back from Vietnam if permission is first received from the field commander. "But," he said, "many of the weapons seized by the Bureau are American and therefore stolen government property."

On drugs he said military personnel are not involved in major traffic, but 25% smuggled marijuana and hashish emanates from overseas military facilities.

BATTALION SUMMARY

MARCH 23

Recon detained five Vietnamese during a sweep a kilometer west of Liz, three of whom turned out to be VC extortionists. The men also confiscated 250 pounds of rice they had in their possession.

Bravo's 2nd Platoon picked up two Vietnamese for questioning, neither of whom had IDs.

MARCH 24

Deep in the mountains near the village of Lang Dong Ban (2), Alpha Co. found a destroyed basecamp with freshly cut bamboo and a half built hooch. In the same general area, the company found two old bunkers, a 51 calibre machinegun position, and 10-12 campfire sites.

Bravo Co.'s 3rd Platoon, working two kilometers west of Duc Pho, engaged an enemy group which evaded to the south. The men detained one suspect, however, who was picked up near the area of contact.

Bravo's 2nd Platoon detained two suspects near the access road to Liz and later confirmed a report by an RF element that it had killed a VC who tried to evade into a bunker. The dead VC reportedly held the rank of sergeant. Later in the evening the platoon detained three more suspects, one with a false ID, and the other two with no IDs.

MARCH 25

Bravo's 2nd Platoon dusted off a Vietnamese who was suffering uncontrollable fits. It was found that the Vietnamese had been VC. The platoon later picked up five civilians for interrogation.

Alpha Co.'s 1st Platoon, still operating in the mountains, found an old VC/NVA basecamp with 15 old bunkers, 11 destroyed hooches, three fighting positions, and 25 to 30 punji sticks that weren't but two or three days old.

MARCH 26

Bravo Co. turned in a total of six Vietnamese for interrogation.

The Recon Platoon killed one VC and detained another who were hiding in a tunnel in the Gaza Strip. The men confiscated an AK47, a pistol, a hand grenade, and two pistol belts.

An element of the 169th PF Platoon sprung an ambush on three VC just off the Red Ball by the Tra Cau River. All three of the enemy evaded, but evidence indicated that one of them had been wounded. The RFs also confiscated a uniform and an enemy carbine.

MARCH 27

Alpha Co. came onto another old basecamp in the mountains southwest of Duc Pho. This one consisted of several destroyed hooches with a number of trails leading from them. The basecamp housed approximately 30 people.

Bravo Co.'s 2nd Platoon detained three suspects, none of whom had identification, and killed one VC, near the railroad berm north of Liz, who was trying to evade with enemy documents.

Bravo's 2nd Platoon received a report from its Kit Carson Scout that two VC had tripped their own booby trap, but no further confirmation was in evidence.

MARCH 28

Bravo Co. turned in a total of five civilians for interrogation.

A Warlord team working east of Alpha Co.'s position in the mountains to the south reported killing two NVA and (SUMMARY continued page 4)

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MEDCAP continued
of South Bend, Ind., former Bravo Co. medic.

"They know they can get help from us, and they look forward to our Medcaps," he added.

RECON continued
and she was turned in for questioning.

Two days later on LZ Max, a VC Chieu Hoi'd to the Allies there, turning in his AK47.

He turned out to be the husband of the female Bong had detained earlier.

SYKES REGULARS REPORTER
Battalion Commander

LTC Arthur F. Fischer
Adjutant

CPT Boyd Harris
Correspondant
SP4 Toby Prodgers

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Stay Army
RE-UP!

SUMMARY continued

wounding one who evaded. The team also picked up an AK47 and an SK6.

Delta Co., near Nui Tam Cop west of Liz, spotted 150 to 160 enemy soldiers who evaded when they were spotted. Artillery and air strikes were called in on the enemy position but little could be found in the area.

MARCH 29

Bravo's 1st Platoon detained four Vietnamese for interrogation and the company's 3rd Platoon engaged a group of 10 to 15 uniformed enemy personnel. The men checked the enemy's position and came up with a carbine, an antipersonnel mine, a hand grenade, an NVA ammo belt, and a pack. The platoon also detained two suspects found in the area.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

Departures:

HHC

SP6 Robert Gandy--Columbus, Miss.

SP5 Ramon Bravo--San Francisco, Calif.

SP4 David Keefhaver--Hect, Mo.

SP4 Santiago Rivera--Ponce, P.R.

PFC Harold Ruether--Wausau, Wisc.

PVT Bernard Kubilus--Ellicottcy, Mo.

A Co.

SP4 Elmer Channel--Troy, Tex.

B Co.

SGT James M. Leahy--Chesapeake, Va.

SP4 Jerry B. McMinn--Etowah, Tenn.

C Co.

SGT Eugene Knowles--Green Cove Springs, Fla.

D Co.

SP4 David G. Yslava--Tuscon, Ariz.

Replacements:

HHC

PFC Mario Ceballos--Bronx, N.Y.

A Co.

PFC Eugene Gainey--Cheraw, S.C.

PFC Henry Krauter--Brooklyn, N.Y.

PFC Albert J. Kochendarfer--Osterburg, Pa.

PFC James D. Evans--Newark, N.J.

B Co.

PFC William Kenney--Linden, N.J.

PFC Michael Lally--Red Wing, Minn.

C Co.

SSG Michael Seward--Winchester, Va.

SGT Asencio Lavezarry--San Sebastian, P.R.

SGT Robert N. Matthews--Falls Church, Va.

SGT John T. Van Zutphen--Delmar, N.Y.

PFC Robert M. Hupp, Jr.--Newark, Ohio

PFC Wayne Kettler--Wheelerburg, W. Va.

PFC Sandy Austin--Washington, D.C.



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D Co.

SGT Barry D. Gray--Clemmons, N.C.

SGT Rich Van Nostrand--Detroit, Mich.

PFC Ronnie Horton--Hillsville, Va.

PFC William L. Kirch--Kansas City, Kans.

PFC Russel Marshall--North Pekin, Ill.

E Co.

PFC Clarence Darnell--Sinai, Ky.

PFC John Eft--Steubenville, Ohio



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