

# SYKES REGULARS



## REPORTER

1<sup>ST</sup> Battalion



20<sup>th</sup> Infantry



Volume 2, Number 15

LZ IIZ, VIETNAM

April 10, 1970

### BRavo AMBUSH NETS TWO VC, TWO RIFLES

TWIN VILLES--One evening last week Bravo Co.'s 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, was working a patrol north of the Twin Villes when two Vietnamese children approached with information concerning VC personnel operating near their hamlet just east of the Red Ball.

"They said they had seen two VC with AK47s watching our perimeter at the Twin Villes. The VC had probably been on guard for our patrols," explained SP4 Richard L. Goldsmith (Philo, Ohio). "We asked the babysans to keep us informed."

Two days later the squad got specific intell from the children that the VC were moving that night. SGT Melvin B. Welch (McMinnville, Ore.)

led his men to a spot 100 meters from their planned ambush site and were preparing to check out the area before it got dark.

They had been there for about five minutes when the RF soldiers with the squad spotted two VC moving through a ditch covered with thick undergrowth.

"The RFs opened up first and the two VC ran off. Then one of the RFs went down into the ditch and brought out two weapons," said Goldsmith. Both weapons were automatic rifles, one of them an AK47.

The next morning the squad searched the area and found the bodies of the two VC who had died about 25 meters from the point of contact. They had been carrying pistol belts, a frag, and four full magazines for their rifles.

\*\*\*\*\*  
ARMY 'GRIPE BOARD  
ESTABLISHED FOR GIs

The soldier's right to gripe has been for-  
(GRIPE cont. page 2)

### AFTER C/A, ALPHA'S 1ST GETS TWO AKs

Alpha Co.'s 1st Platoon picked up two AK47s one afternoon this week in a smoothly conducted operation involving air strikes, gunships, and artillery.

Warlords had just inserted a LRRP team into the mountains, two kilometers west of OD Lake, and minutes later the scouts made contact with an unknown size force of NVA. Alpha Co. was immediately notified and its elements began maneuvering toward the area of contact.

After the gunships shot up the enemy position, two sets of air strikes were called in. Alpha's 1st Platoon was then picked up for a C/A and while the men hovered overhead, arty pounded the site to further prepare the for insertion.

The LRRPs were extracted when the 1st Platoon landed. The men immediately began their search

\*\*\*\*\*  
SSG RIDGE'S SQUAD  
DISRUPTS VC MEAL

Bravo Co.'s squad at the Duc Pho compound routed a small VC nest this week near the hamlet of Vinh Lac(4), four kilometers west of Duc Pho as the enemy soldiers were enjoying their afternoon meal.

For two days in a row, the squad, led by SSG Thomas Ridge (Erie, Pa.), had made contact with the same enemy group of about ten personnel. All the action took place on a hill near Vinh Lac, and the men had confiscated a carbine, an anti-personnel mine, two frags, a pack, and personal (SSG RIDGE continued page 2)

\*\*\*\*\*  
which yielded two AK47s, and two packs containing documents, clothes, and binoculars.

Although the scattering NVA were able to find refuge in the thickly vegetated mountain-side, but heavy blood trails indicated that a number of them had been wounded.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Editorial

### NO GENERATION GAP

A preliminary survey report from a five-year project indicates America's youth are not as anti-military as one might suspect from the news media.

The survey, "Young Men Look At Military Service," is part of a broader Youth In Transition project which followed young men from the start of their tenth grade (Fall of 1966) to the time when most of them had been out of high school for about a year (Spring of 1970). The project is being conducted under a U.S. Office of Education contract with Department of Defense support.

Among its most basic purposes, Youth In Transition includes the study of attitudes, plans, and behaviors, particularly those relating to educational and occupation aspirations and achievements. The



Department of Defense, of course, placed special emphasis on military plans and attitudes.

Some of the findings have been highly significant.

For instance, the majority of the young men do not fit the "generation gap" stereotype of rebellious youth casting aside the values of their elders. In fact, the dominant position they express essentially supports the principles Americans have lived by for decades.

They are not strongly opposed to the war in Vietnam, nor are they anti-military or pacifists. They agree that it is important to fight the spread of communism.

The young men are quite knowledgeable about draft requirements,

but are not so well informed about the conditions and compensation associated with active military service.

The majority see good citizenship primarily in terms of obedience to law and pride in country. For them military service provides an opportunity to serve their country. (AFPS)

\*\*\*\*\*  
SSG RIDGE continued

items.

The third day, the squad moved into the area by a different route. Sweeping down from the top of the hill, the men spotted a VC, apparently being posted as a sentry, emerging from a bunker.

SGT Kurtess Walker (Parowan, Utah) traded shots with the sentry, and the squad then opened up on the rest of the enemy personnel as they scattered down the hill, leaving their chow behind.

The results of the contact were one VC killed and a radio, two packs, and a hand grenade confiscated.

\*\*\*\*\*  
GRIPE continued

mally recognized by the Army and a sounding board has been established to lend an ear.

The program is called "The Army Sounding Board for the Individual Soldier" and is designed to hear complaints about individual combat clothing and equipment. It includes the management procedures to react to valid suggestions and expedite improvement of items.

Acting on all suggestions will be the Infantry Agency of the U.S. Army Combat Developments Command (CDC), at Ft. Belvoir, Va.

Ideas on improving combat clothing and equipment may be sent to:

The Army Sounding Board  
USACDC Infantry Agency  
Ft. Benning, Ga. 31905

## BATTALION SUMMARY

### MARCH 30

Alpha Co.'s 1st Platoon was inserted into the mountains, two kilometers west of OD Lake, after a Brigade LRRP team made contact there. The men picked up two AK47s and various items of other enemy gear.

Bravo Co.'s squad stationed at the Duc Pho compound registered one enemy killed and enemy gear confiscated.

### MARCH 31

Bravo Co. turned in three suspects for interrogation. The company's 2nd Platoon out of the Twin Villas killed two VC and picked up the two rifles they were carrying.

Alpha Co., working south of the Tra Cau River near the railroad berm, picked up a bag of AK47 ammo, a bag of carbine ammo, and pouches of .30 calibre ammo and one .30 calibre magazine. The men also found an old NVA basecamp used by approximately 8-10 personnel. Shirts and pants were found as well as camp fires not more than two days old.

A gunship team was alerted to radar sightings in the mountains, five kilometers west of Liz. The Cobras reported killing five of the enemy and artillery and air strikes were called in. Delta's 1st Platoon was C/Ad into the area and confirmed the gunships' five kills. The men found food and carrying gear strewn over the area which indicated that the enemy group had been a supply element for larger forces in the hills.

### APRIL 1

Bravo Co. turned in a total of four suspects for interrogation, and the company's 1st Platoon checked the area where it had sprung its ambush the previous night and found blood trails and an AK47 magazine.

### APRIL 2

Bravo Co. detained one Vietnamese suspect for questioning, picked up near the railroad berm, two kilometers north of Liz.

### APRIL 3

Alpha Co. uncovered two tunnel complexes near An Dien, six kilometers south of Liz. One of them was located in a well bottom with two branches both about forty feet long.

Bravo Co.'s 1st Platoon was on a clearing patrol west of Van Truong, acting on intel that there were VC in the area. The men had just broken through a hedgerow when they spotted a bunker. They cleared the bunker with two claymores and then heard moans coming from an adjacent tunnel. The incident resulted in one VC wounded and one killed. The men also found a sizable quantity of enemy medical gear.

### APRIL 4

Bravo Co. detained five suspects, one of whom admitted to being a VC.

Charlie Co. found a well concealed tunnel by Highway 515 north of Liz which the interpreter said had been used the previous night.

Following the lead of its Kit Carson Scouts, Alpha Co. uncovered

\*\*\*\*\*  
an enemy basecamp in the mountains four kilometers west of Liz. The encampment was built on a stream bed and consisted of three hooches that had housed about 20 people. The men found clothing, canteen cups, a full rifle magazine, and a poster advising the Americans to Chieu Hoi to the VC cause.

### APRIL 4

Bravo Co. detained two suspects, Recon five, and Charlie detained one.

\*\*\*\*\*

AVEDISIAN IS NCO OF WEEK

SGT James Avedisian, Jr. (Detroit, Mich.) is the Sykes' Regulars' NCO of the Week. He is currently the squad leader of Delta's 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, and has been with the company since last June.

A graduate of Rudford Union High School in Detroit, he attended Lawrence Institute of Technology for two years, working for a degree in mechanical engineering.

Upon completion of his active service, he plans to seek an apprenticeship with either an electrician or pattern maker of automotive parts. The only thing that kept him from an apprenticeship before was his draft classification--1A.



# THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

The strength of an ox.  
The tenacity of a bulldog  
The daring of a lion.  
The patience of a donkey.  
The industry of a beaver.  
The versatility of a chameleon.  
The vision of an eagle.  
The melodies of a nightingale.  
The meekness of a lamb.  
The hide of a rhinoceros.  
The disposition of an angel.  
The resignation of an incurable.  
The loyalty of an apostle.  
The faithfulness of a prophet.  
The tenderness of a shepherd.  
The fervency of an evangelist.  
The devotion of a mother.

--Selected

\*\*\*\*\*

## HAILS & FAREWELLS

### Departures:

HMC

SP5 Keith Stensgaard--Hawley, Minn.

Co. A

SGT Howard Rockwell--Dennisport, Mass

SGT Nolan McSwain--New Orleans, La.

SP Gilbert Ruelas--Santa Maria, Cal

SP4 Orville Jones--Mt. Olive, N.C.

Co. B

SGT Walter Edmonds--Chicksaw, Ala.

SGT Kenneth Ingram--Edison, Ga.

SP4 Billy Pike--Standing Rock, Ala.

SP4 Willard Holland--East Point, Ga.

Co. C

SP4 Chris Drayton--Queens, N.Y.

SP4 Steve Nicholls--Kearns, Utah

SP4 Michael Stinnett--Cunningham, Tx

SP4 David Waters--Wellston, Ohio

SP4 Russell Dunbar--Moline, Ill.

PFC David Brown--Baltimore

PFC Paul Wysocki--Lancaster, N.Y.

Co. D

SGT Larry Miller--Bridgewater, Va.

SP5 Ken Leslie--Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

SP4 Donald Kendrick--McAllester, Ut.

SP4 Larry Martin--Detroit

SP4 John Kilzer--Watertown, Tenn.

SP4 Tony Honea--Clemson, S.C.

Co. E

SSG Melvin Blanchard--Salt Lake City

SGT Jerry Beltz--Grand Rapids, Mich.

SP Larry Patterson--Monahans, Tes.

SP4 Ronald Shipe--Washington, Pa.

### Replacements:

Co. A

SGT Kermit Kubitz--Janesville, Wisc

Co. B

SGT James Broadhead--Soldier's Grove, Ill

SP4 Robert Howard--Memphis, Tenn.

Co. D

SGT Jeffrey Hall--Derby Line, Vt.

\*\*\*\*\*

### DELAYED TAX DATE FOR RVN VETERANS

Servicemen and women, federal civilian employees and Red Cross workers in the Republic of Vietnam do not have to file federal income tax returns for 1969 until 180 days after they return from the war zone.

The extension also applies to servicemen hospitalized outside the United States as a result of duty in Vietnam, accredited correspondents, and others in Vietnam supporting the U.S. Armed Forces.

The wife of a serviceman in Vietnam has several choices regarding their tax return. She may file a separate return now if she had any income and amend it to a joint return when her husband returns, or postpone the filing of a return until her husband leaves Vietnam and meets filing requirements. (AFPS)

**VETERANS  
ASK** oooo

Q--I was released from the Army six months ago. Can I get dental care through the VA?

A--A veteran has one year from the date of his release from active duty to apply for dental care from the VA. If he applies within the first six months, it is presumed that his dental condition is service-connected.