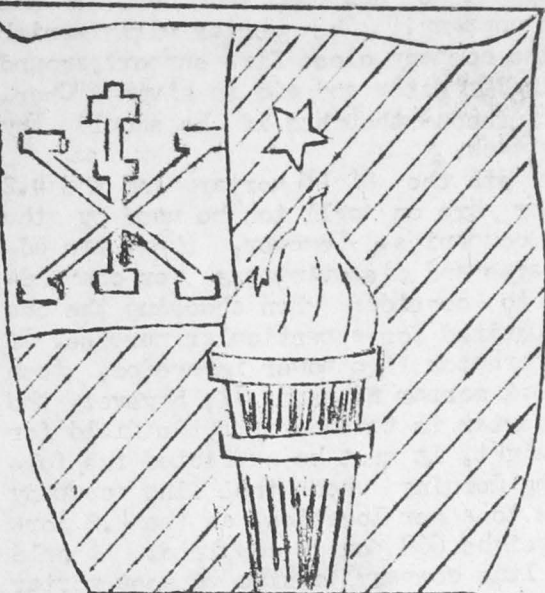


1/46th THE PROFESSIONALS



VOL 1 NO 7

AUG 27 1969

A FLYING MORTAR SUPPORT

NEW MESS HALL MEANS HOT A's IN THE FIELD

To give the line companies extra fire power while in the field a new organization has been formulated. This organization is known as "Flying Mortar Support". "The idea of 'Flying Mortar Support'," as SFC Candido Pantajo (Levittown Catano, Puerto Rico), 81st MM Mortar Platoon Sergeant, explained, "is to provide mortars, on call, to any company operating in the field, who needs or desires mortar support with them."

When called for the mortar team is picked up on LZ Professional and taken out to the field by helicopter. This is usually done as late in the evening as possible, after the line company has set up in their night defensive position. "We do this," said SFC Celedonio Fabon (Brooklyn, N.Y.), 4.2 Mortar Platoon Sergeant, "so 'Charlie' will not know a

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When LTC. Craig G. Coverdale (Manhasset, N.Y.) took command of the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry, hot A's in the field were something a few old timers had heard about, and all new men dreamed about. However, hot A's were seldom seen. Through the leadership of LTC. Coverdale, and the efforts of SFC Elemon Nobles (Sumpter, S.C.), Mess Sergeant, and SGT. Robert Stephens (Burlington, Ky.), SGT. Cary Stienbacher (Costa Mesa, Calif.), the two carpenters for the battalion, a new mess hall has just been completed on LZ Professional.

The main purpose of the new mess hall is two-fold. SP/5 James Gore (Seattle, Wash.), cook, explained, "We provide two hot meals a day to the men of the line company, who are pulling bunker guard, as well as to the permanent party

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

mortar tube has been sent out to the line company." The mortar will furnish to the company close fire support around their perimeter and aid in giving "Charlie" second thoughts if he should try an attack.

Both the 81 mm mortar and the 4.2 mortar are on call to be used by the line companies. However, there are advantages and disadvantages for commanders to consider when choosing the one best suited for a particular purpose. If the greater fire power is needed, then the 4.2 mortar is used. If, however, the 4.2 mortar is taken out to the field for the night, it must be extracted the following morning when the line company moves to a new location, as the 4.2 mortar weighs 668 pounds complete. Should the line company desire to keep mortar support with them throughout the day, the 81mm mortar, which weighs only 115 pounds complete can be utilized. The 81mm mortar can be broken down and carried with the line company, although, there is a sacrifice of fire power.

When the mortar tube is taken out to the field, a team of 11-C's accompany it. This insures proper utilization of the weapon with maximum efficiency. There are six men who attend the 81mm mortar and nine with the 4.2 mortar, two of which are from FDC. These men are experienced in the use of their weapon, and they give fast fire support to the company to which they are attached.

Between the 4.2 mortar and the 81mm mortar, the 81mm mortar is the most efficient to be used in the field. This is due to the lesser weight involved. If for some reason the line company had to move out fast, the 81mm mortar could be taken along. The 4.2 mortar, however, would have to be destroyed. Also in favor of the 81mm mortar is its ability to place rounds as close to friendly troops as desired, whereas the 4.2 mortar can only bring rounds in as close as 950 meters in front of the troops.

To the men who go with the mortar, the thought of a night in the bush is not very inviting. Whereas, to the men of a line company, the thought of a mortar tube near at hand adds a feeling of security. As mortar man PFC Bert Freeman (Mt Pleasant, Mich.) put it, "... it is a good idea to have a tube out there supporting the field troops."

stationed on LZ Professional. Also of equal importance, we prepare hot food every day to a different line company operating in the field.

"The new mess hall," said SFC Nobles, "prepares and serves about 500 hot meals each day." There are ten cooks assigned to the "LZ Professional Mess Hall" and these men are doing an outstanding job of preparing good hot food for the men of this battalion. The cooks usually serve breakfast and lunch and do any necessary baking during the afternoon.

The reaction of the men to the new mess hall is obvious. "It's great," said PFC Dave Williams (Rock Falls, Ill.). "Things are a lot better than before," added SGT. Al Plompol (White Marsh, Md.) SGT. Frank Blanch (Espanola, N.M.) commented, "I like their fried chicken. ... it's Southern fried." SP/4 Michael MC. Carthy, (St. Paul, Minn.) went on, "The thought of waking up to bacon and eggs in the morning makes pulling bunker guard and details a pleasure." The men who beat the bush are all in favor of the new mess hall. It offers to the men of a line company something to "dig" in to besides C-rations.

DELTA DROPS ENEMY SOLDIERS

On the 8th of August, Delta Company was operating to the southeast of LZ Professional. The company moved out of their day defensive position and of further east to set up their night defensive position. The following morning, CPT. Jesse Sellers (Baltimore, Md.) had the second and third platoons move back in the same direction they had moved the previous afternoon. CPT. Sellers hoped to trick the enemy, by doubling back, setting up a platoon size ambush on a trail they had crossed the day before, and hopefully catching the enemy in the trap.

As the point man, PFC Bill Shaw

AWARDS FOR SEPTEMBER

SGT Robert Bush (Carbondale, Ill.)
SGT William Delucia (Schenectady, N.Y.)
SP/4 Arvil Fursley (Pokeville, Tenn.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SGT Dominick Crocitto (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
SP/4 Raymond Pacheco (Ligwood, Ohio)
SP/4 Jon Couitt (Newport, N.H.)
SP/4 Jose Miranda-Rivera (Vega Alta, P.R.)
SP/4 Kenneth Skiba (Los Angeles, Calif.)
SP/4 Weldon Skipworth (Sherman, Texas)
SP/4 John Worden (Deferite, N.Y.)

BRAVO COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

SGT Dean Sensabaugh (Saginaw, Mich.)
SGT John Anda (Chicago, Ill.)
SGT Steven Vondric (Steelton, Pa.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Richard Cross (Riverside, Calif.)
SP/4 Donald Kozina (Sobieski, Wis.)
SP/4 James Loane (Baltimore, Md.)
SP/4 Ronald White (Barstow, Calif.)

CHARLIE COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

1SG Manuel Padilla (Tacoma, Wash.)
SFC Herbert Cambell (Philadelphia, Pa.)
SFC Pete Gonzales (Holt, Mich.)
SSG Joe Frederick (Hackleburg, Ala.)
SSG Thurman Poiteuint (Carroll, Ga.)
SGT David Gilmartin (Evanston, Ill.)
SGT Steve Glover (Acampo, Calif.)
SGT Edward Kaywork (Kearny, N.J.)
SP/5 Steven Jones (Rielto, Calif.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Eddie Oliver (Eustis, Fla.)
SP/4 Rene Quintanilla (Kingsville, Texas)
SP/4 Josse Richberg (Philadelphia, Pa.)
SP/4 Dale Thacker (Cardina, Calif.)
SP/4 Steven Vargo (Muskegon, Mich.)
PFC Paul Blanchette (Far Harbor, Mich.)

DELTA COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

SFC Candido Pantoja (Levittown Catano, P.R.)
SGT Terry Nelson (Memphis, Tenn.)
SP/4 Claud Fanucci (Jessup, Pa.)
SP/4 Daniel Freeman (Baker, Ore.)

HEC

BRONZE STAR

CPT Robert Jakes (San Francisco, Calif.)
1LT Marshall Cooper (Hamburg, N.Y.)
1LT Joseph Inman (Boston, Mass.)
1LT Steve Novak (Windburg, Pa.)
1LT David Waltz (Pascig, Rd. I.)
SFC Anthony Panunto (Philadelphia, Pa.)
SSG Willie Poyer (Modesto, Calif.)
SGT David Eylund (Minneapolis, Minn.)
SGT Robert Mengano (Palisades Park, N.J.)
SP/5 Bruce Bauman (Rutland, N.D.)
SP/5 David Berent (Buffalo, N.Y.)
SP/5 George Sutherland (Satanta, Ka.)
SP/4 James Johnson (Engalls, Ark.)
SP/4 Orlando Seis (Tallen, N.J.)
SP/4 Steven Spencer (West Monroe, La.)
SP/4 Cary Steinbacher (Costa Mesa, Calif.)
SP/4 Frederick Zuck (Bayonne, N.J.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/5 Roy Brackett (Saginaw, Mich.)
SP/5 Ray Gosick (Old Saybrook, Conn.)
SP/5 John Lis (Buffalo, N.Y.)
SP/5 Andrew Parks Jr. (Crockett, Va.)
SP/5 James Warren (Pekin, Ill.)
SP/5 Harry Zemon (Carnegie, Pa.)
SP/4 Raymond Carr (Macon, Ga.)
SP/4 Jesus Emmanuelli (Guayanilla, P.R.)
SP/4 Lyle Luce (Pasom, N.Y.)
SP/4 Salvador Morced (San Padre, Calif.)
SP/4 Mario Messineo (Bronx, N.Y.)
SP/4 Rodney Sommerfield (Grove City, Minn.)
SP/4 James Staten (Portsmouth, Ohio)

ALPHA COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

1SG Aime Thomas (Pompano Beach, Fla.)
SSG John Landon (Crisfield, Md.)
SSG Michael Wallace (Houston, Texas)

THE "11-B" MEDIC

Due to the increased number of medics who have DECEASED and who soon will there is a growing concern for people to replace those who have already left the field. This is why certain people with a combat MOS have done the forbidden, volunteered. However, they have volunteered for duty as field medics.

Why would someone ask for the extra weight and the increased danger, when there are none of the benefits to be gained from the job? PFC "Doc" Dave Williams (Rock Falls, Ill.) had this to say about the situation, "When I first arrived in country I was assigned to Charlie Company 1st Battalion 46th Infantry and placed as an assistant runner with the M-60 machine gun. Some of our medics became ill and I saw the need to offer my services for I felt I could better serve the company in that capacity." Ever since that time "Doc" Williams has remained a medic, and now holds the position of head medic. Exactly what qualifications do these men need to become volunteer medics? SP/4 Ken Niemiec (Woodbridge, N.J.) said, "First of all you must want to be a field medic and second you had better know some first-aid." Both of these fine men along with others have felt the need to assist, and they have a good knowledge about first-aid. PFC Williams was a trainer in college, had some pre-med courses, worked in a hospital, and before entering the service he was a high school coach. SP/4 Ken Niemiec did this type of work back home where he was a member of the Woodbridge Emergency Squad.

These men are doing a first class job out in the field with very little reward. They have earned the Combat Medics Badge but are not authorized to wear it. They spend a full tour in the field where as the regular combat medics spend six months in the rear. These men do their job with little praise and little personal thought for themselves, but they do it because they are needed.



AWARDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

DELTA COMPANY

SP/4 Elwood Hunt (Fairmont, N.C.)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SGT William Lager (Masco, Calif.)
 SGT Kenneth Grey (Portland, Ore.)
 SGT Robert Pottridge (Ft Smith, Ark.)
 SGT Thomas Robinson (Thorsby, Ala.)
 SGT Larry Shumaker (Spring, Pa.)
 SP/4 Pedro Parrera (Mission, Texas)
 SP/4 Michael Callum (Three Lakes, Wis.)
 SP/4 Miguel Castillo (Peoria, Ariz.)
 SP/4 Sergio Castillo (Roma, Texas)
 SP/4 James Covington (Baltimore, Md.)
 SP/4 Gerald Dyer (Rothbury, Mich.)
 SP/4 Linwood Gray (Baltimore, Md.)
 SP/4 Russell Hedstrom (Ludlow, Minn.)
 SP/4 Roger Holbak (Fremont, Calif.)
 SP/4 Raymone Kolacinski (Perry N.Y.)
 SP/4 Robert Kooi (Lansing, Ill.)
 SP/4 Richard Lobeis (Reading, Pa.)
 SP/4 William Smith (Miami, Fla.)
 SP/4 Dale Tinsley (Greenway, Ark.)
 SP/4 Daniel Valadez (Stockton, Calif.)
 SP/4 William Vergnola (Mesa, Pa.)
 SP/4 Robert Wharton (Lancaster, Ohio)
 SP/4 Charles Whitley (Middlesey, N.C.)
 SP/4 William Wilkes (Rockland, Maine)
 SP/4 John Yorks (Hafflinton, Pa.)

ECHO COMPANY

BRONZE STAR

SGT Arthur Wray Jr. (Flint, Mich.)
 SP/4 Edward Lowery (Cincinnati, Ohio)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Fred Poritz (Columbus, Ohio)
 SP/4 Juan Sanchez (Mayaguez, P.R.)
 SP/4 Donald Tuck (New York, N.Y.)

"PSP" "PSP" "PSP"

THE PROFESSIONALS

WELCOME THE FOLLOWING MEN TO THE BATTALION

HFC

SP/6 John Nickoll (Taton, Ohio)
 SP/4 Vance Franklin (Culpeper, Va.)
 PFC John Anderson (Donalds, S.C.)
 PFC Ronald Bergon (Connorsville, Ind.)
 PFC Robert Ping (Jameica, N.Y.)
 PFC Larry Farley (Dallas, Texas)
 PFC Robert Gurkin (Parma, Ohio)
 PFC Arthur Hawk (North Bend, Wash.)
 PFC Cornelious Hesch (Shelby, N.C.)
 PFC Guinones Maysonet (Loiza, P.R.)
 PFC Larry Ruskowski (Hamtramck, Mich.)
 PFC John Ruskowski (Hamtramck, Mich.)

ALPHA COMPANY

PFC David Daugherty (Dillshoro, Ind.)
 PFC Julian Price (Dallas, Texas)

BRAVO COMPANY

PFC David Duncan (Rice Lake, Wis.)
 PFC Steven Gendoe (Columbia, Tenn.)
 PFC William Jaromko Jr. (Minneapolis, Minn.)
 PFC Barry Poland (Clarksville, Iowa)
 PFC Michael Post (Walden, N.Y.)
 PFC Albert Retzer (St. Lawrence, Mass.)
 PFC James Schmeidt (West Suffield, Conn.)
 PFC David Serlick (Boynton Beach, Fla.)
 PFC Larry Shively (Cleveland, Ohio)
 PFC Stephen Torrien (Gladstone, Mich.)
 PFC Donald Vorpage (Lawton, Okla.)

CHARLIE COMPANY

PFC Robert Evanoff (Bulter, Ind.)
 PFC Charles Gay (Richmond, Va.)
 PFC David Hayes (Hampton, Va.)

DELTA COMPANY

SP/4 David Herman (Pittsburgh, Pa.)
 SP/4 Russell Lemon (Wando, S.C.)
 SP/4 Daniel Rice (Ann Arbor, Mich.)
 PFC Rayford Cole (Center Point, La.)
 PFC James Earl (Noblesville, Ind.)
 PFC Iven Farris (Cincinnati, Ohio)
 PFC Von Orlandius Hodge (Campton, Calif.)
 PFC John Follok (Weimar, Texas)
 PFC Larry Linter (Nowark, Ohio)
 PFC William Lorusso (Lodi, N.J.)

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

The 1st Battalion 46th Infantry is the best, and we have a reputation of getting the job done, no matter how difficult or dangerous. Keeping in mind the high traditions and prestige of being a "Professional", the battalion has initiated a distinguishing emblem to be worn by all members of our battalion.

The "Mark of the Professionals" 1st Battalion 46th Infantry, is two blue stars. These two-inch-large blue stars are placed, one on each side of the camouflaged cover two inches up from the edge of the steel helmet and centered. The stars are applied with a blue felt tip pen.

The star was chosen for several reasons. It was taken from our battalion crest, and from the Indiana state flag. The 1st Battalion 46th Infantry being formed at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind. The star was also taken from the AMERICAN DIVISION patch, the Southern Cross.

The star is a symbol of perfection and professionalism. Being a "Professional", wear it proudly and with the knowledge that you are the best the Army has.

"ALPHA ASSASSINS"

Early in the morning at first light a small group of men are moving down a trail as quietly and cautiously as possible. As they approach the area where the main element will be operating for the day, they pick a location far enough out which will give them a good view all around and be able to observe trails or significant action. Alpha Company's "Assassins" are now in position to harass "Charlie" by picking him off at long ranges. Sniping, which "Charlie" utilizes quite often to harass the friendly will now be met on an even basis, perhaps with the "Assassins" having a definite edge. This five member sniper squad have been screened and tested and all possess outstanding marksmanship qualities. With these characteristics coupled with proper equipment such as sniper scopes, binoculars and M-14's, they will have the upper hand.

On 27 July, CPT. Roland S. Kropp (St. Anne, Mo.) initiated this small group of men with the purpose in mind of

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(Monroe, Mich.) moved slowly through the jungle toward the prearranged ambush site, he saw an enemy soldier moving about in Delta Company's old day defensive position about 250 meters away. PFC Shaw said, "I felt uneasy as we neared our old day laager, I know something was up. Then for just a second I saw an enemy soldier moving around up ahead." PFC Shaw alerted the other members of his platoon, and SGT Michael Franz (Manitowish, Wis.), Third Platoon Sergeant, maneuvered to gain a better view of his surroundings. Doing so, he spotted a total of ten NVA soldiers searching the area for any food or gear Delta Company may have left behind the day before.

When SGT Franz reported his sightings, 1LT William McDowell (Claremore, Okla.), Third Platoon Leader, positioned his men. The second platoon, under the leadership of 1LT Michael Lee (Rapid City, S.D.), maneuvered his platoon so as to provide flank security for the third platoon.

When the M-60 machine guns were positioned and all was in ready, Delta Company opened fire on the unsuspecting NVA soldiers. The NVA returned ineffective fire for a brief while and then moved to the west.

The second platoon continued to secure the area, while the third platoon got on line and made a sweep of the area, conducting a thorough search. Their efforts revealed numerous blood trails which lead to four dead NVA soldiers. As the search progressed, PFC Shaw was following a blood trail. He was moving along cautiously when he spied an NVA soldier ready to throw a chicom grenade at some of PFC Shaw's fellow troops. PFC Shaw quickly opened fire with a deadly burst of M-16 rounds, causing the NVA to fall upon his own grenade. The ensuing explosion resulted in the fifth NVA KIA for Delta Company.

When the search was concluded, Delta Company had to their credit five NVA KIA's as well as 300 pounds of rice, nine packs containing clean clothes, food, and enemy documents and one AK-47 automatic rifle. 1LT McDowell in thinking back over the action said, "It was great to get that many of the enemy, but the greatest and most important fact of all was, we didn't take any casualties of our own."

CONTINUED FROM COL. 2 PAGE 5

getting a body count on the small elements and activities in which the enemy moves. CPT. Kroop stated, "These men have volunteered for this sniper squad, and each one of them being a 'country boy' will be able to move through the terrain with a minimum of noise, in which a large element cannot effectively do. They will be able to observe trails and signs of small activity and will be able to engage the long targets with greater accuracy using the M-14's."

Presently, the "Assassins" are a separate unit operating independently but still under the control of the company commander. Also after obtaining the proper authorization they plan to wear their own distinctive patch and sport a "boonie hat".

"So far the 'Assassins' have been making some interesting sightings and as soon as our sniper scopes come out we will be able to operate more effectively as a unit," said PFC Dennis Holtz (Elroy, Wis.). SP/4 Gary Ash (Salom, W.Va.) said, "Besides getting more kills than the rest of the company, we are all looking forward to attending the two-week Sniper School." SP/4 Anthony Molino (Hudson, N.Y.), PFC Barry Fonk (Gurnee, Ill.), PFC James Smith (Mayfield, Ky.) and Raymond Scholble (Pittsburgh, Pa.) are the other members who make up the "Alpha Assassins".

CONTINUED FROM COL. 2 PAGE 5

PFC Fernando Madnigal (Tijuana, Mex.)

PFC Patrick Mohall (Fondado, Mich.)

PFC Ronald Radloy (Snow, Mich.)

PFC Robert Smith (Lombard, Ill.)

PFC Ronnie Wallace (Collinswood, Tenn.)

ECHO COMPANY

PFC Stephen Mills (Springfield, Mo.)

PFC Charles O'Shields (Greenville, S.C.)

PFC John Roberts (Jasper, Ala.)

PFC Charles Russel (Green, Wis.)

THE PROFESSIONALS

LTC. Craig G. Coverdale, Commanding

CPT. Robert A. Jakes Jr., IO

SGT. John A. Sloan, Editor

SP/4 Charles B. Hancock, Asst. Editor

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