

SYKES REGULARS



REPORTER



1ST Battalion 20TH Infantry

Volume 2, No. 26

LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

16 June, 1970

WELCOME TO LTC LYNCH

The officers and enlisted men of the "Sykes' Regulars" wish to extend their welcome to Lieutenant Colonel Gordon P. Lynch, the new battalion commander.

Southeast Asia is a familiar place to LTC Lynch. This is the beginning of his ninth year in the region, which includes two previous tours in Vietnam. He was with the Capital Military Advisory Team in Saigon six months prior to coming to Duc Pho. During the period 1966-1967, LTC Lynch served with the Division Chief of Staff section and as a battalion executive officer for the First Division.

LTC Lynch has served in the Army for 22 years. He was an enlisted man for five years before receiving his commission at Officer's Candidate School in Ft. Benning, Georgia in 1953. He is also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

Originally, LTC is a native of Massachusetts, but his wife and four children currently reside in Fairfax, Virginia.

LTC Lynch assumed the command of the battalion in a ceremony on the helicopter landing pad at LZ Bronco last week. In his address he expressed high optimism for the battalion's future. "I was handed the Standard of what everyone believes to be the best battalion in the Americal Division. I intend to put forth all my energy to insure the continuation of its outstanding tradition of achievement," said LTC Lynch.

LTC Lynch did not disclose any immediate plans for the battalion, however he hinted about his concern to up-grade the uniform standards of the soldiers.

ALPHA CO MEN DEFF

AK 47 SNIPER FIRE

TO SAVE EQUIPMENT

Pinned-down by two AK 47 automatic rifles, eight Alpha Company soldiers defied the threat of enemy bullets and rushed in to the open to retrieve valuable field equipment before it was destroyed.

The first and third platoon was on a sweeping operation in a thick mountainous area almost 25 miles northwest of Mo Duc near Laos to engage the 25th NVA Regiment. Intelligence revealed that a regiment commander and five battalion commanders were in the area.

The men advanced into a deep valley to search an area that looked like an enemy basecamp. They found corn, rice and potatoes growing in the immediate area, but no recent signs of human habitation. They then decided to take a break and get some water from a nearby stream. A perimeter was set-up for security before seven men proceeded to the stream to fill up canteens. (Continued page 3)

BRAVO CO'S PACIFICATION PROGRAM

IS OFF TO A GOOD START IN NEW AO

Vietnamization in the Quang Ngai Province of the I Corp area is becoming a reality due to the pacification operations of Bravo Company. They recently took a "giant step" and extended their highly successful pacification program north near Quang Ngai City to force the local enemy guerrillas to relinquish their foothold on the area. (Continued page 4)



TIME TO LISTEN

The first part of the democratic election process is the nomination of candidates. In many states the process is still going on, with some states scheduling primaries as late as October.

Within the two major parties--- and in smaller ones as well---men and women are competing for the right to represent their party and receive its backing in the general election November 3.

Campaigns for nominations are intended to give each citizen lots of facts about a candidate seeking votes. Each candidate insures that his good points and his views on public issues get publicity. Rivals usually air each other's weaknesses.

Now is an excellent time for servicemen to get the picture of the people who will be running for office in November. Newspapers, magazines and radios are reporting their actions and statements on public issues. Read, listen and remember!

Above all, keep in mind that the best-informed serviceman in the world won't be able to cast a vote if he is not eligible. So find out what the candidates stand for, make sure you meet your state's voting requirements and secure your absentee ballot; then you'll be prepared to exercise one of your most precious rights November 3.

For nonpartisan information about candidates and issues write to League of Women Voters of the U.S.A., 1730 M Street, Washington, D.C. 20036.

RECORD NUMBER

USING G.I. BILL

Nearly 817,000 persons were training under Veterans Administration programs in April--the most for any month since the current G.I. Bill went into effect June 1, 1966.

The April figure was a 35 per cent increase over the same month a year ago, and seven per cent higher than the 764,000 peak reached under the Korean conflict G.I. Bill at the end of March 1957, VA officials said.

They also reported a substantial increase in apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs. These categories jumped 73 per cent--from 45,000 in April of last year, to 78,000 in April this year.

Almost 60 per cent of the 817,000 in training at the end of April were in institutions of high learning.



Alpha Co Men Defy continued..

Suddenly, two enemy guerrillas began sniping at them from lofty positions at both sides of the valley and had them in a cross-fire. The soldiers scurried for cover from the in-coming rounds, but left some of the packs and a radio exposed to the enemy fire. The AK 47 rounds kept coming in at the rate of 15 per volley, according to 1LT Danny Richards (Monroe, Mich.) *****

SGT Ron McGraw (Manchester, La.) led his two M60 teams, consisting of Pat Smith (Sis - terville, W. Va.), "Big John" Bechtell (San Jose, Cal.), Gary Baty (San Angelo, Texas) and Duane "Tex" Coulter (Denison, Texas), out to the flanks to put down defensive fire.

As the machineguns began firing, SP4 Calvin Wedgeworth (Ft. Worth, Texas) and the platoon sergeant from the first platoon, James D Frame (Dunbar, W. Va.), darted-out 30 meters from their positions to secure the equipment. Wedgeworth grabbed some packs while Frame attempted to get a PR 25 radio so they could call-in supporting fire. Frame was forced back two times by a barrage of enemy bullets, but succeeded on his third attempt.

The terrain prevented the Jungle Warriors from making effective communications so they withdrew from the area by using fire and movement. They found a path on the other side of the valley and returned safely to their day laager position.

PT John P. Grice (Vicksburg, Miss), the company commander, said, "The company did an outstanding job and the men did everything they could to get the job done. I think the leaders and men displayed a lot of professionalism on our recent operation in the mountains." *****

STANLEY RESOR PRESENTS

SILVER STAR TO BOMBEE

The Secretary of the Army, Stanley Resor, personally pinned the Silver Star for Valor on Delta Company's SGT Mike L. Bombee (Iowa City, Ia.) during a ceremony on the landing pad at LZ LIZ.

SGT Bombee was awarded the Silver Star for assaulting an enemy position three times earlier this year.

Stanley Resor was making a tour of fire support bases at the time and was accompanied by Lieutenant General James W. Sutherland Jr., commander of the 24th Corp, and Americal Division Commander, Major General Albert E. Milloy. They stayed at LZ LIZ for an hour and then flew on to Chu Lai.

ALPHA'S SSG CONOVER

GOES "AIRBORNE";

THEN TO 91st EVAC



SSG Chuck Conover (Loogootee, Ind.) doesn't even have his jump wings, but apparently he has as much Airborne zeal as anyone and perhaps more because he does his jumping without a parachute. At least that was the case last week when he hopped-off an inbound resupply helicopter when it was hovering 20 feet above the ground.

Conover was returning to duty after nursing an injured foot in the rear. When the chopper came to its location it stopped and hovered before landing. Conover apparently thought that it was't going to land so he tossed his pack out and jumped to the ground. Seconds later, the helicopter glided to the ground and the other passengers walked out looking at Conover and shaking their heads in wonder.

A half hour later the company had to inch their way down a 90 degree bank while clinging to elephant grass. The men tumbled their packs down first to allow for maneuverability and to lighten the load. It just wasn't Conover's day because the root that he was holding broke and he bounced and flipped down the steep bank. Then, from out of nowhere, a pack came flying down and bopped Conover in the head. With a sore head and a reinjured foot, Conover was dusted-off to the 91st Evac.

"That's getting sham-time the hard way," chuckled "Top" Lowery, Alpha Company's First Sergeant.

(Bravo Company Pacification continued...)

Company B recently completed their pilot pacification program on Highway One near Duc Pho where they accomplished their mission of denying the enemy access to food, supplies, manpower and intelligence. They extensively worked with and trained Popular and Regional Vietnamese forces to conduct self-sustained operations. Company B's pacification efforts in the Quang Ngai City area have thus far been as prolific as they were in the first program. Their new area of operations is 80 square kilometers and has a population of 40,000. Their previous AO was 64 square kilometers and had a civilian population of roughly 10,000.

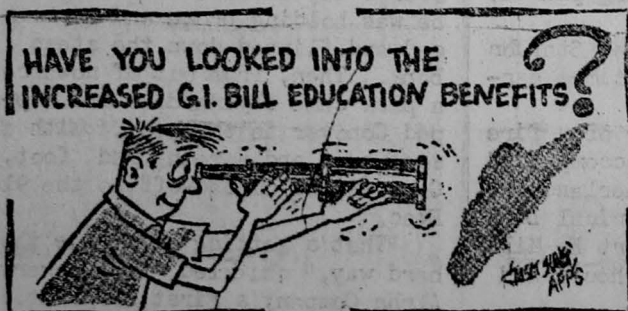
"The local civilians are still hesitant to accept our program because they don't realize that we are here to stay until our job is completed," said CPT Arthur E. Parker III (Yarmouth, Mass.), the company commander. "Their confidence in us is progressing each day, which is evidenced by the cooperation we have had with the Volunteer Informant Program (VIP). In the first 13 days here, the people have brought 30-60mm VC mortar rounds, one 105 Howitzer round, two Chicom grenades and valuable enemy information to our compound. The plan for the future is to upgrade the hamlets in the area in conjunction with a landclearing operation that will provide homes for 8,000 war refugees."

Company B has five semi-permanent positions dispersed within the area and six mobile force units operating day and night to secure the area. To date, they have killed three VC, detained six and confiscated several items of enemy equipment, which includes one AK 47 rifle and a small cache of rice. They have also uncovered 20 booby traps ranging in size from a Chicom grenade to 60mm mortar rounds in groups of three.

Company B is combining Medcaps and psychological operations to demonstrate their altruistic intentions. One Medcap operation is on a daily basis in a compound near Highway One where SP4 Kenneth Washington and a Vietnamese nurse have treated over 400 patients in the first two weeks. The other Medcap unit is a mobile crew that operates in various parts of the area where civilians need medical attention. Last Monday SP4 Victor Koncikowski (Buffalo, N.Y.) and SP4 Felix Johnson (Westport, Miss.) treated 87 patients in a two hour period.

Psychological operations, coordinated by 1LT Thomas Blake (Columbia, S.C.) are conducted daily. Some of the methods used are handing out pamphlets, mobile public address systems and an "EARLY WORD" airplane from Da Nang, which inform the people of American efforts in the area.

A unique feature of the psychological program is the Armed Propaganda Team (APT) consisting of a squad of seven Chieu Hoi. These men are brought to various units in the battalion at the request of a company's commander. "Their mission is strictly psychological and they are not a combat fighting unit," said 1LT Blake. "So far they have done an outstanding job for us. We bring these men out to an area where we have specific names of enemy personnel or when we have some VC cornered and then they broadcast to their former comrades and persuade them to surrender. CPT Parker recently used one of these teams and was pleased with the performance they gave."



THE BATTALION WELCOMES CHAPLAIN ROBERT P. BRENNEMAN

The new battalion chaplain is Chaplain (CPT) Robert P. Brennenman, a United Methodist clergyman for the past twelve years. His wife and three children reside in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. His military service began in 1948 with the 82nd Airborne Division. He was an engineer in the Korean conflict. His last tour of duty was with the Corrective Treatment Branch of the USARMC Stockade in Mannheim, Germany. A temporary shortage of chaplains will require that he also serve the 4th Bn of the 3rd Inf during July and August. His goal is to provide services for every unit in the battalion once each week. Transportation difficulties and widespread nature of the operations make this unlikely while covering two battalions, however, but hopefully will be met when the area coverage problem subsides.

Units experiencing chaplain-type problems are requested to notify Chaplain Brennenman at the earliest opportunity. As time goes on, and if the situation permits, every effort will be made to develop the Commander's religious program to include religious discussion groups, contemporary programs, retreats and self-help projects for the indigenous population.

Baptism is always possible for those who desire it. Communion will be served approximately once each month. Preparation for Church membership will be available as the time and circumstances allow. New Testaments and literature are usually on hand.

Personnel should be aware that there is only one Roman Catholic chaplain in the entire brigade, and that it is physically impossible for him to cover all the units as he would like.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

- * What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of yourself is your gift to him.
- * From the time an infant first puts his toes in his mouth, life is a struggle to make both ends meet.
- * Some men are like eggs: too full of themselves to hold anything else.
- * It is safer to have a clever enemy than a stupid friend.

MEDIHC NOW IN 25 STATES

Department of Defense officials report that 25 states are now participating fully in MEDIHC, the program that guides departing servicemen and women into civilian health centers.

Through MEDIHC, qualified enlisted men and women with less than 90 days left on active duty are referred to educators and employers in civilian health fields.

The program is administered within the framework of the Project Transition program which operates at more than 200 military installations in the United States. Personnel interested should visit their local Project Transition office in the U.S.

MEDIHC (Military Experience Directed Into Health Careers) was started in Texas. The other states are:

Alabama	Montana
Arkansas	Nebraska
California	New Hampshire
Colorado	New Jersey
Connecticut	New York
Florida	North Dakota
Idaho	Oklahoma
Indiana	Pennsylvania
Iowa	Rhode Island
Louisiana	Tennessee
Maine	Utah
Missouri	Virginia

DELTA CO SQUAD

GETS RPG ROUNDS

Local VC guerrillas won't be thinking twice about surrendering if they find out a certain six-man Delta Company squad is in the area.

Earlier this week the first squad of the first platoon, consisting of SGT William Kalua (Kealeakakua, Haw.), SGT Steven Lintl (Prare du Sac, Wis.), PFC William Hamilton Jr. (Thornton, Col.), PFC John Halliburton (Marshall, Texas), SP4 William Kirch (Wyndow, Kan.) and PVT Larry Reeder (Russell Springs, Ky.), accounted for six KIA's in a span of three days.

On one of their operations they sprung a day ambush that netted four VC KIA's and two RPG rounds, plus an RPG-launching sight. The men concealed themselves in a cane field for two hours before the VC passed by the ambush site.

Two nights before, they connected with their night ambush where they eliminated two guerrillas.

SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

Battalion Co LTC Gordon P. Lynch
Adjutant LLT James E. Hardy Jr.
Correspondent SGT Chuck Merdzinski

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BRAVO CO SOLDIERS

BUY VC MORTAR ROUNDS

The Volunteer Informant Program (VIP), in which civilians are paid for enemy ordnances and information they turn over to American soldiers, is starting to blossom into the GI life insurance policy it was designed to be five months ago.

This week Vietnamese boys in Company B's AO have been meticulously searching for VC ordnances in hopes of getting extra spending money. In two days, a group of boys brought eleven VC 60mm mortar rounds to a Bravo Company day laager position.

SP4 Ken Robinson (Richmond, Cal.), SP4 John Moore (Parkersburg, W. Va.), SP4 Richard Walters (Syracuse, N.Y.) and SGT Glenn Hartley (Jacksonville, Fla.) purchased the rounds with VIP funds on Highway One.

"The 'going-rate' for a 60mm round is 250 piasters (\$2.12), but I'd give a kid a thousand piasters out of my own pocket if a kid came up to me and said, 'Hey GI, you want to buy mortar round?', " said SP4 Ken Robinson. "You might be saving some guy's life. Just think what those mortar rounds could have done if they came in here!"

The chief coordinator for the battalion AO is LLT Thomas Blake (Columbia, SC). LLT Blake said that the program has been making tremendous progress in our area. Last April the program was paying about 4000 piasters per month, but now the VIP fund is paying in excess of 10,000 piasters per month. He urges that all the men in our area be conscious of the program and try to encourage the civilians to take part.

JENNINGS IS NOO OF THE WEEK

SGT Steve Jennings of the 2nd squad, 2nd platoon in Delta Co has been chosen as Sykes' Regulars NOO of the Week. Jennings will DEROS in two weeks and return to his home in Lanesfield, Ohio, for a leave. Jennings plans to attend Ohio State University and major in business administration when he completes his two-year service obligation. "Hey GI, you want to buy mortar round?", " said SP4 Ken Robinson. "You might be saving some guy's life. Just think what those mortar rounds could have done if they came

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers on Page —

ASK.....

ACROSS

- 1-Besmirch
- 6-Cutting tool
- 11-Dip
- 12-Feel indignant at
- 14-Faroe Islands whirlwind
- 15-Transaction
- 17-Ponder
- 18-Comparative ending
- 20-Narrow, flat boards
- 23-Press for payment
- 24-Mast
- 25-Bogged down in mud
- 28-Latin conjunction
- 29-Chemical compound
- 31-Weigh down
- 33-Wire of Ceraint
- 35-Go by water
- 36-Parish leaders
- 37-Rent
- 42-Indefinite article
- 43-Stupefies
- 45-Cool slowly
- 46-Free of
- 48-Tiny
- 50-French for "summar"
- 51-Arabian chieftain
- 52-Equid
- 55-Initials of 26th President
- 56-Men's name
- 59-Platforms
- 61-Condescending looks
- 62-Freshet

DOWN

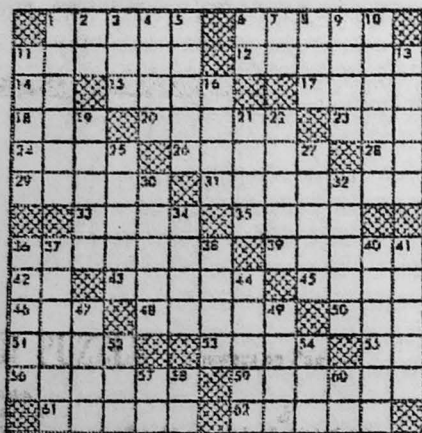
- 1-Slumbers
- 2-Greek letter

3-Finish

- 4-Matures
- 5-Domain
- 6-Symbol for krypton
- 7-Compass point
- 8-Doctrine
- 9-Quarrel
- 10-Follows
- 11-Balance
- 13-Temporary shelter (pl.)
- 16-Placed
- 19-Evaluates
- 21-Spanish for "three"
- 22-Part of flower
- 25-Lasses
- 27-Evaporates
- 30-Crowd
- 32-Puff up



- 34-Musical instrument
- 36-Peals
- 37-Beast
- 38-Break suddenly
- 40-Couch
- 41-Pitchers
- 44-Winter vehicles
- 47-Coin
- 49-Jump
- 52-Regret
- 54-Inlet
- 57-Tectonic delta
- 58-Legal seal (abbr.)
- 60-Saint (abbr.)



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Q--Can a veteran whose VA benefits have been forfeited apply for reinstatement of those benefits?

A--Yes, he may apply for a presidential pardon which, if granted may again entitle him to VA benefits for which he is eligible.

Q--I have an uncle who is a veteran of World War I who desires domiciliary care. Does the VA have these institutions?

A--Yes, the VA has 16 of these institutions. Any VA office will help your uncle file an application.

Q--I am the daughter of a veteran who died of service-connected disability. Having completed high school, I would now like to apply for VA educational assistance. I understand that the VA provides counseling, and I would appreciate such assistance to help me decide on a suitable educational or vocational goal. Will the VA provide this counseling without cost to me?

A--Yes. The VA will provide a professional counselor to help you decide upon an educational or vocational goal. This counseling will be at no cost to you and is required for an eligible child before approval of an initial course, re-entrance after discontinuance of a program, or change of program.

Q--If I name my father as beneficiary of my National Service Life Insurance policy or U.S. Government Life Insurance policy, and later marry, is my wife automatically my beneficiary?

A--No. Written notice of any beneficiary change, signed by the insured, must be given to the VA.

Q--Are repossessed VA homes limited just to veterans?

A--No. Anyone who is qualified may purchase these homes--veterans or nonveterans.

