



LEGIONNAIRES' LEDGER

VOL III No 24

Friday October 23, 1970

BATTALION NEWS

ON THE FIRING LINE

Action in the 3d Bn, 1st Inf AO for the period 14-20 October:

Working north of FSB 4-11, the Legionnaires of Alpha Company engaged and killed 2 VC they had observed in a sampan moving across the river to the south.

Earlier in the day, the company had purchased under the VIP program the following ordnance from Vietnamese children in the area: 5/105 rds., 8/155 rds., 4 Chicom grenades 1 Chicom claymore, 10 grenade rds., 16 cluster bombs, 1 pressure release anti-tank mine, 1/82 mm rd., 1/60 mm rd. and 1 inoperable sub-machine gun.

Typhoon Joan which threatened to hit the southern part of the First Military Region during the weekend forced the temporary grounding of all birds in the area. The storm got no closer to land than 100 miles, however, as winds in Chu Lai ranged from 35-45 klm/hr.

THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

While on patrol south of FSB 4-11, Recon platoon continued to demonstrate its lethal effectiveness as the unit accounted for 1 VC KIA, another WIA and 2 more CIA with 1 AK-47, a full magazine and 2 Chicom CIA.

Sergeants Patrick A. Pickett (Glendale, Ore.) and Milton Booty (Zachury, La.) were on point when the squad came upon two VC. "The enemy personnel were apparently taken completely by surprise since the one had his weapon across his shoulders," commented SGT Alfred C. Bohling (Ames, Iowa), the battalion RTO. "After both SGT's Pickett and Booty had opened fire, the two VC dropped out of sight in the tall grass."

Several men were directed to swing around to the left and several to the right while the remainder of the squad went through the initial contact area. The two VC had fallen a short distance from where they had first been engaged, the one KIA and the other WIA with an AK-47 nearby.

Maneuvering on the left flank, PFC David C. Bridger (Lyons, N.Y.) collared a VC who was about to disappear into a spider hole. As a precautionary measure, PFC Bridger demanded that those in the hole also surrender. His hunch proved correct as another VC scrambled out into the open.

After the enemy casualty had been evacuated and SGT Pickett's squad joined by the remainder of the platoon, the captured personnel

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Element of Surprise cont.

were directed to walk at the front of the element. The prisoners refused to move in any direction except that from which the platoon had just come. In this manner, the platoon had avoided walking into an area which was later discovered to be heavily booby-trapped.

The following day, the platoon continued to check out the numerous tunnels in the vicinity. Their tunnel rat, PFC Richard Garza (Plover, Wis.) discovered that many of the spider holes had small dugouts concealed in the back. A thorough search uncovered 1 AK-47, documents, canned food, 50 lbs. of rice and a homemade gas mask.

A ROUND IN THE PACK IS WORTH A SACK
ON THE BACK

Working in the mountains west of Nghia Hanh the 2nd and 3rd platoons of Charlie Company were engaged by an unknown size enemy force. "Both elements had stopped while a report of our progress was radioed to the CO," recalled 1LT Samuel E. Grashio (Spokane, Wash.). "Just as we were preparing to move out we were hit by a barrage of small arms fire from our front."

At first enemy rounds seemed to strike everywhere at once but after the initial burst they seemed to zero in on those individuals who had not yet gained cover. 1LT

Grashio's boot was creased by a bullet which just grazed the ankle. It was a similarly close encounter for three other men who probably owe their lives to the fact that they were wearing their rucksacks.

Shortly after contact with the enemy had been broken, SGT Glen A. Wittenborn (Campbell Hill, Ill.) had his attention called to a hole in his rucksack. Upon checking further, he traced the path of an AK-47 round which had torn through a smoke grenade and a tube of toothpaste before finally lodging well inside the pack between a pair of field slippers.

When PFC George W. Berry (Memphis, Tenn.) checked his rucksack, he made an even more "nerve shattering" discovery. An AK-47 round had not only pierced his ruck but had creased a hand grenade inside. PFC Berry's reaction was one of disbelief upon finding the bullet wedged next to the frag. The 2nd platoon's Kit Carson Scout calmly remarked, "No sweat," after he noticed that his rucksack had stopped two rounds.

The following have been recommended for promotion during the month of October:

To be SSG

Co B Gordon L. Rutherford

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61 Shopping Days until Christmas...

THE "ALWAYS FIRST" LEGIONNAIRES' LEDGER IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE S-1, 3RD BATTALION, 1ST INFANTRY, AMERICAN DIVISION APO SF 96217, AS AN AUTHORIZED UNOFFICIAL PUBLICATION (TEL. DUC PHO PINCHER 1) VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. THIS PUBLICATION IS MIMEOGRAPHED AND USES MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY THE AMERICAN FORCES PRESS FILE.

LTC CLIFFORD J. LANDRY, COMMANDING

SP4 KENNETH R. PERRY, EDITOR

Recommended Promotions cont

To be SGT

HHC Ronnie Sobbe
 Lawrence Zywoil
 Co A Larry W. Bell
 William E. Savoie
 Ronnie D. Acklen
 Amedeo Bennici
 Co B Thomas E. Lane
 Co C Randy C. Anderson
 Robert S. Goertz
 Luis A. Jimenez
 Maceo Rowell
 Co D Clifford L. Beight
 Leether Dupas
 Guy R. Gragg
 James A. Ivester
 Bobby R. Thompson
 Co E Billy J. Creed
 Michael McCullough

To be SP5

HHC Donald Guillory
 Raymond Shultz
 Co A William C. McNamara

To be SP4

HHC Roy Almony
 Arnold Bowling
 Robert Brown
 Angel Esquelin
 Larry King
 Howard Harding
 Jose Rodriguez
 Ventie Smith
 Robert Snyder
 James Sollars
 David L. Stephens
 Co A Ray E. Bowman
 Robert L. Campbell
 Guadalupe Gonzales
 John W. Howard
 Gary W. McCurry
 Robert A. Pluim
 Douglas L. Roberts
 John H. Stokes
 Donald W. Turner
 Rodney B. Watkins
 Co B Johnnie B. Bentley
 Remijio Briseno
 Joseph D. Jines

Co B Gary L. Konnen
 Dan Luttrell
 Christopher A. Power
 Johnny R. Price
 Co C Richard A. Buchholtz
 Pierre O. Carmentier
 Michael Dahlheimer
 Gregory D. Miller
 Ralph R. Holm
 Kenneth E. Hargrove
 Ernest G. Riley
 Ronald O. Pederson
 Co D Leroy Carter
 Raymond A. Hood
 Steve R. Hust
 Michael Jacobs
 Vancil L. Jones
 Thomas Lewkowicz
 Scott Shumaker
 Robert A. Thomasson
 Leonard A. Watson
 Co E Barry L. Anderson
 Charles W. Little
 Carl E. Macer
 Lewis T. Waites
 Travis E. Weatherly
 Timothy W. Wentz

NEW PERSONNEL

HHC Edward H LeBlanc (New Orleans)
 1LT Paul D. Leveque (Marquette, Mich)
 PFC James F Hopson (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho)
 PFC Raymond Prince (El Paso, Texas)
 Co A 2LT George F Dean (Jamaica, N.Y.)
 PFC Dale M Elder (Middletown, Ind)
 PFC Paul M Freeman (Newellton, La)
 Co B 1LT Rollie Dickinson (Marmaduke, Ark)
 1LT Thomas L Wheeler (Montgomery, Ala)
 SP4 Irven T Swinks (Layton, Utah)
 PFC Nathaniel Boyd (Baltimore, Md.)
 PFC Edward L Cooper (Elk City, Okla)
 PFC Titus L Epps (Ft. Worth, Texas)
 Co C 1LT Terrance Boland (Keokuk, Iowa)
 PFC James A Beard (MacClenny, Fla)
 To be cont next week
 HAPPINESS IS A DRY PAIR OF SOCKS....

Mail the "Legionnaires' Ledger home
(Fold along dotted lines)



3d Bn, 1st Inf
11th Inf Bde
APO SF 96217

Name _____
Number _____ Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



"Hey, Sarge!.. Guess what I flushed out of that cave!!"