

LEGIONNAIRES' LEDGER

Vol III No 30

Friday December 11, 1970

BATTALION NEWS

ON THE FIRING LINE

Action in the 3d Bn, 1st Inf AO for the period 26 November-5 December:

Patrolling west of Nghia Hanh, Alpha Company discovered an enemy base camp consisting of spider holes, hootches and natural caves. Searching the area, the Legionnaires uncovered 3 RPG rounds, 1/81 mm CS round, 175/30 cal rounds, 1 Chicom grenade, 1 small can of petnum and a pressure release booby trap set along a trail.

While Recon platoon was checking out a trail northwest of Nghia Hanh pointman PFC Ernest D. Saunders (Purdy, Miss.) engaged and killed 1 VC.

Working just to the west of Nghia Hanh, Charlie Company found and destroyed 700 rounds of 51 cal ammo along with 3 RPG boosters.

North of Da Son Valley, units of Dancing Delta sidestepped 7 booby traps which included 2/82 mm rds., a 105 rd., 2 Chicom grenades and 2 cans of petnum hidden under banana leaves. The company also found a hootch which contained an ammo box filled with powdered TNT, 24 blasting caps, 1 Chicom grenade, 1 can of petnum and a piece of metal indicating the dwelling belonged to a platoon of VC.

The following ordnance was acquired under the VIP: 30/81 mm illum. rds., 2/81 mm rds., 2/105 rds., 2/40 mm rds., 7 hand grenades 11 M-79 rds. and 2 press-trip devices.

THE INDISPENSABLE BAND-AID

Charlie Company and Recon platoon working in conjunction with two platoons of Popular Forces and

a squad of National Police conducted a cordon and search of a ville southeast of FSB 4-11. What has often been a negative experience for villagers was, in this instance, offset by a positive approach.

During the operation, medics from the company treated over twenty women and children. One small boy suffering from elephantiasis was evacuated in order to receive further medical attention. Thus, although the enemy was not directly encountered, his influence with these people was undoubtedly undercut by the action.

Two medical corpsmen from Alpha Company proved that they can effectively apply what they hear to what they see as a measure of field expediency. When inclemental weather prevented the evacuation of an individual believed to be suffering an adverse reaction to an earlier blood transfusion, the battalion surgeon CPT Michael H. Dang (Maui, Hawaii) transmitted instructions to SP5 Vincent C DeRono (Somerville, N.J.) and PFC Kyle G. Baker (Richmond, Va.) based upon their description of the symptoms. This procedure enabled the medics to administer supportive treatment to the patient until he could be evacuated the following morning.

On 4 December, the weekly MEDCAP which the medical personnel from FSB 4-11 conduct at Tu My was supplemented by a government sponsored hygiene program. A public health team from the district of Tu Nghia inoculated over 200 people against cholera and plague. Meanwhile, the battalion surgeon CPT Michael H. Dang assisted by medics PFC Michael A. Nichols (Oak Lawn, Ill.) and PFC Jan J. Sulesky (Sharon, Pa.) treated 150 villagers.

cont on page 2

MEDCAP/Hygiene Program cont

During both the morning and afternoon sessions the GVN team distributed leaflets and posters on various sanitation measures including those involving the preparation of food. In the future, health education specialists will conduct classes regarding such projects as the construction of latrines.

FROM A GRIP OF FEAR INTO OPEN ARMS

On 30 November, 9 Montagnard guerrillas from a local VC force based in the Da Son Valley along with 5 refugees rallied to the government at Tu My. The Hoi Chanhs indicated that there had been growing dissension and distrust between them and the VC regulars. The latter had taken away their weapons and refused them any further support. Heavy rains and the resultant flooding had made food scarce, and the promise of a productive life under the GVN more inviting.

After being questioned and given an orientation by a government Psyops team, the military aged males along with their families may be assigned to a Regional Forces company. The remaining refugees will be resettled at Tu My among their own people. So that others might get the word and be encouraged to rally, one of the Hoi Chanhs volunteered to fly over the valley on a "Speaker Bird".

Shifting their alliance to the government, one man and two women recently came to Tu My in hopes of finding security and a better way of life. They had left their ville west of Quang Ngai after the increased activity of allied units in the area had made association with the local VC more of a handicap than an asset.

13 Shopping Days until Christmas...

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

A hearty thanks should be extended to the Junior Women's Club of North Palm Beach, Florida. As a result of their efforts and the generosity of others, over 40 pounds of clothing, 30 bars of soap, a volleyball set and assorted Christmas tree decorations were sent in care of the battalion. The battalion's acting Civil Affairs Officer 1LT David Eckberg (San Antonio, Texas) donated the items to the orphanages in Quang Ngai.

In addition, 75 pounds of home-made cookies, 40 pounds of sausage and pepperoni, cans of candy, nuts and sardines were distributed to both the men in the rear and those in the field. As an expression of our gratitude, a plaque will be sent to the club in care of Mrs. Marianne Roberts, 527 Harbour Rd., N. Palm Beach, Fla.

CHANGES IN THE BATTALION STAFF

Replacing MAJ James W Shugart III as the battalion executive officer is MAJ John J. Allen (Fargo, N.D.). MAJ Allen comes to the battalion from the 1/27th (Wolfhounds), 25th Infantry Division.

1LT Cecil W. VanDiver (Harrodsburg, Ky.) replaces 1LT Stephen M. Baron as adjutant.

1LT George B. McClelland (Radford, Va.) took over the duties of S-4 with the departure of 1LT Michael E. Verdun.

1LT Charles B. Shwaderer (Pompano Beach, Fla.) replaces 1LT Sander M. Tomasini as commander of HHC.

DEROS TIME

HHC		
MAJ	James W. Shugart III	18 Dec
1LT	Stephen M. Baron	18
1LT	Sander M. Tomasini	20
CW2	William S. Tomford	20

cont on page 3

THE "ALWAYS FIRST" LEGIONNAIRES' LEDGER IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE S-1, 3RD BATTALION, 1ST INFANTRY, 23RD INFANTRY DIVISION, APO SF 96217, AS AN AUTHORIZED UNOFFICIAL PUBLICATION (TEL. DUC PHO PUNCHER 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.

Deros Time cont

HHC

SGT Richard W. Thompson 24 Dec

Co A

SGT Kenneth Emfinger 19

Co B

SGT William E. Pyle 12

SGT William Cannon 14

SGT Samuel Hardee 14

SGT Carl Brown 18

Co D

SGT David Murphy 14

AIR RATE FROM 'NAM OUT

WASHINGTON--The air fare between Vietnam and California was more than chopped in half this week in a series of events resulting from the new Vietnam leave policy.

In addition, servicemen will be able to finance the trip without any down payment, at regular bank interest rates.

Shortly after Gen. Creighton Abrams, commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, announced that men between their fourth and eighth month in Vietnam could apply for 14 days leave to the U.S. these things happened:

World Airways, the nation's largest charter carrier which has flown 20 million miles for the Military Airlift Command, announced a new fare of \$350 round-trip between Vietnam and the West Coast of the U.S.

Edward J. Daly, president of World Airways, announced he was "personally prepared to guarantee" loans for the full amount of the fare, through the First Western Bank and Trust Co., which has 95 branches in California. The bank may open branches in Vietnam next week to handle the expected business.

With a big assist from chairman L. Mendel Rivers of the House Armed Services Committee, United Service Club has made an arrangement with Pan American to fly servicemen on the two-weeks leave for \$369 round trip.

Pan Am has asked the Civil Aeronautics Board for permission to establish a new 50 percent fare for servicemen on leave in Vietnam. This would drop the fare on sched-

uled flights aboard Pan Am planes to \$433.50, on a space-available basis eastbound and positive space coming back to Vietnam.

Servicemen who apply for the leave in Vietnam must be able to show a return ticket.

Under the World Airways plan, parents or wives in the U.S. will be able to arrange the ticket purchases and financing of the \$350 flights. While World will book flights from the West Coast to the Servicemen's destinations, it will finance only the Vietnam-California portion of the flight. (Robert S. Horowitz--Army Times)

NEW PERSONNEL

HHC

CPT Frank J. Cox (Clemson, S.C.)

SSG Jo M. McKinnie (Tampa, Fla.)

SP6 Joseph DaSilva (San Angelo, Tex.)

SGT Joseph Baron (Chandler, Ariz.)

SP4 Stephen T. Edens (Eden, N.C.)

PFC Stephen Marthers (Winnsboro, S.C.)

Co A

PFC Olin Albany, Jr (Savannah, Ga.)

PFC Edward J. Ernst (Inyokern, Calif.)

Co B

SP4 George Williams (Newport News, Va.)

Co C

SFC Sancho Manzano (Honolulu, Hawaii)

Co D

SFC Pedro Amador (Columbus, Ga.)

PFC Joseph Paone (Hudson, N.Y.)

Co E

SGT Robert C. Burns (Alma, Mich.)

SP4 James Vanderschuur (Pickens, S.C.)

SP4 Thomas Woodward (San Mateo, Fla.)

EPITAPH

A blade of grass

Tall and slender

Lives only to be walked upon,

And bends.

A dog, with a face that never smiles,

Lives only for the caress of a hand.

A tree

With limbs only a boy can climb,

Lifts his laughing face

Through the leaves.

And I,

A fool

Who watched them all,

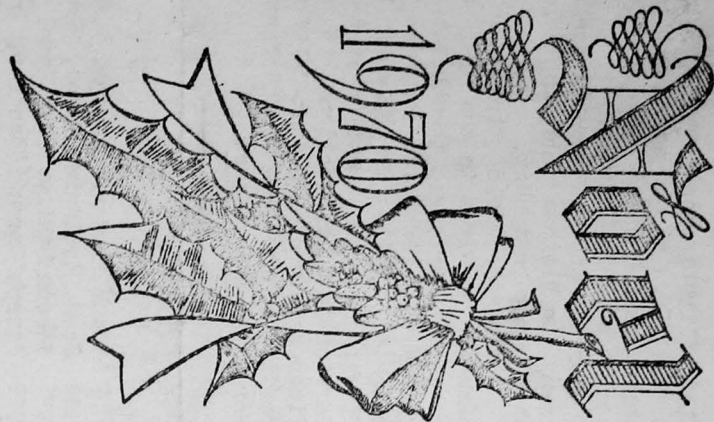
And died one day

Without living at all

Like grass, a tree, or a dog

by Christ Hart as quoted in The Whole World is Watching

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

