

# LEGIONNAIRES\* LEDGER

Vol III No 31

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## BATTALION NEWS

### ON THE FIRING LINE

Action in the 3d Bn, 1st Inf AO for the period 6-16 December:

Two months earlier while working southwest of FSB 4-11, Alpha Company had discovered a cave complex containing weapons and rice. Returning to search the same area, the company found that the split level caverns had not been entirely abandoned by the enemy.

Uncovering a few more subterranean vaults, the spelunking Legionnaires captured 7 SKS rifles, 3 AK-44's, 2 M-1 carbines, a Browning Automatic rifle, 90 rounds of ammunition, 6 hand grenades and over 500 lbs. of rice. The company also found 2 VC KIA, a hand frag booby trapped with a wire, a booby trapped pressure device loaded with 10 lbs. of petnum and a 500 lb. bomb which was later destroyed by an EOD team.

Patrolling west of the Da Son Valley, Bravo Company found a bunker with overhead cover, a booby trapped 60 mm mortar round, 20 lbs. of polished rice and various medical supplies.

The 2nd platoon of Delta Company began working with a Regional Forces Company to establish an RF outpost west of Nghia Hanh. Elements of the 3rd Battalion will continue to lend support to the development of such defensive positions.

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### Medical Personnel on the Move

On 11 December, the battalion surgeon CPT Michael W. Dang with the assistance of clinical specialist SP6 Arthur Foxworth (Lillington N.C.), medical aidmen SP5 Joseph Baron (Chandler, Ariz.) and PFC Mark Mackie (Philadelphia, Pa.) treated 28 children at the Catholic orphanage in Quang Ngai. That afternoon, the team treated over 60 people at Tu Nghia.

Three days later, CPT Dang, 1LT David Eckberg (San Antonio, Texas) SSG Nelson Boicourt (Indianapolis, Ind.) and SP4 Kyle Baker (Richmond Va.) treated over 65 villagers at Tu My.

On 16 December, SP6 Foxworth, SP5 Baron, PFC Howard Harding (Mt. Vernon, Ky.) and PFC Gary Kuckenbrod (Johnstown, Pa.) treated 60 women and children at the Catholic orphanage in Duc Pho.

During the final MEDCAP for the week, CPT Dang, 1LT Eckberg, SSG Boicourt and SP4 Baker treated 93 inhabitants of a ville located west of Quang Ngai. The team's treatment of ailing villagers was a positive follow up to a cordon and search operation which had been conducted earlier by Alpha Company working in conjunction with a platoon of Popular Forces.

### VIRTF/MS RAID ENEMY BASE CAMP

It was an unusual force consisting of three former VC nurses, a district recon platoon from Quang Ngai. cont on page 2

## Viet/US Raid Enemy Base Camp cont.

Ngai and a rifle squad from Alpha Company which, under cover of darkness, pushed into the mountains south of FSB 4-11 in order to launch the initial raid of an enemy base camp.

"Led by three Hoi Chanks, we had moved about 1½ miles into the valley before finding a suitable ambush site which would also serve as a rallying point for the raid," recalled the squad leader SGT Chester Roney (Flint, Mich.). "At this point, the Vietnamese platoon leader divided his unit into two 8 man teams. While he and one RTO remained with my squad, the two teams along with the three nurses continued working their way toward the base camp."

Reaching their objective just before daybreak, the two assault elements hit the camp, killed at least three of the defenders and captured 3 automatic weapons and 2 M-1 carbines before the enemy could react. After the initial attack, however, the fighting intensified as the teams found themselves being out maneuvered by a larger force of VC.

"The platoon leader informed me that his people were in heavy contact with over 30 personnel and were in danger of being cut off," related SGT Roney. "Since a heavy overcast prevented the use of gunships, I decided to call in artillery and adjust the fire along the mountainside, hoping that such a diversion would allow his men an opportunity to disengage."

Later that morning, after the two elements had made their way back, SGT Roney's position was transformed from an ambush site into a command post. With two platoons of Bravo Company nearby, the

remainder of Alpha Company prepared to sweep into the contact area.

The 1st and 2nd platoons found 3 VC KIA and 1 WIA (see following story). In addition, they captured 1 AK-44, assorted ammo, 4 hand frags approximately 1000 lbs. of polished rice and other food stuff, clothing for 50 people, 1 3x5 Russian flag, 15-20 lbs of medical supplies and various documents.

## THE VC THAT GOT CARRIED AWAY

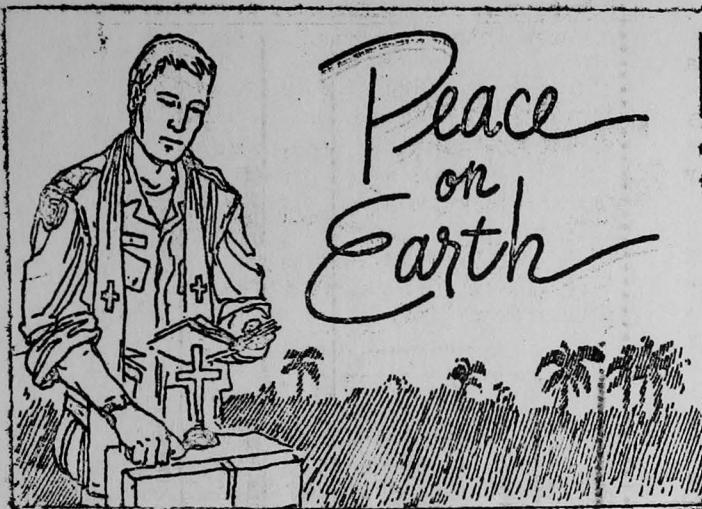
While the 1st platoon of Alpha Company was sweeping an area of recent contact, SGT Robbie Lewis (Vicksburg, Miss.) spotted a VC hiding in a cave. Little did SGT Lewis or his squad leader SGT Andres Vega (Caguas, P.R.) realize that they would have that enemy soldier on their backs for much of the afternoon.

SGT Vega said that he attempted to talk the VC into surrendering since a prisoner might be able to provide valuable intelligence. When it appeared that he was either unwilling or unable to come out, Vega and Lewis went in to get him.

"As I approached him, I could see that he was lying wounded on a bed. Even so I wasn't going to take any chances. When he rolled off the bed and reached for something underneath, I grabbed him and pulled him back. Looking under the bed, I found 2 Chicom grenades."

Since the terrain made it impossible for a helicopter to land, the prisoner had to be carried down the mountainside to a suitable location for evacuation. Vega and Lewis carried the enemy casualty nearly ½ mile over rocks and through the brush. Finally, they reached a place where they were able to cut a LZ.

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## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

"As we again approach the Christmas Season our hearts are warmed with the message of peace, hope, love and salvation that came with the announcement of the birth of Christ. As never before our world is in great need of this message. As we see the strife, turmoil, chaos and war about us, truly our hope is in the Prince of Peace. May each of us experience the true spirit of Christmas this year, even as we serve our country here, in hopes that others may also know real peace in their land."

Chaplain Horton

## CHRISTMAS IN VIETNAM

When men begin receiving cards and packages from those who care whether they are loved ones or strangers; when thoughts fly back over the years to moments of warmth and good cheer and the heart swells until it almost seems to burst---- it's Christmas in Vietnam.

When convoys begin rolling toward a USO Show in Danang and in everyone's heart there is a bit of Hope; when carols instead of thunder are heard from the battery----it's Christmas in Vietnam.

When the mess hall appears to be a bit brighter and stewards begin planning one meal weeks ahead of time; when the cooks put in overtime and the man in the field has a chance to eat his fill of hot A's-- it's Christmas in Vietnam.

When you wonder whether there will ever really be understanding and good will between men and peace among nations; when you can look out into the night and feel

that in spite of all there just might be a better day---- it's Christmas in Vietnam.....

Hope that we all have a happier New Year  
The Editor

## AWARDS PRESENTED

The following men were decorated by the Brigade Commander COL John L. Insani during awards ceremonies held at the Retraining Area the past two weeks:

HHC			
PFC	Roland Phelps	BS	"V"
PFC	Lawrence Scofield	BS	"V"
Co A			
SP4	Paul A. Leo	ACM	"V"
		BS	"V"
Co B			
SP4	Gary Koppen	BS	"V"
		PH	
Co C			
SP4	Richard Buchholtz	ACM	"V"
SP4	Edward Zaniboni	ACM	"V"
PFC	Richard Erver	ACM	"V"
PFC	Robert Moreno	ACM	"V"

## EM CLUB ON FSB 4-11

A new addition has been made to "Howard Johnson's" which will be much appreciated by the men on FSB 4-11. As a result of the efforts of 1LT Edward LeBlanc (New Orleans, La) and SP5 Howard Barton (Tampa, Fla.) a bar was constructed inside the mess hall and is now authorized to sell beer and soda.

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



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_



LOOK ACE,..... FORGET THE  
CANDY AND NUTS THIS YEAR, HOW  
ABOUT A HOP TO HONG KONG!!