



# OLD GUARD



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## XMAS SHOW RES. 9 VC KIA

Last Christmas, Bravo Company witnessed two Christmas shows; one enjoyable featuring an all girl group known as the "Johnson Sisters"; the other not so enjoyable featuring the VC.

Early Christmas afternoon, most of B Company, led by CPT Jack Pryor, was down at the Naval base, Hard Stand, enjoying a show which was sponsored jointly by B Company and the Navy. The men were enjoying the all girl group, "Johnson Girls" (two guitars, an accordian, and a set of drums). The girls had been performing for about a half an hour, when rifle fire was heard from the bunker line facing east towards the peninsula. At first the girls were told that the men on the bunker line were merely "test firing" their weapons.

The girls continued to play but expressions of doubt replaced the former smiles on their faces. As one man said, "As the gun fire picked up the girls complexion continued to turn paler and paler." The men watching the show were a little skeptical too, especially when they heard rifle fire coming across the channel.

As soon as the first incoming rounds were detected, a man from the bunker line came running over hollering "get the girls in the bunker." No more needed to be said. The girls were whisked to the safety of the nearest bunker and the men grabbed their

Last week "roundup" operations conducted by Charlie and Delta Company, on separate occasions, accounted for 12 VC captured, two VC killed, and 20 VC suspects apprehended. On both occasions, MACV personnel and Vietnamese Police Reconnaissance Units (PRUs) aided the Companies in rounding up and identifying VC.

On Friday, December 27, Charlie Company was combat assaulted from LZ Bronco to the northern tip of the peninsula about three "klicks" north of LZ Charlie Brown. Bravo Company acted as a blocking force. All corridors of escape were sealed off. With the Vietnamese hemmed in, the Company quickly rounded up the people to a central collection point. At the collection point, the Vietnamese were questioned by the PRUs and their names matched against a "black list" supplied by the village chief of Sa Huynh. The "black list" contained all the names of known VC and VC suspects in the area.

A careful interrogation of the people yielded seven confirmed VC and 20 VC suspects. One of the captured VC turned out to be a VC guerrilla chief.

The Company spread out and carefully searched the area. PFC Brightman, of the Second Platoon, uncovered an enemy M-2 carbine. He found the weapon under a rock. Soon afterwards, PFC Alex Mandakiaz, also of the Second Platoon, found an AK-44 rifle in a cavo.

During the search of the area over 2,000 lbs. of rice were found by the men of C Company. The Company also found numerous medical supplies.

PFC William Grosshreutz, of the Second Platoon, was crawling out of a tunnel



- 1 Hard Stand
- 2 LZ Charlie Brown
- 3 Location of VC attempting to swim across channel.
- 4 Location gunships
- 5 Locations airstrikes

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## A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

The name Vo Ngam is probably unfamiliar to most people in the Battalion. Most people know the subject of this article as " Papasan ", the Kit Carson Scout for Bravo Company. "Papasan" use to be easily identifiable because he always had his brown dog, Ky, by his side. Recently, Vo left his dog in Antoine, the village near Chu Lai base.

Vo has been fighting here in Vietnam for just about his entire adult life. He was a dedicated VC for 12 years and proved so successful that he was chosen to go to North Vietnam to study. Upon completion of his studies in North Vietnam, he returned back south as an NVA Platoon Leader.

Last year Vo gave himself up under the Chieu Hoi program. He said that low pay, poor food, American pressure, and a general disillusionment with the VC movement caused him to change sides. He is happy with his decision and says he has been treated both well and fairly by the Americans.

After completing the Kit Carson course, Vo worked with the 5th Special Forces Unit located in Nha Trang. While with the Special Forces Unit he made many parachute jumps and showed his ability as a capable and trustworthy Kit Carson Scout. He was then assigned the area of operation around LZ Dottie.

Normally a scout stays with his assigned area of operation, but Vo has chosen to stay with the Old Guard wherever they go. Now he has become B Company's " permanent" scout for they ask for him whenever they need a scout.

Due to his past experiences, Vo has a great knowledge of VC methods and tactics. The 4/3 is lucky to have Vo's knowledge working for us instead of against us.

( Bn cont from pg. 1 ) he just finished searching and discovered an 82mm dud mortar round. PRUs searched the area near where PFC Grosshreutz found the mortar round. Two artillery rounds, a 105 and a 155mm, were found in the area. It was determined by questioning the VC prisoner, that the rounds had been hidden by a VC reconnaissance unit operating in the area. The VC recon unit are believed to be one of the groups responsible for mining Highway 1.

On Saturday, Dec 21, D Company, led by CPT John Blanks, was combat assaulted of LZ Thunder. MACV personnel and PRUs were CA'd with the Company. Delta Company's goal was to locate and capture or destroy a VC saper squad known to be operating in the area.

At 0930 the Company started rounding up VC suspects. An hour and half later, 16 VC suspects were isolated from the other Vietnamese. Of the 16 VC suspects, five proved to be confirmed VC when questioned on the

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( Bravo cont from pg 1 ) weapons and raced to the bunker line.

Several VC were nailed trying to swim across the channel to Hard Stand. The men in the tracks, the Navy, and Bravo Company teamed up to kill five VC.

After the ten minute fire fight, the Christmas show continued. The girls were coaxed out of the bunkers and the men resumed their places in the audience. The girls, whose enthusiasm for performing was somewhat damaged by the experience, had competition for the men's attention. While the girls were finishing up the show, gunships raked the enemy position in the heavy brush near the shoreline. Each swoop of the " sharks " of the 174th Aviation Company was greeted by a loud roar from the men of B Company.

As the girls finished the show, airstrikes were directed against the enemy area further up the beach. One VC KIA was reported by the airstrike. Two large secondary explosions were spotted by HELIX which was spotting for the fighter jets.

The following day, Second Platoon swept the area hit by the airstrikes. The Platoon, led by 1LT Robert Phelps, found three more VC killed by the previous day's airstrike to bring the total of VC KIA to nine during the Christmas Day battle.

The girls admitted that the show was definitely different than any they have performed in the past. They said it was an experience, but an experience they want to go through only once. They thanked Bravo Company for giving them the opportunity to perform but added that from now on they plan to restrict their activities to "more secure area".

( Bn cont from pg 2 )  
spot. One of the confirmed VC was a VC Committee Chiecf.

Two kills were recorded in the operation. Gunships from the 174th Aviation Company killed one VC evading. The 4/3 "G&C" helicopter killed another VC evading about an hour later.

That same afternoon, Echo Company's Recon Platoon found a VC POW camp. The camp, surrounded by large rocks, was well camouflaged. Assorted web gear and rifle cleaning equipment, as well as a pair of VC jungle boots, were found in the enemy POW camp believed to be used 4-7 days prior.

Just before dark, Recon Platoon was moving into its night ambush position. SP4 Vincent Magrone and one of the PRUs working with Recon teamed up to kill one of two VC they spotted evading. The VC KIA had a pistol belt and canteen on his possession when the men of Recon found him.

Third Platoon, Delta Company was moving to its night ambush position when LT Kohn, the Platoon Leader, and PFC Walter McDavitt, the point man, spotted 10-20 VC in a group. The VC were too far away to engage with small arms fire, so artillery was brought in. No results could be confirmed because of the late hour.

About the same time of night, but in a different location, Recon Platoon's pointman, PFC Arthur Lindsay spotted three VC, all with weapons. After PFC Lindsay fired several M-79 rounds, other members of the Platoon opened up on the enemy but nothing could be confirmed because of darkness.

## 1968, THE YEAR IN REVIEW

New Years is a time for thought. A time to look ahead to the future, and a time to look back at the year past. Most of us spent a large part of 1968 in Vietnam and because of this, 1968 will be a year we will wish to forget- yet will long remember.

During the year 1968, the 4/3 proved itself to be an efficient and effective fighting unit; yet the Battalion took its share of "lumps". During the calendar year 1968, the Battalion operated under the control of each Brigade in the Americal Division. The following is a chronological account of the principle events of the 4/3 for the year 1968.

### January

- 1 - Battalion involved in incountry training near LZ Carentan.
- 10 - Battalion takes over the Muscatine AO from the 198th Bde. The Bn TOC located on LZ Sue.
- 25 - Co B made OPCON to Task Force Barker.
- 29 - TET Offensive started.

### February

- 4 - 4/3 Inf released OPCON to 198th, returned to 11th Inf Bde.
- 12 - Bravo Company killed 88 VC while sustaining three minor casualties, during participation in Task Force Barker.
- 20 - Alpha Company recorded 7 VC KIA, 3 VC CIA, and three enemy weapons captured.

### March

- 5-14 - Operation Show Low.

### April

- 8 - Delta Co. kills 7 VC and captures 5 weapons.
- 9 - 4/3 TOC moved to LZ Dottie.
- 10 - Delta Co. finds enemy weapons cache of over 130 rifles and machine guns.
- 11 - Delta Co. finds 133 mortar rounds, 100 B-40 rockets, and 31 recoilless rifle rounds.
- 23 - C Company begins construction of LZ Buff.
- 28 - B Company finishes extracting salt cache of 131,280 pounds.

### May

- 30 - LTC Frank Barker assumed Battalion command from LTC Alvin Adkins.

### June

- 10 - Battalion completes operation Muscatine.
- 13 - G&C helicopter containing LTC Barker crashes and MAJ Davidson assumes Bn command.
- 25 - LTC Albert Russell becomes Bn Commander.

### July

- 3 - Battalion OPCON to 196th Bde for Operation Pocohontas Forest.
- 4 - Bn TOC moves to LZ West and then to LZ O'Conor.
- 10 - Delta Company finishes LZ Karen.

### August

- 4 - Operation Pocohontas Forest completed.
- 23 - VC/NVA launch offensive in Southern I Corps area. Chu Lai, Hill 54 ( location of Bn TOC ) and LZ Bronco hit.

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C 3, r; PLAT 5 VC  
KIA IN 1 DAY

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(1968 cont from pg 3)

On Friday, December 27, Charlie Company's Third Platoon, led by 1LT Thomas Bedient, hit the VC on different occasions resulting in five VC killed. One man, SGT Larry Goodwin from Springfield, Tennessee was directly involved in all five VC kills.

The Platoon's First Squad was moving to their night ambush position when SGT Goodwin, the Squad Leader, and PFC Tom Hill, the pointman, went ahead of the rest of the Squad to survey a spot for the ambush. The two men surprised two VC and the enemy took off running. The two men from C Company killed them both.

About three hours later, the Squad was in their night ambush position six miles southwest of Que Sen. The ambush spot was picked so that the men could detect anything coming down a well used trail.

SGT Goodwin set out a Claymore facing down the trail. About quarter of eleven that night, he heard voices coming from the trail. The moon was just bright enough for him to detect three figures--- right in front of his Claymore. When the VC were in position, SGT Goodwin let go with the Claymore. The rest of the Squad peppered the area with M-79 fire and frag grenades.

After a fire team moved forward and confirmed the three VC kills, the Squad quickly left the area and set up in a different location.

September

- 3 - Battalion begins Operation Champagne Grove in Quang Ngai. Bn TOC located on LZ Buff.
- 6 - Recon Platoon hit heavy enemy position. Platoon losses high but enemy losses set at 64 KIA. 20 KIA directly attributed to Recon.
- 12 - Bravo Company finds enemy 105mm Howitzer.
- 14 - Charlie Company finds large enemy weapons cache, including 22 RPG rounds, 22 mortar rounds, and a heavy anti aircraft machine gun.
- 16 - Battalion airlifted to LZ Thunder.
- 28 - SP4 Cyril Shettlerroe and PFC Wayne Patterson both of D Company named EM and NCO of the quarter, respectively for entire 11th Bde.

October

- 25 - Bn starts building LZ Dancer for Operation Vernon Lake II.
- 27-28 - Alpha, Delta, and Recon find large amount of NVA equipment and ammunition etc. in bombed out base camp during operations in "leech Valley."
- 28 - Recon Platoon finds 17 enemy weapons.

November

- 13 - Battalion completes Operation Vernon Lake II.

December

- 4 - 4.2" mortar Platoon fire 18,000th round.
- 15 - LTC Jack Davis assumes command of 4/3.



DON'T GIVE ME ANY STATIC!...NOW REMEMBER!  
--AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, YOU RUSH  
INTO THE NCO CLUB SHOUTING "HAPPY  
NEW YEAR"!

WHEN YOU POP  
SMOKE....POP  
THE TOP!

TAKE THE FUSE OFF AFTER  
USING A SMOKE GRENADE.

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Old Guard

LTC Jack C. Davis;	CO
1LT Thomas J. Klein,	SI
SP4 Herbert Horton,	Reporter

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