



# OLD GUARD



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## HSI NAILS VC IN BLIND SPOT

On their first night on LZ Buff, one man in B Company, PFC Charles Kent, found that a fragmentation grenade can be an excellent means of reconnaissance.

PFC Kent, a machine-gunner for the Third Platoon, was on guard and about 11:15 that night he routinely flipped a frag grenade into a blind spot out in front of his position. Several moments after the explosion, PFC Kent was startled to hear moaning from the dark shadows of

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Rip open sand bags that took many hours of hard work filling, and throw them into a large hole which took many look hours of work digging, that was the story on Saturday, February 8, moving day for the 4/3. On that day, FSB South, the principle Fire Support Base for Operation Russell Beach, was torn down and the Battalion moved to LZ Buff as the multi-battalion operation, Russell Beach came to a conclusion.

The Battalion was extremely active during its participation in Operation Russell Beach. Of the 201 VC killed by the five battalions involved in the operation, more than 70, or over 1/3, were credited to the "Old Guard". In addition, the Battalion captured 27 of the 41 individual weapons and three of the five crew served weapons captured during the 27 day operation. For its fine showing, the Battalion was personally congratulated by the Task Force Commander, Brigadier General Cooksey.

## SMOKE PUFFED, VC FLUSHED

On Saturday, February 1, Charlie Company's First Platoon, led by 1LT Roger Fullon, nabbed 27 VC suspects. The Platoon, acting upon information supplied by a Hoi Chanh, found the 27 VCS in several different tunnels. At several various times, "persuasion" was necessary to coax the VCS out of their hiding places. On one occasion, SP4 Tommy Johnson "persuaded" one hardcore individual to give himself up through the use of smoke grenades.

When one VCS refused to heed the advice of the Vietnamese interpreter with the Platoon and surrondor, SP4 Johnson bombarded the reluctant VCS' position with three violet smoke grenades.

Apparently he got the point for shortly afterwards the VCS, coughing and covered with a bright hue of purple dye, came crawling out of the tunnel.

One man remarked that besides proving successful in smoking out reluctant VC, smoke grenades, because of the distinctive color a VC picks up from the dye, are also useful in marking hardcore individuals who thus can be readily identified in a crowd.

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The 27 day sweep of the Batanga Peninsula, northeast of Quang Ngai City, netted 256 members of the VC infra-structure captured, 102 other VC captured, 157 suspects detained, 32 Hoi Chanks received, and 11,580 refugees evacuated to CHIC.

The multi-battalion operation marked the most thorough search on the known VC stronghold in 20 years. The peninsula is

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## R&amp;R TAIPEI

( blind spot cont pg 1 )  
 the blind spot, Realizing that he must have wounded a VC attempting to penetrate the wire, PFC Kent opened up on the area with his M-60. Soon M-79 and M-16 fire, provided by the other members of the Third Platoon, joined in on peppering the area where enemy movement was detected.

As soon as it was light enough to see, members of the Third Platoon checked out the area and found two dead VC - just inside the farthest strand of barbed wire. The two unlucky intruders were dressed in black and covered with black charcoal to avoid detection. They were armed with a number of hand grenades and one had a 9mm Browning pistol on his possession. The pistol, which is similar in appearance to a 45 caliber pistol, was presented to PFC Kent as a war trophy by LTC Davis.

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Congratulations are in order for PFC Joe Day of Bravo Company. On Sunday, February 9, PFC Day, from Yancyville, N.C., became the proud father of a 7 pound baby boy. Both mother and son are doing fine.

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Those who decide to take their R&R in Taipei, largest city of free China, are treated to both the wonders of the ancient Chinese and the conveniences of the new modern world, for Taipoi is a blend of historic Chinese customs and modern Western ways. The city is a large bustling metropolis with a population of over 1,000,000 people; but, only a few miles outside the city, life goes on much as it did in ancient China.

One of the first things you will do after arriving in Taipei is exchange your money. You will be given New Taiwan dollars or "NT" at the exchange rate of \$1 US equals \$40 NT. Money can be converted at the R&R Center, American Express Bank, NCO Clubs, Officer Clubs, and the Naval Exchange but you can not convert money on the local economy. Save some American money though, for US dollars are used at American facilities such as the Naval PX, NCO clubs, etc.

The R&R Center has a list of close to 40 approved hotels that you can stay at during your R&R. The prices range from \$3 US to \$8 US ( also add a 10% service charge which is given in lieu of tipping ). All hotels on the R&R Center recommended list have been approved, but it is strongly advised that you stay at a five or six dollar hotel. Although the price difference between a three dollar and a five dollar hotel is small, but there is a great difference in quality of the facilities.

For camera bugs there are a number of interesting sights to see during your stay in Taipei. Eight miles south of the city is a town known as Wulai. Wulai is famous for its waterfall and Chinese aboriginal dancers. A pushcart ride from the village to the waterfall, and a ride on the cable car over the waterfall is a unique experience for any visitor. Sightseers will also be interested in seeing Yangmingshan Park and Chihman Temple, both within a short drive of the city. For those who prefer more human sights, Yeh Lieu Park Beach, on the Pacific Ocean, is only, about an 80 minute ride out of the city.

The Chinese have a reputation for fine cooking, and everything said about their skill with a skillet is true. Experiment and you'll have some happy surprises.

Many of the best Chinese restaurants, where a knife and fork are rarities, are small and tucked away on side streets. Try shark's fin soup, duck and pork done Peiping style; or shrimp, pork, and beef prepared in a variety of different ways.

There are only a few good Japanese restaurants. Western style cooking is available in some large hotels and restaurants; however, quality varies and you may not always recognize it as Western cooking.

When eating and drinking, use common sense and the same standards you use in Vietnam. The tap water is nonpotable, but jars of safe water are provided in all hotel rooms. Most food is quite tasty and nutritional, but avoid raw or semi-cooked meats and vegetables.

(Bn cont from pg 1)  
being turned over to the government of Vietnam who are undertaking an intensive pacification program in the area.

The Battalion's last week in the operation started on Saturday, Feb. 1, with Charlie Company's First Platoon nabbing an NVA armed with an M-1 carbine. The NVA was trying to escape when the Platoon opened up on him from their location two miles behind the cordon line. Realizing that for him the war was over, the NVA quickly gave himself up under the Chieu Hoi program.

The same morning, the Platoon also rounded up 27 VC suspects that they found in various tunnels. Besides the 27 VC suspects (18 of them military age males); medical supplies, documents, rice, a gas mask, and eight Chi Com grenades were also found during the search.

Before lunch the following day, PFC Bill Grosskreutz of the Second Platoon, C Company discovered an M-72 LAW hidden in a bamboo thicket located nine miles northeast of Quang Ngai City. The LAW, completely intact, was blown in place.

The same day, ARVNs, working under the direction of the 4/3, found five M-72 LAWs in a tunnel where they also captured three VC.

On February 3, Charlie Company was working 10 miles northeast of Quang Ngai when they discovered a large tunnel complex. The two tunnel rats for the Second Platoon, PFC George Harnish and PFC Ed "Buffalo" Botsford, went down to explore the tunnel. The two men really

## 4/3 TOPS with LOW MALARIA

A man sticken with malaria is a casualty just as much as a man wounded by the enemy, thus a low malaria rate is something that every unit commander strives for. For the three month period, November thru January, the 4/3 led the four Infantry Battalions in the 11th Brigade with the lowest malaria rate.

During the three month period, the 4/3 had the fewest number of cases

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Total 3 Mons.
4/3	26.7%	14.6%	6.7%	13.8%

13.8% of the total number of cases reported among the four battalions. The 4/3 had an exceptionally low figure for the month of January with only 6.7% of the malaria cases among the line battalions of the Brigade.

Echo Company and Headquarters Companies led the Battalion with no cases of malaria reported in either Company during the entire three month period. Delta and Charlie Companies also had enviable records with only one and two cases respectively.

The Battalion can continue to lead the Brigade if everybody would follow 3 simple rules:

## 4 STARS on LZ BRONCO

Last week, February 5, General Creighton Abrams, USARV Commander, visited LZ Bronco to present Distinguished Service Cross Awards to three Americal Division Soldiers (two from the 11th Brigade).

CPT Kenneth Veeder, HHC Commander, led a contingent of "Old Guard" soldiers to the large black top parade field adjacent to the VIP pad where the ceremony took place. CPT Veeder who was acting "Battalion Commander" for the occasion promised to bring "ultimate Smoke", but his 15 minute reign as "Higher-Higher" ended without incident.

Besides General Abrams Maj. Gen. Gettys, Americal Division Commander, and Lt. Gen. Richard G. Stillwell, XXIV Corps CG, also took part in the ceremony.

- 1) Keep sleeves rolled down after dark.
- 2) Use insect repellent.
- 3) Take THE PILL

Keep the Battalion in top by keeping the malaria rate down - it is for your own good.

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( Bn cont from pg 3 )

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ONLY IN THE INFANTRY -

had their work cut out for them that day for the tunnel, dug in three separate levels, totaled nearly two miles with all the levels added together. Although the two men spotted fresh human footprints on the first and second levels, no enemy personnel nor equipment were found; but, as PFC Botsford pointed out, "There were numerous rooms and hiding places that branched off from the main tunnel and we just didn't have time to explore everything." Because the tunnel was so long it took the two men over 2 1/2 hours to plant enough craterins (43 lb. shape charges) to destroy the tunnel complex.

The following day, D Company's Third Platoon, led by 2LT William Degen, detained 50 Vietnamese, many without ID cards. Two suspicious Vietnamese with black charcoal camouflage on their hands and face were apprehended for further questioning.

On Feb. 6, C Company, Second Platoon, First Squad, led by SGT Austin Lawther, had a good day.

The Squad first reported killing one VC they spotted evading. Later in the afternoon, the Squad spotted three more VC evading about 600-700 meters to the front of their position. The Squad chased down the three fleeing VC and caught them as they crossed a shallow river. Upon questioning, one VC admitted being a VC laborer, another admitted being a VC youth council worker, and the third VC refused to talk.

The Squad finished the day by chalking up four more VC kills. The Squad nailed the four VC from their night ambush site just after dark that night.

- is a fire base called civilization.
- does anyone look forward to a dentist appointment.
- can a brand new pair of boots look like they have been worn a lifetime... after only a week's wear.
- is your drinking water just about the right temperature to shave in.
- is any MOS in the Army better than the one you have.
- have guys figured out to make pizza pie out of "G" rations.
- can someone open a warm beer with a survival knife, and not spill a drop.

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Old Guard

LTC Jack C, Davis, CO  
1LT Thomas J. Klein, S1  
SP4 Herbert Horton, Reporter

This newssheet is published weekly under the supervision of S1, 4/3 Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade AFPS 96217, as an authorized publication. Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army. AFPS material used.

( Taipei cont from pg 2 )

Taipei city has thirty bars approved by the government each with 20 to 40 bar girls. There you can drink rice wine (or any other drink), enjoy good music, and get special service from the charming bar girls. Your drinks cost 50 US cents and drinks for the bar girls cost \$1.50 US. To avoid being hustled, make sure you pay as you go and don't run up a bill. If you desire the company of one of these girls, her company can be bought from the bar for 24 hours period for NT\$600 or \$15 US, but make sure you get a contract from the bar manager. This contract is for your protection.

The Chinese have long been famous for their craftsmanship. This remarkable skill is today manifested in a wide variety of exquisite handicraft products at Taiwan souvenir shops. Besides these hand made artifacts, good buys can be found in tailor made clothes, jade, ivory, lacquerware, woodcraft, coral, bone and camphor carvings. In addition, the Naval PX is open to all R&R personnel. E-4s and above can purchase up to three bottles of liquor using their RVN ration cards.

R&R consists of five nights and four days; but do not get carried away and stay longer. "No shows" are placed on AWOL status, subject to disciplinary action, and may result in you having to pay your way back to Vietnam at a cost of \$153.10.

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