

Vol 1, No. 30

March 6, 1969

ALPHA CO. AIDS MACV ADVISERS

Alpha Company's Third Platoon, led by 1st Lt. Frank Meyer, came to the rescue of four MACV advisers to a Vietnamese Popular Forces Unit, last Wednesday, February 26. The MACV personnel, all seriously wounded and all out of ammo, were rescued after an intense fire fight with fighting in as close as 50 meters.

The Platoon, reinforced with tracks from H Troop 17th Cav., left about four o'clock that afternoon to join up with the Americans who were stranded on a small hill about four "klicks" north of CHIC.

Before they reached the enemy position, the platoon was hit with intense small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force. Although the whole Platoon did an excellent job in suppressing the enemy fire, one man in particular, PFC John Gilman, was cited for his actions during the fire fight. In the initial burst of enemy fire, PFC Gilman, the Platoon machine gunner, was wounded but he continued to man his machine gun throughout the fire fight. Only after the fire fight was over did PFC Gilman relinquish his M-60.

After the fire fight the Platoon quickly went to the aid of the four wounded MACV advisers. Lt. Meyer spread the Platoon out in a defensive perimeter while "Doc", Sp4 Roy Johnson, the Platoon Medic, patched up wounded Americans so that they could be medivaced out.

(cont pg 3)

ENEMY REPELLED AT LZ BUFF

During the past week, Delta Company has repelled several attacks against LZ Buff. Early Sunday morning, February 23, Delta's First Platoon under the leadership of 1st Lt. John Zimmerman, fought off a ground attack which was concentrated against two bunkers in the First Platoon's sector of the perimeter. The bunkers were assaulted with heavy automatic weapons fire and grenades. First Platoon retaliated and the enemy was beaten back to the wire.

The enemy small arms fire continued and in the ensuing action several medics proved their worth. Sp4 Daniel McGraw, Sp4 Jerry Ferguson, and Pvt. Lawrence Batiste worked in two man teams to remove those who were injured. Each team made two trips from the bunkers to the aid station.

During the first trip, Specialists McGraw and Headburg had automatic weapons fire directed upon them, and they were forced to stop near a conex. At this time 1st Lt. Robert Callahan, Echo Company's CO, took note of the situation and laid down a base of fire which enabled the medics to continue with the wounded man towards the aid station.

In the interim, the aid station again received a call for help and Capt. Lawrence Wasser, the Battalion Surgeon, answered it. He helped carry one

(cont pg 2)

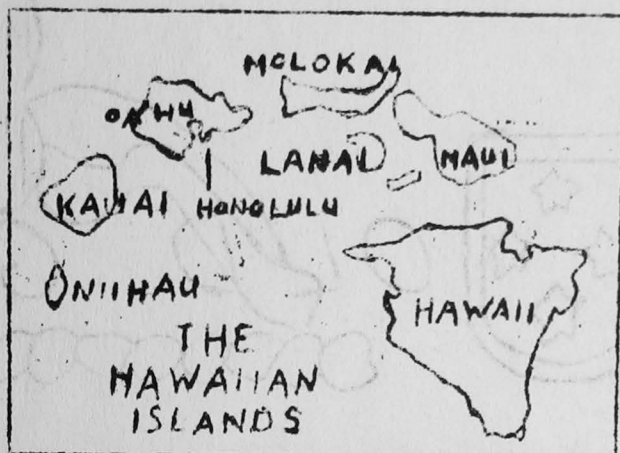
(enemy cont from pg 1)
of the injured and also searched out the area for any injured that might have been missed.

PFC Bill Utts, who works the chopper pad, together with Capt. John Stolfi, Delta Company's CO, were part of a patrol searching for any GI's who might have been injured. Upon sweeping towards the wire, PFC Utts came upon an NVA who was caught in the wire and immediately fired. Later on, the KIA was searched and an NVA flag, which PFC Utts kept as a souvenir, six hand grenades, and two homemade banglors were found.

On February 24, late in the evening, the enemy staged another attack. Again several individuals distinguished themselves in beating them back. Notable among these was Spl Frank Hersey of First Platoon, Delta Company, who helped to extract wounded personnel from a bunker, and in doing so received shrapnel wounds. Upon receiving fire, he fired back with several bursts from an M-60 machine gun and continued to retrieve the wounded towards safety. Also notable were the actions of PFC Roddie Perry, an RTO who, upon discovering the extent of the situation from the radio, ran several bunkers away towards the action, bringing his radio and an aid bag with him.

Spl John Gordon and Spl Roger Huset of the Headquarters element, left their usual area of responsibility in aiding a search party for the injured.

(cont pg 3)



R
AND
R

Hawaii has special appeal for those personnel who are married or who desire to meet friends or family from the mainland. The Hawaiian Islands, and Oahu in particular, have tremendous tourist facilities and everything seems oriented towards the entertainment and pleasure of visitors. The Waikiki Beach area is where most tourists make accommodations at the several large and luxurious hotels. Also at Waikiki is the largest concentration of nightclubs and a myriad of restaurants with foods from all over the world.

If someone is to meet you in Hawaii, it is advised that they make hotel reservations in advance. The hotels are frequently filled to capacity and you will save valuable time by having a room waiting for you. If you do arrive without reservations, the R&R Center at Fort DeRussy has a reservation service which includes most all hotels in Waikiki Beach. Here you can quickly find out what rooms are available and in what price range they fall.

The Hawaiian Islands are characterized by beautiful beaches, tropical flowers, hula dancers and a quality of romance unlike any other state of the Union. The people are a mixture of Polynesian, Chinese, Japanese, and Haole which is the Hawaiian name for those who came from the mainland. The Polynesian - Oriental strain is distinguished by graciousness and courteous manners. These people are very much a part of modern America yet have maintained the ease of their ancestors. Because of this one feels at home almost immediately in Hawaii.

For sightseeing, most R&R personnel prefer to rent a car; the main reason being the reduced rates which are offered. Interesting places to see with a car are Pali Lookout which gives a panoramic view of Honolulu and Waikiki, Round Top Drive, a curving mountain road above Waikiki, with beautiful homes perched on its heights, and the Diamond Head area which extends along the shore east of Waikiki. If you would like to see the memorial to the battleship Arizona, it is a short

(cont pg 3)

(R&R Hawaii cont from pg 2)

drive past Honolulu to Pearl Harbor. Enjoyable yacht cruises are available for a tour of the harbor and the memorial. You may also wish to drive around the entire island and through the pineapple fields for a free sample of Hawaii's most famous product. Other frequented attractions, all close to Honolulu, are the Iolani Palace, Ala Moana Park, the International Market Place and Hawaiian Cultural Arts Center.

Water sports are, of course, very popular and good facilities are available. Surfboarding and waterskiing lessons are easy to obtain. Hickam Air Force Base will loan qualified personnel small sailboats. The Glass Bottom Boat is unique for its direct view of coral and fish without even getting wet.

For good eating one can't go wrong at the top hotels. One skyscraper hotel has a revolving restaurant for its uppermost level. The Lau Yee Chai restaurant is renowned for its vertical rock garden and waterfall and superb food. Popular and picturesque tea houses are The Tropics, The Broiler, The Tahitian Lanai and the Colonel's Plantation, the Beef Steak and the Coffee House. For an authentic Hawaiian Luau with native food and entertainment visit Don the Beachcomber's or the Queen's Surf. The atmosphere is great at the following cocktail lounges: The Royal Hawaii Hotel, Captain Cook Bar in the Surfrider Hotel, The Bora Bora Bar at Don the Beachcomber's, Kamaaina Bar at the Moana Hotel, the Tiare Room Shell Bar and Ale Ale Kai Room at the Hawaiian Village, the House without a Key at the Halekulani, The Gourmet, and The Queen's Surf.

Nightclub entertainment is best at the major hotels. They constantly feature well known talent from the mainland. Other clubs feature Tahitian and Samoan entertainment such as hula dancing.

All that is necessary during your stay is light clothing since the climate is almost perfect. The dress is mostly informal although more formal evening clothes are certainly very useful. Also be prepared for occasionally light showers.

With the exception of Hong Kong and Taipei, all R&R personnel may now wear civilian clothes at the R&R center and aboard the aircraft.

This directive, effective as of February 15, 1969, stipulates that all clothing must be clean and in good condition. Mixing of military uniforms and civilian clothes is not allowed, although military low quarters may be worn. Only dress shirts, sport shirts square cut bottomed shirts and slacks are considered acceptable. Blue jeans, shorts, T-shirts, sweatshirts, and similar items are not acceptable.

It is strongly recommended that the regulations outlined above be complied with in order to save you embarrassment and time.

(enemy cont from pg 2)

ed. In addition, they helped to push the enemy back away from the bunker line, and once done, they rescued an M-60 machine gun which had been dropped by an injured gunner.

The following day, Tuesday, February 25, Charlie Company observed two VC evading them approximately five clicks southeast of Buff. They engaged them with small arms fire resulting in one VC KIA and one VC believed to be wounded. The dead VC was in green uniform, carrying a pack, pistol belt, and a bag with documents. He was armed with a nine mm pistol and, according to the company interpreter, was a VC company commander.

Early the following morning, Charlie Company's First Platoon sprang their ambush on an estimated five VC. At daylight the area was searched out and one VC KIA was found.

Again, on the evening of February 26, Charlie Company's Second Platoon spotted four VC on a starlight scope who were headed towards their ambush site. The platoon set off a claymore and used small arms fire resulting in another VC KIA.

(rescue cont from pg 1)

Needless to say, the MACV advisers were more than happy to see the men from Alpha Company. One of the MACV men greeted the Third Platoon with a very sincere, "Thanks," then added jokingly, "What kept you guys. We were starting to get a little worried."

AMERICAL DIVISION REORGANIZED

THE REAR SEES ACTION

The Americal Division was recently reorganized to consolidate the combat service support elements of the 11th, 196th, and 198th Brigades. The division is now similar in structure to the 1st, 4th, and 25th Infantry Divisions.

Essentially, the reorganization reduces the combat service support elements by 750 spaces, which will be redistributed throughout Vietnam. The Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the three brigades will be maintained for continuation of their history and lineage.

There still exist four separate brigades in Vietnam which are uniquely flexible units. They are the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, the 173d Airborne Brigade, the 3d Brigade of the 82d Airborne Division, and the 1st Brigade of the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division.

Due to the reorganization, all personnel should delete 11th Brigade and add Americal Division to their address.

DELTA'S EQ. TWO VC KIA

Delta Company's "Arty" Forward Observer, 1st Lt. Frank Manning, recently scored again. When D Company is on a hill or fire base such as LZ Buff, Lt. Manning can often be seen scanning the area with his binoculars searching for signs of NVA, VC, or VC suspects.

On February 27, Lt. Manning spotted two VC while scanning the area around LZ Buff. The two VC, both dressed in black, were spotted evading north of LZ Buff at a distance of more than 1000 meters. Mortar fire from both D Company's 81 mm and Echo Company's 4.2" mortars was directed on the fleeing enemy. Shortly afterwards, a helicopter reconnaissance of the area confirmed the two VC kills.

During the current offensive, LZ Bronco has sustained a number of rocket and mortar attacks. On Tuesday, February 25, the enemy coordinated an attempt to rocket four mess halls. The 4/3 battalion mess hall was one of them. At about 11:45, when the mess hall was almost filled to capacity, a rocket just barely overshot the mess hall and hit the base of Montezuma. The rear area personnel, undaunted by the near disaster and armed only with forks, quickly went into action and took refuge in the nearest bunkers.

At the same time that the mess hall went into action, so did Sph Newbauer, and PFC McDonough, both of Delta Company. These two individuals were in the latrine, approximately thirty meters distant from where the rocket had landed. Needless to say all action ceased except for the trampling of four feet towards safety.

Old Guard

Income Tax Information

Military personnel serving in Vietnam do not have to file tax returns while stationed here. They may wait to file a tax return up to 180 days after leaving the Republic of Vietnam.

ITC Jack C. Davis, CO
Lt Thomas J. Klein, SI
Sph Herbert Horton, Reporter

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