



# OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

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## AWARDS PRESENTED

After several days in the field, Charlie Company was extracted and sent to Chu Lai for stand down on Sunday, March 16. During the four day stand down, an awards presentation was held on March 19. LTC Jack Davis presented awards to six individuals while 1Lt Thomas Klein read their names and the type of award being given.

1Lt Ralph Burkhardt, formerly a platoon leader and company commander for Charlie Company, and currently the battalion S-4, was presented with three awards. First presented was the Army Commendation Medal (ACM) with "V" Device. The medal was awarded for his actions as 1st platoon leader during Operation Champaign Grove on September 16, 1968. When the company came under heavy sniper fire from two ridge lines, 1Lt Burkhardt maneuvered his platoon forward and routed the snipers, thus, protecting the main body of the company. He was cited for his outstanding leadership, courage, and disregard for his personal safety. 1Lt Burkhardt was also awarded the ACM for Achievement and the Air Medal.

SSG Robert Schlicf, Sgt Dean Fritzler, Sp4 Tommy Johnson, and PFC Jose Concepcion, all of first platoon, Charlie Company, were awarded the ACM with "V" device for the action on September 16, during Operation Champaign Grove. Each of the above returned fire upon the enemy snipers and charged their posi-

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## BATTALION CONTINUES TO SUSTAIN BUFF AO

The post-Tet offensive continues to sputter through its latest phase with periodic rocket and mortar attacks against Duc Pho and firebases Buff and the CHIC. LZ Bronco was one of thirty military installations within the Americal Division reporting continued sporadic shelling during the past week. The 4/3 battalion area on Bronco has as yet received no serious casualties despite several close incoming rounds.

Following the contact in which Charlie Company killed three enemy soldiers in the Buff AO on March 15, Delta Company spotted an estimated 40 VC who were traveling in the open not far from Charlie Company.

Delta engaged the VC with artillery which resulted in six enemy KIAs. Also on March 15, Charlie Company found fifteen VC killed by artillery.

On that night, Charlie Company's first platoon sprang their ambush two "klicks" west of LZ Buff, killing two VC.

The following morning, Charlie's third platoon went on a patrol. The platoon saw a VC who was sitting on top of a bunker, fired, and killed him. The bunker was searched and a green NVA uniform was found.

Alpha Company led by 1Lt Mark Richards, served

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as a blocking force for an ARVN Cavalry unit. The ARVN Cav. unit was successful in uncovering 12,500 lbs. of rice hidden in an area approximately midway between Quang Ngai City and LZ Buff.

The next day, Wednesday, Delta Company's second platoon guided by PSG Charles Sizemore, killed a VC by small arms fire. Bravo's second platoon found a VC KIA with several blood trails leading away from the bodies. In subsequent action, an ARVN unit found eight VC killed by an air strike and 17,600 lbs. of rice, all at the same location.

During a sweep around the CHIC on Thursday, March 20, Bravo Company reported that the second platoon APCs from H Troop, 17th Cav., traveling with them, discovered a 60mm mortar emplacement with numerous blood pools in the area. Later, they also found eight B-40 or RPG emplacements, together with two RPG rounds and one B-40 rocket.

Following this, Alpha Company with the first platoon APCs of H Troop, engaged five VC evading, killing three of them. One of the VC had a pistol belt with a poncho and a piece of a parachute attached. It was surmised that the parachute was to be used as a first aid dressing.

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## R&R SINGAPORE

The city of Singapore in Malaysia, is a colorful blend of Asian people. Malay, Chinese, Indian, Ceylonese, Filipino, and Japanese inhabit this tropical island. It is an outstanding example of a successful, working democracy, with one of the highest living standards in Asia. In Singapore, originally British, a majority of the people speak and understand English. The city is both European and Asian. Because of this combination, your stay will be comfortable and intriguing.

Hotel accommodations are easily arranged through the R&R Center. The Goodwood Hotel is one of the largest hotels in Singapore with air-conditioned rooms, two swimming pools, and spacious grounds, conveniently located opposite the Tanglin Club and the American Club. Cathay, and Raffles are also generally considered to be excellent hotels.

A novel way in which to explore the many diversions of Singapore is to rent a trishaw, a sidecar attached to a bicycle. On the less well traveled roads, you can set an easy pace in discovering such sidelights as lantern makers, fortune telling birds, delicately scented herb drinks, and street vendors of precious stones. Stalls along the side of roads sell fruit, and inexpensive but good, hot dishes.

Haw Par Villa features stone carvings on a hillside overlooking the sea on Singapore's West Coast. The carvings are of demons and gods, wrought in concrete and elaborately painted. The Botanic gardens have wild monkeys and a famous orchid nursery amid beautiful green gardens of flamboyant flowers and flowering trees. Chinatown will give a tantalizing and realistic view of the oriental mode of living. Constant religious celebrations are accompanied by firecrackers, processions, and the clamor of gongs and symbols.

Another interesting sight is Arab Street, which is the heart of the Indian Muslim area of Singapore. Here you will find flower sellers, small crowded shops selling vividly beautiful mats and Indian brassware. For bargain prices on all crocodile skin goods, visit a crocodile farm, where the reptiles are bred, skinned, and tanned.

A splendid view of the sea and the ships can be seen from the telescope on top of Mount Faber or by

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(R&R Singapore cont from pg 2)

an island cruise. A typical scene shows ocean liners, tankers, Chinese junks, painted barges, slim racy Malay "kolchhs", speed boats, and gaily colored sailing boats. Coral reefs and white beaches provide undisturbed peace for skin divers, swimmers, and picnickers.

Foods range from Indonesian Rijsttafel to Japanese Sukiyaki, from spicy hot to delicately flavored. Malay food tends to be sweet, whereas Indian food tends to be rich. Chinese food varies greatly; most popular with Americans are the sweet and sour dishes, and the chicken and duck delicacies. Good American and English restaurants are abundant.

Night life, as in most Oriental cities, is very active. The amusement parks are informal. The Gay World and New World parks have Chinese operas, movie stalls, and cabaret dance halls. A Malay dance called the joget modern, in which the partners attempt to get as close to each other as possible without touching, can be seen in open-air. Dancing and dining are best in the major hotels which have excellent orchestras, and nightly floorshows. Usual decor at the nightspots is Chinese motif, such as moon-gates and tinkling glass embellishments. The normal closing hour for restaurants, clubs, and bars is 12pm with several open until 1am and 2am on weekends.

Shopping is a bargain adventure. Prices are right with nearly every article duty free. Electrified goods, jewellery, watches, cameras, transistor radios, silverware, and brassware are the goods most frequently purchased. Singapore has western style air-conditioned department stores, shops along Change Alley, and the famous mile long night markets.

Lightweight, washable clothing is most practical for Singapore's humid days and cool, pleasant nights. Average annual temperature is 88F degrees. Trousers or shorts and a shirt are sufficient for daytime wear. Certain leading hotels require a tie and jacket at night.

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(awards cont from pg 1) tions, endangering their own lives and protecting the main body of the company.

PFC Jose Concepcion was also awarded the Bronze Star for Achievement for his actions in the discovery of an enemy cache containing twelve B40 rockets with boosters and carrying cases, 11 82mm mortar rounds, a semi-automatic rifle, grenades, uniforms, web gear, and valuable medical supplies. The cache was found during Operation Pocahontas Forest of July and August, 1968.

In addition to the above awards, SSG Schlieff was awarded the Purple Heart and 1Lt Roger Fulen was awarded the ACM for Service from the 2nd BCT Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas.

On March 22, a similar awards ceremony was held for Bravo Company. LTC Jack Davis presented the awards, and Capt. Ambros Carnes, Headquarters Company CO, read the names of those receiving awards and the type of award being given.

1Lt Garry Fox was awarded the ACM for Achievement for the period October 24, to October 31, 1968, while serving as CO of Bravo Company. During this time, Lt. Fox supervised the construction and fortification of LZ Dancer and led his company on two combat assaults into suspected enemy strongholds following B-52 strikes.

Sp6 John Rucci of Headquarters Company Mess Section, was awarded the ACM for Achievement. From July 3, to August 3, 1968, Specialist Rucci served as mess and logistical support sergeant for the battalion's forward command post during Operation Pocahontas Forest. He was constantly confronted with fluctuating unit strengths in the battalion and yet maintained high quality and frequency in preparing

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## IMPROVED FACILITIES

**TOO CLOSE**

At 10:30 on the night of March 21, a rocket round overshot Montezuma and landed fifty feet in front of bunker 37, midway in 4/3rd's sector of the perimeter on LZ Bronco. Sp4 Joseph Gersch, who was on guard, quickly roused Sp4 Mark Dixon, and Sp4 Roger Marquis, all from the battalion S-1, just seconds before the round came in. After the rocket hit, the three withdrew uninjured to the inside of the bunker.

The following day, Sp4 Marquis stated, "We considered ourselves very lucky not to have been injured by the round." Not quite so lucky was Sp4 Charles Blair of Delta Company, who was manning bunker 40. A piece of shrapnel flew onto his bunker, glanced off an ammo box, and produced a cut on one of his legs.

The 4/3 battalion rear area in Duc Pho has undergone some improvements since the battalion line companies moved north on January 13. The Aid Station recently enlarged its facility, extending the side of the building into Headquarters Company, thus, providing more room to treat individual troops out of the field.

The shower point, just below the battalion has been taken over by 23rd S&T. The shower now has hot water. Hours of operation are 0800-1000 and 1600 - 2000 hours, and will be open at other hours for stand down companies upon request.

Lumber and plans for the proposed basketball court to be built behind S-1 are ready. Plans for the battalion EM Club are still in the making.

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(awards cont from pg 3)

hot meal rations. As forward support coordinator, he kept the commander informed of the tactical situation and attended and briefed at daily command briefings.

Sp4 Eugene Phillips received the ACM for Achievement for actions on October 31, 1968. On this date, Bravo Company was moving through rough terrain aided by a scout dog team. Sp4 Phillips noticed movement in nearby underbrush which had eluded the scout dog. He followed the movement and discovered a VC hiding in a well concealed tunnel. Upon interrogation the VC gave valuable information regarding the location of 40 mines and current enemy activity in the area. Sp4 Phillips, by his keen awareness and pursuit, saved many lives of fellow soldiers.

First Sergeant Emanuel Miller was awarded the ACM for Service for November 12, 1965 to October 7, 1968, while serving with the 4th Armored Division in Germany.

Sp4 Gordon Reynolds and Sp4 Dennis Thompson were both awarded the ACM for Service for the year's tour of duty, RVN, March, 1968, to March, 1969.

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### Old Guard

LTC Jack C. Davis,

CO

Lt Thomas J. Klein,

S1

Sp4 Edward Burchell,

Reporter

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