



# OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

Vol 1, No. 34

April 3, 1969

## ALPHA CO AWARDS

Alpha, the last company in the battalion to receive a stand-down, left the field on March 24, bound for Chu Lai. Among Alpha's stand-down activities was an awards presentation on March 26. Lt Col Jack Davis pinned awards on nine individuals, while Major George Inglewright read their names and the type of award being given.

First Lieutenant (1Lt) Roger Miller received the Bronze Star with "V" Device. 1Lt Miller was platoon leader of the point element in a company size operation NW of LZ Charlie Brown on July 19, 1968. 1Lt Miller's platoon was pinned down by small arms and heavy automatic weapons fire. Despite the highly accurate enemy fire, 1Lt Miller was able to direct his platoon's return fire and radio an accurate description of the situation to his company commander that enabled the remaining elements of the company to maneuver in such a way that allowed 1Lt Miller's platoon to move to a more advantageous position. In the process of his platoon's movement, 1Lt Miller remained in position, laying down a heavy base of fire, until all of his men had withdrawn to the new position.

Sgt Walter Stanley received the bronze star with "V" Device for his actions while walking point for Alpha's third platoon on December 6, 1968. Upon receiving intense hostile fire from a nearby woodline.

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## 128 VC NVA/KIAS SINCE FEBRUARY 8

The CHIC near Quang Ngai City, well known for its tremendous amount of flies and belting blasts of sand, has ceased to exist. Bravo Company left the CHIC on Tuesday, March 25, and joined the rest of the battalion in the Buff AO. The battalion is still scheduled to leave Buff for a new AO. When this will actually occur is still uncertain.

Recon platoon was engaged in a fire fight on Saturday, March 22, one and a half "klicks" away from LZ Buff. The small arms and automatic weapons fire ended when 4.2" and 81mm mortars were directed on the suspected enemy locations. One VC KIA was reported as a result of the mortar fire.

Charlie Company was op con to the 4-21 for a special operation on the night of March 23. At 10:00 p.m., Charlie Company moved out and crossed the Song Tra Khuc River near Quang Ngai City to aid the 4-21. Charlie re-crossed the river and the operation was completed by midnight.

Shortly after midnight on March 24, LZ Buff received fifteen incoming rockets and one beer can grenade. The enemy followed up the rocket attack with a squad size ground attack which was effect-

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ively turned back.

The following morning, Delta Company swept the concertina wire encircling the perimeter and found two large blood trails leading away from it. Also found were one RPG rocket, two propellant charges for RPGs, six chicom grenades, and one VC pistol belt with first aid pouch and poncho attached.

Bravo Company picked up two targets on their radar from their NDP at 9:30 p.m., on the night of March 25. The first target, one individual, was engaged at 300 meters by Bravo's 81mm mortar men, who got a direct hit. The second target, four individuals at 1000 meters from the NDP, was engaged with artillery. A direct or very close hit was reported.

On the evening of March 27, Delta Battery, 1-14 Artillery fired on a grid five "klicks" south of Buff along the Song Tra Khuc River, where radar had picked up an estimated 40 to 50 VC. The artillery rounds resulted in 35 VC KIAs, although the total was unconfirmed.

Since the battalion moved to Buff at the beginning of February, until March 24, it has produced a record of 128 VC and NVA KIAs, and 67 VC wounded or captured.

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## R&R BANGKOK

Bangkok is situated on both sides of the Menam Chao Phya River. The city has two distinctive sections: the old, with narrow, crowded streets; and the modern, with its well planned broad thoroughfares, park areas and western style buildings. The new sector, where most tourists stay, is located around the Royal Palace which is situated on an island in the river.

Transportation by taxi or motor tricycles called sam laws is considered easier than by bus. Taxi fares are inexpensive, but an agreement on the charges should be made before one begins to travel. The pomp and grandeur of the ancient court of Siam can be experienced through a visit to the Amarindra Vinitchai Hall, Dusit Maha Prasad, and the Chakri Palace. Visits must be made through a tour service or the Royal Household bureau. Gentleman must wear slacks or shorts.

The floating market, which is held every morning from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m., except for Buddhist Holy Days consists of large numbers of sampans crowded into canals selling their wares. The floating market sells anything edible from fresh fruit, exotic herbs and spices, live chickens, terrapin, and shellfish to meat of the barking deer. A tour to the floating market usually includes a stopover at the dry dock of the Bangkok Noi Canal to see the royal barges.

Thai dancing can be one of the most fascinating parts of a trip to Bangkok. Every Wednesday and Saturday at 9:00 a.m., at the National Museum, the Thai Dance Show is performed. Thai dancing is also popular at the Cultural Auditorium in Senam Suaph. Here the classical dance by performers dressed in authentic clothes can be seen amidst luxurious surroundings.

Another interesting thing to do is to watch Thai boxing. Against background music provided by a ring-side orchestra, the two participants go at it with fists, knees, elbows, and feet.

There are several air-conditioned theaters with the latest films from the U.S., showing.

Bangkok has a wide variety of foods and restaurants. Some are quiet with simple background music while others offer entertainment such as dancing, floorshows, singers, or classical Thai dancing.

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Bangkok has merchandise from both East and West. The best buys are the handicrafts made in Thailand. You must bargain in all shops, especially jewelry shops.

Thai silk is famous for its luxurious texture and gorgeous colors. It can be bought by the yard or in ready made clothes. The House of Siam on 8 North Sathorn Road has really good buys on Thai silk as well as jewelry. Bronzeware, Thai stoneware, lacquerware, nielloware, Thai dolls, and wood carvings are other well made Thai products.

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Spl Stanley exposed himself and advanced to the wood-line returning the fire, thus, forcing the enemy to abandon the attack. When he approached the enemy position, one enemy soldier surrendered to him after hastily hiding his weapon. Spl Stanley then conducted a search for the weapons.

Spl James Teller was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for heroism on December 18, 1968, while serving as squad leader in Alpha's second platoon. During a fight resulting from a prematurely sprung enemy ambush, the platoon began to run out of ammunition. Spl Teller risked his life to secure a radio, which was no more than 75 meters from the enemy, in order to call in an emergency resupply order for ammunition. After the ammunition arrived, he distributed it throughout his squad.

Spl Tomus Mihelich received the Soldier's Medal for heroism. On December 16, 1968, two members of Alpha's first platoon were searching a tunnel after they had set off shape charges inside. The explosion from the charges produced chlorine gas which quickly overcame the two men. Spl Mihelich, the platoon medic, immediately administered mouth to mouth resuscitation to one man who had stopped breathing. Through Spl Mihelich's knowledge and efforts, the asphyxiated man was saved from possible death and certain brain damage.

In addition to the above awards, Sgt Ronald Hayes, Spl Terry Rowland, Spl Lenioda Hargrove, Spl Jack Sharp, PFC Walter Lane, PFC Francis Symozynski were all awarded the Purple Heart.

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## 11th BRIGADE CHANGE OF COMMAND

An 11th Brigade change of command ceremony took place at 10:00 a.m., on March 28, 1969. Col Jack L. Treadwell, former Americal Division Chief of Staff took command of the brigade, replacing Col. John W. Donaldson. Battalion 4-3 Commander, Lt. Col. Jack C. Davis, and Lt. Col. Albert Russell, former 4-3 Commander and presently Americal Liaison Officer, attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, various awards earned by Col. Donaldson were read, to include: the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Soldiers Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal and 19 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star. The Joint Services Commendation Medal and two Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry with Palm have also been awarded to Col. Donaldson.

Major General Charles M. Gettys then gave a tribute to Col. Donaldson, citing his achievement as 11th Brigade Commander. Among Col. Donaldson's accomplishments are two successful operations. Vernon Lake I and Vernon Lake II were conducted from October 25, 1968, to February 28, 1969, and netted 551 enemy kills and 165 weapons. The operations dealt a decisive blow to NVA/VC supply depots, turning up 81 base camps. During Col. Donaldson's command, the brigade has recorded 1,826 enemy kills, resulting in a 15 to 1 kill ratio. Col. Donaldson is now Chief of Staff for the Americal Division.

The incoming Col. Treadwell made an address at the ceremony, stating his desire to serve with the 11th Brigade, and to coordinate with the 2nd ARVN Division.

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Among Col. Treadwell's awards are: the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the French Croix-de-guerre with Gold Star, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Senior Parachutist Badge.

Col. Treadwell has a long and distinguished career of over 20 years in the Army. He has extensive education in the liberal arts and military areas, and is highly experienced and well rounded as a result of the numerous high positions he has held in the Army.

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