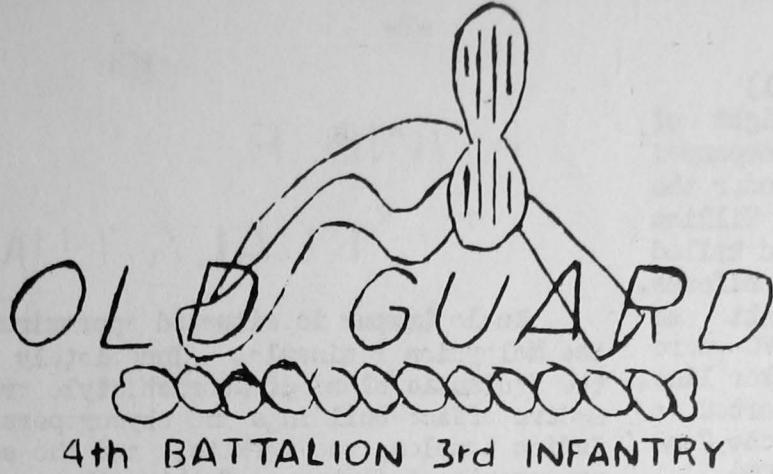




OLD GUARD



4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



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SCOUT DOG PLATOON

The 59th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) has greatly benefited 4/3 operations since the platoon came to Duc Pho on June 28, 1968. The german shepherd scout dogs are trained in a twelve week course at Ft. Benning, Georgia. During the course the dogs learn to develop their senses of smell and hearing to detect movement of people, and mines and booby traps. Because of their detection ability, the scout dog usually walks point with his handler, ideally with the wind blowing towards them. The dogs are especially effective on night maneuvers, when human vision is greatly reduced.

The dog handler can be as valuable an asset as the dog. In most instances, the dog handler received training with the dog at Ft. Benning, and can easily interpret what the dog senses due to the long relationship. His main responsibility is to supply the dog with sufficient food and water, and to see that the dog is properly utilized. He must also insure that the dog stays healthy and is removed from the field at necessary intervals, usually after three days of work.

ARVN UNITS SHOW STRENGTH

The presence of Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) units is becoming increasingly more evident. LZ Dragon is currently manned by both ARVN and US units in a combined operation. Other nearby firebases along Highway One are planned for future take-over by ARVN forces. During the past week, the CP group for the ARVN unit working in the Buff AO moved onto LZ Buff, thus providing further coordination between US and ARVN operations.

The 2-6 and the 4-6 ARVN units made heavy contact with an NVA company along the Song Tra Khuc River, on March 28. The fire fight continued from 3 pm until 7 pm, during which time the ARVNs killed 37 NVA, all in full uniform. A later sweep of the area revealed one light anti-aircraft gun, one .30 caliber machine gun, one AK47, one B-40 rocket, 16 chi com grenades, and a large sheaf of documents. Two anti-tank mines were also found and destroyed in place.

Bravo Company, led by 1Lt Robert Phelps, swept an area near the Song Tra Khuc River on March 29, and found an M72 LAW hidden in a hedgerow. Shortly afterwards, the company sighted two NVA, and killed both by artillery.

That night Charlie Company's second platoon, led by 2Lt John Harshfield, sprang their ambush on four VC, who were walking along a stream near the ambush site. The contact killed two of the VC.

(cont pg 2)

(Bn cont from pg 1)

On the night of March 30, Bravo Company's second platoon, under the leadership of 2Lt William Goad, ambushed and killed four VC in green uniforms.

Late at night on March 30, three VC were seen from the bunker line. The observers reported a direct hit by Echo Company's 4.2" mortars.

During a flight in the C&C ship on April 1, LTC Jack Davis sighted an NVA or VC flag just south of the Song Tra Khuc River. One hour later, the C&C ship received approximately 25 rounds of automatic and small arms fire. Five rounds actually hit the chopper, but luckily there were no casualties.

Bravo Company on April 1, found one pair of NVA boots, one pair of blood stained sandals, and one NVA canteen. The company received sniper fire the same day, and ironically, the sniper killed another VC with no casualties inflicted on Bravo. The company found the dead VC after moving a short distance from where they had received the sniper fire.

Patrolling on April 2, by Charlie Company, led by 1Lt Roger Fullen, turned up 1000 lbs. of rice and 250 lbs. of salt and an AK47 magazine. The rice and salt were destroyed in the river. The company then apprehended four confirmed VC, who were evacuated to LZ Buff.

Also on April 2, an ARVN recon company found one VC who had been dead

(cont pg 3)

F AND R

KUALA LUMPUR

Kuala Lumpur is situated approximately midway in the Malaysian Peninsula. Immediately noticeable is the fantastic blend of Moorish style architecture and modern office buildings and skyscrapers. Chinese and Indian temples, the markets, and the souvenir stores are prominent fixtures of this city.

Wide modern highways and well surfaced roads make traveling a pleasure. You are not allowed to drive any type of motor vehicle, however taxis are plentiful and rates are cheap. Excellent travel and tour services are also available.

Within the city itself, interesting places to see are the Lake Gardens, Parliament House, National Mosque, Museum, Art Gallery, and Monument. For trips outside Kuala Lumpur, you should visit the National Zoo on the Ulu Klang road about eight miles from town. Just two miles away is the Klang Gates Dam which supplies the city's water. On the Klang Road you will be able to see rubber estates with the rubber tappers at work, and also at Sungai Besi the world's largest open cast mine, whose crater is the largest man-made one in the world. Also within easy reach of Kuala Lumpur are Templar Park, which is the National Park and nature reserve, and Batu Caves which are world famous.

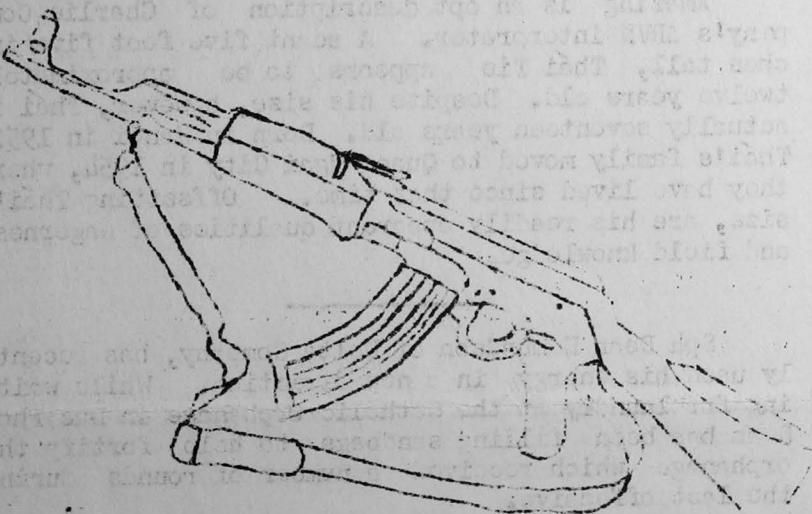
Kuala Lumpur has goods from both east and west. World famous local articles can be found at the Malay Arts and Crafts Center on Mountbatten Road. This shop specializes in the work of village craftsmen, such as sarongs, silverware, and pewter made from Malaysian tin. Comparison shopping is easy as all the better stores are located in a central area.

The Federal and Merlin are especially good hotels in Kuala Lumpur. Most hotels offer good Western and magnificent Chinese cuisine, and are also centers for entertainment. While dining, you can see floor shows or dance to excellent orchestras. There are a number of cabarets and dance halls. Here you will find hostesses available as dancing partners. Air-conditioned, comfortable movie houses show the latest movies from around the world. Most of these cinemas have their own restaurants and bars.

Temperatures for the year vary from 70 to 90 degrees. Evenings are usually cool due to sea breezes. Lightweight slacks and sportshirts are sufficient for daytime wear. Coats and ties aren't necessary unless you frequent the larger hotels at night.

NEW USES FOR AK 47

The Soviet AK47 is a 7.62mm automatic or semi-automatic assault rifle with a magazine capacity of 30 rounds. The weapon weighs 10.6 lbs. and has a maximum effective firing range of 400 meters. The AK47 was the basic individual weapon of the Soviet Army until the introduction of the 7.62mm AKM assault rifle around 1958. Copies of the AK47 are in use in most communist countries as well as by Vietnamese NVA and VC forces.



The AK47 is a well made weapon, constructed almost completely of machined components rather than from stampings, and features a chrome-plated bore. The weapon can be equipped with a fixed wooden stock or a folding metal stock. A cleaning rod is housed underneath the barrel.

A new training program is being devised by the Army which utilizes captured AK47s to add battle realism to the normal training program. When the program is in full effect, captured AK47s will be used at all Army training centers in the U.S. The rifle will be valuable for Army "crack and thump" training, referring to direction and range of enemy fire.

As more of the weapons become available, the program will be expanded to include the arming of aggressor forces in tactical field training. Equipped with blank firing adaptors, the AK47s will give soldiers experience in handling captured enemy weapons in Vietnam.

(Bn cont from pg 2)
for approximately three days. The kill was credited to Echo Company's 4.2" mortar platoon. Close by, the ARVNs found an AK47 rifle with two magazines.

Gunships patrolling that day found two female VC suspects hiding, two camouflaged hootches, and a green uniform. In another area, the gunships observed and destroyed a series of bunkers and tunnels. Again two hidden female VC suspects were found, along with four camouflaged hootches, and another green uniform. A secondary explosion resulted after the gunships fired near a hidden sump.

Echo Company's recon platoon, directed by 1Lt Edgar Drake, detained two young VC suspects with no identification. A total of four VC and six VC suspects were apprehended during the day's operations.

On Thursday, April 3, Charlie Company observed four VC, three of whom were carrying AK47s. The company engaged them, killing one, and wounding another. The one dead VC had a leather NVA belt, three chi com grenades, fifty AK47 rounds, various medical supplies, and a blue uniform.

The ARVNs made contact on April 4, resulting in twelve VC KIAs. They captured an M60 machine gun, an M16 rifle, and a B40 rocket launcher. Less than 700 meters away, Delta Company, led by 1Lt Bernard A. Kohn, found

(cont on pg 4)

(Bn cont from pg 3)
two books listing several Vietnamese persons who are suppliers of rice for the VC. Besides the books, the company found a VC newspaper dated March 1, 1969.

Charlie Company's first platoon killed a 20 year old VC during action on April 4. On the VC's person were a military meal card, medical bandages, and a notebook. In their NDP that night, an element of Charlie Company fired small arms to the front of their positions, where they had heard movement. After a search the following morning, two VC KIAs were found.



AROUND THE BATTALION

On Monday, April 7, at 9 am, 1Lt Roger L. Fullen, acting commander of Charlie Company was presented with a trophy by Americal Division Commander, Major General Charles M. Gettys. The award was given for the largest amount of reenlistments in Americal Division on the company size level during the month of March. Col. Jack L. Treadwell, 11th Brigade Commander, also received a trophy for the most reenlistments in Americal on the brigade level.

Amazing is an apt description of Charlie Company's ARVN interpreter. A scant five foot five inches tall, Tháï Tie appears to be approximately twelve years old. Despite his size, however, Tháï is actually seventeen years old. Born in Hanoi in 1952, Tháï's family moved to Quang Ngai City in 1954, where they have lived since that time. Offsetting Tháï's size, are his readily apparent qualities of eagerness and field knowledge.

Spl4 Dean Edmundson of Delta Company, has recently used his energy in a new direction. While waiting for laundry at the Catholic Orphanage in Duc Pho, Dean has been filling sandbags to help fortify the orphanage which received a number of rounds during the last offensive.

The small oval-shaped light observation helicopter (LOH) has been used extensively for visual reconnaissance in the 11th Brigade area of operation. To combat the enemy sniper fire which it frequently receives, the LOH is now being equipped with a 7.63mm minigun. The minigun with ammunition weighs about 240 pounds. An electric motor and six rotating barrels make it capable of pouring out 2,000 rounds per minute.

Old Guard

LTC Jack C. Davis, CO
1Lt Thomas J. Klein, S1
Spl4 Edward Burchell, Reporter

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

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