



OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

Volume 1, No. 39

May 8, 1969

DELTA FINDS SUPPLIES

Delta Company, led by Cpt John Stolfi, met the only heavy enemy contact since the battalion moved to the San Juan AO. On April 30, while patrolling towards the Song Ve river seven klicks northwest of LZ San Juan Hill, Delta's second platoon killed a VC in grey uniform. Shortly afterwards, the company was engaged in heavy close-in fighting.

On May 2, the company found a nearly constructed NVA base camp.

The abandoned camp evidently was an ammo and resupply route. Among the items found were; sixteen bunkers (one of which was a command bunker), ten blue uniforms, fifty pounds of rice, one pound of salt, five crosscut saws, an NVA entrenching tool, an NVA canteen, several first aid packs, a section of a map, an NVA pack, some documents, and an identification card. Other items included a mosquito net, a sweater, a pair of hair clippers, a razor, a pair of scissors, and two pair of trousers.

Several hundred meters from the base camp, Delta Company found three rucksacks, ten pounds of rice,

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ALPHA CO UNCOVERS BASE CAMPS

Alpha Company continued on a streak in finding enemy base camps and equipment. The company found a total of four base camps this past week while working in an area southeast of LZ San Juan Hill.

On April 26, Alpha discovered a large enemy base camp. Within the camp, the company found a mess area capable of accomodating between fifty and sixty people. The mess area had two separate sections, one for officers and one for enlisted men. A 1000 pound bomb had been emptied and converted into a latrine. A total of thirty-five bunkers with a capacity of six to ten men were found in the immediate area. Alpha's CO, Cpt A. Carnes, estimated that the enemy had abandoned the camp one week before. No equipment could be found except for an NVA entrenching tool.

In another section of the base camp, Alpha's second platoon discovered a classroom with bleachers, machine gun positions, and a punji pit with steel stakes. A few meters away, the platoon engaged six enemy soldiers carrying weapons, and managed to pin one down for a short time. All of the enemy had khaki uniforms, packs, and steel pots. After the encounter, the platoon

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moved forward and found
aiming stakes for a mor-
tar position.

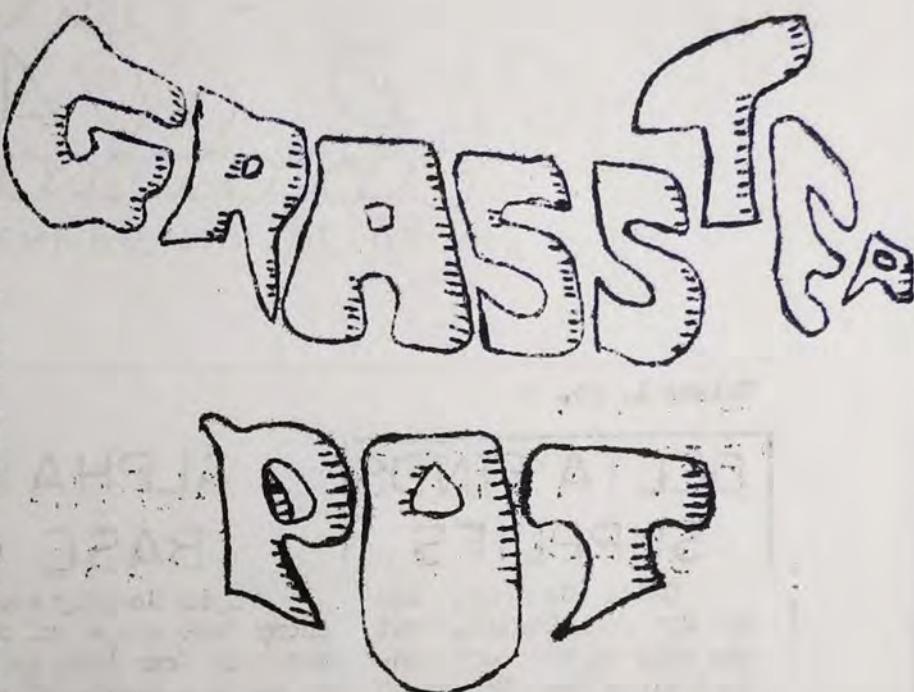
The second platoon
continued to sweep out-
ward from the base camp
when they met five enemy
soldiers. Results of
the fire fight were two
enemy KIAs and one WIA.
One of the KIAs was an
NVA approximately thirty
years old, wearing a
brown khaki uniform, a
rucksack, and an amio can
full of AK47 rounds.

The following day, a
fire fight erupted with
an estimated enemy squad,
producing one VC WIA and
one NVA apprehended. The
NVA gave sufficient in-
formation for Alpha to
uncover another large
base camp. Within this
base camp, the company
found a hut containing
fourty .30 caliber rounds,
and an NVA pistol belt.

Alpha Company inves-
tigated a well fortified
NVA base camp on April 28.
The camp had thirty-five
bunkers with fighting
positions surrounding the
positions. Freshly cut
bamboo indicated that NVA
soldiers had been there
one day earlier. Docu-
ments were also found
within the camp.

Several hundred me-
ters away, a smaller base
camp was found consisting
of six hootches and two
fighting positions. The
company found more docu-
ments at that location.

The Recon Platoon
led by Lt Thomas Bodenot,
searched an area on April
(cont pg 3)



Marijuana is an easily obtainable drug for most
troops in Vietnam. It is an hallucinogenic drug; a
drug that can cause delusions and damage the mind
with absolutely no medical benefit. Known as "pot,"
"grass," or "weed," it is the most frequently abused
of the hallucinogenic drugs today.

The technical name of the plant form which all
marijuana preparations are derived is cannabis sativa.
The cannabis plant, often called Indian hemp or hemp,
is native to large areas of the world, and is grown
abundantly in Vietnam. Its fibers have been used for
the manufacture of twine, rope, bags, clothing and
paper. Marijuana has also been tried in the treat-
ment of a variety of medical disorders, but all of
these medical uses were found to be unsound, ineffi-
cient or without any predictable effect. For this
reason marijuana has been removed from the official
(medical) drug lists of nearly every country.

Little is known about the long-term effects of
marijuana use. In its mildest form, marijuana does
not appear to be physically dangerous. However, the
effects of marijuana, caused by chemical ingredients
called tetra-hydro-cannabinols (THC), vary with the
individual. A given dosage of THC may have no appar-
ent ill effects on one person but may have pronounced
effects on another person. You cannot be certain
that even a mild form or dose of marijuana is total-
ly safe for you.

(cont pg 3)

Dr. P. Chapple, a noted British physician, concluded that repetitious use of this drug could develop a taste or drug intoxication, cause eventual habitual use and graduation to more potent drugs, even heroin and narcotic addiction.

From the legal aspect, the use or possession of marijuana is a Federal offense. A penalty of as much as 10 years in a penitentiary and a \$20,000 fine can be imposed for a first offense. Likewise, it is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, punishable by court-martial with the possibility of a dishonorable discharge and up to five years in prison.

In its stronger forms, the THC in marijuana will cause psychotic reactions in almost anyone. Recent studies proving this indicate that there is a strong connection between the use of marijuana preparations and criminal acts. What each individual does in the state of psychosis caused by the THC in marijuana varies with the individual and the circumstances - it cannot be predicted, and this unpredictability makes it extremely dangerous. A report of the New York County Medical Association noted that the habitual use of hashish (a strong form of marijuana) was definitely associated with not only criminal acts and violence, but insanity.

While he is under the influence of marijuana, an individual's concepts of time and space can be radically distorted. His response to emergency situations can be unpredictable, and in Vietnam this can cost lives. Life may have its dull moments, but it also has its crises. At these sudden and unexpected times, a person who is "high" is not sharp enough to depend upon.

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twenty-five AK47 rounds, a hammock, half of a poncho, two shirts, two trousers, and a sandbag full of eating utensils.

As nightfall approached, the company observed twenty-five enemy soldiers. Some appeared to have packs and weapons. The results of artillery fire called in by the company could not be determined.

INCIDENT AT MONTEZUMA

Three hysterical individuals from 4-3 recently embarked on a photography expedition to the top of Montezuma. What began as a relaxing break of routine ended in havoc.

Half way up Montezuma, their jeep stalled and came to a stop on a steep incline. All attempts to restart the jeep failed. Tension flared as other vehicles piled up on both ends of the narrow road.

After backing down the road and obtaining gas from a skeptical E-7, the three drove on. As they passed bunker 42 the hood on the jeep flew open.

Thus ended a disconcerting afternoon of picture taking.

(Alpha cont from pg 2)
28, a few klicks from Alpha Company's operations. The platoon uncovered an NVA rucksack, an entrenching tool, and a rifle cleaning kit, near a cluster of two hootches and four bomb shelters. A few hundred meters away, the platoon found fifteen fresh punji pits with two foot stakes.

MAJ SPARGO RECEIVES SILVER STAR

Major Larry F. Spargo, formerly the battalion S-3, was recently awarded the Silver Star. The award was given for action on January 23, during Operation Russell Beach when LZ South was subjected to an intense mortar attack.

While the mortar attack was in process, Major Spargo left the protect-

ion of his bunker in order to warn the bunker line of a possible ground attack. As he moved along the bunker line, he answered a cry for help from a seriously injured person. When he ran to him he was injured himself, however he refused aid until all others were treated.

Major Spargo is currently working with the Command Maintenance Inspection Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company; Support Command, Americal Division.

4-3 AIDS

MONTAGNARDS

The battalion surgeon, Cpt Lawrence Wassor, and the S-5 Cpt Walt Shannon, recently coordinated efforts for the administration of medical treatment to the Montagnard village of Ba To near the Ba To River, nine klicks southwest of LZ San Juan Hill.

The five-man team, led by Cpt Wassor, treated over 40 patients during a four-hour period. The team performed physical exams, gave penicillin injections, and dispensed medicine and soap.

"This area has been virtually untouched by American troops," explained Cpt Shannon. "We intend to keep providing desperately needed medical attention for these people, and to also teach them hygiene."

A Special Forces camp located outside the village provided security for the team.



Old Guard

LTC Jack C. Davis,	CO
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Sph Edward Burchell,	Reporter

This newsheet is published weekly under the supervision of S1, 4-3 Infantry, Americal Division 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.
