



OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



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May 22, 1969

ENEMY ROUNDS BRING ACTION

The current enemy offensive has slowed considerably since the first heavy barrage of rounds May 12. With the aid of air strikes, and gunships, the frequency of incoming rounds has lessened to minor sporadic incidents.

The most recent attack on 4-3, occurred at 10:00 pm on May 19. A large rocket exploded just outside the motor pool, slicing open two barrels of oil, and spraying large pieces of shrapnel throughout the area. There were no injuries.

With the steady flow of incoming rounds into the battalion rear area, came the ground-breaking this week for two new bunkers to be located between the motor pool and the mail room.

A new medical bunker is being erected with sufficient facilities for administering first aid during an attack. The new bunker will have cement-sunkon beams and a cement floor.

A nearby personnel bunker will provide additional protection for the section of the battalion adjacent to E Troop.

EIGHT ENEMY KIAS, SEVEN WEAPONS CAPTURED

Several minor skirmishes this past week produced seven NVA KIAs and one VC KIA. Weapons captured included an RPG-7, an M-1, an M-1 carbine, and a number of AK-47s. The battalion also found several enemy documents and supplies.

Alpha Company's second platoon on May 12, found two large huts and five punji pits, while searching an area five klicks northwest of LZ San Juan Hill near the Song Ve River. Within the immediate area the platoon found: documents, 500 strips of rubber, 300 lbs of polished rice, 6 five-gallon cans of mac-korol, three gunny sacks of potatoes, 50 lbs of salt, two boxes of carbon paper, two dozen pencils, a bundle of writing paper, two cold weather uniforms, 2000 buttons, 25 school books, 200 feet of metal wire, and other miscellaneous items.

Bravo Company set up a day ambush along a trail four klicks due north of LZ San Juan Hill. The third platoon engaged six NVA who walked into the ambush, killing one of them. The dead NVA had an AK-47 rifle and a pack. At least one other NVA was injured but he managed to escape.

Alpha Company, less than an hour after the NVA quartermaster platoon sergeant became a Chiou Hoi on May 12, found a C-Ration box full of neatly arranged documents which were forwarded to San Juan Hill for examination.

That night, Alpha
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Company received seven RPGs and small arms fire at their night defensive position. No casualties resulted.

The following morning, the company searched the area where they had placed counter fire, and found two NVA KIAs and two weapons, an AK-47, and an RPG-7. Other items found were: a satchel charge, an RPG round, an RPG charge, four AK-47 magazines, four clay more grenades, three grenade duds, 1.5 feet of time fuse, five 1.5 lb charges with detonators, an NVA officer belt and various documents.

On May 15, Charlie Company found six fortified bunkers in full circle covering all approaches, with sleeping quarters for twenty-five men. In the area, the company found two Montagnard hootches, 100 lbs of rice and assorted medical supplies.

Later in the day, the company spotted four NVA and engaged all of them with rapid small arms fire. The company killed all four NVA and captured four weapons.

Charlie Company moved into an air-strike area on May 16. The major items found were a Browning automatic rifle and two NVA packs.

The first pack contained 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, a map of the area, a first aid pack, two sets of clothing, two rain jackets,

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The grass is green, the flowers lovely in the beautifully kept grounds of Arlington National Cemetery, near the Pentagon.

Marble at the Tomb of the Unknown glistens in the brilliant sun. Tall, stalwart members of the Old Guard march their path on guard as sentries at the Tomb, keeping the vigil, night and day.

This, perhaps, is the most poignant symbol of remembrance to the thousands of men of our armed forces who sleep on the gentle slopes of Arlington - the sentries are there, constantly, protecting the Tomb, a symbol which pays tribute to all in Arlington.

This does not mean that others who paid the supreme sacrifice should be forgotten; far from it. Rather, it is to strengthen the point that the Tomb of the Unknown, within sight of the Nation's Capitol, pays tribute to all those who have given their lives for their country.

May 30 - Memorial Day - hundreds of persons will gather at Arlington for the traditional wreath laying, patriotic music and speech so traditional in that setting. This annual tribute to those who rest beneath the white markers is a gesture of gratitude to them, a way of saying Thank You and God Bless You.

And ever near us, though unseen,
The fair immortal spirits tread;
For all the boundless universe
Is life - there are no dead.

(AFPS)

PROMOTION BOARD RESULTS

The results of a selection board held last week to recommend personnel for promotion to grades E5 and E6 was revealed on May 13.

Points were given on the basis of knowledge of one's MOS, time in service, time in grade, and personal appearance.

Except for grade E6, the following recommended-list is in the order selected, the highest in points first.

E6

Schofield, Earl B.

HHC

E5

Fitzgerald, Daniel N.	Co A
Frazier, Henry L.	HHC
Birchfield, James	Co A
Myatt, Jesso L.	Co D
Chandler, Leo F.	Co A
Updike, Robert G.	Co D
Cooper, Janos V.	HHC
Reynolds, Robert A.	Co E
Clark, Phillip R.	Co C
McDavitt, Walton F.	Co D
Horsey, Frank M.	Co D
Mullins, Gary L.	HHC
Wojtysik, Edward	Co C
Meier, Leland E.	Co C
Anderson, Wilbur O.	Co B
De Lao, Isidro	Co B
Conkin, Raymond C.	Co D
Castillo, Tomas H.	HHC
Kohrs, Wayne E.	Co B
Carter, William D.	Co B

NOTICE:

Planned for future issues of the Old Guard, depending upon the reader's interest, will be a column answering questions primarily regarding such areas as R and R, leave, MOS, ETS, and similar topics. Any other questions of

PROFILE → EARL THOMAS

Spc Earl Thomas's first love is basketball. A member of the battalion motor pool section, Spc Thomas (Boston, Massachusetts) had decided to accept a basketball scholarship to West Virginia University, when he was drafted into the Army in 1967.

Spc Thomas's interest in basketball began to mature as a junior high school student when he lived in Candon, New Jersey. As a seventh grader, he performed as well as most ninth graders on his team, particularly in his jumping and reaching abilities.

His athletic skill was further demonstrated during his junior high school's participation in the Junior Olympics, a competition encompassing junior highs from large segments of the Middle Atlantic States. He helped his school place second, scoring high on 220 yard relay and high jump events.

At Candon High School, Spc Thomas compiled an excellent basketball record, playing forward on the starting team. During his senior year, Candon High School finished second in New Jersey for the season. His team also won the annual Johnstown Tournament in Pennsylvania, which draws top contenders from the Middle Atlantic area. As a result of his performance in High School, he received a number of offers to play basketball, before he decided to accept a scholarship with West Virginia University.

Spc Thomas still has the ambition to play college ball. His talent for mechanics has not led him astray, however, his section chief, CW2 Charles Griswold, emphatically states that he is as good at mechanics as he is at basketball.

Interest will also be answered if possible.

If you have a question, mail it to the Old Guard, 4-3, Amorical Division, APO 93217. Initials and company will be printed.

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some Chinese money, postage stamps, and a note-book with documents. The second pack contained fifty rounds of AK-47 ammunition, a small amount of rice, medical supplies, two NVA ponchos, an NVA uniform, and an ID card with picture.

Other items found in the area included: 200 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, four RPG boosters, two chi com grenades, a bag containing three blasting caps, an NVA officer belt, an NVA canteen cup, an ammo pouch, first aid packet and some documents. In addition, the company found two green NVA uniforms, two blocks of TNT, and twenty-five rounds of AK-47 ammunition hidden underneath a large rock.

On May 17, Bravo Company was moving to a patrol base when they engaged three VC. Spt Terry Molloy, who was part of the security set out for a river crossing, killed one of the VC and possibly injured another. Bravo's interpreter stated that the dead VC had a Montagnard name. The VC had an M-1 rifle in his possession.

Old Guard

LTC Jack C. Davis,	70
1Lt Thomas J. Kline,	SI
Spl Edward Burchell,	Reporter

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AROUND THE BATTALION

Congratulations to SSG Robert L. Schliof, and SSG David L. O'Keefe, both of Charlie Company, who in recent months were promoted to grade E6 by superior performance at the Combat Leadership Course in Chu Lai.

The twelve-day course is an opportunity for advancement in grade, as well as good instruction on tactics and other field subjects.

Welcome to three captains and a lieutenant who joined Headquarters Company recently: Captain James Pierro (Sullivan, Missouri) - Corro OIC; Captain James Hurley (Canton, South Dakota) - S3 Air; Captain Joseph Fagin (Long Beach, California) - the Battalion Surgeon; and 1Lt Hilton Houghton (Glendora, California) - S5.

All members of the battalion are forewarned that in order to board flights for R and R, DROS, or other reasons, a proper uniform must be worn. This includes nametag, US Army tag, rank insignia, and an Americal patch (fatigues only). Additionally, each individual must have his hair properly cut and be clean shaven. Mustaches must be neatly trimmed according to regulations.

