



OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

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June 5, 1969

C CO. KILLS THREE NVA

After spotting four NVA soldiers to their front, Charlie Company, led by 1LT Roger Fullen (Baytown, Texas), engaged with small arms fire an unknown-sized enemy force on May 27. After an hour of contact with no friendly casualties, the company moved several hundred meters and discovered a VC base camp.

Within the camp were ten two-man fighting positions and twenty-five foxholes. A ladder led to an observation post in a tree facing LZ San Juan Hill. Equipment the company found included cooking gear and expended AK47 rounds.

On May 27, Delta Company was extracted from the field to secure LZ Jeff until the morning of May 29, when it was released from the operational control of 4-21.

On May 28, gunships operating in the 4-3 area destroyed a bunker complex containing twenty-five bunkers, 100 lbs. of rice, 10 uniforms, several packs, tools, shovels, and utensils.

Charlie Company followed a trail to find six bunkers and several foxholes on May 28. Several hours later, Charlie's first platoon engaged four NVA soldiers, killing one and wounding another. The platoon recovered an AK47 rifle the dead NVA had been carrying.

(cont on pg 2)

LTC SMITH TAKES OVER COMMAND OF OLD GUARD

At a formal ceremony at the 11th Brigade Parade Field on June 5, command of the Old Guard was transferred from LTC Jack C. Davis to LTC Albert J. Smith. Among those attending the ceremony were MG Lloyd B. Ramsey, Americal Division Commander; BG Wallace L. Clement, Assistant Division Commander; and COL Jack L. Treadwell, 11th Brigade Commander.

MAJ George A. Ingleright, the Battalion Executive Officer, was Commander of Troops. Each company within the battalion was represented by its company commander, a guidon bearer, and ten enlisted men. The Americal Division Band provided appropriate ceremonial music for the occasion.

MG Ramsey, LTC Davis, LTC Smith, and MAJ Ingleright reviewed the troops, passing from right to left between the company commanders and the front rank of troops.

The United States, the South Vietnamese, the 11th Brigade, and the 4-3 Battalion colors were then posted. All present held salutes as the band played the South Vietnamese and the United States National Anthems.

Following this, LTC Davis was decorated with a Silver Star, Air Medal for Valor with first, third, and fourth oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star for Meritorious Achievement, and the Purple

(cont on pg 4)

(Bn cont from pg 1)

ing, three chi com grenades, a medical dressing, a notebook, a hammock, and an NVA pistol belt with a star on the buckle.

In separate incidents on May 29, Delta Company found a total of 3900 lbs. of rice. The company's first platoon also found a sewing machine, 30 punji stakes, an NVA canteen, some clothing, and documents.

On the afternoon of May 29, Charlie Company ambushed two NVA and killed both of them. The NVA were carrying pistol belts, canteens, hammocks, three chi com grenades, an entrenching tool, and a rifle cleaning kit. At their night defensive position, the company spotted a VC, after detecting movement to their front. The VC was presumably wounded by effective 81mm mortar fire.

On May 30, Bravo Company's first platoon found five containers of CS gas. The 3" long cylindrical canisters were marked with a red stripe midway down the side.

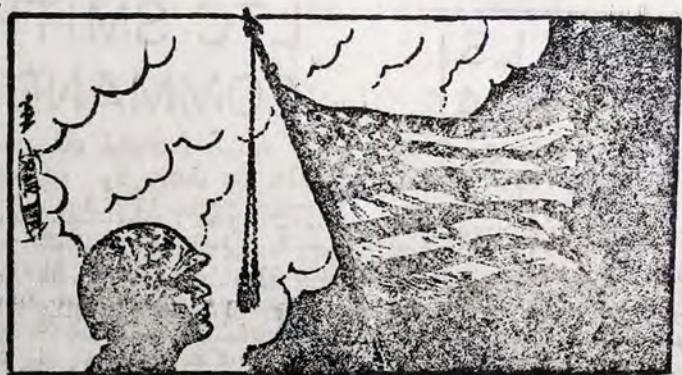
On May 31, Delta Company found and destroyed an additional 200 lbs. of rice.

JUNE 3 - On this day in 1784, the Third Infantry - "The Old Guard" - was constituted as the first American regiment. Today, the unit is garrisoned at Fort Myer, Virginia, and is the oldest regiment in the Regular Army.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE ON SAN JUAN HILL

A Memorial Day service was conducted on LZ San Juan Hill by (CPT) Galvin M. Carmichael, the Assistant Brigade Chaplain, in remembrance of all members of the Old Guard who lost their lives during the past year.

LTC Jack C. Davis, several officers, and well over a hundred enlisted men attended the service. Two color bearers posted the United States and the Battalion colors.



Scriptural reading, a litany for Memorial Day, and prayers were followed by a memorial address by Chaplain Carmichael. The entire group then joined in singing "America".

In final tribute, seven Old Guard soldiers fired a twenty-one gun salute to honor the deceased.

ATTITUDE PROBLEM !

Charlie Company recently picked up a transmission by an NVA soldier on their artillery radio. The NVA soldier, who had been in South Vietnam for only a short time, was evidently dismayed by a poor supply system. The soldier complained that after two weeks in South Vietnam,

he still did not have a weapon. Of the 200 men in his unit, only 100 had weapons. The soldier also stated that ten members of his unit were sick.

4-3 RECEIVES LETTER OF COMMENDATION

The Old Guard recently received a letter of commendation which originated from General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces. The letter of commendation was written for all the officers and men who participated in Operations Kentucky, Nevada Eagle, Fayette Canyon, and Vernon Lake II.

The letter conveyed a deep appreciation for the endeavors of all the U. S. troops who participated in these four I Corps operations now terminated. A total of 20,000 NVA dead or captured, and 6,260 weapons confiscated, severely reduced the NVA threat of build-up in I Corps.

General Cao Van Vien emphasized his regret for the loss of American lives during these operations. In consideration of the immense respect for life as may be seen in American society, General Cao Van Vien deems the American contribution to the defense of South Vietnamese independence and liberty a great one.

Additional expressions of commendation came from the Commanders of MACV, USARV, III Marine Amphibious Force, Americal Division, and 11th Brigade. The 4-3 was individually cited for the success of Vernon Lake II by MG Charles M. Gettys, Americal Division Commander, and COL Jack L. Treadwell, 11th Brigade Commander.

The 4-3 participated in Vernon Lake II from October 25, to November 13. During this time the battalion was credited with 99 VC and NVA kills.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

BY LTC DAVIS

Upon departure from the Old Guard, I would like to thank all personnel for their cooperation in making the Fourth Battalion, Third Infantry an effective combat unit. The accomplishment of assigned missions, display of professionalism, and sense of urgency made my time with the Old Guard a most rewarding experience and one which I shall long cherish.

I wish you all the best of luck and God speed in your future assignments.



NEW MEDAL

Soldiers shouldn't expect to see this medal for six months but here's what the Meritorious Service Medal looks like. Created by a January 16th executive order the MSM will be awarded soldiers cited for outstanding noncombat achievement.

The medal, which ranks with the Bronze Star (and is worn following if the soldier has both), is 1 1/4 inches in diameter and has an eagle, clutching laurel, superimposed over a star and six rays. The ribbon will be of the same ruby hue in the Legion of Merit with small vertical white stripes.

CHANGE OF COMMAND cont from pg 1

ple Heart with first oak leaf cluster. MG Ramsey presented the awards to LTC Davis as the Battalion Adjutant, LLT Thomas J. Klein, read the citations.

After the presentation of awards, LLT Klein read the assumption of command orders. The Battalion Colors were passed from the color bearer, to SGM Gray, to LTC Davis, to MG Ramsey, to LTC Smith; outwardly signifying the change of command.

The gathering was then addressed briefly by MG Ramsey, LTC Davis, and LTC Smith. LTC Smith impressed upon those present that to command an infantry battalion was the highlight of his Army career. The command was then dismissed by LTC Smith.

A reception was held in the Brigade Colonel's mess immediately following the ceremony.

LTC Davis, who will leave shortly for an R and R with his family in Hawaii, is now assigned as G3, Americal Division.

LTC Smith (Fairfax, Virginia) was assigned to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, before arriving in Vietnam.

NEW MULTI-SHOT FLAME WEAPON

The new multishot portable flame weapon is a lightweight, shoulder fired, four-tube rocket launcher. The XM202 rocket launcher weighs approximately 12 pounds; when loaded with the incendiary rocket clip containing four pre-loaded rounds, the weapon weighs approximately 27 pounds. Each 66mm rocket warhead contains 1.3 pounds of thickened fuel, which ignites spontaneously on exposure to the air.

The weapon is normally employed by infantry elements in the assault of the objective for the same purpose as flamethrowers; however, targets can be engaged at a greater range and with greater accuracy with this weapon than with flamethrowers. The launcher may also be employed to reconnoiter by fire suspected enemy positions such as ambush sites.

The operation of the multishot flame can be taught easily, and its simplicity is similar to the M72 LAW.

The weapon has a maximum effective range for point targets of 200 meters, for area targets 325 meters (plus). The maximum range is approximately 700 meters. A clear field of fire to the target is required, because any obstruction may cause the fuze to function. Upon impact of the rocket warhead, the burning fuel particles splatter within a 30 meter radius from the point of impact, most of the particles going to the sides and forward of the point of impact.

The weapon was test fired on LZ Bronco by a US Army and Marine team. 1st Sergeant Mayes, formerly with Alpha Company, fired four direct hits from the launcher.

Old Guard

LTC Albert J. Smith,	CO
LLT Thomas J. Klein,	SI
SPL4 Edward Burchell,	Reporter

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