



# OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



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## 4-3 BEGINS COMBINED OP

The 4-3 began a combined operation with the 1st Battalion, 4th ARVN Regiment and Delta Company, 4-21, on June 8. Alpha, Bravo, and Delta Companies, 4-3, together with the ARVN battalion made an airmobile assault into an area eight miles southwest of Duc Pho.

Headquarters for the operation is located on LZ Don. Direct fire support is being provided by artillery batteries from 6-11, and the 4th ARVN Regiment.

Delta Company, 4-21, is providing security on LZ Don for the operation.

Fire support was active in the initial phase of the operation. Forward Air Control successfully directed approximately ten air strikes into the area, prior to the combat air assaults.

The 1-4 is commanded by CPT Phouc. The American advisor is CPT Harrison.

LTC Albert J. Smith, who recently took over command of the 4-3, is looking forward to this joint operation with ARVN troops. He stated, "It is always rewarding for both forces to work together in a joint effort to defeat communist forces in South Vietnam."

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## BATTALION AND GUNSHIPS KILL 17 ENEMY

A number of small incidents in the San Juan Hill area of operations produced seventeen enemy kills and three captured weapons this past week.

Shortly after midnight on June 2, a squad from Delta Company's first platoon sprang their ambush, exchanging small arms fire with an unknown number of enemy soldiers. Results of the engagement were one enemy killed, and an AK47 rifle and a pack captured.

Charlie Company's third platoon on June 3, engaged two NVN soldiers with small arms fire two miles due east of LZ San Juan Hill. After searching the area, the platoon found blood trails leading to a nearby river. Later in the day, Bravo Company called 4.2" mortar fire in on three VC, killing one of them.

On LZ San Juan Hill early on the morning of June 4, Bravo Company repelled a sapper squad of approximately five VC. M60 and .50 caliber machine gun fire effectively ward off the ground attack. The soldiers of Bravo Company confirmed one VC kill that night.

The following morning during a sweep of the perimeter, the company found an additional two VC bodies, and a number of chi com grenades. The company also found a trail with prominent drag marks leading down the side of the hill.

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During a brief contact on the morning of June 4, Charlie Company killed three NVA soldiers and captured two weapons, an AK47 rifle and an AK50 rifle. From insignias on the lapels of their uniforms, it was determined that the NVA were a rocket team. The company also captured two pistol belts, two canteens, two rain jackets, two first-aid packs, two hammocks, one NVA knife, five pounds of freshly cooked rice, and various documents. On the same day, Alpha Company's third platoon found a small deserted base camp. The camp contained several spider holes and bunkers.

On June 6, gunships working in the San Juan Hill area, spotted six NVA near a camouflaged hut. The gunships killed two of the NVA, both of whom were wearing packs.

A few hours later, a light observation helicopter (LOH) killed three VC, and found two bunkers, several hand flares, two 55 gallon cooking barrels, and two five gallon cooking pots. A short distance away, the LOH found fresh bunkers, three tunnels and two .50 caliber machine gun positions.

The next day, June 6, gunships killed three NVA in the open.

Delta Company's second platoon killed an NVA soldier on June 6. The NVA had a blue uniform and was carrying a pack. A few hours later, the company killed a VC  
(cont pg 3)



Lightweight "booties" of loose weave nylon fabric have made the fashion scene in Vietnam. The new boots allow air and sunlight to penetrate the nylon mesh material while keeping dirt out.

The boots are being tested for effectiveness by the 9th Infantry Division as part of Operation Safe-Step, a program directed at controlling and curtailing foot problems among infantrymen. Certain units of the Division's 5-60 Infantry Battalion are being given the boots, while others are not. At the end of a given period of time, foot conditions of both groups will be compared.

The boots are designed for wear by infantrymen around base camps during off-duty hours. Once their effectiveness has been proven, the boots should begin to appear in other sectors of Vietnam.

## DELTA CO. AIDS I-20

Delta Company reinforced elements of the I-20 Infantry Battalion on June 3, making a combat air assault to a position five and one half miles northwest of Duc Pho. During a circular sweep of the area, the company received intensive small arms, automatic, and grenade fire.

In the initial phase of the contact, one small element from the company was successful in maneuvering towards the well entrenched enemy. 1LT Thomas N. Bedient (Bozeman, Montana) led three others, SP4 Dale Olmstead, PFC Barry Spring, and PFC Jerry Gruber, to the flank of one sector of the enemy positions.

PF Olmstead, while walking down a trail, received small arms fire from a hut. 1LT Bedient moved to the rear side of the hut and killed the enemy soldier in-  
(cont pg 3)

## HORNY HERDERS

1LT Milton D. Houghton (Glendora, California), while on an aerial reconnaissance mission prior to a sweep by Alpha and Delta Companies recently, observed a large herd of water buffalo. Realizing the dislike water buffalo usually have for Americans, 1LT Houghton, the civil affairs officer for 4-3, went to the MACV district headquarters in Ba To, a Montagnard village sixteen miles southwest of Duc Pho. At Ba To, he inquired into the possibility of obtaining Popular Forces (PF) to round up the buffalo which are so valuable to the Vietnamese people.

Two American MACV personnel, 1LT Boyd, and 1LT Smith, accompanied a PF platoon as advisers on a combat air assault to Alpha Company's location. Two Vietnamese National Policemen also accompanied the group.

Although the water buffalo were part of a wild herd, the PFs managed to secure 15 of them and herd them in the direction of Alpha Company's sweep. SGT Gary Myer, SGT Daniel Durbin, SGT Arthur Ariaga, PFC Benjamin Batson, PFC William Southard, and PFC Walter Lane, all of Alpha Company, were particularly helpful in aiding the PFs to control the water buffalo.

For the PFs, the operation was very successful. Not only did they obtain the valuable water buffalo, but they also experienced a combat air assault. Much to their surprise, the PFs also came across an enemy base camp during the sweep.

1LT Houghton termed the success of the operation, "a boost to the morale of the PF troops." \*

(Delta Co. cont from pg 2)  
side. As the group proceeded, they found two NVA packs and two gas masks. 1LT Bedient threw a grenade into a bunker, resulting in a secondary explosion.

With the arrival of gunships, the four had to draw back towards the main body of the company. As they were moving, PFC Olmstead fired his M79 and killed an evading NVA soldier. PFC Spring and PFC Gruber approached a camouflaged position from the rear, killed another NVA, and confiscated his pack and diary.

With the help of APCs from E Troop, 17th Cavalry, and gunships from the 17th Assault Helicopter Company, Delta Company was able to sweep the area in an engagement that lasted several hours. At the end of the day, the company had killed a total of eight NVA soldiers.

## NEW C.O.

1LT Albert J. Smith (Fairfax, Virginia) who took over command of the Old Guard on June 5, was originally an Oklahoman. He graduated from Oklahoma State University with an ROTC commission.

1LT Smith served his first tour, 1964-65, with MACV in Song Mao as a training advisor for Regional and Popular Forces. His last assignment before arriving in Vietnam was with the Combat Development Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

1LT Smith is married and has two boys, aged twelve and fourteen. His sons are familiar with the Old Guard battalion in Washington, D.C., the official Army ceremonial unit for the district of Washington. They are indeed proud that their father is the commander of a sister battalion.

1LT Smith is eagerly looking forward to his assignment and is particularly interested in individual soldiers in the battalion.

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who was carrying a hand grenade.

Gunships and artillery effectively injured and dispersed 20 enemy soldiers which Alpha Company had spotted. According to Alpha Company's observations, the enemy had 15 weapons, and a mortar tube with base plate.

## AROUND THE BATTALION



MAJ Wilford A. Phelps (Malibu Beach, California) joined the battalion recently as the S3. He spent his first tour in Vietnam as senior advisor with the 2nd Battalion, 51st ARVN Regiment, and later as senior advisor to the Tiger Force located at Lieu Chen. A graduate of UCJA, MAJ Phelps has also attended several military schools including the Airborne, Ranger, Demolition, Mathematics, and Language Schools.

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Charlie Company, 26th Engineers Battalion, provided a bulldozer on June 8, to prepare for the fortification of LZ Don. For one bulldozer operator, SP4 James Skiles (Huntington, California), it was a memorable experience. The Old Guard informed him that his wife had given birth to a baby girl.



During LTC Jack C. Davis's command of the 4-3, from December 15, to June 5, the battalion killed 343 VC/NVA, apprehended 60 VC/NVA, and captured 54 weapons.

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LLT Gerry L. Fox (Bear, Delaware) was recently promoted to the grade of Captain. CPT Fox graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point.

### Old Guard

LTC Albert J. Smith,	CO
LLT Thomas J. Klein,	SI
SP4 Edward Burchell,	Reporter

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(MAJ) Robert Domrowski, the Brigade Chaplain, held a service on May 10, for James D. Adkins, and Ignacio L. Vilaovos, who were killed by a mortar attack on LZ Bronco recently.

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