



# OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



Volume 1, No. 45

June 20, 1969

## MEMORIAL FOR LTC SMITH

A memorial ceremony was held at Bronco Chapel on June 20, for LTC Albert J. Smith. (MAJ) Robert H. Dombrowski, the Brigade Chaplain; and (CPT) Galvin M. Carmichael, Jr., the Assistant Brigade Chaplain; conducted the ceremony.

LTC Smith, November 9, 1931, to June 16, 1969, was a resident of Fairfax, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Marlene P. Smith, and two sons, Pheilen J., and Joseph Owen.

Among those attending the ceremony were COL Jack L. Treadwell, 11th Brigade Commander; members of the Brigade Staff; LTC Robert N. Fernandez, the battalion commander; and officers and men of the battalion.

A scriptural reading was followed by memorial prayers and meditations. All present then joined in singing "America".

LTC Smith was commissioned on August 13, 1953, through the Reserve Officers Training Corps. This was his second tour in the Republic of Vietnam.

During his years of service, LTC Smith received the National Defense Service Medal with Cluster, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Overseas Bar, two Bronze Star Medals, and two Vietnamese awards. He also received the Combat Infantryman's Badge posthumously.

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## COMBINED OPERATION WITH ARVNS ENDS

The battalion closed out a combined operation with the 4th ARVN Regiment on June 15. The 4-3 part of the brief but successful operation resulted in 18 NVA soldiers killed, seven dead enemy soldiers found, three base camps found, five AK47s and an M79 captured.

Bravo Company, led by CPT James P. Hurley, spotted approximately ten NVA equipped with packs and weapons, early on the morning of June 9. The enemy escaped due to their position and distance from Bravo Company. The action led the company to a base camp a short distance away, however. The base camp had facilities for 35 men. Articles found included 200 pounds of cooked rice, 50 pounds of salt, cooking utensils, and a khaki uniform. The company followed fresh footprints at a nearby stream and found sleeping positions for 15 men, 50 additional pounds of salt, and some empty canister shells.

Gunships on June 9, found four enemy automatic weapons positions, an NVA pack, a 105mm artillery round, and a small bridge made of logs and ropes.

Bravo Company on June 10, engaged two NVA with small arms and artillery fire. A search of the area revealed an AK47; and later on, a dead NVA in green khaki uniform.

Delta Company on the same day, found an old enemy base camp containing eight bunkers, a trail, a large sleeping area, 20 rounds of 9mm pistol rounds, a hand grenade, and two graves less than a day old. In (continued pg 2)

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another area, Bravo Company found four fresh graves.

On June 12, Delta Company fired on three NVA, killing two and wounding the other. The company captured an NVA pack and pistol belt.

Alpha Company, led by 1LT Kenneth Hamblin, found a deserted NVA base camp also on June 12. Within the camp, the company found two blood trails, two rucksacks, 300 pounds of rice, 16 rounds of AK47 ammunition, miscellaneous field gear, and documents including a company roster and a group picture of the company.

On June 13, Alpha Company engaged an estimated company to battalion sized enemy force, after sighting three evading NVA soldiers with packs and weapons. The close-in fighting took place in rugged terrain and thick underbrush. The company's second platoon, led by SGT Daniel Durbin, successfully maneuvered on the enemy positions. SGT Durbin was largely responsible for directing accurate gunship fire on the NVA. The company killed a total of 16 NVA soldiers, and captured four AK47s and an M79.

Due to the thick vegetation, Alpha Company's injured had to be hoisted by rope into a dust-off helicopter. While SP4 Carl Nance, who suffered a leg injury,

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## CASH BONUS FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

Residents of Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, are eligible for a tax-exempt state cash bonus for wartime service in Vietnam. Eligibility for a bonus depends on bona fide residence within the state. Temporary absence outside the state for health reasons, while attending school, or while engaged in an occupation does not bar an otherwise eligible person. Temporary residence in the state for such reasons, however, does not establish true residency.

When an entitled person does not or cannot himself collect the bonus, the bonus to which he was entitled or a larger sum, can be paid after his death to an eligible survivor.

Even though some doubt of eligibility may exist, application should be made for a determination by state authorities.

For those states that do not offer a cash bonus for periods of armed conflict, many offer other benefits, such as property tax advantages, special farm or home loans, and job preferences. If you are interested in these type of state bonuses, write to the veterans affairs office at your state capital.

The states that pay Vietnam bonuses are listed below with the amount of bonus and where to write for additional information on or application for the bonus.

Connecticut - Ten dollars for each month of active service up to a maximum of \$300.

Office of the Treasurer, Vietnam Bonus Division  
15 Lewis Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06115

Delaware - For each month of countable domestic service or major fraction thereof, \$15. up to a maximum of \$300. No more than \$300. for combined foreign and domestic service.

Veterans Military Pay Commission, 1224 King Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801

Illinois - \$100.

Illinois Veterans Commission,  
221 West Jefferson Street, Springfield, Ill. 62704

Louisiana - \$250.

Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs,  
Vietnam Bonus Division, Fourth Floor,  
Old State Capital, Baton Rouge, La. 70801  
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## DELTA COMPANY REPELS SAPPERS AT SAN JUAN

LZ San Juan Hill was subjected to a sapper attack early on the morning of June 17. Delta Company, led by CPT John R. Stolfi (Abington, Pennsylvania), effectively warded off the attack by seven NVA sappers.

The action began at 4:30 a.m., when the company's second and third platoons spotted one of the sappers from the bunker line. The NVA set off a trip flare, as the company opened up with heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. The NVA soldiers fired one RPG round before the company pinned them down.

Through the use of flares, the sapper squad was unable to retreat and were trapped inside the perimeter wire.

The company swept the wire the following morning and found four dead NVA soldiers, and apprehended a fifth NVA. They also captured two AK47 rifles with folding stocks, an RPG 2, 26 chi com grenades, four RPG 2 rounds, several loaded AK47 magazines, and two Chinese "potato-mashers" (a large advanced type of grenade).

PFC Birl Frazier (Bakersfield, California) who was on guard when the first sapper was seen, summed up the attack. "After the initial fire broke out, our main concern was to pull the one injured man out and keep the flares going, so that the sappers couldn't escape back down the hill."

The captured NVA revealed that he was seventeen years old and had been in the North Vietnamese Army since April of this year.

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Massachusetts - For active service outside the Vietnam area, \$200. For active service in the Vietnam area, \$300.

Pennsylvania - \$25. for every month of qualifying service, up to an amount not to exceed \$750.

Department of Military Affairs,  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 415,  
Harrisburg, Pa. 16108

### NOTICE TO DERO'S PERSONNEL

The construction of a new passenger terminal at McChord Air Force Base, Washington, necessitates the processing of overseas returnees prior to receipt of personal baggage stowed in the cargo compartment of the aircraft. Effective immediately all personnel returning to the United States through McChord Air Force Base will hand-carry their personnel records and allied documents (201 file, finance records, and health and dental records). An inordinate delay in processing will occur for any individual who chooses to pack these records in his baggage as opposed to handcarrying them.

(Americana Daily Bulletin  
June 17, 1969)

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was being hoisted into the helicopter, he saw two NVA soldiers emerging from a camouflaged hole. SP4 Nance fired at the two NVA with one hand on his weapon, after pointing out the enemy position to the helicopter's door gunner.

On June 15, Charlie Company killed two VC while operating in the San Juan Hill area. Bravo Company, killed an additional VC and detained four VC suspects.

## THIRD MEDCAP

The Old Guard held the third Medical Civilian Assistance Program (MEDCAP) in recent months on June 7, for the Montagnard village of Ba To, 16 miles southwest of Duc Pho.

The most recent MEDCAP team was led by CPT Joseph Fagin (Long Beach, California), the battalion surgeon, and 1LT Marc Laxer (New York City), medical operations assistant. SP6 Joh Lloyd, SP5 William Bunn, SP4 Jerry Ferguson, SP4 William Gebhart, and SP4 Vincent Gucciardo, all from the battalion medical platoon, assisted at the MEDCAP.

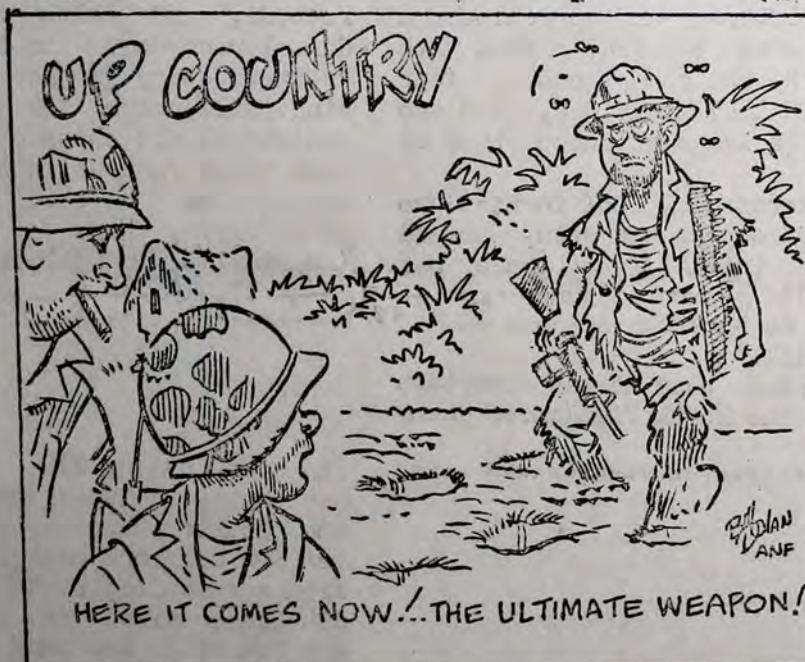
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The medical team worked with a local Vietnamese medic, in examining and treating 75 patients. The team also dispensed antibiotics, aspirin, soap, and other medical supplies.

Within the next two months, the battalion intends to bring MEDCAP II to the village of Ba To. Under this program, Vietnamese medics are brought from remote areas to US Army and Vietnamese hospitals for training. The program allows for familiarization with current treatments and drugs.

CPT Fagin feels that, "MEDCAP II is the more significant and lasting medical contribution that can be made to the rural Vietnamese people."

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### Old Guard

LTC Robert N. Fernandez,	CO
1LT Thomas J. Kltin,	SI
SP4 Edward Burchell,	Reporter

This newsheet is published weekly under the supervision of SI, 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, ANF, and command information material used.

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### WASHINGTON (ANF)

Beginning July 1, 1969, Department of the Army will convert from the service number (SN) to the Social Security Account Number (SSAN) as a means of identification for active duty, retired and reserve component personnel. Assignments of the SN will be discontinued after June 30, 1969.

For those individuals on active duty as of June 30, 1969, the numerical portion of their service number will be used in lieu of the SSAN until the SSANs are obtained and entered in their records. Personnel coming on active duty after June 30, 1969, who do not have SSANs will be given temporary identification numbers at the place where they enter the service.

Commanders of the first organization of assignment for these individuals will initiate action to obtain SSANs as soon as possible.

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