



4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

Volume I, No. 12

14 November 1969

BATTALION MOVES TO HILL 285

Delta Company, 4/21 along with the advance landing party of the 4-3 already secured Hill 285 when the monstrous B-52s from their celestial heights pulverized and pockmarked the earth and jungle to the west of the 4-3's temporary firebase. Numerous jet sorties followed the winged giants with 500 pounders and operation Hill 285 was off to a start.

The advance landing party reached the Hill at 0900 hours. Hill 285, located south of the Rice Bowl, is roughly seven clicks west of LZ Debbie. The operation was of a dual purpose: to ascertain the extent of the bomb damage and to collar the 2nd NVA Regimental CP which intelligence reports stated to be in the area.

Greeting the first chopper was this lifeless mound, dwarf to countless others stretching to the distant horizon in the west and seemingly, offering little promise of security against mortar attacks. A continuous stream of choppers and Chinooks soon brought the scene to life leaving piles of culverts and sandbags - the mainstay of any firebase. Gradually, the Hill took form under the organization of Captain Anthony Farinelli, Echo Company (now S-4), Captain John Tufano (Commo) and MSG Jimmy Sorrick. All that is part and parcel of the defense and function of a firebase was visible - perimeter bunkers, artillery's four 105 howitzers, 4.2 and 81mm mortars - all were in position and poised for action. Hot coffee and soup was provided by SP6 Sam Cerami and SP4 Russell Dalton. What was also encouraging were the frequent visits of the higher echelon. Brigade Commander Hugh Hoffman managed to pay a visit to the hill almost every day. On one occasion, BG John (continued on page 3, column 1.)

BATTALION SUMMARY

29 October

Charlie Company, located approximately eight clicks northeast of San Juan Hill, spotted, fired at and killed a VC. Today marked the start of the 4-3 operational move to Hill 285 which is strategically located immediately south of the infamous Rice Bowl and completely overlooks it. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Companies combat assaulted into a mountainous region west of Hill 285.

30 October

The 4-3 completed the operational move to Hill 285. Company D, 4/21 and Recon secured the Hill the night before. The Battalion Command stationed itself on top of the Hill to coordinate the operation whose dual purpose was to assess bomb damage and ferret out any trace of the 2nd NVA Regimental CP believed to be in the area. Delta Company, 4-3, staked out on San Juan Hill.

31 October

Warlords found evidence of NVA in the area of Hill 285. Northwest of the Hill two .51 caliber machinegun positions, fresh fighting positions and camouflaged bunkers were sighted. About an hour later, the Warlord killed a VC/NVA evading. Recon was then combat assaulted into the area of the machine gun positions at 1600 hours. Just minutes before a Warlord tallied two more NVA kills in the same vicinity.

1 November

The Battalion operation around Hill 285 continued unabated despite miserable weather. Further slight evidence of enemy activity was found (cont. on page 3, col. 2)

VIET CONG RELEASE 4-3 AWARDS & DECORATIONS SOLDIER

A clandestine Viet Cong radio broadcasted Sunday, October 26, that three American soldiers were to be released. The three Americans were captured by Viet Cong forces in action which occurred between January 10, 1968 and March 9 of this year south of Da Nang. U.S. authorities have listed the names of the three men, all in the Americal Division. A check of Army serial numbers revealed that one of captured trio was Pfc Coy R. Tinsley (Cleveland, Tenn.) who is a member of the Recon Platoon, 4-3 (Old Guard). He was reported missing in action on March 9. On that day, the Recon Platoon was entangled in a nasty ambush while canvassing an area about four "klicks" north of LZ Stinson (formally LZ Buff when the 4-3 Battalion was deployed there) home of the 1/52, 198th Inf. Bde.

SP4 Terrence Eckel, who took part in the action on March 9, describes the order of events on that day. The Recon Platoon had split up into three squads each with approximately 12 men. The squads, he explains, moved out on a search and clear mission when the 1st squad walked directly into an L-Shape ambush. RPG and M79 rounds slammed into the midst of the squad. Automatic weapons and .30 caliber machinegun fire opened up in a vicious crossfire catching the men unawares. The VC had sprung the ambush at the last possible moment from about ten meters out. The men, hit badly, pulled back. Meanwhile, the third squad, 500 meters away, attempted to join in the brutal clash but was pinned down by fire. The five to six APCs accompanying the Platoon tried to get to the fray but were stopped cold by heavy thickets, hedge-rows and RPG fire. Alpha Company later assaulted into the area and found two NVA dead and one AK-47.

FINALLY GAINS FREEDOM

It wasn't until Alpha Company had rooted out and routed the Viet Cong when Pfc Coy Tinsley was discovered missing in action. SFC Wesley Schlegal (Platoon Sergeant at the time) said (continued on page 7, column 1)

HIQ

Stolfi, John

SILVER STAR

BRONZE STAR-SERVICE

Veeder, Kenneth; Houghton, Milton.

ARMY COMMENDATION-A

Stolfi, J; Popp, A; Davenport, N; Ray, R; Lewis, A; Evans, G; Hall, A.

ALPHA

BRONZE STAR-A

Martin, E; Godsey, C.

BRONZE STAR-S

Albert, W; Way, E; Wyrick, G; Bass, J;

PURPLE HEART

Kruse, L; Ross, L; Perdue, P; French, R
Elkins, H.; Jackson, A.; Sawatzki, W;
Ariago, A; Way, E; Wyrick, G; Bass, J;
Ortiz, A; Shields, M.

BRAVO

BRONZE STAR-S

Miller, E; Hadley, F.

ARMY COMMENDATIONS-S

Douglas, G.

PURPLE HEART

Page, C; Harrill, C; Cornell, J; Drake, D; Alvarado, M; Binkley, L; Dancel, R; Gordon, D; Uresti, A.

CHARLIE

BRONZE STAR-VALOR

Shea, Jude

BRONZE STAR-S

Pope, J; Brister, W; Suarez, R; Terry, L; McComb, A.; Wilson, G.; Skeie, R; Anglin, J; Martin, M; Edwards, C; Packard, R; Brightman, J; Bousquet, G.

ARMY COMMENDATION-A

PURPLE HEART

Keffe, R.
Hunt, D.

DELTA

BRONZE STAR-S

Slomski, A; Stone, D; Shatava, L.

PURPLE HEART

Chedister, J; Hoopes, L; Parker, R; Anderson, R; Haganlocher, E.

(Hill 285 - continued from page 1)

Donaldson (Assistant Division Commander) stopped over. This reporter was amicably conversing with a buddy when a large hand brusquely gripped his shoulder. He turned to remind the owner of the hand about his rudeness only to have his nose brush into the lapels of a Brigadier General's shirt. Towering over the reporter, the General briskly shook hands saying, "How are you, son: Keeping dry? The reporter answered: "Er...uh!"

Meanwhile, Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Companies were considerably more miserable in the heavy monsoon downpour which persisted for days on end. The companies combat assaulted into the mountainous region west of Hill 285 on October 29. Alpha Company completed its assault in what probably is the only one completed at night in the Battalion in a long time. The men had to jump off the choppers onto alien ground with only the chopper lights illuminating a meager area below them. SP4 Walter Lane, almost a full tour veteran commented: "I was scared out of my wits." Understandably, there was some inevitable confusion in the pitch of the night and blinding rain that day. A group of Recon men were shocked to find that they had seen dropped with Alpha while in the meantime, seven men from Alpha patiently waited to be taken off Hill 285 to join their Company in the wilds.

The Hill 285 operation lasted eight days at which time the three companies were airlifted out of the area to begin pursuit of beaucoup NVA sighted near LZ Jeff. During the course of the operation, Charlie Company made the big find. The Company came upon the 2nd VA Regimental CP, killed two NVA and captured a profusion of communications equipment left behind by the scurrying NVA. Four days later, the Battalion pulled out of the area and left the Hill in the hands of the 4/21 in order to tend to its own household problems in the AO.

4-3 MOVES IN ON NVA HOSPITAL

November 9 - Today the 4-3 Old Guard started to put the clamps on a suspected NVA hospital which is supposed to be located nearly three and a half miles north of citadel San Juan Hill. At about 0900 hours, Charlie Company and a squad of Recon were combat assaulted into the area in a move to seek out the underground hospital. Information about the location of the hospital was obtained when Alpha Company wounded and captured an NVA soldier. The action unfolded on 28 October near the meandering Song Ve River. Alpha was moving through a draw trying to ferret out any NVA hiding in its recesses. Before long, movement to the front was reported - several NVA were flushed and dashed out of their hiding place to the front of the 1st Platoon. The men instinctively opened up wounding the young soldier. He was (continued on page 5, column 1)

(En. Summary - cont.)

by Charlie and Alpha Companies. Charlie Company came across a trail just used by some enemy soldiers.

2 November

Charlie Company made the most substantial find during the course of the eight-day operation and in the process killed two NVA. At 1300 hours, the Company killed the first NVA who was preoccupied while fishing. An hour later, the men netted the second who was believed to be an OP for a squad of NVA who rather hurriedly vacated their basecamp. Shark gunships were called in to pound enemy suspected moving in the environs of the Company. Charlie Co. came to the abandoned basecamp consisting of 25 huts, a mess hall with a capacity of 100, numerous fighting positions and an abundance of communications equipment. The haul included 2 Prc 25 radios, 4000 meters of telephone wire, hand sets, ChiCom switchboards, field telephones, wire cutters, an RPG-7 round, documents and clothing.

In other action during the day, Bravo Company came across a NVA laager position for twenty people and two of their dead. The NVA were killed by artillery's road runners.

6 November

The operational move to Hill 285 came to a close today. All contingents of the 4-3 were airlifted with Delta Company, 4/21 continuing to maintain security there. At about noon, Sharks and other Americal ships involved in an assault (cont. on page 5, col. 2)

EDITORIAL:

VETERAN'S BILLS

AROUND THE BATTALION

There have been numerous shifts and additions in the Battalion of late. Major William McGee, formally Battalion, S-3 (Operations) for Major Wilford Phelps who prematurely vacated the position. Captain West has assumed the position as S-2 (Military Intelligence). Captain West, recently assigned to the Battalion, is a graduate of OCS and has a BA in History from Rutgers University. The Captain entered the Army in 1966.

Captain Melvin Gorelick has arrived to fill the Surgeon's slot in place of Captain Fagin as procurator of Battalion bodily ills. Captain Gorelick, in the Army a mere six weeks, attended the University of Southern California followed by one year's internship at Los Angeles General Hospital. The Bn. Surgeon was then recruited into the Army and after receiving five weeks training at Ft. Sam Houston on general concepts of the Army Medical Corps, was swiftly sent to Vietnam.

Other changes in the Battalion: Captain Haugen's assumption of the job as CO of Alpha Company; Captain James Schwebach has been assigned to Echo along with 1Lt. Alfred Pierce (Pemberton, N.J.); 2Lt. William Gaudet (Providence, R.I.) has been assigned to Bravo Company; Captain Anthony Farinelli is now the head of S-4.

THE GI BILL

There are increasing signs that a limited college education and ultimately a college diploma will be the basic requirement when a man goes job hunting. Hard statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor reveal that attainment of some degree of college education is rapidly becoming a "must". Qualifications are steadily rising. For instance, two years of college education are required for bookkeepers, accounting clerks, mechanics, policemen, surveyors, draftsmen, and lab technicians. With this trend in the labor field today, now is the time to start thinking about improving your job potential.

If you are in Vietnam you are most likely eligible for the GI Bill (at least 181 days continuous active duty), a major stepping stone to higher education. The GI Bill itself can be used for a wealth of institutions, some of which are listed below:

- public or private secondary
- correspondence
- vocational
- business or flight training school
- junior or teacher's college
- normal school
- professional
- scientific or technical

You may wonder just how much money you are entitled to while attending college, university, private or public school. Below is a table listing the funds available according to number of dependents.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS

TYPE OF PROGRAM	Number of Dependents			
	None	One	Two	For each over 2
Institutional				
-Full time	\$130	155	175	\$10
-Three quarter time	95	115	135	7
-Half time	60	75	85	5
-Less than half time or while on active duty	payments at the rate of tuition and fees.			
Farm Cooperative Training				
-Full time	\$105	125	145	7
-Three quarter time	75	90	105	5
-Half time	50	60	70	3

4-3. OFFICERS RECEIVE CROSS OF GALLANTRY

Captains James Hurley and James Schwobach have been awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry by Colonel Khien, Chief of Quang Ngai Province for their part in a joint undertaking of the 4-3 Old Guard with the CIDGs (Civil Irregular Defense Group) on 6-9 November. The operation, which took place eight clicks southwest of San Juan Hill, was termed "Operation Rice Denial." The two Captains commanded their Companies, Alpha and Bravo, during this operation in coordination with the CIDGs. It was so named because the 4-3 attempted to deny the VC and NVA from reaping their staple crop and sustenance, rice, in the fields which beckoned the gleaming blade of the scythe. The 4-3 had 48 farmers airlifted into the region bordered by Ba To, Minh Long and Ha Thanh. The farmers harvested 18,000 pounds of rice stalks which were then sent in double connexes to Special Forces camp, Ba To, for distribution. The operation was a well-planned and well-executed one. Alpha and Bravo Companies patrolled part of the rim of the area of operations for fringe security while the CIDGs patrolled in close proximity to the working farmers. The operation, however, was seriously hampered by bad weather and was terminated earlier than planned.

NEW Bn. X-O

The Old Guard extends a welcome to Major William McLaughlin, the new Battalion Executive Officer. Major McLaughlin hails from San Antonio, Texas. The new X-O is a graduate of ROTC and has been in the Army for ten years having entered in 1959.

During his first tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967-1968, Major McLaughlin was assigned to the 518th Battalion, 100th Inf. serving in the capacity as RF and PF advisor (Regional and Popular Forces). The Major was preponderantly concerned, in his job, with observing and advising on the operational training of the Vietnamese local and regional forces in an effort to upgrade their caliber in combat situations. In 1968-69, Major McLaughlin was then assigned to the 1st Bn, 60th Inf. at Anchorage, Alaska. He is married and has two children.

(NVA HOSPITAL - continued from page 1, col. 1)
later captured. Upon closer scrutiny of the area, an NVA nurse and a six year old boy were also found. The nurse revealed that a hospital was located further on in the hills and housed about 50 patients.

A considerable amount of documents and medical supplies were also captured at the scene of the action. The supplies included stethoscopes, scalpels, bandages and drugs. The day before, the 3rd Platoon had uncovered a cache of four bangalore torpedoes, a 70 pound shape charge, a US .30 caliber rifle, 15 2mm mortar rounds, 450 pounds of salt and 1/2 ton of rice.

TAKE THE PILL TAKE THE PILL TAKE THE PILL
TAKE TAKE TAKE

STANDDOWN SCHEDULE

23-26 Nov. - Company B
26-29 Nov. - Company C
29- 2 Dec. - Company D
2- 5 Dec. - Company A
5- 8 Dec. - Recon

YOUR M-16

Your M-16A1 rifle has a screw in the rubber butt plate, and the head of the screw has a hole in it. Ever notice?

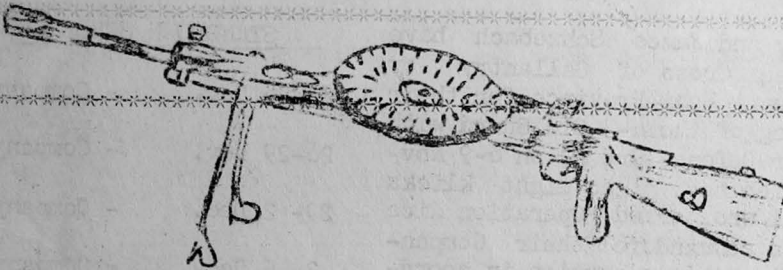
Far too frequently, soldiers allow dirt to pack over the head of this screw, and few, if any, ever stop to think that it is important to keep the hole in the screw open. This is the drain hole, and prevents water from remaining in the stock and lower receiver where it will foul up the working parts, cause corrosion and, most important, cause the M-16 to fail when you need it most.

So every time you clean your M-16, make sure that the drain hole is open. A pipe cleaner is about the handiest thing for keeping this hole clear.

Bn. Summary - cont.
spotted a mass of NVA numbering about 75-100 in the vicinity of LZ Jeff. Command quickly reacted sending Bravo and Charlie Companies to pursue the NVA while Delta Company formed a blocking force. At approximately 1330 hours, a chopper was hit in the gas tank and downed by enemy fire. The chopper safely landed and was later extracted by a Chinook. The only other action that day occurred with Charlie Company. The men sighted three NVA and fired at them but they escaped with one wounded.

REENLISTMENT CORNER

COMMUNIST BLOCK WEAPONS:



SOVIET 7.62mm LIGHT MACHINEGUN (DEGTYAREV)

This Soviet designed weapon is a modification of the 7.62 Degtyarev model DP. The modification consists of the addition of a wooden pistol grip and the redesigning of the recoil spring. The rear portion of the spring on the machinegun protrudes to the rear of the receiver just above the stock. The light machinegun has three sizes of cyclic rate of fire. This is used by the Viet Cong.

CHARACTERISTICS

Caliber	7.62mm
Ammunition	Soviet rimmed rifle cartridge
Operation	gas, full automatic only
Magazine type	Pan, 47 rounds
Weight when loaded	12.7 pounds
Length	50 inches
Cyclic rate of fire	500 to 600 rounds/minute
Muzzle velocity	2760 feet/second
Effective range	800 meters
Maximum range	3,150 meters

CHANGE OF COMMAND FOR BRAVO COMPANY

Captain Rodney Kirk took over the reins of command of Bravo Company on November 8 on San Juan Hill. The transferral of command took place on TOC during which Battalion Commander Lt.Col. Robert Fernandez congratulated Captain James Hurley (Canton, S.D.) for his distinctive leadership. Commanders cautiously walk the thin line which separates the kind of aggressive patrolling which keeps the enemy off balance or at least from attacking and at the same time, keeps casualties low. It's a tough job of incalculable responsibility. Coupled with Lt.Col. Fernandez' commendation of Captain Hurley's command "through some of Bravo Company's fiercest fighting" is the general respect the men of Bravo hold for their departing CO.

While 1SG Emanuel Miller and Bravo Company's four Platoon Sergeants looked on, Captain Hurley relinquished the company standard to Lt.Col. Fernandez who in turn passed it to Captain Rodney Kirk, reminding him of the immense burden of leadership which will incur in the next six months of command. Command Kirk (Denver, Colo.) entered the Army in 1960 and 'Nam in September 69. He received his captain's bars in February of the same year. Prior to his assumption of Bravo Company's command, Captain Kirk was in charge of S-2, Military Intelligence.

Are you mechanically inclined? Would you care to learn a trade? You can reenlist to be a Helicopter Mechanic and get flight pay at the same time. Other options which are available are printed below:

Engineering, Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance:

- 62B- Engineer Equipment Repairman
- 62C- Engineer Missile Equipment Specialist
- 62D- Asphalt Equipment Operator
- 62E- Crawler Tractor Operator
- 62F- Crane Operator
- 62G- Quartermaster
- 62H- Concrete Paving Equipment Operator
- 62I- General Construction Machine Operator
- 62J- Grader Operator
- 62K- Wheel Tractor Operator
- 62L- Rough Terrain Fork-lifter and Loader Op.
- 62M- Construction Machine

For more information, see your Career Counselor at Battalion S-1, Bronco (SSG Rubin Rodriguez).

(TINSLEY - continued from pg. 2, col. 1)
that Pfc Tinsley had been captured (even though wounded in the shoulder, information on his release states) because he wore a .45 caliber holster across his chest, impressive enough to be mistaken for an officer and thus saving his life.

After almost eight months in captivity as a prisoner of the Viet Cong, Pfc Tinsley was finally released for "humanitarian" reasons, announced the Viet Cong. On November 6, the three Americal soldiers promised to be released by the clandestine Viet Cong radio walked into a South Vietnamese militia post four miles west of Tam Key in good condition (Tam Key is situated about 30 miles north of Chu Lai). The trio were turned over to South Vietnamese soldiers and then to a U.S. Marine platoon. Pfc Tinsley, who is to deros in December, is presently being held in Saigon for preliminary examinations. It is reported that he is to be sent back to the States where his wife cheerfully awaits his unanticipated return.

FOOTBALL SCORES

NFL			

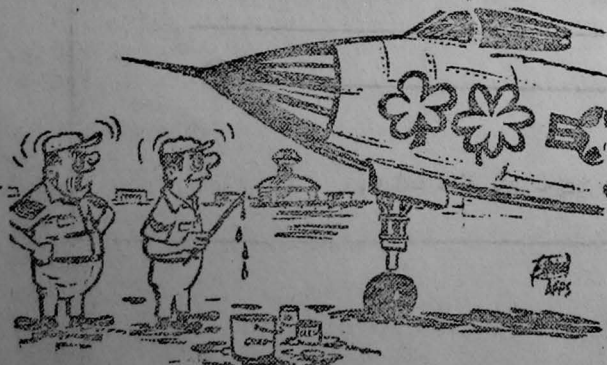
BALTIMORE	14	WASHINGTON	28
GREEN BAY	6	PHILADELPHIA	28
DALLAS	33	CHICAGO	38
NEW ORLEANS	17	PITTSBURG	7
DETROIT	27	ST. LOUIS	42
ATLANTA	21	NEW YORK	17
LOS ANGELES 41			
SAN FRANCISCO 30			

afl			

NEW YORK	16	CINCINNATI	31
BUFFALO	6	HOUSTON	31
OAKLAND	41	KANSAS CITY	27
DENVER	10	SAN DIEGO	3
MIAMI 17			
BOSTON 16			

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

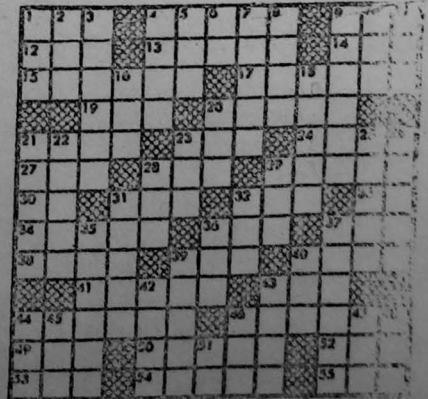


ACROSS

- 1-Limb
- 4-Profits
- 9-Chapman
- 12-Sign of zodiac
- 13-Kind of fabric
- 14-Before
- 15-Tart
- 17-Succaneer
- 19-Garden tool
- 20-Part of jacket
- 21-Barracuda
- 23-Crony (colloq.)
- 24-Meadow
- 27-Profound
- 28-Weaken
- 29-Dipper
- 30-Tectonic delta
- 31-Fish limb
- 32-Period of time
- 33-East Indies (abbr.)
- 34-Downy duck
- 36-Novelty
- 37-Hurry
- 38-Farm implement
- 39-Pale
- 40-Musical instrument
- 41-Earn
- 43-Gave food to
- 44-Outfitted
- 46-Newly married women
- 49-Man's name
- 50-Eagle's nest
- 52-Period of time
- 53-Male
- 54-Self-esteem
- 55-Free of

DOWN

- 4-Mentiment
- 5-Ventilate
- 6-Preposition
- 7-Country of Asia
- 8-Cut
- 9-Cured
- 10-Skill
- 11-Golf mound
- 16-Small child
- 18-Kind of foot race
- 20-Once around track
- 21-Wheel-bearing animal
- 22-Danger nickname
- 23-Shallow vessel
- 25-Eskimo
- 26-River in France
- 28-Title of respect
- 29-Young boy
- 31-Smaller amount
- 32-Man's nickname
- 35-Realm
- 36-Close
- 37-Part of ship
- 39-Broaden
- 40-Hawaiian wreath
- 42-Forest
- 43-Liberate
- 44-Precious stone
- 45-Guide's high note
- 46-Proposition
- 47-Silkworm
- 48-Journful
- 51-A state (abbr.)



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OLD GUARD

Lt.Col Robert N. Fernandez CO
1Lt. James E. Tidgewell SL
SP4 John Calderonello REPORTER

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