

4th BATTALION 3d INFANTRY

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BRAVO AWARDS CEREMONY

On March 9, a ceremony at LZ Bronco was held to honor those of Company B, 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry who distinguished themselves on the field of battle.

During the ceremony, six Silver Stars, 20 Bronze Stars for Valor and three Army Commendation Medals for Valor were awarded to the men of Bravo Company for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed hostile force on Hill 285, near the hamlet of Huan Phong Don, Quang Ngai, Republic of Vietnam, on the night of 2 January 1970. On that night Bravo Company was in its Night Defensive Position when it was engaged by a battalion size enemy force. Suffering repeated attacks they valiantly held their positions and thus repelled many efforts to overrun their defenses. Maintaining their unit integrity, the men of Bravo Company, with complete disregard for their own safety, braved the heavy enemy fire to bring their fallen comrades to safety. A sweep of the perimeter the following morning revealed that Company B had killed 29 enemy soldiers. Later, intelligence from a captured prisoner indicated that the enemy force had lost an additional 10 men and suffered 30 casualties, which rendered it ineffective as a fighting unit. The gallantry and devotion to duty of the men of Bravo Company, against a numerically superior force, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon themselves, their unit, and the United States of America.

Among those attending the ceremony were: Colonel Hugh F.T. Hoffman, 11th Brigade Commander; Lieutenant Colonel Stanley V. Wielga, 4-3 Battalion (Cont. on pg. 3, Col. 1)

NIGHT ATTACK

Early in the afternoon of March 5, Charlie Company had been reconning around the 516 Valley northwest of San Juan Hill when it spotted numerous villages stretched out for miles along both sides of the Song Ve River. The company entered one of the villages and met no resistance as it went about taking approximately 30 Vietnamese women and children into custody. By the time the cordon and search had been completed, the sun was descending in the east and had begun to rain so the company had

to keep the detainees in custody during the night.

The villagers were secured under guard in several hootches located inside the village and the men dug their foxholes along their assigned sectors of the perimeter. The second and third platoons were assigned that sector of the perimeter overlooking the Song Ve River. Between the river and the perimeter was a large, open, recently plowed field.

Unknown to the men of Charlie Company this was not to be just another night, for the enemy had maneuvered through the many early warning devices and had silently crawled down the plowed furrows to within chi-com throwing range of the defenders.

At 9:50 p.m., a furious chi-com, small arms and mortar attack split the silence and gloom of the night. Reacting rapidly, the men scrambled for their foxholes to man their awaiting guns. The main thrust of the attack was directed against the second and third platoons. Reaching their fighting positions they immediately opened up with a devastating volume of fire.

The main source of the enemies fire power was chi-com hand grenades. Private First Class Alfred (Continued on page 3, bottom of column 1)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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THE CAUSES OF SIN

By Chaplain (Maj) Leonard J. Lukaszewski
Assistant Division Chaplain

Every sinful act is a voluntary act. It is an act of the will. But it is an act of the will that is out of order.

It is an act of the will against the rule of right reason or the eternal law of God.

When a pickpocket steals a man's wallet, the sin is not in his hand but in his will which chooses to take unjustly the property of another man. The will is directly the cause of the decision to steal.

But this choice or decision to steal is the cause of the sinfulness of the act. Every sinful act is an act of the will.

Therefore the will is the cause of the sinfulness of the act. Every sinful act is an act of the will.

Man's reason can be the cause of sin through ignorance. The murderer who says he would not have killed if he had known what he was doing testifies to the fact that ignorance can lead to sin or to moral guilt must be properly evaluated.

Since every sin is a voluntary act, involuntary ignorance excuses a man from sin altogether. When a man's ignorance is not his own fault, then the sinful act which he commits through that ignorance is not a sin at all.

But the case changes when the ignorance is voluntary or due to man's own fault. He could have known the truth easily and he was obliged to discover it.

Ignorance of one of the circumstances of a sinful act may excuse a man from one sin, but not from another.

A burglar is surprised in the act of theft by a policeman. He draws his gun in the dark and kills the policeman.

Later he discovers he has killed his brother. Had he known the policeman was his brother he would not have fired the gun at all.

His ignorance excuses him from the sin of fratricide, but it does not excuse him from the sin of murder, because he knew he was shooting at a man even though he did not think the man was his brother.

The point at hand is that men must constantly strive to maintain a good, healthy will and a well informed mind.

WELCOME TO 4-3

EMC

PFC Ronald Letendre - Austin, Minn.
PFC John Scarnell - Syracuse, N.Y.

BRAVO

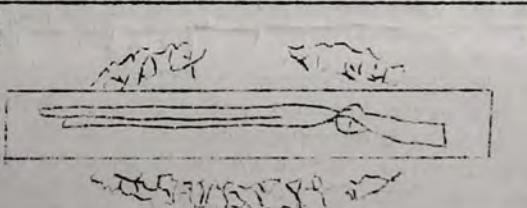
PFC Dale Carver - Ducktown, Tenn.
PFC Levern McDaniels - Bowman, S.C.
PVT 2 George Romer - Patagonia, Ariz.
PVT 2 Thomas Sparkman - Zuebeck, Tenn.

CHARLIE

SGT Kenneth Gibbs - Gretna, La.
SGT Raymond Morse - Muskegon, Mich.
SGT Michael Sabella - New York, N.Y.

DELTA

PSG Arthur Quaker - Harrisburg, Pa.
SSG Stephen Andrews - Bridgeport, Conn.
SGT Albert Day - Alpharetta, Ga.



If you have been awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, you should take pride in this award for it is given only to certain qualified individuals. Under the provisions of AR 672-5-1, Paragraph 96, to be eligible for the award an individual must be an Infantry Officer, Warrant Officer, or Enlisted Man with an 11 digit MOS and perform duty as a member of an Infantry Brigade size or smaller unit, during any period such unit was engaged in ground combat.

The Combat Infantryman's Badge was first authorized for service in Vietnam on 1 March 1961.

The award was established to enhance the prestige of the Infantryman assigned to a combat infantry unit whose daily duty it is to meet and destroy the enemy.

The Combat Infantryman's Badge was established to give recognition to the special job you are doing. Wear it with pride.

BRAGO AWARDS CONT.

Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Robert N. Fernandez, Division C-1; Lieutenant Colonel George Johnson, 4-21 Battalion Commander and Lieutenant Colonel Paul Gleave, Battalion Commander for 6-11 Artillery.

After the reading of the citation by First Lieutenant James Tidgewell, the reviewing party advanced to the right front of the line of persons to be honored. Then while Lieutenant Tidgewell read the names of the honorees, Col. Hoffman, LTC Wielga and LTC Fernandez pinned the decorations on the recipients.

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918, the Silver Star was awarded to: Sergeant Aaron J. Baker, Specialist Five Anthony Depola, Specialist Four Kenneth Kanyuh, Specialist Four Michael Prussman Specialist Four Alfredo Salazar and Specialist Four Stephen Willaredt.

The Bronze Stars for Valor were presented to: First Lieutenant Thomas Norton, Second Lieutenant John D. Gaines, Second Lieutenant William Gaudet, Second Lieutenant Richard Renner, Sergeant Larry L. Underwood, Specialist Four Andrew Anderson, Specialist Four Oscar C. Dehoyos, Specialist Four Milton Fobles, Specialist Four Joseph F. Filliben, Specialist Four Lewis Wilson, Specialist Four Thomas Hobbs, Specialist Four Phillip Joyce, Private First Class Thomas G. Cafaro, Private First Class William R. Johnson, Private First Class John Mishler, Private First Class Russell Pinardi, Private First Class Larry Roach, Private First Class George Ruby, Private First Class Stephen L. Busby and Private First Class Duwayne T. Anderson.

The three Army Commendation Medals were given to: Staff Sergeant Richard Seaman, Specialist Four Alton G. Bray and Specialist Four James R. Pelletier.

Following the presentation of awards, Col. Hoffman addressed the men of Bravo Company. In his address Col. Hoffman gave special recognition to Captain James Kirk, Bravo Company Commander, and his men for their tremendous job on Hill 235. In closing Colonel Hoffman said, "When you get home you can say, 'I served with the Old Guard, the oldest regiment in the U.S. Army; and I served as a Jungle Warrior with the 11th Brigade, the finest brigade in the U.S. Army!'"

The ceremony was followed by a reception given by LTC Wielga to honor the men of Bravo Company who had received awards.

NIGHT ATTACK

Rollins (Washington, D.C.) said, "There were eight to ten simultaneous explosions and I was knocked down by the blast. As I got up to get my weapon I could see the enemy to the front, they were standing up by this time and they were throwing grenades as fast as they could pull the pins."

Within minutes after the start of the attack, artillery had been called in from San Juan Hill. Specialist Four Steven LaCourse (Clinton, Iowa) said, "The artillery really did a great job as they brought rounds within 100 meters of the perimeter."

Due to the immense volume of fire power from the guns of Charlie Company, the accurate artillery fire and the fine gunship support from the Sharks, the

(Continued on pg. 4, bottom of column 1)

AWARDS

Below is a list of awards which have been approved during the month of March. (V-valor; A-achievement; S-service).

COMPANY	AWARDS

HHC

MAJ William McGee	AM
MSG Jimmy Sorrick	ACM'A"
SSG James Vasser	"

ALPHA

CPT James Schwebach	SM
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BRAVO

1LT Drew Mendelson	ACM'V"
SP4 Lester Brink	PH

CHARLIE

CPT Jude Shea	ACM'A"
1LT Bruce Suffern	BS"V"
SSG Raymond Hait	"
SGT Wendell Rice	"
SP4 James Adams	"
SP4 John Bonczek	"
SP4 Albert Fury	PH
SP4 Ulyess Richards	BS"V"
SP4 Davis Smith	"
SP4 Virge Spurlock	"
PFC Lawrence Phelan	"

DELTA

SGT Andrew Sanders	BS"V"
SP4 Stephen Kremer	"

ECHO

SSG Ruben Rodriguez	ACM'A"
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RE-UP

VRB means money in your pocket. The Variable Re-enlistment Bonus is designated as an incentive for first termers to re-enlist. The amount of your VRB depends on your MOS. It could amount to lots of cash. Requirements are 21 months or more on active duty and reenlistment on your present MOS. For more information see the Battalion Career Counselor at S-1.

BATTALION SUMMARY

4 March

While on patrol seven miles northwest of San Juan Hill, Alpha Company captured one NVA. During on the spot interrogation the prisoner revealed the location of a food cache.

Later the same day, Delta Company helped in the interrogation of 168 Vietnamese civilians. Twelve of the civilian detainees were taken to LZ Bronco. Among the 168 Vietnamese Civilians, one out of twelve were confirmed NVA.

5 March

Alpha Company's first platoon was patrolling seven miles northwest of San Juan Hill when it found a cage 12' x 15' enclosed with barbed wire. Four huts were also found at the same location.

At 9:50 p.m., while Charlie Company was in its Night Defensive Position it was engaged with mortar, small arms, RPG and chi-coms. The enemy lost one dead, one captured and Charlie Company confiscated one AK-47 with two banana clips and three chi-com hand grenades.

7 March

While searching an area five and one half miles south of San Juan Hill a Warlord observed one VC/NVA in a bunker. The enemy was killed and twelve huts were destroyed.

Later the same day, Delta Company found seven huts that had recently been burned. The company also found one NVA helmet and one dead male in black pajamas.

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attack was repelled. The pitched battle ended almost as abruptly as it had begun.

The following morning the detainees were placed aboard helicopters and sent to a refugee camp for rehabilitation. Then a recon of the area revealed that one NVA had died in the fray and possibly many more were killed or wounded as numerous blood trails lead toward the mountains. Charlie Company also captured one NVA, found two AK-47 banana clips, three chi-com hand grenades and one AK-47 rifle.

YOUR FUTURE

Some men are born into wealthy families and never really have to worry about earning a living. Most men, however, have to work hard to make ends meet and get ahead in the very competitive industrial world. To attain even these goals, most can use whatever help they can get or that's offered.

Project Transition is the Department of Defense's "helping hand" to a man who can use more education and wants to learn a trade. It is designed to give him, while serving his country, some of the assistance he may just need to move ahead to success.

While in the U.S. Armed Forces, most men become more mature and, consequently, become better prepared to work toward the bigger and better things in life.

Higher education through on and off-duty courses at high schools, the availability of college instruction, and new skills in technical professions are also available through Project Transition.

This unique program is open to all enlisted men, including those who are retiring after 20 or more years of service.

The Department of Defense project has made significant strides since its inception in January 1968. It has helped thousands of young men to prepare themselves for better futures in civilian careers. It continues ready to help thousands more.

If you are one of those who will have to get through life as best you can, why not begin now and help yourself to and with this volunteer program. It was established especially to give YOU that helping hand. (AFPS)

OLD GUARD

LTC Stanley V. Wielga
1LT David J. Sheehan
SP4 Robert Daniels

CO

S1

REPORTER

This newsheet is published weekly under the supervision of S1, 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.