

PRIVACY TAINT CHIEF A

CAUTION

DO NOT TAKE OR  
SEND TO THE FIELD



OLD GUARD



MOUNTAINMEN

Vol. 1, No. 38 4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

29 August 70

## A 51. IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

## ALL IN A DAYS WORK

Field sanitation exercise? "Not quite!" said Pfc Vernon Songer (Kansas City, Mo.) as he returned to the ambush site 13 miles southwest of Duc Pho. "Walking into the bushes and finding a 51 Cal. next to me is not my idea of a field sanitation exercise."

Working the top of a heavily wooded ridgeline the second platoon of Delta Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry, spent most of the day investigating a combination base camp and Sapper training area which, the platoon ran across while reconning ambush positions for the evening. Consisting of Classrooms, a mess hall, sapper infiltration course, and bunker complex, the base camp was quite old however had signs of being in the process of repair.

Later that afternoon the platoon moved out and set up it's ambush not more than 100 meters away from the base camp along a well used trail. "Wanting to relieve myself before it got dark but not wanting to move to far away from the guys, I walked about 20 meters into the brush. There to my surprise in the bushes to my left was what looked like the barrel to some sort of weapon. I investigated a little further and then ran to get our Platoon Leader, 1Lt. Allen." reported Pfc Songer. Arriving on the scene 1Lt. Allen confirmed the find was actually a 51 Caliber machine gun, in bad

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was the understood keyword as the men waited quietly for the enemy. Initiating the contact with the detonation of a claymore the men quickly followed with automatic M-16 fire. "We were only in our ambush position for a half an hour before we started hearing the voices moving toward us. We couldn't see through the thick foliage so when the voices grew, louder we blew the claymore and opened up with 16's." reported Sergeant Scott Thompson (Rice Lake, Mich.).

An element was immediately sent to check out the area of contact. Lying on the trail was one VC with weapon and hand grenade. Hoping to find blood trails of the victim's cohorts, the area was thoroughly searched with results turning up negative.

Anticipating the return of the Victim's comp-  
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A good days work means different things to different people. To Infantrymen of the Americal Division's 11th Brigade one VC killed and one weapon captured could be considered a fair days work.

Working the top of a thickly vegetated ridgeline 15 miles southwest of Duc Pho; the Second Platoon of Alaph Company, 4th Battalion 3d Infantry set up it's ambush in the middle of a fork of two well traveled trails. Hearing voices moving towards them silence

moving towards them silence

# A BIRD THAT SINGS HELPS

A talkative POW is a lot better than a dead NVA seemed to be the logic used by Infantrymen of the Americal Division's 11th Brigade when the "Jungle Warriors" captured one NVA from the 1/403 Sapper Battalion while working 13 miles southeast of Fire Support Base San Juan Hill.

Moving up a draw between ridgelines, men of the Second Platoon of Alpha Company, 4th Battalion 3d Infantry were being extra cautious as the trail was lined with ambush positions. Suddenly the pointman spotted three NVA soldiers with packs and weapons moving along the same trail in their direction. Reacting instinctively, the point and 60 gunner opened fire as the NVA blurred hurriedly into the woodline. Hoping to find a few blood trails the men immediately dropped their ruck sacks as the first squad cautiously moved up the left side of the ridge-line while the second squad converged up the middle of the draw.

"We began to hear noises as we were ready to move out on an on line assault of the area to our front," reported Sergeant Scott D. Thompson (Rice Lake, Mich.) "We quickly sent an element up to the high ground as we slowly moved in on the area."

Working into a cleared area the squad found one NVA who was wounded in the initial fusillade, kneeling off the trail speaking words which were unrecognizable to the Infantrymen. M-16's at the ready the men slowly moved in, yelling at the NVA to raise his arms

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED 9 JULY 1918, THE SILVER STAR FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION WAS AWARDED TO SPECIALIST FOUR VERAL CROSSEN.

Specialist Four Crossen distinguished himself by intrepid actions on 5 March 1970 while serving as a Medical Aidman attached to Company C, 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was in its night defensive position south west of Mo Duc when it came under an intense enemy rocket and mortar barrage. During the initial burst of hostile rounds, several friendly soldiers were wounded, including Specialist Crossen. Despite the increasing fury of the enemy ground attack, he ignored the pain of his own injuries and began maneuvering toward his beleaguered comrades. Heedless of the danger involved, he repeatedly exposed himself to the enemy fire as he administered first aid under the most adverse conditions. As the battle raged around him Specialist Crossen continued to aid his fellow soldiers by directing the efforts of others in treating the wounded, and constantly encouraging the more seriously wounded comrades. When the medical evacuation helicopters arrived on station, he responded immediately and supervised the loading of the wounded soldiers aboard the airdraft. During the lengthy encounter he continued to carry men to the helicopter despite the increasing pain in, his own wound. Through his timely and courageous actions, he contributed greatly to saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers and served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

and Chu Hoi. The NVA did, and so the Infantrymen quickly moved in. An AK-47 with one full magazine of AK ammunition already fitted into the weapon were the first items confiscated from the wounded NVA soldier. With a leg wound the medic was quickly called to aid the POW before extraction. After bandages were administered and being unable to walk, a stretcher was rigged up and the POW was carried up to the top of the ridge-line where the company CP was located. After a brief period of questioning the POW was again carried by stretcher to the temporary fire base Avenger where he was later extracted to the rear for further medical attention and more intensive questioning.

Also confiscated from the scene besides the one AK-47 and magazine of AK ammunition was one canteen, pistol belt, commo wire, and Laotian Money.

Asked about taking POW's Sergeant Thompson replied, "An NVA captured or killed is still one NVA not out to kill me. Taking a POW however may give a clue to saving some American lives."

## 140 TO 10 ISN'T GOOD ODDS

Spotting 140 NVA with packs and weapons and eliminating them are quite two different matters especially if the ambush is only squad size as found out by men of the 11th Brigade while working in the rugged mountains southwest of Duc Pho.

Set up in the woodline at the base of a ridge overlooking a small valley, the second squad of the Second Platoon, of Alpha Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry was in ambush when the sighting was made. "We were set up in ambush when from the woodline across from us NVA with packs and weapons began moving out and up the valley. After the first eight moved out and being only 100 meters away, we were going to open up but more kept coming out. It was a good thing we waited because 140 soldiers came out and moved up the valley," reported Pfc James Rios (Wilmington, Calif.). Artillery and air strikes were immediately called in, however sensing the danger of the first marker round the enemy immediately scattered and thus when the area was searched the following morning only numerous blood trails could be found. "140 against 10 isn't good odds," said Pfc Rios, "We are lucky we have the artillery and air support that we do. Our only regret is that we were not able to find any bodies only blood trails."

## NEW S-4

On the 21st of August Captain Jackie A. Hummel became attached to the 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. Captain Hummel will be taking the place of 1Lt. Larry Collett as the new S-4. 1Lt. Collett is ending his tour in the Republic of Vietnam and will be leaving Duc Pho on the 12th of September.

Captain Hummel entered the Army in 1966 after being awarded his BBA in Personnel Management from East Texas State University. Receiving his commission through OCS Captain Hummel was assigned to the Personnel Center at Ft. Lewis Washington for 10 months before being sent to Korea where Captain Hummel served in the capacity of I-Corp Reenlistment Officer. Serving in

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## NEW S-4

Korea for 13 months Captain Hummel was next assigned to the Recruiting Main Station in Amerilla, Texas. Here Captain Hummel remained for one year before being assigned to duty in the Republic of Vietnam.

Captain Hummel is married and his wife, a Captain in the United States Army is presently attending the Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison Indiana.

## A 51. IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

shape but workable if cleaned up and repaired. The find was immediately called into the Company CP and then carried back to the ambush site where it was kept for the night. In the morning the 51 Caliber was carried up to the Company CP where it was later extracted to the rear.

Asked for any reaction to the valuable find, Pfc Songer replied, "If, I knew they were going to make me carry it up the hill to the CP I would have never told anyone about it."

## ALL IN A DAYS WORK

anions, another ambush was set up in the same location closer to the VC's bddy.

Confiscated from the area besides the weapon and grenade was one pistol belt, food and one magazine of AK ammunition.

## OLD GUARD

LTC PHILIP GRIMM CO

1LT REED SIMMONS S1

SP4 JAMES TABATA EDITOR

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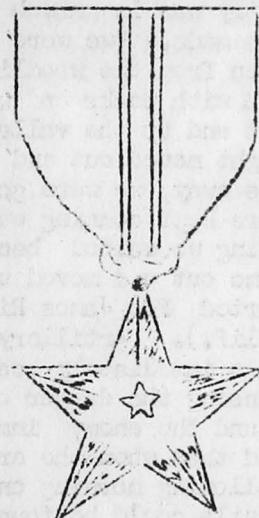
# VALOR AWARDS

The following is a list of those individuals in the Battalion who have recently received Valor Awards. They have distinguished themselves by valorous actions on the battle field.

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11046  
24 AUGUST 1962, THE BRONZE STAR WITH "V" DEVICE HAS BEEN AWARDED TO:

SERGEANT JOSEPH B. HOLMES distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 11th of March 1970 while serving with Company D, 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting routine combat operations west of Mo Duc when it came under intense small arms fire from a well concealed enemy

force. In the initial burst of hostile rounds several friendly soldiers were wounded and in need of medical aid. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation, Sergeant Holmes moved forward from his relatively secure position to reach his wounded comrades. Quickly assessing the situation, he organized an evacuation team and began moving the wounded to the rear area from which they could be evacuated by helicopter. Despite the enemy fire impacting around him, he maneuvered 600 meters through the dense vegetation



before he reached safety. Through his timely and courageous actions, he contributed greatly to the successful evacuation of his wounded comrades and served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RUBIN VALENTINE distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 11 March 1970 while serving with Company D 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date, an element of the company was conducting a combat patrol in the vicinity of Tan Phu when it was assaulted by a large enemy force. In the initial barrage of hostile automatic weapons and grenade fire, Private Valentine suffered several severe wounds. Denying himself medical attention he immediately placed a heavy volume of retaliatory fire upon the insurgents. Ignoring his own painful wounds, Private Valentine alertly spotted an enemy soldier preparing to fire on his comrades and unhesitatingly exposed himself to the hostile fusillade to engage the insurgents. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he directed devastating bursts of fire on the hostile soldiers, eliminating the threat to his comrades. Through his timely and courageous actions, Private Valentine was instrumental in thwarting the determined enemy attack and saving the lives of several of his comrades. He served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

SPECIALIST FOUR ROBERT J. LUZON distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 11 March 1970 while serving with Company D 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was on a combat patrol near Nhon Loc when it was  
(Continued on page 5)

## VALOR AWARDS

assaulted by a large enemy force. During the initial exchange of rounds, several friendly soldiers were wounded in an area 600 meters away from the nearest possible landing zone for medical evacuation helicopters. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation, Specialist Luzon unhesitatingly volunteered to carry a casualty to the point of extraction. After securing one of the wounded soldiers on his back, Specialist Luzon gallantly began his arduous trip to the evacuation area unarmed. Skillfully negotiating the highly vulnerable terrain, Specialist Luzon successfully took evasive action against sniper fire and delivered the casualty to the evacuation helicopter with all possible speed. Through his timely and courageous actions, Specialist Luzon saved the life of a fellow soldier and served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

SPECIALIST FOUR PATRICK LONABAUGH distinguished himself by valorous actions on 5 March 1970 while serving with company C, 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was at a defensive position in the vicinity of Phu Khuong when it came under a combination mortar and ground attack by an unknown size enemy force. During the initial hostile barrage Specialist Lonabaugh repeatedly exposed himself to the concentration of enemy fire in order to assist in carrying, his wounded comrades out of the danger zone to a secure position where they could be evacuated from the area. Ignoring the danger involved, he returned to his vulnerable position where he reorganized his squad and directed their retaliatory fire on to the insurgents. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Specialist Lonabaugh maneuvered through the enemy firezone to procure additional ammunition and repeatedly braved the hostile fusillade in order to distribute it among the members of his element. Through his timely actions, he contributed significantly to the success of the operation and served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DONALD DOWDY distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 5 March 1970, while serving with Company C, 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date the company was being resupplied with ammunition in an area near Phu Khuong when it came under intense mortar, rocket and small arms fire, from, an unknown size enemy force. Reacting immediately and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Dowdy repeatedly exposed himself to a continuing hostile barrage while moving to the side of friendly soldiers wounded during the initial impacting of rounds. Despite the danger involved, he remained vulnerable to the enemy fire while providing covering fire for his comrades as they moved the casualties to a more secure area. Still refusing to seek cover Private Dowdy than redistributed ammunition among his fellow soldiers along the perimeter. Through his timely and courageous actions, Private Dowdy was instrumental in thwarting the enemy attack and served as an inspiration to his entire, unit.

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