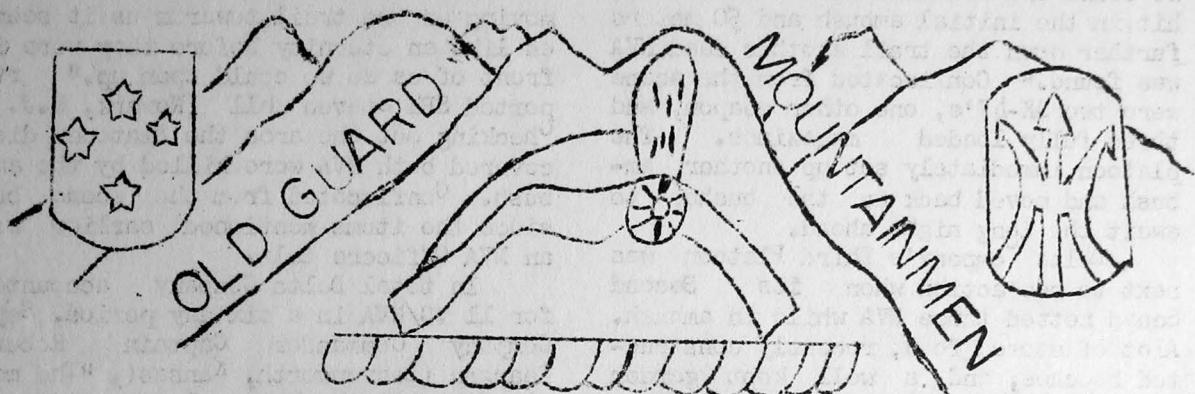


# CAUTION DO NOT TAKE OR SEND TO THE FIELD



Vol. 1 No. 40

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

12 Sept 1970

## AMBUSHES NET DELTA II

## THE TIME HAS COME

The mission before Standdown proved to be very successful for the members of Delta Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. The 11th Brigade Mountainmen recently used strickly ambushes to net 11 VC/NVA in a six day period while working 5 miles southeast of Fire Support Base San Juan Hill.

The first contact was made late on the afternoon of the 3d of September when the Second Platoon of Delta Company initiated the ambush with the blast of a claymore. "We found alot of signs of recent enemy activity in the area so we set out our ambushes early along a good trail which ran along the side of a ridgeline." reported Sergeant John Cavanaugh (Long Island, N.Y.). It wasn't until 1700 that movement was heard on the trail advancing in the direction of the awaiting infantrymen. Anxiously the men initiated the action with the detonation of the claymore and followed it with M-16 fire. At that same moment AK fire sprayed the area the men were in, consequently the fire fight was on. Trying to obtain fire superiority the men advanced on line with the 60 machine gun up front leading the assault, while the M-79 covered the high ground. "We fired up the whole area and moved in slowly," said Pfc Vernon Songer (Kansas City, Mo.) "When we reached the trail

(Cont. on Pg. 2, Col. 1)

The mission is set and approved, plans made and final details taken care of. The stage is now set and awaiting the CA which will bring about a successful mission. In the field the men clear the LZ so the birds can extract them into the new area of operation. "Birds in bound" as the TOC informs the Company to prepare for extraction. While gunships hover for security one by one the platoons are extracted from the area. A hot LZ or cold LZ? these

are the questions which race through every infantrymen's mind as the birds head towards the new LZ. As the first birds land the LZ is declared cold, cold as the beer and soda which await the Mountainmen of the 4th Battalion 3d Infantry as they enter operation standdown.

Three days of hard earned reverlry await the men of the Old Guard as they embark on the long awaited period of rest and relaxation after humping the mountains and jungles around Fire Support Base San Juan Hill.

A denial of the basic comforts of life are awarded by three days of Standdown every three months. Three hot meals a day, showers, beds with sheets to sleep on, and enough beer to get (Continued on Pg. 2, Col. 2)

## DELTA CONT.

we found two NVA that must have been hit in the initial ambush and 50 meters further down the trail another dead NVA was found." Confiscated from the scene were two AK-47's, one other weapon, and three fully loaded magazines. The platoon immediately set up another ambush and moved back in the bushes to await the long night ahead.

Delta company's Third Platoon was next to see action when its Second Squad netted three NVA while in ambush. A lot of stored food, recently constructed hooches, and a well kept garden were good indications of recent enemy activity, as the squad set up its ambush. The night passed slowly but early the next morning voices were heard moving down the trail. The claymore was blown and the men immediately, moved out to check the area. "As the pointman moved out of the bushes and on to the trail one VC was spotted evading. We opened up and were lucky enough to get him." said Sergeant Paul Dudley (West Terre Haute, Ind.). Two other VC were also found on the trail apparently killed by the ambush. Confiscated from the scene were hand grenades and an Officers belt which was taken from the evading VC.

The next day two more VC were added to the company's total as the CP and 81 Mortar Platoon were the contributors. Acting as the Command Post for the other platoons the element was set up defensively with claymores out on the trail to protect their position. It was early morning when movement was heard along the trail and the claymores were detonated. Checking out the trail the bodies of two VC were found carrying nothing of substancial value.

The last kills of the mission came on the 6th when the first Platoon of Delta Company sprung its ambush netting the Mountainmen, two NVA. Carrying one SKS, hand grenades, canteen, documents, a radio and money the NVA were headed up a creek to the top of a ridge when the ambush was sprung. "After the

(Cont. on top of next Column)

## DELTA CONT.

first indication that the enemy was moving on the trail towards us it seemed like an eternity before they were in front of us so we could open up." reported SP4 Steven Ball (Newark, N.J.). Checking out the area the Platoon discovered both NVA were killed by the ambush. Confiscated from the scene besides the items mentioned earlier was an NVA Officers Belt.

In total Delta Company accounted for 11 VC/NVA in a six day period. Says Company Commander Captain Robert Yeargan (Leavenworth, Kansas), "The men all did a fine job the last mission. I believe we got more of the enemy in that short period of time then any other company in the Battalion."

## STANDDOWN cont.

thoroughly inebriated. The bands are groovy and the chicks cute, a sight rarely seen out in the bush. With the availability of the PX, steambath, NCO and EM clubs and movies at night the troops can try and forget the ugliness of the ever present war around them. Also available to the men are personnel to take care of all problems including financial, administrative and personal. Sleep, read, write, drink, what ever is your pleasure, Standdown provides the opportunity.

The awards ceremony is always a part of Standdown. To award the men who have preformed outstandingly on the battle field. Everybody deserves something for being out in the field and the service and achievement awards are for that purpose. However, there are certain individuals who preform outstandingly in curtain situations and these are the people who are honored during standdown.

So you Mountainmen of the Old Guard 4th Battalion 3d Infantry, relax and live it up because you earned it and deserve it.

## OLD GUARD BIDS FAREWELL

Attending a party on Fire Support Base San Juan Hill, the members of the Old Guard 4th Battalion 3d Infantry bid farewell to 11th Brigade Commander Colonel K.B. Barlow.

A Buffet prepared by Sergeant First Class Kenneth Brimer was attended by the guest of honor Colonel K.B. Barlow, all Company Commanders, First Sergeants and Staff Officers of the 4th Battalion 3d Infantry.

In recognition of the fine job Colonel Barlow has done for the 11th Brigade, the Old Guard represented by its Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Philip Grimm joyously presented Colonel Barlow the Old Guard Crest, making him an honorary member of the famed regiment. A plaque with the following inscription "To Colonel K.B. Barlow 11th Brigade, with appreciation from the Old Guard Mountainmen." was also presented to Colonel Barlow.

In brief remarks by the Brigade Commander, he sighted the Old Guard as one of the finest Battalions in the 11th Brigade as shown by the enviable record achieved by Colonel Grimm since taking Command of the Battalion in May. The Colonel also commented on the fine tradition of the Old Guard which dates back to the War of 1812, and how it was being carried on by the men of the 4th Battalion 3d Infantry in Vietnam.

## OLD GUARD

LTC PHILIP GRIMM

CO

1LT REED SIMMONS

SL

SP4 JAMES TABATA

EDITOR

This newsheet is published weekly under the supervision of SL 4th Bn. 3d Inf., Americal Division, APO 96217 as an authorized publication. Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army. ARPS, ANF and Command Information used.

## SHORT SHORTS

### DATELINE

#### THE HIGHWAY PATROL

Pertaining to those individuals in the rear who have the opportunity to travel the scenic highway up to Chu Lai BEWARE the speed limit is 35, so observe it. The Americal Division has put into operation a highway patrolling system using the LOH as the guardian of the speed limit. Of course if your being shot at don't wait around to see who is shooting.

#### SAVINGS BONDS

Effective June 1st--- Secretary of the Treasury David M. Kennedy, announced that  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent bonus will be added to the interest rate paid to longer term holders of U.S. Savings Bonds. The bonus raises the effective interest rate from 5 to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  percent on new bonds held to maturity.

Series E Bonds purchased on or after June 1, 1970, when held to maturity will receive an extra  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent bonus.

Series H Bonds purchased on or after June 1, 1970 will yield 5.12% in the first five years and 6% for the remaining five years.

#### TOKYO

Tokyo will no longer be a rest and recuperation center for American Servicemen from Vietnam after October 1. The redeployment of U.S. forces from Vietnam has necessitated a realignment of the R&R program. Other cities eliminated from the R&R program earlier this year were Singapore and Manila. Still on the list are Bangkok, Sidney, Hawaii, Hong Kong, and Taipei.

#### OLD GUARD

The mountainmen recently recorded their 102 kill since LTC Philip Grimm took command of the 4th Battalion 3d Infantry, in late May, of this year. Bravo Company was the latest contributor as its Third Platoon killed one VC in ambush while working southwest of Duc Pho.

# 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.

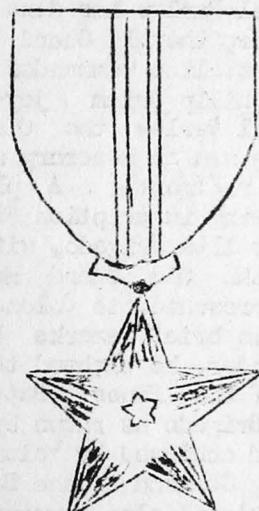
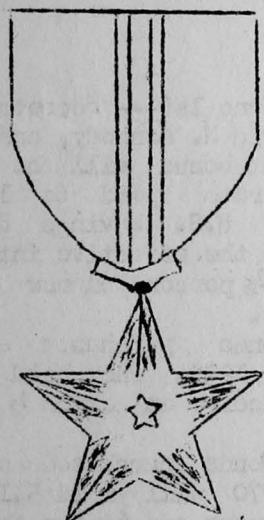
BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11046  
24 AUGUST 1962, THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE HAS BEEN AWARDED TO:

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MELVIN DOWLES 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 conducting routine combat operations west of Mo Duc when they suddenly came under intense enemy fire from a well concealed

enemy position. In the initial burst of hostile fire, several friendly soldiers were wounded and required medical attention. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation, Private Dowles began placing heavy volumes of suppressive fire on the enemy position. After gaining fire superiority over the insurgents, he joined the evacuation team which was moving the wounded personnel to a secure area. Ignoring the dangers involved, he carried a fellow soldier 600 meters over rough terrain and through incessant enemy sniper fire. Despite

injuries he received while transporting the men, Private Dowles refused medical aid and provided a solid base of protective fire for the friendly helicopter. Through his timely and courageous actions, he contributed greatly to the overall success of the mission and the safe evacuation of his wounded comrades.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERT T. CHERECK distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions 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 enemy fire from a well concealed enemy position. In the initial burst of hostile rounds, several friendly soldiers were wounded. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Private Cherek immediately moved forward through a hail of enemy fire to reach his comrades. Ignoring the danger involved he moved from position to position administering first aid under the most adverse conditions. Despite the hostile rounds directed at him by an enemy sniper, Private Cherek refused to seek cover and crawled 20 meters to an injured soldier to provide life saving treatment. During the lengthy battle he remained exposed to enemy fire until the insurgents were routed from the area and his comrades had been successfully evacuated. Through his timely and courageous actions he was largely responsible for the effective treatment of his fellow soldiers.



## VALOR AWARDS

SPECIALIST FOUR MARK J. KAPALA 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 conducting routine combat operations near Nhon Loc when it was assaulted by a large enemy force. During the initial exchange of rounds, several members of the friendly force were wounded and immobilized in positions 600 meters away from the nearest possible landing areas for medical evacuation helicopters. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation Specialist Kapala unhesitatingly volunteered to move the seriously wounded men. Alternately carrying the casualties and effectively suppressing enemy sniper fire during their movement, Specialist Kapala successfully negotiated the distance and placed his wounded comrades aboard the evacuation ship. Through his timely and courageous actions, Specialist Kapala served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DAVID H. DOBSON distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 11 March 1970 while serving with Company D, 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date, a platoon of the company was conducting a combat patrol in the vicinity of Tan Phu when it was assaulted by an unknown size enemy force, in concealed positions. In the initial hostile fusillade, several members of the friendly element were severely wounded and became pinned down in an open area. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Private Dobson immediately maneuvered through the hostile barrage to a strategic position where he placed a devastating volume of suppressive fire on the insurgents to cover the extraction of the casualties. Ignoring the danger involved, he quickly moved to a wounded comrade and began carrying him out of the enemy fire zone. Despite a heavy concentration of hostile sniper rounds, Private Dobson carried his fallen comrade over 600 meters to the evacuation point. Through his timely and courageous actions, he was instrumental in thwarting the determined enemy attack and saved the lives of several of his fellow soldiers.

SERGEANT STEPHEN R. KREMER distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 11 March 1970 while serving as pointman with Company D, 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date, the company was conducting routine combat operations west of Mo Duc through an enemy infested area. As he led his fellow soldiers through the dense vegetated terrain, Sergeant Kremer was suddenly engaged by an enemy soldier employing an automatic weapon. With complete disregard for his personal safety he quickly placed a devastating barrage of retaliatory fire on the insurgent and effectively silenced him. Ignoring the dangers involved he continued to advance until the other members of his element again came under intense enemy fire. Reacting immediately Sergeant Kremer moved to the point of contact and directed an effective fusillade against the enemy soldiers until the enemy was completely routed from the area. Through his timely actions he contributed greatly to the overall success of the operation.

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