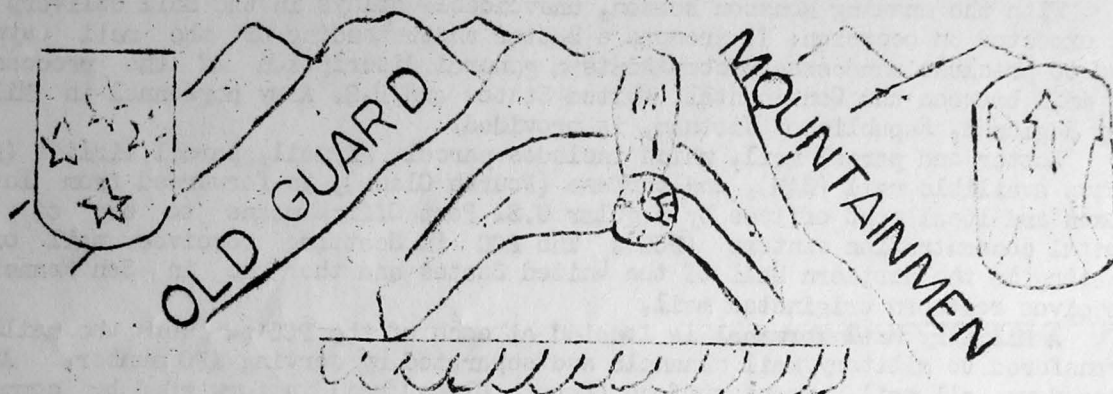


CAUTION

DO NOT TAKE OR
SEND TO THE FIELD

Vol. 1, No. 47

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

19 Nov 1970

ARTY INVADES NVA CAMP

Infantrymen of the 23d Infantry Division's 11th Brigade recently used artillery and unships to their advantage as they met heavy resistance entering an enemy base camp 9 miles northwest of Fire Support Base San Juan Hill.

The men of the First Platoon of Delta Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry found the bodies of 3 NVA killed by artillery after their third try to enter the enemy camp was successful.

One hour after their combat assault into the 516 Valley the First Platoon came into contact when their Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant Leo Minor (Wichita, Kansas) entered the area in which the camp was located. "There were signs of fresh enemy activity all the way up this mountain. They had the trail booby-trapped as I almost set off one, however luckily the trip wire was spotted," reported PFC Roger Carr (Dover, New Hampshire) pointman of the First Platoon. Moving nearer to the camp the men began meeting resistance, first by small arms, then by command detonated mines along the trail entrance. The fire fight was on as the men could not penetrate the perimeter. Pulling back artillery and gunships were called into the area, but (Cont. on Pg. 3, Col. 2).

ALPHA DOING
IT'S THING

One VC was recently killed as two members of Alpha Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry joined 6 ARVN's in springing an ambush on 27 VC, five miles southwest of Chu Lai.

After a cordon and search of a village in which 22 VC suspects were extracted, Alpha Company withdrew to the high ground for the night. An ambush was planned with the ARVN's and two volunteers from Alpha Company acting as a communications link with the company Specialist Four Steven Graham (Madres, Oregon) and Specialist Four Oliver Hardin (Corsecona, Texas) were the two volunteers as the eight man ambush moved out just after sundown to the selected ambush sight just outside the village. "We were in ambush only an hour when we spotted 27 VC heading past us into the village," reported Specialist Hardin, "The ARVN's said to wait, for they would be returning from the village soon and we could ambush them on the way out. 30 minutes later all 27 VC came out and headed toward our location. We blew the claymores and opened up with M-16's and M-79's." The VC were also prepared as return AK fire was received along with B-40 rockets. After the ensuing fire fight the element drew back and was reinforced by (Continued on page 3 Column 2)

THE MAIL SERVICE

With the ensuing Monsoon season, unavoidable delays in the mail delivery can be expected on occasion. To promote a better understanding of the mail system and to preclude unnecessary complaints a general description of the processing of mail between the Continental United States and U.S. Army personnel in Military Region 1, Republic of Vietnam, is provided.

Letter and parcel mail, which includes parcel airmail, parcel airlift (PAL) space available mail (SAM), and surface (Fourth Class), is forwarded from letter boxes and local post offices by regular U.S. Post Office means to one of two Postal concentration centers (PCC). The PCC in Seattle receives mail originating in the northern half of the United States and the one in San Francisco receives southern originated mail.

A Military Mail Terminal is located at each of the PCC's. Here the mail is transferred to Military mail channels and separated by serving APO number. After breakdown, all mail, except surface (Fourth Class) mail is forwarded by commercial air, via Hawaii or Japan, to RVN. Letter mail and parcel airmail always have priority over the other mail categories. All such mail destined for MR1 arrives at Da Nang Airbase on four or five daily flights and is off-loaded at the Aerial Mail Terminal (AMT), a U.S. Air Force facility.

Surface parcels are transported to RVN via container ship. Such Mail, addressed to personnel in MR-1, arrives at Deepwater Pier, Da Nang, approximately twice a month. The mail is then transported by Sea-Land Van to Da Nang AMT. At the AMT, the mail is separated for transshipment to the APO's in MR-1. All mail is shipped by air, under ideal conditions to distant APO's. An average of two mail flights each day serves Phu Bai, Hue, and Chu Lai APO's, and one flight each day to Quang Tri, Dong Ha, Quang Ngai, and Duc Pho. The MACV Traffic Continued on page 4 Column 1)

Chaplain's Corner

Although I have been with the Old Guard only a few weeks, I have been gratified by the reception I have received by each unit plus by the men on San Juan Hill and Branco. The only uncooperative one has been the weatherman who has produced an abundant share of misery for everyone.

As I understand the Chaplains task in a unit like ours, is to be available to everyone who seeks help. One thing which needs to be noted is that I have no magic buttons to push; compassionate reassignment button, hardship discharge button, or out of the field button; but I am eager to discuss any area of problems and I will do so in the strictest of confidence.

I see the Chaplains job as three fold; First, he is a clergyman attempting to bring man to God and God to man. He is equipped to make available all of (Continued on the next column)

the ministrations of his church to men wherever they are located. Second, he is a counselor. Many problems are not religiously oriented, but need a sympathetic and objective ear. The Chaplain can provide this, and give advice from his background and experience. Third, the Chaplain is a Staff Officer, serving on the special staff of the Commanding Officer. It is his function here to advise the Commanding Officer in areas of Religion, morale, and morality as these are affected by religion. I intend to function as effectively as possible in each of these areas.

Again, it is good to serve with the 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. I am looking forward to meeting as many as possible in the coming months. God Bless!
Robert T. Belton
Battalion Chaplain

TIPPY CANOE AND

BECHDEL TOO

Up the creek without a kayak is like a Grunt in the field without his weapon to Specialist Four Les Bechdel (State College, Pa.) of Alpha Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. Specialist Bechdel comes to the Old Guard as the four time National White Water Canoeing and Kayaking Champion.

A young sport, white watering was developed in Europe after World War II, and came to the United States in the 1950's, after which the first race was held on the Brandywine River in Delaware in the Spring of 1958. The Competitive form of the sport developed from the cruising form of recreational boating. The slalom race is as if you dropped a skiing slalom into the middle of a river bed, letting the snow melt into a raging rapid full of hidden boulders, crushing waves, whirlpools, and tricky cross currents. The object of white water slalom is to paddle between sets of poles that are hung from wires stretched over a set of rapids. Two poles constitute a gate on a slalom course.

Asked to describe a slalom course Specialist Bechdel replied, "The gates are placed so that the canoe or kayak must go sideways, forwards, or backwards through the rapids. If you touch any of the gates a certain amount of penalty time is added to your total running time. So, you are racing not only against the clock but also trying to keep a clean run and keep from upsetting all at the same time."

Interest began building up when Specialist Bechdel worked with canoes while in Explorer Scouting. Working individually, Specialist Bechdel entered meets sponsored by the National White Water Association. In 1963 at the age of 15 Specialist Bechdel was chosen to represent the United States in the World Championships in Spittal, Austria; the youngest competitor ever to participate in the World Championships. In 1966 and in 1968 Specialist Bechdel won the National Championships for the two-man canoe, and in 1967 the

(Cont. on pg. 4, Column 1)

ALPHA CONT.

a Squad of the Fourth Platoon lead by Sergeant First Class Frank Reynolds (Columbus, Ga.). The next morning the Company moved down to search the village and found one dead VC five meters in front of the ambush position. Questioning the villagers it was learned that 7 more VC were carried off during the night, 2 of which were dead.

Two days later the men of Alpha Company returned to the same village after being advised by the ARVN's that the VC would be returning to the location. Entering the village 3 VC were spotted and engaged with M-16 fire. One VC was killed and two even though wounded escaped through the thick brush which surrounded the village. During the operation Alpha Company had confirmed 2 VC killed and an undetermined number wounded.

DELTA FINDS 3 CONT

being late evening another assault on the camp was not attempted. Early the next morning another try was made but heavy resistance was met again so another ~~artillery~~ strike was called in to the area. Trying to find another entrance into the camp, the Platoon moved 600 meters diagonally along side of the mountain to join up with the CP group. From this point the platoon entered the camp from the opposite side meeting no resistance whatsoever. "The last rounds of artillery did a great job landing right in the middle of their perimeter," replied PFC Carr, "We set out good security and moved in to search the camp. Three NVA were found killed by artillery. All weapons packs and other essential articles must have been carried away by the others after the artillery started coming in."

All that was found in the camp was panchos, cloths, food, and an NVA Officers belt found on one of the dead. All items were evacuated and the element moved on in search of the evading NVA.

KAYAKING

Nationals for both two-man canoe and one-man kayak. In 1967 he again represented the United States in the World Championships at Lipno, Czechoslovakia, and in 1969 at Bourg St. Maurice, France placing 34th out of 86, and 21st out of a field of 128 respectively. With all the championships and training to occupy his time, Specialist Bechdel still found time to work his way through college and earned a BA in History from Penn State University.

Specialist Bechdel recently appeared in the June 1970 issue of Sports Illustrated when the magazine ran an article on the 1969 World White Water Championships in France.

"It is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States and has been accepted by the Olympic Federation for the Olympics to be held in Munich, Germany in the fall of 1972. That will give me less than a year to prepare and get on the U.S. Team from the time I ETS," added Specialist Bechdel.

MAIL SERVICE

Management Agency (TMA) is responsible for coordinating in-country transportation of mail. APO's in the DaNang area pick up all their mail by truck, directly from the AMT several times each day.

At the APO's, the mail is separated by their unit and/or installation. Unit or installation mail sections then pick up their mail from the APO's by truck, or in some cases, by helicopters and transport it to their mail rooms. There, the mail is separated for distribution, usually twice daily, through duty sections or directly to the individual.

The processing of mail originated by personnel in MR-1 is essentially a reverse of the above procedures. The only exception is that non-letter mail is not handled by unit or installation mail room, but is mailed through postal service windows operated by Army postal unit personnel.

Handling time for letters from CONUS to a unit in MR-1, under ideal conditions varies from 6 to 7 days.

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OLD GUARD

LTC ALBERT COAST
1LT REED SIMMONS
SP4 JAMES TABATA

CO
S1
EDITOR

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