



OLD GUARD



4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



Volume II, No. 4

August 7, 1969

WARLORD FINDS LARGE BASECAMP

The 4-3 Old guard has been relying heavily on the diminutive Warlords in recent weeks for the reconnaissance of NVA in our AO. In the light of any significant contact in the field, the light and elusive reconnaissance choppers have served well.

The Warlord has an honored place amidst the large and varied arsenal of the U.S. Army. But more often than not, this distinction does not seem to impress itself upon the short memory of the enemy who periodically challenge the small but far from harmless "little bug". Its job—aerial reconnaissance. It often flies at tree-top level (can reach 120 knots) and frequently presents too tempting a target for frustrated snipers and hard-pressed NVA. Time and again, the Warlords have spotted the enemy, his basecamps, bunkers and entrenched fighting positions. These positions are obliterated by air-strikes and barrages of artillery as quickly as they are discovered. If snipers deem to vent their fury on the tiny but capriciously evasive chopper, a gunship or two hovering out of sight can easily descend to settle the score. The job—press the enemy, give no respite, disorganize his cadres and supply lines. His organization disarrayed, his retaliatory strength dwindled, he becomes the prey, we the hunter.

There are numerous occasions when the Warlords have filled the job well, too numerous to mention. But August 1st is such an occasion. B Company, 123rd Avn. Bn., while patrolling an area eight miles west of Duc Pho, received heavy AK fire. The Warlord unleashed a burst of 60 cal. killing one

(continued on page 3, col. 1)

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

Action in the 4-3 AO was relatively light as is characteristic of recent weeks. Of the events which took place during the week, Charlie Company's combat assault into an area approximately eight miles west of Duc Pho was the most significant.

On July 27, Alpha Company spotted about five NVA during the course of the day but no action was reported. A Warlord found well-used trails and numerous automatic weapons in position. Later, further reconnaissance of the area turned up two dead VC lying beside a mortar tube, apparent victims of artillery.

July 28 proved to be another quiet day. Delta Company found three dud 82 mm mortar rounds and 150 rounds of M-60 ammunition not far from fresh trails. A Warlord spotted two more dead NVA, eight to twelve mortar rounds and an AK-47. In the evening, Delta Company's 3-O element, on ambush that night, had a grenade land uncomfortably close. The ambush was sprung but there was no search the next day.

On the 29th of July, the LRRPs, having spotted eight NVA with helmets and weapons, followed them at a prudent distance for about 40 minutes. In a short time the LRRPs made contact and a small skirmish ensued but no results were reported. The LRRPs were later extracted from the area. On the night of July 29, Charlie Company, on San Juan Hill at the time, opened up with close 82mm mortar fire, M-79s and grenades on an NVA who was rummaging in the vicinity of the dump below 4.2 Mortar. No trace of the intruder was found the following day.

(continued on page 3, col. 2)

THEY CAME EARLY

They came early—when the morning mist was not quite dissipated and still cast a blanket over the reaching canvas of rice paddies stretching outwards from Duc Pho. We were alerted at 0430 hours but we've been expecting them for quite some time now. Dreading the test of all tests, when men meet to determine the weaker of the lot, the less prepared. We're ready, though. We even know on which day they would come. Nothing escaped the utter scrutiny of our section leaders in preparing for this coming onslaught. Will we pass the test? Can we weather through?

Yes, the IG inspectors arrived early Monday, on August 4. The 4-3 Old Guard, through dint of much effort and preparedness, passed the IG inspection. The IG men had examined all aspects of the 4-3 rear area: Its files and records, sanitation, equipment maintenance, barracks. And at the end of the day, it was announced that the battalion received a satisfactory report.

Though it was taken very seriously in all quarters, some amusing things did happen during the inspection to give a more lighter side. For instance, there was the inspector who upon exam-

(continued on pg. 4, col. 2)

R&R COLUMN: BANGKOK

It is the personal experience of this reporter that Bangkok is one of the best on the R&R list. The Thai people are very friendly and this is one consideration if one wishes to go there. The Thai people's acceptance of Americans in general is largely due to the fact that their country is free of certain aspects of nationalism often found in former colonial areas—namely, resentment and bitterness against the West (such as one might see in Japan). Witness the fact that the word "Thai" means free and the land in which they live is called "Muang Thai" (land of the free).

Bangkok has two million people, by far the largest city in Thailand. It is a city of two distinctive sections: The old, with narrow, crowded streets and the modern, with its well-planned broad thoroughfares, park ardas and western-style buildings. Most of the action in Bangkok is on the new Petchburi Road where many of the bars, nightclubs and air-condition movie theaters are found. If you go to Bangkok, you must stop at the An-An Club, a swinging place which vibrates nightly with folk-rock, soul and psychedelic music; where wild color patterns swirl and gyrate on the walls—all reminiscent of the best that New York has to offer. The city has a wealth of these clubs, just take your pick.

There are some interesting things to do during your stay in this colorful city. For a starter, there's the cultural approach: Thai dancing—it is a popular classical dance by performers who are dressed in authentic clothes seen amidst luxurious surroundings. While out sightseeing, don't miss the pomp and grandeur of the Grand Palace, the ancient Court of Siam. It can't be matched in its exoticism. In addition, one can see the Reclining Buddha which is about 150 feet long. One of the most colorful scenes for your camera is the floating market, typical of old Bangkok. Sellers and housewives in sampans of all sizes congregate their business in the canals. Anything edible, from fruit, exotic herbs, shellfish, live chickens to meat of the barking deer, may be found. From the market you can stop over at the dry dock at the Bangkok Noi Canal to see the royal barges in all their hue'd splendor.

For those who enjoy a little action there's the rough and tumble of Thai boxing. The two participants go at it with fists, knees, elbow, feet, toes—you name it, they use it. A capsule version of Thai culture can be seen in Timland, Thailand in miniature and one of the country's top tourist attractions.

(continued on pg. 3, column 1)

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

A list of the men of the 43 who have been recommended for the Silver Star, Bronze Star (valor or service) Arcom and Air Medal and whose orders have been received is provided below.

HHC Co: ACM "A" - Captain Kenneth Vooder, Gary Detweiler and Bernard Hudson.
Alpha Co: BS-S - Captain Ambrose Carnes, Harvey Law-
son and Dwight Barrot.
Bravo Co: SS - Roy Johnson,
BS-S Wilbur Anderson, William Carter,
Terrence Molloy.
Air Medal - Steven Hall, Lawrence Toppi,
Clifford Bisch.
Charlie Co: BS-V - Howard Meredith
BS-S - Able Coleman, James Honaker.
Delta Co: BS-S - Donald Edinborough, Jesse Myatt,
Lt. Bernard Kohn.
Echo Co: BS-S - Jimmy Armstrong, Vincent Magrone,
Walter Marcolta, Stephen Meyers, Lt. George
Henney.

(I&I COLUMN continued from page 2)
Twenty baht (or dollars, roughly) is considered a fair price. Your D&I reception station will arrange hotel accommodation for you upon your arrival. Hotel rates generally are \$8.00-\$12.00 for a single room.

Bangkok has merchandise from both East and West. The best buys are the handicrafts made in Thailand. Imported goods are expensive. If you decide to purchase anything, you must bargain in all the shops, especially jewelry shops. Often the set price has been hiked up and is meant to be bickered over. Some good buys are star sapphires and rubies, Thai silk, bronzeware, wood carvings, clothes (suits in particular) and Thai dolls.

AMERICAN HERETIGE ALMANAC

Aug. 1 -- 1907 -- The Army bought its first airplane a Wright biplane.

Aug. 7 -- 1782 -- The Order of the Purple Heart was established by George Washington as a reward for meritorious action and extraordinary fidelity.

Aug. 22 -- 1864 -- The International Red Cross was founded.

Aug. 23 -- 1776 -- General George Washington published General Order No. 23 which said, "...The hour is fast approaching on which the honor and success of this Army and the safety of our bleeding country depend. Remember officers and soldiers, that you are free men fighting for the blessing of liberty -- that slavery will be your portion, and that of your posterity, if you do not acquit yourselves like men..."

Aug. 27 -- 1940 -- Congress authorized the President to call into active service members of Reserve Military Components for 12 months. ANF

(cont. from pg. 2, col 2,
IG INSPECTION)

a bunker, stumbled upon a pig, of all things. Creatures---dogs, cats, even rats, make themselves scarce as if instinctively scenting what's afoot. But not this denizen of mud. Major Inglewright, Bn. X-O, having heard of the pig bit, exclaimed, "What's with the bacon on the hoof? I can understand having dogs or cats as pets but a pig?"

Then there's the guy from S-4 who partook in the clamorous celebration after the IG inspection came to a close. Beer and steak were there for the asking. It was getting late so he called it quits and decided to take a shower and hit the sack. He pulled down his pants and a slab of steak fell out of his underwear. I think it was well-done but inedible at any rate.

MOVIES

ON SAN JUAN

Aug. 1 -- San Juan Hill may still be describable as a bleak and blemished hill as far as firebases go but the Hill may be becoming more hospitable as time passes. Recently San Juan was christened with its first movie. The screen has been erected below the 4.2 Mortar pits; the seats, well, chose the top of any bunker which affords a good view. The inaugural film "Custer of the West" was well-received. The following night's show, a slight improvement over "Custer", was "The Split" starring Jimmy Brown, Dionne Carroll and Ernest Borgnine.

MEMBER!....IF "CHARLIE SNAGS YA...JUST GIVE EM' YOUR NAME, PARK...AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.

(Warlords, cont. from pg. 1, col. 1)

NVA. A continued search of the area brought more enemy fire. The chopper returned in kind tallying another kill for the day. Later on, further reconnaissance revealed unoccupied hootches, tunnels and concrete bunkers. TOC immediately went to the planning boards and organized a combat assault into the area. The LZ and basecamp were considerably "prepped" with a number of airstrikes which utilized 500lb. Daisy Cutters and 250lb. High Drags. Nearly a total of 300 rounds of artillery razed the LZ and basecamp: 4.2 Mortar, 105 and 155 howitzer. The next day, Charlie Company was dropped into the area at approximately 0700 hours. During the course of the day, Charlie Company uncovered a large number of bunkers, some of which were sighted the day before. The total number amounted to 90. Also found were a partially destroyed map, some documents recounting how the enemy unit was directly responsible for the death of 1000 GIs and 100 downed choppers around Duc Pho, a .51 caliber machine gun destroyed by small arms (the bolt and barrel were missing), a 250lb. bomb and a dead NVA. Bravo Company, which was also in on the operations, came upon nine dead NVA, all apparently victims of the airstrikes bringing the total of known kills to 12.

CHANGE IN POSTAL MONEY ORDER PURCHASING

Beginning 1 August 1969 Postal patrons will present a MACV Form 5 (Currency Control Card) with an embossed SSAN in order to purchase Postal Money Orders. Money Orders will not be sold to personnel not in possession of this form. MACV Form 5's have been distributed through command channels.

LTC Robert N. Fernandez CO
1Lt. Thomas J. Klein S1
PFC John Calderonello 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, AFN and command information material used.

(Wrap-Up-cont. from pg. 1, col. 2)

On July 30, the hyper-active Warlords killed an evading VC. The next day Alpha Company found one dead NVA dressed in GI fatigues. It was suspected that Delta Company got the kill a short time back when the company was in that neighborhood. That same afternoon a Warlord received heavy AK fire somewhere west of Duc Pho. The chopper returned the fire killing two NVA. As result of the reconnaissance, the presence of a large basecamp was discovered and Charlie Company was flown into the area. (see story on page 1, col. 1)

On 1 August, Bravo Company, sweeping eight miles west-northwest of Duc Pho, was engaged with small arms fire. Bravo returned fire killing one VC. On the 3rd of August, Bravo Company found nine dead NVA, apparently killed by the recent airstrikes.

B-52 PILOTS

VISIT SAN JUAN

This week eight B-52 pilots arrive at LZ Bronco. The jaunt, which starts from their base on Guam, was part of overall plan to familiarize the pilot with the tactical situation and accompanying strategy in our AO in order to gain a more broader, composite picture of our job as ground fighting force. Upon reaching the 11th Brigade, the group was split up into four smaller groups which went to the firebases Debbie, Liz, Hill and San Juan.

The three pilots received by the 4-3, a LTC and two Captains, were given a briefing by LTC Fernandez and Major Phelps upon their arrival on San Juan Hill. Later in the day, the trio went down to the 4.2 Mortar pits and fired a few rounds. Next, they gave a try on the 81mm mortars of the incomparable Mortar Platoon of Delta Company (of which SP4 Jerry Kircher, the FDC, is the motivating force) racing each other to see who could put out three rounds the quickest. Their introduction to the grunt's way of life by no means stopped there. From the moisture-laden cloud that is their natural element, the pilots joined Alpha Company the next morning in the moisture-laden rice paddies which abound around Duc Pho. That day the three fliers returned to their hot grounds more knowledgeable---and tired!