



# OLD GUARD

## 4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



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### CHARLIE CO GETS 2nd.51 cal.

In the past two weeks, all eyes have been riveted on the "Rice Bowl"--rice fertile area six miles southeast of Duc Pho and scene of the worst fighting witnessed by the 4-3 Old Guard in a long time. In several encounters with the enemy in that region, the 4-3 helped the NVA force to delete the names of approximately 50 NVA from its roster and has captured an abundance of weapons to boot.

The most recent fighting in the "Bowl" occurred on September 2 and 3 when Charlie Company moved into the area on OPCON to the 1-1 Cavalry. The fighting immediately got off to a start when the Company ran into a small ambush receiving fire from both front and rear. However, the firing didn't last long and shortly afterwards ceased altogether. Captain Jude Shea of Charlie Company and the CO of the 1-1 Cav decided to split up the Company with the 2nd Platoon joining the 1st Platoon of 1-1 Cav and the remainder of the Company and the Cav combining.

The 2nd Platoon (which was to see most of the action that day) mounted the tracks and proceeded to pursue the enemy in the direction of the firing which originated from the front. They hardly gained 50 meters when five NVA were sighted evading towards a hill. The tracks opened up wounding one. The 2nd Platoon dismounted and began to sweep ahead. The men moved about 25 meters when Sergeant Ramos (Rio Piedras, P.R.) saw the wounded NVA attempting to flee. Sgt. Ramos got a bead on him and tallied the first

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### 4-3 TOTALS 19 KILLS

#### WEEKLY WRAP-UP:

Action was relatively light during the week with the exception of fierce fighting centering around the "Rice Bowl" located about six miles south of Duc Pho village. Scattered action in the AO resulted in a total of 19 NVA killed.

Things got off to a start on August 30 when the Recon Platoon netted four VC. The Platoon set up an ambush (stay-behind) while the rest of the men moved on successfully killing four unwary VC.

Delta Company, on August 31, killed one NVA and a VC after combat assaulting onto a hill about four miles southeast of Duc Pho. The Company set up a patrol base on a neighboring hill and soon discovered that there was a VC hiding in their very midst. The VC was discovered when one man was strolling through the perimeter and spotted a foot protruding from a cluster of rocks. He walked on and alerted the others. A grenade was thrown into the hideout and the VC was killed. Pfc John Tretter was credited with killing the other.

He heard spine tingling moaning originating from heavy brush off to the side of the hill. He attempted to coax him out of his hiding place without apparent success and so shot the NVA. Later, it was discovered that he was wounded by the gunships which prepped the hill prior to the assault.

Bravo Company had several incoming 82-mm mortar rounds hit the perimeter while San Juan Hill received five rounds of unknown type which harmlessly hit below the Hill.

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kill for the day. This was the extent of the action until about 0430 hours the next morning when both perimeters, the 1st Platoon of the 1-1 Cav and 2nd Platoon of Charlie Company at one, and the rest of the Company and 1-1 Cav at another, were hit with ground probes and small arms.

At 0700 hours, the 2nd Platoon moved out with the tracks to conduct a sweep of the flatlands extending into the mountains. After a mad fling by the tracks with recon by fire, the Platoon started on its operation (found one NVA - victim of artillery). The sweep went as far as the top of a small hill not too far away. Sgt. Ramos, the Platoon Leader then, having reached the crest, had just about decided to report a negative sighting of any NVA. He surveyed the crest of the hill and seemed satisfied. However he turned around and his complacency was shattered -- he stood hovering over an NVA in a foxhole who was equally frozen stock-still by the sight of a GI so close. Sgt. Ramos quickly recovered and yelled to his men to take cover. The NVA meanwhile ducked into his hole grappling for his weapon. The Sargeant hurled a grenade into it and hightailed it. The Platoon was ordered to withdraw and soon the screeching of jets and the pounding of bombs crashing into the hill could be heard in the valley. No sooner was this done when Pfc Fury sighted an NVA running headlong down the hill. The tracks opened up and succeeded in wounding him. The Platoon searched the area. Sgt. Ramos and SP4 Malchow found the wounded NVA. For a second time the group treaded their way up the same hill led by the small clique of Sgt. Romas, SP4 Botsford, SP4 Brightman and Pfc Rohaus. They reached the top and a quick search came to fruition with the spectacular find of another .51 caliber machine gun, 250 .51 cal rounds, 200 AK-47 rounds, eight AK-47s, a .30 cal. machine gun, a 57mm recoilless rifle and three chicom grenades.

During continued sweeps of the area the 2nd Plt. killed two more NVA. The Platoon was moving down to the right of the hill. Sgt. Ramos, having spotted the NVA, immediately fired at him. The NVA was hit, dropped his weapon and disappeared into thick brush. The Platoon moved in and tried to get him to Chieu Hoi.

No bid! His answer - a grenade. Everyone opened up with a burst. Rounds converged in on the NVA's position. Later, he was found dead. The final kill also came unexpectedly. While on the last leg of the sweep another of the enemy was sighted - all guns fired and the NVA dropped in his tracks.

The following day the entire Company swept the hill and surrounding area. Reportedly, 17 additional bodies were found. The only other action occurred that night when some slight incoming fire hit the perimeter about 2300 hours. \*

(WEEKLY WRAP-UP cont. from page 1, col. 2)

On September 2, Charlie Company killed four NVA during the course of a long day of assaults up several hills. The Company, on OPCON to 1-1 Cavalry, captured two AK-47s and one 57mm recoilless rifle. Active Bravo Company, while sweeping a valley four "klicks" north of San Juan Hill, engaged and killed an NVA. Charlie Company received an unknown number of RPGs and small arms fire.

On September 3, Charlie Company eliminated another four NVA in green uniforms, ages 20-25. Reportedly, one was Chinese. The Company also reaped a good number of weapons during the day's fighting: a .51 and a .30 caliber machine gun, one 57mm recoilless rifle, eight AK-47s, three chicom grenades, 250 rounds of .51 caliber ammunition, 200 to 300 rounds of AK-47 ammo, three entrenching tools and two rucksacks.

The following day, Bravo Company engaged and killed two VC in typical indigenous dress - black pjs. The 2nd Platoon ambush added a third to the list when it snared another in the same area.

On September 4, Charlie Company (still in the "Rice Bowl" at the time) killed an NVA and captured an M-79 and three 57mm recoilless rifle rounds.

## AROUND THE BATTALION

The 4-3 Old Guard recently witnessed the ascendency in rank of two of its NCO. On September 10, SFC James M. Faircloth (Delta Company's top) and SFC Isaac I. Goldberg (PS NCO, S1) were promoted to the hard-earned and well-deserved rank of 1st Sergeant and Master Sergeant (E-8) respectively. The Old Guard extends its congratulations to these men.



**BULLETIN** -- Accommodations in Taipei will be very limited during mid-September and for the entire month of October due to a heavy influx of visiting Chinese for ROC Nation Day, the Annual Presidential review and President Chiang's birthday.

Schedule your R&R accordingly.

A PILL A DAY KEEPS AT BAY

## R&R COLUMN: HONG KONG

Hong Kong, is, perhaps the most beautiful, fascinating and cosmopolitan city in the Orient. It offers the visitor a variegated panoply of sights, sounds, and tastes that has no equal anywhere else in the world. Hong Kong is especially good to visit in lieu of it being a free port - items from all over the world are sold in this Far Eastern business hub at the lowest prices anywhere.

The small shops catering to the tourist trade have some of the best hand-made clothing featuring materials of any kind. Whether you are looking for leather goods, chinaware or 10,000 other curios, you must bargain over the prices - it is the accepted and expected practice with most merchants. Also, check out the prices at the China Fleet Club located on the Hong Kong side before you buy. The facilities of the US Navy Purchasing Branch on the 3rd floor of the Club can be used by all members. Fair prices and good quality are assured here. Incidentally, goods produced in China or North Korea are prohibited. It is also advised that any goods made in Hong Kong be covered by a Comprehensive Certificate of Origin (CCO). This is the only document which U.S. customs will accept for Chinese-type goods from Hong Kong regardless of the value of the product. Last but not least, beware of touts, people who will try to guide you into certain shops, and in doing so, collect a percentage from the proprietor. The price is usually higher in these shops.

R&R hotel reservations are made for you months in advance at any one of more than 15 hotels in the Hong Kong-makloon area. Before leaving the R&R Center, you'll be presented with a choice of hotels that vary in price from \$4 to \$11 a night. These hotels have been approved by the R&R Center. The President, Empress, or Park Hotels all offer outstanding accommodations for \$7 to \$9 a night.

In addition to Hong Kong's magnetic attraction and widespread reputation for good quality clothes, the port city reputedly has the best Chinese food in the world. There are four main types, the most widely eaten being Cantonese. Typical Cantonese dishes are sharksfins and birds' nest soups, frog legs and bamboo shoots. There are all types of European food, of course, as well Indian, Russian and American. For American food, one of the best restaurants is the Steak House at 69 Peking Road opposite the President Hotel. The finest European food can be found at the famous AU TROU NORIAND at No. 6 Hankow Road. Service at these restaurants is good and many have interesting decors; for example, the floating junks of Aberdeen fishing village. Tipping of ten percent is average unless the normal 10% service charge has already been added to the bill. (continued on page 4, col. 1)

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Drums throb, guitars twang; through the smoky atmosphere flit lithe young beauties in tight-fitting cheongsams. A singer takes the mike and sings a sad Mandarin love melody whose origins are no doubt two thousand years old. The drinks flow; and suddenly everybody is doing a frantic dance on the floor. Silence. The spotlight catches a lone Japanese dancer. She goes into her act with a clash of cymbals, and leaves you gasping. Warm red light fills the room, and one of your favorite songs pervades the club. And so it goes until 2 a.m. every morning in twenty or thirty top night clubs, equal to any in the world. Now for some facts. Don't go to any of those nightspots before 9 p.m. - they will still be warming up at that time.

Cover charges are used by most of the clubs, but none of them are really high.

The standard of flooshow entertainment is good, many of the acts are imported from the U.S. and Europe.

Most sightseeing in the Oriental city is done within the central city. One exception is the Kowloon-Canton railway, which travels through New Territories up the Chinese border twenty miles away. Another exception is Hong Kong island which has a cable car ride up Victoria peak. The ride is a thrill in itself and when you have reached the top, you can see for hundreds of miles in any direction with the sprawling metropolis below. The island can be reached by ferries which run every five minutes until 2 a.m. \*

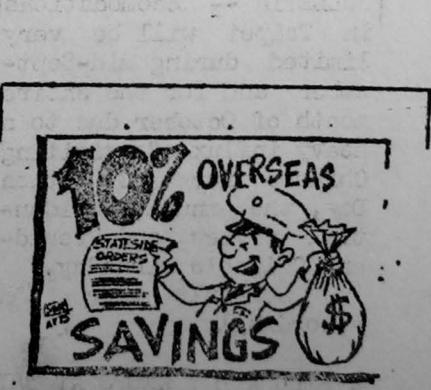
## XENON SEARCHLIGHT FOILS ENEMY MOVEMENT at NIGHT

A well-known tactic of the enemy we face in Vietnam is the use of darkness as an auxiliary weapon for surprise and security.

Numerous devices have been developed in an effort to nullify this enemy advantage. One of the most effective of these devices is the jeep-mounted 23-inch Xenon searchlight.

The 23-inch Xenon searchlight is operated by a crew of two men (The searchlight battery from the 21st Artillery scour LZ Bronco at night) and can be used for acquiring targets by illuminating suspected areas, marking targets for aerial rocket artillery and other armed helicopters, and can also be used to adjust artillery fire.

The searchlight features both infrared and visible illumination and the intensity of the light beam can be increased from an incredible 125 million to 150 million candle-power. The rated range of the searchlight is 4,000 meters; however, under favorable conditions, targets at a range of 8,000 meters can be illuminated. \*



## WATERPROOF FOXHOLE

FORT BENNING, GA.

(ANF) - Something new has been added to the infantryman's foxhole (and already over-burdened pack), a waterproof cover.

Now undergoing service testing at the U.S. Army Infantry Board, the new lightweight cover of synthetic material is designed to give protection for soldiers in open foxholes.

The innovation is made of close-woven dacron and permits a section of the foxhole opening to be covered with up to 36 inches of top soil.

The cover has two eight-inch sleeves, one at each end. The sleeves serve as anchors when filled with soil or when a log is inserted and buried in small, shallow slit trenches alongside the foxhole. The anchors or ends of the foxhole are buried first and then up to 36 inches of soil is placed over the entire cover.

Previously when the fighting man wanted to cover his lying place, he resorted to using branches, leaves, grass and any other foliage to hold the soil he then placed on top.

This seldom was satisfactory as the soil continually found its way through getting into the soldier's equipment and down the neck of his shirt. When it rained, water ran in from all vantage points and made the foxhole untenable (and very wet).

Beside providing a good barrier from rain and surface water, the cover with the top soil over it makes an excellent CBR protective device, a good barrier for random shrapnel and a means to more easily camouflage the position.

### OLD GUARD

LTC Robert N. Fernandez CO  
1Lt. Thomas J. Klein S1  
PFC John Calderonello REPORTER

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## AER

The Army Emergency Relief Fund helps the Americal Division live up to the motto "The Army Takes Care of Its Own". Last year over \$4,500 was provided to personnel of the division in the form of loans and grants and the current loan volume indicates that AER will provide more assistance in 1969 than ever before. AER is the Army's way of assisting active and retired Army personnel and their families when a financial crisis arises. Assistance is provided to deserving Army personnel in time of an emergency for privation of dependents, emergency travel, medical and dental expenses or any financial need for you or your dependents. When an emergency comes your way, think of AER. The AER officer is located in AG Personnel Branch of the Americal Division. \*

## COMMUNIST BLOCK WEAPONS

SOVIET 7.62mm CARBINE M1944  
SKS

The 7.62-mm carbine M1944 is a shortened version of the Soviet rifle M1938. This rifle can be readily distinguished from the Soviet rifle M1891/30 by its short length and the permanently attached folding bayonet on the right side of the barrel.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Caliber -----	7.62-mm
Operation -----	Manual, bolt action
Weight, loaded ---	8.9 lbs.
Length w/folded bayonet -----	40.2 inches
Sight -----	Front-hooded post; rear-adjustable V notch
Feeding device-----	5-rd integral magazine
Effective range---	400 meters
Rate of fire -----	10 rpm
Ammunition type---	Soviet and Chicom 7.62mm long rimmed cartridges