



OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



Vol. I, No. 5

29 August 1969

BRAVO NETS 27 NVA

Action occurred during the 16th of August when Bravo Company was twice hit hard by a battalion-size NVA force. The attack, as far as the enemy is concerned, was a regrettable one to say the least. With the help of pinpoint artillery fire, Shadow and Cobra gunships, Bravo Company succeeded in killing a good number of the enemy force and inflicted heavy casualties.

Bravo Company's full day of combat began in the wee hours of the morn on the 16th of August. The Company had set up on a hill, a few klicks south of San Juan Hill. The firefight suddenly broke out at about 0100 hours when a trip flare went off. The enemy desperately threw a few chicom grenades into the perimeter and tried to hightail it. Not soon enough! Bravo Company, immediately alerted, opened up with everything. Several of the attackers lay dead on the ground. Silence crept over the perimeter. The men crouched in their foxholes tense and aware of an attack certain to come. Several hours later, the short lull was shattered by the explosions of a fierce RPG, mortar and small arms attack. Charlie was on the move again 75 meters from their positions. Artillery pounded the surrounding area and again silence prevailed. The next morning, the Company sighted about 80 NVA edging into a treeline. Artillery was called in. The Company remained in position for awhile and sent out numerous sweeps to search for leftovers from the preceding night's firefight. During the repeated sweeps (the patrols received light small arms fire) a total of fifteen dead NVA were found strewn about the perimeter. Three AK-47's and approximately 30 chicom grenades were also found. By 1800 hours the Company (cont. on page 2, col. 1)

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

There may be a pronounced lull of enemy activity in Vietnam these days but as far as the 4/3 Old Guard is concerned, it is quite hectic in the AO.

During these last two tumultuous weeks, the citadel of the 4/3, San Juan Hill, has been subjected to daily harassment by several .51 caliber machine guns firing from adjacent hills at any Chinook or resupply chopper attempting to land on the Hill. At one time, a Chinook labored its way to the pad after its hydraulic line received a .51 caliber bullet. It toppled the movie screen, barely missed descending on the 4.2 Mortar pits and finally landed askew on the Chinook pad. On another occasion, Bravo Company, never expecting to come face to face with one of our notorious Cobra gunships, had one land outside its perimeter after it also took a .51 cal. slug. For a stretch of several days, San Juan received approximately 90 mortar and RPG rounds. Frequent air strikes have just about silenced the heretofore uninterrupted audacity of the NVA machine guns and mortars scoring many secondary explosions in the process. Service continues unhindered.

Other action in the AO during the last weeks resulted in 50 NVA killed.

On August 16, action erupted when Bravo Company was hit by a battalion-size NVA force supported by mortar and RPG attacks. The Company killed a total of 27 NVA during the heavy fighting which took place in the morning and at night on the same day. The following day, Bravo received several 82mm mortar and recoilless rifle rounds and small arms fire. (See story on pg. 1, col. 1)

(BRAVO- 27 KILLS- from page 1, col. 1)

had reached the valley below the foothills of towering San Juan Hill.

To the south of San Juan stretches this sprawling valley spliced by a ribbon of a river, pockmarked by the innumerable ramblings and patrols of the Old Guard. Not far from the river stands a solitary tree, changeless and immobile to the passage of time, a stolid witness to the countless passings of both the good and the ugly through the avenues of the valley. If the old tree were capable of emotion, it would doubtless feel nothing short of glee at the sight of the second shellacking the NVA received at the hands, or should it be said, the guns, of Bravo Company. It may even spring forth a green leaf or two in its joy and appreciation for ridding the valley of some of the brawlers of the night.

Here is where the second bit of action for Bravo Company got off to a raucous start, just before dusk. The Company was engaged in the usual preparations rehearsed a hundred times: setting up claymores, trip flares, digging subterranean vaults for foxholes. The ambush cheerlessly went out of the protective fold and was set up by 1830 hours. As the grey dusk slowly descended over the perimeter, the first part of the attack hit Bravo. About 50 mortar and 20 RPG rounds slammed into the perimeter during the course of the three hour fight. The incoming rounds were coming from several positions at the base of San Juan Hill. SP4 Frank Panico(Elmhurst, N.Y.) summed up the firefight: "I've been here about 11 months. This has been the worst one yet." The Company was unable to return fire because the ambush element was precariously between the perimeter and the enemy. At about 1900 hours, gunships started riddling the surrounding area. Snoopy came to lend a hand and continued to light up the valley like a Fourth of July celebration. The fireworks, however, were not akin to the occasion. Meanwhile, the enemy sent its sappers to walk in with the mortar and RPG barrage. Not far from SP4 Panico's hole, a lone NVA began tossing grenade after grenade. Mortar rounds were landing about 10 feet from some positions spitting shrapnel everywhere. (The next day, Panico found 13 mortar holes immediately outside his foxhole.) SP4 Panico saw the NVA and succeeded in killing him with his M-16. Another NVA stealthily crept up behind a tree. The three men in the position (Mike Beebe, St. Joe, Ind., Fred Hadley, Ellicotville, N.Y.) cut loose with their weapons. The next day he was found dead on the spot. Both Panico and Beebe were put in for Silver and Bronze Stars for maneuvering under fire. While pinned down by a .30 cal. machine gun, SP4 Panico crawled out of his hole to recover a Prc 25 and needed ammo. PFC Beebe recounted how the .30 cal. bullets raked so close that they kicked up the dirt about

(continued on page 5, column 2)

(WEEKLY WRAP-UP - cont.)

On August 18, Charlie Company engaged the enemy with 81's after receiving 16 incoming mortar rounds. Delta Company sprung an ambush at 1740 hours killing an NVA while Charlie Company captured one of the .51 caliber machine guns prevalent in the area after it downed a chopper. (See story on page 3). Three NVA killed by 4.2 Mortar were found by Bravo Company. One of the dead NVA was a startling 6 ft. tall and weighed about 200 lbs.

On August 19, Delta Company's night ambush paid off when it netted one of the enemy. The only action reported the next day: Alpha Company killed one NVA. Bravo, on the Hill, engaged and killed one in the wire while Charlie found one dead NVA/VC.

While on operations below San Juan Hill, Alpha Company, on 21 August, received hand grenades and small arms from an unknown-size enemy basecamp. The Company moved in and immediately came under fire from an NVA concealed in a spider hole. Gunships and artillery were called in.

BRAVO SETS RECORD

Aug. 16-Bravo Company set a world record recently and in the process marked the 71st anniversary of a well-known event in the annals of American History. The Company, the first group of American soldiers(NVA beat them to it) stormed the towering heights of San Juan Hill reaching the top for noon time chow.

CHARLIE CO.

CAPTURES .51 CAL.

On August 15, Charlie Company captured a .51 caliber machine gun, one of several which have been interrupting resupply choppers, Charlie Company sorties and generally, making a nuisance of themselves in the San Juan Hill area. The action, which took place three klicks southwest of the Hill, resulted in three enemy killed and two captured.

Charlie Company, led by Captain Robert J. Small, was conducting a search for the .51 cal. machine gun position which was initiated when the enemy downed one of the choppers combat assaulting Bravo Company about a klick away. The location of the .51 cal. generally known, the company began the search in columns abreast when the frontal security suddenly spotted an NVA kicking hard to reach the crest of a hill. The men fired at the NVA who slumped to the ground dead. Suspecting that the prime target awaited the Company over the rise of the hill, Captain Small sent two squads from the 3rd Platoon ahead to recon. One squad maneuvered around to the left (with PFC James Farmer at the lead) while the other took the direct approach (Ulysses Richards was the pointman) up the hill. Having gained the top, the small squad came under fire. They hit the ground and later withdrew. The ambush situation was ideal and almost assuredly, the .51 cal. awaited the Company beyond the rise. Thus, a full gamut of firepower was brought to bear on the suspected machine gun position. Airstrikes pounded the crest of the hill; artillery slammed into it and gunships fired a lethal staccato of mini-guns and rockets. After the swirl of smoke and dust settled from the sky, the squad once more moved out and began a search, a very cautious search. No resistance! It moved on past strewn debris and torn, blackened earth, past a helmet. SP4 Michael Martin (Lubbock, Texas) glanced at it and went on. Lt. Pinsenschaum, behind Martin at the time, spun around and released a burst of fire yelling, "NVA in the hole." Martin, not dazzled by the display, calmly tried to tell Lt. Pinsenschaum that it was only a helmet. The Lt. replied: "Helmets don't talk." Sure enough, it turned out that beneath the helmet was an air hole and be- (continued on next column)

neath the hole were three NVA. PFC Richards and SP4 Martin threw several grenades into the aperture. After the explosion, a wavering stick popped out of the hole accompanied by entreaties of "Chieu Hoi, Chieu Hoi." Two badly wounded NVA and one dead were found in the hidden bunker. A further search of the area uncovered the .51 cal machine gun, well-camouflaged and unscathed by either airstrikes or artillery. Reported SP4 Martin: "The machine gun was so well-hidden that it would have been nearly impossible to spot it even from the air." About 400 rounds of .51 caliber ammo, 150 AK-47 rounds and one grenade were also found. The imposing gun position commanded quite a view of San Juan and the surrounding hills and dales. Its capture by Charlie Company seemed to put a damper on the rash of incoming .51 cal. bullets into San Juan Hill. The gun is now proudly displayed near TOC on the chopper pad. It has been set up to point directly at the source of the .51 cal. fire from an adjoining hill overlooking San Juan.

Charlie Company had already been credited for the capture of a new .30 caliber machine gun a few days earlier. Along with the gun was also a collection of 17 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, three M-72 LAWs, hundreds of M-60 rounds, two bands of M-16 ammo and important documents.

AROUND
THE
BATTALION

SFC William O. Evans of Charlie Company was recently promoted to E-8 at a ceremony held on August 18 in the mess hall. The ceremony was attended by the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Robert Fernandez, X-0 George Inglewright and other officers and senior NCOs.

The 4-3 Old Guard welcomes PFC Joe A. Foster Jr. (Fayetteville, N.C.) into its ranks. PFC Joe Foster has been attached to Alpha Company as the 2nd Platoon Leader.

Congratulations are in order for PFC Rudi Brown of HHC. Mrs. Brown gave birth to a baby boy weighing in at a bantam-weight of 4 lbs. 12 1/2 oz. on 15th of August.

CHOI HANH FOR DELTA

Aug. 23- Delta Company, in open arms, received a Choi Hanh this morning just prior to leaving the LZ Liz area for San Juan Hill and future deployment elsewhere. The Choi Hanh surrendered without a weapon but divulged some information about his unit upon interrogation by an interpreter. Sgt. Wayne Balston, Platoon Leader of Delta's Mortar Platoon, reported that the NVA said that he was one of the twenty men who downed a chopper in the San Juan Hill area last week and was also one of the five sappers who unsuccessfully assaulted the Hill a few weeks ago. His reasons for surrendering were not unusual. The NVA said that he had not eaten anything for four days and that generally, morale and conditions were poor. Delta Company also found an old carbine that same day.

DELTA FINDS 105 ROUNDS

Delta Company, commanded by Captain Billy Baize, (Loiserville, Ky.) recently found a whooping h7 105 rounds while on operations southwest of LZ Liz. The rounds were openly scattered on the ground. The 105 rounds were believed to have been dropped by a Chinook sortie. Along with the rounds was a case of 32 fuzes. E D men arrived on the spot and detonated the ammunition. That same day, Delta Company found and destroyed a 250 lb. bomb. (Aug. 15)

R & R: TAIPEI

Those who decide to take their R&R in Taipei, largest city of free China, are treated to both the wonders of the ancient Chinese and the conveniences of the new modern world, for Taipei is a blend of historic Chinese customs and modern Western ways. The city is a large bustling metropolis with a population of over 1,000,000 people; but, only a few miles outside the city, life goes on much as it did in ancient China.

One of the first things you will do after arriving in Taipei is exchange your money. You will be given New Taipei dollars or "NT" at the exchange rate of \$1US equals \$40 NT. Money can be converted at the R&R Center, American Express Bank, NCO clubs, Officer Clubs and the NAVAL EXCHANGE but you can not convert money on the local economy. Save some American money though, for US dollars are used at American facilities such as the Naval PX, NCO clubs, etc.

The R&R Center has a list of close to 40 approved hotels that you can stay at during your R&R. The prices range from \$3 US to \$8 US (also add a 10% service charge which is given in lieu of tipping.) All hotels on the R&R Center recommended list have been approved, but it is strongly advised that you stay at a five or six dollar hotel. Although the price difference between a three dollar and a five dollar hotel is small, but there is a great difference in quality of the facilities.

For camera bugs there are an number of interesting sights to see during your stay in Taipei. Eight miles south of the city is a town known as Wulai. Wulai is famous for its waterfall and Chinese aboriginal dancers. A pushcart ride from the village to the waterfall, and a ride on the cable car over the waterfall is a unique experience for any visitor. Sightseers will also be interested in seeing Yangmingsham Park and Chihman Temple, both within a short drive of the city. For those who prefer more human sights, Yeh Lieu Park Beach, on the Pacific Ocean, is only about an 80 minute ride out of the city.

The Chinese have a reputation for fine cooking and everything said about their skill with a skillet is true. Experiment and you'll have some happy surprises.

Many of the best Chinese restaurants, where a knife and fork are rarities, are small and tucked away on side streets. Try shark's fin soup, duck and pork done Peiping style; or shrimp, pork, and beef prepared in a variety of different ways.

There are only a few Japanese restaurants. Western style cooking is available in some large hotels and restaurants; however, quality varies and you may not always recognize it as Western cooking.

When eating and drinking, use common sense and the same standards you use in Vietnam. The tap water is nonpotable, but jars of safe water are provided in all hotel rooms. Most food is quite tasty and nutritional, but avoid raw or semi-cooked meats and vegetables. (Continued on page 5, bottom).

PROMOTIONS

This month's promotions to E-6, E-5 and E-4 are listed below in order of the most points scored on the board.

TO E-6

Maruska, E.
Lutz, D.

TO E-5

Novak, J.
Santana, J.
Gradillas, G.
Stugo, D.
Renteria, S.

Andrade, N.
Cody, E.

Griffin, L.
Whitman, B.

Carter, G.
Blough, B.

Parker, A.
Wyrick, G.

Blitvich, J.
Gucciardo, V.

Price, P.
Malvorh, T.

Biedryska, T.
Henderson, G.

Edgmon, B.
Starr, E.

Sawyer, R.
Eckover, S.

Brickey, J.
Haines, K.

Kelley, K.
Bryson, A.

Barrett, J.
Hollyfield, J.

Corso, J.
Fenn, T.

Marinez, D.
Olmstead, D.

Chapman, F.
Johnson, R.
Miller, A.
Easley, C.
Garfield, D.
Wilder, E.
Hedberg, B.
Anderson, G.
O'Connor, T.

TO E-4

Keyano, D.
Kananui, W.
Rice, W.
Brown, B.
Fountain, C.
Faircloth, C.
Smith, E.
Godsey, C.
Benson, J.
White, W.
Hendcz, D.
Billiot, H.
Connolly, W.
Hernandez, J.
Zumwalt, D.
Bloomquist, R.
McClain, J.
Bemis, R.
Deanfraisio, D.
Tefft, J.
Morales, M.
Sargent, J.
Lempert, D.
Arnold, B.
Wyrick, G.

TAKE

THE

TAKE

PILL

R&R COLUMN: TAIPEI (cont. from page 4)

Taipei city has thirty bars approved by the government each with 20 to 40 bar girls. There you can drink rice wine (or any other drink), enjoy good music, and get special service from the charming bar girls. Your drinks cost 50 US cents and drinks for the bar girls cost \$1.50 US. To avoid being hustled, make sure you pay as you drink (go) and don't run up a bill. If you desire the company of one of these girls, her company can be bought from the bar for a 24 hour period for NT.600 or \$15 US. But make sure that you get a contract from the bar manager. This contract is for your protection. One thing to keep in mind when out in the town is that Chinese tradition and culture view a public display of affection as extremely bad taste. Consequently, American personnel should not indulge in any public display of affection with local nationals.

The Chinese have long been famous for their craftsmanship. This remarkable skill is manifested today in a wide variety of exquisite handicraft products at Taiwan souv-nir shops. Besides these hand-made artifacts, good buys can be found in tailor-made clothes, jade, ivory, lacquerware, woodcraft, coral, bone and camphor carvings. In addition, the Naval PX is open to all R&R personnel. E-4s and above can purchase up to three bottles of liquor using their RVN ration cards.

(BRAVO-27 KILLS - from page 2)
two inches from Panico's helmet. A few holes away buddled Sgt. Gary Harris (Falls Point, Ky.) and PFC Ed Fritz. During the lethal mortar fire, Fritz lickily popped up his head just in time to spot three NVA 20 feet away and moving towards them. He opened up with an M-16. An NVA fell and one slide into a foxhole. Charlie stuck his head out and Fritz hit him squarely in the head with an M-79 round. (Fritz was recommended for a Silver Star). Sgt. Harris aptly describes how close the NVA planted the barrage of mortar rounds to his hole: "I crawled out of the hole and burned my arm on hot pieces of shrapnel scattered around the hole." Other positions were equally busy shooting at anything that moved. Artillery continued to hail its destruction; gunships peppered the area spouting hot lead which looked like red ping pong balls recocheting off Charlie's positions. The men of Bravo nervously waited in the foxholes, silhouetted against the night by active Snoopy. Once, when Captain Hurley called in to TOC, he reported "I don't know if we should kill any more of them. There just isn't any room to pile them." Captain Stolfi (B-3 Air) answered: "If you don't have a body count of over 100, don't bother to talk to me..."

The following day Bravo Company swept the perimeter and found eleven NVA dead. The scale of the attack was not immediately confirmed by this number because obviously many NVA were dragged off. Some dead were tied together, some in various stages of being dragged away. Two days later, Charlie Company came across 36 fresh graves not far from the previous site of the action. Bravo Company suspected that it was hit by an NVA force of 150 men with a .30 cal. machine gun, RPG and several mortar positions as incidentals. Bravo, which had suffered very slight casualties, had definitely evened the score.

VETERANS ADMIN

FIRST IN A SERIES BENEFITS

(Editor's Note: Veterans Administration (VA) benefits are one way America says thanks to its veterans. This is the first in a series of articles describing -- only generally -- VA benefits. Additional information is available at VA offices.

WASHINGTON (AP)

What educational benefits does the VA offer former soldiers? Foremost is help in meeting school costs, but educational and vocational counseling are also available.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Under the Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966, as amended, veterans falling into the following categories are eligible for educational benefits: 1) those who served on active duty at least 180 days, any part of which occurred after Jan. 31, 1955, and were not released from service dishonorably; 2) veterans released from active duty after Jan. 31, 1955, for a service-connected disability and 3) servicemen still on active duty who have served at least two years.

HOW MUCH MONEY?

The amount of money a veteran can receive depends on whether he is a full or part-time student and whether he has any dependents. For example, a full-time student without dependents may receive \$130 a month; with two dependents he is eligible for \$175 each month. Part-time students with no dependents can obtain \$60 per month.

The VA can also help veterans cover the costs of correspondence school and farm cooperative, flight, apprenticeship and on-the-job training.

DURATION OF ASSISTANCE

Each eligible veteran may receive one and a half months of educational assistance for each month he served on active duty after 1955. This assistance will not exceed beyond 36 months.

For the veterans who has previously received VA educational benefits and desires them again, a longer period of financial assistance, a total of 48 months, is possible.

WHAT SCHOOLS CAN THE VET ATTEND?

Any public or private school at the secondary level or above may be approved for training. An approved medical residency course would qualify an eligible veteran for educational assistance as long as the course is approved by the state approving agency.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS THE VET MAY SELECT

An eligible person may select any program of instruction or training at any school which will accept and retain him as a student or trainee.

Each veteran may change programs once without jeopardizing his VA assistance. One additional change may be approved if the veteran desires a program which is more suitable to his aptitude and interests. A program that is a prerequisite for a second program is not counted as a change.

4/3 JOINS WITH 1/1 AIR CAV

Aug. 23 -- There has been a lot of clamor and excitement over the recent arrival and rumble of the 1/1 Air Cavalry to LZ Bronco - with good reason. The 1/1 Air Cavalry, when it wants to move (and it can move fast), is equipped with enough choppers to airlift the entire battalion lock, stock and barrel - which is what it did. All 20 tanks, 32 Armed Personnel Carriers and one Cobra gunship have come to LZ Bronco presenting a powerful visage and warning to any NVA forces in the area.

The 4/3 Old Guard and 1/1 Air Cav, on the 25th of August, went on a small joint operation several klicks southwest of Duc Pho village. Delta Company (which has been on operations in the LZ Liz area) left LZ Bronco via Carentan Road accompanied by many of the tracks of 1/1 Air Cavalry. No action as yet has been reported.

AWARDS

A list of the men of the 4/3 whose orders have been received for awards they have been recommended for is provided below. Only Silver and Bronze Stars with "V" device are included.

TOC - Silver Star:
Bedient, Thomas, Lt.

HHC - Bronze Star with oak leaf and "V":
Batiste, Lawrence.
Bronze Star with "V" device:
Dean, Carl; Gordon, John; Wells, James;
Carter, James; Cul-
len, Clinton; Glev-
or, Mark; Vander-
heiden, Paul.

Alpha-Bronze Star "V":
Birchfield, James.

Bravo-Bronze Star "V":
Couch, David; Can-
on, James; Townsend
William.

Charlie-Bronze Star "V":
Aleman, Able.

Delta-Bronze Star "V":
Ralston, Wayne; Br-
own, Bruce; Cantor,
Boyd.

Echo- Silver Star:
Hill, Sam Jr.

1) Roll your sleeves down
2) Take the Pill
3) Use mosquito repellent

OLD GUARD

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

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AMERICAN HERITAGE ALMANAC

Sept. 2 - Dateline 1945 - World War II officially came to an end with the signing of surrender documents on the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Sept. 7 -- Dateline 1945 -- General of the Army Douglas MacArthur entered Tokyo and raised the Stars and Stripes over the American Embassy. It was the same flag that had flown over Washington on the day of Pearl Harbor.

Sept. 11 -- (Year Unknown) -- Henry Ward Beecher wrote of our flag, "A thoughtful mind, when it sees a nation's flag, sees not the flag only, but the nation itself;...he read chiefly in the flag the government, the principles, the truths, the history which belongs to the nation that sets it forth."

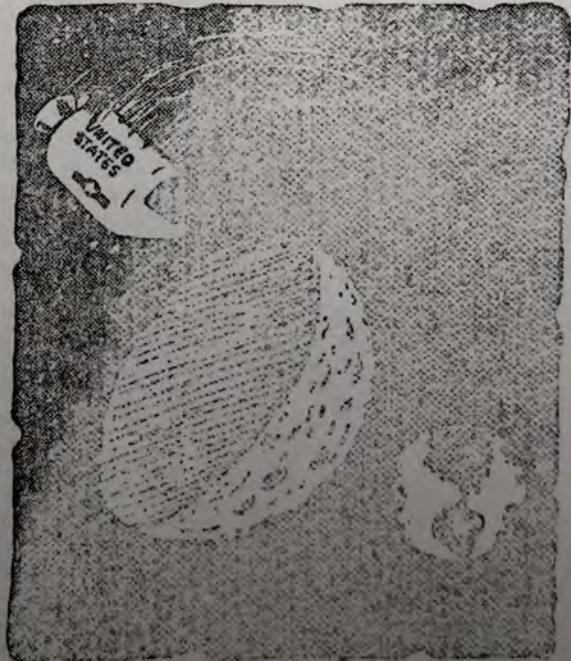
Sept. 12 -- Dateline 1789 -- Henry Knox became the first Secretary of the Army, advocating a well-supported Army.

Sept. 15 -- Dateline 1814 -- The bombardment of Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key to compose "The Star Spangled Banner."

Sept. 20 -- Dateline 1814 -- The "Star Spangled Banner," then called "The Defense of Fort McHenry," was printed for the first time in the Baltimore Patriot.

Sept. 28 -- Dateline 1924 -- Two Army airplanes completed a flight around the world.

Sept. 29 -- Dateline 1789 -- The first act authorizing pensions for disabled veterans was passed. (AMF)



"HOUSTON - YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS!!