



OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



Volume I, No. 10

October 10, 1969

DELTA CO. AMBUSHES 7 NVA | Bn. SUMMARY

On October 3, Delta Company's 1st Platoon successfully maneuvered and closed a trap on seven NVA patrolling near its patrol base six "klicks" west of San Juan Hill. The action, which unfolded at about 1030 hours, took place in 515 valley, the memory of which is deeply etched in the minds of many a grunt of the 4/3 and not for its awe-inspiring scenic splendor. Sergeant Dale Olmstead (Hoit Lakes, Minn.) squad leader in the 2nd Platoon, aptly describes the events leading up to and culminating in a hasty but successful ambush which netted five NVA and captured two.

"WE WERE LUCKY"

The 2nd Platoon, he explains, was moving down a ridge with usual caution searching for a suitable spot for a night laager position. "We had to go down the hill and it was pretty much in the open with little opportunity for concealment. We were kind of lucky it wasn't we who were spotted first." The 1st Platoon was parading down the other side of the ridge in a similar effort to secure an NDP. Before long, SP4 "LZ Baldy" Anderson (Arlee, Mont.), on the point, hurried back and reported that he came upon several bunkers. Sgt. Olmstead, SP4 Anderson and the 79 man, Roger Parker, then prudently moved forward to check the AO. They immediately came under fire and dove to the ground. Moments passed and they continued to move on. The men instantly unleashed the ordnance at their disposal.

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1 October

Charlie Company sighted four to eight NVA while in the tight-knit mountain group four klicks southwest of San Juan Hill. Artillery was called in and two NVA were reportedly killed. Delta Company, west of San Juan Hill, rudely interrupted seven NVA carrying weapons who were washing in a stream bed. Artillery was requested resulting in three NVA bathers killed. (continued on page 2, column 2).

29 September

No action was reported that day. Delta Company, located about four and a half "klicks" in a northerly direction from San Juan Hill, ran into a basecamp containing well-fortified fighting positions, huts and tunnels.

30 September

The following day, Delta Company discovered a large cache of canned food hidden in a tunnel. The haul included 14 cases of ham, 12 cases mackerel, dehydrated milk and other incidentals. Some documents were also

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al when they caught a glimpse of several NVA trying to escape to the other side of the ridge. Company Commander, Captain Edwin Wilson, was quickly notified of the number and direction of the enemy sighted. Realizing that the NVA were running headlong into the 1st Platoon, he called the 1st Platoon on the radio and told them to set up a hasty ambush. The Platoon, already in position to intercept, utilized whatever cover they had and silently waited. Sure enough, seven of the enemy stumbled directly into the hidden squad. Five of the enemy patrol were immediately killed and two were seriously wounded (both were women). In retrospect, it must be said that the men of the 1st Platoon who were involved (most of them are relatively new to the field) did a fine job.

NEW WEAPONS

The "conflict" over here in Vietnam has often been termed a Buck Rogers' type and no wonder. A good opportunity is presented to experiment and test under exacting conditions of warfare every conceivable aid to the infantryman in order to achieve the tremendous firepower necessary to counteract a national liberation type war (better known as a guerilla war). Some examples of current weapons and gadgets now under development are listed below. (page)

2 October

Alpha Company found three 82mm mortar rounds and an empty fuse box while Delta Company, at about noon, spotted eight to ten NVA in khakis and p.j.s. The Redlegs called in artillery and one confirmed KIA (killed by artillery) was reported. At about 1700 hours, Alpha Company, six clicks west of San Juan Hill, observed 15 NVA trudging along in military formation. The NVA escaped into a treeline after artillery was called in on their position.

3 October

Delta Company's 1st and 3rd Platoons, while searching along a ridgeline for a NDP, bumped into seven NVA. The Platoons outmaneuvered the enemy and succeeded in springing an ambush when the group of NVA ran headlong into the waiting 1st Platoon. Five of the enemy were killed and two were seriously wounded. No weapons were found.

4 October

Charlie Company spotted several NVA/VC, fired 81mm mortar with no results reported. At 1700 hours, a Charlie/Charlie chopper engaged ten NVA water buffalo. Result: ten NVA water buffalo KIAs.

MEMORIAL TO LTC SMITH

The 4/3 Old Guard recently held the dedication of newly completed TOC briefing room. The dedication took place on October 2 and was ostensible held to revere the memory of the late LTC Albert J. Smith who was killed on June 16 while visiting LZ Don (since torn down). Invited to the ceremony by the Battalion Commander, LTC Robert N. Fernandez, were Major General Lloyd Ramsey (Division Commander), Colonel Hugh Hoffman (Brigade Commander) and his staff. Also present were officers and senior NCO of the 4/3.

The dedication itself was brief but sufficient to convey the sorrow of the men who were associated with the late LTC Smith and of those who anticipated the assumption and fulfillment of his command of the 4/3 Old Guard. Assuming the honor of the dedication were Major General Lloyd Ramsey and Colonel Hugh Hoffman. Both Commanders cut the ribbon which stretched across the entrance to the imposing room. A plaque, which had been read at the start of the dedication, was then set on a wall of the room, record and testimony of the memorial consummated just moments before.

Soon after the conclusion of the dedication, the imposing briefing room was christened with the first of many briefing sessions to be held.



VISUAL ARTS

COME TO RELIEF ON TOC

This is the third of many articles to come which will concentrate not only on the innumerable opportunities available to those who wish to continue their education, but also will include detailed information about loans, medical benefits--the whole gamut of Veterans Administration benefits. Let's face it. Uncle Samuel has placed a wide spectrum of bennies at our disposal so it would be foolish to deny their existence out of diffidence, laziness or just plain ignorance. That is one reason why this column was started for it is applicable not only to potential lifers but to the gutsy GI who pines for the day when he can resume his marriage and buy or furnish a home; belatedly but seriously continue his education; start a business - all in a somewhat postponed pursuit of happiness, individuality, self-determination etc., guaranteed by the Bill of Rights (except if you are in the Army).

So please be tolerant if the words lifer, REUP, extend, Vietnam or Vietnamese crop up here and there (mostly there). Button the hostility and control the splenetic eruptions.

Below is a short list of occupations with a 36 MOS. If you are interested, arrange an interview with your friendly REUP Sergeant, SSG Rubin Rodriguez at S-1, 4/3.

SOME OPTIONS AVAILABLE IN ARVN

- Army Career Group 36C. Lineman
- 36D. Antenna Man
- 36E. Cable Splicer
- 36F. Manual Office Repairman
- 36G. DialCentral Office Repairman
- 36H. Field Wireman

Look for other options in next week's Old Guard.

The 4/3 Battalion operations, which are devised, designed, depicted and drafted in the new TOC briefing room, may be demonstrably easier or at least more pictorial due to the art and ingenuity of SP4 Norman Campbell (Ashland, Oregon). The visual aid, contributed to TOC and unveiled at the recent dedication of the briefing room to LTC Albert Smith on October 2, consists of a five by four foot relief map which completely depicts the entire expanse of the 4/3 Battalion area of operations (which is quite a feat in itself since the 4/3 AO is the largest of any Battalion in the Americal Division). A relief map, as you know, is a projection of topographical features. It is a sculptured design in detail of the terrain on a map; it entails the union of sculpture, painting and drawing. SP4 Campbell managed to achieve a rather good representation of the real thing. Mountains are shown in their overowering heights in relation to their neighbors. Streams and rivers etch and dissect the scarred earth; hamlets and villages thrive in the nook and crannies of the lowlands and valleys.

SP4 Norman Campbell, a member of HHC but attached to S-3, in a fit of field expedience, was able to fashion the relief map by using 4.2 Mortar packaging material. It took him three weeks to do it. The large map has a styrofoam base supported by a plywood board. The map itself is made of paper maché on a scale of 1/16,666 measuring 59 by 48 inches or five by four feet. SP4 Campbell has a fine background which bespeaks the origin of his creation. To be exact, he has a fine arts background with a degree in Applied Design from Southern Oregon College where he delved in drawing, sculpture and painting.

RPG-7

The RPG-7 is a Soviet designed, greatly improved weapon of the shoulder fired antitank type. The weapon follows the basic Panzerfaust design. However, it features an optical sight, two handgrips, and a large flared blast shield at the rear of the launching tube. The VC counterpart is the B-41.

The ammunition, the PG-7 Heat grenade, has three sections. The front section is a shaped charge war head; the center section is the rocket motor assembly; the rear section is the primary propellant cartridge with the fin assembly. The round leaves the launcher at 120 meters per second.

At approximately 11 meters from the end of the RPG-7 tube, the delay pellet within the primer igniter, ignites the charge and initiates combustion of the single gram rocket propellant motor. The rocket propellant motor boosts the velocity of the grenade to approximately 300 meters per second resulting in an effective range of 500 meters and a maximum range of 900 meters. If the grenade does not strike a target in four seconds, self-destruction occurs upon burnout of the pyrotechnic self-destruct delay element.

The RPG-7 is a recoilless rocket-assist weapon. The launcher weighs 14.5 pounds and is 37.5 inches long. The round weighs 5.5 pounds and will penetrate an estimated 14 inches of steel armor. The weapon has both an optical 3-power sight with a reticle light, and a mechanical aperture sight.

OVER THE HILL IS OUT (or, SO MUCH FOR FIGURES)

Defense Department figures show that less than five percent of U.S. military men who go AWOL, and of those who do, 95 percent return to their stations voluntarily after apparently seeing how rough it is on the outside.

MEI MONEY ORDER PURCHASING PROCEDURES

Effective 10 Oct. 69, all will be required to furnish preaddressed envelopes addressed to a payee in the United States, its territories or possessions. Persons who fail to submit preaddressed envelopes will not be provided money order service.

(cont. from pg. 2, col 1)
HOT DOG

Seeing or smelling a human causes a dog's temperature to rise measurable, Army researchers have found in their quest to find the perfect war dog. The scientists implanted tiny heat sensors and radio transmitters in the abdominal cavities of various breeds.

THE BIG URT

A high velocity 40mm grenade launcher (X4-175) is under development for the Army. The weapons system uses ammunition energy to fire, eject, and reload, eliminating any need for external operating power. The launcher weighs 35 pounds and can fire at a rate of 350 rounds per minute to ranges in excess of 1,800 meters.

(CONT. on pg. 5, col. 1)



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Opening
- Coloring
- Silhouette
- Young boy
- Time gone by
- Church official
- Man's name
- Feet indignant at
- Ached
- Place
- Shade tree
- City in Russia
- Crony (collog.)
- Country of Asia
- Dance step
- Torrid
- Adhesive substance
- Man's nickname
- Hole
- Proposition
- Symbol for tellurium
- Baseball teams
- Pale
- Possessed
- Chimney carbon
- Duty
- Planet
- Claw
- Tavern
- More yield
- Climbing device
- Swiss river
- Once more
- Gulio's high note
- Period of time
- Harvest
- Fear

DOWN

- Long, slender fish
- Mature

- Armed hands
- Shut up
- In music, high
- Cupfield City
- Country of Asia
- Share
- Seagoing vessels
- Exit
- Parent (collog.)
- Lamprey
- Poem by Homer
- Small rug
- Unlocks
- Wireless
- Vessel
- Essence
- Wants
- Possessive pronoun
- Metal fastener
- Part of flower

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12		13						14		
15		16				17	18			
21	22		23				24		25	26
27		28			29					
30		31			32			33		
34	35		36				37			
44	45		46			47		48		
49		50	51			52				
53		54			55					

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NEW LASER USE

A laser rangefinder to be mounted on a M-60A1E2 tank will pinpoint targets at the speed of light. The instrument bounces a ray of light off the target, then calculates the range by measuring the time required for light to hit and travel back.

HAND-HELD RADAR

11 solid-state radars are in store for the Army. The ingenious device is a hand-held unit (some weighing in as little as two and one-half pounds) and is able to detect men and vehicles under low visibility conditions. They also can be used for intrusion detection on perimeter defense, combat surveillance and small boat navigation.



EDITORIAL: ARE YOU READY TO COMPETE?

More than ever, in today's highly competitive job market, the unskilled and uneducated job seeker is meeting with "Sorry, we can't use you unless you have some training in the field."

One way for the serviceman to fight this situation is through the highly successful "PROJECT TRANSITION" being conducted by all services.

Servicemen scheduled to be released from active duty under honorable conditions, either through retirement or completion of their term of service, are eligible to participate in the program.

While he has a genuine advantage over his contemporary who has not completed his obligated service, a serviceman who has not acquired an identifiable civilian-related job skill or the equivalent of a high school education has the opportunity to do so by participation in PROJECT TRANSITION.

Here's how it works. Servicemen with up to six months remaining before their scheduled separation from the service, and who are not going to re-enlist, can enroll in a variety of special on job-training or education courses. These courses are designed to train them for specific jobs which certain employers want to fill, give them skills for which civilian job opportunities are good, or place them at an educational level necessary for more advantageous employment.

Participation in PROJECT TRANSITION is entirely voluntary. But for any serviceman looking ahead and not qualified to compete in the civilian job market or who wants to improve his job opportunities, PROJECT TRANSITION could be just the thing. Are you ready to compete? See MSG Isaac Goldberg (S-1, 4/3, LZ Bronco) for information.

FOOTBALL SCORES

* * * * * NFL * * * * *

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Capital Division:

	W	L	T
Dallas Cowboys	3	0	0
Washington Redskins	1	1	1
Phil. Eagles	1	2	0
New Orleans Saints	0	3	0

Century Division:

Cleveland Browns	3	0	0
St. Louis Cards.	2	1	0
New York Giants	2	1	0
Pittsburg Steelers	1	2	0

Western Division:

Los Angeles Rams	3	0	0
Baltimore Colts	1	2	0
Atlanta Falcons	1	2	0
San Francisco 49ers	0	2	1

Central Division:

Green Bay Packers	2	1	0
Minnesota Vikings	2	1	0
Detroit Lions	2	1	0
Chicago Bears	0	2	1

NFL

	W	L	T
Houston Oilers	3	1	0
New York Jets	2	2	0
Buffalo Bills	1	3	0
Miami Dolphins	0	4	0
Cincinnati Bengals	3	1	0
Oakland Raiders	3	0	1
Denver Broncos	2	2	0
Kansas City Chiefs	3	1	0
San Diego Chargers	2	2	0

LAST WEEKS SCORES

Rams	36	Jets	23
Saints	17	Patriots	14
Lions	28	Oilers	28
Browns	21	Buffalo	14
Vikings	19	Giants	27
Packers	7	Bears	24
Dallas	38	Redskins	17
Eagles	7	49ers	7
Colts	21	Cardinals	27
Falcons	4	Steelers	14

COLLEGE

Purdue	36	Georgia	41
Stanford	35	South Car.	16
Texas A&M	20	Texas	21
Army	13	Navy	6
Penn State	17	Tenn.	55
Kansas State	14	Memphis	16

BATTALION SURGEON

SAYS:

The monsoon season is practically upon us, and along with the torrential rains, sloppy mud, and generally miserable dampness, there comes a host of medical problems that will affect you, the individual soldier, personally. Below are some tips on how you can prevent or at least decrease the severity of some of these problems.

Foot Problems:

Immersion foot is caused by excessive moisture in contact with the skin of the feet, and complicated by the pressure of boots.

1. If at all possible, let your feet air dry for an hour or two each day.
2. Don't wear socks in extremely wet areas (unless sensitive to boot leather).
3. Use foot powder liberally.

Athletes foot:

Athletes foot is a fungus infection usually located between the toes.

1. Use medicated foot powder daily
2. Let your feet air dry if possible.

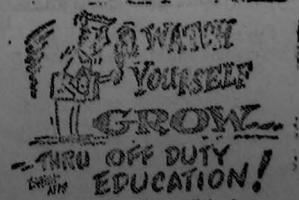
Ringworm:

Ringworm is a fungus infection that appears as red circles. If the first sign of ringworm, see your aidman for the longer you let it go, the harder it is to cure.

OLD GUARD

LTC ROBERT N. FERINHOECK CO
1LT. THOM S. J. KLEIN S1
SP4 JOHN CALDERONELLO REPORTER

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