



# OLD GUARD

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



Volume I, No. 11

October 24, 1969

## ONE MAN AMBUSH

An NVA had been sighted unconcernedly making his way down a well-worn trail bounding the site of the NDP. Consequently, Bravo Company Commander, Captain James Hurley, wisely decided to leave the 3rd Platoon behind as the remainder of the Company broke camp at 0830 hours and lumbered on through the boggy lowland valley.

The action, which was to unfold at about 1030 hours three klicks northwest of San Juan Hill, occurred on October 16 on a dull, grey morning. The 3rd Platoon left the NDP and before long had plopped down in the thick, soggy underbrush which crept to the very fringe of a wisp of a trail, route for foe and friendlies alike. The men were deployed on a line extending alongside and close to the main trail and settled uncomfortably in the muck and grime whipped up by the recent heavy rains. To the front of the ambush, as if there was some imaginary obstruction on the main trail, a smaller one detoured from it for a little way and then re-united further on down. The Platoon had decided that if any of the enemy chanced to come this morning, they would invariably choose the detour having more of a semblance of safety and innocence. The enemy would consequently walk right into the center of the ambush.

The Platoon had waited an hour without anything happening to have any one believe that this would not differ from any other of the countless occasions of ambushes in the life of the grunt. Pfc Robert Matucek (Wilmington, Del.) was the furthest one (Continued on page 2, col 1)

## Bn SUMMARY

### October 14

Bravo Company, three klicks northwest of San Juan Hill, engaged four VC/NVA. 4.2 Mortar was called in to pound their position and as a result, one of the enemy was reported killed.

Delta Company was on the Hill when two of the enemy were spotted moving about in front of the concertina wire near bunker 8. The men manning the bunker fired M79 rounds and later adjusted 81mm mortar fire. Result was undetermined. Several hours later, two NVA were observed with starlite scope to the front

of bunker 14. Again the 4th Platoon directed 81mm mortar fire but no results were reported.

### October 15

In the only action of the day, Alpha Company, located about three klicks northwest of the Hill, spotted an NVA. 81mm and small arms fire were directed on the lone NVA without any confirmed success.

### October 16

A Bravo Company ambush at 1030 hours met with considerable success. Six unwary NVA walked into the 3rd Platoon ambush whereupon one man, Pfc Robert Matucek, nailed four of the six enemy soldiers and captured an SKS-44. Nine chicom grenades and four rucksacks packed with vittles were also captured.

### October 17

Bravo Company upped the score in two days killing five NVA and bringing about the annihilation of two more. During a Company break Sp4 Apolonio Uresti spotted four NVA in the open. He fired at them and one was reported instantly killed. Artillery was (Continued on page 2, column 2)

(cont. from pg. 1)  
down the trail and thus closest to the approach from the west. Most of the time he stood leaning against a tree well-hidden from any unsuspecting enemy on the trail, picture of supreme patience and oblivious to the elements. He was quickly rewarded when he, almost unbelievably, heard the unmistakeable splash and splatter of someone coming down the trail. He tensed and sunk even further into his hiding place. Peering through the thick foliage he made out six NVA trudging down the trail. However, they did not take the detour and instead were soon to pass within feet of Matucek. All this time, Pfc Matucek began to feel himself slipping underfoot. He just couldn't get a good foothold. The NVA were getting too close and he might be spotted too soon. He leaped out into the trail with his M16 hammering away on automatic. Two NVA dropped. Two more, slightly wounded, tried to scamper off down the trail. He dropped them too. Pfc Arthur Fuller came to lend a hand laying down a base of fire with his M60. There was no return fire. The remainder of the six NVA escaped but not before grabbing one of the two weapons the six carried. One SK3-44 and nine chicom grenades were captured. Pfc Matucek returned to the rear on a three day - a well earned one.

The following day, the Company saw some light action at about 1030 hours. SP4 Apolonio (cont. on page 3, col 1)

(BATTALION SUMMARY - continued from page 1, col. 2)  
responsible for two more kills as the NVA tried to flee.

In other action of the day, Charlie Company, situated in a northeast direction from San Juan, fired on and killed an NVA. One chicom grenade was found on his person. Later in the day, one of the trip-flares on the perimeter popped. Grenades and mortars quickly answered but no trace of the enemy was found.

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#### R&R COLUMN:

#### MANILA

For untold centuries the attraction and charm of a collection of islands known as the Philippines have lured people to its gold-flecked sands and towering, cloud-capped mountains, a place of tantalizing women where a wide spectrum of races and culturos can be found. The replies one gets upon asking, "Why Manila?", vary widely. To some, the best that could be said of the Philippines is the leaving. To others, the islands have their own tropical splendor and a distinctive brand of beauty and charm. Finally, a random reply is that the scene is good but the VD rate isn't. Whatever the personal reaction, this golden, sun-kissed land has a bit of everything to suit the gourmet, shutterbug or playboy.

If it's the scenic route you desire, you won't be disappointed. Hop onto Dewey Boulevard-it skirts the Manila Bay shoreline and waterfront. Besides having most of the large hotels located on its fringe, the Boulevard is also the approach to four very special popular public parks. The most famous of these is the historic Luneta, or "crescent moon". To the Philippines, the park is best known for its monument to the patriot Jose Rizal, executed in 1896 by the Spaniards. The big United Nations, Burnham Green and the New Luneta are equally beautiful places to spend some time outdoors.

Adjacent to the parks are the ruins of the ancient Spanish walled city, the Intramuros, which was practically leveled in the fight to liberate Manila in 1945. In the Intramuros stands Ft. Santiago--ancient walls and centuries-old cannon, witness to the Spanish hold on Manila prior to the turn of the century. Also within the walls is San Augustin Church, built in 1599 and the oldest stone church in the Philippines. It was in the vestry of this venerable historic church that the commander of the Spanish forces signed the order surrendering to the Americans in 1898. A short distance from Manila is Balara, site of scenic picnic areas, playgrounds and swimming pools. Located near Balara is superb Marakina Valley -- the ideal place for the shutterbug - the sheer precipices and granite walls nearly plunging one into a state of vertigo.

For the gourmet, the famous Bulukena and the Aristocrat restaurants on Dewey Boulevard specialize in native food. (continued on page 5, column 2)

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EDITORIAL:

(ONE MAN AMBUSH - cont.)  
Uresti (Donna, Texas) sighted four NVA while the Company had just halted for a brief respite. The four were simply walking entirely in the open. Uresti called the CO who ordered that the four NVA be engaged. SP4 Uresti opened up and one of the NVA hit the ground dead. Artillery was immediately called in. After the first battery rammed into the turf somewhere in the surrounding area, the others got up and ran. More accurate fire resulted in two more NVA killed.

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DO YOU WANT TO KILL ANYONE? — With the same fervor accorded you're bound to have an awful trip!

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The following editorial was written by CPT Wallace P. Brown while he was serving in Vietnam. From April 1968 to April 1969, Brown was platoon leader with the 3rd Battalion of the 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. The editorial was printed in the Ft. Benning, Ga. newspaper THE BAYONET and reprinted in TALON, Ft. Sam Houston Medical Center.

**YOUTH ARE DYING**

Teenagers, the generation gap--has the question "What is happening to our youth?" entered your minds recently?

Books, movies and "authorities" on youth have tried to give an answer. But for what it's worth, consider this:

I say our youth are dying---not in body, but in mind.

During the latter part of my tour in 'Nam I served with a replacement company. There I saw a great many young men entering and leaving the country. For the most part, they were required only to grit their teeth and accept the fact that they were a part of the war. They were no longer looking from the outside.

The young troopers' first reaction was that the war was not as they had imagined. They realized that fellow soldiers did not randomly kill civilians, their effort was of and for the people.



Following this realization they needed little help in standing on their own feet. They were anxious the first few months, their eyes and ears always open. They accepted advice from those who had been in country longer than they. Their minds grew sharp and their muscles strong from the endless search for an elusive enemy and from the ruck-sacks strapped on their backs.

They managed somehow to outlast the heat of the day, only to shiver with the cold at night. They learned that the color of a man's skin does not affect his bravery or companionship. Who would question the color of hands carrying one to safety?

Sharing their food with Vietnamese children, they shed tears of frustration and learned the meaning of compassion. With pride in their hearts, they stood tall.

As I watched the young men's transformation, my answer to the "youth problem" became clear; our youth are dying at an alarming rate, and are reborn men.

Colonel Gordon R. Davis, recently a unit commander in the 101st Airborne Division, took time to talk to (continued on page 7, middle of column 1)

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## AWARDS & DECORATIONS

### NHC

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### BRONZE STAR- SERVICE

Stolfi, J; Veedor, K; Houghton, M; Dixon, M; Braaten, H.

### ARMY COMENDATION-A

Schlegal, W; Rodriguez, P; Schlosser, L; Hudon, B; Edgeman, B; Brown, C; Marcel, L; Gaines, R; Alender, G; Detweiller, G; Locke, V; Lewis, A; Braaten, H.

### ARMY COMENDATION-S

Anderson, J; Boudria, P; Brown, P; Centine, I, D. Fountain; Hagens, D; Leatherman, P; Luna, H; Schack, R; Tucker, W; Vera, G; Waters, R; Whito, E; Edgeman, B; Johnson, R; Locke, V.

### ALPHA COMPANY

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### BRONZE STAR-SERVICE

Woodworth, D; DeWitt, J; Acosta, V; Hannigan, J; La Voi, G; Lane, W; Okupski, J; Pelissero, R; Smyczynski, F; Rosario, L

### ARMY COMENDATION-S

Billiot, H; Grantham, R; Hanson, E; Harrington, K; Lee, C; Roundtree, R; Sargent, J.

### PURPLE HEART

Sampson, T.

### BRAVO COMPANY

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### BRONZE STAR-S

Burns, J; Olsen, L; Miller, B.

### ARMY COMENDATION

Minnick, T; Cannon, J; Chronicle, G; Davidson, H; Drury, J; Flannery, D; Gilbert, J; Hollowell, A; Hightower, W; Johnson, W; McElroy, J; Telford, J. (See also on adjacent col.)

Williams, H; Zumwalt, D;

### PURPLE HEART

Page, D.

### CHARLIE COMPANY

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### BRONZE STAR-S

Anderson, P; Botsford, E; Evans, W; Finlinson, M; Hurd, J; Jackson, K; Judd K; Keefe, R; Lamm, W; O'Keefe, D; Olinger, J; Powers, J; Smith, S; J. Newell;

### ARMY COMENDATION

Meyers, G; Evans, W; Etherier, R; Hinsche, W.

### PURPLE HEART

Colonwillo; Brown, J.

### DELTA COMPANY

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### BRONZE STAR-S

Bloomquiste, R; McCall, R; Goad, L; Kircher, J.

### ARMY COMENDATION

Carter, R; Johnson, M; Lewis, T; Simmons, M.

### ECHO COMPANY

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### BRONZE STAR-S

Aguon, F; Ferguson, W; Mueller, M; Roystor, J; Sipes, A; Smith, F; Wallace, A; Jones, D. (1st oak leaf cluster).

### ARMY COMENDATION-S

Salde, R; Whitman, B.

SUN GLASSES, SMOKING  
MAY DISABLE EYESIGHT

### WASHINGTON (AFPS) —

Cigarettes and smoking are two of the biggest offenders of disabling vision, says Army Major Nichols E. Barreca, author of an article, "Rose Colored Glasses".

The major points out that cigarette smoking irritates eyes. Tinted sunglasses and those that distort vision are optically impure and can have a damaging effect on the eyes.

Many people with defective eyes would have perfect vision if it were not for harmful habits they have practiced over the years, Major Barreca stresses in his article.

### STRICTLY GI

### AIRBORNE TAP-DANCE

Cannons in the Army helicopters in Vietnam will soon have foot switches for their microphones, enabling them to keep firing as they switch mike controls by foot to talk to one another. Up to now, they have had to do their switching by hand, thus losing valuable seconds while firing was interrupted.

### HANDY ANTIDOTE

An antidote for nerve gas can be self-inflicted by soldiers in combat with a new type of hypodermic syringe developed by Army medics. The syringe is armed with a spring and a trigger mechanism. When the GI presses the syringe against his body, the spring forces the needle through his uniform and into his muscle.



## COMMO MAN GETS \$9,414

Sergeant James Anderson (Colorado Spring, Colorado) took a deep breath, a moment's deliberation and then a quick burst of six in the Regular Army. The \$9,414 he received as veriable re-enlistment bonus for his particular MOS (31B-Commo) when he reupped may have given impetus to his irrevocable decision to join the Army.

Sergeant Anderson was officially sworn in on October 21 at LZ Bronco along with other EII from other sister Battalions. Present at the ceremony were Colonel Hugh Hoffman and Battalion Commanders of the men who reenlisted during the last month.

Sergeant Anderson, already quite prepared for radio and TV repair, plans to spend his additional time in a correspondence course for computer repair. The Sergeant, incidentally, may be the only one at LZ Bronco still with the Brigade since its inception in December 67. He was in the 4-3 Old Guard, Alpha Company when the Battalion set up its first firebase, LZ Carenton (long since abandoned - once located about three klicks south of LZ Bronco off Carenton Road.)

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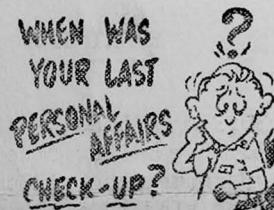


R&R MANILA - continued from page 2, col. 2) French cuisine. Max's on Dewey Boulevard specializes in fried chicken and is popular with Americans. Di-Mark's on Menlo Road, incredibly enough, has excellent Pizza and Italian food.

Night clubs are abundant in Manila. Some of the better ones are the Manila Hotel, Champagne Room, Jungle Bar, The Sky Room in the Jai-Alai Building, the Riviera and Key Club. All are air-conditioned and frequently feature American groups.

The dollar goes a long way in Manila which is one reason for the Philippines as a choice. The main shopping areas are the Escolta, Rizal Avenue and Queen Boulevard. The large departments have fixed prices. In the public markets and small shops, however, it is expected that you will bargain before purchasing. Decorative articles such as wood carvings, silver and brass, and jewelry make good souvenirs or gifts.

The climate is comfortable except in April and May. During this time of the year, the Philippine islands are being alternately basked in the good sunny weather and deluged by the rainy season's rains.



## TARNISHED MIRROR

Tarnished mirror, I look and see  
Dangling puppets dead on a string,  
Laughter in a carpet-bag  
Splitting at the seams.  
Tears running down rosy cheeks.  
Child, do you know  
I am going off to war  
Tomorrow?  
Cry, cry loud  
So the world will watch  
Those tears run down so slow.

Pfc Roland Vilandre  
559th G.S. Co.  
(Boondock Bards)

## VA BENNIES



FOOTBALL SCORES  
\*\*NFL\*\*

LOS ANGELES	34	DETROIT	13
GREEN BAY	21	CHICAGO	7
CLEVELAND	42	MINNESOTA	27
PITTSBURG	31	ST. LOUIS	10
ATLANTA	21	WASHINGTON	20
SAN FRANCISCO	7	NEW YORK	14
BALTIMORE	30	DALLAS	49
NEW ORLEANS	10	PHIL.	14

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NFL LEAGUE STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE		WESTERN CONFERENCE	
CAPITOL DIVISION:		COASTAL DIVISION:	
DALLAS	5 0 0	BALTIMORE	3 2 0
WASHINGTON	3 1 1	ATLANTA	2 3 0
PHILADELPHIA	1 4 0	SAN FRANCISCO	4 1
NEW YORK	3 2 0	LOS ANGELES	5 0 0

CENTURY DIVISION:		CENTRAL DIVISION:	
CLEVELAND	4 1 0	DETROIT	3 2 0
NEW YORK	3 2 0	MINNESOTA	4 1 0
ST. LOUIS	2 3 0	GREEN BAY	3 2 0
PITTSBURG	1 4 0	CHICAGO	0 5 0

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*AFL\*\*

SAN DIEGO	13	DENVER	30
BOSTON	10	CINCINNATI	23
OAKLAND	50	KANSAS CITY	17
BUFFALO	21	MILAMI	10

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AFL LEAGUE STANDINGS

NATIONAL DIVISION:		AMERICAN DIVISION:	
NEW YORK	3 2 0	CLEVELAND	5 0 1
NEW YORK	3 2 0	KANSAS CITY	5 1 0
BUFFALO	2 4 0	SAN DIEGO	6 2 0
CLEVELAND	0 5 1	CINCINNATI	3 3 0
BOSTON	0 6 0	MILAMI	1 3 0

1. FOR WHAT PURPOSE MAY A VETERAN GET A GI LOAN?

- To buy a home.
- To build a home.
- To repair, alter or improve a home.
- To buy a farm, livestock, equipment, supplies or for working capital.
- To construct a farmhouse or other buildings on a farm.
- To improve farm land or equipment.
- To conduct farming operations.
- To purchase stock in a cooperative association where the purchase of such stock is required by Federal law in connection with obtaining a farm loan.
- To buy a business.
- To buy a building or land for business purposes.
- To buy business supplies and inventory.
- To buy machinery, tools, and equipment for operating a business.
- To construct, repair, or improve property.
- To obtain working capital for a business.

2. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO THE VETERAN OF A GI LOAN?

The security a veteran can offer a lender is strengthened by the fact that the credit of the United States Government stands behind the loan. Because of the protection of the VA guaranty, the veteran does not have to make as large a downpayment as is usually required. The interest rate on a loan guaranteed by the Veterans Administration may not exceed 6 3/4 percent per annum. Also, the loan may be prepaid, partially or fully at any time without premium or fee.

3. HOW MUCH MONEY CAN A VETERAN BORROW?

The maximum loan amount generally is \$17,500.

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TAKE YOUR MALARIA PILL, please.

(YOUTH ARE DYING- continued from pg. 3, col. 2)  
with the division's young troopers:

"Yesterday I talked to a group of over a hundred replacements. Standing in formation I could see their youth and could not help wondering at their size, all standing nearly six feet tall. Today as I talk to you going home, it saddens me to see no youth among you. While some of you are not yet twenty, all I see is men."

The blond, freckle-faced skinny "boys" are dying, and from that mass of blood and flesh emerge men, proud and strong. Let there be no questions of our youth. Whether or not they have had the opportunity to serve their country, they will carry our banner as high, if not higher, than the "old men"-the "old men" who once themselves battled the charging enemy and gave their lives for freedom.

Let us give thanks and be proud of our youth, and criticize less. For our youth can stand as well as any man. (AFPS)

QUOTABLE QUOTES

A friend of mine was deep in thought, pondering the bedlinen bargains during the August white sale in the department store. When a clerk broke into her reverie with "May I help you?" she answered, "Yes, I have a pink queen-size bottom, and I need a top to match."

-contributed by Mrs.

U. R. Lamay, Jr. (AFPS)

DRAIN BEFORE SHOOTING

No sweat, you say, getting rid of a barrelful of water after fording a stream of rice paddy? Just point the muzzle down and let it drain, you say?

Don't bet your life on it! Not with a rifle with a bore as small as the M16's.

Here's why: Surface tension of the water and capillary traction in a small area like this makes it hard to get water out. If enough stays in there and you fire off--Bang! There goes another barrel--and maybe a chunk of you.

Water could triple the pressure in the bore when the weapon is fired.

So before you fire that weapon, make sure you drain (through the little hole in the screw of the buttstock).

OLD GUARD

Lt. Col. Robert N. Fernandez CO  
1Lt. James E. Tidgewell S1  
SP4 John Calderonello REPORTER

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PATIENCE PERSONIFIED

The 4-3 Old Guard has patiently been awaiting further word on the Valparaiso University (in Indiana) "adoption" of the Old Guard. Major McGee, Battalion X-0, has received a letter assuring us that the project is in full swing - several of the sororities at the University are enlisting community support so that all the men in the 4-3 shall receive tokens of their faith and concern in the form of letters and/or packages by Christmas.

Lieutenant Steven D. Riggs, Alpha Company Platoon Leader, received his 1st Lieutenant bar on October 19. While the Bn. Commander, LTC Robert Fernandez, and Bn. X-0, Major William McGee looked on, Captain James Schwebach placed the bar on the Lieutenant's collar.

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