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November 2, 1968

BN OPERATES 4 DAYS NEAR LZ PEPPER

On Wednesday, Oct 30, the Battalion moved from LZ Dancer to LZ Pepper, a small fire support base northwest of Quang Ngai. The four line Companies and the Recon Platoon operated in the area around LZ Pepper.

Shortly after they were in the AO, elements of the 4/3 began to find VC/NVA equipment and personnel.

Second Platoon, B Company found a large bag of rice and a VC body. The VC had been killed by small arms fire shortly before Bravo was in the area.

CPL Jim Braddock of B Company found three brand new NVA uniforms in a camouflaged position near the side of a road. In the same hole he found medical supplies, rice, a push-pull firing device (complete with blasting cap), and several bags of candy.

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SCHOOL'S OUT FOR VC

On Wednesday, Oct 30, the men of Alpha Company "dismissed" a VC class not just for the semester but permanently! The action took place on the west side of the Song Ve River shortly after Alpha Company had been combat assaulted into the area.

CPL Dennis Riley, Squad Leader for the Third Squad, First Platoon was leading his Squad when he tripped and stumbled on a small opening in the ground. He brushed the leaves and vines aside and discovered a VC tunnel entrance.

CPL Riley's Squad fanned out and searched the area. It was not long before they pin pointed another small VC tunnel entrance.

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4/3 CLEARS BOMBED OUT NVA BASE CAMP

On Sunday and Monday, October 27 and 28, Alpha, and Delta Companies, and the Recon Platoon were given the assignment of searching out an area that had been the target of big B52 bombs just a few days earlier. The two Companies and the Recon Platoon swept the area finding a large quantity of NVA KIAs, weapons, ammunition, supplies and equipment.

The bombed out area was a valley about a "click" in depth. It was estimated from the number of bunkers in the area that the area had been the site of a Regimental size NVA base camp.

The bunkers were big three or four man positions completely covered with camouflage. Third Platoon, A Company discovered a bunker that was apparently a

mess hall. The bunker contained cooking, eating, and storage facilities. Most of the bunkers were gutted by the 500 pound B52 bombs.

Early Sunday morning, PFC Edward Fontenot of the First Platoon, Alpha Company, uncovered 44 rounds of Ak-44 ammo buried under a rock. From then on enemy personnel, weapons, ammo, and equipment were found in large quantities.

During the two days the two Companies and the Recon Platoon worked in the area of the bombed out NVA base camp, the following were recovered: 17 NVA and 1 VC KIA, 18 individual weapons, 33 Chicom grenades, 10 82mm mortar and 1 60mm mortar rounds, 1 75 mm recoilless rifle round, 300 pounds of amatol explosive, about 800 rounds

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SCOUT DOGS IN VIETNAM

During the day's activity five VCs were detained. Delta Company accounted for two and Bravo Company for three. One of the VCs captured by Bravo admitted, on the spot that he was VC. Bravo, led by 1LT Gerry Rex, also recorded a VC KIL. The VC was killed while trying to evade.

On the same day, C Company, led by 1LT Ralph Burkhardt, was hit by a command detonated mine. Despite the fact that the mine went off within the Company perimeter, no one was hurt because the men were well dispersed and they had already begun to dig in.

Four men, SGT Mike Vallery, SGT Bob Schlioz, SP4 Jerry Lowe, and SP4 Louis Grubock, traced the long strand of command wire which was found near the explosion. They traced the wire back 800 meters to a small spider hole in the midst of a bamboo thicket. At the bottom of the spider hole they found an old discarded PRC-25 battery.

On the following day, Alpha and Delta Companies were hit by heavy enemy automatic weapons fire.

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PTC Raymond Abbot and PTC Dan McCormick, both members of the Third Squad, explored the two tunnels. In each tunnel, seven VC were found crouched in a small pen area. The 14 VC were pulled out of their hiding places and evacuated to LZ Pepper for interrogation.

Upon questioning by Nguyen-Van-Bao, a Vietnamese interpreter working for the Battalion S2, one of the VC announced that he was a teacher for the VC. He admitted that he had been teaching for the VC for several months and that a number of the individuals caught in with him had been students of his.

The entire group was transported to Duc Pho for further questioning to determine the exact extent of their VC activity. One thing for sure though, thanks to the actions of Alpha Company, VC school is out for good at that particular hamlet.

All of the Companies have worked with scout dogs in the field at one time or another. A scout dog team can be a valuable addition to any Infantry unit. In order to maximize a dog team's efficiency, everyone should know a little about how the dogs are utilized and how they should be treated.

Scout dogs are trained German Shepherds. They are trained in a 12 week course at FT Benning, Ga in detecting movement of people and in detecting mines and booby traps. These two uses make them very valuable to an Infantry unit. The dogs keen sense of smell and hearing pick up movement that a normal point man might possibly miss. The dogs have been trained to detect trip wires from booby traps and are remarkably keen in spotting them. Because of these assets, scout dogs are normally given the assignment of walking point.

DON'T GO TO
JAIL.....WATCH
WHAT YOU MAIL

Souvenir hunting is a dangerous pastime, particularly if military personnel attempt to mail dangerous items.

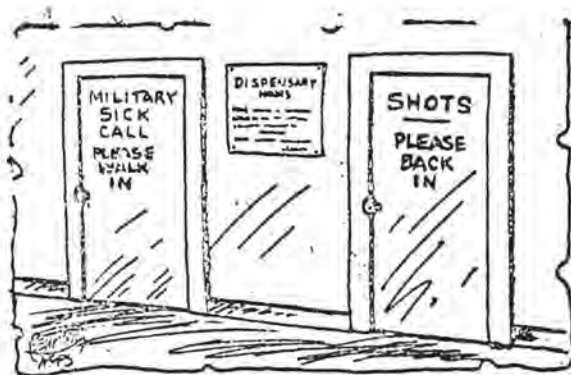
Parcels presented for mailing are subject to electronic inspection and may be opened by postal officer for examination. Such items as pistols, submachine guns, explosives and other hardware will be discovered if mailed into San Francisco post office from Vietnam.

Ideally, a dog team walks point with the wind blowing towards them. The dogs are still effective when the wind blows away from them; but, anyone up near the dog team should be extremely cautious. If a dog senses something with the wind blowing away from him - chances are, what he senses is within the immediate area.

In addition to walking point, the dogs are also used on night ambushes. Their sense of smell and hearing comes in handy at night when human vision is greatly reduced. The dogs stay quiet but you can tell when they sense something for their ears prick up and they become very restless. If someone is really close to the ambush position, the dog will sit up and start to growl.

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(NVA base camp, cont pg 1)

of small arms ammunition (AK-47, AK-44, DAR, M1 carbine, and 7.62mm MG), about 30 small arms magazines including 21 AK-47 magazines, 1 case of Chicom mortar sights, over a half ton of rice, and numerous other NVA gear including ponchos, uniforms, medical supplies, and gas masks.

Of the 18 individual weapons captured, M7 were captured by the Recon Platoon (see article "VC" and Brings Good Luck).

The other weapons were found by PFC Bradford Hall from Lusby, Maryland. He spotted the weapon tangled in the branches of a tree. PFC Hall is an RTO for First Platoon, Alpha Company. At the time he found the weapon he was temporarily acting as MAJ John McAnaw's RTO. MAJ McAnaw was exploring the bombed out base camp with Alpha Company at the time.

MAJ McAnaw, who admitted that he would have liked to have found the canon, is helping PFC Hall file the necessary papers so that PFC Hall can keep his souvenir.

WIL PACKAGES EARLY, AVOID
THE CHRISTMAS RUSH

"VC" OWL BRINGS GOOD LUCK

Recon Platoon's Platoon Sergeant, SGT Nick Surratt from Merced, Illinois found a "VC" owl Monday morning, Oct 28. He kept the "VC captive" as a good luck charm. Apparently SGT Surratt's good luck charm worked for shortly thereafter, Recon Platoon captured the biggest find of the two day search of the bombed out NVA base camp- 17 enemy weapons. They also found a number of Chicom grenades and C2mm mortar rounds.

SP4 Michael Tooke from Houston, Texas and PFC Vincent Magrone from Rose-dale, NY were searching an area of the bombed out base camp when they sighted a hooch up on a slight hill. SP4 Tooke "reconned by fire" with his M16 rifle and PFC Magrone checked the hooch for booby traps. When the two men entered the hooch they spied a number of individual weapons propped up against the wall.

The two men contacted SGT Surratt and the Platoon Leader, 1LT George Kenny. The two men sprinted the 100 meters up the slight hill to the hooch.

A careful search of the hooch turned up 17 weapons; eight SKS rifles, six M1 carbines, two French sub machine guns and one AK-47 rifle.

Just a few minutes before the two members of the

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NEW CAPTAINS JOIN 4/3

The past week five new Captains have taken over positions within the Old Guard. Three of them are now Company Commanders. The other two have taken over the functions of S3-Air, and Communications Officer, respectively.

CPT Benjamin F Maxham has assumed command of A Company. CPT Maxham, from Burbank, California is over here for the second time. The first tour he served with the 4th Infantry Division.

Bravo Company is now under the command of CPT Jack H Pryor from Fresno, California. CPT Pryor served previously in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division.

CPT John R Blanks is the new CO of Delta Company. CPT Blanks calls Macon, Georgia home. He saw action before in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division.

The new Battalion S3-Air is CPT Patrick Simpson from Cottage Grove, Oregon. CPT Simpson spent his last tour in Vietnam with the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

CPT Jerry Jones is the new Battalion Communications Officer. CPT Jones from Whitewright, Texas is serving his first tour in Vietnam with the Old Guard.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome these men to the Battalion.

First Squad uncovered the enemy weapons, two members of the Second Squad, PFC Sam Wable and PFC Ron Lur-ther made a discovery of their own.

The two men were searching a hooch when they came upon two earthen jars filled with rice. They dumped the rice out and found a full magazine of AK-47 am-mo and several full clips of BAR and M1 carbine am-mo. They searched the rest of the hooch thoroughly and turned up eight 82mm mortar rounds and seven Chi-com grenades buried beneath the hooch.

Most of the men in the Platoon were skeptical of SGT Surratt's good luck charm when he first captured it. After finding the weapons, mortars, and grenades; however, there were few members of the Platoon who questioned the "special lucky powers" of SGT Sur-ratt's "WVC captivo".

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Quick reactions by the two Companies soon squelched the enemy fire. LT Pallischuck, the FO for A Company, called in artillery on the enemy.

One of the 81mm mortar positions of A Company, manned by SP4 Dwayne Bur-ford, SP4 Ron Lovelady, SP4 Tom Olson, and PFC Dave McArter, dropped five HE rounds on a enemy automatic weapons posi-tion. No more enemy fire originated from that area.

After the battle, SP4 Burford noticed that an enemy round had shot the lining off his M16. He al-so counted 35 bullet holes in his poncho liner which was in his ruck sack.

SP4 Burford who is go-ing home at the end of this month, said, "I am definitely getting too short for this."

Old Guard

EC Albert L. Russell,	CO
CPT John A. Gonzalez,	S1
PFC Herbert Horton,	Reporter

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Normally a dog can stay out for only three days due to the heat. They usu-ally tire on the third day and once they become tired they lose all interest in working. It is easy to tell when they are tired because they get a wobbly and run a fever. One can tell when they are running a fever by feeling between their front legs by their chest.

When the rice paddies are full with water, the dogs can not work because it is too hard for them to

walk. The dogs can work effectively in light rain. They can still detect enemy personnel but their abili-ty to detect mines and booby traps is greatly impaired.

In most instances the dog handler was trained with the dog so he is quite familiar with the dog and vice-versa. The handler is responsible for the dog's wel-fare. He has to carry food and water for the dog as well as himself. One handler of the 59th Scout Dog Platoon located in Duc Pho, said a normal load is six quarts of water- two for him and four for the dog. He also has to carry a can of dog food per day and sev-eral packages of "burgers" for the dog per day.

4 STARS ON LZ DANCER

On Tuesday, Oct 29, General Ralph E. Haines, Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Army, Pacific visited the 4/3 on LZ Dancer.

General Haines arrived at the little fire sup-port base, 10 miles north-west of LZ Bronco, by heli-copter. He was met and briefed by LTC Russell. He then conducted a quick tour of the Battalion fire support base.

At Ft Benning the dogs are specially trained not to keep their noses near the ground. They are train-ed to keep their heads up, therefore, they should not be used to track blood trails. Commanders should remember that they are scout dogs-- not blood hounds.

The dogs are trained not to be afraid of gun-fire. However, they become excited when GIs make loud noises and sharp movements near them. When you go near a dog make sure you come at him from the front, otherwise you will startle him.

Remember that the hand-ler has been with the dog a long time and, therefore the dog is use to him. You are a stranger to the dog. He won't act the same with you as he does with his handler. Don't harass the dog in any manner because as long as he is walking point you don't have to.