



4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

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COMMANDERS CHANGE

During the past week, several changes in command positions has taken place within the battalion. Cpt Ambrus Carnes, formerly CO of Headquarters Company, has taken command of Alpha Company. Cpt Kenneth Veeder, who recently returned from an emergency leave, will assume command of Bravo Company. 1Lt Roger Fulton, acting CO of Charlie Company during Cpt Veeder's absence, has now taken complete command of the company. 1Lt Anthony Cogswell is Headquarters Company Commander after being service platoon leader for several months.

1Lt Robert Phelps, who has commanded Bravo Company for the past two months, now leads the 4.2" mortar platoon. 1Lt Edgar Drake of 4.2" is now a platoon leader in Charlie Company. 1Lt Levon Asadoorian went from Charlie Company to service platoon leader in Headquarters Company.

BATTALION BEGINS MOVE TO SAN JUAN HILL

On Saturday, April 12, the battalion began a move to the new AO twenty "klicks" west of Duc Pho. Bravo and Delta Companies, the 4.2" mortar platoon, and a segment of the Battalion Headquarters landed on San Juan Hill to start building the new firebase. The following day, a platoon of engineers moved onto the hill with demolition teams, construction personnel, and a bulldozer. A 105mm Howitzer battery from 6-11 Artillery was also lifted onto the hill.

PAY HIKE

All members of the battalion can expect an automatic military pay increase provided by the Pay Act of 1967. The increase is scheduled to go into effect July 1, 1969. Action on another plan, the Pay Modernization Bill, has been postponed until after the July 1st increase, due to length of time involved in converting the pay system.

Application of the current pay law will result in an increase of approximately 12.5 per cent of current base pay. Details as to how the increase will be applied to the present scale are being worked out now.

The remainder of the battalion will continue to hold LZ Buff until another unit assumes command of that AO. During this transition period, the battalion resupply is in the process of moving from Chu Lai to Duc Pho.

Contact in the AO surrounding LZ Buff has lessened considerably in the past few weeks. Sweeps by the battalion's line companies during this time revealed the enemy in a retreating stage with little or no close-in fighting.

On Monday, April 7, Delta Company's second platoon, led by SFC Victor Negron, was closing
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on their NDP approximately ten "klicks" west of LZ Buff, when they spotted twenty enemy soldiers. Some of the VC were dressed in black pajamas; others wore green uniforms. SFC Negron called in a plot to Lt Frank Manning, Delta's F.O. Lt Manning called in "firecracker" artillery rounds from LZ Tra Bong, a nearby Special Forces Camp, which resulted in six VC KIA.

Thirty minutes later, the rest of Delta Company closed on their NDP. At this time, elements of the company saw more than fifty NVA moving in military formation with full packs, uniforms, steel pots, and rifles. Eight inch guns from LZ Tra Bong, and 105mm guns from LZ Buff fired on the enemy plot. A total of nine NVA KIAs were credited to the artillery batteries.

Following this, gunships sprayed the area, and later, an air strike hit the area. Although no body count was made afterwards, the strikes were apparently effective since no enemy movement was reported from then on. Due to the approaching darkness, a complete search of the area wasn't possible. The next day, however, blood trails, torn up equipment, and drag marks, presumably from bodies being dragged off, were found.

ONE ENEMY SOLDIER

Occasionally, the individuals involved in a conflict such as this, yield to an attempt at understanding what motivates the enemy soldier. Towards an understanding from the US viewpoint, one can well ask such questions as: Why does the Vietnamese enemy fight? Does he experience anything similar to American ideals? Is he truly convinced that the communist way of life is better or is he the tool of a coercive force whose purposes he doesn't understand?

In the following reprinted passages, one type of enemy soldier is exposed. How prevalent his type is can not be definitely stated.

"They came to my house and told my mother that I had been chosen to be one of them. They wanted me to become a "chion si" (soldier). My mother pleaded that I was too young. The North Vietnamese soldier said, 'he is old enough. The draft age is 15 to 40'."

This is how 15 year old Nguyen Van Qui became one of the enemy you face. His story is typical. He was then taken to a training camp near Cam Ninh, in the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. There, he and other recruits were taught to aim and fire a weapon. The complete training cycle for duty as a regular chion si in the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) lasted six days.

After his training, Qui and 1,000 others were sent on a four week journey down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. They moved in small groups to escape B52 raids. About 700 of them were armed.

"Many died on the trail. Some died of malaria and others died of not enough food. It was very hard. Everybody was sick, but they kept pushing us.

"We received 40 piasters (34¢) a month. We were supposed to get an additional 28 piasters a day, but we seldom did. We ate dried fish and rice. We would pool all our money and then one of us would go to a nearby village to buy food."

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Arriving in the Mekong Delta, Qui and his cohorts joined the 261st Viet Cong battalion, operating along the My Tho River. Each man was issued a rice bag, two sets of fatigues, a rifle, mosquito netting, two pairs of shorts and one scarf.

In his first battle, Qui's position was hit by heavy artillery fire. Qui threw down his weapon and ran. He ran until he was brought down by small arms fire. He never fired his weapon.

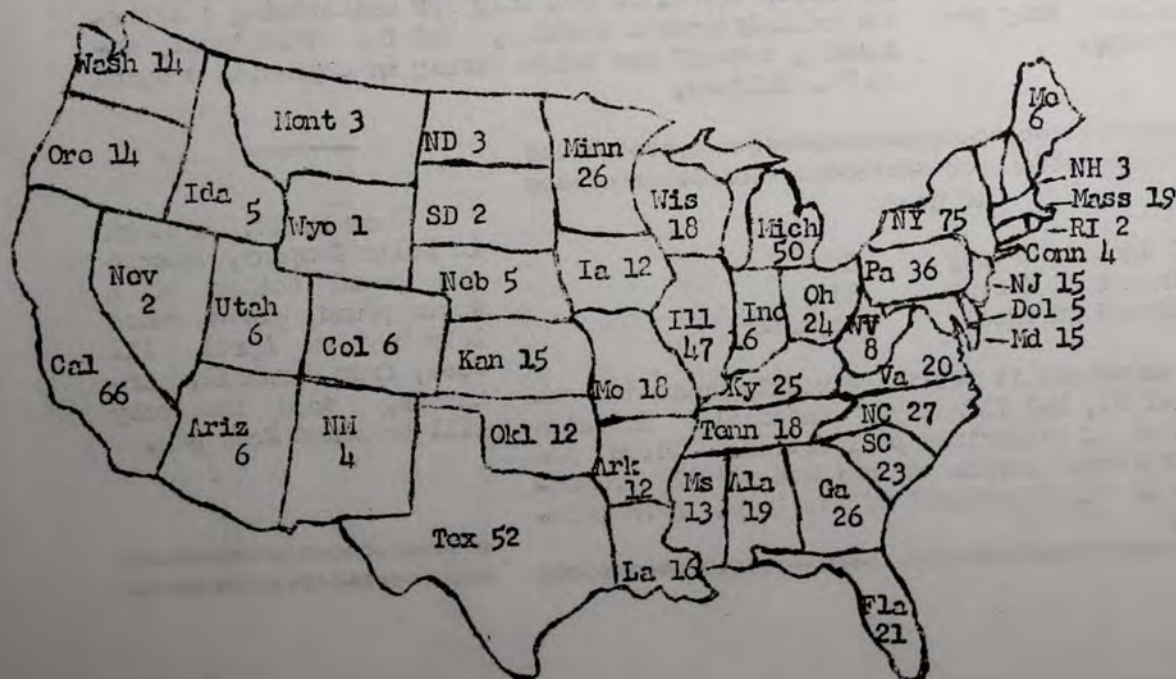
Although many of the enemy are, like Qui, throwing down their arms, not all of them are so easily discouraged. The enemy you face is typically tough, ingenious, and elusive - a formidable foe. He, like all soldiers, has his strong points and his weaknesses. Like you he gets hungry. His feet sometimes hurt. He feels lonely. He likes to get mail from home.



LZ

HOME

Below is a map of the United States with a breakdown of the number of men in the battalion in each state. Only the states of Alaska and Vermont are not represented. Besides the states, the following territories and foreign countries are also represented: Puerto Rico - 15, Mexico - 2, Thailand - 1, England - 1, Guam - 1, Canada - 1.



CONEX USE

Conexes are abundant both on firebases and in the rear. These useful metal containers originated through a Korean War experiment, in which the container could be air-dropped to field troops with a minimum amount of damage to the contents. The conex weighs 1500 pounds and costs an estimated \$800.

Besides the many uses that an infantry battalion finds for a conex, the boxes can be converted into air-conditioned booths for sensitive electronic equipment. Also, the IEs have reportedly used them as temporary stockades for prisoners.

Servicemen are insured automatically for \$10,000 unless they refuse in writing.

AROUND THE BATTALION

Cpt Jack Pryor recently returned to the battalion after nearly two months absence. Formerly the CO of Bravo Company, Cpt Pryor left the field for an RIF in Hawaii on February 18. While flying in from the field, several enemy rounds were fired into the CAC chopper. One round went through Cpt Pryor's helmet with no injury resulting. Another round entered his ammo pouch, and lodged part of a shell casing in his arm. Since the shell fragment was easily removed, Cpt Pryor decided to continue with his plans for RIF.

When he arrived in Cam Rahn Bay, however, an infection began to set in. Once in Hawaii, the infection required hospitalization which lasted five weeks. Cpt Pryor underwent a total of three operations, the first of which resulted in the extraction of two additional shell fragments from his arm. After a short recuperation period, Cpt Pryor left Hawaii and returned to the battalion to await a new assignment.

Delta Company's First Sergeant George Smith, recently received an Army Commendation Medal for Service which was approved on July 26, 1968. The award was given for the period May 16, 1966, to July 13, 1968, when 1st Sgt Smith was 1st Sgt of the 4th Mar- rant Officer Candidate Company at the US Army Primary Helicopter Center/School, Fort Wolters, Texas. 1st Sgt Smith was cited not only for maintaining a superior administrative section, but for voluntarily assisting several new units during an expansion program at Ft. Wolters.

Old Guard

LTC Jack C. Davis;	CO
1Lt Thomas J. Klein;	SI
Spl4 Edward Burchell,	Reporter

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Jess Wyatt, a clerk in Delta Company, became the proud father of a seven pound, eleven ounce baby boy on April 11. Jess, from Marshall, Arkansas, said the baby will be named John Jay.
