



4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

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BUFF AO CLOSED OUT

Prior to the final move to San Juan Hill on April 20, action in the Buff AO netted several enemy KIAS. Alpha Company's second platoon made a close-in sweep around LZ Buff on the morning of April 15. Shortly after the platoon left the hill, they observed two VC running away. Small arms fire by the platoon killed one of the VC.

Charlie Company's first platoon set up a day ambush on April 16, two "klicks" southwest of LZ Buff. The ambush was successful in killing two VC. A few hours later, Charlie's third platoon fired on four NVA soldiers, all wearing blue uniforms. The platoon killed one of the NVA and observed the remaining three NVA dragging the dead body away. A search of the area revealed a pistol bolt, one chi com grenade, thirty AK-47 rounds, two M-26 grenades, medical supplies, propaganda leaflets and a hammock.

The following day, Charlie Company's third platoon killed another VC. Nearby the platoon found 230 rounds of .30 cal. ammo, 310 rounds of M-16 ammo, four M-16 magazines, a chi com grenade, an ammo harness, and a .30 cal. ammo pouch, all hidden underneath rocks near a pagoda. Also on this day, Charlie Company investigated a bunker, where they had seen two VC enter late on the afternoon of the previous

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BATTALION COMPLETES MOVE TO SAN JUAN

The battalion move to LZ San Juan Hill was completed on Sunday, April 20. On that day, the Technical Operations Center (TOC) with conexes and equipment, was lifted from LZ Buff to San Juan. Once there, the TOC personnel industriously undertook the task of digging holes and building bunkers, further fortifying the hill which already has a well entrenched bunker line.

Alpha and Charlie Companies, and the recon platoon, also left the Buff AO on April 20, and came to Duc Pho for the night. The following day, the two companies made combat air assaults from Duc Pho to the San Juan AO, to begin search and sweep operations in conjunction with Delta Company. The new AO is known to be an enemy supply route; the Song Ve River being the chief route for transporting munitions and personnel into the rice paddies west of Duc Pho.

On April 17, five days after the advanced party of Bravo and Delta Companies moved to San Juan, the hill received approximately twenty incoming mortar rounds with one minor casualty as a

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direct result of the attack. Counter mortar fire was placed on the suspected enemy grid shortly afterwards.

Delta Company on April 20, while investigating the suspected enemy mortar positions, found two mortar pits with blood trails leading westward. In the same location, Sp4 Dana Dahl, of Delta Company's mortar platoon, found an M-47 rifle in a clump of bushes. The weapon was in good condition. As the patrol progressed, the company turned up a number of camouflaged hootches and bunkers. Delta's first platoon, led by 1Lt John Zimmerman, followed a blood trail which led towards two abandoned hootches. The company concluded the day's operation in finding a deserted base camp which was no more than a few months old. Within the base camp, twenty-five bunkers and a tunnel complex were uncovered.



CARE OF EXPLOSIVES

The following USARV Message of 9 April, 1969, was distributed as a directive to commanders at all levels. The message is reprinted below for the information and cooperation of all enlisted non concerned.

1. On 5 April 1969 a serious fire occurred within a troop cantonment area which resulted in 4 deaths, 2 seriously burned and many injuries of varying degree; the total destruction of four 2 story troop barracks, 1 quonset hut and electrical distribution system.
 2. The cause of the fire is still undetermined, however, the complete destruction of the facilities and equipment and the deaths and injuries is directly attributable to large quantities of mixed ammunition, grenades, flares and gasoline which was stored within the buildings and in COMEX containers along side each building.
 3. Had the ammunition, explosive devices and flammable liquids been stored properly, away from troop billet areas, injury and damage in all probability would have been minimal.
 4. Commanders at all echelons will immediately initiate physical surveys to insure that all ammunition, grenades, flares, explosives, flammable liquids, etc. are properly stored, protected and do not constitute a hazard to life or property.
 5. Periodic follow-up will be made to insure continual safe storage practices are being followed.
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day. At that time, members of the company tried to flush the two VC out of the bunker with smoke. When this failed, they throw a hand grenade into the bunker. The investigation of the bunker produced two VC KIAs, as well as some documents.

On April 19, Charlie Company killed three VC by small arms fire. The VC were searched, however no identification or documents could be found.

REENLISTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Most of the enlisted men in the battalion have a two or three year commitment with the Army. This short term satisfies an obligation imposed on all able individuals of military age. But what happens after an individual is separated from the Army? There appears to be three general categories for separated personnel: those who resume an occupation which they held previously, those who return to school, and those who are destined to drift from one unskilled job to another.

This article is of concern chiefly to the third category. For these people, a reenlistment in the Army can provide the training needed to maintain a good job. The vastness of the Army schooling system should not be overlooked in the desire to require a skill. Once a skill has been acquired and your initial reenlistment time has expired, the choice is yours whether to continue with the Army or select a civilian career.

Depending upon the results of aptitude tests and provided you meet certain other qualifications, you can reenlist for attendance at a Service School course of your choice which will train you in the MOS in which you desire to specialize. There are over a hundred Service School courses in sixty occupational areas from which you may choose.

If you are already trained in an MOS which satisfies you, consider the Variable Reenlistment Bonus Program. This program provides an additional

WHAT IS A JAMMER?

Roller derby skating is, "a competitive body contact sport," according to PFC Robert Dancoll of Bravo Company. Prior to induction into the Army, PFC Dancoll from San Francisco, was a professional roller derby skater. He became interested in the sport through previous roller skating experience and television productions of the sport.

After attending a training center in 1963, PFC Dancoll started skating professionally in 1965. Under a contract with the Original Derby League, he played for the Honolulu Hawaiians, the San Francisco Bombers, the Midwest Pioneers, and the New York Chiefs. While playing for the Midwest Pioneers, PFC Dancoll won a six lap speed race.

A professional roller derby club has a seven man team and a seven woman team. Opposing clubs have separate competitions for the men and women teams. The five players who are actually in the rink at any one time are called a pack, which consists of two jammers, two blockers, and a pivot man, who can serve as either a blocker or a jammer. PFC Dancoll, wiry and 5'6" tall, became a jammer, possessing the qualities of speed and maneuverability which are needed to bypass the opposing blockers and score points in the allotted time of 70 seconds.

PFC Dancoll attended City College in San Francisco for two years as a pre-medical student, and later as an accounting major, before leaving school to travel with his team.

monetary incentive for first term personnel with critical skills who desire to reenlist in the Regular Army. The Variable Reenlistment Bonus offers many opportunities. It provides an additional bonus up to \$8,000, depending on the criticalness of the individual's MOS, pay grade, and term of reenlistment. The ready cash from the bonus may solve a financial problem, such as marriage plans, the down payment on a house, etc.

Despite anyone's present situation in the Army, it would be wise to consider what the Army has to offer when contemplating a career.

VUNG TAU



Vung Tau, a Vietnamese resort 40 miles southeast of Saigon, is located on a peninsula which extends into the South China Sea. On weekends Vietnamese, French merchants, Chinese bankers, embassy secretaries, and youths converge on Vung Tau for relief from the heat and humidity of Saigon.

Vung Tau first attained renown as a resort fifty years ago when the French developed the beach and called it Cape St. Jacques. Villas built by the French are wedged into hillside cliffs and are approached by winding, picturesque roads.

The downtown area of Vung Tau is lined with almond trees and adorned with pink benches. Open-air bars feature both Oriental and popular American music. The Bunny Club, Detroit, Lily's Airborne All the Way, and James Bond 007, are a few of the many colorful bars and clubs.

At the beach, swimming, surfing, boating, and fishing are offered. A section of the beach is reserved for US and other Free World Forces personnel.

The R&R Center for in-country R&R is a modern decor facility, capable of accommodating 260 enlisted personnel. The center has free bus service to the beach two miles away. It also features a library, recreation equipment, movies, and other entertainment.

Food is carefully prepared at the R&R Center. The menu has three selections for each meal. The Grand Hotel, Cynos, and Rendezvous are three local approved restaurants with good food. The Grand is well known for its seafood.

Old Guard

LTC Jack C. Davis,	CO
1Lt Thomas J. Klein,	S1
Spl Edward Burchell,	Reporter

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