

Striking



Bushman's Review

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COMMENTS FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDER

While I'm writing this issue of the "Bushman's Review", the battalion is engaged in one of the most challenging and enterprising operations of the entire Vietnam War. We are operating in the southern portion of Quang Tri province, over thirty miles south of our home port at Vandegrift Combat Base.

To the "newbee", thirty miles doesn't seem like much, but to you, the bushman, thirty miles is a long way when the weather has you socked in and the chow is running low. Thirty miles seems like thirty thousand when your only means of resupply or evacuation, the old reliable "46", is grounded at Quang Tri.

You, the magnificent bastards of a new generation, have experienced this "sorry, socked in again today" felling, and, like the troopers of an older generation, have cinched up your belt and said, "So what."

It was a long hungry spell from the 30th of January until the 8th of February, and colder than sin, at that. To make matters worse, Charlie was there- good old Victor Charlie, in his shorts and tennis shoes, harrassing the hell out of you. Well Marine, in spite of these odds, you the "new breed" came through again, "shining like a rose," just like the legions of your ancestors did in those "other" wars. Charlie knew we were there, invading his heretofore sacred domain. You're damn right he knew we were there, and while this is being written we are still there. I have something else to tell you, so listen hard-we are going to stay there just as long as it takes to kick the bejabbers out of the VC, or NVA, or any other damned initials they decide to throw our way! Charlie knows that he's fighting Marines, the 9th Marines to be exact, and to be even more specific, 3/9, the world's finest!

This was evidence by the message from Hanoi Hannah around the 9th of February sending greetings to the 9th Marines on Co Ka Va (FSB Cunningham).

We will fight him in the jungles in the mountains, or in the rice paddies of Leatherneck Square. This Battalion has fought in all of this terrain and fought like "the tin cans of hell" were tied to your tail! So I say "bring on your Charlies, damn it, 3/9 hasn't even started to war up yet!!!



BRONZE STAR WINNER

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL to HOSPITALMAN DOUGLAS CLINT COLE UNITED STATES NAVY for service as set forth in the following paragraph.

"For heroic achievement in connection with operation against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam while serving as Corpsman with Lima Company, Third Battalion, Ninth Marines, Third Marine Division. On the morning of 15 September 1968, Company L was conducting a search and destroy operation in the Quang Tri Province when the explosion of a command detonated mine initiated a North Vietnamese Army ambush which pinned down the lead Marines with a heavy volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire and caused numerous casualties. Immediately moving forward and initiating treatment on an injured comrade, Hospitalman Cole volunteered to aid in the rescue of the two men. Disregarding his own safety, he fearlessly exposed himself to the hostile fire and, crawling twenty-five meters across the fire-swept terrain, reached the Marines, one of whom was wounded. Oblivious to the hostile rounds impacting near him, he courageously administered plasma and first aid to his injured comrade, and as he was finishing his treatment, Hospitalman Cole was wounded by fragments of an exploding enemy grenade. Ordered to withdraw and seek medical assistance, he crawled a short distance to the hazardous area to assist any other casualties until he was again ordered to return to the company aid station. His bold initiative and unwavering determination inspired all who observed him and were instrumental in saving numerous Marine lives. Hospitalman Cole's courage, aggressive fighting spirit and steadfast devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

RECOMMENDED FOR SILVER STAR

Cpl. Michael J. Joyce 2445426 is a squad leader with 2nd plt, 3d Battalion 9th Marines, Lima company.

Cpl. Joyce showed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in act while operating against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. On 17, February 1969, during the early pre-dawn hours during operation Dewey Canyon. Lima company was providing security for a large fire support base adjacent to the laotian border and the Ashau valley. When it came under fire and an all out assault by an NVA force of unknown size. During the exchange of fire Cpl. Joyce constantly moved from position to position distributing ammo and directing fire of his squad. Upon observing that bunker, in which his M-79 men were located had been overrun, with disregard to his own safety Cpl. Joyce immediately began to maneuver toward the beleaguered position. At this time 7 of the enemy who had surrounded the bunker began firing on Cpl. Joyce in an attempt to keep him from linking up with the two Marines trapped inside the bunker. He immediately dropped to the ground and took the enemy under fire killing all seven of them. He had saved the lives of his fellow Marines. Cpl. Joyce's determination and Heroic act under heavy enemy fire inspired his fellow Marines and contributed significantly in repulsing the enemy attack. By his uncommon leadership, courageous act and selfless devotion to duty, Cpl. Joyce upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the Naval Service.



"Gunner, I'm gonna give ya a chance t' write an' tell yer Folks you're the KEY man in our platoon."

India Co; Marine of the Month.

While on a search and clear operation a few miles north of Dong Ha, India company was subjected to sporadic sniper fire. The 1st. plt. was assigned to envelope and assault the sniper. As the 1st. plt. neared the vicinity of the snipers, they suddenly, were brought under an intense volume of small arms, automatic weapons and mortar attack, and the 1st. platoon started sustaining casualties. Sgt. Powell, reacting immediately, took charge of a fire team, constantly exposing himself Sgt. Powell maneuvered and advanced his team far forward of his own lines within 35 meters of an enemy mortar site, Sgt. Powell and L/Cpl Brown assaulted the mortar position throwing hand grenades and opening up with small arms and automatic weapons fire as they rushed forward. Sgt. Powell and his team wiped out the enemy 82mm mortar site, killing 2 NVA and routing 4 others. Sgt. Powell and his team continued to pursue the 4 NVA, when they were hit by heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire, mortally wounding one Marine. Sgt. Powell and the remainder of his team continued the assault, and then PFC Olson was seriously wounded. Sgt. Powell without regard for his own life, having only one magazine remaining, ran through a hail of enemy fire to an exposed position in order to give more accurate covering fire for a corpsman. Upon reaching the exposed sight, Sgt. Powell was wounded by a gunshot wound to the chest, but still conscious, he continued to deliver accurate fire, silencing one NVA automatic weapon position, before being fatally wounded.

Continued next Column.

Continued From Column One.

Sgt. Powell gave his life valorously and in the highest traditions of the Marine Corps. By his courageous actions, the lives of many Marines were saved. He was the determining factor in the death of 4 NVA. Sgt. Powell's family was awarded the Navy Cross.

Lima Marine of the Month

Corporal David W. Mauldin joined Lima's Lizards on 26 March 1968. He arrived at Company "L" a PFC and has since been promoted twice and is now a Corporal squad leader. During Operation Dewey Canyon, Corporal Mauldin's squad was part of a larger force which moved to the valley floor to get some much-needed water. This water detail was fired on by the enemy. As usual, Corporal Mauldin was everywhere, shouting encouragement to his men and supervising the return fire. He then had his squad bring the wounded to the landing zone and set up a 360' defensive position around it until the wounded were safely evacuated. For this, and other similar actions, Corporal Mauldin has been chosen as Lima's Marine of the Month.

M&S Companies Marine of the Month

L/Cpl. Juan Ortiz, gunner in the 81mm mortar platoon, has shown outstanding leadership ability and courage. Therefore he has been chosen as M&S companies Marine of the Month.

During the recent operation Dewey Canyon, Ortiz was called to his gun many times when our position was being assaulted or harassed. On the night of February 26th, during enemy 60mm mortar incoming on our night defensive position, L/Cpl. Ortiz manned his gun and fired with accuracy at the enemy tube knocking it out with the first round. He then continued to play havoc with the enemy positions all the while keeping his gun crew calm and efficient.

Ortiz has shown time and time again that he can be depended on in a clutch situation. Congratulations to L/Cpl Ortiz on a job well done.

Kilo Company.

Meritorious Promotion to Cpl.

L/Cpl. Gabel is the 2nd squad leader in the 2nd platoon of Kilo Company. He has been a squad leader since 20, November 1968. During which time L/Cpl. Gabel has outstanding demonstrated his ability as a leader to his superiors. During operation Dewey Canyon, his coolness in handling his squad while under constant enemy fire, instilled his men with the confidence and moral support they needed throughout the long hard fought days. L/Cpl. Gabel, is "invaluable" in the field because of his loyalty and his ability to complete all missions assigned. In the garrison, he is constantly giving his squad classes on military subjects and field problems. L/Cpl. Gabel has proven himself as a Marine worthy of a squad leader, and worthy of being an NCO in the United States Marine Corps.

PFC. Peter A. Paul is the 1st. squad leader in the 2nd platoon of Kilo Company. He has held this position since the 15th of November 1968. During this time he has gained the confidence of his superiors and the admiration of his men for the fine outstanding job he has done. PFC Paul has led his men on over 20 combat patrols, and his ability to execute and accomplish his assigned missions has proven him an able leader. In operation Dewey Canyon PFC. Paul's ability to control his men during times of stress has proved him to be a valuable man without whom the entire Company as well as the 2nd platoon would be at a definite loss, in every respect this Marine has proved himself an able leader and has qualified himself for meritorious promotion to L/Cpl. in the United States Marine Corps.



They're surrender passes, alright.

India Company.

Meritorious Promotion to Sgt.

Cpl. Duncan has been in the Republic of Vietnam since 25 November 1967. Upon completion of his first tour in the RVN, he immediately extended his overseas tour of duty for six more months. During this period of time he has proven himself to be an unquestionable leader of men.

Cpl. Duncan has served as a squad leader in the third platoon, Company I since 22 July 1968. On some occasions, he has acted as the platoon right guide, at all times, Cpl. Duncan demonstrates a high competence that is uncommon for his age and rank. He utilizes his personnel in a manner to achieve the best from their skills and develops their potentialities. His appreciation and knowledge of terrain, tactics, and the enemy make him an invaluable asset to the Company. Cpl. Duncan has demonstrated qualities which can be envied by any member of the Armed Forces of the United States and his sterling leadership abilities are a rare quality which are seldom seen in anyone but the finest of leaders.

Cpl. Duncan's continued cooperation with his superiors and his devotion to duty have been in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE PROMOTED DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

H&S Co. Promotions

To L/Cpl.

Barnett, Larry E.
Bowman, Dewey Jr.
Buttjer, Richard E. Jr.
Goss, Dean L.
Huges, James L.
Karsten, Stephen III
Land, William E.
Martin, Steve L.
McClain, Andrew Jr.
Morales, Ross
Ransom, Michael T.
Reynolds, John H. III
Stoll, Larry F.

Promoted to PFC.

Wardlow, David L.
Weems, Ernest E.
Wing, Leroy W. Jr.
McCormack, James D.
McKinney, Raymond H.
Christiansen, Eric W.
Best, Danny R.

Lima Company Promotions

Promoted to L/Cpl.

Sanders, William V.
Cook, Donald P.
Johnson, Donald W.
Lancaster, John W. Jr.
Provo, Lester F. Jr.
Robine, John C.
Sawyer, John T.
Schmidt, Thomas G.
Smith, Thomas L. Jr.
Smith, Wayne L. Jr.

Promoted to PFC.

Bodle, Lavt O.
Burkhardt, George A.

Mike Co. Promotions

To Cpl.

Wegener, Leroy H.

To L/Cpl.

Norris, Martin E.
Pilant, Dwight E.
Russell, James A.
Bandy, Jimmy D.
Birchett, Michael T.
Breland, Rudolph V. Jr.
Durham, Timothy W.
Moore, David L.
Muller, Steven J.

To PFC.

Mead, Thomas J.
Banghart, Richard J.

India Co. Promotions

To Cpl.

Dorlarn F. Books

To L/Cpl.

Edwards, Herbert L.
Davis, Robert J. III
Mammond, L. Harvey
Griffin, Richard W.
Santos, Carlos D.
Ewing, Henry C.
Mudgens, James J.
O'Hara, Venson L.
Perkins, Harry
Starrett, Dusty D.
Sifuentes, Pete S.
Sharpless, John Jr.



"I need three volunteers to participate in a happening..."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO
ATTEND A **4** DAY REUNION
WITH ALL YOUR BUDDIES?

Join The 3rd Marine Division Association!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO
PRESERVE THE MEMORY
OF YOUR EXPERIENCES?

WITHIN **3/9**

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PERPETUATE THE HISTORY
AND TRADITIONS OF THE
3rd MARINE DIVISION?

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DIVISION DECAL?

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SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR
DEPENDENTS OF MEMBERS
OF THE 3rd MARINE DIVISION
KILLED IN VIETNAM?

HOW?

THE COST IS \$2.00. SEE
YOUR PAY OFFICER



"I'm getting ready for the 3rd Marine Division Reunion."



Lima Papa Lima Papa, Kilo 2, This is Lima, go. Kilo CO request Information on 3rd Marine Division Association Drive. Kilo this is Lima papa, sorry but that information is classified, suggest that you retain a copy of February's bushman's Review, thank you Lima, Kilo out.