

This letter from
Capt. Warren G. "Butch"
Boyett, CO, Co. C, 1/8 Cav,
is an excellent account
of a small unit action.

LBB

1/5 • 12 Oct 66

Dear Col. Broughton:

Hi, and greetings from Japan.
I'm in Japan, and will probably
be here for another 3 or 4 weeks,
at Camp Zuma Army Hospital. I
took four shrapnel from a ChiCom
MG in Bong Son on 27 Sept, in
the left thigh, but luckily, it
missed all bones, blood vessels, veins,
and arteries — just a nasty flesh
wound. (26 stitches to close the wound).
It was unfortunate that I got
shot, as they are really cleaning
house, and here I am in bed
while the action's going on. I

Capt. Warren G. Boyett

2. really hated to lose the company,
as we had a great team, and
I really enjoyed my job, but
that's show biz!

To tell you how it happened,
in a word, onrush. But, it's
not as bad as it sounds. Actually
it was a beautiful company oper-
ation, it just worked out where I
happened to catch a few in the
leg.

We were on a search and destroy
operation. (see enclosed sketch)
and just had finished
clearing about 4 or 5 small
villages, and were proceeding to

3. to the area where we were to set up for the night, and for all intentional purposes, it appeared that our job for that day was finished. We were about 100 yards away from where we were going to set up when we got hit. I moved the company a pretty good distance, almost 6 or 7 km, and it had been a real fine day. We captured about 4 or 5 real prime suspects, and the signs that the VC were in the area looked good. We burned the villages en route to our proposed CP for the night. I had the WPNS platoon operating as a rifle platoon behind the 3rd on the

4th night ~~left~~ with the 1st leading on the
~~left~~ ~~right~~ of the stream, followed by the
2nd. Throughout the day, I first
moved with one platoon, and
switched off, in turn, to the others,
to see how my platoon leaders were
working out, as they were all new
to this, and I didn't want them
starting off with dangerous habits,
so I'd go with one, check and see
how he was doing, and then move
on to another. The distance between
 platoons was no more than 300 M, or
less, and I could see and observe
them all as the villages were in
a big valley that was nothing
but rice paddies, and scattered vegetation.

5 Once we got out of the mountains, which were very heavily vegetated, the valley was wide open, kept for, like I say, scattered patches of vegetation.

The company was well-spread out, but I felt, (tactically), very well mutually supporting, which later proved correct when they hit us. It was just like a book exercise.

I had been hanging on the platoons to keep spread out, and take advantage of the tree lines along the village, which they did very well. So well, in fact when the VC hit us, they hit the CP group moving from the 3rd platoon, who

we were finishing up the last village,
to the 1st platoon who had closed in on
our bivouac area. The Weapons
platoon was trailing the 3rd, and I
could see to my left, the 2nd platoon
closing in to the bivouac area.
I got the CP group and moved
out toward the bivouac area.

The tree line which the ^{1st & 2nd} platoons
had moved inside from the ^{left} flank
at the stream junction had 16 VC.
They ^{OC} didn't see the 1st or 2nd platoons
move in behind them, and all
they saw was the CP group moving
to the second platoon, but they
didn't know that I had two platoons
behind them ⁽⁺²⁾ already. Of course, I didn't

1/ know the VC were waiting for us, either. That's part of the game. The CP moved out, and I think the VC thought maybe it was the joint squad of the unit who had just burned the villages to the north.

They sprung the ambush on us, I was hit first, then my XO, who was in the CP group took over, and the Bn CO, Lt Col Brinsell, came in under fire, and evac'ed me out.

In the mean time, the 1st and 2nd platoon set up a block and the 3rd and weapons moved down to drive them into the VC, sending the VC into the waiting 1st and second. The CP group pulled back waiting for the 3rd

8 and WPNS platoons to close in, when my XO got hit. Instead of driving now, the platoons instead formed a perimeter with the VC in the middle. The Mediac 5 was on, turned around while en route to ~~the~~ 15th Med and picked up my XO, and 4 other EM who were wounded. The Bn CO, brought in the 54, Capt OGG, who took over the company after my XO was hit and Capt OGG finished them off. When the smoke cleared the company killed 16 VC - they got every VC there, and in this process we had one NCO who was KIA.

9 for the score for that was:

V. Charlie

1 KIA-US

6 WIA-US

Us (1/8)

16 VC

We were pretty fortunate getting off as light, and killing 16 VC. None of us who were wounded won't eventually fully recover - we'll all make it, but some longer than others.

I hope to be back with the battalion in about 3 weeks or so, and the rest, some before, some later.

So, Cal, Broughton, that about is how it went. I just thought you'd be interested in hearing

10/3 about this little incident from
"Death from Above", and how we're
doing.

If you get a chance, drop me
a line and let me know how
things are stateside.

My address:

Capt Warren B. Boyer

U. S. Army Hospital

Camp Zama, Japan

APO San Francisco 96343

(I still have my V.N. return ad-
dress on the envelope and there-
fore, no stamp is required.) Still
no word on RA application - I'll
keep you posted -

Respectfully,
Butch

MOVEMENT
TIMES

C 1/8 27 SEPT 66

0700

0900

1000

1200

1400

1700

WAS
CP 1/8

WAS
C 1/8

3 WAS
C 1/8

2C 1/8

1C 1/8

STREAM

STREAM

BIYONAC SITE (PROPOSED)

AMBUSH SPRING HERE (1730 HRS)

O TOWNS INDICATED BY NUMBERS

-- ROUTE OF COMPANY

SCALE | 1000 METERS |

ROAD

STREAM

N

