

Well-dressed Enemy Killed By LRRPs

By SP4 John W. Merrill

First Appeared in the American Traveler - Vietnam, April 27, 1968

(Div IO) -- "It looked to me that the Viet Cong Soldier's uniform had just come from the cleaners," commented Sergeant Allen F. Coleman of Brooklyn.

SGT Coleman, along with SGT Ronnie O. Luse, Kansas City, MO., killed the neatly dressed VC while on operation with the Division's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.

The patrol, led by SGT Luse, left the chopper late one afternoon about two-and-one-half miles from Bau Bang where the team was to watch for VC activity and monitor trail guns.

The team proceeded to move southwest from the landing zone when they heard two single rifle shots. SGT Luse stated, "When I heard the shots, I immediately suspected an ambush. I thought that the shots were two VC groups giving a signal that we were in the area."

As the team continued to move, a communist soldier stepped out from the wood line to their rear. The soldier was wearing a neat tailored blue uniform with red epaulets and had an AK-47 by his side. He hollered to the men of the patrol, Hey You, motioned them back. SGT Luse, fully aware that the enemy soldier was trying to the ambush position, fired at the VC and Killed him.

At that time, another VC begin flanking the recon team to the north. As he crawled through the brush, Specialist 5 Stanley Tigges, Covina, Calif., spotted him and opened fire, killing the enemy.

The patrol then came under heavy automatic weapons fire from approximately 12 VC soldiers. The team returned the fire and chased the enemy northward.

SGT Luse then called in artillery strikes and directed his team back to the loading zone for pick up.

As a result of the action, the patrol accounted for two VC killed. They also saw the enemy taking two casualties with them as they fled, evidently victims of the artillery strikes.