

9th Marines

12 May 1966

This article is dedicated to the brave men of the *9th Marines* and especially 1st Battalion 9th Marines whom I served with (Cpl Robert L. Peragallo). Giving special honor to 1st Squad "B" 1/9 who on May 12th of 1966 engaged (at the cost of their lives) the *R20 Doc Lap VC Battalion* in the village of *Hoa Tay*. The battle was part of the *May Ky Lam Campaign*. On May 12th a 14 man patrol from Bravo Company under the command of *Capt. Norman E. Henry* was engaged by a superior force. The 14 man patrol from "B" Company had begun a battle that would last three days and cost the lives of 12 of the original 14 man patrol plus the lives of two Marines who were part of the original reaction force.

Capt. Henry upon realizing the gravity of the patrols circumstances sent a 2nd squad to try and reinforce the then "lost Patrol". I was a member of that 2nd squad. As the battle progressed Capt. Henry's entire Bravo Company became engaged, it too came under the overwhelming fire and mortar barrage of the R20 Battalion. "A" and "D" companies were helilifted into the battle which resulted in one helicopter being shot down and one grounded while it was unloading Marines from "A" company. No one is really sure how many Marines were killed that day, but I do know that 12 from the original squad of Marines who engaged the R20 were killed, two were killed from the reaction squad which I was a member of. The Plt commander of 1st Plt - a 2 Lt. Capel was also killed leading a charge to rescue the Lost Patrol. We never counted those wounded that day, but one did not have to go far to find a wounded Marine.

This report also honors those Marines from "A" and "D" companies who paid the price that day for coming to our aid in the battle we called "The Lost Patrol" or "Operation Bravo".

This *After Action Report* covers the April action of *Operation Georgia - The May Ky Lam Campaign* and *Operation Liberty*.

This report is dedicated to those who died and to us who survived.

The "Battling Bastards of Bloody Bravo"

Cpl Robert L. Peragallo (known as the "Wop")

USMC 1/9 "B" -1st Plt. 2nd squad - 0331

12th of May 1966 - Hoa Tay Vietnam