MIT counterguerilla forces attack Buzzards Bay in training exercise

By Tom Dooley

At 8:30 Sunday morning Capt. Edward H. Bowman '68 lead the MIT counterguerilla platoon in the final assault on the Buzzard's Bay water pumping station. One squad rushed through and planted the explosives. Resisting a heavy attack on the left flank, Bowman pulled back after suffering moderate casualties. Buzzard's Bay attack

This attack comprised a 24-hour assault by counterguerilla units from WPI and MIT on the vital facilities of Buzzard's Bay and the Cape Cod Canal. By morning the assaulting forces had destroyed the railroad bridge, one auto bridge, and half of another despite the efforts of counterguerilla units from Northeastern University with the aid of civil authorities. Demolition was accomplished by planting wooden stakes which represented charges in strategic locations.

The MI'T unit with reinforcements from City College of New York began its assault Saturday morning, arriving from eight kilometers north of the canal at 10 am. The unit moved through the dense underbrush to arrive at a mission support site at 6:30 in the evening. After receiving information from a friendly partisan and obtaining new supplies, the unit divided into four squads led by Steve Bridges '69, Roger Chang '69, Chris Haaland '69, and Bowman.

Process of attack

These squads began three hours of harassing operations at 10 pm. At 1:30 Sunday two units rallied with each other at the Bourne and Sagamore Bridge rotaries. By creating a roadblock and destroying the overpass approaches to the bridge the units allowed units from WPI to complete demolitions of the bridges. The administrators, who were regular Army officers and who traveled with each unit to act as personnel and to decide who was captured, called an administrative break from 4 to 7 Sunday morning. Following this, the troops were resupplied to begin the final attack on the pumping station.

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