

Echo

421

Gimlet

August 1, 1970

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Echo Kills Six

Stubborn Viet Cong recently ran afoul of an equally obstinate unit of the Recon Platoon in action near the village of My Trang, situated four miles south of FSB Debbie along Highway 1. The afternoon confrontation left six guerrillas dead.

Information gathered by S2 revealed the location of a pair of tunnels harboring armed VC/NVA. The reports were confirmed when the members of Recon, in a coordinated effort with Battalion S2, made a heli-borne assault into a rice paddy neighboring My Trang.

Immediately after insertion the men proceeded 100 meters to the bank of a winding stream where they

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The 4/21st "Gimlets" give salute to the new Battalion Commander, LTC Robert H. Witter, who assumed command July 22. Colonel Witter replaces LTC Robert L. Harper who is recuperating from wounds received in the "Rice Bowl" July 9.

The "Gimlets" extend WELCOME, and wishes of much success to him.

Hai Mon Rebuilds

Five thousand residents prospered in the sea-side fishing hamlet of Hai Mon. The brick houses and a plentiful supply of food marked the affluence of the village which was the source of the best sea food in Quang Ngai Province

That was in 1965.

"Then the VC attacked," recalled Mr Ca, the Village Chief. He added that the people migrated from the site of their ancestral homes to the larger, more secure towns of Duc Pho, Quang Ngai and even Saigon.

Encouraging developments in the area are now drawing families back to Hai Mon. The hamlet, located one mile east of FSB Bronco, is the scene of great activity. Wooden house frames are going up daily and

the villagers everywhere are seen busily applying mud and straw to the bamboo wall supports.

Assisted by MACV and elements of Charlie Company, 4th Bn, 21st Inf, some one hundred families two months ago began the slow process of rebuilding the war-torn village.

"These people are coming to Hai Mon to build their homes," explained acting-Commander 1LT Robert H. Ericcson, Fortuna, Ca. "They work by day and then return to the resettlement villages in the evening. Our job here is to work with RF 147 to maintain the security."

Continued Ericcson, "Through the efforts of Major Ward of MACV and Major

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HEAT WAVE SAFETY RULES

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The heat is one of the hard facts of life in Vietnam, and it can kill you if you aren't careful. Heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat rash and sun burn can be avoided if you are careful. Heat stroke is the most dangerous of these injuries and may be fatal.

The two most important ways to prevent yourself from becoming a heat casualty are to be sure that you drink enough water and take extra salt. Approximately six to eight quarts of water per day per man should be available for troops engaged in tactical operation.

The most serious heat injury, heat stroke, is recognizable because the casualty will normally have red, dry, hot, non-sweating skin, may be unconscious or delirious, and in some cases, may have convulsions. Steps should be taken at once to lower the victim's body temperature.

(USARV Information Office)

The Nice Guy Complex

(Reprinted with permission of "Infantry" Magazine)-Clearly the biggest mistake that our junior leaders make in Vietnam is trying to be a "nice guy". There is nothing wrong with this, of course, EXCEPT IN COMBAT.

A nice guy leader who does not insist on his people doing the unpleasant chores, like digging in after a hard day or setting up security even when there appears to be no enemy around, will find he is extremely popular until his unit gets zapped and the men realize what poor leadership is doing to them.

The best and most successful leaders use a no nonsense, professional approach to their

The "Gimlet" welcomes literary offerings from the field - poems, short-short stories, cartoons...whatever you have, for publication. The contributions may be mailed to The Gimlet, 4th Bn 21st Inf.

duties. These men realize that they must accept responsibility. Based on this premise, they proceed to put into practice those things which are in the best interests of his unit - simple things like security at all times, proper distance between men on the march and using all available firepower against the enemy.

Enemy Loss Status

8 July-25 July

Killed in Action.....	20
Killed in Ambush.....	7
Viet Cong/NVA detained.....	8
Rice (pounds).....	1120
Individual Weapons.....	5



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Awards Granted

LTC Robert A. Witter, Battalion Commander, presented the following awards to 36 members of Alpha and Bravo Companies in separate ceremonies at FSB Bronco.

"By direction of the President..."

"...for heroism in ground combat against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam..."

...the Bronze Star with first Oak Leaf Cluster is presented to:

Herbert Stephens

...the Army Commendation Medal for Valor is presented to:

Douglas Ingram, Terry Bird, Harry Cyphers, Marvin Tuley, Steve Mitchell, Timothy Morgan, Melvin Jones.

"...for meritorious achievement connected with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam..."

...the Bronze Star is awarded to:

Marvin Baddick, Jack Blakely, Thomas Dowdy, Edward Iles, Martin Kristo, Barry Skipper, Roger Covington, Phil Crane, John Herek, Lynn Pigg, Larry Robertson, Johnny Shelton, William Scanlon.

...the Army Commendation Medal is awarded to:

Martin Baddick, Larry Hardin, James Scumaci, Ronald Herd, David Bunch.

"...for wounds received in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam..."

...the Purple Heart is awarded to:

Paul Covington, Victor Hernandez, William Hicks, Marvin Jackson, Kenneth Klanica, John Reilly, John Richen, Marshall Russel, Roger Covington, Johnny Shelton, Charles Agert, Gary Lendved, Steve Lum, Cristobal Patron, Eric Robinson, William Scanlon, James Haberle.



Recon

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 discovered a small "spider hole". "There were indications that it had been entered very recently," recalled 1LT Jerry Webster (Winston-Salem, N.C.). "Our interpreter made repeated attempts to urge the occupant to come out, but he received negative response so the decision was made to destroy the tunnel. PFC Manuel Rodriguez (Escalon, Ca) placed explosives within the hole and detonated it."

The explosion conveniently enlarged the opening through which SGT David M. Graff (San Pedro, Ca) could now enter. Added Webster, "He slipped all the way inside and returned, dragging with him an AK-47 and its owner."

An after-action search of the tunnel uncovered AK-47 ammunition, blasting caps and a pistol belt with three pineapple grenades and a ChiCom.

But a continuing search of the area was to uncover yet more Viet Cong.

The men cautiously approached an underground bunker located approximately 150 meters from the spider hole. S2 1SG Zachary, SGT Graff and Sp/4 Ronald "Beaver"

Boisse (Woonsocket, R.I.) moved to the entrance and came face to face with a Viet Cong wielding a grenade. "I knocked him all the way back inside with several bursts of fire from my M-16," said Zachary.

"Shortly after that Rodriguez pitched a frag in after him," recounted SGT Graff. "The walls and ceiling collapsed and a tunnel entrance within the bunker was exposed."

"The interpreter again asked the remaining tunnel inhabitants to surrender," explained Lieutenant Webster, "but they refused to admit their presence. We then placed Claymores around, on top of and inside the bunker."

After they were blown, Graff squirmed through an opening in the rubble. "I slipped in up to my waist--Beaver held onto me by my belt--and I saw five dead VC."

In addition to the six KIAs, the Recon team captured their second weapon--an SKS rifle protruding from the earth above the tunnel.

Hai Mon

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 Tuong, the Duc Pho District Chief, the families have been convinced that this area is once again secure, and that they can return without fear to make their living.

Mr. Hai, commander of RF 147, optimistically stated that the village would be even better than the one they had in 1965. New roads, tin roofs, and culverts to alleviate drainage problems will soon be a reality in the hamlet. "The people are very happy now," noted Hai.



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Shortest of the SHORT

August 1 - August 31



Headquarters & Headquarters Company

SGT Larry Broyles.....	16Aug
1LT Larry T. Hackman.....	11Aug
Sp/4 David E. Hess.....	12Aug
1LT John T. Hurst.....	15Aug
SGT Ronald W. Maret.....	13Aug
Sp/4 Edward Mazur.....	30Aug
Sp/4 Larry Nye.....	25Aug
Sp/4 Reginald H. Thompson.....	24Aug

Alpha Company

SGT Richard Anderson.....	18Aug
Sp/4 Jack R. Blakely.....	18Aug
Sp/4 Kenneth J. Fischer.....	17Aug
SGT Daniel Quebedeaux.....	31Aug
Sp/4 Albert J. Robinson.....	31Aug
Sp/4 Charles W. Werley.....	17Aug
Sp/4 Darrell B. West.....	18Aug
Sp/4 Robert A. Whiston.....	31Aug

Bravo Company

Sp/4 David Beiter.....	17Aug
Sp/4 Lee R. Bowman.....	11Aug
SSG Phillip Crane.....	24Aug
SGT Ronald Herd.....	28Aug
Sp/4 Charles Johnson.....	26Aug
Sp/4 Henry Miller.....	2Aug
Sp/4 Norman Nichols.....	27Aug
Sp/4 James Scoumaci.....	31Aug
Sp/4 Terrance Welch.....	12Aug
Sp/4 Henry Wiggins.....	16Aug

Charlie Company

Sp/4 Luther Curry, Jr.....	31Aug
Sp/4 Gary W. Freel.....	9Aug
1LT Stanley K. Graffis.....	1Aug
Sp/4 Gordon L. Loverink.....	20Aug
Sp/4 Paul S. Moran.....	3Aug
Sp/4 Marvin Van Curen.....	15Aug

Delta Company

Sp/4 Stephen P. Brooks.....	11Aug
SGT Carol J. Broussard.....	5Aug
Sp/4 Thomas W. Cannon.....	30Aug
Sp/4 Gary D. Clark.....	31Aug

Sp/4 Michael F. Erwin.....	31Aug
Sp/4 Larry G. Ester.....	31Aug
Sp/4 James W. Fannin.....	31Aug
Sp/4 Michael J. Fobbe.....	31Aug
Sp/4 Jerry E. Hagins.....	31Aug
1LT Shirley E. Hall.....	30Aug
SGT David F. Hauok.....	1Aug
SGT John E. Horvath.....	28Aug
Sp/4 Stephen Moyzan.....	2Aug
Sp/4 Dewey C. Oliver.....	2Aug
Sp/4 Max G. Payne.....	18Aug
Sp/4 Albert Shrem.....	16Aug
Sp/4 Thomas Vail.....	2Aug
Sp/4 Thomas C. Vogt.....	31Aug
Sp/4 Cornelius Williams.....	27Aug
Sp/4 Yuzo Yoshida.....	31Aug

Echo Company

Sp/4 Ronald L. Boisse.....	17Aug
SSG Robert L. Davidson.....	21Aug
Sp/4 Vincent E. Keerbs.....	16Aug
SGT Gerald J. Kremer.....	30Aug
Sp/4 James E. Morgan.....	12Aug
Sp/4 Phillip P. Nocerino.....	2Aug
Sp/4 Guadalupe R. Ramos.....	17Aug
SGT Norman G. Roberts.....	10Aug
Sp/4 Bernard R. Sivils.....	1Aug
SGT James T. Taylor.....	13Aug

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LTC Robert A. Witter....Bn Commander
CPT David C. Franson.....S1 Officer
PFC Joseph F. Alward.....Editor

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Mail "The Gimlet" home
(fold along dotted lines)

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"SAD SACK"



"MAIL"

