

The Gimlet

October 1, 1970

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Extensive Tunnel Network Found

Elements of Charlie Company, searching and clearing the north-east slope of Tripoli, a double-canopied mountain three miles east of FSB Bronco, uncovered one of the largest and possibly the most varied of recent caches found in southern Quang Ngai Province.

Company C was investigating an elaborate cave and tunnel complex on Tripoli when PFC Thomas F. Riggs (Ft. Smith, Ark) discovered one tunnel with a recently-disarmed booby trap at the entrance. A subsequent investigation led the men along a tunnel which elbowed its way for 40 meters through heavy, rock-studded formations to a spacious chamber capable of easily accommodating a company-size complement of soldiers.

"The whole complex was fresh-air fed by venting and escape-hatch systems concealed above by the vegetation," recalled

1LT Herbert C. Boutwell, Charlie Company platoon leader from Pensacola, Florida. "It was apparent that the room had been used as a factory for the construction of grenades. We uncovered 4,000 rolls of green trip wire and monofilament fishing line and enough explosives and blasting caps to put together several of those "soda-can" grenades. They even had a sandbag full of shrapnel which is used to lace the explosive, making it more lethal."

In addition, the men uncovered a wide variety of articles, including assorted food, clothing and cooking utensils. "We also found a large amount of medical supplies and propaganda leaflets," added Lieutenant Boutwell. "I think, though, that most of the men were happiest with their find of an embroidered picture of Ho Chi Minh."

The 'Conspiracy'

The efforts of a 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry "Gimlet" have led to a modest revival of the "Peanut Butter Conspiracy" in southern Quang Ngai Province.

To Sp4 Edward B. Fralick (Helena, Montana), medic with Company A, the spirited strains emanating nightly from a bunker high atop LZ Debbie are the heartening reminder of better days gone by.

"We had a going thing then," reflected Fralick, former bass guitarist for the acid-rock Peanut Butter

'Conspiracy'. "The 'Conspiracy' was playing concerts with Led Zeppelin and Steppenwolf and had just cut its first album. Then there came a letter from my draft board."

"Occasionally there's time to conduct one-man concerts for the guys on my bunker," explained Specialist Fralick who, with the members of his company, rotates onto the firebase every two weeks.

Fralick, a professional musician since 1967, finds that his talent will still draw an occasional admirer. "Most of the guys coming to see me just want to show me their athlete's foot," lamented the medic.

Bravo Bags 5 Tons

Grateful villagers living within the "Gimlets" area of operation have watched their food vaults grow to record size as a result of determined searches by elements of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry. The smiles on their faces give testimony to their appreciation of the unexpected dividends which come at the expense of the enemy.

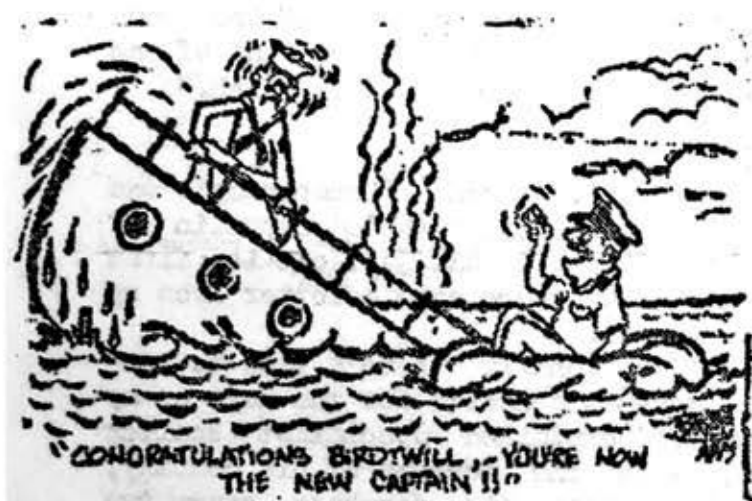
During the latter part of April and the month of May the 4th Battalion recovered more than 70 tons of stolen rice from the enemy. Continuing searches are still yielding thousands of pounds of the enemy-stored rice, most of which is redistributed to the local villagers.

One of the more successful of recent sweep operations was conducted by Company B in the lowlands north of LZ Debbie. The four-day search and clear operation netted five different caches within a four-grid-square area, for a

total of nearly 10,000 pounds of rice.

1LT John P. Lappini (Cambridge, Mass.), the commanding officer of Bravo Company, explained, "The small hamlets suspected of being VC-influenced would be cordoned by one platoon while another would conduct an intensive search in, around and under the various hootches. Most often we would discover half-buried 55-gallon drums full of rice concealed in the hedgerows nearby. More conspicuous containers were found with an 18-inch layer of potatoes on top. But underneath it was all rice."

All of the rice gathered during the four day mission was evacuated to FSB Bronco for subsequent redistribution to the villages nearby. If the "Gimlets" have their way, the enemy, coming down from the mountains for the rice he hid in May, is going to continue to walk away empty-handed.



the Gimlet

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Headquarters and Headquarters Company

1LT Richard M. Astle.....26Sep
 Sp5 David L. Battle.....40Oct
 SSG Edward W. Hawkins.....26Sep
 Sp5 Terry L. Mayhood.....30Sep
 CPT George H. Reed.....70Oct
 SFC Opie E. Terrell.....70Oct
 1LT John G. Tripp.....150Oct

Alpha Company

Sp4 Albert Hill.....130Oct
 Sp4 Mark Kelley.....60Oct
 SGT Bruce West.....40Oct

Bravo Company

Sp4 Perryno Geter.....150Oct
 SSG Rich Hostettler.....50Oct
 Sp4 Ellis Joseph.....150Oct
 Sp4 Gary Lendved.....130Oct
 Sp4 Mason Julien.....150Oct
 Sp4 Dennis Kelley.....20Oct
 Sp4 Richard Moore.....110Oct

Charlie Company

1LT Carl E. Boyce.....29Sep
 SGT Ronald A. Dykstra.....50Oct
 PFC Harold Ezumi.....130Oct
 SGT Richard J. Jackson.....29Sep
 SGT William Jackson.....90Oct
 SGT Paul S. Moran.....27Sep
 Sp4 Efrain Salas.....90Oct
 SGT Daniel J. Savill.....10Oct
 Sp4 Harvey R. Stephens.....30Oct
 Sp4 Robert L. Snyder.....20Oct
 SGT John Wallace, Jr.....30Sep
 Sp4 John L. Westerfield.....40Oct
 SGT Keith A. Wood.....100Oct



Delta Company

SGT Dale D. Fisher.....100Oct
 Sp4 Stephen L. Gothman.....28Sep
 CPT Ronald D. Lewis.....100Oct
 Sp4 Gerald R. Santoff.....100Oct
 SGT Walter L. Tucker.....70Oct

Echo Company

SGT Randall A. Ball.....28Sep
 Sp4 Dennis E. Brook.....20Oct
 Sp4 David C. Darby.....120Oct
 Sp4 Kenneth D. Hurt.....28Sep
 Sp4 Anastasios Kaninakis.....150Oct
 PFC James J. Lewis.....40Oct
 Sp4 Lee A. Sands, Jr.....20Oct
 Sp4 Ronald V. Sierra.....60Oct

HighLites in GIMLET History

'Operation Vernon Lake'

In the mountains 22 miles north-west of Duc Pho, the "Ginlets" established FSB Amy in the opening phase of "Operation Vernon Lake" in January, 1969. Targeted against the 3rd NVA Division, the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry effectively operated in the area long recognized as an enemy sanctuary. The general lack of allied operations, combined with the natural protection of the terrain, afforded the enemy numerous areas for training and the storage of supplies. Using saturation patrolling, ambushes, and rapid combat assaults by helicopter, "Ginlet" soldiers denied the enemy the opportunity to consolidate his forces and materials —at the same time denying him the use of his own grounds.

The 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry contributed significantly to the enemy losses and captured numerous weapons and munitions caches; 101 tons of rice, 1½ tons of salt, 400 pounds of extremely valuable documents, over 4,000 yards of cloth, 77 bicycles and tons of miscellaneous equipment. "Ginlet" infantrymen thrusting deep into the heart of the enemy's rear area discovered and destroyed 40 enemy base camps, logistical centers, training camps, hospitals and prisoner of war camps.

The 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry had accomplished the following objectives: First, the enemy's already massive logistical problems had been compounded by the destruction of supplies and the disruption of his bases. Second, the enemy had to constantly move throughout the operational area which severely restricted his ability to consolidate or mass for widespread attacks along the coastal plains.



It's Their World

(Department of the Army)—Ever notice how everything seems to come to a halt between noon and 1400 hours? Everywhere you look, the Vietnamese are taking a two hour siesta. Ever stop to wonder why? There is a war going on and these people are napping. There is so much to do. Let's get on with it right now. Ever wonder why they don't?

Understanding the behavior of people who have been brought up in a culture unfamiliar to you involves attempting to figure out the things which have caused some aspect of that behavior.

The Vietnamese have an entirely different idea of the meaning of time. They rarely have the same sense of urgency as Americans. For them, time goes in a circle rather than a straight line. If a thing is not done now, it can always be done later.....or in the next life or in any of several lives which will present many of the same problems and opportunities. Patience is a highly regarded virtue, while undue haste and anxiety are felt to be unreasonable and unworthy of adults.

The climate of Vietnam and the diet of Vietnamese are different from what we Americans are used to. This results in a lower degree of physical stamina on the part of the Vietnamese. They are more aware of the toll a very hot climate can take than we are. If we had grown up here, we might better appreciate the saying "Mad dogs and English men go out in the noon-day sun." Even the water buffalo cool it during siesta time.



SENSOR DEVICES AND A LASER BEAM FITTED TO AN M-16 RIFLE MAY WELL BE THE FUTURE "BATTLE DRESS" OF THE U.S. ARMY SOLDIER.

ANF

An inadequate diet of contaminated water and food also contribute measurably to the reduced physical stamina of the Vietnamese. He cannot afford to buy rich nutritional foods, so he eats foods which are low in protein. His only source of water may be a well or stream which is contaminated with bacteria and worm eggs which cause intestinal parasites and diarrhea. Many Vietnamese live most of their lives with a case of the "GIs".

So remember, "flaking out" for a few hours in the afternoon is not a sign of laziness. It is the Vietnamese way, brought about by a number of things..... the heat, the food and the water. Try to understand why things which appear strange to you happen....don't gripe about them.

4/21 Wrap-Up

10 September... The second platoon of Company C, while on a search and clear operation north of Hai Mon, uncovered two booby-trapped mortar rounds. One of the rounds was buried and the other was concealed in the hedgerow 20 meters away. Both had trip wire devices.

Meanwhile, the third platoon was searching a small tunnel and cave complex found on Hill 70. An 8' tunnel led to split-level living quarters capable of accommodating six individuals each. The complex was destroyed.

Elsewhere, the first platoon of Bravo Company, operating south of Company C, near Quy Thien hamlet, were also investigating a tunnel leading to a large room. From the room another tunnel wound its way for 30 meters to a sleeping area. The tunnels had not been used for several weeks.

The following day, 1500 pounds of unpolished rice was uncovered by the Recon Platoon operating east of LZ Debbie, near Quy Thien hamlet.

12 September.... while clearing the road leading to Hai Mon, Company C discovered a pressure-activated electrical firing device. The device was a stick one inch long and two inches wide. The explosive is believed to have been several pounds of petrin. The mine was blown in place.

13 September.... Three individuals dressed in green and carrying packs returned fire after being engaged by elements of Delta Company operating near the southern rim of the Rice Bowl. The three VC evaded successfully.



DEFENSE
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE
MEDAL

ANP



Later that afternoon, the first and third platoons, operating in the same vicinity, found two natural caves, 15 feet wide and 10 feet deep. Inside two suitcases containing green uniforms were found. Nearby, a well-camouflaged mortar round booby trap next to a trail was discovered.

Company C, while searching natural cave formations on Tripoli, found 150 pounds of polished rice; numerous cooking utensils, several

-continued on page 7

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers on Page —

Across

- 1-Reach across
5-Fall in drops
9-Body of water
12-Great Lake
13-Lampreys
14-Metres
15-Symbol for tellurium
16-Cried
18-Electrified particle
20-Saint (abbr.)
22-Highway
24-Datum
27-Highlander
29-Allowance for waste
31-Base
32-Body of soldiers
34-Platform
36-Compass point
37-Ceremony
39-Signify
41-River in Siberia
42-Crowd disturbance
44-Satiated
45-Range of knowledge
47-Delineated
49-Metal fasteners
50-Brother of Jacob
52-Profound
54-A state (abbr.)
55-Anger
57-River duck
59-Preposition
61-Crony (colloq.)
63-Retain
65-Skin ailment
67-Abstract being
68-Organs of hearing
69-Boy attendant

Down

- 1-Place
2-Ordains

8-Three-toed sloth

- 4-Recent
5-Railroad station
6-Hold back
7-Prefix: not
8-Greek letter
9-Trits
10-Symbol for silver
11-Old pronoun
17-Teutonic deity
19-Preposition
21-Sound a horn
23-Lifeless
25-Vying
26-Kind of fabric (pl.)
27-Blow
28-Journey
30-Crawls
33-Remunerated
35-Break suddenly
38-Nobleman
40-Great bustard

43-Seesaw

- 46-Metal fasteners
48-Cries
51-Chaldean city
53-Parent (colloq.)
56-Place out
58-Once around track

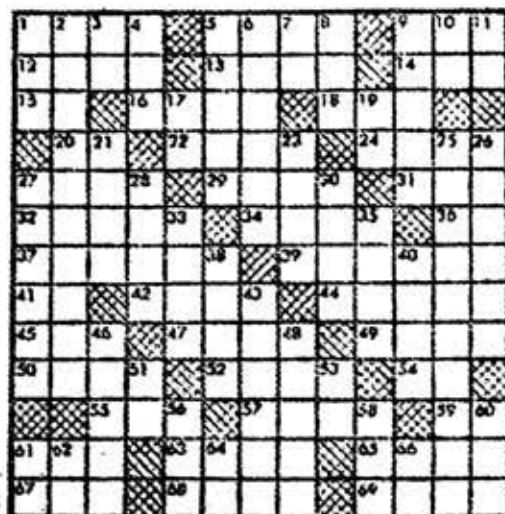
60-Born

- 61-Hebrew letter
62-Indefinite article
64-Babylonian deity
66-Symbol for calcium

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Wpap-Up

-continued from page 6

vases filled with salt, two bayonets, two NVA ponchos and a red homemade bomb. The fuse to the bomb had already been removed.

September 16...Alpha Company, while patrolling in the lowlands two miles south of Apache Rock, found a hand-frag booby trap. One end of the trip wire was attached to a bush on one side of a trail; the other end was tied to a Ho Chi Minh strap. Later in the afternoon, Company C found a similarly constructed

mined artillery round.

Delta Company found a 250-pound bomb while searching and clearing an area near Nui Sang, 5 miles south of LZ Debbie. The bomb was cut in half and its insides had been removed. At the same location they found a small base camp. The camp consisted of rock formations bunkers, a few sleeping positions and a hootch hidden within the rock formations.



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