

The



Gimlet

March 19, 1971

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Rude Awakening For VC

Stretched out in hammocks shaded by the tree branches overhead, 12 VC were enjoying an afternoon nap. Their reverie was shattered when Bravo Company chanced by while on their way to a day laager position.

"We had just moved through an open area," said platoon leader First Lieutenant Vincent Varol, Bartleso, Illinois, "and were walking along a trail bordering a treeline. The lead men spotted the VC in the treeline."

Apparently having heard the approaching "Gimlets", the VC were already scrambling out of their hammocks when the lead element spotted them.

"We only could get off a few shots before the VC disappeared into the underbrush,"

said Varol. We lobbed in several grenades to check out possible bunker locations then a squad moved in on line."

The five man squad moved into the position and found that in the hasty flight the enemy had left behind some valuable equipment. Found scattered around the laager was an AK47, 15 Chicom grenades, 12 hammocks, 100 lbs. of rice, and 100 lbs. of salt.

While the squad searched through the abandoned equipment, Private First Class Tom Duran, Cerritos, Calif., who was set up as rear security got into some action of his own.

One VC, evidently disturbed at being jolted from his nap, had circled around and was moving toward the squad.

Crawling over a berm, the VC armed with a Chicom grenade and bayonet, didn't notice Duran lying concealed close by. One shot from Duran's M16 ruined the VC's plans.



Q's And A's About Drugs

WHAT ARE HALLUCINOGENS?

Hallucinogens (also called psychedelics) are drugs capable of provoking change of sensation, thinking, self-awareness and emotion. Alterations of time and space perception, illusions, hallucinations and delusions may be either minimal or overwhelming depending on the dose. The results are very variable; a "high" or "bad trip" (freak out or bummer) may occur in the same person on different occasions.

LSD is the most potent and best-studied hallucinogen. Besides LSD, a large number of synthetic and natural hallucinogens are known. Mescaline from the peyote cactus, psilocybin from the Mexican mushroom, morning glory seeds, DMT, STP, MDA and dozens of others are known and abused. Along with its active component THC, marijuana is medically classified as an hallucinogen.

IS IT TRUE THAT ANY DRUG WILL MAKE YOU HALLUCINATE IF TAKEN IN SUFFICIENT AMOUNTS?

Many drugs will cause a delirium, accompanied by hallucinations and delusions when taken by people who are hypersensitive to them. Extraordinarily large amounts of certain drugs may also produce hallucinations. However, the mind-altering drugs are much more likely to induce hallucinations because of their direct action on the brain cells.

WHAT IS LSD?

Lysergic acid comes from ergot, the fungus that spoils rye grain. It was first converted in 1938 to lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) by the Swiss chemist, Albert Hoffman, who accidentally discovered its mind-altering properties in 1943.

WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF LSD?

A person who has consumed LSD will have dilated pupils, a flushed face, perhaps a rise in temperature and heartbeat, a slight increase in blood pressure, and a feeling of being chilly. A rare convulsion has been noted. These effects disappear as the action of the drug subsides.

WHAT IS THE LSD STATE LIKE?

The LSD state varies greatly according to the dosage, the personality of the user and the conditions under which the drug is taken. Basically, it causes change in sensation. Vision is most markedly altered. Changes in depth perception and the meaning of the perceived object are most frequently described. Illusions and hallucinations can occur. Thinking may become pictorial and reverie states are common. Delusions are expressed. The sense of time and of self are strangely altered. Strong emotions may range from bliss to horror, sometimes within a single experience. Sensations may "crossover," that is, music may be seen or color heard. The individual is suggestible and, especially under high doses, loses his ability to discriminate and evaluate his experience. (Reprinted from pamphlet distributed by National Clearinghouse)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

PSC Alton Bess.....24 Mar
 SFC William Smith.....20 Mar
 Sp5 John Calton.....13 Apr
 SGT Tony DiGennaro.....14 Mar
 Sp4 Paul Flores.....11 Apr
 Sp4 Edward Trellick.....15 Apr
 Sp4 Leonard Konieczny.....22 Mar
 Sp4 John Shanley.....23 Mar
 SGT Richard Meyer.....18 Mar
 SGT Seldon Parrish.....23 Mar
 1SG Billy Hall.....21 Mar
 Charles McCombs.....23 Mar

Alpha Company

Sp4 Kennic Wascom.....25 Mar

Bravo Company

Sp4 Antonio Rios.....18 Mar

Charlie Company

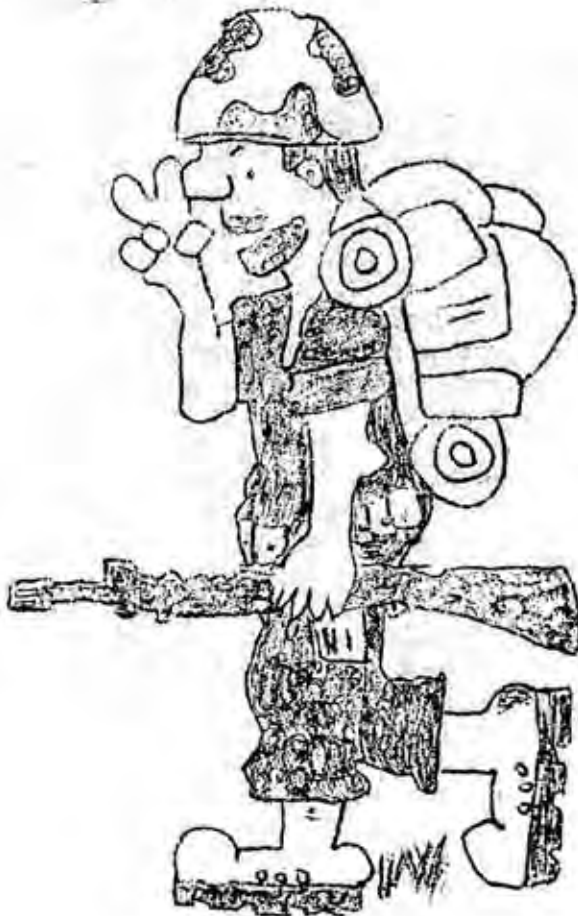
1LT Herbert Boutwell.....19 Mar
 SGT Mitchell Davidson.....20 Mar
 SGT Gaylen Dorau.....24 Mar
 SGT George Johnson.....31 Mar
 SGT Bryan Weedman.....21 Mar
 Sp4 Bruce Lundeen.....16 Apr
 Sp4 Jackie Rossey.....20 Mar
 Sp4 James Taylor.....19 Apr

Delta Company

SGT Patrick Lentzy.....16 Mar
 SGT George Matzen.....23 Mar

Echo Company

SGT Leon Adler.....10 Apr
 PFC Donald Alexander.....16 Apr
 Sp4 Barry Guido.....16 Mar
 Sp4 Denneth Lundquest.....15 Mar
 SSG Jon Sholes.....19 Mar



LTC Vernon B. Jones.....Bn Commander

1LT Billy J. Jones.....Adjutant

PFC Gene Collins.....Editor

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History Of Duc Pho

Duc Pho has probably been here as long as the Vietnamese people, and it is used to the foot of the invader. Untouched by the Khmers who built the monuments now known as Tour d'Argent, west of Qui Nhon, the area was taken by the invading Chinese in the tenth century. Before they were driven out by the Annamese kings, they managed to construct the tombs on the hills above Sa Huynh which may be seen today. They also left ideographs, which the Vietnamese used to record their language for the next 800 years. Except for a brief interim in the 15th Century, the Chinese never came back.

By 1844, the French had established their colony, French Indochina, from Tonkin Annam, Laos, Cambodia, and Cochin China. Their influence reached the Duc Pho area around 1890, and their Latinization of the written Vietnamese language reached the area around 1900.

By the 1930's what is now Highway 1 (QL1) was a well-traveled gravel road with concrete bridges provided by the French administration. Duc Pho, always the hub of the district, was a farming, fishing and trading center. With the completion of the Saigon-Hanoi railway in 1936, the people of Duc Pho had the railroad, the sea, and the highway for easy travel to the larger cities of Qui Nhon and Quang Ngai.

The roads inland provided access to Minh Long, Ba To, Gia Vuoc, and even farther inland, to Dak To and Pleiku. Occasional dignitaries, foreigners, and local gentry, hunted tiger and wild bear in the interior.

In the late 1930's, the Indochinese Communist Party (Dong Duong Cong San Dang) became vocal in the Duc Pho area, and a company of the French Territorial Army was stationed at the present Regional Forces compound, near the railroad just west of Duc Pho. Its ranks were filled by Vietnamese and its commander, a French First Lieutenant, lived with his wife in Duc Pho. The company served more as a deterrent to the Communists than as a combat force; there was no violence, but there were a great many meetings and speeches, and many efforts to convert new members.

The French company had no connection with the administration of the surrounding villages. The villages and hamlets were administered by Vietnamese appointed by, and responsible to, French officials in Quang Ngai. Their duties consisted mainly of maintaining records of births and deaths.

Off in the mountains to the west a native of Mo Duc named Pham Van Dong, who had languished in French jails in Kontum and Pleiku in the early Thirties, returned to his favorite people, the Montagnards of Ba To and Plateau,



WE'RE ALL HOT AND TIRED, TOO,
FARNSWORTH, BUT...



...Japanese Invade - Expelled

Some of these people, under Pham's leadership, left the French-dominated areas and went to the mountains, where they resisted the French and later the Japanese. These Montagnards would be formed into the 120th Montagnard Battalion, the oldest Viet Minh unit in Viet Nam, which is still fighting today. Pham would rise to a position second only to Ho Chi Minh in the Communist regime, ruling the provinces of Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Tua Tien, Quang Ngai, and Binh Dinh during the war with the French, and succeeding Ho on his death.

The Japanese came to Quang Ngai City early in 1942 "with many trucks and airplanes." They replaced the Vichy administration in Quang Ngai, but let the French military units,

such as the one in Duc Pho remain. It was about this time that the Vietnamese Communist Party began to atrophy, and a new force (actually the same force) called the Viet Minh—the Revolutionary League of Vietnam, Viet Nam Doc Lap Dong Minh—began to exhort the people to expell the foreigners. In late 1944, the Japanese kidnapped the French Lieutenant and his wife and sent them to Hanoi, and the Viet Minh took over in the Duc Pho area.

The local Viet Minh at that time were armed only with fire-hardened bamboo spears although there were a few among them who had come from what was only known as "the Boxer desolands" with rifles. Knowing their weakness, they began to fortify. In the local hodgepodge terrain, every farmer had a spring collar; linked by tunnels and trenches and equipped with embrasures, these became the fortified areas Americans were later to call the Triangle, the Underground City, Pinkville, Tap An Bac, An Tay, Hai Tan, the 515 Valley, and the Rice Bowl. By July of 1945, lookouts were set on the hills that spring from the coastal plain, warning of approaching Japanese. On warning, trees were felled across the roads and ambushes sprung. Armed with captured weapons and explosives, the Viet Minh booby trapped and mined their fortified areas. When the Japanese boarded their trucks to go to Danang in Sept of 1945, for evacuation to their homeland, the Viet Minh, now armed and fortified, were ready for the next invaders; but none came. (To be continued)

THE NEXT INSTALLMENT WILL COVER THE MARINE AMPHIBIOUS LANDING AT TRIPO LI, AND THE BASE SURROUNDING MONTEZUMA.

