

The



Gimlets

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Gimlets Leave Debbie

In April 1968, when the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry was a "seed" in country it established its CP on Thunder, a hill four miles south of Duc Pho. A name change and three years later the "Gimlets" have left the hill.

C Co. Hit By Pun

No one likes a pun as Charlie Company proved recently. While on patrol in the jungle covered mountains bordering the Rice Bowl, fourth platoon came across a broom factory.

Platoon leader, First Lieutenant Daniel P. Irwin, Radcliff, Kentucky, radioed the find to the company commander Captain Thomas S. Hyde, Easton, Kansas, "We've just come across one Victor Charles broom factory."

Moans and groans followed Captain Hyde's reply, "OK, real fine, now sweep the area."

I am only a grunt
My home is the ruck sack I carry on my back
My life is the weapon I carry in my hand
My buddies and companions are my meaning of America
Together we walk over hills and mountains
Cut our way thru jungles
And bear the heat of the summer days
Oh! I am so tired
But for the sake of Peace
I will fight so my younger brothers back home
Will never have to come and endure what I have endured.

by Sp4 Santos Chalmers

Sp4 Chalmers is from Kamiah Idaho and serves as a medic assigned to B Co.

The name change came after the Gimlets had been on the hill for a year. Most likely an effort to give the hill a more pleasant personality, the name Debbie was chosen. Debbie had the advantage of a strategic location as it provided a panoramic view of the Rice Bowl on the west, the South China Sea on the east, and QL 1 on the south.

For three years Debbie has stood as sentry over the fertile Rice Bowl, keeping enemy hands from reaching in and grabbing an essential resource. The rice denial program carried on by the Gimlets working off Debbie was so successful that it put a severe crimp in the enemy's operations. Debbie proved to be a testy thorn in the enemy's side and he made a determined effort to drive the Gimlets off the hill. Mortar rounds and sapper attacks were weathered and repulsed. The Gimlets refused to be dislodged and as a result pacification efforts in the area took giant leaps forward.

When it came time to move, bunkers were dismantled and concertina wire rolled up. The battalion moved to San Juan Hill and left Debbie behind along with the memories of all the men who had looked to it as home.

PART II--A HISTORY OF THE DUC PHO AREA

French Leave - Brief Peace Follows

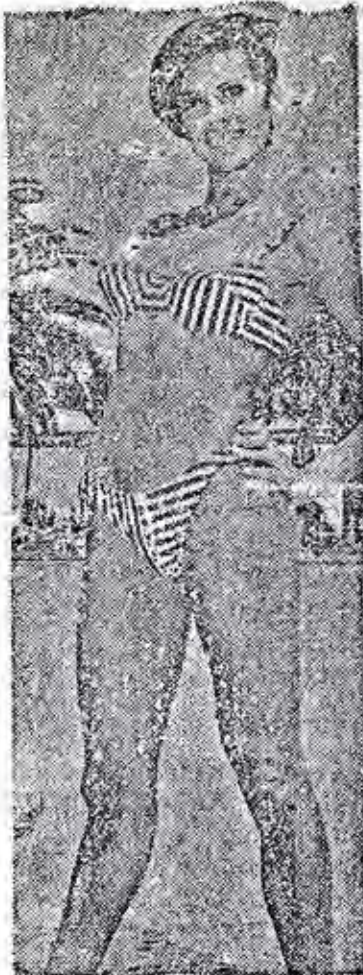
RECAP

Duc Pho has seen many invaders--from the Chinese in the tenth century to the French and Japanese in the 19th and 20th centuries. The French influence reached Duc Pho in the mid 1800's and the Japanese appeared in 1942. The Japanese stay was short however, as they were expelled in 1945 by a new communist force--the Viet Minh. Well armed and fortified, the Viet Minh was a force to be reckoned with by the French who were still in the area.

The Chinese Nationalists from Yunnan Province occupied Vietnam from the north, south to Da Nang, and the French and British occupied from the south, north to a line drawn Song Cau - Ploiky - Duc Co. The French later took over the south sector from the Chinese and British, but there were none but the Viet Minh between the north and south areas; Quang Ngai became the Viet Minh's unofficial capitol. The French tried to enter the Duc Pho area twice. There was a battalion-sized amphibious landing at Sa Huynh in the fall of 1947 which departed the same day, and another landing in the same year just south of what we call Tripoli. This last was so beset by punjis and booby traps that it also left, after four days. There was no fighting in either case: alerted by the hilltop sentries of the coming of the ships, the Viet Minh either went underground or retreated to their "safe areas" in the mountains.

With the signing of the Geneva accords on 21 June 1954, the Viet Minh were required to leave Duc Pho. They left in a manner that still brings a smile to the older villagers. The Viet Minh village chief, Le Tinh Toan, just walked off into the mountains one day. His subordinates had no motor transport, so they piled their equipment and belongings on wagons, which they pulled by hand to Bongson, where captured Japanese trucks waited to take them to a ship at Qui Nhon. Arriving at Qui Nhon, they found no ship. Some were ordered to Hanoi to the Phu Cat Mountains or to the Vinh Thanh Valley, both "safe areas" or to "other provinces." When the ship departed Qui Nhon for Hanoi in September--Qui Nhon was the last South Vietnamese city evacuated--very few of the Duc Pho Viet Minh were aboard. One local Viet Minh, Pham Van Dong, had left his mother behind in Ho Duc.

The transition in Duc Pho from Viet Minh to Government of South Vietnam (GVN) control was very smooth. President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, had infiltrated the Viet Minh with their secret agents, and the new village chief, Le Van Khuang, took over immediately. The following years were halcyon. The people remember traveling the countryside, making outings, and hunting in the mountains.



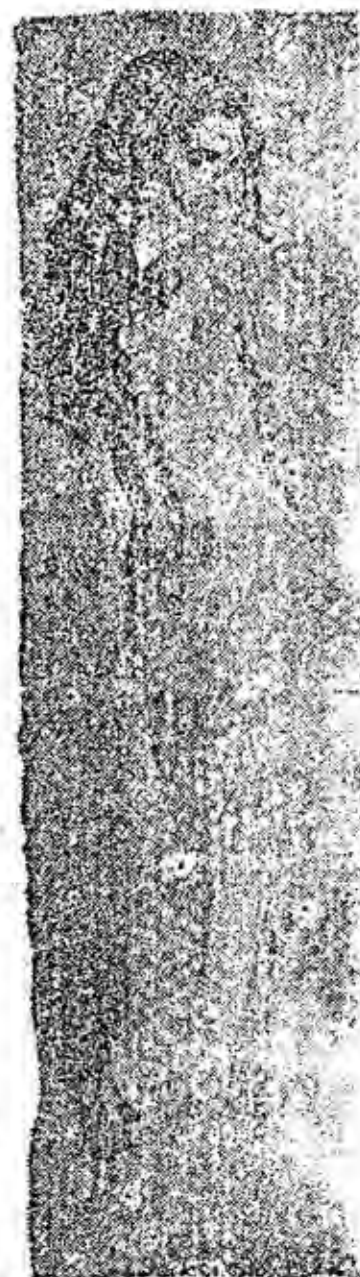
Americans Arrive

With the death of Diem in 1963, infiltration of North Vietnamese and terrorism increased manifold. Village and hamlet chiefs were assassinated. Bridges blown in 1945 to impede the Japanese and re-erected by the Diem Government in 1955; were blown again. Lo Van Khueang's successor, Lo Trung Tai, became disenchanted with the GVN, resigned, and moved to Qui Nhon. A plethora of successors followed. In 1965, the 3d NVA Division arrived in the mountains to the west. An attempt to construct an airfield near An tinh at the mouth of what we call the 515 Valley was abandoned in 1966. In 1966 the rail-road stopped operating because of destroyed bridges and rolling stock. The new Viet Minh—the Viet Cong—and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regulars were back, in the old Viet Minh "safe areas" in the mountains and the fortified areas in the lowlands.

In the fall of 1966, the first Americans came to Duc Pho. They formed a small advisory team whose mission was to advise the District Chief on military training, disposition and use of the Regional and Popular Forces (RF/PF). One advisor, CPT James Kinsey, was instrumental in the establishment of the Catholic Orphanage. In February of 1967, the Marines landed just south of Nui Qua, naming it Tripoli, and their landing beach, Landing Zone Guadalcanal. They pushed inland to Nui Dang, naming it Montezuma, to accompany Tripoli after the Marine Hymn. This operation was heralded in "Life" magazine as "the largest amphibious operation since World War II;" hence, the historic frosting. They built a landing zone at the base of Montezuma that they named Bronco, and by March 1967, they had finished an aircraft landing strip where the present one is located. A Column of Marine armor pushed down the road from Chu Lai, solidly establishing the presence of American ground troops in the Duc Pho area. The Marines received the bulk of their supplies from Da Nang over the beach at LZ Guadalcanal, where a huge logistical complex was established, with priority resupply coming on fixed wing aircraft to LZ Bronco.

Activity in the north near the DMZ increased, however, and it became necessary for the Marines to go there. To replace them, Task Force Oregon, consisting of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division, 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, was formed, and the 3/25 Div replaced the Marines on Bronco. The 4th Division, to which 3/25 was attached, was supplied from Qui Nhon, so Naval Support Activity Sa Huynh was established to operate the facilities we know as the Hardstand and Gilligan's Island, with FSB Charlie Brown across the bay to protect them.

The 3/25 Div was a heavy unit. It had Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, and Troop C, 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry, under its operational control, operating out of what was once a cemetery on Bronco. No one operated in the mountains, against the old "safe areas" and infiltration routes.



Facts About Hard Drugs

WHAT IS A NARCOTIC?

A narcotic is a drug that relieves pain and induces sleep. The narcotics, or opiates, include opium and its active components, such as morphine. They also include heroin, which is morphine chemically altered to make it about six times stronger. Narcotics also include a series of synthetic chemicals that have a morphine-like action.

WHY DO PEOPLE TAKE OPIATES?

People in physical or psychological pain may turn to heroin for relief, especially if their ability to endure distress is low. Many are introduced to the drug by "friends." Certain addicts derive gratification from turning others on.

Many believe, "It can't happen to me." They think they can use heroin occasionally and not get hooked. These are often weekend "joy poppers." A good number of these individuals end up addicted.

Young males from minority groups who live in central city areas are most likely to become addicts. There is evidence that some middleclass youngsters in the drug-using communities have begun to abuse heroin. A small number of doctors and nurses who have the drugs available have become addicted.

CAN A PERSON FUNCTION WHILE ON NARCOTICS?

If the person is tolerant to an opiate he can usually function satisfactorily. This assumes that he is on a constant dosage level, and that his body's reaction to the drug is minimal. It merely keeps him comfortable.

This ability to perform, stay awake and alert after being kept on a maintenance level has been demonstrated with the methadone maintenance treatment. An occasional person will be drowsy.

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO TAKE A SHOT OF HEROIN?

Generally, there is a feeling of relaxation and of being "high." This is accompanied by an "awayness" or pleasant, dreamlike state.

As tolerance develops, the "high" is generally lost. The addict then requires heroin to avoid the withdrawal sickness. In other words, at this point he is using heroin to feel normal.

WHAT ARE THE PHYSICAL DANGERS OF ADDICTION?

The physical complications are many and some are life endangering. An overdose, resulting in death, occurs when someone has lost or never developed tolerance because he was using very diluted heroin. If, by chance, he obtains pure heroin, he may die moments after injection.

Infections from unsterile solutions, syringes, and needles cause many bacterial diseases. Viral hepatitis can be epidemic among addicts. Skin abscesses, inflammation of the veins and congestion of the lungs are further complications.

MILITARY LOSERS BOX

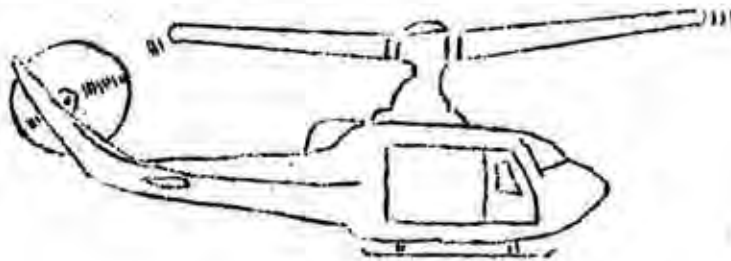
COMPANY	No. of Cases MAY
Alpha.....	1
Bravo.....	2
Charlie.....	2
Delta.....	1
Echo.....	0
HHC.....	2

THE GIMLET welcomes literary offerings from the field (from REMFs too) poems, short stories, art work... whatever talent you have. Contributions can be mailed or hand-carried, to the S1.

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The Gimlet

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Home Loan

The Veterans Administration has announced the reduction of the interest charged on veterans' home loans from eight to seven and one-half per cent.

The drop in interest rates on home loans guaranteed by the VA will save a veteran or serviceman more than \$3,000 on the average new home loan over a 30 year financing period. That figure is based on the \$24,000 average loan on a new home.

VA guarantees 60 per cent up to a maximum of \$12,500, whichever is less, of home loans made to veterans and servicemen.

VA's loan program covers veterans of World War II and the Korean War who have served at least 90 days of active duty as well as those who served at least 181 days after Jan 31, 1955, provided they have not previously used their loan entitlement.

Veterans discharged for a service-connected disability and widows of eligible veterans are also entitled to GI loans.