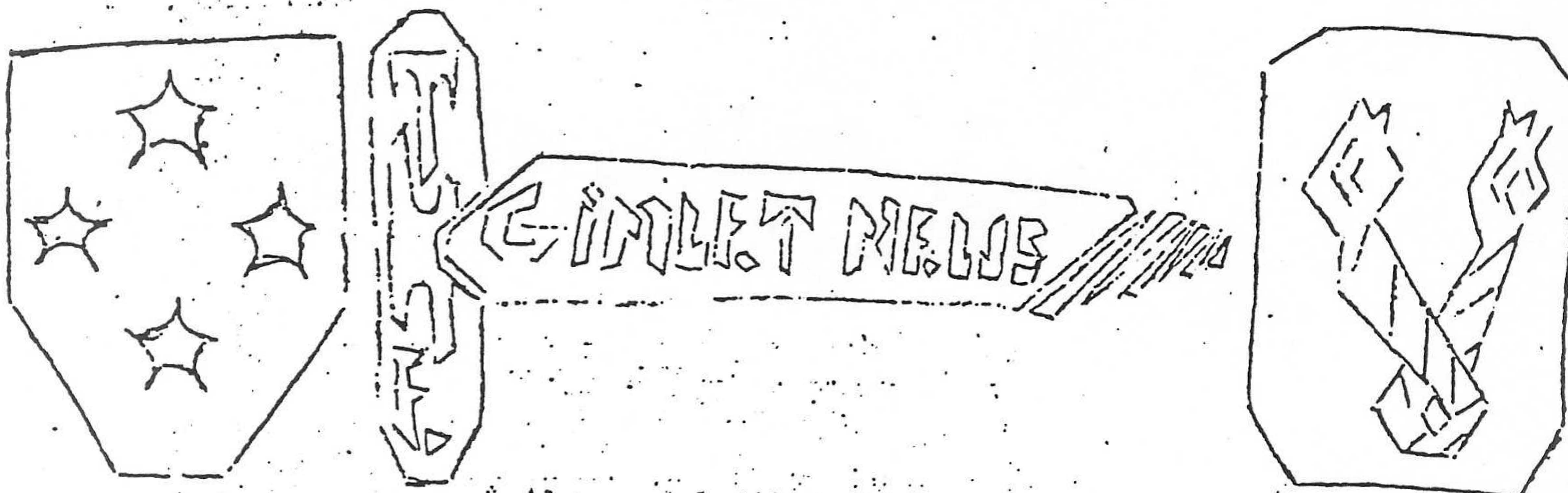




Vol. 1, No. 7

3d Battalion, 21st Infantry

November 30, 1969

ALFA GO FINDS RICE

In recent weeks 3d Infantry has engaged in a program of rice denial aimed at preventing the enemy from helping himself to the abundant rice crop available this time of year and at seizing that which he has already succeeded in harvesting.

On the 16th the program received its biggest boost as A Company, on a routine search and clear mission 1 1/2 miles northwest of Tam Ky, discovered 15,000 lbs of rice in a large hooch area.

The initial discovery that the hooch area was a storage point for NVA/VC rice came as one Amnilater, Sgt Tracy Richardson (Garden County, Ky.) thought that the walls of one hooch "looked funny." Closer investigation yielded a pile of unpolished rice streaming from the wall.

The discovery led to another and soon the entire hooch area was flooded with rice. As Sgt Don Harris (Midland, Mich.) described the situation: "We found rice inside false walls, in 55 gallon drums, buried underground, and in bags and baskets hidden under large mounds of straw. Everywhere we looked there was rice."

After finding all the rice, then came the task of bagging it for extraction. And, according to 1st Lt Ronald Grose (New Orleans, La.) that was no small task. "We started early the next morning and by nightfall we still had a large pile of rice to be extracted."

SPECIAL NOTE: An abbreviated version of the above article, entitled "GIs Uncover 10 Tons of Rice," appeared in the PACIFIC STARS & STRIPES on Saturday, November 22, 1969. Congratulations Amnilaters!

LET'S GO HOME: Thanksgiving Day

"I wonder what the NVA and VC are eating today?"

Cpl Edward J. Glender

BALL PLAYERS VISIT CENTER

LZ Center, 19 Nov-- Warm handshakes and smiling faces were the order of the day as Jim "Indicat" Grant of the St. Louis Cardinals, Bill Payas of the Atlanta Braves and Don Droboda of the champion N. Y. Mets visited LZ Center as part of their 1969 sponsored tour of Viet Nam.

Up to 100 persons were on hand to meet and talk with the 3 N. Y. stars in front of the Gimlet Inn. "Hi, I'm Don Droboda" could be heard as the tall Mets outfielder walked up to a group of well-wishers. All three players made it a point to introduce themselves and say a few words to every one they met.

Later the honored guests were invited to LZC where they were officially made Honorary Gimlets in a small ceremony conducted by 1st Lt Bacon and CSM Glender. "Where did Droboda learn to throw?" asked Bill Payas as he stood up to the guest book to sign his name below that of the Mets slugger.

When it came Jim Grant's turn to sign the guest book, he made it a point to question the Mets outfielder as to why he placed a big 1 next to "N. Y. Mets." "You'd better enjoy it while you can," warned Indicat, clearly implying that if he has anything to say about it, such will not be the status of the N. Y. Mets next year.

After spending a full 40 minute visit the three guests boarded their helicopter bound for LZ Liberia. They were seen off by the appreciative Gimlets, with a cloud of smoke-- red and green that is and lots of it, too.

AWARDS

Alpha Company

Silver Star Medal: 1LT Harvey S. Browne

Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device: PFC Marcel D. Parks (1st Oak Leaf Cluster); SP4 Jasper A. Westbrook, Jr.

Beta Company

Silver Star Medal: 1LT Witold J. Bielawski; PFC Peter Kryptonicz.

Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device: SP4 David H. Moore.

Delta Company

Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device: 1LT William T. Cox; SP4 David C. Chubb; PFC Willie H. Holton; PFC Edward S. Perry.

Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device: PFC Frank J. Bartala.

Headquarters Company

Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device: PFC Gene Richardson.

FROM THE CO.

Wish I could tell each of you daily the magnificent job you are doing. In spite of rather adverse conditions, you complete your assigned missions in a professional and superb manner. We have a rough area of operations-- we have not witnessed any lull in the enemy's activities; our weather is either cold and rainy or blazing hot and humid; our terrain is rough. I am quite sure our battalion has had more sustained contact than any other equivalent force in Viet Nam. However, in spite of these adverse conditions and no matter how tired you happen to be, you always have a smile when I chat with you.

You are courageous and stick together. In a recent battle in the flats, we lost three members of the battalion who were trying to rescue their wounded comrades. You have won the undying respect and admiration of everyone that is aware of our operations.

Your leaders are not satisfied just to complete the mission. They are only satisfied if they do the job with a minimum amount of casualties. We can help by working arty, gun chips, air strikes and spook. You can help us in several ways:

- (1) Always be alert.
- (2) Always have an element in the squad ready to fire.
- (3) Spread out whenever you move.
- (4) Never use trails except when there is no other choice.
- (5) When you walk through an area, always have someone looking to the rear.
- (6) Keep your weapon clean and test-fire it.
- (7) Never by-pass a spider hole or likely enemy position without clearing it.
- (8) Be prepared at all times to make contact with the enemy.

My sincere wish is to do a job on

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

"How can I be thankful in Vietnam? This is a war zone; what is there to be thankful for besides vague generalities? Can I name a few things-- like being alive, having food, having a family back in the world that cares about me, getting closer to going home-- but these are things I already have anyway, so why give God credit for things I have attained of myself?"

This is how our thought processes are prone to run this time of year. Thanksgiving, perhaps better entitled "Thanks-for-living," is more of an attitude we have toward our Creator rather than an enumeration of our possessions. And yet our attitude toward Him too is a by-product of our thoughts concerning His gifts to us. What are His real gifts like?

HIS GIFTS OF GOD ARE LIMITLESS. Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven. His gifts are never harmful; they are always beneficial.

HIS GIFTS OF GOD ARE INEXHAUSTIBLE. The gifts of God are beyond our ability to compute in value. The richest and best gifts that came to us in life are from God.

HIS GIFTS ARE TEMPORARY. Some gifts are of temporary value-- orchids, candy, or money. God gives to us that which is of eternal significance.

HIS GIFTS ARE UNIVERSAL. Many of God's gifts are presented to everyone-- "He makes his sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do right and those who do wrong." God's best gifts are those which are received personally by those who respond to Him in faith.

GOD'S MOST WONDERFUL GIFT IS JESUS CHRIST. You cannot buy it, merit it, or steal it-- only God can give His Son into your life. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." Therefore we of all men who know Him are the most grateful!

GILLET SCOREBOARD

Nov 11-29		Totals for November	
Enemy Killed.....	27	39.....	Enemy Killed
Chieu Hoi.....	0	3.....	Chieu Hoi
POWs.....	2	2.....	POWs
Lbs of rice.....	32,875	33,875.....	Lbs of rice

THE GILLET NEWS is an authorized biweekly publication of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

MAJOR G. C. BUCH, Commanding Officer
 SGT M. L. BUCH, Editor
 SGT M. L. BUCH, Artist
 SGT M. L. BUCH, Typist

ECHO FOUR Device

For the past two weeks the men of Echo Company have been demonstrating their carpentry skills under the direction of SGT Carl Lehmann (Long Island, NY). The CP has grown upward and outward and presently houses the orderly room and living quarters for the CO and several PWs. Work is progressing on the second floor which will provide an enclosed day room for the mortar and recon people.

M.2 in. mortars were kept busy during the middle part of November in a variety of fire missions against enemy rice gathers to the north. A mixture of M1, M1 and M2 rounds gave good results although no "official" totals were posted. Soon, under new platoon leader 1LT Donald Coleman was aided by bombardier SGT Paul Orlando, (Grass Valley, Cal) who ably manned the radio, but who also found his field experience quite a revelation. Dave Paul, "M2 is a lot more comfortable."

The Rockless Rifle crew has been kept busy in preparation for, moving to, and returning from elements in the field. Providing direct fire support against dug in enemy positions, the Rockless Rifle platoon has come in for high praise from all the companies who have called upon them for assistance.

The recon people have been telling us of their most recent OP. Constructed high in the limbs of a tree, their OP platform provided the perfect view of their target area. Judging from the number of missions called in, they must indeed have built an effective OP.

Finally, struck by the carpentry fever, the Gillet OP personnel have been building new quarters for their base of operations. Led by SGT Bernard Muel of construction.

A.P.O. TO CHANGE

As of Dec 1 3/21 will have a new APO number- 96374. The reason for the change is to speed up mail service from 1 to 2 days. All mail arriving with the old APO number will still reach you; it will not become lost. Begin using the new APO number today!

SOUVENIR HUNTING SGT

Sergeant Barry Daniels (McDonaville, Ind.) of Charlie Company is no ordinary souvenir hunter. Most people go to the rear areas to purchase remnants of their tour in Vietnam: SGT Daniels finds his out in the field. And they all have one thing in common, they belonged at one time or another to MIA or VC soldiers.

In a recent interview with SGT Daniels I asked how he happened to find 5 pieces of MIA gear. His answer: "I just make it a point to be where the action is whenever it starts. If any enemy gear is to be found at all, that's where it'll be."

His first souvenir was found lately following the battle near Tam Ky. "While on a search and clear mission in the area," recalls SGT Daniels, "I found this MIA magazine-carrying vest with accessory pouches. It fit me, so I kept it." The next item to be added to his collection was an MIA pistol belt acquired out in the flatlands. It had belonged to an MIA soldier before being forcibly removed from his hole.

More recently on another search and clear mission out of LZ Jenter on 26 October, the gun squad leader picked up a Chieu Hoi rifle. He described the circumstances this way: "We (trail gun team and one squad of 3rd Bn 3d platoon) were the blocking force located just below a hock area, while the rest of the platoon went through the hock area chasing 5 VC our way. We got three of them and while searching the area later found the VC weapon in some bushes."

The final two additions to his collection were added only three weeks ago, again while out in the flatlands. While 3 Company was in contact SGT Daniels spotted an MIA helmet just recently--within minutes--abandoned by a retreating enemy. And only three days later, 5 Nov, a pair of "Ho Chi Minh" sandals were discovered lying next to a VC hole.

As the interview...

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Due to I Corps regulations requiring that all combat stories be cleared thru Third Marine Amphibious Force channels before printing in any internal publication, the story of Delta Company's recent clash with NVA troops cannot as yet be published. Every effort is being made to insure its publication at the earliest possible date. E.

ALPHA COMPANY NEWS

DERCSing this month are SSG Steven Schroder, SGT Jeffrey L. Balliett, SGT Richard T. Lewing, SGT Randy Grove, SGT Larry Dicus, SP4 John Twarog, SP4 Michael Edgington, SP4 William C. Wood, SP4 T.J. Williams, SP4 Willie Bradley, and PFC Thomas Schwarz.

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BTOC

HIGHLITES

THE GIMLET NEWS would like to proclaim the promotion to Specialist Fourth Class of Al Barth and Dave Ney. Al, who hails from McComb, Ohio, is the colonel's orderly and Dave (Detroit, Michigan) is the S-1 clerk.

Charlie Tiger News

The Charlie Tigers are proud to announce that the following individuals have recently been promoted:

Michael Ross to First Lieutenant and Ronnie McCullough to SGT First Class.

The following have been promoted to Specialist Four (E-4): Tony J. Harp, Larry D. Irwin, Sammie L. Fox, Robert L. McDonald, Dennis R. Mead, Willie H. Monroe, Thomas H. Nevy, Marvin A. Powers, Ronald J. Robinson, Jerry L. Robison, Alton L. Shaw, Randall C. Shaw, William E. Sheppard, George P. Trcvac, Lowell B. Worster.

This month will see the following 'Tigers' heading home: SGT Crestes M. Trush, SP5 James A. Bishop, SP4 Grandberry Mahone, SP4 John J. Guccione, SP4 James R. Cook, SP4 Robert K. Pace, and SP4 Henry Reuscher.

READER: Please use the following space provided for "personal message."

SSAN: -----

Co 3/21, 196th Brigade

APO San Francisco 96374

POSTMASTER: please note that this newsletter contains a personal message to the addressee, thus qualifying it to go as "free" mail.
