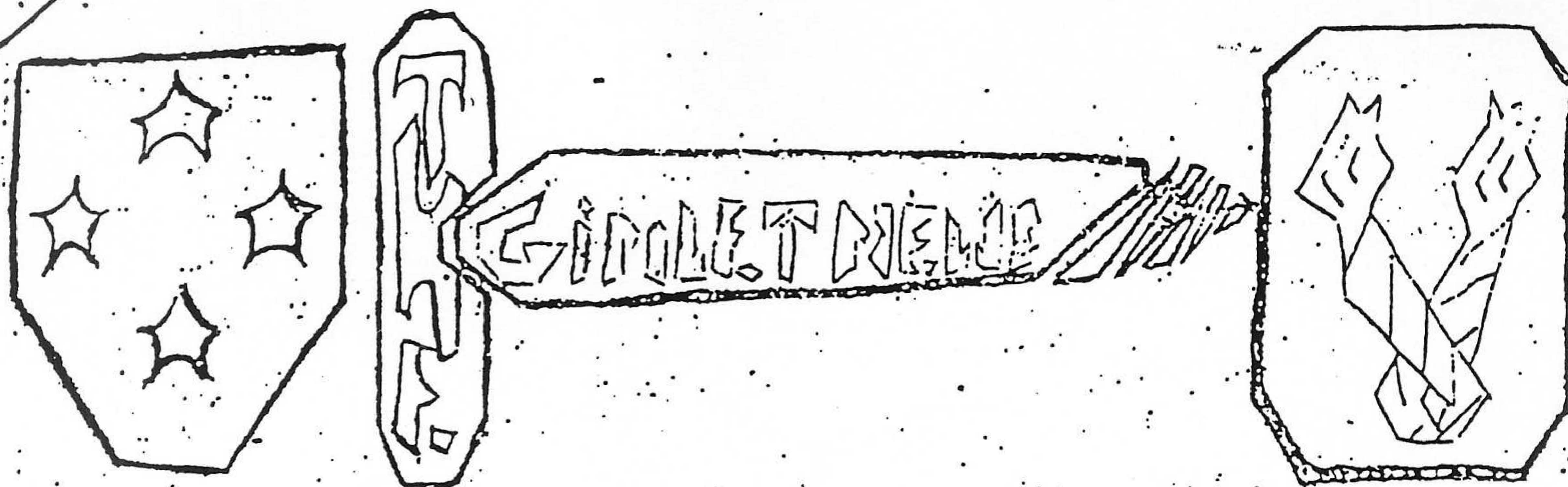




Vol. 2, No. 1

3d Battalion, 21st Infantry

January 15, 1970

"AMERICAN NEWS SHEET" FEATURES GIMLET NEWS

ANNIHILATORS

Jan 9: Soldiers of the 196th Infantry Brigade accounted for at least 15 NVA killed thirteen miles northwest of Tam Ky. The enemy dead were confirmed yesterday.

Alpha Company 3-21 was headed toward their day laager site yesterday when they saw an estimated company of NVA moving through a rice paddy.

The Americal Division infantrymen called for support and B Battery, 3-82 responded. "Within minutes," stated SP4 Bohdan Dmytrewycz (Lakewood, Ohio) "the artillery began putting round after round on the enemy."

After the first barrage of shells, 15 enemy lay dead, while the remainder tried to escape into the woodline. Again artillery was called in.

"They got hit right as they went in to the woods," said SP4 Dmytrewycz.

CHARLIE TIGERS

Jan 11: Continuing their operations in the coastal lowlands, 12 miles northwest of Tam Ky, elements of 3-21 confiscated more NVA equipment.

A Charlie Company patrol, on a routine search and clear mission, observed several NVA troops evading into a near by woodline.

"We immediately called an artillery mission (from B Battery, 3-82nd)," said SP4 William Sheppard (Buffalo, NY), "and again the arty was fast and right on target."

Following the fire mission, the patrol searched the area and found an NVA body along with one AK-47, one SKS 13 helmets-- ventilated by arty-- 13 brand new NVA ruck-sacks and numerous documents.

The enemy, frightened by the artillery, left everything and literally fled for their lives.

BUSHMASTERS

Jan 4, LZ Center: "Today has been a real successful one for Bravo Company working with F Troop, 17th Cav. They found three tons of enemy rice, some enemy documents and engaged and killed seven Viet Cong in separate incidents."

Thus Captain Jacques Cayere (Santurce, Puerto Rico) of the Battalion S-3 office summed up the day's activities of B Co and F Troop working in conjunction out in the flatlands.

The surge of events began early in the day with the infantry/cav team finding 500 pounds of unpolished rice in a structure area. Also several enemy documents were found concealed in false walls. These were taken to LZ Center for further examination.

After noon two and one half tons of rice were extracted from a nearby village to Nui Loc San.

A few hours later seven Viet Cong were seen dashing into a tunnel entrance. The Bushmasters, spotting a second tunnel opening, closed off this route of escape.

Then according to PFC Clark Taylor of Leesburg, Fla, "We had our Kit Carson come up and attempt to persuade them to surrender. But the Viet Cong remained silent."

When they were sure the enemy would not surrender, the Bushmasters engaged them, killing all seven.

AMCAL NEWS SHEET: RECON & C. CO.

Frederick Hill, Jan 12: American units in the 196th Brigade area of operations today killed 19 of the enemy and confiscated a large group of weapons.

Soldiers of the Recon platoon, 3-21 Infantry continued to inflict heavy damage on enemy forces, accounting for 13 NVA dead.

Early yesterday morning an NVA sapper unit attacked the night laager position of Recon, 13 miles northwest of Tam Ky. After hours of close-in fighting, the Americal Division Infantrymen drove off the enemy.

Two NVA were killed by rifle and machinegun fire as they tried to penetrate the perimeter. Six more were found further away from the laager position, killed by artillery-- B Battery 3-82.

Later in the day, Charlie company, 3-21 Infantry decided to break the en-

emy of a bad habit. In recent days the NVA, working in the 3-21 area of operations have been searching night laager sites previously abandoned by Americans.

Today however, the Charlie Tigers were ready and waiting for them. While the main force of American soldiers moved out of their night laager site, a patrol remained behind.

A short time later eight unsuspecting NVA approached the site. They were looking for discarded items, but found something else instead.

"It was a perfect setup," said SGT Leo Solis (Grulla, Texas), "the NVA walked right into it."

The 196th Brigade troops opened up on the enemy with small arms and machinegun fire. After the enemy had fled, the men found five dead plus two blood trails. In addition a pistol and several documents were confiscated.

Praised In Letter from Division C.G.

1. I am in receipt of a communication from Lieutenant General Nickerson, Commanding General, Third Marine Amphibious Force, commending the forces of your brigade that participated in the search and clear operation conducted during 12 November through 7 December 1969. This operation, conducted in Thang Binh/Que Son Area as part of the I Corps Tactical Zone Rice Denial Program was highly successful and produced impressive results. At least 85 enemy soldiers were killed, and small arms, and 23 tons of rice were captured. The captured rice was evacuated to the Government of Vietnam population centers and redistributed in support of the 1969 Accelerated Pacification Program.

2. The Brigade's achievements in this operation represent another accolade in a long series of tactical accomplishments which have broken the communist hold in your area. The concerted and continuing pressure of the 196th Brigade has brought to bear on the enemy's regular and local forces, coupled with the support being given the people and government of the Republic of Vietnam, represents a victory and restoration of the people's confidence in their own ability and determination.

3. I add my 'well done' to that of the Force Commander, for the courage and devotion, professional skill, and dedication of the officers and men of the 196th Infantry Brigade. Your deeds are worthy of emulation, your sacrifices not in vain, and your victories a furtherance of the mission of this Division and Free World Forces.

LLCYD B. RAMSEY
Major General, USA
Commanding

ADJUSTING ARTY

From the artillery liaison in BTCC comes this helpful word on the subject of adjusting artillery fire. When adjusting artillery or mortar fire, the adjustments are usually made along the OBSERVER-TARGET LINE, which is simply the direction in mils from you to the target. Mils can be readily determined by referring to the outer set of numbers on the face of the lensatic compass; or if you can only determine degrees, simply multiply degrees by 17 and you will have the corresponding number of mils. (Always round off mils to nearest hundreds.)

After you determine your adjustment, send it by giving your lateral, that is right or left, shift first; then send your range, that is add or drop, correction. It is more convenient that way, and more importantly, it's faster too.

GIMLET SCORE BOARD			
December		Jan 1-14	
Enemy killed.....	54	93.....	Enemy killed
Chieu hois.....	8	5.....	Chieu hois
Weapons captured.....	2	28.....	Weapons captured

THE GIMLET 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.

LTC ROBERT C BACON...Commanding Officer
SGT DAVID R McKEON....Editor-In-Chief
SP4 RICHARD T WASHINGTON.....Designer
SP4 THOMAS J HETEX...Editorial Consultant

FOR ECHO

With the holiday season now in the past, Echo's attentions have turned toward perimeter defense and strengthening the defensive capabilities of the hill. Aided by the line companies, Echo mortar and 106 men have improved their positions. Ideally none of our improvements will ever have to be put to use, but realists at this end of center feel more confident of being able to withstand any test the enemy may wish to offer us.

Primary missions involving four deuce have been for the Assassins, who have been maintaining a watchful eye on the enemy, monitoring their every move. The big mortars have been firing deacons for Recon at suspected enemy movement. One night the four deuce crews had to fire three of these while providing illumo at the same time. Gun crews under SGTs Roy Smith, Henry Jones, and Pat Barnes and SP4 Bob Caldwell were credited with effective and rapid fire by Recon Platoon Leader, 1LT Ronald Coleman. The same crews performed well in the New Year's Eve celebration, and impartial observers commented on the effective program of lights.

Due to the continuing poor weather, Ech personnel have been issued inflatable flak jackets and mud boots. In the future all stream crossing practices will be conducted at this location.

Echo Company welcomes its new first sergeant, SFC Okey Blankenship, back with 3-21 after a period of leave back in the world. We all look forward to working with SFC Blankenship for the remainder of his tour in Vietnam.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Annihilators would like to extend their congratulations to PFC Thomas Aldrich on the arrival of a 7 pound 8 ounce baby girl. At last word, both mother and daughter are doing fine.

CONGRESSMEN HAIL SERVICEMEN

(Reprinted from Army Times, 31 Dec 69.

Washington--The House of Representatives this week passed a resolution paying tribute to Americans serving in Vietnam.

The measure was passed after a one week delay which grew out of the fears of some lawmakers that the commendation of "each serviceman and veteran of Vietnam" might be considered as approval of the 1968 incident at My Lai.

Rep. Johnathan Bingham (D, N.Y.) who voted for the measure, said approval "should not be construed as condoning" criminal acts.

But Chairman L. Mendell Rivers (D, S.C.) of the House Armed Services Committee said the resolution "just tries to tell the GI, 'Thank you for carrying the burden, the like of which no group of Americans ever has undertaken.'"

The text of the resolution follows: Whereas the efforts and sacrifices of the American servicemen in Vietnam have been overshadowed by the emotional debate over our future course in Vietnam; and

Whereas he is involved in a dangerous bloody conflict being fought under the worst possible conditions; and

Whereas the American people, regardless of their opinions of the overall conflict, should take note of the bravery and dedication which he has exhibited and the sacrifices which he has made; Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives pays the highest tribute to the American serviceman who has given his life or has been wounded in the Vietnam conflict; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commends each serviceman and veteran of Vietnam for his individual sacrifice, bravery, dedication, initiative, and devotion to duty; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives will do all in its power to lift from his shoulders the heavy burden he has carried for so long.

REMINDER FROM THE CO

The only record that I am not proud of is that we are high in the brigade for malaria. Let's work together on this so that we can get the honor of having the lowest malaria rate.

* * * * *

HELPFUL HINTS FROM HELOISE

1. Be sure to include your social security account number in your return address on all outgoing mail. If you don't, you may find your mail coming back to you marked "Insufficient Return Address".

2. "Do you have one metal (dog) tag laced into one of your boots? If not," so Heloise says, "you are not complying with Paragraph 46 (4) Change 1 American Regulation 670-5, 22 July 69 (whew) which says, and I quote, 'All US Military personnel assigned and attached to the Americal Division will wear one metal ID tag with their name, SSAN, blood Type, and religion laced into one boot. The ID tag will be worn at the base of the tongue and under the laces.' So if you don't have the necessary dog tags, be sure to have extras made up when a FAST team visits Center and you are on the hill, or during the next standdown."

----- (FOLD) -----

Co - 3/21 196th Bde
APO S.F. 96374

Free