

C I T A T I O N

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF CONGRESS, APPROVED 25 JULY 1963, THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN ACTION AGAINST AN ENEMY IS AWARDED TO:

STAFF SERGEANT LESTER ARMSTRONG, COMPANY C, 3D BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY, 196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE, DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING AN OPPOSING FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON 4 NOVEMBER 1966.

DURING THE OPERATION, COMPANY C WAS MOVING FORWARD TO AUGMENT THE EFFORTS OF AN AMERICAN UNIT PINNED DOWN BY AN ESTIMATED VIET CONG BATTALION. SERGEANT ARMSTRONG WAS MOVING WITH HIS PLATOON WHEN IT BECAME PINNED DOWN BY THREE VIET CONG IN A MACHINEGUN BUNKER. AS THE 2D PLATOON ATTEMPTED TO MANEUVER, SIX VIET CONG PROTECTING THE BUNKER FLANKED THEM AND STOPPED THEIR ASSAULT.

MOVEMENT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IN THE DENSE JUNGLE. THE 2D PLATOON MACHINEGUNNER BECAME ENTANGLED IN THE VINES, HAMPERING THE FORWARD THRUST OF HIS PLATOON. WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY, AND EXPOSING HIMSELF TO THE HIGH RATE OF HOSTILE FIRE, SERGEANT ARMSTRONG PICKED UP THE MACHINEGUN FROM THE ENTANGLED GUNNER AND ASSAULTED THE BUNKER. DURING THE ASSAULT, SERGEANT ARMSTRONG SUSTAINED SHRAPNEL WOUNDS IN THE ARM AND LEG BY AN EXPLODING VIET CONG RIFLE GRENADE. HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT DETER HIM AS HE INCREASED HIS RATE OF FIRE AND SENT THE SIX VIET CONG SCURRYING FOR COVER. SERGEANT

ARMSTRONG MOVED IN AND KILLED THE SIX VIET CONG BEFORE THEY COULD REACH THEIR PREPARED POSITIONS. MAINTAINING THE INTENSIVE RATE OF FIRE, SERGEANT ARMSTRONG THEN CONTINUED HIS ASSAULT ON THE MACHINEGUN BUNKER KILLING THE THREE VIET CONG IN THE POSITION.

SERGEANT ARMSTRONG'S PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE UNDER FIRE ENABLED THE FORWARD MOVEMENT TO BE CONTINUED. HIS VALOROUS ACTIONS ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT AND THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3D BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY
196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO San Francisco 96256

AVBFBSA

21 April 1967

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Supplement

TO: Chief of Military History
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C.

1. Reference, paragraph 61d, AR 870-5.
2. In accordance with cited regulation, attached Annual Supplement to the History of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry is submitted.
3. Delay in submittal was due to permanent change of station of brigade from Tay Ninh, South Vietnam to Chu Lai, South Vietnam.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

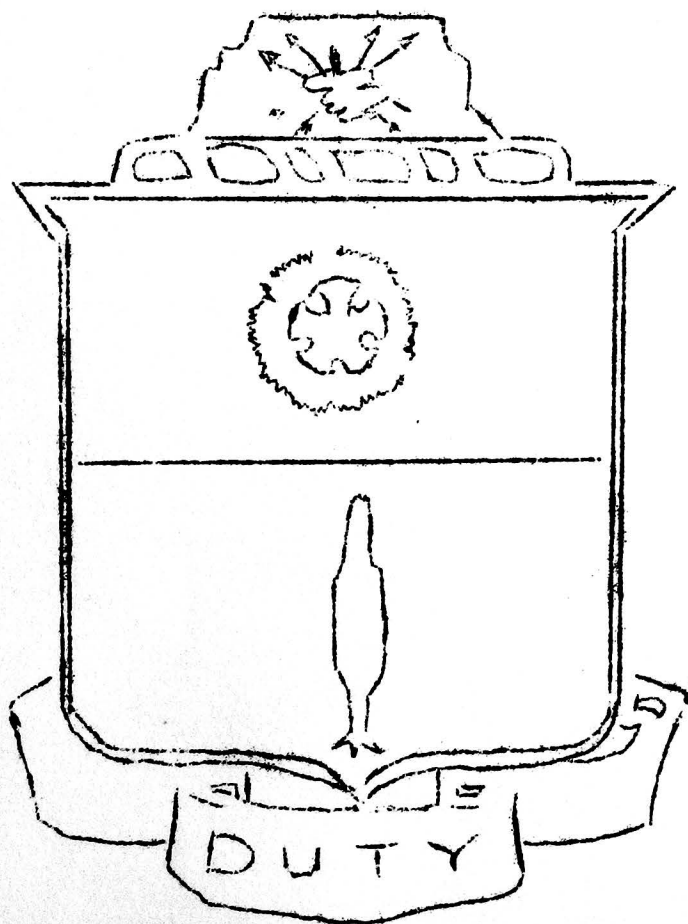
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as


FRANK W. LAWSON
1Lt, Infantry
Adjutant

Copies furnished:
CG, 196th Lt Inf Bde
(AVBFHO)

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT
RCS CSHIS-6 (R2)
3d Battalion, 21st Infantry
1 January 1966 to 31 December 1966

Gimlet



Composed by: 1Lt Frank W. Lewson
Battalion Historian

I N D E X

SECTION

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TITLE

New "GIMLETS"

Camp Drum, New York

Dominican Republic and
Deployment

Arrival in Vietnam

Base Development &
Training

Baptism of Fire

Operation Attleboro

A N N E X

Commanders

Staff

Unit Commanders

Awards & Decorations

Lineage and Honors

SNAKE SKIN - AN INDIAN
SYMBOL OF WAR

FOUR ARROWS - FOUR INDIAN
CAMPAIGNS FOUGHT BY THE
21ST INFANTRY:

1. NEZ PERCES
2. BANNOCKS
3. MODOCS
4. ARIZONA

BLUE & WHITE
REPRESENTING
THE INFANTRY
COLORS

KATIPUNAN SUN

PARTICIPATION
IN THE PHILIP-
PINE INSUR-
RECTION

FIVE BASTIONED
FORT
21ST INFANTRY
SERVED WITH V
CORPS DURING THE
SPANISH-AMERICAN
WAR

CEDAR TREE -
SYMBOL OF THE 21ST
INFANTRY'S BAPTISM
OF FIRE AT CEDAR
MOUNTAIN ON 9 AUG
1862

DUTY-UNIT MOTO

3D BATTALION - 21ST INFANTRY

I - New "GIMLETS"

Advanced Individual Training began for the GIMLETS of the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry on 3 January 1966 and continued through 12 March 1966 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. The "new" soldiers of the battalion had just returned from two weeks of Christmas leave after graduating from Basic Combat Training. As in BCT, Advanced Individual Training was conducted by the companies of the battalion, with the exception of the live firing of the 106 Recoilless Rifle, 81mm Mortar, Automatic Rifle, Machinegun Transition Range and the 56 hours of Techniques of Fire. Interspersed through the training program were routine but vital exercises in map and compass reading, patrolling work and squad tactics of all types.

Physical Training and Dismounted Drill were the order of the day. Although the temperatures at Fort Devens dipped considerably below the freezing mark, the majority of the training during this period was conducted outdoors. Due to area limitation in and around Fort Devens, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of all AIT was conducted at Camp Edwards (Otis Air Force Base), Massachusetts which afforded realistic field training. This was the first real chance squads and platoons had the opportunity to work together as a unit. Camp Edwards is located on Cape Cod, a summer vacation spot in Massachusetts. It provided the space and terrain to satisfy the requirements of this type training. However, the cold, bitter winter of New England made the area seem more like the north pole to the trainees.

The remainder of the training was conducted at the various ranges and training areas in and around Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

Under the train and retain policy upon which the battalion was organized, the AIT phase was also utilized to train personnel for hard skill MOS'. Certain enlisted men were selected to attend a Medical Aidman's Course which was conducted by the 29th Evacuation Hospital under the supervision of the Post Surgeon. Other EM attended a field wire crewman's course given by the 3d Battalion, 82nd Artillery. Radio-Telephone Operators were trained by the Army Security Agency at Fort Devens. Individuals selected for Military Police Schooling were sent to Fort Gordon, Georgia. The majority of the formal schools were located at Fort Dix, New Jersey --- company clerk, file clerk, administrative specialist, etc.

After completing its training at Camp Edwards, the battalion returned to Fort Devens on 19 February. Advanced Individual Training graduation was conducted at Theater Mr. 6, Fort Devens the afternoon of 12 March 1966. Major General Charles O'Malley, Commanding General VIII U. S. Army Corps and Fort Devens, Massachusetts gave the graduating address to the class and presented outstanding trainee awards. Guest speakers also included Colonel Francis S. Conaty Jr., Commanding Officer 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate) and Lieutenant Colonel John B. Wedsworth Jr., Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry.

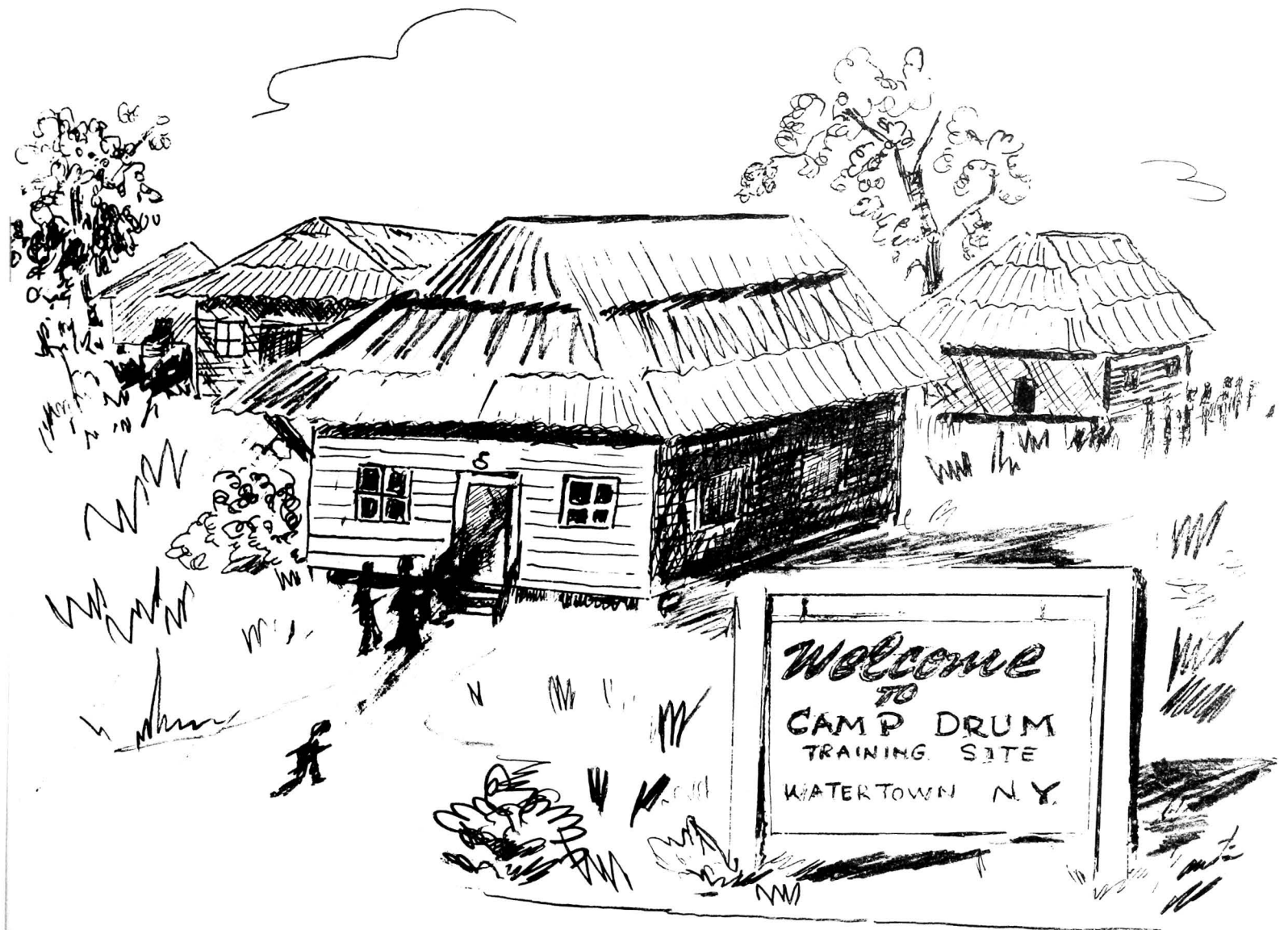
II -- Camp Drum, New York

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief at the completion of Advanced Individual Training; however, the worse was yet to come. Basic Unit Training began on 31 March and continued through 15 May 1966. The site of the training was Camp Drum; a cold and desolate post in upstate New York. All training was under the counterinsurgency umbrella --- emphasizing physical conditioning, patrolling, raids and ambushes, counter-ambush techniques, security measures, helicopter employment, riot control, land navigation and civic action.

Basic Unit Training was highlighted by the conduct of Army Training Tests by platoon, company and battalion. Training was conducted to attain a C-1 readiness condition by 15 May 1966 --- trained, equipped and up to strength in all skill areas. At the conclusion of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade FTX, in which the battalion participated, the battalion was declared combat ready.

III - Dominican Republic and Deployment

The 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry, organic to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, was preparing for deployment to the Dominican Republic. Riot control and mob actions were emphasized during the training of the battalion. An Advanced Movement Directive was received by the 196th Light Infantry Brigade changing the deployment area from the Dominican Republic to Vietnam. It prescribed an Equipment Readiness Date of 1 July 1966 and a Personnel Readiness Date of 15 July 1966.



This change in deployment area caused problems in the area of personnel and logistics. Several officers and noncommissioned officers had recently returned from Vietnam and could not be deployed. The battalion commander, executive officer and battalion S-3 were included in this category. There was also a critical shortage of noncommissioned officers in the grade of Sergeant E-5 and Staff Sergeant E-6 to perform as fire team leaders and squad leaders. Throughout the training of the battalion, trainee fire team leaders and squad leader had been utilized. Filler personnel began arriving in late June and continued to arrive through the first week of August. Those that arrived after 15 July, joined the Rear Detachment for deployment in August by air.

In order to allow all members of the battalion sufficient time to relocate their families and take care of their personal affairs, 50% of the personnel of the battalion were granted 15 day leaves during the month of June. The remainder of the battalion conducted training, POM processing, and maintenance. This procedure was reversed in mid-June.

The battalion loaded out of Boston 15 July 1966 aboard the USMS Patch for a near 30 day voyage to Vietnam. The Advance/Rear Detachment moved by air from Hanscom Field on 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 August with a final in-country date of 8 August 1966.

IV - Arrival in Vietnam

The battalion arrived at Vung Tau, Vietnam 14 and 15 August 1966. As the band played "Sons of the Brave," the "GIMLETs" disembarked their landing ship onto the tropical sands of the Vung Tau beach. An official

welcoming party of 50 Vietnamese girls in flowing "Au Dazy" costumes rushed forward carrying carnations and gladioli. The leading G.I.'s were promptly decorated with bright colored flowers. Officers dipped their heads to receive leis and magnolia blossoms. The men stood at a modified parade rest while dignitaries made speeches and photographers took pictures. As the band played "Blue Hawaii," the "GILBERTS" marched off in full field gear to begin writing a new history to their proud past.

V - Base Development and Training

The battalion was transported via C-130 aircraft to their battalion base area at the 196th Brigade base camp in Tay Ninh Province which is located approximately 45 miles NW of Saigon on the Cambodian border. Tay Ninh Province, which borders most of War Zone "C", is one of the most important strategic areas in the war --- backdoor to Saigon, a favorite base area for the Viet Cong, and the terminus of many secret communist supply trails coming through Cambodia.

As the men unloaded the transports, they were greeted by rolling matioc fields, ant hills 3 feet high and hard as cement, and thick, intertwined undergrowth. To make matters worse, there were no roads into the area other than an ox cart trail used by the inhabitants of the nearby village. Company, platoon and squad areas were assigned and the troops made themselves as comfortable as possible under the hot tropical sun of Vietnam.



Chris Lee

Immediately the battalion set to work forging out a base camp. Hired ox carts were utilized to transport building material, logistical supplies and in some cases rations from the main road network into the battalion area. Supplies were also hand carried in by the troops. Ant hills were chopped down with axes and entrenching tools and exploded with demolitions. Company areas were surveyed and laid in by battalion personnel equipped with engineer tools. The battalion bunker line was defined and work began on construction. Within a month after arrival they had transformed a totally raw area into a well organized, comfortable base camp. Prefabricated tent kits with screen sidings and screen doors were erected which housed one squad each. During the next few weeks a well stocked battalion P.K. was established and an outdoor movie screen was constructed.

Although base camp development was of great importance during the first few months in-country, acclimation of the troops to the combat environment and training characterized the workday for the men of the battalion. Training included lectures and practical exercises, actual ambush and search and destroy operations with 25th Infantry Division units operating in our area and an orientation class on Vietnam mines and booby traps.

VI - Baptism of Fire

The 3d Battalion 21st Infantry attained a combat readiness posture on 20 August 1966. Activities during this period were limited to light sniper fire into the perimeter positions and the occasional attempt of

individuals to breach the triple concertina wire bordering the perimeter.

During the month of September the battalion received its "baptism of fire" while conducting a search and destroy operation on the western slope of Nui Ba Den mountain in conjunction with a special forces unit and five Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) companies. Nui Ba Den, better known as the "Black Virgin" had been an impregnable VC stronghold for years. The mountain towers 3,232 feet above the plains of Tay Ninh Province.

The battalion (-) was in reserve at the base of the mountain when a call was received to move forward and establish blocking positions through which one CIDG company which had been ambushed by the Viet Cong while descending the mountain could pass through. The company had sustained moderate casualties and were being pursued by an estimated VC platoon. Two platoons of the "GINLETS" moved forward and deployed. A landing zone was secured to the rear for the evacuation of the wounded. As the CIDG force moved through their positions, the blocking force prepared for the enemy. As they approached they opened fire killing or wounding several and sending the remainder fleeing back up the mountain or into the surrounding jungles.

VII - Operation Alice

The 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry conducted Operation Alice, a search and destroy operation 2 - 8 September 1966 in Brigade TAOR 2. The operation was characterized by heavy saturation patrolling at night and

vigorous company size S&D operations during the day. The operation was highly successful in that it disrupted the activities of elements of C-40 VC Company known to be operating in that area.

VIII - Operation Attleboro

Company C, 3d Battalion 21st Infantry was attached to the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division on a search & destroy operation in Tay Ninh Province. During the course of the operation, Company A, 1/27 and Company C 3/21 made contact with an estimated regimental size Viet Cong force. The two American units sustained several "human wave" attacks by the enemy. The "GIMLETS" accounted for over 30 VC kills during the five (5) hour battle on the 4th of November 1966. The operation soon grew into a multi-divisional force with the remainder of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate), 1st Infantry Division and 25th Infantry Division.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

BATTALION COMMANDERS

LT COLONEL JOHN B. WADSWORTH JR.

1 January 1966 - 30 June 1966

LT COLONEL CHARLES K. NULSEN JR.

1 July 1966 - 31 December 1966

BATTALION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Major Joseph Gorda

1 January 1966 - 3 May 1966

Major Russell H. Williams

4 May 1966 - 10 July 1966

Major Bertin W. Springstead

11 July 1966 - 31 December 1966

S T A F F

Battalion S-1

CPT CECIL K. VAUGHN

1LT THOMAS J. WHITTEN

1LT FRANK W. LAWSON

Inclusive Dates

1 Jan 66 - 6 May 66

7 May 66 - 22 Nov 66

23 Nov 66 - 31 Dec 66

Battalion S-2

1LT SAMUEL TOWNSEND

1LT JAMES G. HUSE

1 Jan 66 - 31 Aug 66

1 Sep 66 - 31 Dec 66

Battalion S-3

MAJ THOMAS MC CARTHY

CPT MOYLAN S. CHEN II

1 Jan 66 - 15 Jul 66

16 Jul 66 - 31 Dec 66

Battalion S-4

CPT ROBERT E. BLAM

1LT THOMAS BURTON

1LT STEPHEN J. RYAN

1 Jan 66 - 13 Mar 66

14 Mar 66 - 28 Jun 66

29 Jun 66 - 31 Dec 66

Battalion S-5

CPT ARTURO SANCHEZ

1LT THOMAS R. HEINEBERRY

1LT RONALD HIBBARD

4 Jul 66 - 6 Nov 66

16 Nov 66 - 21 Nov 66

22 Nov 66 - 31 Dec 66

Battalion Surgeon

CPT NED HARDY

CPT RICHARD H. ROSE

Inclusive Dates

14 Jul 66 - 19 Sep 66

20 Sep 66 - 31 Dec 66

Battalion Chaplain

CHAPLAIN (CPT) JOHN LINDENAUER

15 Jul 66 - 31 Dec 66

UNIT COMMANDERS

Headquarters & Headquarters Company

CPT ARTHUR PALMER	1 Jan 66 - 6 Mar 66
1LT WILBUR J. DAVIS	7 Mar 66 - 31 Dec 66

Company A

1LT MICHAEL T. RUANE	1 Jan 66 - 4 Sep 66
CPT EMIL C. GREGG	5 Sep 66 - 31 Dec 66

Company B

CPT EMIL C. GREGG	1 Jan 66 - 6 Mar 66
1LT THOMAS R. HENNEBERRY	7 Mar 66 - 3 May 66
CPT CECIL K. VAUGHN	4 May 66 - 22 Nov 66
1LT THOMAS J. WHITTEN	23 Nov 66 - 31 Dec 66

Company C

CPT RUSSELL DOVRIES	1 Jan 66 - 31 Dec 66
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Company D

1LT WILBUR J. DAVIS	1 Jan 66 - 6 Mar 66
CPT EMIL C. GREGG	7 Mar 66 - 4 Sep 66
CPT MITCHELL T. LEEDS	5 Sep 66 - 31 Dec 66

AWARDS & DECORATIONS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

SSG LESTER ARMSTRONG Company C

SILVER STAR

CPT RUSSELL DE VRIES Company C
 SP4 ROBERT DOZER Company B (Interim-DSC)
 SP4 Dale W. Flickenger Company C
 PFC Vil Kleedorfer Company C
 SSG Lloyd Rohde Company C (Post)
 SSG Paul R. Stewart Company A (Post)

AIR MEDAL "V"

1LT JAMES G. HUSE JR. Hq & Hq Co

AIR MEDAL

LTC CHARLES K. NULSEN JR. H & Hq Co
 CPT DAVID W. SAUL Hq & Hq Co

BRONZE STAR "V"

SSG WILLIAM E. BOYD Company C
 SP4 ROGER L. BRICKMER Company C
 2LT ROBERT J. BROCKMAN Company B (Post)
 PFC TERRENCE CANNON Company C (Post)
 PSG CLARENCE CURTIS Company C
 CPT RUSSELL DeVRIES Company C
 SSG JOHN P. FRANKEL Company C
 2LT ARTHUR J. HARP Company C
 1LT JAMES G. MINKS-BELL Company C
 PSG LESLIE MILLS Company C
 SP4 WALTER MYERS JR. Company C (Post)
 SGT GARY N. SCOTHON Company C
 SP4 JAMES VAN CEDARFIELD Company B (Post)
 PFC DAVID WISNIEWSKI Company C (Post)
 1LT TRUMAN SULLIVAN Company A
 SP4 STANLEY ROBINSON Company C (Post)
 SP4 JOHN J. SHAW Company C (Post)
 SPG JOHN I. COOK Company C (Post)

BRONZE STAR

SGT MONROE EBERMACK	Company D
PFC MICHAEL C. GRIFFIN	Company ...
SP4 DAVID L. KING	Company B
SP4 ANTHONY SCIVOLINO	Company B (Post)
PFC DAVID A. COOPER	Company A (Post)
PFC FORREST DUDLEY	Company B (Post)
PFC TED H. TOLZMAN	Company B (Post)

BRONZE STAR (Meritorious Service)

1LT WILLIAM H. ... RLO JR.	Hq & Hq Co
SP4 DANIEL BENEDISUK	Company D
1LT RAYMOND J. NOVOLNY	Company D

ARMY COMENDATION MEDAL "V"

SP4 JOHNNY B. BROWNSTEAD	Company C
SP4 THOMAS J. COX	Company B
SP4 JAMES N. DELORME	Hq & Hq Co
SP4 GARY C. FELSHAW	Company C
SP4 JOHN B. FEZI	Company C
SGT JOHN J. GLAYDA	Company C
SSG TERRENCE P. LUCAS	Company C
1LT JAMES G. MINKSELL	Company C
SP4 JOSEPH C. MRZLOCK JR.	Company C
SP4 HARVEY A. MULANEY	Company C
SP4 GERALD NITKA	Company C
SP4 LAWRENCE TRZUPEK	Company C
SGT JAMES R. WARRICK	Company C (Interim-BS "V")
SGT ALBERT YONALIS	Company C

ARMY COMENDATION MEDAL

SSG CHARLES W. ARIVETT	Company D
SGT RONALD L. DAVIS	Company B
SP4 TERRENCE A. KING	Company B
SSG DONALD SHACKETT	Company B

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

LINE GE AND HONORS

21st Infantry

(GIMLETS)

Constituted 3 May 1861 in the Regular Army as 2d Battalion,
12th Infantry.

Organized 20 May 1862 at Fort Hamilton, New York.

Reorganized and redesignated 7 December 1866 as 21st Infantry.

Consolidated 9 - 31 August 1869 with 32d Infantry (see ANNEX)
in California and the Territory of Arizona and designated 21st in-
fantry.

Assigned 29 July 1918 to the 16th Division.

(16th Division demobilized 8 March 1919 at Camp Kearney, Cali-
fornia).

Assigned 22 October 1921 to the Hawaiian Division.

Relieved 26 August 1941 from assignment to the Hawaiian Division
and assigned to the 24th Division (later designated as 24th Infantry
Division).

Relieved 5 June 1958 from assignment to the 24th Infantry Div-
ision and reorganized as a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regi-
mental System.

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ANNEX

Constituted 3 May 1861 in the Regular Army as 3d Battalion, 14th Infantry.

Organized 27 July 1865 at Fort Trumbull, Connecticut.

Reorganized and redesignated 21 September 1866 as 32d Infantry.

Consolidated 9 - 31 August 1869 with 21st Infantry in California and the Territory of Arizona and designated 21st Infantry.

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Redesignated 10 September 1965 as the 3d Battalion, 21st Infantry and assigned to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate).

Activated 15 September 1965 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts as part of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate).

Assigned 15 August 1966 to Tay Ninh Province, Republic of South Vietnam.

21st Infantry

(GIMLET)

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

Civil War

Virginia 1862
Peninsula
Manassas
Antietam
Fredericksburg
Chancellorsville
Gettysburg
Wilderness
Spotsylvania
Cold Harbor
Petersburg
Virginia 1863

Indian Wars

Modocs
Nez Percos
Bannocks
Arizona 1866
Arizona 1867
Arizona 1868
Arizona 1869
Arizona 1870

War with Spain

Santiago

Philippine Insurrection

Zapote River
Luzon 1899
Luzon 1901
Luzon 1901

World War II

Central Pacific
New Guinea (with arrowhead)
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
(with arrowhead)

Korean War

UN defensive
UN offensive
CCF intervention
First UN counteroffensive
CCF spring offensive
UN summer-fall offensive
Second Korean winter
Korea, summer 1953

DECORATIONS

Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered DEFENSE OF KOREA

Distinguished Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered SANGHONGJONG NI

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered 17

OCTOBER 1944 to 4 JULY 1945.

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered
PYONGTAEK

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered
KOREA.