



GIMLET NEWS



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3d Battalion, 21st Infantry

March 15, 1970

Echo four Deuce

Since 25 Feb, 4.2 mortars have engaged enemy elements of various sizes, including one of an estimated 50-80 enemy in the open. On several other occasions, squad and platoon sized elements were taken under fire, but with no surveillance reported.

The large enemy target, called in by Recon, was seen moving across an open area. After four three by threes, including two with FF-4s, four deuce was given end of mission to permit Blue Ghost gunships and Air Force jets to work over the target area. Artillery from Conter and Tien Phuoc followed the air strikes. Due to the remoteness of the area of engagement, surveillance was not possible.

Through 15 March 4.2 has been called upon to fire often on various intell grids, placing effective fire power on suspected enemy locations.

Among four deuce personnel there have been several promotions of note recently: James Butler to SFC, Dave Rabadan to SSG, Bob Caldwell to SGT, Dee Cornell and John Mattila to SP4.

Heading back to the world are SGT Ron Coverstone and SGT Pat Barnes, both of whom were squad leaders.

Just joining us on the hill is 2LT John M. Kandres. LT Kandres comes from Swampscott, Mass. Welcome to four deuce, Sir!

DEPOSING this month: Alpha Co, SSG Morris, SSG Guthrie, SGT Gagne, SGT Ellington, SP4 Levinson, SP4 Rose, and SP4 Duval; Charlie Co, SGT Reinaldo Cruz, SP4 Aubrey Sample, SP4 Ralph Giordano, and SP4 Michael Martino; HHC: SSG Purdy and SP4 Fiddler. Best of luck back in the world.

NEW PERSONNEL: THE GIMLET NEWS would like to welcome 1LT Larry Shealy (BTGC duty officer) and 1SG Eugene Duncan (Alpha Co). Both 1LT Shealy (Ashburn, Ga) and 1SG Duncan came to us from the BIG RED 1.

GIMLETS MAKE NEWS!

from THE OBSERVER, 6 Mar '70 "196th Inf Seize Papers" LZ Center: Infantry-armor teams have proved a difficult combination for the enemy to handle, and a recent 196th Infantry Brigade operation was no exception!

Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry and Troop F, 17th Cavalry, recently killed seven Viet Cong, seized almost three tons of rice and captured several documents.

Early in the morning, the American Division soldiers found 500 pounds of unpolished rice near a hooch area. The men went on to search the hooches and found several enemy documents inside a false wall.

In the early afternoon they found 5,000 more pounds of rice in a village. The rice was sent to Nui Lac San refugee settlement.

Two hours later one of the men spotted seven Viet Cong scurrying into a tunnel. The Americans covered the entrance. A second opening was spotted and it was also locked.

"Our Kit Carson scout went up and tried to get them to surrender," said PFC Clark Taylor of Loeburg, Fla., Company B, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry.

The Viet Cong refused to come out. The Americans hurled M-26 grenades at the enemy, and by the time the action had ceased, all seven lay dead in the tunnel.

GIMLET BOARD	
February	March 1-19
Enemy killed.....37	19.....Enemy killed
Weapons captured.....2	4.....Weapons captured
POWs.....1	2.....POWs

LTC JOHN M. MISH.....Commanding Officer
 CSM EDWARD J. OLENDER.....Command Sergeant Major
 SGT DAVID R. MCKEN.....Editor-in-Chief

"GIMLETS MAKE NEWS" CONTINUED:

Editor's note: Due to the procedures involved in clearing combat stories for publication, many articles appear in the Pacific Stars & Stripes, Southern Cross, The Observer, and The Army Reporter which you, the men who make the news never get to see. Therefore a few of the more recent articles are reprinted below.

Southern Cross, 23 Jan 70: "Infantry Close Viet Cong Shop" L.Z. Center- During a recent operation, an element of the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. (Delta Co.) dealt a serious blow to a local Viet Cong industry.

Members of the unit noticed unusual signs near a hut beside a jungle footpath 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky.

'An old woman was standing outside the hootch,' said SSG Toni Alfieri, (Jamaica, NY). 'She looked distressed.'

In and around the hootch, infantrymen found four bear traps, assorted tools, and a molding cast for manufacturing small arms slugs. A lengthy foray into the woods bordering the trail turned up tin pails, hammers and screwdrivers.

"Rice Denial Surging:" The rice denial program of the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf., which within the month of November netted over 33,875 lbs. of rice was extended into December with the discovery of 10,200 more pounds of rice.

Alpha and Delta companies, operating 15 miles northwest of Tam Ky, were credited with the discoveries, with Alpha Co. uncovering one ton of rice on a search and clear mission in and around a structure area.

The initial discovery came as a patrol was passing by a structure area and stopped to search it. As SP4 Paul Allison (Lake Charles, La) later said, 'I walked into the structure to search it and found 13 oil cans filled with unpolished rice along with a few more pounds on the floor.'

Prompted by this initial discovery, the patrol undertook a thorough search of the structure area. Said SSG Carl Robman (Detroit, Mich), 'We found structures with false walls and some structures with as many as three false walls and some structures with large compartments two feet deep in their ceilings, all filled with rice.'

'Outside some structures,' PFC John Retseck (Michigan City, Ind) recalls, 'good sized piles of rice were hidden under rocks made to look like an ordinary rock pile.'

"Boy Hits VC Terror:" LZ Center- The Voluntary Information Program continued to be a source of captured weapons and valuable intelligence information for operations officers of the 3rd Bn., 21st Inf. during December and early January.

During this period, the story of a young Vietnamese boy who fought the Viet Cong in his own small way stands out.

Shortly after the lad came to Nui Lac Son with his refugee family, he overcame his fear of Viet Cong reprisals and told the Gimlets he knew where some VC weapons were hidden.

Accompanied by VIP representatives, the young fellow was given a helicopter ride to the area where he said the weapons were. Accompanied by an infantry unit already near the location, the boy led his new found friends a short distance.

PFC Mike Rihtar, (Cleveland, Ohio) an RTO for the unit (Charlie Company), recalled the hunt with a grin.

'He led us straight to the first weapon, an AK-47 hidden in a clump of bushes in a populated area,' Rihtar said.

He then located a second rifle and pointed out where an enemy grenade was hidden. Comments he made during his outing were valuable information about VC operations in the area.

The boy went home with a fistful of new money and the warmth of new friendships he made that day.

AWARDS

Alpha Company

SOLDIER'S MEDAL:

SP4 Herbert Moses.

BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR:

SP4 Evan M. Harris; SP4 Robert A. McDonald.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR:

SP4 Evan M. Harris; SP4 James H. Wagner.

PURPLE HEART:

PFC Richard D. Duval (PH and PH with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster); PFC William C. Meili (1st OLC); 1LT David Teeple; 2LT Robert B. Tynan; SGT John W. Curtis; SGT Gerald L. Sheffield; SP4 David S. McLean; SP4 David M. Vaughters; SP4 Richard T. Washington; SP4 Robert L. McDonald; PFC Lyndon K. Johnson; PFC Freddie B. Sanders; PFC Wayne J. Van Roosenbeek; PFC Alton R. Brown; PFC David M. Murry; PFC Roy W. Veal; PFC Raymond E. Gonzales; PFC Bohdan Daytrewycz; PFC William G. Kubiak; PFC Daniel J. Batitsas; PFC Wayne King; PFC Douglas W. Buford, Jr.

Bravo Company

BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR:

SSG Donald P. Fleshman (1st OLC); PFC Robert E. Green; PFC Steven C. Winebrenner; PFC John H. Jackson; PFC George Beason; PFC Gary L. Klenm; PFC Dennis J. Timone;

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR:

SSG Donald P. Fleshman (1st OLC); SP4 Harold L. Bartley; PFC Gary W. Kauffman.

PURPLE HEART:

1LT James G. Decker; SGT Henry R. Connor; SGT Tony L. Slagle; SP4 Miguel V. Castello; PFC Lynn Parker; PFC Francis G. Touhy.

Charlie Company

BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR:

SP4 Gene Richardson; PFC Richard Classick.

BRONZE STAR FOR SERVICE:

SGT Douglas Hatten; SGT Joel Pasternack; SP4 James Johnson.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR:

SP4 John Guccione; SP4 James Johnson.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR SERVICE:

PFC Richard Classick; PFC Roger Panneton; PFC Juan Ortiz; PFC William Ivory.

PURPLE HEART:

PFC Michael Martine (1st OLC); SSG Fred Salerno; SGT Patrick Egan; PFC George Trovao; PFC Lowell Worster; PFC David Moore; PFC Gary Stavac; PFC Larry Irwin; PFC Robert Stivers; PFC Stephen Revella; PFC Robert Sinclair.

Delta Company

SILVER STAR FOR VALOR:

1LT Stephen R. Maness.

BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR:

CPT Stephen F. Sendobry, Jr.; SFC Juan C. Pasion.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR:

SGT Clyde L. Beckham; SP4 Bruce M. Applegate.

PURPLE HEART:

SFC Juan C. Pasion; SGT Christopher T. Martin; PFC Jackie J. Clark; PFC John A. Raymore; PFC David L. Smith; PFC Neil S. Vincent; PFC David L. Ney.

Echo Company

BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR:

1LT Stephen Benseman; SGT Larry Hunt; SGT Larry Gabriel.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR:

SSG Charles F. Swaggert.

PURPLE HEART:

1LT Stephen Benseman; SGT Larry Hunt; SSG Charles F. Swaggert.

Headquarter's Company

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR:

PFC Steven Burkett.

PURPLE HEART:

PFC George Darby; PFC Robert Stivers.

PROMOTIONS

Charlie Company

To First Lieutenant:

2LT Charles F. W. Roncsok; 2LT Kenneth L. Kommish.

To Staff Sergeant:

SGT Raymond W. Selcer; SGT Donald E. Robinson.

To Sergeant:

SP4 Orestes Trush; SP4 Robert Leverenz; SP4 Walter Echavarria.

Headquarter's Company

To Specialist Six:

SP5 Dennis C. Alleson.

To Sergeant:

SP4 Tony W. Weeks; SP4 Kenneth F. Morris; SP4 Joseph Pearce; SP4 Robert E. Rasmuson.

To Specialist Four:

PFC James W. Kemble, Jr.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT-- The Charlie Tigers are happy to congratulate SSG Ronald McCullough (3d platoon sergeant) of Hampton, Va. on the birth of a 4 lb, 2 oz baby boy named Ronald, Jr. on 28 Oct.

B-DE HAS NEW CO

Hawk Hill, 10 Nov.-- Following the change of command ceremony in which Colonel Thomas H. Tackaberry was succeeded by Colonel James M. Lee, the new brigade commander paid his first visit to Center. Colonel Lee was impressed as he reviewed the combat record of 3d/21st. In turn, the Gimlets bid you welcome, Sir.

BN HAS NEW COs

Within the span of two weeks, four companies in our battalion have new commanding officers. We of THE GIMLET NEWS are confident that the outstanding record the Gimlets have achieved in the past will continue in the future as the battalion progresses under new leadership.

1LT James G. Decker is the new CO of the Bushmasters replacing CPT Ronald V. Cooper who is now working in S-4.

1LT Dennis D. O'Neill has taken over as the Charlie Tiger's new top honcho, as 1LT James V. Gordon leaves for the US later this month.

Black Death's new CO is CPT Eliu Camacho-Vazquez. CPT Camacho replaces CPT Loren H. Hehman who has gone to brigade as assistant S-3.

Echo four-deuce on Center also has a new CO, CPT Gary L. Gauthier, as 1LT James Shoosmith is their new XO.

CHOICE NOT

CHANCE

Thinking about reenlisting and still want to spend Christmas at home? Reenlist now during November and you will be home for the holidays. The minimum requirement of time in service is 8 months. You choose the MOS you wish to have on-the-job training in in-country, and if found qualified, the job is yours. (You are old before you reenlist whether or not you are qualified.) And in most cases your choice of location in Viet Nam can be okay'ed as well.

"Short-timers"- If you are interested in selecting the location in the US for your next duty station or in attending an Army school of your choice, see your reenlistment NCO now. Your choice of school will be guaranteed.

During the three month period ending September of this year, the 196 Brigade

had the highest number of reenlistments in the AMERICAL DIVISION and 3d/21st was high in the brigade with 56. More recently, in October, Alpha Company took top honors with 10.

Reenlistment NCO: MSG Juan Pasion

GOIN HOME!

The month of November will see a substantial number of Gimlets leave us to fly the "freedom bird" home. To them we wish a hearty bon voyage!

Bravo Company is losing the following personnel: SGT Michael Fanner; SGT Ossie Jones; SGT Gary Kauffman; SGT Charles Moody; SGT Tony Slagle; SP4 Terry Lovins; SP4 Maurice Matte; SP4 Jack Casterline.

The following EMs are leaving the Black Death family: SGT Henry E. Powers; SGT Clyde L. Beckham, Jr.; SGT John A.

Mason; SGT Lee G. Burns; SGT Ronnie R. Cook; SP4 Frederick K. Dillar; SP4 Bruce M. Applegate; SP4 Leroy A. Verne; SP4 Thomas J. Jordan; SP4 William H. Smith; SP4 Wayne B. Lindloff; SP4 John F. Urbka; SP4 Ronald T. Kaneshiro; SP4 David B. Anderson.

NEW FACES

THE GIMLET NEWS is happy to welcome the following men who have joined us in recent weeks.

Coming to us from the 82d Airborne Division and going to B Company are PFC Frank Schuyler; PFC Dave Connors; PFC Michael Mann; PFC Terry Kanine.

PFC Chall D. Cook and PFC Thomas W. Novy are also from the 82d Airborne and joining C Company.

Delta Company welcomes 2LT Ronald S. Epplin; PFC Donald Bickford; and PFC Paul Milchany.

Belated greetings to SSG William Altheide and SSG Eddy Lett who joined the 81 mm family on Center several weeks ago.

The BTOC Gophers are happy to welcome SP4 Richard T. Washington to their number. Richard comes from Harrisburg, Pa. and was formerly in Alpha Company. He is now serving as Colonel Bacon's romeo tango oscar.



TIGER MAIL

A little short on mail these days? If so do what Charlie Company did. Simply request that your CO (or someone in a comparable position) write to a syndicated columnist such as "Dear Abby," "Helen Help Us," or "Ann Landers" and ask to have the name and address of your company printed in their column so that people back home can write. You might be surprised at the results.

In the case of Charlie Company, everything started in June 69 when Mrs. Ann Wagner of Union City, NJ, who had been writing the company for years, took the initiative to send the Tiger's address to "Helen Help Us" in Calif. and "Mail Call: Viet Nam" in Columbus, Ga. "In no time at all," recalls 1st SPT Robert W. Smallcomb (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) "letters and packages came pouring in from all over the U.S. In fact so many letters came that we were unable to answer them all."

Today, nearly six months later, Tiger letters are still coming. The following statements are representative of how all the Charlie Tigers I spoke to feel about the response of people back home.

PFC Mels Bolstad (Plains, Mont.) is writing to six Tiger girls at once. He had this to say: "They are always interesting to read and you can get to know people you might want to look up someday when you get back to the world. Besides, with Tiger letters to answer, you always have someone to write to other than your parents."

"I like them" says SGT Dave Nagel (Midland, Mich.). "It's nice to know that if I don't happen to receive mail from my family, there is usually always a Tiger letter I can answer. And sometimes Tiger girls will send a 'care package' which as every infantryman knows means an awful lot to a man in the field."

Lastly, perhaps PFC William Choppard (Buffalo, NY) said it all when he described his feelings this way: "They are certainly a morale booster. At least we know that some people back in the world besides our families and friends know that we are over here, and care enough to write."

ON THE HILL

THE BANDAID SHOP:

by SP5 C. L. Marlow

Not too long ago, much of the routine medical care for the villagers in Nui Loc Son was performed by voluntary medical teams from the Battalion Aid Station who visited the village once or twice a week and by two former company medics permanently stationed at the PF and HF locations there.

Now their work is being supplimented by two Vietnamese civilian nurses and

SPl Bob Loftus, formerly of B Company. The nurses work out of a dispensary in the village while Bob works from his location on the PF's hill. Together they hold morning office hours at the dispensary, using both Vietnamese and American medical supplies. In the afternoons they each make house calls.

They are busy at this time of year both with the multitudes of skin problems that seem to affect civilians almost as much as they do us, and with upper-respiratory problems ranging from common colds to pneumonia. Recently they had the opportunity to diagnose a case of hepatitis in a PF soldier, and to assist CPT Timothy Baker, Battalion Surgeon, and a group of medics from the aid station in the inoculation of some 60 people, including members of his family and others who had contact with him.

Nui Loc Son may not have "better health to all from Alexall," but they do have something even better in their nurses and SPl Loftus.

81 mm Mortars:

by PFC R. Ventriglia

We the men of the 81 gun crews are proud of our nickname "Speedy Fireballs" for we have lived up to it many times in the past. Our gun crews have been noted for their speed and accuracy, and for their alertness for firing on enemy mortar locations. All this gives Charlie second thoughts about setting up mortar tubes to fire at Center.

In order to be both fast and accurate in responding to fire missions, all our equipment must be kept in tip-top shape. That this is indeed the case was demonstrated during the recent (22 Oct) Command Maintenance Management Inspection (CMMI) as we surpassed the 90% mark. Congratulations Fireballs!

Echo 4.2:

This month work on the new CP bunker has neared completion. The CP will be used for mail, supply and orderly room purposes.

On the fire mission side of the ledger, support of line companies has been our prime interest. In the past 3 weeks alone we have carried out over 20 such fire missions.

SGT Larry Dycus' (Atlanta) 105 gun squad did a fine job in helping out Charlie Company last week under the guidance of SPl Mon Gagne (Springfield, Mass).

Meanwhile our "silent eye" keeps a constant vigil, waiting for Charlie to try and hit Center. On several occasions enemy movement has been detected and appropriate action taken ("shot out!"). The men responsible for operating the "silent eye" are SP5 William Fagan, PFC John Wolfu, and PFC John Whelan.