



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 15th the program received its biggest boost as A Company, on a routine search and clear mission 1 1/2 miles north-west of Lam 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/VN rice came as one humiliate, 1st Lt. Tracy Richardson (Arden County, Ky.) thought that the walls of one hooch "looked funny." Closer investigation yielded a pile of unpolished rice strewn over the wall.

The discovery led to another and soon the entire hooch area was flooded with rice. As 1st Lt. John 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 Gross (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."

SHORTLY HERE: An abbreviated version of the above article, entitled "GIs Uncover 10 Tons of Rice," appeared in the **ARMY STARS & STRIPS** on Saturday, November 22, 1969. Congratulations humiliate!

1st Lt. Gross: Thanksgiving Day

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

Col. Edward J. Glendon

BALL PLAYERS VISIT CENTER

1st Center, 19 Nov-- Warm handshakes and smiling faces were the order of the day as Jim "Indicat" Grant of the St. Louis Cardinals, Ed Litke of the Atlanta Braves and Ron Jacobson of the champion N. Y. Mets visited 1st Center as part of their USA 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 Girlet Inn. "Hi, I'm Ron Jacobson" could be heard as the tall Mets outfielder walked up to a group of well-wishers. All three players said it a point to introduce themselves and say a few words to every one they met.

Later the honored guests were invited to 1st Center where they were officially welcomed by 1st Center in a small ceremony conducted by 1st Lt. Bacon and 1st Lt. Glendon. "Where did Jacobson learn to throw?" asked Ed Litke 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 1st Center. They were seen off by the appreciative Girlets, with a cloud of smoke-- red and green that is and lots of it, too.

AWARDS

Alpha Company
Silver Star Medal: 1LT Harvey E. Brown
Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device: PFC Harold D. Parks (1st Oak Leaf Cluster); SP4 Jasper A. Westbrook, Jr.

Beta Company
Silver Star Medal: 1LT Wilford J. Dielawald; PFC Peter Krypterick.
Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device: SP4 David H. Moore.

Delta Company
Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device: 1LT William C. Cox; SP4 David C. Curry; PFC Willie H. Holton; PFC Richard S. Henry.
Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device: PFC Frank J. Bartula.

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 better, gun clips, 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.

Everyone 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? Oh I can 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 on my own?"

This is how our thought processes are prone to run this time of year. Thanksgiving, perhaps better entitled "Thanksgiving," is more of an attitude we have toward our Creator rather than an appreciation 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 great gifts like?

His gifts are many. Every good gift and every perfect present comes from heaven. His gifts are never harmful; they are always beneficial.

The gifts of God are beyond our ability to compute in value. The richest and best gifts that come to us in life are from God.

His gifts are many. Some gifts are of temporary value--ornaments, candy, or money. God gives to us that which is of eternal significance.

His gifts are many. 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!

GIMLET SCORE BOARD	
December	Jan 1-14
Enemy killed.....54	93.....Enemy killed
Chieu hoi's.....8	5.....Chieu hoi's
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.

FOR HERE

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 defenses for Recon at suspected enemy movement. One night the four deuce crews had to fire three of these while providing illum 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, Echo 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 least word, both mother and daughter are doing fine.

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

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 4d (4) Change 1 Americal 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)

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