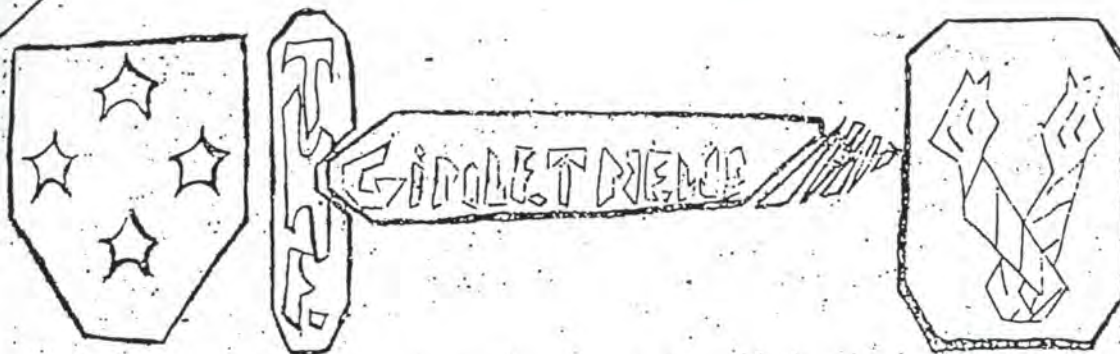




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3d Battalion, 21st Infantry

January 15, 1970

"AMERICAN NEWS SHEET" FEATURES GIMLET'S ACHIEVEMENTS

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 American Division infantrymen called for support and B Battery, 3-82 responded. "Within minutes," stated SP4 Bohdan Dmytrowycz (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 into the woods," said SP4 Dmytrowycz.

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 M-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 O'Leary (Santurce, Puerto Rico) of the Battalion 3-3 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 Son.

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 Lao 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 Thanh Binh/Que San 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.

LLCVD B. RAFFERTY
Major General, USA
Commanding

ADJUSTING ARTY

From the artillery liaison in BFC 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 miles from you to the target. Miles 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 miles. (Always round off miles 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.

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 RICHARD C. BROWN, Commanding Officer
 1ST BATTALION, 21ST INFANTRY
 MAJOR RICHARD C. BROWN, Adjutant
 MAJOR RICHARD C. BROWN, Chaplain

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ECHO FOUR DEUCE

For the past two weeks the men of Echo Company have been demonstrating their carpentry skills under the direction of MSG 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 now pressing on the second floor which will provide an enclosed day room for the mortar and recon people.

4.2 in. mortars were kept busy during the middle part of November in a variety of fire missions against enemy rice gatherers to the north. A mixture of 16, 76 and 70 rounds gave good results although no "official" totals were posted. Soon, under new platoon leader 1LT Donald Coleman was aided by Sergeant 1LT Paul Ireland, (Gross Valley, Cal) who ably manned the radio, but who also found his field experience quite a revelation. Sgt Paul, "MSG 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 Avel of

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 SET

Sergeant Harry Daniels (McDonoughville, Ind.) of Charlie Company is no ordinary souvenir hunter. Most people he to the rear areas to purchase remnant 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 RVN or VC soldiers.

In a recent interview with Sgt Daniels I asked how he happened to find 5 pieces of NVA 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 last May following the battle near Chuoi. "While on a search and clear mission in the area," recalls Sgt Daniels, "I found this NVA magazine-carrying vest with accessory pouches. It fit me, so I kept it."

The next item to be added to his collection was an NVA pistol belt acquired out in the flatlands. It had belonged to an NVA soldier before being forcibly removed from his belt.

More recently on another search and clear mission out at LZ Jember on 25 October, the gun squad leader picked up a Chieu Hoi rifle. He described the circumstances this way: "A trail gun team and one squad of 3rd Bn 3d Platoon were the blocking force located just below a beach area, while the rest of the platoon went through the beach area chasing 5 VC our way. We got tired 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 NVA helmet just recently--within minutes--abandoned by a retreating enemy. And only three days later, 5 Nov, a pair of "old skin" sandals were discovered lying next to a VC hide.

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. BT.

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.

BTOC HIGHLIGHTS

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

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. Trevac, Lowell B. Worster.

This month will see the following 'Tigers' heading home: SGT Orestes M. Trush, SP5 James A. Bishop, SP4 Grandberry Mahone, SP4 John J. Guccione, SP4 James R. O'Gok, 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.
