

VC BLACKSMITH SHOP UNCOVERED

The morning of December 10th proved to be a profitable one for Delta Company as they uncovered what amounted to a full-fledged VC blacksmith shop where booby traps of many varieties could be made.

The day began innocently enough as Black Death broke camp early in the morning and moved out towards their day laager position. While moving north of hill 100 the company passed by a hooch off to the side of the trail which to all appearances looked like all other hooches.

However to the point platoon sergeant SSG Tony Alfieri (Jamaica, NY) something did not look quite right. "The mama-san was not sitting inside her hooch as is usually the case," SSG Alfieri said. "Instead she was standing outside, in front of her home, as if she were waiting for or hiding something."

Once the company reached their day laager, SSG Alfieri directed that a patrol be sent back to check out the hooch and the surrounding area.

The initial search of the hooch and its environs yielded the following results: 4 bear traps, assorted tools to include hammers, and last but not least, a molding cast for manufacturing rounds! Just what every mama-san dreams of having to adorn her home.

Spurred on by these unusual discoveries, the Gimlets spread out and began to search even further away from the hooch. This time pails with still more hammers and screwdrivers were found.

Quite naturally these discoveries raised the question as to what this woman was doing with all this hardware. Quoth she—according to 1FC Jackie J. Clark (Carlyle, Ky) "The bear traps?... Oh, I use them to catch wild pigs."

Needless to say her explanation was not very convincing, and the hardware which was obviously being used by the VC to make booby traps was therefore extracted to Center.

ALPHA CO ANNIHILATES VC

What started out to be an easy day for Alpha Company operating 25 miles northwest of Tam Ky suddenly turned into one in which they successfully eliminated in a single incident the largest number of enemy personnel in recent weeks.

It all started in mid-afternoon when an Alpha Company patrol uncovered the bodies of 2 VC, apparently the results of Arty fire of B Battery, 3d of the 82d on LZ Center. A mama-san in that area confirmed that the enemy were killed by artillery fire and said that they were buried some thirty days ago.

Then to make the afternoon complete, as the Annihilators were in their night laager position, they observed 6 VC butchering cattle. "We were all settling down in our night laager when someone spotted the VC busily carving some cattle," recalls SSG John B. Irelli of Lawrence, Mass. "They must not have known we were there, or else they thought that we wouldn't see them; they were sure wrong!"

Alpha Company then engaged the enemy with M-16 and M-60 machinegun fire, as well as calling in a fire mission from Center's B Battery, 3d/82d. Closer investigation of the enemy's position confirmed 4 enemy dead from machinegun fire, and 2 as the result of artillery.

Once again alert action on the part of the line company coupled with effective and rapid response from our supporting units have proven to be an unbeatable combination.

OJT MEDICS

Recently each of the line companies have been finding themselves with one or two medics who came in country not knowing a bandaid from a tourniquet. And yet the companies are considering themselves almost as lucky as if they had one or two full-fledged MDs apiece. Ordinarily anyone who calls himself a medic has had ten weeks of training at Ft Sam Houston, Texas, where he learns everything from setting a fractured leg into an Army splint to making a hospital bed in three minutes with a patient in it. But these new medics are OJTs, trained in our own Battalion Aid Station to supplement our Ft Sam trained medics. And from all reports, these OJT medics are doing an outstanding job.

They are all volunteers from the field who have spent thirty days in the aid station learning mostly what they need to know right here and now. During the day, they have worked on sick call beside the medics in the bandaid shop, and at night CPT Timothy Baker, the Battalion Surgeon, has led them in classes on such fundamentals as treating a sucking chest wound and administering an intravenous injection. In these classes Doc Baker has provided an invaluable help by explaining why as well as how. It is particularly important for medics receiving only a short period of training not to come away with only a bag of tricks, and Dr. Baker has seen to it that this has not happened to his students.

These OJT medics, if you don't know them already, are PFC Sam Ippolito, PFC Wayne King and PFC Bob Gartrell in Alpha Company; SP4 Mike Deravjanik in Bravo; PFC Perry Pruonto and PFC Gary Folk in Charlie; and PFC Bill Ternigan, PFC "Rippe" Mendez and PFC Rich Blades in Delta. Our complete confidence and good wishes are with them all.

FARTY

by SP4 James Whitbecker (FDC)
12 Center, November 20: With speed and accuracy, a style that has become a trademark, Bravo Battery 3/82nd Arty responded to a call for fire from D Co. The target was estimated to be from ten to twenty NVA with packs and weapons. The FO called for first round "Willie Pete," to be followed by a battery three firecracker. "The first round was right on target. It landed within three feet of one of the NVA," 1LT Snodgrass was later quoted as saying. "I knew that the firecracker was what was needed. The NVA didn't know what hit them. All in all it was an excellent job of support." It was estimated that ten enemy were killed or seriously wounded.

"The mission was a success because of speed," said Dennis Cunningham (San Jose, Calif) FDC's Fadac operator. "The data was computed, the target cleared, and the first round on target all within two minutes."

SGT Brayboy, base piece section chief, was quoted as saying, "Those of us on the gun know that the people in the field need our support and we try to be as fast as possible. We are proud when we do a good job."

81

During the latter part of November, the crews of the 81 mike-mikes were standing by to answer the call of any of the line companies operating out in the flatlands on a mission of safeguarding the extraction of captured rice to friendly villages. Under the leadership of SGT Thomas Pozdal of the Charlie Tigers and SGT Dick Smith of the Bushmasters, we provided a deterrent force to keep the enemy from interfering with the Gillet's operation.

The first few weeks of this month have seen our guns standing by to fire prep missions and other calls for fire for line companies operating out in the field. The results of these missions as indicated by the FOs with the companies have been that we have done our job of providing accurate and deadly support, and done it well.

Since the last edition of The Gillet News our CO, CPT Gary L. Gauthier has left us to become Alack Deaton's commanding officer. We would like to thank him for giving us his assistance, and wish him lots of luck with his new unit. Taking over in CPT Gauthier's place is 1LT Shoosmith of Clovis, New Mexico.

ECHO 4

Firing primarily in support of the line companies and on targets located by recon, Echo four deuce mortars have been kept busy over the past two weeks. Even Thanksgiving Day found us busy with several significant fire missions. Primarily the targets have been enemy troops with packs or suspects harvesting rice. In addition to these missions illumination has been provided for the companies in the field on various occasions.

Echo welcomes back as CO—for a while at least—1LT James Shoosmith (Clovis, New Mexico) who replaces CPT Jacques Cayere, who just recently had replaced CPT Gary Gauthier (Manitowoc, Wisc) who has become the CO of Delta Company.

For deuce recently saw SGT Mike Eves (Monroe, Ohio) and Dennis Stephenson (Dallas, Texas) leave the hill to take the freedom bird back to the world. In ten short days, 1LT Bill Beardsley (Portland, Oregon) will make the same trip that all of us look forward to.

Gimlet Scoreboard	
Totals for November	Dec 1-14
Enemy killed.....39	39.....Enemy killed
Chieu hois.....3	2.....Chieu hois
PWs.....2	0.....PWs

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Bravo Co. Tigers

This month the following Bravo Co. personnel are DEB: SSG Lloyd Meyers, Assistant operations sergeant; SP4 Miles, Hawk Hill Security; SGT Robert Brydaz, with the 106 on Center; SGT Marion S. Mauldin, B Co supply sergeant.

The Bushmasters would also like to welcome 2LT Dennis M. Leopold and SGT David E. Spainhour to their company. "LT Leopold is married with one child and holds a B. Degree. SGT Spainhour, a grad of Ft Denning has 16 years of education to his credit.

MELBY CHILLTHAS: Just recently B Co received a Christmas tree from the "Vietnam Fund" in Orangoburg, S.C. in remembrance of a Bushmaster who was killed in November. They sent a message with the tree and a prayer for all the men fighting in Vietnam, and a wish for a Merry Christmas and a safe return home for all. The tree was decorated and pictures were taken and sent to the "Vietnam Fund" along with a letter of gratitude from the entire Bushmaster family.

And finally B Co is proud to announce that several of their personnel have received awards this month. Recipients of the Bronze Star for Service include SSG Lloyd N. Meyers, SGT Marion Mauldin, SGT David H. Meers and SGT Paul M. Wymanski. SGT Meers also received the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device. 1SG Robert A. Walsh and SGT Thomas G. Budd were awarded Purple Hearts.

GIMLET TIGERS

The Charlie Tigers want to welcome the newest members of their company: SSG Gary Jenkins of Glenwood, Cal; SGT Harry Strack of Alden, Pa; PFC Morris Beck, Simi Valley Cal; PFC Robert Currell from Phoenix; PFC Edward Hennrickson of Crookston, Minn; PFC LeMaynt from San Francisco; PFC Jerome Kuznir of Lorraine, Ohio; PFC Raymond Preston, Junction City, Oregon; and PFC Bryan Thompson from Upland, Cal.

1LT Dennis O'Neill—Tigers' head honcho—and SGT Barry Daniels and SGT Robert Levanauz have all been awarded the Bronze Star for Valor. SGT Wesley Davis was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Valor. Our heartfelt congratulations!

Seizers Shop News Briefs

The proprietors of LZ Center's oldest and best (only) barber shop would like to announce their intentions of expanding their services sometime within the next twelve months.

In an exclusive interview with the editor of THE GIMLET NEWS, SP4 Wendell Jones (Tenn) and PFC Thomas Ferguson (L.A., Calif) indicated that their new services would include massages, facials, shampoos (when it rains), manicures, and in rare cases—with extenuating circumstances—pedicures. The prices for these services are expected to be comparable with those back in the world.

In the meantime, the current price for haircuts (they are FREE) is expected to hold its own against the rising costs of inflation. Tips however, will not necessarily be refused.

Our thanks to the proprietors for granting me the interview—while giving me a haircut—and for the outstanding job they are doing.

41155 MESS HALL NEWS

The Mess Hall personnel would like to welcome their new SSG Mess Sgt, SP6 John Nickell of Eaton, Ohio. SP6 Nickell is not really "new" to the hill, however, as this is his second tour in Vietnam and his second assignment on LZ Center. So welcome back Specialist Nickell!

Also new to the ranks of the mess hall personnel are PFC Lonnie Boyd (Rocknoke, Va) and PFC George Bass (Goldsboro, NC). THE GIMLET NEWS welcomes them and hopes their tour is speedy and a safe one.

Lastly, SP4 Rich Christopher has already departed LZ Center for Los Angeles to enjoy a 30 day leave.