

4th BN21ST INF.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

VOL. I NO. I

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70
Thursday 1 Jan 69

4/21 IS NOW "IN" WITH THE MAPS

APACHE ROCK RESORT

The 4th Battalion 21st Infantry will now put out a Bi-Monthly newspaper for the men of this unit. This paper will be distributed on the 1st and the 15th of each month, for the sole purpose of informing the men of what's happening around the block. To make this sheet more interesting for the men, we ask that all you "James Joyces" come forth and submit any fictional or non, short story or poetic type writing you may do in those spare hours in the field. Give the other men a chance to enjoy what you may be hiding in that old plastic radio bag. Any submitted material can be sent to the "Girlet", S-1, 4th Battalion 21st Infantry. Please put your name, hometown, and your unit on all material, and write or print legibly, that is if you don't hump a typewriter. This pertains also to the "REIFS" of 4/21. Any suggestion or comments are always welcomed, but please no "nasty" letters to the editor. (unless deserved).

Sincerely Yours

Ron Adams

SP4 Ron Adams, Editor

"BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER" BRAVO

On a recent search and clear operation, B Company 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, found that it takes more than just knowing how to hump to be a grunt. They walked up to a swift flowing river that seemed to have no narrow points for easy foraging. "Well I hope everyone can swim", said pointman Specialist Four Carl Wheeler (Moore, Oklahoma), better known as "Pops" to the men. But swimming the river wouldn't be the answer, decided Platoon Sergeant Richard O'Connell (Louisville, Kentucky). The company had been supplied with heavy rope and D-Rings due to the rugged terrain, and the only answer to the problem would be "bridge building". &

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For the men of A Company's Mortar Platoon, 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, Vietnam is the land of surrounding white sandy beaches and beautiful green hillsides. These are the sights seen daily by the mortamen of Company A.

Sixteen miles south of Duc Pho, stands a high rocky hill, overlooking the coastline. When flying over this large terrain feature you can look down and see "Apache" written in large letters on a huge boulder, or while approaching the landing zone on the very top of this hill, you will notice a large sign that reads, "Welcome to LZ Apache Rock, Home of A Company's Mortamen".

Back in June of 69, this tall skyscraping hill was used by Company B, 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, as a four-man observation post, and later as a platoon size night defensive position.

As soon as B Company moved from the hill, A Company saw the opportunity for a small Fire Support Base on top of the hill and thus placed an 81 MM Mortar Tube and a 4.2 MM Mortar tube, with men to man them on the hill. This small unit of men have been atop the hill for over three months now. "During these past three months", said Sergeant William Wion Jr (Falconer, New York), the hill Non-Commissioned-Officer, "my men have improved the layout and security of the hill considerably". Wion went on to say the men had built bunkers, cut and burned down all surrounding foliage, and strung numerous rolls of concertina wire around the perimeter. "We keep the area well policed and consider it our own little paradise", said Wion.

The assistant gunner of the 81 MM tube, Private First Class Richard Anderson (Locust Grove, Oklahoma), told of the various fire missions the crew performs. "We fire support for

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THOSE UNFORGETTABLE NIGHTS

As darkness began to rise and the sprinkle of rain continued to fall, the young, but hard, 19 year old, once blonde haired, carefree boy, pulled his air-mattress from his water-soaked rock sac and began inflating it. With each warm breath there came but only one thought, this thought that had at one time seemed only a fantasy, was finally becoming a reality. It had been the longest 11 months and 21 days in his short life, but it was true. In 12 hours he would be leaving the field headed for the rear area to clear his records and be destined for the "world".

After he released the last breath into the rubber mattress, he let himself sink into the cold hardness and fall fast asleep. It couldn't have been but seconds before he felt that familiar tap and heard those accompanying words: "hey buddy, buddy, wake up, it's your guard", and he forced himself up from the now warm mattress, took his steel pot in one hand and rifle in the other and moved slowly to his guard post.

(con't)

He gazed at his watch and figured the time when his usual 55 minutes would be up and he could wake the next man for his turn. He began peering from one side to the other into the darkness of the night.

For some unknown reason, objects began moving to his front. It wasn't just a small bush, or a few blades of grass, he was seeing everything, even solid rocks appearing to move. He told himself that it was only his imagination and he shook his head a few times thinking this would settle the movement.

Just as things had seemed to cease movement and the young 19 year old mind was once again calm and relaxed, a loud "pop" occurred with an accompanying flash of bright light. "Trip Flare", he screamed and unloaded two magazines into the left side of the light and dove for his hole. As he landed and reached for a grenade, his head struck the side of a wooden post and he was unconscious.

Within seconds he felt a cool soft wetness about his forehead, and hear the softness of a woman's voice saying, "son, son your alright, your home now son, get up and back into bed and I'll turn the light back out..

"WHO SAYS THERE'S A GENERATION GAP" ????

Recently here in the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, Americal Division, numerous enlisted men and officers have been receiving very nice letters from unknown children of grade school age. These letters consist of anything from Thank You Letters, to Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. One recently received by Captain John Hawbaker (Paw Paw, Illinois), Commander of D Company, read this:

Dear Sir:

Tomorrow is Veterans Day. This day we honor all our soldiers. I wish you could be home for this special day. Please have a nice Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Julie Bidzinski

Cherry Bloom School - Second Grade
2912 Brenden Wood Road
Rockford, Illinois 61107

Apparently this is a small program underway in the grade schools back in the states. It is a writing lesson and way of showing respect for the children, plus a "Heart-Filler" for the many men serving their country in the Republic of Vietnam.....

APACHE ROCK (con't)

the ground troops working within the radius of our tubes", said Anderson, "and we also fire defensive targets daily for the mine sweep team". In conclusion Anderson told how the men have their own defensive targets plotted around the hill and fire these during the night.

The Mortarmen of Apache Rock are very pleased with their duty and location and resupply is no problem. Helicopters land easily on the dirt pad on top or the men can expect their supply by vehicle, with Highway 1 only 50 meters away.

Three members of the Mortar Team, all Specialist Four's, Nathan Whitehead Jr. (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), Eugene W. Shepherd (Georgetown, Georgia), and Harold Thompson (Newman Grove, Nebraska), concluded with the same remark, "It's beautiful way up here, we're away from the hustle and the bustle and the noise, that is with the exception of the sounds of the familiar 4.2 and 81 MM Mortars"

BRAND BRIDGE (con't)

B Company Commander, George Pejakovich (Long Island, New York), ordered the company to take a short break, and sent the First Platoon on ahead to secure the area and begin construction across the swift stream.

Within an hour the rope bridge was completed and the men of B Company A-21 were continuing their mission. As Specialist Five James K. Barker (St. Catharines, New York), platoon medic who had his hand in on the job put it, "It takes a grunt to do a non-size job".....

BE A DAILY PILL * POPPER

AND

BY-PASS MALARIA

PACIFICATION 69

D Company 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, Americal Division, combined with a platoon of Regional Forces (RF's) from RF Company 115 and a platoon of Popular Forces (PF's) from PF Platoon 186 is currently involved in a Pacification Operation just two miles South of Duc Pho. The elements are set up in a village just off Highway 1.

The main objective of D Company is to work along side these South Vietnamese Troops and teach them our tactics and methods of warfare and eventually pull completely out of the village leaving the South Vietnamese Troops to manage on their own.

"This program", as explained by Captain John Hawbaker (Paw Paw, Illinois), commander of D Company, "is proving to be very effective. We are running daily patrols and we set up nightly ambushes in various locations around the perimeter". The D Company Commander says that these small operations are being worked fifty-fifty, half Vietnamese Troops and half U. S. Troops, and the Vietnamese Troops are cooperating very well and seem to be learning quite a bit. "Of course", says Hawbaker, "our biggest problem is communication with these people, but the fellas are doing a pretty good job of understanding the Vietnamese language and having them understand ours".

The platoon medics are also working with the Vietnamese medics and while talking with D Company's senior medic, Specialist 5 Daniel Thomas (Bradford, Ohio), he had this to say: "While working with these troops, I have seen that they have very little training in the medical field and the characteristic they are lacking most is self-confidence. At first I saw that they would shy away from bursting into the open to care for their wounded, but after working with them through a few minor contacts, they have shown greater self-confidence and are also learning many of the various medicines and their medicinal uses". Thomas went on to say that he felt the current program would prove very beneficial to the South Vietnamese Troops.

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SHORT TIMERS AND THEIR REPLACEMENTS

HHC - LEAVING BEFORE 12 JAN 70:

SP5 Willie Williams - Chicago, Ill.
1LT Stephen Peacock - San Diego, Cal.
SSG William Daniel - Rome, Georgia
SSG Stucky Oben - Colorado Springs, Col.
SFC Eddie Anthony - San Francisco, Cal.
SP4 Gerald White - Grand Rapids, Mich.

HHC - COMING IN AFTER 1 DEC 69:

PFC Elder Thompson - Brookhaven, Miss.
SP4 Louis Ramirez - New York
PFC John Rieger - Washington
PFC Alan Fazi - Wtby, Connecticut
PFC Owen Shimomura - Kapaa, Hawaii
PFC Larry Tamashiro - Honolulu, Hawaii
SFC Lindsey Rucker - Columbus, Georgia
PFC Harvey Arrington - Glenn, Georgia
PFC Ronnie Hayes - Kings Mountain, N.C.

ALPHA - LEAVING BEFORE 12 JAN 70

SGT Sheridan, Kennedy - Indianapolis, Ind
SGT Paul Caldwell - Oklahoma City, Okla.
SGT Andrew Griffiths - Riverview, Florida
SGT Wilmer Stillens - Los Angeles, Cal.
SGT Michael Thompson - Ithaca, Mich.
SGT Hugh Washer - Akron, Ohio
SGT George Wetherbee - Akron, Ohio
SP4 Marrell Sanders - Ozark, Ala.
SP4 Calvin Corley - Stuart, Florida
SP4 Nathan Whitehead - Nashville, Tenn.
SGT Donald Anderson - Takoma Park, Md.
SGT Antonio Santos - Brooklyn, New York
SSG Ernest Byrd - Bonnleval, N.C.

ALPHA - COMING IN AFTER 1 DEC 69:

PFC Noel Bradshaw - Mt. Sherman, Ky.
PFC Harry Cyphers - Birmingham, Mich.
PFC Donald DeRose - Detroit, Mich.
PFC Dennis Huey - Flint, Mich.
PFC Wilson Kee - Chino, Ariz.
PFC Jimmy Kell - Salligent, Ala.
PFC Stevens Kimmel - Detroit, Mich.
PFC Clarence Kidd - Sylacuga, Ala.
PFC Luis Mortimer - Brooklyn, N.Y.
PFC Timothy Morgan - Larimer, Pa.
SP4 Edward Pierce - Philadelphia, Miss.
PFC Earl Presley - Lafayette, Tenn.
SP4 Frank Reinier - Harrison, Ohio
PFC Aaron Smith - Tulsa, Okla.
SGT Herbert Sterens - Castlewood, Va.

BRAVO - LEAVING BEFORE 15 JAN 70:

SGT Phillip Gates - California
SP4 Ronald Boettcher - Umtca, Minn.
SGT Paul Kerr - Cordele, Georgia
SGT Fred Lange - Wilming, California
SSG David Hendricks - Des Moines, Iowa
SGT Randy Rix - Cleveland, Tenn.
SP4 Garnett Brooks - Detroit, Mich.
SGT Russel Kaiser - Bloomington, Calif.
SP4 Theotis Judon - Georgia

BRAVO - COMING IN AFTER 1 DEC 69:

PFC William Hickerson - Manchester, Tenn.
PFC Christobal Patron - Las Vegas, Nev.
PFC Henry Hicks - Cincinnati, Ohio
PFC Albert Ramirez - Big Spring, Texas
2LT Brian DeMary - Beaumont, Texas

CHARLEY - LEAVING BEFORE 19 JAN 70:

SSG Jack Baker - Cincinnati, Ohio
SGT James Buchanan - Chandersville, Oh.
SSG Jeff Crocker - New Britain, Conn.
SGT Brian Farrelly - Laurel, Del.
CPL Dale Hasick - Avon Lake, Ohio
SGT Leonardo Rodriguez - Corpus Cristi
SGT Homer Wharry - Chicago, Ill.
SSG John Kraswiski - Cromwell, Conn.

CHARLEY - COMING IN AFTER 1 DEC 69:

PFC Carl Geniac - Houghton Lake, Mich.
SGT Porter Hunter - Atlanta, Tex.
PFC Wayne Bates - Redding, Conn.
PFC Harold Schelling - Sioux Center, Io.
PFC Paul Berneking - Breckenridge, Minn.
PFC James Gottlob - Melville, Montana
PFC Louis Ramirez - Cupertino, Calif.
PFC John Blacklock - Chatham, N.J.
PFC Alvin Moree - Charollette, N.C.
2LT Willia Freiermuth - Naytonsmale, Md.
SGT Larry Rorer - Phymoth, Ind.
PFC Samuel Monday - Orchard, Tenn.
PFC Alejandro Martinez - San Antonio, Tx.

(cont)

SHORT-TIMERS AND REPLACEMENTS (con't)

DELTA - LEAVING BEFORE 14 JAN 70:

SGT Michael Pisculli - Brooklyn, N.Y.
SGT Mike Bradford - Lockville, Tenn.
SGT John Beitzel - Clifton Heights, Pa.
SGT Gerard Kiernan - S. Ozone Park, N.Y.

DELTA - COMING IN AFTER 1 DEC 69:

PFC Vincent Tapia - Brawley, Calif.
PFC Eduardo Cardinas - Dallas, Texas
PFC Steven Cortines - Houston, Texas
PFC Lawrence Jozwiak - Hales Corners, Wis.
PFC Pasquale Romero - San Jose, Calif.
PFC Daniel Ingness - Sumner, Wash.
PFC Leo Weekly - Las Vegas, Nevada
PFC Harrell Edwards - Painesville, Ohio
PFC Mark Vogt - Rolling Hills, Calif.
PFC John Wright - Satellite Beach, Fla.
PFC Jerry Miller - Mayfield, Ky.
SSG Frederick Sharps - Fayetteville, NC.

ECHO - LEAVING BEFORE 31 JAN 70:

Sgt Bobby Greene - Ashboro, N.C.
SGT James Matthews - Altouna, Pa.
SGT Robert Pitts - Maryville, Tenn.
SGT Hector Rodriguez - Stamford, Conn.
SP4 Jose Camarillo - Fresno, Calif.
SP4 Preston Barrett - Chicago, Ill.
SGT John Rex - Roseburg, Ore.
SGT Joseph Johnson - Philadelphia, Pa.
SP4 Michael McClure - Charleston, W. Va.
SGT Gregory Gill - Shomokin, Pa.

ECHO - COMING IN AFTER 1 DEC 69:

SGT Thomas Binkley - Atlanta, Ga.
PFC Vincent Herrera - Mt. View, Calif.
PFC Fred Rowe - Savannah, Ga.
SGT Gerald Kramer - Independence, Iowa
PFC Morris Rodgeron - Houston, Texas

"THE GIMLET"

Battalion Commanders: 1LT COL George R. Johnson
S-1 Officers: 1PT Robert L. Hagelberger
Butler, SP4 Ronald L. Adams

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PACIFICATION 69 (con't)

Directly on the opposite side of Highway 1 is located the First Platoon of D Company. These men are set up in an old French Fort built some time ago by the French and currently being reconstructed by the men of D Company and a group of Popular Forces from the 172 PF Platoon. 1st Lieutenant Johnny Ray (Jackson, Miss.), platoon leader of the 1st Platoon, states that he also combines his day and night operations fifty-fifty with the PF's, and says they have been quite successful. On a patrol just one mile North of LZ Debbie his men combined with PF's, killed two VC and took two VCS. "I feel that just in the short period of time that we have been involved in this program, we have eliminated most of the VC infiltration into the surrounding villages and picked out the VC sympathizers and rid ourselves of them", said Ray. In conclusion LT Ray said, "the people of the village are growing in confidence and cooperation. I feel they really want to rid themselves of constant fright, and are willing to help us as much as possible in rooting out the enemy."

The majority of the men involved in this program seem to feel that working almost directly with the populace like this is very effective and quite beneficial to the South Vietnamese Troops, as well as the Civilian Population.....

COMBAT LEADERS OF 4/21

During the month of December, three men from this battalion successfully completed COMBAT LEADERSHIP SCHOOL in Chu Lai. The three men: SP4 Larry Murphy (Waco, Texas), B Company, James Adams (Syndcase, New York), B Company, and Jack Hallburg (Minneapolis, Minn), C Company, all completed the school in the top portion of their class.

"FROM THE TROOPS OF 4th BN 21st INF"

CHRISTMAS DAY WITH THE 4th BN 21st INF
by SGT Joseph Johnson, B Company

*** SHORT ***

It was indeed a touching day for the Battalion Commander LTC George R.H. Johnson (Xenia, Ohio), and his staff to witness such an outstanding effort from the mess personnel, to make this Christmas Day meal one to be remembered.

For the troops in the field it was the best Christmas Day any infantryman in Vietnam could ask for. As they gathered in the wet rice patties for the Holiday service by the Battalion Chaplain, Major Clyde J. Wood (Birmingham, Alabama), after the service the troops stuffed themselves with the afternoons meal, which consisted of turkey and all the trimmings, to include shrimp cocktail, assorted nuts, candy, and fresh fruits.

Mean while at the Battalions Mess Hall, Mess Sergeants, SFC Lawrence Coleman (South Miami, Florida) and SFC Willie L. Jackson (Kosciusko, Miss.), said it only took nine hours of preparations to come up with what was the best Christmas Day meal in all of Vietnam.

Standing in for the Battalion Chaplain as he made the rounds in the field, was SFC Marvin Mills (Columbus, Georgia) SFC Mills gave the Christmas Prayer before the long awaiting line of GI's swarming in for the afternoon meal.

The compliments by the troops in the field and those of the rear area were those which a Mess Sergeant and his cooks dream of. The entire staff of both LZ Dabbie and LZ Bronco would like to wish the entire Battalion a Very Warm Seasons Greetings.....

THINK (can't from Col 2)

the rock's not chipped, it's there and will not fall..
Your pretty wife and so's our Love.
Our rock is solid and pretty too,
But, what makes us this, when half a world away?
It's when I sit and shake to think of you!!

"SEASONS BEST TO ALL"

Recently while talking to SSG Bob Danning (Ella Jay, Georgia), who was in not only a DERCS status from B Company but ETS also, he showed a copy of a letter that he forwarded home to his wife and family prior to departure. The letter read this:

Mike Whiskey, this is Victor-November Romeo. Be prepared to pop smoke, Freedom bird #1 is in bound to your location. We have on board your resupply which you have been without for 12 long miserable months now.. We are two days from your location, pop smoke when you have us in sight and we'll identify color, over. This is Mike Whiskey, Roger that, Understand Freedom Bird #1 is en-bound to my location with 12 month old Romeo Sierra. Sit-Rep Negative with negative enemy contact. New Papa Golf Lima Zulu prepared. Am standing by with smoke, how copy? This is Victor-November-Romeo, roger that, you have an outstanding copy, I have negative further, this is November Romeo, OUT..

This letter can only show the signs of a true grunt who will have a little trouble re-adjusting to civilian talk and way of life.

- THINK -

Your pretty love and pretty is good, I love you love and love is also good. But to sit and shake to think of you, is something much bigger than both. Your inside me Love, like I am you, and when part of you is gone - I shake to think of you.

Days are nice way over here, but sometimes nights are scary,
That's when I go to bed and try to sleep but only shake to think of you. It was fun to meet and hard to leave, But while together we ran so smooth and knew that moment would come-when once again our touch would cease and I'd begin to shake to think of you. Respect's a word that's hard like rock and must be there or not. You can't have part without it all or the rock is shaky and will fall- So when your touch must cease for time and you begin to shake to think of me-then you know (can't col 1)