

THE  
"GI MLET"  
4th BN 21ST INF

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15 January 1970



"THE CHAPEL ON THE HILL"

Sittin' like a puffy cloud deep set in a dark gray sky, you can glance down from a helicopter, or look over from the hill above and see the beautiful structure of what the men of the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry have constructed and named "Gimlet-Dobbie Chapel".

Under the supervision of the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel George R. Harry Johnson (Kenton, Ohio), and the request of the Battalion Chaplain, Major Clyde J. Wood (Birmingham, Alabama), several men from the Battalion along with Chaplain Wood and his assistant, Private First Class James Collins (Dallas, North Carolina), began construction of a small Chapel atop Fire Support Base Robbie. The men worked hard and very conscientiously for several weeks, before the Chapel was finally completed and ready for dedication.

Finally on Sunday, 24 December 1969 the final touches were made and Chaplain Wood conducted a Special Dedication Service. The day was nice and mood quiet as the men of 4/21 gathered outside the beautiful building awaiting the service. Present for the gathering was the 11th Brigade Commander, Colonel Ruth F. T. Hoffman Jr. (San Antonio, Texas), 4th Battalion 21st Infantry Battalion Commander IBM George R. Harry Johnson, and two 11th Brigade Chaplains, Brigade Chaplain Captain Gordon Heuer (Pargo, North

(CHAPEL - con't page 4)

"MY HOME - 4/21"

If there was something you wished to know about the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, 11th Brigade, Americal Division, you'd go to someone who has spent a little time with the unit and knows a little something about it. Well, if there's any one man to fit those qualifications, it has to be a Staff Sergeant assigned to B Company 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, Staff Sergeant Melvin L. Killcreas (Taylortown, Alabama), could be called the "old-timer" of 4/21.

In March of 1964, Mr. Melvin L. Killcreas entered the United States Army with little intentions of spending the majority of his enlistment in E Company 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, Due Pho, South Vietnam. After he completed his basic and advanced training periods, he signed for Jump School and upon graduation from that, he received orders assigning him to the 2nd Battalion 23rd Infantry, 2nd Mechanized Division, South Korea.

Here Killcreas managed to survive a very cold winter and completed a full tour before returning to the states with orders assigning him to Fort Ord, California, where he was stationed for 12 months. Killcreas enjoyed his assignment at Fort Ord, but wasn't too disappointed to read his next assignment orders, placing him 2500 miles across the blue to the beautiful state of Hawaii. Being a single man in his late 20's, he couldn't ask for a better assignment. His new address would be 4th Battalion 21st Infantry.

In November of 1966, his plane touched down in Honolulu and Killcreas found himself in a new position. By this time he was an AGO and had been Supply Sergeant. He enjoyed his new job, but soon found that he would once (HOME - con't page 4)

# "HOMEWARD BOUND & NEW MEN"

## MEN HEADED HOME BEFORE 1FEB 70

### ECHO:

SFC Lawrence Coleman - Miami, Florida  
 SFC Willie Jackson - Kosciusko, Miss.  
 SP5 Sherman Jones - Huntington, W. Vir.  
 SP5 Donald Jenidke - Cheney, Washington  
 SP4 Peter Stenz - New Holstein, Wis.  
 SP4 Clifford Teall - Hershey, Michigan  
 SPC Lawrence Williams - Chicago, Ill.

### ALPHA:

SP4 Jimmie Brooks - Mehama, Oregon  
 SP4 Gordon Ford - Fulton, Miss.  
 SP4 Robert Hall - San Antonio, Texas  
 PFC Gilbert Hitchey - Kansas City, Mo.  
 SGT Dennis Ratcliff - Louise, Kentucky  
 SP4 William Vongunden - Castle, N.Y.

BRAVO: No men short at end of Jan...

CHARLEY: None Short til' Feb...

### DELTA:

SGT Thomas Diltz - Circleville, Ohio  
 SGT Harold Garwood - Urbandale, Iowa  
 SGT Bobby Warren - Waynesboro, Georgia

### EPSI:

SGT James Matthews - Altoona, Pa.  
 SGT Joseph Johnson - Philadelphia, Pa.  
 SP4 Michael McClure - Charleston, W. Va.  
 SP4 Preston Barrett - Chicago, Ill.  
 SGT James Bruns - St. Charles, Mo.  
 SGT Gregory Gill - Samokin, Pa.

## - GETTIN' SHORTER -

## MEN COMING IN AFTER THE NEW YEAR

### EPSI:

SFC Paul King - Columbus, Georgia  
 SPC Howard DePaul-Warren, Michigan  
 SP4 Samuel Barnes  
 PFC Virginia Thompson  
 PFC Leslie Gross  
 SPC Bruce Pritchett - Camden, N.J.

### ALPHA:

SP4 Gary Carter - Albia, Iowa  
 PFC Paul Martin - Mineral Point, Pa.

### CHARLEY:

SP4 Joseph Mizell - New Bern, N.C.  
 SPC Robert Rivera - Pittsburgh, Calif.  
 PFC Michael Pearson - Richmond, Ohio  
 PFC Roger Verga-Garcia - Santurce, P.R.  
 (cont'd on 2)

## BRAVO NEW MEN (con't)

PFC Vance Seeley - Troy, Pa.  
 PFC Thomas Stephenson - Shawnee, Okla.  
 PFC Leslie Weigel - Oregon  
 PFC Steven York - Jacksonville, Fla.  
 SGT Joseph Finden - Kent, Washington

### CHARLEY:

PFC Claudio McCale - Chicago, Ill.  
 PFC Francis Tomaselli - Philadelphia  
 SP4 Samuel Harris - Tucson, Arizona  
 PFC Sam Pierce - Muncie, Indiana  
 PFC David Drake - Aberdeen, Wash.  
 PFC Richard Tomascoak - Danbury, Conn.  
 PFC John Smay - St Petersburg, Pa.  
 PFC Linwood Pulliam - Clarksville, Md.  
 PFC Edward Small - Brooklyn, N.Y.  
 PFC Abid Quinones - Lares, Puerto Rico  
 PFC Chris Mead - Elsie, Michigan  
 PFC Joe Davis - Milwaukee, Wis.  
 PFC Ruben Robles - San Francisco, Cal.

DELTA: No new men during Jan...

### ECHO:

SGT Ralph Campbell - Honakon, Va.  
 SGT Thomas Binkley - Decatur, Ga.  
 SGT Geoffrey Michaels - Indianapolis  
 SGT Larry Presnell - Elisabetta, Tenn.  
 SGT James Sproles - Tinsley, Ky.  
 SGT John Raibley - Grand Prairie, Tex.  
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## HELLO & GOODBYE

The Battalion Commander LTC George R. Hovey Johnson, and the men of the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, would like to bid a farewell to those men departing 4/21 and wish them all the very best of luck in the future.

- For the men just arriving with us, we would like to give you all the warmest welcome and say we are very pleased to have all of you as a part of the unit.

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## \* 4/21 COMBAT LEADER \*

During the latter part of December, Specialist Four Robert Jones (Huntersville, North Carolina), A Company, successfully completed Combat Leadership School, in Chu Lai.

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## "THE COMBAT MEDIC"

In every line platoon in Vietnam, there is at least one man who's name is the same, whether it be the 1st Platoon of B Company, or the 4th Platoon of D Company. This man is known as "Doc". He is the most well known and respected man in the field. The Combat Medic carries a great responsibility while traveling with a line platoon.

The medic goes through a nine-week advanced training program in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, prior to assignment. The training is very extensive and gives the men a high degree of knowledge of medicine and medical procedures. The medics assigned to the Republic of Vietnam and to a line Company, normally only spend a six month field assignment and the remainder of their tour is spent working in a dispensary or aid station. During these long six months, these men work very hard.

Specialist Five Donald E. Jenicke (Cheney, Washington), B Company, 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, explained just what the duties of a medic are. "The main duty, in serving their men and their country, is to keep the men of their unit in top physical combat condition. This is at all times, whether it be in or out of contact", said Jenicke, who spent time with the 1st Battalion 20th Infantry, 11th Brigade, before coming to 4/21.

While in enemy contact the medic is the man you will see running around, caring for the wounded. When the contact gets heavy and you hear the cry of "medic", "medic", you will see this one brave man running to the aid of his buddies. When he hears these words, he knows he is in the call of duty and must perform from instinct and training. The medic knows when one of his men is injured, the man's life may be riding on his helping hand. Helping the injured men during contact is endangering his life greatly, but this is part of his job and the great responsibility he has accepted.

The Combat Medic, in performing the duties required of him, has the choice of carrying a weapon or not, and this is why you will see some medics moving along with the Infantryman, carrying every item they do, with the exception of a rifle. Most of the medics not carrying weapons are those who pleaded conscientious objectors prior to entering the Army. Surprisingly enough, the CO's (as they are called) become top-notch medics. This may be due to their belief in saving lives and not taking them.

### "THE GIMFT"

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### "THE GIMFT STAFF"

Rattalion Commander.....LTC George R. Henry Johnson

S-1 Officer.....CPT Robert L. Haselberger

Editor.....SP4 Ronald L. Adams

Specialist Jenicke from B Company, who is now back with headquarters Company working as a clerk in the Aid Station, told how he spent seven months in the field and never once carried a weapon. He too is a conscientious objector and heard many times from his buddies "you'd never catch me dead in the field without a weapon". But Doc Jenicke explained that not only did his religious beliefs prevent him from carrying a weapon, but he feels he wouldn't be accomplishing his purpose as a medic if he went out with intentions of killing. "Besides", Said Jenicke, "everytime we had contact, I was much too busy to think about using a weapon."

Any trooper operating in the field leads a mentally as well as physically exhausting life, and the combat medic lives the same life, but carries even greater responsibilities.

You may question any field trooper about his Platoon Medic and he'll always have something outstanding to say about them, such as Specialist Four Ronald Miller (Fremont, North Carolina) "Hi, they're Numba One, we get 'em' in SP Packs", or Specialist Four Mark Cutler (Grand Rapids, Michigan), "they're the best thing since sliced bread".....

(CHAPEL - Con't from page 1)

Dakota).

After the Chapel was completely filled and the men were seated comfortably, the Invocation was given by Chaplain Watterson. Chaplain Wood then continued the dedication by recognizing the unselfish hours of volunteer service contributed by several of the men of 4/21. Three of the men recognized by the Chaplain were Private First Class Dewey Oliver (Elizabethton, Tennessee), from D Company, Specialist Four Anderson Stewart (Brooklyn, New York), also from D Company, and Specialist Four Ron Will, the Brigade Chaplains assistant. A fourth man was also given special recognition, Specialist Four Carl Wheeler (Moore, Oklahoma), from B Company, who was killed just a few days prior in an accident. Pms, as he was called, and the other men all had previous carpentry experience and worked very hard in completion of this beautiful Chapel. One of the men, Specialist Stewart, was participating in night operations while devoting his day hours in working on the Chapel.

Chaplain Hansen gave the Dedication Sermon while the men of 4/21 sat quietly, listening to what touched their hearts and brought many wonderful thoughts to their minds.

The service was beautiful and the Benediction was given by Chaplain Wood, who had such a proud look written in his face. The Chaplain is very proud of his new Chapel on the Hill and the men of Debbie find it very hard to express what a change in the atmosphere this small House of the Lord presents.

As the men left the building, Chaplain Wood led them directly to the mess hall where the Mess personnel had prepared some refreshments, to include coffee, punch, and a delicious cake, for all the men.

Chaplain Wood would like to welcome everyone to attend the weekly services held in the new little Chapel. He would also like to thank the men involved in the construction of this small Chapel, which is now that of the men of the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry of LZ Debbie....

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(HOME - con't from page 1)

again be packing his duffle bag, but this time he wouldn't be alone. The entire 4th Battalion 21st Infantry was moving to Duc Pho, South Vietnam.

For the next few months, his time was spent taking an inventory of all the supply and straightening the records, preparing for the big move, and on 9 April 1969 Sergeant Melvin Killcreas and the entire Battalion were aboard high 707 Jets, and on their way to Vietnam.

Surprisingly enough, the Battalion landed at Chu Lai Airport, Chu Lai, and all but a few underwent seven days of in-country training at the American Division Combat Center in Chu Lai. From here they were flown to Duc Pho where the Battalion became the final link in the 11th Light Infantry Brigade.

Killcreas was sent to "C" Company upon arrival and became the Supply Sergeant, where he has been since. He watched, and helped in the creation of what is today "Gimlet Hill".

Upon completion of his year in Vietnam, Killcreas decided to extend his tour six months, and this he did. In fact, after those six months were up, he extended for an additional six, which he is in the process of completing now. Staff Sergeant Killcreas will soon have two years of service committed in Vietnam and hasn't decided whether he will go for another six months.

During these two years Killcreas has seen 4/21 operate off of every LZ in the immediate area, some are still in operation with other Battalions working off them. Others have been torn down. A few of the LZ's he mentioned were: Liz, Dragon, Max, Simey, West, Catci, Gimlet, Puff, San Jua Hill, Don, Monasie, No-Name, Army, Jeff, Cider Mountain, and of course LZ Debbie.

Whether or not Staff Sergeant Melvin L. Killcreas will see any future Fire Support Bases, is unknown at this time, but there is one known fact, in 1971 he will don the title of Staff Sergeant and once again regain the status of "MR".

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- ENJOY THE BEAUTIES -  
OF  
NATURE

## "THE LETTER" ☺

Being so far away from loved ones while serving in Vietnam, is a very hard task, and communications with these people comes entirely through letters and perhaps an occasional phone call, which normally consists of hello - over, I love you - over, I miss you - over, and I'll be home soon - out. Letters to and from Vietnam become more than just ordinary letters, their meaning and value become so great that they are actually a collection. Many GI's in Vietnam mail their letters back home, considering them much too valuable to burn or destroy.

Many letters from the "world" express the feelings of the people back home. These are the letters the GI looks forward to after a long combat patrol through the mountains, or an edgy day behind the violin of a duce and a half from Chu Lai to Da Nang and back. This is when he wants to hear those comforting words from home saying, "How are you, we're all doing fine and thinking about you all the time." These are the words that allow him to sink back onto his air-mattress, or soft bunk, and forget about the brain-racking day just completed.

Some letters from home get so deeply involved they could be put into print. One such letter recently received by a GI from F Company 4th Battalion 21st Infantry, Specialist Four Don Johnson (Duena Park, California), was written by his young wife and went like this:

I never knew how wonderful  
My life could really be,  
Until I fell in love with you  
And knew that you loved me.

When you're in love and happy  
The days just come and go,  
But when you're in love an' lonely  
The days move by so slow.

And now you're needed elsewhere  
Although, I love you so,  
So I asked you not to leave me  
When we both knew you had to go.

The tears I cry are keenly felt  
And shared by many others,  
But the suffering did not stop there  
There are also all you Soldiers.

You are witnessing starvation  
Being wet for six months straight,  
And yet all through the nation  
We watch and pray and wait.

You are fighting for your country  
And for all mankind too,  
Away from home, away from friends  
And away from those who love you.

So darling in a years time  
As your plane soars through the blue,  
I'll be waiting as I always have  
And together, we'll start anew..

A letter such as this can brighten a GI's day considerably. It could possibly stop the rain, or clear the sky. All these things can be brought about by one simple, thoughtful letter. In this poem, the wife is showing her husband that she understands, and even though his being away from her is hard to cope with, she is trying to be understanding and live with it.

To a GI in Vietnam, a letter isn't just a letter, it becomes a brightening of the day, a step closer to home and the family, even through a half of a world away.....

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## "STAND DOWN"

Good times are here again - Beginning Thursday 15 January, the 4th Battalion 21st Infantry will head for the 11th Brigade Stand Down Area for their every 60-day, three-days of "Rest and Relaxation".

Due to operational functions, Delta Company will be broken down into small groups of 15 to 20 men, and one group will attend the joyous break in operations with one of the other companies. The 4.2 Mortar Platoon will also be broken down in order to maintain enough personnel to operate the tube.

The schedule for the upcoming Stand Down is as follows:

15-18 Jan E Company (4.2 and D Co.)  
18-21 Jan A Company (4.2 and D Co.)  
21-24 Jan B Company (D Company)  
24-27 Jan D Company (4.2 Mortar)  
27-30 Jan C Company (4.2 and D Co.)

We would like to wish you all a very healthy and relaxing three days in Chu Lai. Be sure and write many letters home, drink a lot of soda, eat those daily steaks, and most of all, get plenty of good sleep.....

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## ~ COMMAND INFORMATION ~

Ever since Captain Cook discovered the chain of "Sandwich Islands," in 1778, Hawaii has been considered an exotic tropical paradise. The Hawaiian Islands are one of the finer products of man's creativity, done with a craftsmanship that combines rare beauty and color with warmth and adventure.

One of the prime attractions of Hawaii is its accessibility as an R&R meeting place for servicemen and their families. Through an arrangement with Mak, Pan American, Northwest and United Airlines offer a special round-trip rate of \$165 (plus tax) for wives flying from the West Coast to join their husbands on R&R.

If you've planned ahead, you should find your arrival and immorcessing effortless. You will land at the Honolulu International Airport, but because of the short period of time spent at the airport and the limited transportation to Mt. DeRussy, it is recommended that you ask your wife or family to meet you at the Maluhia Service Club at Mt. De-

Russy. All R&R personnel must attend a short orientation briefing at the Maluhia Service Club. A Special Privileges Card is given to each serviceman during the arrival briefing. This card is good for your entire R&R stay and helps you obtain reduced prices in restaurants, hotels and stores displaying a matching R&R placard. Once you have completed your briefing you're on your own.

There are three ways you can go about making hotel reservations for R&R in Hawaii. You can write ahead to the hotel of your choice and request reservations, once you have confirmed your R&R date. Second, you can write to the Officer-in-Charge, R&R Center, APO San Francisco 96558, and request his assistance for hotel reservations. The third way is to wait until you arrive and make your own arrangements. The last method is not recommended.

Honolulu has an easy bus system that can take you almost anywhere and car rentals are offered from as low as \$6-10 a day to \$25-30 a day. Hawaii State laws require all persons under 20-years-of-age to have a Hawaii driver's license. Everyone must obtain a special permit to

operate two-wheeled vehicles if their permit does not specifically authorize it.

Honolulu, the capital of the state, is said to be the "crossroads of the Pacific." This city offers every activity you could possibly desire, from bird-watching on sunny beaches to a variety and colorful nightlife that includes Hawaiian luaus and top name entertainment.

Tourist attractions include fishing, swimming, surfing on some of the biggest "curls" in the world, glassbottom boat trips, neighboring island air tours and the tour of night clubs.

A visit to Hawaii need not be limited to the island of Oahu. Many R&R visitors tour the neighboring islands for their scenic variety, superb beaches and legendary beauty.

Dining out is limited only by the size of your wallet. Honolulu's finest restaurants offer a great variety of exotic foods from all over the world. All top hotels have several dining rooms and serve excellent food. There are also a number of picturesque tea houses. Be sure to attend a Hawaiian luau for a combination of the best native dishes and Polynesian entertainment. If you're interested in saving money you may cook your own meals in your hotel room with kitchen facilities.

There is a tremendous variety of night life in Honolulu. At most night clubs you can see a good hula show and many places feature Polynesian, Tahitian or Samoan entertainment. The legal age for drinking in public bars is 20 years, for both men and women. Be prepared to have your ID card checked when making the rounds of Honolulu's nightclub circuit.

The weather in Hawaii is beautiful all year round and casual clothing can be worn everywhere. For the married man the R&R in Hawaii is ideal, but many single men visit this beautiful state and find that it has as much, if not more to offer than the foreign R&R sights.

Regardless of who you plan to meet on your glorious six days, you will be guaranteed the most relaxing and entertaining time of your life.

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R\$R  
TO  
HAWAII