

The Ginlet

January 16, 1971

Vol 3, No 4

Commander Leaves 4/21

On 12 January, Lieutenant Colonel Robert A. Witter completed his command of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry. In a change of command ceremony attended by Major General James L. Baldwin, and Brigadier General Theodore C. Mataxis, LTC Witter turned over his command to Lieutenant Colonel Vernon B. Sonos.

LTC Witter assumed command of the Battalion abruptly when his predecessor, Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Harper was wounded by sniper fire in July.

During his six month tour with the Battalion, the Ginlets have put constant pressure on the enemy. One of LTC Witter's major successes was keeping VC hands out of the Rice Bowl. Since he assumed command, 109,709 pounds of rice has been confiscated, denying the enemy a primary resource.

4-21 Recap

2 Jan.—Sp4 Johnny Ojeda, LaPuenta Co., while on a mission with D Co., alertly spotted a booby trap constructed of two RPG's and a trip wire across the trail.

7 Jan.—C Co. engaged one VC/NVA moving down a trail southwest of Duc Pho. Results: one VC/NVA killed.

11 Jan.—While on a search mission southwest of Duc Pho, C Co. spotted an enemy soldier walking down a trail. The Ginlets engaged him with small arms killing him and confiscating a pack containing ammunition and various supplies.

13 Jan.—B Co. discovered a booby trap made out of an M-16 bandoleer. It contained rocks in all the pockets except one which was packed with C-4 and metal strips. It was triggered by a pressure release device. The booby trap was destroyed in place.

The development of the fishing village of Hai Mon has been another of LTC Witter's accomplishments. Under his guidance, Hai Mon has provided a secure home for the people who had been rendered homeless by the enemy.

LTC Witter displayed the highest degree of combat leadership and bravery as evidenced by his participation in over 200 hours of flight time in combat assaults and direct combat support. On numerous occasions LTC Witter went out with the line companies for periods of several days at a time to get a full grasp of the tactical situation by personal observation.

His genuine concern for and understanding of the problems faced by the men in the field brought the respect and gratitude of all those under his command. He stated that his foremost concern was the safe return home of all those who served under his command.



New Commander For Gimlets

The "Gimlets" of 4/21st salute and welcome the new Battalion Commander LTC Verman B. Sones. The following is a biographical sketch of the new Commander.

NAME: Verman B. Sones

DOB: 28 December 1933

POB: Butler, Pennsylvania

FAMILY: Wife and Three Sons

CIVILIAN EDUCATION:

- a. The Pennsylvania State University—Bachelor of Science Degree
- b. University of Pittsburgh—Masters Degree.

SOURCE OF COMMISSION: ROTC

MILITARY EDUCATION:

- a. Engineer Officers Basic Course
- b. Ranger School
- c. Airborne School
- d. Jumpmaster School
- e. Psychological Operations Officers Course
- f. Special Warfare Officers Course
- g. Infantry Officers Career Course
- h. Army Command and General Staff College

MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS:

- a. Faculty—U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia
- b. Platoon Leader—547th Combat Engineer Bn, Germany
- c. Aide-de-Camp—Commanding General, 7th Army Support Command, Germany
- d. Platoon Leader—70th Combat Engineer Bn, Fort Campbell, Kentucky
- e. Platoon Leader—501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky
- f. Rifle Company Commander—501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky
- g. S-1 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky
- h. G-5 Advisor—7th ARVN Division, Vietnam
- i. Infantry Battalion Advisor—7th ARVN Division, Vietnam
- j. Faculty—United States Military Academy
- k. Assistant G-3—Headquarters, XXIV Corps, Vietnam

LTC Sones has issued the following BASIC FUNDAMENTALS OF COMBAT

FUNDAMENTALS TO BE EMPHASIZED BY INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS:

1. Physical conditioning
2. Alertness
3. Light and noise discipline
4. Fire discipline
5. Weapons marksmanship—all organic small arms

(continued on page 6)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

PV2 Vence Aragon.....1Mar
 Sp4 Mark Bradley.....1Mar
 Sp4 Richard Matthews.....3Mar
 Sp5 Edward McGinley.....2Mar
 Sp4 Willie Miller.....1Mar
 Sp4 Carlo Rago.....2Mar
 Sp5 Edward Taylor.....3Mar

Alpha Company

SGT Paul Covington.....28Feb
 Sp4 Doug Ingram.....19Feb
 Sp4 Ronnie Ruby.....19Feb

Malaria Isn't Worth The Hassle--Take
 THE PILL!

MORE DROPS!NORMAL DROPS

27 Feb
 28 Feb
 1 Mar
 2 Mar
 3 Mar

ADJUSTED TO
 15 Jan
 17 Jan
 18, 19, 20 Jan
 21, 22 Jan
 23, 24 Jan

Bravo Company

Sp4 Merle Griffin.....3 Mar

Charlie Company

SGT Thomas Person.....2 Mar
 Sp4 Larry Reissig.....2 Mar

Delta Company

Sp4 Harold Anderson.....2 Mar

Echo Company

SGT Terry Hunsucker.....3 Mar

MALARIA LOSERS BOX

COMPANY	No. Of Cases	
	Nov-Jan	
Alpha.....	3	
Bravo.....	5	
Charlie.....	7	
Delta.....	6	
Echo.....	2	
HHC.....	1	

LTC Vernon B. Sonck.....Bn Commander

LtJG Billy J. Orr.....Adjutant

PFC Gene Colling.....Editor

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Impact Awards Presented

Impact awards were presented to five members of Charlie Company on 4 January at the stand down area for actions which occurred the night of 26 December. The awards were presented by Brigade Commander Colonel John L. Insani.

On the night of 26 December, Charlie Company was set up in their NDP when a mechanical ambush was set off, and initiated the action that would merit the Gimlets the awards for bravery and valor. The recipients of the valor awards and accounts of their individual actions follows:

SSG Dennis Watterson--Silver Star

Finding two dead VC and an M-14 with scope, two AK magazines, one claymore, and intelligence documents at a recently detonated MA site, the patrol was fired upon by a squad size enemy element. Receiving murderous hostile fire, SSG Watterson, with amazingly quick and heroic actions covered the retreat of his four comrades and killed one enemy VC. His actions are credited with saving the lives of his four comrades and the eventual capture of the above equipment.

SGT Bryon Weedman--Bronze Star 'V'

While on a patrol to investigate a recently detonated MA, SGT Weedman distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions as he retrieved an enemy body while under an intense volume of enemy fire. His actions are responsible for the capture of important enemy documents.

Sp4 Juan Robles--Bronze Star 'V'

Following an intense battle with a VC force, Sp4 Robles distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions. Returning to the MA site which had recently been detonated, he heroically braved enemy sniper fire as he low crawled through open terrain and retrieved the second enemy body, denying the enemy of valuable intelligence information.

PFC Randy Drew--Bronze Star 'V'

Following an intense battle with a VC force, PFC Drew distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions. As three of his comrades retrieved two enemy bodies, weapons, and documents, he unselfishly positioned himself in the open, drawing enemy fire as he put down protective fire for his comrades.

PFC Robert Walker--Bronze Star 'V'

Following an intense battle with an enemy VC force PFC Walker distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions. With no regard for his personal safety he heroically braved intense volumes of enemy fire as he low crawled through open terrain to recover enemy and captured US weapons. His superlative devotion to duty is responsible for depriving the enemy of valuable combat weapons.

Stand Down Awards

During ceremonies at the Retraining Area at Fire Support Base Bronco LTC Robert A. Witter presented awards to the following members of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry.

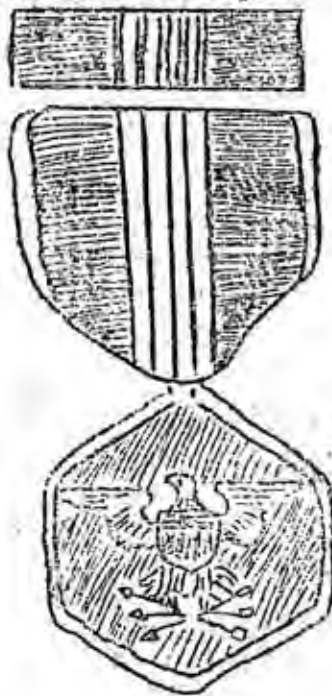
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
4th BATTALION, 21st INFANTRY
23rd INFANTRY DIVISION
"BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT..

The Bronze Star is awarded for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.



Sp4 Dennis Degroot
Sp4 Leland O'Connor
PFC Dennis Smith
SGT Keith Applin
Sp4 John Fluemer
SGT Richard Farlow

The Army Commendation Medal is awarded for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Rep. of Vietnam.



SGT Carlton Byrd
SGT Douglas Ingram

The Purple Heart is awarded for wounds received in connection with military operations against a armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.



SSG Silvino Hernandez
SGT David Martin
PFC Tedd Mishler

Tax Tip

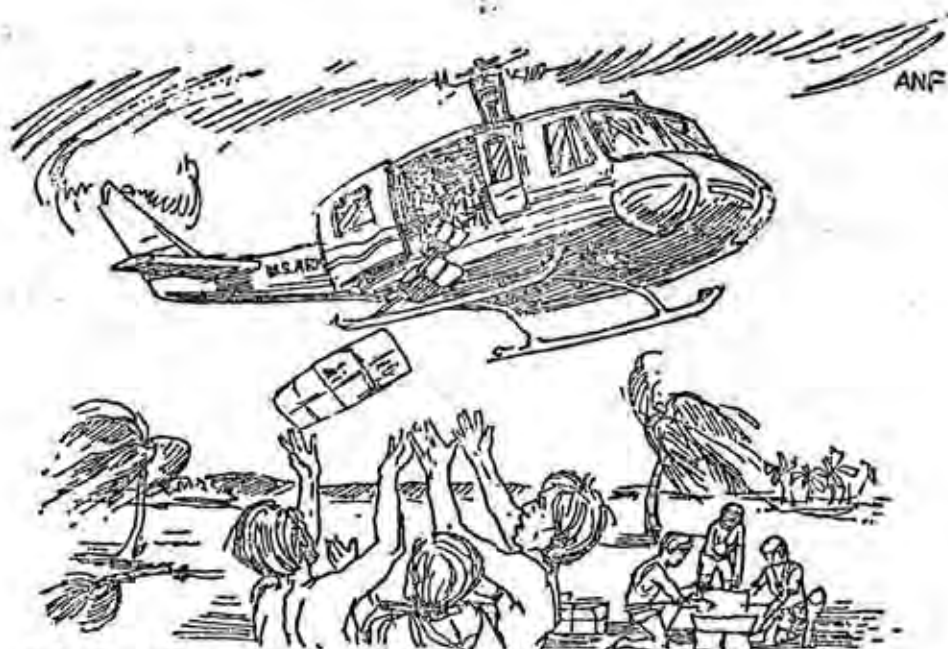
The 1970 W-2 forms will be available 31 Jan. But due to the possibility of loss the form will not be distributed; instead placed in the finance record of each individual. The income tax return does not have to be filed until six months after departure from a combat zone. Those desiring to file before DEROS, should give their name to their Company Commander who will submit his company requests on a one-time basis to the finance office.

Soldier's Medal Awarded

By the direction of the President, the Soldier's Medal is awarded to Sergeant Philip Geary for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Geary distinguished himself by heroic actions on 30 October 1970 while serving as a Squad Leader with Company B, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry. On that date, an element of the company was isolated on low-flooding terrain when a member of the friendly unit was carried away by the strong current. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Geary entered the dangerous stream and quickly swam to his threatened comrade. Ignoring the danger involved, he began pulling his stricken comrade through the current and successfully pulled the man to shallow water where they could obtain a stable footing. Through his timely and courageous actions, Sergeant Geary saved the life of a fellow soldier and served as an inspiration to his entire unit. His personal heroism and unselfish concern for his fellow soldiers are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 23rd Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

***** R & R Tip

If you're going on R&R, don't expect to wait until you get to your destination to cash a personal check. In most cases this is not possible. In addition to your R&R orders, you must have at least \$250 in cash or traveler's checks on your person when you arrive at your R&R departure site. The only exception is if you are going to meet your wife in Hawaii and can vouch that she will have the money.



U.S. STRIKE COMMAND--

ARMY AND AIR FORCE TEAM DISTRIBUTING
SUPPLIES TO DISASTER VICTIMS IN EAST PAKISTAN.

Combat Fundamentals--continued from page 2

6. Weapons care and cleaning, especially the M-16
7. Carelessness of ammunition and magazines
8. Weapons safety
9. Personal hygiene--sanitation
10. Health--antimalaria measures
11. Digging in--deep below level of ground or in bunker
12. Camouflage
13. Patience (talking, smoking, unnecessary movement especially on patrols, listening posts, and ambushes)
14. Carry weapons, wear helmets
15. Police of the battlefield

FUNDAMENTALS TO BE EMPHASIZED TO SQUAD AND PLATOON LEADERS; COMPANY COMMANDERS:

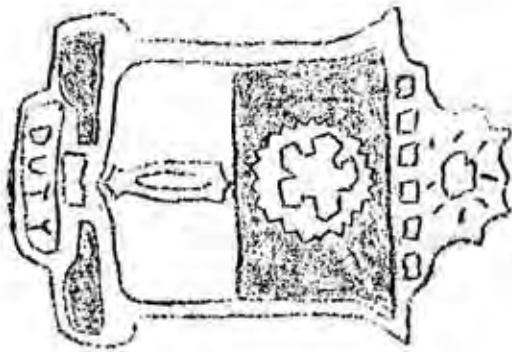
1. Constant checking on fundamentals listed in items above
2. Fire and maneuver
3. Control of: fires, troops, equipment
4. Adjustment of indirect and aerially delivered fires
5. Security consciousness. Stand to LZs, PZs, and use of defensive concentrations
6. Land navigation
7. Tactical deception
8. Perimeter defense--range cards, FPF
9. Maintenance
10. Priority of tasks

Finance Tip

Some very important finance information has been released and it bears repeating. Family Separation Allowance is now available to more soldiers. An E-4 with over four years of service or above, whose dependents occupy government quarters, and he meets all other entitlement requirements, is authorized FSA as of 1 Jan. 1971. Service members also can receive FSA on behalf of primary dependents even though their dependents live with parents or relatives. Primary dependents include: Spouse, unmarried legitimate child, or a child who, because of some incapacity, is dependent on the member for one half of his support. This particular amendment has a retroactive effective date of 1 Oct. 63. Due to the large number of people affected by the changes, retroactive payments--no partial pay--will be on the next pay voucher. Members with dependents residing in government quarters should contact the Division Finance Office as possible. Those affected by residency requirements should go to the finance office.



Let the MALARIA PILL prevent misery
just like the "other" pill used to.



SSAN Co, 4th Bn 21st Inf
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Name

Number

Street

City

State

Zip

