



Volume I, No. 15

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

December 26, 1969

CHARLIE CO NETS 2 NVA

BATTALION SUMMARY

December 17- There are a few guys in Charlie Company and where experience on the treacherous battlefield is lacking, the "old timers" compensate with advice and constant example. The advice of Sergeant Raymong Hait (Charlotte, N.C.) of the 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company is "It just doesn't pay to be lax out there."

The Company was making a hazardous descent from Iron Mountain, a rugged group of towering hills located ten miles west of LZ Bronco (six clicks northeast of San Juan Hill) and scene of much activity for the 4-3 "Old Guard" recently. The numerous hills are said to harbor a large force of NVA. Realizing this, Charlie Company ambled down the face of Iron Mountain on the afternoon of December 17 feeling imminent ambush deep down in their bones as it made sudden turns amidst the boulders and thick vegetation of the jungle.

Sgt. Ray Hait had just relieved Pfc Ron Mathews (Charleston, S.C.) as pointman when he sighted an inconspicuous hole

about 35 meters away. He glanced past it scanning the terrain to his front and then back to the hole. Suddenly, where nothing was moments before placidly sat a Viet Cong strangely staring at his hands. The Sergeant immediately opened up with a small burst of his M-16 boldly piercing the jungle hush. The Viet Cong dropped. He listened. Seconds later two more VC dashed from their cover near the hole. Sgt. Hait dropped another but one frantically fled up the slope and escaped. The men then warily descended to check out the scene. (cont. on pg. 2)

13 December

While on patrol in a valley three clicks northeast of firebase San Juan Hill, a squad of men from Recon Platoon spotted three NVA/VC foraging in an old NDP site. Artillery was immediately called in.

Later on that morning, Delta Company's 1st Platoon killed two NVA. The CIDGs, while in the vicinity of Minh Long, totaled four enemy killed and one captured. Fifteen of the enemy had unwarily walked into an ambush.

16 December

Action erupted at 0900 hours when Special Forces pulled a raid on local force Viet Cong. The raid resulted in two VC killed, one captured and 2,000 pounds of rice uncovered and destroyed.

Late in the day, Charlie Company came upon three huts and a basecamp which were noticeably occupied just minutes prior to its arrival.

17 December

While descending Iron Mountain after a recent operations there, Charlie Company came upon a group of Viet Cong who were engrossed in a card game. The 2nd Platoon succeeded in killing two of the VC but one escaped. Not far from the scene of the action, the Company found five shallow graves.

18 December

Delta Company spotted three NVA while pounding the turf eight clicks northeast of San Juan Hill. Artillery was called in on their position.

(continued on page 2, column 2)

BATTALION SUMMARY- Cont. from front page, col 2

(CHARLIE COMPANY-cont.)
A LESSON LEARNED

It soon became gossily apparent to the men huddled near the underground bunker that two Viet Cong had become fatal victims of an inexcusable carelessness. The Company had apparently rudely barged in on a card game and the enemy was too engrossed with the cards to notice the pointman emerge from the jungle. "It just doesn't pay to be lax" pointed out Sergeant Hait. The men stood over the sprawling and lifeless bodies of the VC. Before them they lay. Cards littered the ground. One Viet Cong clutched his cards in his hand. "We made sure that everyone saw what can certainly happen to any of us." The men filed past the scene and continued on their way.

ARMY GETS NEW RIFLE
FOR SNIPER FIRING

WASHINGTON (AFPS)-

A highly modified version of the M-14 national match rifle has been selected as the Army's newest sniper rifle. It is known as the XM-21.

The rifle, built at the Army Weapons Command's Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois, weighs 11 pounds, with its fully loaded 20 round magazine.

To achieve pinpoint accuracy, the rifle is equipped with a variable power (from 3 to 9) telescope. It features such refinements as adjustable focus, an improved adjustment lock, and a zero which adjusts as power changes are made.

26 DECEMBER

Attention again reverted to Iron Mountain when a insertion of LRRPs met with some resistance at about 1000 hours. While executing the insertion of the long range patrol team, a chopper recieved ground fire and was hit by enemy guns. The LRRPs were later extracted after making contact in the rugged terrain.

Charlie Company spotted four NVA/VC and consequently engaged them with small arms and 81 mm mortar fire. The Company was on a search and clear operation six clicks directly north of firebase San Juan. A search of the area failed to turn up any enemy but four graves were found in the process.

Recon SRRPs uncovered 1000 rounds of AK-47 and SKS while on a short range patrol. The SRRPs discovered the cache under the floor of a hut. Two homemade bombs were also found.

CHRISTMAS COMES TO BATO

Two thousand Montagnard children of the Ba To District met Santa Claus for the first time this Christmas and found him jolly and generous beyond all expectations.

This festive scene was made possible by the efforts of the 11th Infantry Brigade of the AMERICAN DIVISION and hundreds of California residents who donate several thousand toys and nearly a ton of candy.

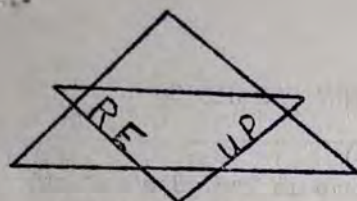
The project which brought Christmas to this remote mountain area, 11 miles west of Duc Pho, had strange origin: a September jeep accident near Quang Ngai City in which Major Wilfred Phelps (Los Angeles) then S-3 for the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry 11th Infantry Brigade was injured. While recuperating in a stateside hospital he hit on the "Christmas in Ba To" idea and began planning a campaign to bring it to fruition.

Major Phelps made numerous appearances before civic and church groups saying "Two thousand children in Ba To have never had a Christmas. With your help we can give them one."

The cause was mobilized and the response immediate and overwhelming. Packages filled with toys and candy have been arriving here daily for the past two months. Many are accompanied by letters expressing gratitude for the opportunity to give. "My package is like an apple in a grove of apple trees, but knowing it will make one child happy makes my Christmas more meaningful."

A Christmas program, arranged by the 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. Civil Affairs section, (Captains Milton Houghton and Paul Hagewood), combined the religious and the festive aspect of the feast. The local pastor narrated the story of the Nativity which was enacted by the province drama team. The 11th Brigade Psychological Operations movie team also provided entertainment.

The celebration concluded with a midnight mass service at which two thousand sleepy, happy children gave thanks for new-found blessings of Christmas.



CORNER

Are you planning on joining your city police force upon ETS? Why not get some experience while in the Army? If your GT score is 100 or more you qualify for reenlistment as an MP. See your career counselor today at Battalion S-1 (SSG Rubin Rodriguez). Other options are listed below.

MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE

- 63A Mechanical Maintenance Apprentice
 - 63B Wheel Vehicle Repairman
 - 63C General Vehicle Repairman
 - 63D Recovery Specialist
 - 63E Fuel and Electrical System Repairman
 - 63F Engine and Powertrain Repairman
 - 63G Quartermaster Heavy Equipment Repairman
- *****

DECEMBER HISTORY

Dec. 2 (1823) - President James Monroe announced the principles of the Monroe Doctrine which warned European nations against interference in the Western Hemisphere.

Dec. 7 (1941) - An attacking force of 360 carrier-based Japanese aircraft hit military targets at Pearl Harbor, receiving only 28 losses.

Dec. 11 (1941) - Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.

Dec. 16 (1773) - Boston Tea Party.

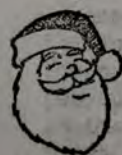
Dec. 17 (1903) - Orville Wright makes the first self-powered airplane flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Dec. 28 (1867) - Midway Island claimed by the United States, first territory annexed outside Continental limits.

DOC'S CORNER

The Poinsettia, admired for its crimson beauty and used as a Christmas decoration, is poisonous. Other poisonous decorative plants are Lilly of the Valley, mountain laurel, ground ivy, Hydrangea philodendron, delphinium seeds and young plants and azalea leaves. The entire oleander plant is highly poisonous. The dry leaves are poisonous and if the plant is burned the smoke is poisonous.

Minor cuts and scratches usually need little more than a thorough cleansing with soap and water and a dry dressing. Application of a mild, commercial antiseptic can be beneficial. However, never put tincture of iodine or tincture of merthiolate directly into the wound. If you must use tincture of merthiolate, coat only the skin area around the perimeter of the wound. **NOTE** a minor cut is one that bleeds freely and is shallow. If it is enough to need "stitches" it should be seen at a medical facility. Puncture wounds should also be treated by a medical facility.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

HHC
Mullens, Gary PH
Bennewise, Edward ACM-S

ALPHA
Haugen, Warren PH
Nelson, Richard PH
Dennis, Ronald PH
Guerra, Romerolo PH
Friebele, Steven PH
Semar, William PH
Irby, James PH

CHARLIE
Korndor, Paul ACM-A

CHARLIE (cont.)

Myers, G. BS-S
Clark, P. BS-S
Blouin, R. BS-S
Spurlock, V. BS-S
Bonczed, J. BS-S

ECHO

Whitman, Bob ACM-S
Salde, Richard ACM-S
Tefft, John ACM-S
Mynatt, William ACM-S

" " ACM-A
Schwebach, J. PH-3dolo



EDITORIAL:

KHRUSCHEV WAS HIS CO

PROJECT TRANSITION-A HELPING HAND

Some men are born into wealthy families and never really have to worry about earning a living. Most men, however, have to work hard to make ends meet and get ahead in the very competitive industrial world. To attain, even these goals most can use whatever help they can get or that's offered.

PROJECT TRANSITION is the Department of Defense's "helping hand" to a man who can use more education and wants to learn a trade. It is designed to give him, while serving his country, some of the assistance he may just need to move ahead to success.

While in the U.S. Armed Forces, most men become more mature and, consequently become better prepared to work toward the bigger and better things in life.

Higher education through on and off-duty courses at high schools, the availability of college instruction, and new skills in technical professions are also available through PROJECT TRANSITION.

This unique program is open to all enlisted men, including those who are retiring after 20 or more years of service.

The Department of Defense project has made significant strides since its inception in January 1968. It has helped thousands of young men to prepare themselves for better futures in civilian careers. It continues to help thousands more.

If you are one of those who will have to get through life as best you can, why not begin now and help yourself to and with this volunteer program. It was established to give you that helping hand. (AFPS)

AROUND THE BATTALION

The 4-3 recently received an influx of two new officers - the "Old Guard" extends a warm welcome upon their entry into the Battalion.

One of the officers, Captain Allan M. Maughan, shall replace Captain John Tufano as Communications Officer. Captain Maughan hails from the state of Utah. Past duty assignments include Radio Officer and Signal Officer (Basic Course). The Captain has a B.S. in Physics; he entered the Army in January 1967. (cont. on adjacent column)

WASHINGTON (AFPS)

You think you have it bad? Specialist Sixth class John Jacobs, an interrogator with the 82nd Airborne Division's military intelligence detachment at Ft. Bragg N.C., once had Nikita Khrushchev as a commanding officer - and later, while still a teenager, spent months in Germany's infamous Buchenwald and Dachau concentration camps during World War II.

In revealing his boyhood recently, Jacobs said he was born in the Ukraine. "My father had been an Imperial Guard in Petrograd (Leningrad) under Czar Nicholas until the revolution began in 1917. When he came home people knew he had been a White Cossack and he had to evacuate our family. He took us to Poland."

WORLD WAR II BOYHOOD

In 1938, Jacobs went back to the Ukraine to live with his grandparents as the Germans occupation of Poland raged and World War II began.

As the Nazis spilled into the Ukraine and began taking young men to Germany as a labor force, Jacobs and six other boys between 16 and 18 went into the mountains to avoid being conscripted. He was then 16.

TALKS WITH KHRUSHCHEV

"I was a commander of a local and Nikita Khrushchev was my brigade commander. We conversed many times on strategy," he said. "And, Khrushchev's code name at that time was 'Dedoshka,' meaning grandfather."

From Dachau, Jacobs migrated to France. After working there two years, he heard about the United States offering citizenship to displaced persons in Germany who would agree to honorably serve in the U.S. Army for five years.

"A FREE MAN AT LAST"

"I remember hearing about the agreement, so I came back to Germany and signed up," he said with a smile. "The Army was easy for me then... I received more money than I had ever had at that time...and, when I got my citizenship, I knew that I was a free man at last."

Spec. 6 Jacobs now lives in Spring Lake, N.C., with his wife, two sons and daughter. (AFPS)

Lieutenant David Silvermail (DeFew, N.Y.) has been assigned as a Platoon Leader in Alpha Company. He is a graduate of OCS and received training as a Chemical Staff Specialist. His latest duty station was at HQ, 1st Bn., 19th Inf., Ft. Riley, as a Platoon Leader.

Season's Greetings

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers on Page —

ACROSS

- 1-Evergreen trees
- 5-Armed conflict
- 8-Walk unsteadily
- 12-Dillseed
- 13-Mature
- 14-Spindle on which wheels revolve
- 15-Recover
- 17-Death
- 19-Earn
- 20-Strong winds
- 21-Paradise
- 23-Transaction
- 24-Wager
- 26-Lassled
- 28-Drunkard
- 31-Throes-toed sloth
- 32-Large truck
- 33-Pronoun
- 34-Attempt
- 36-Singing voice
- 38-Article of furniture
- 39-Hebrewman
- 41-Was borne
- 43-Lower
- 45-Theatre house
- 48-Sat
- 50-Dedicate
- 51-Pulverized rock
- 52-Hall
- 54-Hardly grafted
- 55-elastic
- 56-Writing implement
- 57-Search

DOWN

- 1-Cultivated land
- 2-Arrow poison
- 3-Feel sorry for
- 4-Senate
- 6-I die

6-Symbol for silver

- 7-Communist
- 8-Having branches
- 9-Those living outside their country
- 10-Otherwise
- 11-Drugs
- 16-Roman road
- 18-Mild expletive
- 22-Story
- 23-Spanish title
- 24-Flying mammal
- 25-Goddess of healing
- 27-Shallow vessel
- 29-Be in debt
- 30-Spread for drying
- 36-Woody plant
- 37-Part in play
- 38-Away!
- 40-Stage whisper
- 42-Pigeons
- 43-The castra
- 46-Girl's name
- 47-Prophet
- 49-Weakness
- 50-Lair
- 53-Brother of Odin

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LTC Robert N. Fernandez CO
CPT. Felix J. Ciarlo Jr. SI
SP4 John Calderonello REPORTER

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TAKE THE PILL TAKE THE PILL