



4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

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CHANGE OF COMMAND

AMBUSH SPRUNG EARLY

The 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry acquired a new commanding officer during the change of Command ceremony held Jan. 3, 1970, at LZ Bronco. After six months of service as an Old Guard commander, Lieutenant Colonel Robert N. Fernandez passed the battalion's colors to Lieutenant Colonel Stanley V. Wielga, former Americal Division G-1. In turn, LTC Fernandez will take over as the new Americal Division G-1.

Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey, Division Commanding General, praised the battalion's leadership and complemented LTC Fernandez on his many successes and rewards. LTC Fernandez was awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry, the Air Medal for Valor, and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor.

In his acceptance address, LTC Wielga said, "It is quite a challenge being the newest member of the Old Guard and I have much the same feelings as all others when they first join. I have great respect for the 4-3-the oldest regiment in the Army-and I am determined to live up to its traditions."

LTC Wielga (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) comes to the battalion with 19 years of service in the Army, two of which he served as an enlisted man.

His first assignment after graduating from West Point in June 1953, was as a platoon leader, reconnaissance officer and assistant S-3 with the 102nd Regiment, 43rd Division in Aisburg, Germany. In November 1955, he was assigned to the newly organized 11th Regiment, 5th Division at Fort Ord, California, as reconnaissance officer, company commander, and assistant brigade SL. (cont. pg. 2 col. 1)

At 10:00 p.m. on the morning of January 8, Alpha Company made contact with an estimated ten NVA soldiers while in an ambush site one and one-half miles north of LZ Don.

The second platoon was in the process of establishing an ambush site in an open field 200 meters from the patrol base when ten NVA suddenly appeared.

Private First Class Monty D. Garner (Houma, La.) said, "We just started to put out claymore mines when the NVA appeared, all of them carrying weapons." The platoon was unable to compete the installation of the claymore mines because of the close proximity of the enemy soldiers. Private First Class Billy J. Burrell (Evadale, Texas) M-60 machinegunner for the second platoon, opened fire, wounding one NVA. Immediately the air was filled with the screaming hum of lead as the second platoon poured beaucoup rounds at the now fleeing NVA. But all to no avail, as the NVA had reached the woodline and disappeared. Since the direct fire support weapons were now ineffective, artillery from LZ Bronco and 81s from the company were used to engage the fleeing enemy.

CHARLIE KILLS NVA

On January 9, Charlie Company spotted and killed one NVA while on a company move two clicks south of LZ Don.

The action unfolded at 10:30 a.m. when the third platoon was on a short reconnaissance mission to check out the area surrounding the old NDP site. Specialist (Cont. on Pg. 2, Bottom of Col. 1)

BATTALION SUMMARY

(Change of Comm. cont. from Pg. 1 col. 1)
During this time he spent six months as a technical advisor in Hollywood for a television series on West Point.

In Dec. 1957, he attended the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. In August 1958, he was assigned to ROTC duty at Hofstra University. Then in July 1961, He attended the Command General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

LTC Wielga's first tour in Vietnam began in July 1962, when he was assigned as an advisor to the Civil Guard Battalion in Kien Phong and Kien Hoa provinces.

Returning to CONUS in 1963, he served for one and one-half years with the 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Benning Georgia, where he was assistant G-2 and also assistant to the Chief-of-Staff. In May of that year he attended the Combat Development Command School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

In August 1968, he voluntarily came back to Vietnam where he was assigned to G-1, Americal Division, and served in that capacity until Jan. 3, 1970, when he took over command of the 4-3 Old Guard.

LTC Wielga graduated from Merry Mountain High School in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He attended Hofstra University, receiving his Master of Arts degree in Social Science.

His wife and four children currently reside in Hawaii.

4 January

The LRPPs observed two NVA in green uniforms moving toward an old NVA basecamp. They were carrying neither packs or weapons.

6 January

At 3:50 a.m. Ba To came under a mortar and ground attack. The fighting centered on the east side of the river. The attack was repulsed, resulting in 4 VC/NVA killed and one wounded.

8 January

At 10:00 a.m. on the morning of January 8, Aloha Company made contact with an estimated ten NVA soldiers while in an ambush site one and one-half miles north of LZ Don. The second platoon was just setting up the ambush site when ten NVA appeared, disrupting the endeavor. The second platoon opened up on the NVA, wounding one.

9 January

Charlie Company spotted and killed one NVA while on a company move one mile south of LZ Don. Specialist Four Niel Potter (White River Junction, Vermont) and Specialist Four Glen Lacey (Dallas, Texas) both opened up on an NVA who was coming down a trail. SP4 Potter was credited with the kill that netted Charlie Company one AK-47 and one Chi-Com grenade.

OLD GUARD

LTC Stanley V. Wielga CO
CPT. Felix J. Ciarlo Jr. S1
SP4 Robert Daniels REPORTER

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(Charlie Company kills one NVA continued from pg. 1 col. 2)

Four Neil Potter (White River Junction, Vermont) was walking point for the second squad when it crossed a stream that ran parallel to a trail. After crossing the stream SP4 Potter set up security on the trail to provide cover for the rest of the element as it crossed the stream. Specialist Four Glen Lacey (Dallas, Texas) had just reached his side when Potter spotted an NVA coming down the trail. Potter said, "the NVA was looking to his left and right but he never spotted us until it was too late." Both men immediately opened fire, dropping the NVA.

SP4 Potter was credited with the kill that netted Charlie Company one AK-47 and one Chi-Com grenade.

NEW AMERICAN WEAPON:

(Illus. by SP4 Terry Clark)



XM203

The range of weapons that support the rifle-man in defense and in assault now far surpasses in variety and performance even the most sanguine wishes of the World War II and Korean company or battalion commander, whose TOE mainstays were the BAR (Browning automatic rifle), light and heavy machine guns, mortars, the recoilless rifle and the antitank rocket.

Partly under the spur of Vietnam requirements, developments in this field have been intense, increasing fire effectiveness and reducing size and weight to the point where the individual soldier or a crew of two can handle weapons of immense power.

One of the most important lines of development in infantry weapons in recent years has been the grenade launcher, giving the small tactical unit good area fire capability at distances too long for hand grenades and too short for mortars.

The newest such weapon is the 40mm XM203 grenade launcher attachment, designed for use with the M16A1 rifle and scheduled for quantity production in the last quarter of fiscal year 1969. A single-shot, slide-action device weighing two pounds empty and 3.6 pounds loaded, the XM203 gives the rifle user both point and area fire capability in a single weapon. It is mounted beneath the barrel of the M16, a battle sight fitted to the rifle's cover assembly allowing range selection between 50 and 250 meters in 50-meter increments. The XM203 has been successfully combat tested in Vietnam, and is scheduled to replace the popular M79 shotgun-type launcher in units armed with M16s.

A NOTE ON SAFETY

In a combat unit such as 4-3, soldiers learn to live day and night with small arms weapons, and explosives, such as grenades and claymores. Under-

(cont. on top of adjacent col.)

(cont. from bottom of adj. col.)

standably, these necessary arms begin to be regarded as just another part of one's field gear. Because of this, accidents occur occasionally, especially, when a company is in a semi-relaxed state on a firebase or in the Night Defensive Position. Following are a few suggestions brought to mind by past incidents.

Hand grenades, if kept at a fox-hole during the night, should be returned to one's gear in the morning, simply to avoid an explosion in case the hole is used to burn trash. In the same vein, a claymore is potentially dangerous if left in front of a position during the day because other squads or platoons may walk directly in front of it when leaving the perimeter. A loaded weapon should not be taken off safe unless you are ready to fire. A weapon with the safety off will discharge too easily.

This note on safety is not intended to instruct but rather to act as a reminder, in an attempt to prevent the careless behavior which can lead to tragedy.

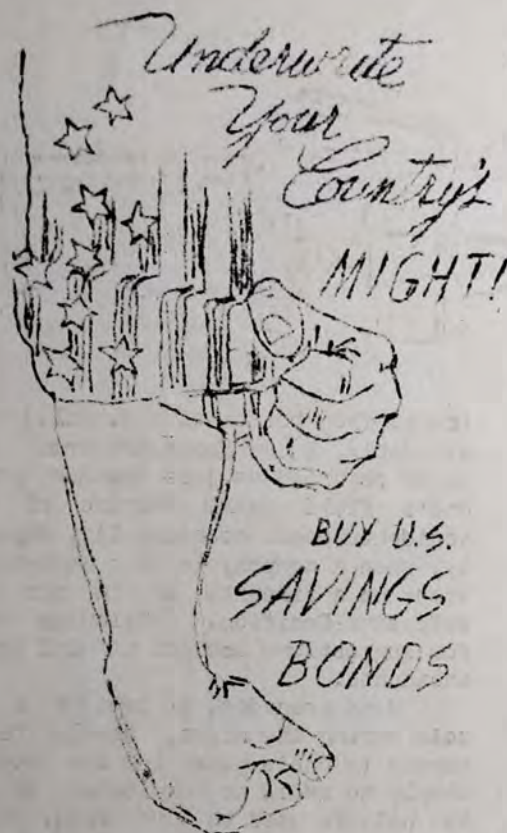
VA OFFERS BENEFITS DURING ACTIVE DUTY

Service men on active duty may be eligible for educational assistance up to \$130 a month, according to the Veterans Administration.

Citing the provisions of U.S. Title 38, the VA says servicemen who have been on active duty at least two years are eligible for benefits. Those who had prior service may establish eligibility by proving they were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. However, the prior service must have lasted for more than 180 days, and some part of that must have occurred after January 31, 1955. If the prior service was for less than 181 days,

(cont. on pg. 4, col. 1)

VUNG TAU



Vung Tau, A Vietnamese resort 40 miles southeast of Saigon, is located on a peninsula which extends into the South China Sea. On weekends Vietnamese, French merchants, Chinese bankers, embassy secretaries, and youths converge on Vung Tau for relief from the heat and humidity of Saigon.

Vung Tau first attained renown as a resort fifty years ago when the French developed the beach and called it Cape St. Jacques. Villas built by the French are wedged into hillside cliffs and are approached by winding, picturesque roads.

The downtown area of Vung Tau is lined with almond trees and adorned with pink benches. Open-air bars feature both Oriental and popular American music. The Bunny Club, Detroit, Lily's Airborne All the Way, and James Bond 007, are a few of the many colorful bars and clubs.

At the beach, swimming, surfing, boating, and fishing are offered. A section of the beach is reserved for US and other Free World Forces personnel.

(VA benefits- cont. from pg.3, col.2)

eligibility could still be established if the discharge after January 31, 1955--was for a service connected disability.

Allowances are designed to help the active duty serviceman meet the cost of tuition, fees, books and other education costs, at least in part. Payments will be computed at the rate of the established charges for tuition and fees, or at the rate of \$130 per month for a full time course, whichever is less.

In-service educational benefits are accrued at the rate of one and a half months of eligibility for each month of active duty. The maximum period of entitlement is 36 months, but the VA says that can be extended to 48 under certain circumstances.

There is virtually no limit on program selection under the new law, according to the VA. The serviceman's goal "may be purely educational, such as obtaining a college degree; professional, such as becoming a lawyer; or vocational, such as becoming a barber or air conditioning serviceman."

VA forms and detailed information on this and other in-service benefits are available at local education offices.

The R&R Center for in-country R&R is a modern decor facility, capable of accommodating 260 enlisted personnel. The center has free bus service to the beach two miles away. It also features a library, recreation equipment, movies, and other entertainment.

Food is carefully prepared at the R&R center. The menu has three selections for each meal. The Grand Hotel, Cynos, and Rendezvous are three locally approved restaurants with good food. The Grand is well known for its seafood.

Take the Pill
Take Pill
Take
It



ARMY ADOPTS NEW PROMOTION POLICIES

The Army has adopted new policies for promotion of enlisted personnel who enter into a missing, captured, detained or extended hospitalization status. The policies have been adopted to correct previous inequities.

Under the outgoing policies, soldiers in grad E6 and below without prior recommended list status could not be considered for promotion while missing, captured, detained or hospitalized.

The new policies apply to all promotable enlisted personnel in grade E6 and below who enter into one of these statuses not as a result of their own misconduct. Individuals in grade E7 and above who enter such a status are currently considered for promotion under the Army Centralized Enlisted Promotion System.

THE NEW POLICIES

All deserving individuals who enter a missing, captured or detained status while in grade E3 may be promoted to grade E4 upon completion of six months service. In the case of hospitalized personnel, a total of three months hospitalization is also required.

Upon entry into any of the four statuses, individuals carried on a local recommended list for promotion to grade E5 through E7, if still promotable, will be promoted upon completion of required time in grade and service, or after spending six months in such status.

Individuals in grade E4 and above not on a recommended list will be considered for promotion to the next higher grade up to grade E7 upon attaining the required time in grade and time in service. Individuals must have completed a total of six months in a hospitalized, missing, captured or detained status. Quotas and other selection criteria, including selection board action, (cont. on bottom of adjacent col.)

This is the first of many articles to come which will concentrate not only on the innumerable opportunities available to those who wish to continue their education, but also will include

WATCH IT!!

detailed information about loans, medical benefits--the whole gamut of Veterans Administration benefits. Let's face it. Uncle Samuel has placed a wide spectrum of bennies at our disposal so it would be foolish to deny their existence out of diffidence, laziness or just plain ignorance. That is one reason why this column was started for it is applicable not only to potential lifers but to the gutsy GI who pines for the day when he can resume his marriage and buy or furnish a home; belatedly but seriously continue his education; start a business - all in a somewhat postponed pursuit of happiness, individuality, self-determination etc., guaranteed by the Bill of Rights (except if you are in the Army).

So please be tolerant if the words lifer, REUP, extend, Vietnam or Vietnamese crop up here and there (mostly there). Button the hostility and control the splenetic eruptions.

Below is a short list of occupations with a 36 MOS. If you are interested, arrange an interview with your friendly REUP Sergeant, SSG Rubin Rodriguez at S-1, 4/3.

SOME OPTIONS AVAILABLE IN ARVN

Army Career Group	36C. Lineman
	36D. Antenna Man
	36E. Cable Splicer
	36F. Manual Office Repairman
	36G. Dial Central Office Repairman
	36H. Field Wireman

Look for other options in next week's Old Guard.

(New Policies cont. from adj. col.)
tion, will apply. No waiver of time in grade or service is allowed.