



Volume I, No. 14

December 13, 1969

## 2000 CHILDREN TO SEE XMAS

Who holds to the belief that S. Nicholas does not exist? He still lives. He exists in the loving impulse of every parent at Christmas time; his symbol of good will burnishes in every cause sponsored for the needy, crippled or destitute. Gle St. Nick flourishes in the hearts of hundreds of people in California and in the 4-3 Infantry (Old Guard). Why the 4-3 you ask?

Two thousand Montagnard children from Ba To district will be considerably happier this Christmas due to the herculean effort of hundreds of people from Southern California. The motivating force behind the scenes of this sweeping program is former officer of the 4-3 Old Guard, Major Wilfred A. Phelps. Major Phelps, as many will recall, served in the capacity of S-3 (Operations and Training) while assigned to the 4-3 Battalion. An accident in Quang Ngai on September 28 cut short his tour whereupon he returned to the United States to recuperate. During the course of almost four months in the battalion, Major Phelps made frequent visits to the district village of Ba To.

These numerous contacts with Vietnamese officers and with Vietnamese officers and leaders gave birth to an idea which witnessed its fulfillment in November in Southern California. Upon Major Phelps' arrival in California, the seeds of this idea which germinated in his active mind while still in the 4-3 began to ferment. In a few words, Major Phelps initiated a campaign whose designs were to furnish 2000 Montagnard children with a brighter, more promising Christmas than they have ever seen before. The scope of the undertaking was a considerable one if not vast. The actualization of Major Phelps' plans would place

side the perimeter. Small arms and M-79s were fired in retaliation but no sign of the enemy was found at dawn.

### December 5

At 1000 hours, Charlie Company detonated a booby trap while on operations eight clicks east of San Juan Hill. The company made use of recon by fire which resulted in a secondary explosion in a hut.

The only other action to occur on this day was when Bravo Company engaged a VC/NVA and succeeded in wounding him before he escaped.

### December 6

Bravo Company's 3rd Platoon came close to netting four NVA/VC. Unfortunately, a M-16 jammed and the enemy escaped unscathed.

Delta company rounded up eight VC suspects (six males and two females) while on operations six clicks northwest of San Juan Hill.

## BATTALION SUMMARY

### December 1

The LRRPs spotted 12 VC moving down a trail and directed artillery fire with tangible results. The LRRPs estimated four VC were killed by the accurate fire.

### December 2

At 1030 hours, a Warlord fired upon one NVA/VC. No results were reported.

### December 4

Both Bravo and Charlie Companies, in the wee hours of the morning, had a trip flare ignited out-

(cont. on pg. 2 col. 1)



(2000 CHILDREN - cont. from pg. 1)  
new clothing, toys and candy into the— eagerly awaiting hands of these children. For most of them, it will be the first toy or new set of clothing. For all, Christmas' warm embrace will be made possible. If only once a year, the ecstatic chatter and glee of all the kids will be a worthy and fitting tribute to the spirit of giving of Americans. Christmas with its inherent happiness will become a tangible reality for 2000 children in Vietnam.

Shortly after his return to the United States, Major Phelps wrote to Lt. Col. Robert Fernandez to find out if the Battalion could arrange a Christmas program along with the gifts sent from the people of California. Captain Milton Houghton, S-5 (Civil Affairs) made the arrangements. Meanwhile, Major Phelps committed himself to the state-side drive. In countless public appearances before civic and church groups, in a floodtide of advertisements and word-of-mouth, the cause has been emblazoned across Southern California reaching the hearts and hearths of many. The thousands and children in Ba To have never had a Christmas, he said, and the 4-3 Infantry would like to have their help.

DUC PHO ORPHANAGE TOO

Major Phelps' prompting began to reach such a crescendo that already hundreds of families, club, church groups and individuals in California are responding. As early as mid-November, gifts began to make it possible to extend the program to include the orphanage in the village of Duc Pho. Packages fraught with toys and games are arriving daily and sent to the firebase at San Juan to be sorted. The program has been so successful in fact, that there are enough gifts for the 2000 children of Ba To and about 300 pounds of candy to boot.

The response seems overwhelming as the presents come from all age groups. Some have been accompanied with such statements as: "My package is like an apple in a grove of apple trees, but knowing it will make twenty children happy will in turn make my Christmas more meaningful." Other letters include, "I am 13 years old and have been lucky at Christmas each year. I wish them to have a few things too." In general, the responses which have been received so far all express their appreciation for allowing such an opportunity to present itself. The sentiment of the people can almost be summed up in the statement of one such gift. It said, "Thank you for giving the 'silent' American a chance to speak. It relieves some of our frustrations."

(Next week, The Christmas Party at Ba To)

## AROUND THE BATTALION

The 4-3 Old Guard extends its welcome to Captain F. J. Ciarlo Jr. upon his reentry into the Battalion. Captain Ciarlo is quite familiar with the 4-3 having been a Platoon Leader in Delta Company in 1968 from March to December. In December, Captain Ciarlo was transferred to HHC. Presently, the Captain holds the S-1 slot as Adjutant. In 1967, Captain Ciarlo graduated from OCS. He has also attended Ranger School from August to October of 1969. Captain Ciarlo hails from Springfield, Pennsylvania.



VETERAN'S BENEFITS

### HOMEBUYING:

a) FHA IN-SERVICE Loans - This loan is based on legislation which was passed by Congress for the express purpose of aiding the serviceman in the buying of a home. First of all, the member must have a Certificate of Eligibility from the service. The Maximum loan value under this law is \$30,000. Maximum interest rate of the mortgage cannot exceed 7 1/2%. Monthly mortgage insurance premium charges of 1/2 of 1% are paid by the Department of Defense for the service member. For the most part, FHA military financing with its long-term mortgage, and usual lower down payments is a very beneficial arrangement.

b) FHA Regular Loan - May be available to those not qualifying for an In-Service certificate of eligibility. The maximum insurable loan is \$30,000. Purchaser must pay his own monthly charges on mortgage insurance premium.

c) VA Loans - are guaranteed by the Government through the VA in the maximum amount of 60 percent of the loan or \$7,500, whichever is less. Since this is a guaranteed loan there is no premium paid by the borrower as is the case with the FHA loan.



# ALPHA COMPANY AWARD CEREMONY

## THE MAN JUST WON'T LEAVE

Sfc Leland R. Arend, Findley, Ohio, is a real "lifer." He refuses to leave Vietnam --and his 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) unit, Company A, 228th Aviation Battalion.

Sergeant Arend has been in country since September 10, 1965, the day he stepped off a U.S. aircraft carrier as a specialist five.

A maintenance supervisor responsible for upkeep of 15 Chinook-47 helicopters, Sergeant Arend said he has never thought of trying to get into another unit.

"The other companies are good, but this is the best," he boosted.

And maybe so. Company A has chalked up a record of 12,165 hours of accident-free operation.

"Much credit must go to Sergeant Arend, the 'real old man of the outfit,'" said Major William Siegling, who commands Alpha Company. As for Sergeant Arend's future? The man himself said it:

"As long as the Cav is here, I'm gonna be here too." (ANF)

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TAKE THE PILL TAKE

TAKE THE PILL TAKE

TAKE THE PILL TAKE

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December 15-- Two years ago today, the 4-3 Battalion arrived in Vietnam. We have since participated in exercises with the 198th Infantry Brigade and the 196th Infantry Brigade. Presently, the Battalion holds the Brigade record for finding the largest weapons cache to date, 134 individual and crew-served weapons.

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Alpha Company held its award ceremony on December 4 at Chu Lai stand-down area. At the presentation were Brigade and Battalion Commanders Colonel Hugh Hoffman and Lt. Col. Robert N. Fernandez, respectively. As it turned out, the awards presented by Colonel Hoffman to the men of Alpha Company were all for action which occurred on June 13.

On that day, Alpha had joined up with Delta Company in a group of rugged hills (mountains?) in the environs of extinct firebase, LZ Don. Delta Company had been trekking up a stream bed for days doggedly advancing deeper into the particularly steep hill. The situation was a somewhat foreboding one even then since the stream bed formed a sort cleavage in which anyone was quite open and vulnerable to an ambush. On June 13, Alpha finally did connect with Delta and went ahead to lead the way up the bed. The men of the 2nd Platoon on point plodded on with the ominous words of the Psyops man ringing in their ears: "Be prepared for an ambush. I believe there's going to be one." Hardly had the Company left its NDP when someone reported movement on the flanks. Minutes later, a full-sized NVA battalion ambush enveloped the lead element. Several men were wounded in the initial barrage of enemy fire. The Psyops man was killed. Reports from here on have become confused with both the passage of time and the myriad renditions of the men involved in the skirmish. But in the insistent action, a few men clearly stand out for their bravery in the face of danger which existed then. At the Chu Lai awards ceremony these men were presented with awards. SP4 George Carter, SP4 Jimmy Howard and SP4 Paul Paris all received the Bronze Star for valor (a Bronze Star was to be presented to SSG David Durbin who was unable to attend the ceremony). Other awards received include the Army Commendation Medal for valor received by Pfc Louis Polk and Pvt. Ed Reedy.

At the initial time of contact, it was reported, SSG David Durbin (2nd Platoon Sergeant) ran up to the front to size up the extent of the ambush. A man lay dead, several wounded. The rest were pinned down by a withering hail of AK and grenade fire making retreat somewhat hazardous. SSG Durbin called upon SP4 Jim Howard's M-60 machinegun to lay down a good base of suppressive fire while aidman SP4 Carter and others advanced to the front to extract the wounded and patch them up. SSG Durbin then set up all around security. This done, he placed himself in a position whereby he could direct gunships in to dislodge the entrenched NVA. The ships made several sweeps but still the NVA persisted. SSG Durbin, recalls RTO SP4 Ben Bateson called the ships in so close that the pilots thought it impossible to do so. "It was really was what saved us," he remarked. "It was that kind of thing which routed out the NVA." During the pitched battle which the 2nd Platoon was involved in, Pvt. Reedy and others dashed across the open stream bed to see what they could do to silence some NVA snipers. Meanwhile, the 1st Platoon was having its difficulties. Grenadier, Pfc Louis Polk (Arcom-V), SP4 Paul Paris (Arcom-V) put the hurt on NVA in their quarters. The 1st Platoon reportedly killed at least four NVA. Total NVA killed numbered about 18; three AKs were captured.

The remaining awards at the ceremony went to SP4 Michael Shields and Pfc Joseph DeWitt, James Hamrick and Thomas Sampson. All were Purple Hearts.

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# MEL PENDER COACHES TRACK FOR VIETNAMESE

(WASHINGTON (ANF) -

World record holder of the 70-yard dash and 1968 Olympic gold medalist, Army track star Captain Mel Pender is now passing along his sprint knowledge to future track stars in the Republic of Vietnam.

Once dubbed "the world's fastest human" (for his 6.8-second, record shattering sprint), Pender is a youth coordinator with Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), near Saigon, where one of his Army duties includes coaching a Vietnamese track team. He is preparing the team for the December Southeast Asia Games in Burma.

Pender, 32, began his sprint to fame and glory at 25 when he was invited to a practice meet with the Japanese Olympic track team because he was the fastest man on a post football team.

Following this meet came a long string of wins that spiraled Pender to track stardom.

A 14-year veteran, Pender achieved all his track experience and fame while in the Army. Ten of these years were served as an enlisted man.

Prior to his latest assignment on his second Vietnam tour, Pender was with the 82nd Airborne Division's 3d Brigade.

OLD GUARD

Lt. Col. Robert N. Fernandez CO  
1Lt. James E. Tidgewell SL  
SP4 John Calderonello Reporter

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## PRO FOOTBALL SCORES

\*\*NFL\*\*

MINNESOTA	20	LOS ANGELES	13
DALLAS	10	PITTSBURG	7
CLEVELAND	20	GREEN BAY	7
DETROIT	17	BALTIMORE	17
WASHINGTON	34	PHILADELPHIA	29
NEW YORK	49	ST. LOUIS	30
ATLANTA	47	NEW ORLEANS	17
SAN FRANCISCO	42	CHICAGO	21

\*\*AFL\*\*

OAKLAND	37	CINCINNATI	17
KANSAS CITY	22	BUFFALO	19
SAN DIEGO	28	BOSTON	18
MIAMI	27	DENVER	24
NEW YORK	34	HOUSTON	26

## \*\*\*\*\* EASTERN CONFERENCE

CENTURY DIVISION	WESTERN DIVISION
CLEVELAND 9 2 1	MINNESOTA 11 1 0
ST. LOUIS 4 7 1	DETROIT 7 4 1
NEW YORK 4 8 0	GREEN BAY 6 6 0
PITTSBURG 1 11 0	CHICAGO 1 11 0
CAPITAL DIVISION	COASTAL DIVISION
DALLAS 9 2 1	LOS ANGELES 11 1 0
WASHINGTON 6 4 2	BALTIMORE 7 4 1
PHILADELPHIA 7 1	ATLANTA 4 8 0
NEW ORLEANS 4 8 0	SAN FRANCISCO 3 7 2

## \*\*\*\*\* AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

EASTERN DIVISION	WESTERN DIVISION
NEW YORK 9 4 0	OAKLAND 11 1 1
HOUSTON 5 6 2	KANSAS C. 11 2 0
BOSTON 4 9 0	SAN DIEGO 7 6 0
MIAMI 3 9 1	CINCINNATI 4 8 1
BUFFALO 4 9 1	DENVER 4 8 1