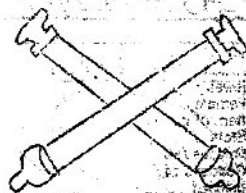


CHARGIN' CHARLIE CHATTER



By: SP4 Ron Frantz

The month of December will be one to remember or forget, inspite of the fact it is a thirty-one day memory. It was a festive month full of spirit-moving out and moving in.

The highlight of the month could easily be detected from the depleted ranks and the decrease of thundering from the pads. The much rumored move of the 8" howitzers has finally taken place. The guns and half the battery are now located at Thunder III.

Almost simultaneously, change of command ceremonies were held with the men of Charlie welcoming a new boss, Captain Joseph R. Simino. Captain Simino joins the battery after serving as the battalion S-2. A farewell was bid to Captain Robert K. Spear who leaves Charlie to join the S-3 staff in Quan Loi.

An inevitable part of the end of December despite ones remoteness from the usual holiday festivities is Christmas and New Years. As was done on Thanksgiving, the unit (the Phuoc Vinh branch that is), entertained approximately 25 Vietnamese orphans from Phuoc Vinh. The various sections adopted several of the children for the day, teaching them games, playing "Big Brother", showering them with toys and candy, and finally stuffing them with Christmas dinner. The unit also presented the orphanage with over 85 pounds of clothing donated by the families of the men in Charlie Battery.

Joining Charlie this month were a few men from within the battalion: SSG Garcia, SP4 Comrie, SP4 Guiterrez, and PFC Eyster from Headquarters Battery; SP4 Taylor from Plantation; and PFC Killgore from Bravo Battery. Charlie Battery also gained five new "cruits" this month: PFC Ed Hickmon from Brooklyn, New York, PFC Bob Schlinker from Arkansas, PFC John Repass of Hillcrest, Md., PFC Tom Wilson from Jacksonville, Fla., and PFC Mac Cabrera of Louisiana.



Those for whom the "Freedom Bird" became a reality, and for whom PFC took on a different meaning were: SGT John Garvik of Minneapolis, SGT Roger Freeman of New Hampshire, SGT Billy Mills of Las Vegas, SGT Charles Walport of Wisconsin and SP4 Charles Fountain of Philadelphia.

Charlie Battery also greeted new neighbors. The 2d Bn, 13th Arty has recently moved into the Phuoc Vinh area.