

BATTLE-AX BANNER

3RD BATTALION

16TH ARTILLERY

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BATTLE-AX BANNER

April 22, 1969



"MEMORIAL MESS HALL"

DEDICATED AT TIEN PHUOC

Garman Hall, located at Battlin Bravo Battery, in Tien Phuoc, has officially replaced the famed Tien Phuoc Hilton as messing facilities at that war-torn outpost.

A combination dedication-memorial ceremony, officiated over by DIVARTY Chaplain (CPT) Edward Erven, was held Tuesday April 8, 1969 in honor of SP4 Thomas P. Garman a former member of "Battlin Bravo."

As members of "Battlin Bravo" and the local special forces detachment Alpha 102 came to attention, taps were sounded and three rifle volleys fired in honor of their fallen comrade.

SP4 Garman was killed in action during the recent post-TET offensive. An appropriate memorial honoring SP4 Garman has been constructed near the new mess facilities.

"GROUND POUNDER" CSM MEADE VISITS THE "KING OF BATTLE"

— THE 3D BN. 16TH ARTY

BY CSM ELMER GREER

It's not often that the "KING" pays tribute to the "QUEEN" (openly that is), but recently the 3/16th had that honor.

Former 196th Light Infantry Brigade CSM J.P. Meade now the Americal Division Command Sergeant Major, spent the day seeing how the "Cannon Cockers" shoot, move and communicate.

The day started about 1000 hours with CSM Meade arriving at "Artillery Hill" just on the edge of the VC's "Rocket Alley." There he was greeted by the CO LTC Jack Pilik and Bn. CSM Elmer Greer.

The tour started off slowly with an introduction to the "What's happening" part of the unit, the Battalion Operations and Fire Control Center.

CSM Meade was given a briefing by Operations Sergeant, MSG Maynard Miller and Intelligence Sergeant, SFC John Ouzts also Bn. Personnel Sergeant, SFC Leslie Kersch.

On February 25, 1969, two 82mm mortars struck the then Tien Phuoc Hilton sending shrapnel flying throughout the building and setting it afire, resulting in the structures being a total loss.

GARMAN HALL- Cont. on P4

Following an eye-popping episode with the FAD-AC (Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer), commonly referred to as "Freddy," with lights flashing like a regular IBM center, the CSM made a tour through the fire Direction Control Center (FDC).

This was followed by a trip through the Service Battery where the CSM saw the "Moving" part of the battalion. Here he was briefed by LSG Ervin Kuehn and SFC Joe Kemp on the S-4 element of the battalions operations.

SFC Kemp left the CSM's head spinning with yarns of the amount of re-supply that goes to the firing batteries. Everything from paper clips to "Joes" are processed by SFC Kemps section with the help of the "Ammo Humpers" from Service Battery's Ammunition Train directed by SSG Calvin Guy. One of the most important items transported to the troops every day, SFC Kemp explained, is ice cream in insulated "Thermopacks" on the re-supply helicopters.

A walk through the headquarters Battery area was conducted by LSG James Hatton ending up at the "Checkerboard Inn" for refreshments. Here the CSM was introduced to the battalion officers. A family style spaghetti dinner was CSM MEADE Cont. on P4

GUESS WHAT!

NEW YORK, (UPI)—May is a busy month. It is International Play-Your-Harp Month, Mattress Size-up Month, National Tavern Month and Senior Citizens Month. In addition to Mothers Day on May 11, May 1 is Lei Day in Honolulu. May 6 is the 29th birthday of the first postage stamp, and on May 29-30 the massacre reenactment celebration at St. Ignace, Mich., is scheduled.

"BATTLIN BRAVO"

Things at Bravo Battery are coming around to normal after a hectic few weeks.

Basketball and horseshoe play has started. The famous Tien Phuoc Swimming Pool is still off limits due to the booby traps that were placed on the path that leads to the pool's entrance and lost.

CPT Fontenot and LIT Kilpatrick are both getting short.

CPT Fontenot could not be found for an interview sources say, because he was hiding behind cigarette butts.

Before coming to Vietnam, SFC Walsh dropped in on his sister in Long Island, N.Y. for a brief visit. While there, he met a group of young Girl Scouts who promised to send him some Kool-aid to supply his men with.

Well recently SFC Walsh received 25 pounds of Kool-aid in the mail that the girls collected for him.

Since that time, he has made more than 60 gallons of Kool-aid for his men.

Thanks go out to a great bunch of girls from troop 39, in Sag Harbor, N.Y.

Just before the court sentence, Cockrell was asked if he had anything to say. In a calm voice and without the least sign of emotion he said nothing.

"BATTLIN" CRUMBLES BUT RISES AGAIN IN HONOR OF A FALLEN COMRADE

BY SP5 JIM SKRYCKI

After eating in a mess hall (or at least what they called a mess hall), people at Tien Phuoc finally decided to construct a new permanently enclosed mess hall.

This all took place around the end of last October.

Let's start on how the idea for a new mess evolved in their first place.

First "Batmlin Bravo" acquired a fast moving, enterprising mess steward by the name of Alvin Walsh (Sergeant First Class). Taking over the helm of Bravo Battery was that suave, southern gentleman, CPT Reginald P. Fontenot.

Rounding out the change of command at Bravo and keeping the leadership below the Mason-Dixon line is 1SG Ralph Lewis.

At least two men started getting up in the morning for breakfast, in fact we really thought it might be too good to be true and everybody would start rolling around the battery area on their full stomach instead of humping.

With all this going for us, why not build a decent mess hall for the guys, said SFC Walsh. Well the "Top Men" in the battery considered the question and came to an agreement that SFC Walsh was right.

CPT Fontenot remembers when his men and himself

MESS HALL-Cont. on P4

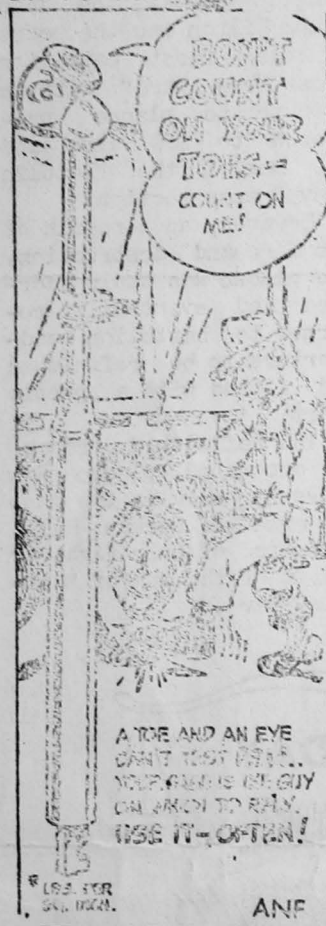


DID'JA SEE THAT!..THOSE
V.C. TOOK ONE LOOK AT
US AN TOOK OFF!!

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BRAVO COMPANY

CAREER COUNSELORS CORNER

For the man who doesn't want to extend his tour of duty in Vietnam, there are other opportunities available to him.

Towards the end of a Vietnam tour, any enlisted person, regardless of rank, may reenlist for the CONUS station-of-choice option. This assures a one-year stabilized tour at the stateside station of your choice. It is normally open only to enlisted men in grades E-1 through E-6. In Vietnam it is open to everyone regardless of rank.

The Overseas Area-of-choice option is another reenlistment opportunity open to enlisted men in Vietnam. It is available to men in grade E-6 or below without regard to number of years service completed.

A third option for which the Vietnam-based

RICKIE HALL RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE 3-16TH

Rickie Hall, nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Hall, Douglas, Mich., and also an honorary canonizer at the 3-16th Arty. remains warm in the hearts of the men in his artillery battalion in Vietnam.

Rickie lost his left leg by amputation in October of 1967 due to a case of terminal bone cancer.

Rickie's condition has required extensive medical treatment causing a heavy financial burden in the Hall family.

This prompted the men of the 3-16th to start a fund drive for Rickie's benefit. Battery contributions were as such: Alpha Battery, \$72.; Bravo Battery, \$44.50; Charlie Battery, \$67.50; Service Battery, \$65., and Head-

quarters Battery, \$138.

Rickie began corresponding with men in the 3-16th around the first part of 1968. His letters created quite a bit of response from all around the Americal Division area. In all, Rickie received more than 400 letters from servicemen and an autographed picture of then President Johnson.

Many servicemen from all over Vietnam have sent Rickie unit patches that he is very proud of and proves it by wearing them on his Boy Scout uniform.

Rickie knows that he cannot fight for his country in Vietnam, but his letters of appreciation to servicemen fighting for him show that this young man is concerned about his country's welfare.

SERVICE BATTERY

Service Battery, under the guiding hand of 1SG Ervin L. Kuehn have constructed a new "Volley-Basketball Court" just below the Service Battery CP.

The 40x30 foot cement court was made from ready-mix obtained by Battalion S-4 in a trade with BMJ-RMK of Chu Lai.

SSG Calvin Guy headed a work crew of men that finished up the job in less than a week.

Others on the crew were SGT Bernie Scharen, SP4 Norman Daugherty, SP4 Kenneth Pajor, SP4 Fred Edwards, SP4 Miguel-Vazquez, PFC Morgan Ward, PFC Gary Roach, and PFC Wayne Anderson.

An informal grand-opening was held last week in the form of an officer versus senior NCO volleyball game.

The agile officers took the best two-out-of-three series. This entitled them to free drinks during happy hour at the Officers Club supplied by who else, the senior NCO's.

enlisted man is eligible is the drill sergeant reenlistment program. It offers a stabilized tour of 18-months at a stateside training center of the man's choice. Qualified NCO's and Specialists in grades E-4 through E-7 can reenlist for this duty while in Vietnam. A big advantage of the drill sergeant program is that a man can be promoted from E-5 to E-6 without regard to time in grade or service. Eligibility lists for this fast promotion opportunity are made up from those drill sergeants with four months of outstanding performance.

So, as you can see, a tour in Vietnam offers you both financial and career advantages.

We have additional information on the subject and will be delighted to discuss it with you.

Hope this column has been helpful to you. For complete details as to how you can reenlist for Vietnam or obtain information about other options, see your career counselor today—don't wait, call 2172 and ask for SFC Kersch—TODAY.

"CHAMPION CHARLIE"

Work continues on the club at Charlie Battery as SGT Pat Shea's gun section work on what is to be the largest gun section hootch in the 3-16th.

This hootch, when completed will be sectioned off into individual rooms for each member of the section and a front room for display purposes.

After the tragic helicopter mishap on LZ West, 1LT Gerald Reed took over as XO for injured 1LT John Keefe.

CSM MEADE-Cont. from P1

served by Headquarters Battery Mess Steward, Bill Lynch and his able assistants.

After CSM Meade was stuffed with an excellent meal, LTC Pilk and CSM Greer loaded him aboard a DIVARTY command ship and away they went to the "Shooting" part of the battalion.

First stop was at Tien Phuoc Special Forces Camp Alpha-102, home of "Battlin Bravo" where 1SG Ralph Lewis had an impressive direct fire mission going using the battery's big 155mm split trail howitzers to pound away at suspected enemy positions on the hillside overlooking Tien Phuoc. "Willie Peter" and HE rounds really let the "Grunt" Sergeant Major know how much smoke the artillery can bring on Charlie.

After a brief flight through the clouds, a whirlwind tour of "Champion Charlie Batterys" guns at LZ West was conducted by Chief of Firing Battery SFC John LaChica and at LZ Mess by 1SG Don Burnett.

Command Sergeant Major Meade and hosts then dropped in at "Hawk Hill" to take a look at 1SG Mike Megovia's "Able Alpha Battery." While at "Hawk Hill," the CSM was able to see what the "Weather Guers" do by watching the battalions Metro Section in action.

SFC George Kilmetz's "Balloons in the sky" are

GARMAN HALL-Cont. from P1

"With no messing facilities available, the men of "Battlin" Bravo" were more or less left out in the cold, with cold O-rations," said SFC Alfred Walsh, mess sergeant.

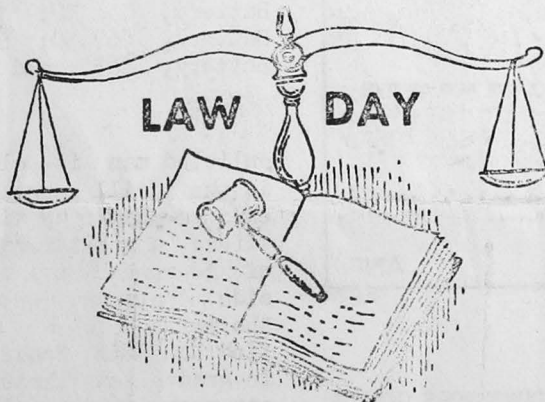
As soon as the men were able to work in relative safety, the remains of the old mess hall were torn down and construction commenced on the present mess hall.

Actual work on the new dining facility was completed during the first week of April, with one major difference, a metal roof replaced the once very volatile thatched roof

One week before the tragic attack, the Tien Phuoc Hilton was the scene of the first battalion "Best Mess Award" with an appropriate plaque presented to SFC Walsh and the men of the "Battlin Bravo" mess section.

However, as a result of the fire and destruction, the plaque was badly scorched and eventually returned to battalion headquarters to be refinished and fitted with a purple heart.

The refinished, properly decorated plaque now hangs proudly in the dining area of Garman Hall, symbolic of the fighting spirit of the men of "Battlin Bravo."



1 MAY 1968

MESS HALL-Cont. from P2

were eating on the ground, swatting flies and stomping ants.

Within two weeks, hard core "Battlin Bravo" had a new mess hall made out of lumber and topped with a straw thatched roof. This glorious and much used mess hall was given the name "Tien Phuoc Hilton."

Well as time went on and the guys started getting used to the good food the NVA got wise to this a source of important weather and firing data for the battalion's big guns.

Again in flight, the "Infantry" type returned to Arty Hill by way of TWA (Toony Weery Airlines), thus ending a day with the "KING" and "The Army's Finest," the 3-16th Artillery.

"Waldorf Astoria" in the middle of nowhere.

Finally one day it happened, two 82mm mortar rounds hit the Tien Phuoc Hilton, completely destroying it.

Superficially the Tien Phuoc Hilton was destroyed but not in the hearts of the men of "Battlin Bravo!" In three weeks the men in the battery had a brand new mess hall built and in honor of one of their buddies that died during those hard days, named it "Garman Hall."

Now once again movies are shown and pizza is served to the men under a metal roof, thanks to the chef who should be on Fifth Avenue in New York, SFC Walsh and the fighting men of "HARD CORE BATTLIN BRAVO."