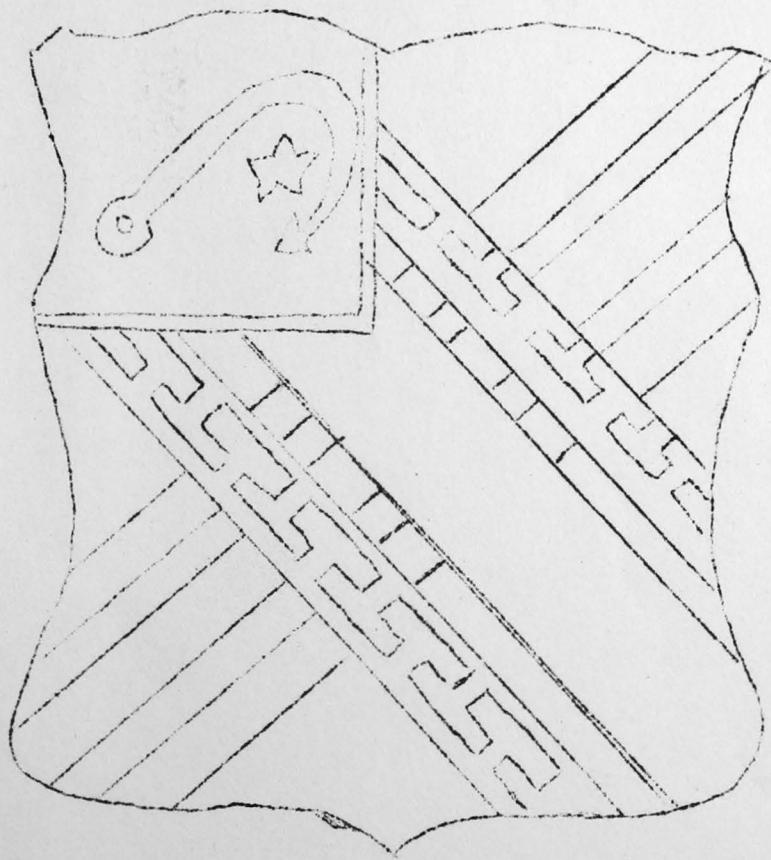


HOOK & STAR

VOL. III NO. IV

28 April 1969



THROUGH DIFFICULTIES TO THE STARS

BRINGING
SMOKE



THE BALLAD OF THE 18TH
(To the tune of the "Ballad of the Green
Berets")

OD T-shirts upon their chests,
These are men, the 18th's best.
Some will fire and some will hump,
While others bring "joes" from the ammo
dump.

OD T-shirts upon their chests,
These are men that faced the test.
Some will pass and some will fail;
While the rest land up in jail.

On their chest these men do wear,
The silver guns they cautiously placed
there.
Because of the lack of the shirts they
wear.
They hook their crest on their chests'
hair.

You can spot them a mile away,
But not a word must they say.
Their deeds are shown by the mark they
wear,
A red-eyed glaze and a blurry stare.

Speak to them in a loud voice,
They are men that made the choice.
They are victims of artillery ears,
And the drinkers of many a beers.

Each night they fire and fire,
And their reputation gets higher and
higher;
Since first they came to Vietnam,
They've brought the destruction with many
a bomb.

With each EFC they can say,
"I am famous in the Red-Eye way,
Be it your goal to one day be,
A fighting member of the Artillery."

Legends in their own time,
During the monsoon, they work in slime.
During the night they slosh away,
To pound "Charlie" another day.

If you don't like this little song,
You must be a Viet Cong --- ZAP!!!

HEADQUARTERS HI-LITES

As summer and the beautiful warm sunny weather approaches, many changes are occurring within Headquarters Battery. Through the help of Service Battery entrepreneurs and the Seabees, the NCO Club is rapidly nearing completion. Acoustical tile was installed in the Caisson Chapel by the "Sinners Club" with moral support contributed by Sergeant Major Rowe. Preparation for a cement sidewalk in front of the field grade officers' quarters is progressing through the efforts of field grade officers assisting PFC Joy, Collins (Crash), Mills, and SP5 Irvin. Also completed was the paving of Colonel Pruitt's Plaza. The bulletin board is nearing completion and will be in operation soon.

Results of the Pre-CMMI inspection were such that motor stables were conducted after normal duty hours. This practice has been discontinued but every efforts should be made by each vehicle operator to work off the deficiencies on his vehicle. HQ 9 had no deficiencies and received a 100% rating whereas HQ 47 received a 0% rating; both scores are definite marks of distinction.

A volleyball league has been formed with four teams participating, two officer teams, one NCO team, and one E5 team. A practice game between the NCO's and E5's was held on 10 April. The E5's were dealt a crushing defeat in four consecutive games. The E5's vow that they will make a better showing of themselves the next time. Flash - The E5's returned the 19th of April and turned the tables on a surprised NCO team and dealt them a three game loss and the match.

Personnel promoted during the month of March include: SP6 Coppola, SP5 Walker, SP5 (SGT) Robinson, SP5 Johnson, SP5 Irvin, and SP5 Dillingham. Congrats to you all.

New arrivals include: CPT Frick, former B Battery commander, CPT Ayers, CPT Williams, 1SG Blair (Now in Japan with a broken foot), SSG Sweet, SGT Skinner, SPA

Snyder, SP4 Rush, SP4 Roberts, SP4 Gore, SP4 Jaggers, SP4 Herod, SP4 Harris, SP4 Dufresne, SP4 Deluna, SP4 Davis, SP4 Beal SP4 Boyce, SP4 Ames, PFC Savoie, AND PFC Dean (The mailman's brother).

Personnel who departed this unit for "the world" include: SP5 Kramer, SP4 Eppy, SP4 McMillian, and SP4 Lutgen.

News items of interest for the month:

a. Conversion of the S5 Office to the Battalion Career Counselor's Office. Don't worry Hardy! You still fit in well in the Career Counselor's Office. SFC Call - take special note of the location of the above mentioned office. Remember your next enlistment begins 21 May 1969.

b. Unauthorized fall in one of the "screened-in" swimming pools by the one & only SP4 Conway.

c. Medical section at authorized strength. This means that the Aid Station is now manned twenty-four hours a day. In case of an injury or emergency, don't hesitate - Call the Aid Station.

d. Six months extensions approved for SP5 Walker, SP4 Kehm, SP4 Sharp, and SP4 Gregory. I can finally say "SHORT" to somebody.

* * *

FOREIGN SERVICE TOUR EXTENSION: When an enlisted man within 20 days or less of DEROS applies for a foreign service tour (FST) extension the request should be handcarried to the AG Personnel Actions Branch by the PSNCO or unit liaison personnel. Late receipt of FST extension greatly effects port calls, outprocessing publication of orders and transportation requirements. Officers should be encouraged to submit FST extension requests prior to 120 days or DEROS. Those requests arriving at AG Personnel Actions Branch before the 120 day period may be approved at this headquarters. All other requests must be forwarded to USARV and sent on to DA for approval, causing considerable delay that could have been avoided.

All her sweater does for her is make her itch.

* * *

Better bodies than his can be found in a used car lot.

* * *

She keeps her baby in a high crib on an uncarpeted floor, so she can hear him if he falls out.

* * *

He lost his dog, but he won't put an ad in the paper. He says it's no use—his dog can't read.

* * *

SERVICE SIDELINES

Service Battery has come up with another eventful and fruitful month. We had our battery party and what a gas that was. The party consisted of food, plenty of beer and plenty of entertainment provided by NCO's and officers alike in a swirling splash of water. The proud and the haughty also found themselves all wet. Celebrated individuals that fell victim to the unchained Service Battery were: MAJ Evans, MAJ Nobles, CPT Hare, WO1 Severin, and the star attraction CW2 Lewis. All in all it was a great morale booster for the beleaguered men of Service Battery. We thank you CPT Hare for giving us such a great time. But leaving the good memories to after talk and pictures, we once again returned to the exhausting task of keeping the batteries supplied. Making runs to the batteries during the day and runs to the ASP at night keeps a good share of Service Battery on the move at all times, while the remaining part of the battery pulls their respective duties.

The Day Room is now being built by the elite troopers of Service Battery, although 1SG Valdez has his doubts. It was reported that SP4 Taylor and SP5 Rasmussen were working skillfully measuring the 1XL2's on top of the roof when they gracefully fell through the roof. That wouldn't have been so bad but they took some of the roof with them. So you can see that the construction is coming along just great. One of the main attractions around here is 1LT Coombs' slick mustache which he brought back from Hawaii. I

"THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE A FRIEND IS BE ONE"

wonder why he doesn't want to wash it? He said he's not talking while the flavor lasts. SP4 Baker is looking for a less powerful wrecker. He seems to have trouble staying on the thing and keeping CPT Hare off. Smile Jim, SSG Pritchard came up with the solution. He is going to mix up a batch of flour paste for you.

New additions to the battery are PFC Marchbanks, SP4 Fox, PFC Anderson and SP4 Papa. We want to welcome you all to the swingingest battery in the battalion. (Editor's Note - Everyone to their own opinion).

CAUTION!! Unauthorized entry into the unauthorized lumber yard is unauthorized. Violators will receive at least 30 days in the CONEX!!

Congratulations: SGT Trice is a new father. A chubby female mutt fell apart under his hootch and now he has 6 new puppies to serenade him to sleep. Major Nobles, isn't there a finance administration class to which we could send our 1st Shirt to? He sure spends a lot of time with his boots and socks off now that he has to count all those piasters every day.

HEY!! Look at all those shiny medals! Congratulations to SSG Hand, SSG Beene, SP5 Griffin, SP5 Hora, and SP4 Steltzner. Are you sure you don't want to extend so you can get another one?

* * *

RESULT OF TRIAL

On 3 Apr 69, Privates **** and ***** were found guilty of attempting to cause a false alarm of an enemy perimeter attack by making a number of homemade type explosives, deploying said explosives both inside and outside of several bunkers and personnel hootches, and trying to light several detonating cords attached to the homemade explosives as fuses. Both were sentenced to hard labor without confinement for three months, reduced to the grade of Private E1, and forfeiture of \$78 per month for three months.

OBEY THE LAW - DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU

VIETNAMESE LESSON FOR THE DAY: Did you know that the Vietnamese language has only 22 letters in its alphabet? Did you know that the English language has the same 22 letters plus the letters "F", "J", "W", and "Z"?

PHRASES

How are you?
Thank you I am fine.

PRONUNCIATION

Um man yoy come?
Come on troy man yoy.

VIETNAMESE

Ong manh gioi khong?
Cam on toi manh gioi.

* * *

BLACK MARKET ACTIVITIES: Since 17 Feb 69 Military Police processing personnel have confiscated 1,930 packs of cigarettes and 366 boxes of laundry soap from VN workers. Items of this type can be found on sale in the An Tan Market for \$1.50 MPC a box (soap) and \$.50 for a pack of cigarettes. If the worker has a gift authorization from his employer, Military Police will open the soap box or the cigarette pack. These opened items are then sold in the Black Market by the VN for \$.75 for soap and \$.25 for the cigarettes. If you want to give your employee a gift, consider giving him/her VN money, don't support the black market!

* * *

UNAUTHORIZED HOUSEHOLD GOODS SHIPMENTS: Recently there have been several instances where individuals purchased household goods at R&R or leave locations in anticipation of shipping these items from where purchased to CONUS, upon PCS, at government expense. Joint Travel Regulations provide for the shipment of personal effects/household goods from the last permanent duty station to new duty station or designated location only. Therefore, in the above cases, these individuals were required to pay shipment costs.

ALPHA BITS

Alpha battery accredits itself as having the highest paid 81mm mortar platoon in Vietnam. The line-up consists of CPT Ross; ammo humper, 1SG Bungard; powder man, SSG Walls; fuse setter, SSG Abercrombie; asst gunner and our main man from the mess, SSG Johnson as gunner. Attributable to this crew is an effectiveness, they claim, that is commensurate with their status in the battery.

The overworked phrases "Hay yo, chop-chop cigarette, souvenier, boom-boom" have become standard cliches here at the fire base. This alteration of our language may only be another harassment tactic of our seemingly unwitting hosts. Rapport between the men of Alpha and the industrious locals has been known to become flakey upon occasions.

After much discourse it was unanimously agreed that the new pup, who resides at the VHF hootch, will go by the name Dawg (pronounced d-o-g). Dawg will be trained as an alternate night guard. Although there is no question of his fidelity, his capabilities, at present, are debateable.

Note to key personnel listed as two digit midgets on our battery roster: It is advised that counting the total number of seconds remaining to be spent in this Asian paradise will not expedite the last and longest days.

The "roofers" of FDC persist under repeated problems on a rainy day. They are the most experienced roof repairers and replacers in the immediate area.

Sgt Doucet, our medic, has been shipped to Japan due to a minor injury sustained from falling from a truck - How sweet it is! His replacement, SGT Robinson, complains of dropping his lighter in a heap of burning fecal matter. Being a medic he was able to restore it and to give it life once more.

Our two 8" howitzer sections, under the supervision of Section Chief's SGT Cox and SGT Garvin, were designated as platoon of the week, during the month of March. The honor was given for rendering timely accurate close support fire. We acknowledge a job well done.

Promotion congratulations are in order for SP5 Gibbs and SP5 Sentsz. Specialist Gibbs departed on a "freedom bird" on 1 April. Our loss is a stateside gain. As for SP5 Sentsz - APRIL FOOL!!

* * *

-P-R-O-F-I-L-E-

Staff Sergeant Byron J. Freemantle, Jr., the new Battalion Career Counselor, arrived in the battalion area at the beginning of April from Charlie Battery, where he occupied the duty position of gun section chief. This is Sergeant Freemantle's second trip in the Asian oven. On his first tour he was assigned to the 2d Bn, 13th Arty, (105), located at Phu Loy, South Vietnam.

Sergeant Freemantle enlisted in the Army in 1951 and for the following 7 years was periodically stationed in Korea and Europe where he first learned and gained experience with medium artillery consisting of 155 Long Tom Guns. In 1959 he received an honorable discharge and for the next three years was employed as a construction worker. In 1962 he reenlisted and was again assigned to Europe prior to his first tour of duty in Vietnam.

He has been working diligently for the past two weeks getting his new office in shape. For those of you who don't know where he is located - the office is now directly in front of and adjoined to the Battalion APO.

Sergeant Freemantle's wife and six children, (very recently triplets), now reside in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Stop in for a visit sometime and he will be glad to answer any questions which you may have. Who knows, it may be beneficial.

CAREER COUNSELOR'S CORNER

There is a "pot of gold" awaiting those of you who reenlist for the first time and hold one of the nearly 300 military occupational specialties designated as critical by the Army.

The pot of gold is in the form of the Variable Reenlistment Bonus (VRB). It can add as much as \$8,000 (for RVN add tax free) to your regular reenlistment bonus. Unless you are a professional athlete, it is mighty difficult to get such a bonus in the civilian world.

The VRB is only available to men and women reenlisting for the first time. You must also meet the following requirements You must serve at least 21 months of active service in your current enlistment before reenlisting.

....Be in the grade of E-3 or higher (in certain MOS, E-4 or higher).

....Reenlist for at least 48 additional months of service.

....Reenlist within three months of the expiration date of your term of service.

....Be qualified in one of the military occupational specialties designated as a critical skill by the Department of the Army.

These skills are listed in Army Regulation 600-200.

If you meet all of the above requirements you can collect a VRB in addition to your regular reenlistment bonus.

How is the VRB figured? The nearly 300 critical MOS are divided into four categories: Multiplier of 4, 3, 2, and 1. Those in "Multiplier of 4" category are the skills in which there is a most critical need for men and women; those in "Multiplier of 1" category are skills in which there is still a critical need for men and women but not as critical as "Multiplier of 4" skills.

The multiplier category in which you fit is the prime factor in figuring your VRB. First, your regular reenlistment bonus is calculated. Then, it is multiplied by your VRB multiplier. Thus, if you are in the "Multiplier of 2" bracket, your bonus would be multiplied by two and the sum would be the VRB bonus. You would add the VRB bonus to the regular reenlistment bonus to get your total bonus.

Let's take some specific examples:

....If you are an E-6 with four years of service and you are reenlisting for six years, your regular bonus would be \$2,000. Suppose you are also a field radio repairman. You would be in the "Multiplier of 4" bracket. We would multiply your \$2,000 bonus by four and get a VRB of \$8,000. Then we would add your reenlistment bonus to that total and come up with a total bonus of \$10,000.

....Suppose you are an E-4 with three years of service and a combat engineer. You sign up for an additional six years and receive a reenlistment bonus of \$1,510. You are also in the "Multiplier of 3" bracket and so your reenlistment bonus is multiplied by three to give you a VRB of \$4,530. When you add your reenlistment bonus to your VRB, you would come up with a total bonus of \$6,040.

The sum of money that you first time reenlistees receive through the VRB program can mean a lot to you in the future. You can buy a car, start a stock portfolio, have enough money to get married and raise a family, or just salt it away in the bank. For tax purposes, the bonus is spread over several years so that you do not have to pay high income taxes (and remember in RVN the money is tax-free).

We have plenty of information on the VRB and the regular reenlistment bonus, including a U.S. Army pay rule that enables you to figure within seconds your reenlistment bonus and VRB. Stop by and see us. We are in the building just behind the mail room. Think about it!

"YOU HAVE THE BEST EQUIPMENT IN THE WORLD. TAKE CARE OF IT"

BRAVO'S BUGLE

Return to Stateside didn't mean CONUS for the eight inchers who rolled back to Ross on 7 April after a three week camp-in beside Tam Ky's celebrated International Airstrip.

The 175 and detail men who remained in garrison watched the battery reunite as the dust covered rumbled home behind a Confederate flag. The Yankee and unclassifiable veterans of some 2,000 rounds fired from the field site disagreed with their Dixie compatriots' mock-political interpretation of the flag, but everyone agreed that all were definitely rebels.

Informed sources said the highlight of their camp-in was the excellent view of the stars from their cots. They said the same holes in the tents which enabled the view also provided unscheduled showers on rainy nights. However, hootches were finally finished three days before march-order, but the rain just kept on coming.

On the social scene, SGTs Smith and Tinsley returned from a short fling in Taipei. A description of their activities made worthwhile barracks conversation (Editor's note - barracks??) but why embarrass the battalion censor? About all we can say is that both managed to miss the museum and Oriental Art circuits.

The 15-odd Greenies welcomed by Bravo during the month included four Kentucky National Guardsmen, SP4s Cornish, Coomes, and Coulter, and PFC Flannigan, the Blue Grass infusees from the 2d Bn 138th Arty, have been pooling their fried chicken recipes. However, messman SP5 Hansen said he will accept new formulas for the Big Greasy Bird only from elderly gentlemen with a beard and white coat, and then only if fellow hashman PFC Blount would pack the finished product in carry-out containers.

Bravo's revered movie projector finally got a new bulb to go along with its recently school trained projectionist, SP4 Clark. Although failing to have his MOS changed to coincide with his new skill, Clark said he will show some movies as

soon as the marquee outside the theatre is completed.

MSG Reid trades his steel pot for a shined liner when he moves this month from Bravo to his new post, Ft Carson, Colorado. He reportedly told the troops that snow on the hills will be the main difference between Ross and his new home.

* * *

BARBERSHOP INJURIES: There has been at least one case of injury secondary to neck massage and manipulation by Vietnamese barbers. Muscle massage is safe; however, rotation, snapping and quickly stretching the neck can cause permanent nerve damage or paralysis. Responsible personnel will insure that Vietnamese barbers are instructed that these practices are prohibited.



PROTECTION OF VALUABLES AT THE R&R CENTER

Loss and theft of valuables are a constant problem at the R&R processing centers. All personnel going on R&R are advised to protect their valuables and money while at the processing centers by using security lockers provided by the centers for this purpose. Leaving your valuables just laying around will cause you to forfeit your R&R and make the thief's R&R a more pleasant one. THINK!!

CHARLIES CHARGERS

The big event this month in Charlie Battery has been the opening of SFC Ingram's "Palace of Culinary Delights". Yes Sir, the brand new Minh Long Branch of Howard Johnson's is so "stateside" it's been making the troops homesick. The food even tastes better. When Guzman cheerfully serves you that one lima bean, it's a real treat to eat it in such civilized surroundings.

Henry Schmitz is back with us after his sojourn with MG Gettys. The other grease-monkeys say that he's unspoiled by the experience and will still speak to mere mortals. There is a rumor that he told the mortar-man not to bug him or he'd get "his man" after him.....but surely that's only a rumor.

We had "Super VIP Day" the other day. Within the space of one hour, Colonel Hardy, LTC Pruitt, and BG Clements all paid visits to beautiful LZ Crunch. Ever since, CPT Mac Nab has been in a state of shock.

1SG Bohn moved the latrine last week and neglected to tell everyone where he put it. That night there was a good deal of desperate searching around the battery area.

We heartily welcome C Battery 6/11th Arty to LZ Crunch...but not their helicopters. We've considered painting signs on the roofs saying "if you can read this, you are about to become an artillery incident". Someone sent to the states for

seeds, so we could plant flowers in all the dirt the choppers have blown into our hootches. Two boxes of morning-glory seeds arrived.....but before we could plant them.....the guys from the 23 S&T ate them. * * *

REENLISTMENT THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: There are three basic factors which, operating together, will have a profound influence on the unit's reenlistment program. These factors are leadership, personal interviews, and utilization of reenlistment personnel.

* * *

NEWS FLASH!! 2,500 troops from different units in Vietnam have been alerted to depart country within the next 72 hours to be deployed in the streets of Chicago! WOW

* * *

The Dwight Johnson Driving Award has been presented to Private Knox for outstanding efforts in keeping high rapport with the South Vietnamese people on Highway #1.

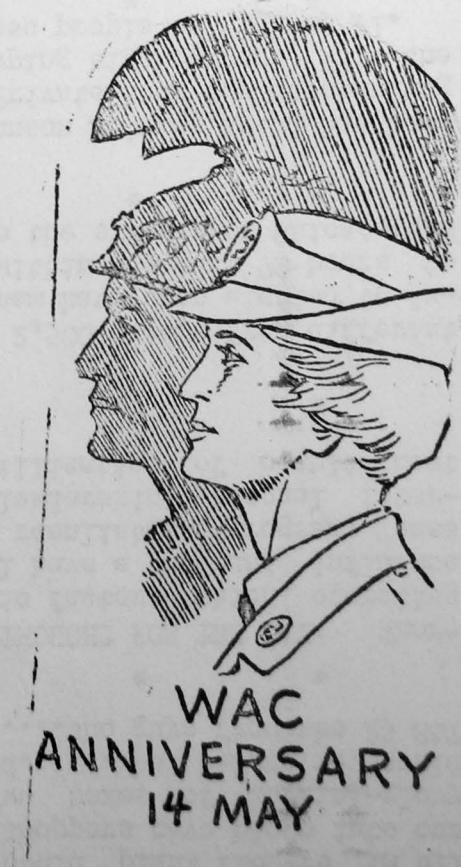
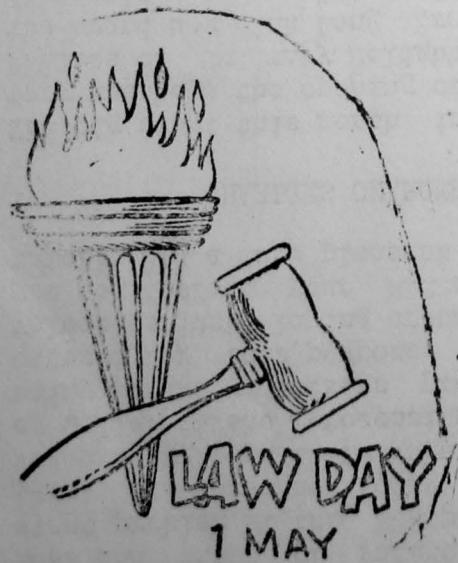
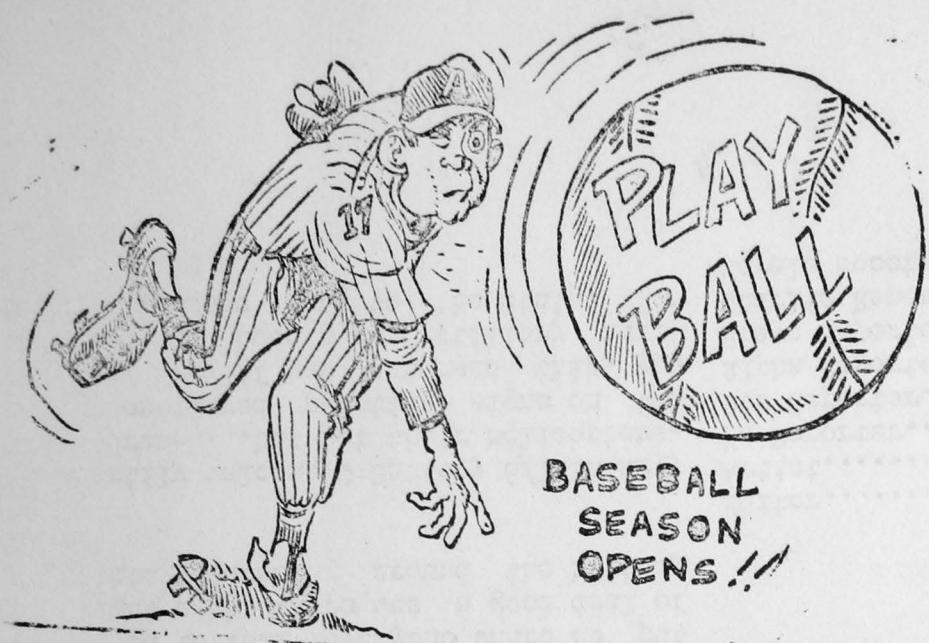
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The Hook and Star is an authorized publication of the Army, published monthly by the Information Office, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery, APO 96374 (telephone Chu Lai 2122/4470). The command newspaper circulates 250 copies, and is printed at the Hook and Star Reproduction Center, Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. The opinions expressed in the Hook and Star are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

LTC JAMES R. PRUITT
Commanding
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INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER

(Check the word or phrase you believe is nearest in meaning to the key word)

Answers on Page

1. Truncate - A. A piece of jewelry.
B. To cut off a part of: shorten by cutting.
C. To tie into a bundle.
2. Transom - A. A horizontal crossbar across a top of a window.
B. An instrument to produce transparency.
C. To pierce.
3. Reprobate - A. Depraved, vicious unprincipled.
B. To have nothing to do with, disown; as a son or divorce a wife.
C. An old friend.
4. Parvis - A. The large portion of the hip.
B. An enclosed court or yard in front of especially a church.
C. A tunnel passageway.
5. Perspicacious - A. Infected with an epidemic disease.
B. The process of turning wood to stone.
C. Having keen judgement or understanding; acutely perceptive.
6. Stupor - A. A state in which the mind and senses are dulled.
B. The outstanding student of a graduating class.
C. An instrument used to measure the intensity of an earth quake.
7. Docile - A. Feeling of being childish.
B. Easy to touch.
C. That which is deformed.
8. Bleak - A. That which is obsolete.
B. Exposed to wind and cold; cheerless, gloomy, desolate.
C. A dangerous journey.
9. Contrive - A. To devise, scheme, or plan.
B. To destroy.
C. To argue.
10. Verbose - A. An enlarged vein.
B. Wordy; long-winded; using or containing too many words.
C. To be honest.

* * *

The Battalion Aviation Section is very pleased to announce several new openings for stewardesses! Anyone knowing of interested females between 18 and 25 years of age please notify WO1 Severin or SP5 Burke. Interviews will begin as soon as we can find a girl!

* * *

As she was leaving the house for a party, she suddenly decided she didn't feel like going, so she put on something and went to bed.

They have an apt name for him - Jack the Pint Killer.

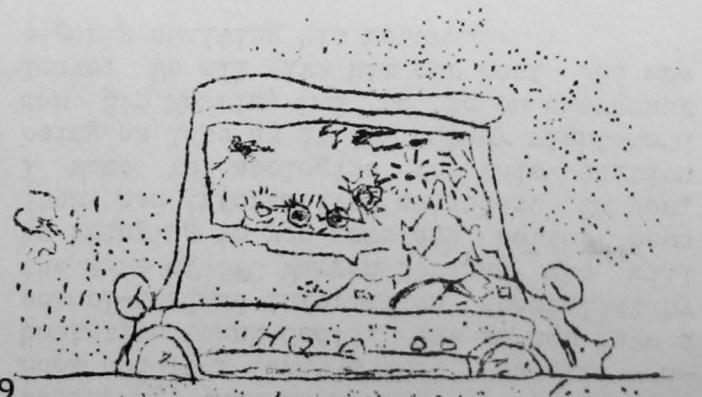
At the rate he consumes liquor, you can hear the pretzels splash as he eats them.

* * *

'THE DUTY OFFICER CHECKS POST':



"What would you do if I ran your post?"



ANSWERS TO INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER

1. Truncate - B. To cut off a part of; shorten by cutting.
2. Transom - A. A horizontal crossbar across a top of a window.
3. Reprobate - A. Depraved, vicious, unprincipled.
4. Parvis - B. An enclosed court or yard in the front; especially a church.
5. Perspicacious - C. Having keen judgment or understanding; acutely perceptive.
6. Stupor - A. A state in which the mind and senses are dulled.
7. Docile - B. Easy to touch.
8. Bleak - B. Exposed to wind and cold; cheerless, gloomy, desolate.
9. Contrive - A. To devise, scheme, or plan.
10. Verbose - B. Wordy; long-winded; using or containing too many words.

YOUR SCORE

30 - 9 correct.....excellent
 3 - 6 correct.....good
 5 - 3 correct.....fair

* * *

IM HOT TOO....
 BUT I CAN'T
 WEAR THEM!!



Well gang, this is my last edition of the Hook and Star (what's that you said - about time thank God!). But we now have a school-trained information specialist by the name of PFC Warren Nordman who will be bringing to you more and better news items and informative articles. Oh yes, I want to apologize for this edition being as late as it is but my right-hand man, SP5 Morris, had to go on emergency leave. We all give him our best and are eagerly awaiting his return.

FOR REPRINTS OF THIS PAPER PLEASE FORWARD YOUR REQUESTS TO THE "SHADOW".

