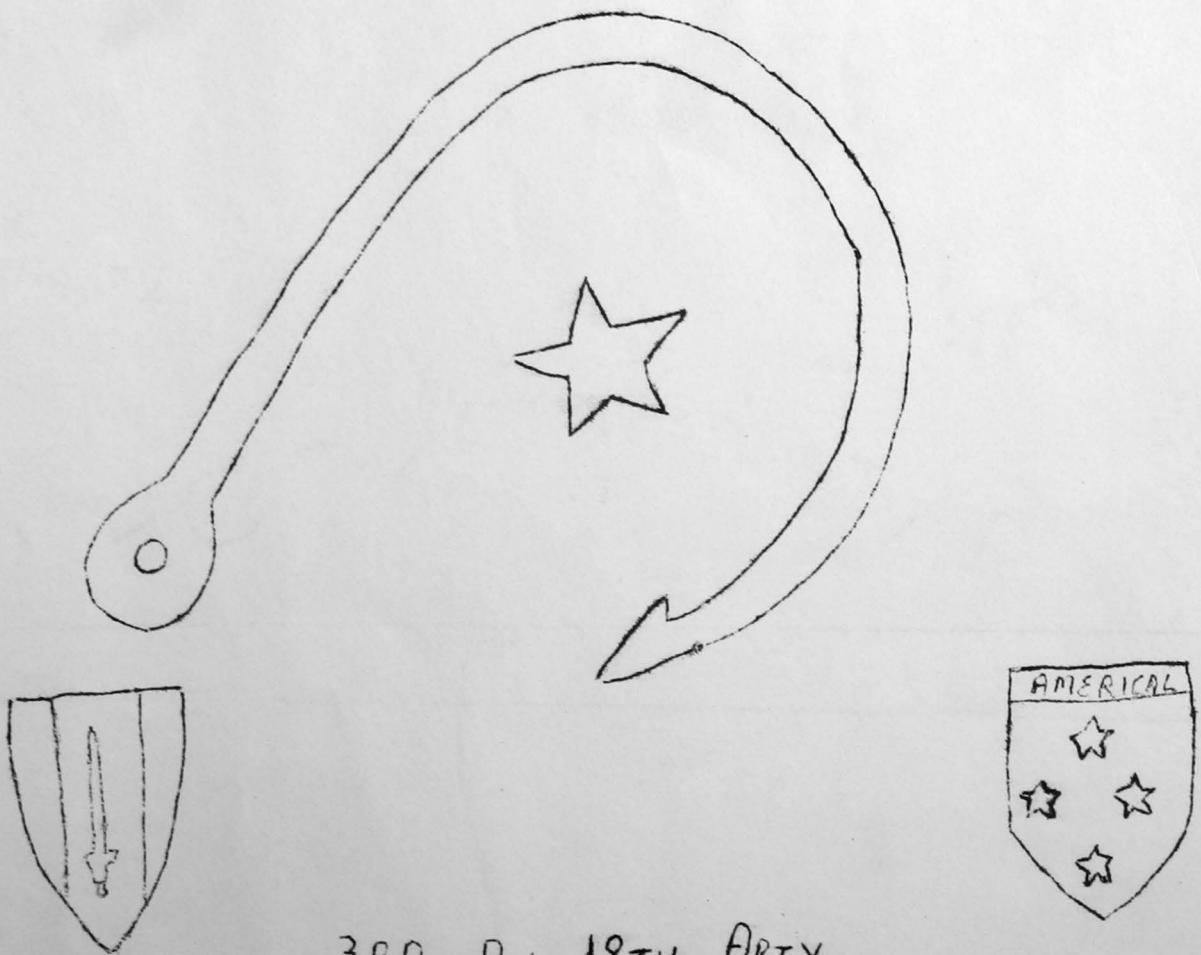


HOOK & STAR

VOL. III NO. V

27 May 1969



3RD BN 18TH ARTY

THROUGH DIFFICULTIES TO THE STARS

THE HEAT'S ON

Hate to bring it up but the long hot summer is quickly approaching the Hook and Star area with both temperatures and humidity soaring above 95.

Time for a few reminders about what the old sun god, "Ra", can do to you if you aren't careful.

The biggest dangers from "Ras" rays include; heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Heat exhaustion and heat cramps both can be noticed by wet, pale skin, quickened pulse and possible fainting. The symptoms of heat stroke include; red, dry, hot skin, unconsciousness, delusions and convulsions.

The main cause for the heat illnesses is a lack of enough salt and water in the body. In the summer months and during strenuous activity the average man needs six to eight quarts of fluid in a 24 hour period. Also an extra four to six salt tablets beside the amount of salt in the daily diet are needed.

One extra note is that too much salt in the system can increase thirst and cause "intestinal disturbances".

First-aid for heat illnesses calls for moving the victim in the shade or other cool spot, administering two salt tablets, plenty of water, and loosening clothing.

Fight the sun god, "Ras", rays—drink plenty of water, take salt and be cool.

Several times he's been held up on the way home; in fact, it's the only way he could have gotten home.

A new service now being offered by SP4 Paulis at the Artillery Hill photo lab is rent-a-ballad. Now for a nominal fee (a beer or two) the shutterbug minstrel will compose a ballad for you or preferably for your worst enemy in 30 seconds. Ballads come in four chords only and are void where prohibited by law.

R&R NOTE

Soldiers going on R&R flights where civilian clothes are authorized may not wear civilian clothes between their duty station and the R&R processing centers.

Civilian clothes are authorized at the centers, but soldiers must wear the proper uniform while traveling in country.

* * *

PHOTO CONTEST

In conjunction with the 13th Annual Interservice Photography Contest, the Americal Division will conduct a photography contest from 15 May 1969 to 15 July 1969.

The contest is open to all US Army personnel assigned to or attached to the Americal Division.

Awards will be given to the top three winners in the overall contest and the top two winners will be submitted in the USARV contest.

The eight categories which will be judged are;

- a. People
- b. Babies and children
- c. Animals and pets
- d. Action
- e. Scenic
- f. Military life
- g. Still life
- h. Experimental

Full contest information, rules, and criteria for judging can be obtained from SP4 Paulis at the Artillery Hill photo lab and at the special services office.

* * *

PLAYGIRLS

At college she was voted the Girl with Whom You Are Most Likely to Succeed.

She went to a bridge party recently, and was really enjoying it, until the cops looked under the bridge.

* * *

HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

Many new faces have arrived at Headquarters Battery during the last 30 days. They include: CPT Duvall, CPT Gornzel, SGT Barrera, SP4 Slivka, SP4 Schultz, SP4 Leete, SP4 Jacobsen, SP4 Dibiel, PFC Sustin, PFC Stephens, PFC Nordman, PFC Noydach, PFC Murphy, PFC Monjares, PFC Mobley, PFC Eakum, PFC Claven, PFC Bonmarie, PFC Baker, PFC Ayala and PFC Anderson.

Promotions during April include SP4 Peters, SSG Ruggerio (the virtuoso of FDC) and 1LT Sells, better known among his volleyball competitors as "Wally the Walrus". Congratulations!

The volleyball league has ended with the Major Nobles team far surpassing the opposition. Runner-ups in order were:

Second place-Major Evans team

Third place-E5 team

Fourth place-NCO team

The NCO team will be sponsoring a "cakout" for the other teams in the not to distant future.

Headquarters Battery is in the process of making cement sidewalks. Unlike our neighboring Service Battery we don't have the convenience of ready-mix. (What happened to the front ends on those ready-mix trucks Robert Rabbit? Those five tons can bring them to a fast stop can't they?)

Saturday afternoons the "Remington Rangers" abandon their typewriters and use the "Armstrong" eggbeater method of mixing cement. FDC has also been trying to develop the "Armstrong" method, but due to the strenuousness of the activity the idea was given up. The "Remington Rangers" take no responsibility for the form construction as Survey, using their knowledge of transits, levels and squares, built most of the sidewalk frames.

Departures during the last few weeks include: SP5 Kinney, SP5 Hardy, SP5 Gaas, SP4 Smith, SFC Call (at a ten dollar cost to me), SP5 Baker, SFC Sweet, SP4 Landy, and SP4 Holt.

SERVICE BATTERY

In keeping with the highest tradition of Service Battery the hard working men of the battery completed another successful month.

One of the biggest projects completed by the stalwart men of Service Battery was the battery basketball court and volleyball court. It took many nights of work and many cases of beer to get it finished but now it stands to testify to the ingenuity of Service Battery. Some of the highlights brought to the foreground were the cement trucks which we were utilizing. They had a terrible habit of losing their brakes and running into our five-tons. Which is a forewarning to all you cement truck drivers in the battery, remember, TI those cement trucks. As a result of the carelessness in not TIing the cement trucks the motor scooter had two cases of the posterior in one day and we all know he is only authorized one a day.

The artistic markings on our basketball court can be attributed to SFC Williams who rendered his paint brush talents with the moral support of SP4 Robinson, and PFC Flannery. PFC Flannery says he has learned a lot from SFC Williams since he has been on his details. Alas PFC Flannery regrets that all this valuable training will cease next month when Service Batteries jack of all trades will DEROS. PFC Flannery has told me of his intentions of trying to talk SFC Williams into extending.

The Service Battery dayroom is near completion.

Coombs' commandos have been performing the same duties they have in months past - that of supplying the batteries.

The reincarnation of the Service Battery transient hutch is now in progress. Partitions have been put up. A coat of paint has been put up on the inside. Plans for a porch and shower are already in progress.

The moustache-licking acting battery commander is counting the days until CPT 2 Hare comes back from R&R.

(Continued on page 3)

(Service Battery-continued)

Flash! It has been suggested that SGT Hand be put on TDY status to Taipei. Yes commandos he's back for the fifth time. It's been rumored that he has enough flight hours for an air medal. SP4 Taylor seems to be amazed at his boss man. All SGT Hand does is eat while on R&R and he never gains any weight, not even an ounce. The reason is he has a very well balanced and proportioned diet and he never leaves the hotel room.

SSG Sickles has been appointed to the high position of guardian and custodian of SSG Daulton when he comes in from the field and gets on one of his knee walking, commode hugging binges. Congratulations SSG Sickles.

Coming soon to the Service Battery little theatre "The Rape of Little ~~Orphan~~ Anne." Guaranteed to please you or your...sorry about that.

A new addition is being built onto SGT Williams' and SGT Ostrowski's hutch. It's been rumored that the purpose of this is for a turkish bath and massage parlor to be put in. Tch, tch. We must look and feel our best.

Yes gentlemen as you may have already heard, Fat Lat is back in town. Knox and L.Z. are back. They say Singapore and Japan are really great. We're awful glad that they had fun because now that they're back they'll need all the good memories they can get.

You heard right-Service Battery has its own taxi service. PFC Dannels has a fare meter on requisition with Service Battery supply and is anxiously awaiting its arrival.

One of the biggest events this month was a practice alert. It was a great chance for all the greenies to stand up and shine. But for some reason most of them were crawling. All in all they did real well and congratulations for the good showing.

Lost and found articles this month include; found, 1 pair of glasses. If anyone is missing a pair of glasses please contact SP5 Rasmussen or PFC Flannery. Lost, 1 fan from the Service Battery orderly room. If anyone knows of its whereabouts please return it.

With all the influx of greenies coming into the battalion even Don Juan French is starting to yell short. Newcomers to the battery are PFC Breckenridge, PFC Campbell and PFC Gonzales. Welcome and we sincerely hope you'll enjoy your stay with us this year.

Well we'll leave the courageous men of Service Battery for another month, and we're confident in our minds, in knowing that we're doing our best to serve our country in the best way possible.



RAQUEL WELCH

ALPHA BITS

A Battery this month welcomes the arrival of PFC's Haas, Kelewood, Valentine, Williams, Reynolds, McHoore, Macchbanks, Chandler, Dembowski, Thiry, Friedman, and SP4 Zagorin. Hopefully their time will go by as quickly as it did for the men departing this unit so far this month, namely SP4's Smoot and Dull and SP5 Bradley. Short timers to leave in the near future include 1SG Bungard, 1LT Poole, SSG Daulton, CPL Kornoelje and SP4's Amoroso, Gorenc and Kunesh. Only two of these losses and short timers will wear the rank of Mr., SP4 Gorenc, and 1LT Poole.

Congratulations are in order for "Groucho" who attained the rank of SP4 this month. SP4 Rabideaus' patience and perseverance prevailed.

The engineers with the able assistance of A Battery's and Special Forces personnel have completed the resurfacing of the caribou airstrip. However such swift achievement could not have been accomplished without the moral support and force of higher headquarters.

Our illustrious and sometimes hard to find supply sergeant is leaving home this month for an overseas tour in the states, being assigned to Ft. Polk, La. SSG Daulton came over to the Nam with this unit via ship in October, 1965.

SP5 Schleunes' excellent score at FDC school is representative of the high quality of personnel of our FDC. SP5 Schleunes received letters of commendation from Col Hardy, LTC Pruitt and CPT Ross.

If A Battery ever gets its projector to run again, it will be through the efforts of SP4 Harry Dull who promised to mail us the parts needed from the states. We hope the parts arrive soon because our licensed projectionist, co-writer of this article, is looking for something to do.

Our overworked maintenance section has had its share of problems this month due mainly, they claim, to unavailability of mechanics because of excessive KP.

By the time this newspaper reaches the newsstands our First Sergeant will have left the field. Most will agree he has done a darn fine job at A Battery and that it will take a mighty big man to fill his shoes. We all wish him a happy and successful assignment in Germany.

Hooray for roast beef and chicken; its not everyday we get these gourmets delights(?).

During the month, Alpha Battery has experienced many dust storms caused by air mobile operations of the 1/82 Artillery, 1/14 Artillery and an ARVN artillery unit. They have since departed leaving us many dusty memories and sandbags aplenty. Remember men the sandbags are a "No, no."

PFC Kramer spotted an extremely small noticeable change in section one's gun pit upon his return from R&R. He stated that he must be getting older because he just can't adapt to changes like that anymore—could be he's getting short.

Complaints about this article will be registered with the next month's writer, PFC Keane, who will cater to your every whim.



BRINGIN' SMOKE

A large Hook and Star salute goes out to Charlie Battery this month.

On 30 April 1969 the combined efforts of the entire battery chalked up 100 enemy kills.

Thats what we call really "Bringin' smoke on em'." Keep up the good work guys!

* * *

Tragedy struck the Hook and Star Battalion since our last issue.

Four men from B Battery were killed when the self propelled howitzer they were moving to LZ Ross detonated an enemy mine. Killed in action were; SSG John W. Osborne, CPL Lawrence E. Biquer, SP4 Harry N. Stonesifer, and PFC Phillip Flannigan. Wounded in action was PFC Melvin Canada.

* * *

CHARLIES CHARGERS

May has been a quiet month for Charlie Battery. The members of the battery have been up to their usual ingenious tricks to avoid work. 1LT Halgren tried appendicitis (and it worked). Red Fellows, obviously remembering what a good time he had when he broke his collarbone, decided to get malaria (he recovered), and Joe Segarra broke his arm.

In the evenings everyone goes over to #1 pit to watch it being operational or else we watch the FDC section playing their vigorous brand of soft ball.....in full battle gear.

The Air Force has been trying to bury Minh Long under a mountain of ammo. Thanks to the heroic efforts of the ammo section they haven't succeeded yet. All the excercise is certainly getting the ammo section in good shape. The other day I saw one of them absent mindedly pick up the VTR and try to load it on the back of the deuce and a half.

The "Great Wall of China" around second sections hootch is steadily growing. We figure that one of these days they'll wall up the entrances and refuse to come out.

The other day we conducted a little field-expedient PT program for Minh Hiep Village. It proved that what's good for the villagers isn't necessarily good for the water buffalo.

The battery is anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new B.C. and CPT MacNab is anxiously awaiting the arrival of his port call. Top was unable to talk him out of having a machine gun set up outside his door.

* * *

Remember DAD

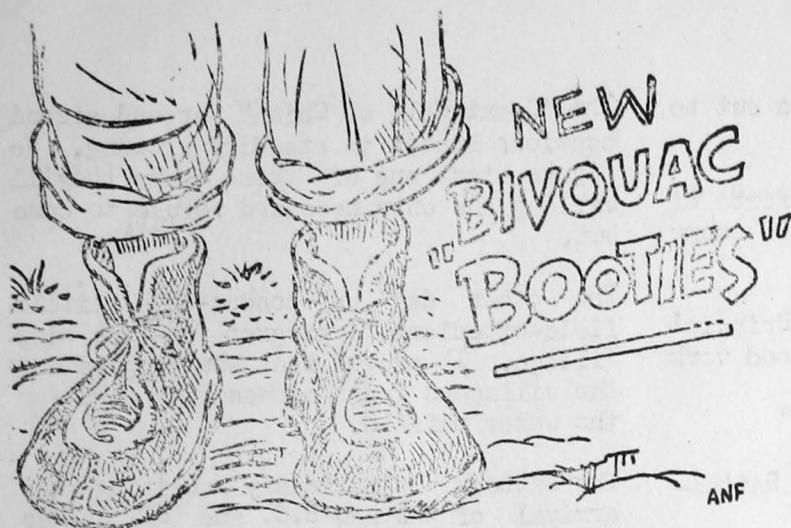


JUNE 15 ^{ANF}
FATHER'S DAY

THE CHAMPUS PROGRAM

A critical shortage of medical personnel (both military and civilian) in CONUS Army hospitals has forced curtailment of some medical services for dependents at several U.S. Army facilities in various parts of the United States.

The shortage results from a sustained influx of patients and an insufficient number of medical personnel, primarily nurses, specialists and technicians.



The height of fashion for soldiers in the Mekong Delta are these new-type lightweight bivouac boots or "booties" as they've come to be known. Designed for wear by infantrymen around base camps during off-duty hours, they provide protection by allowing the feet to breathe, dry out and receive sunlight through their nylon mesh.

(CHAMPUS PROGRAM continued)

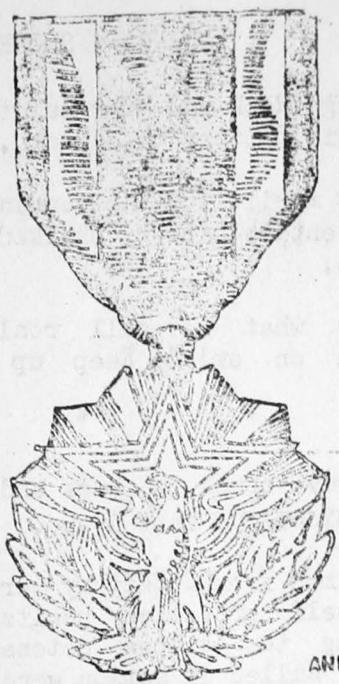
Retired servicemen and other groups with lower priority for military care than active duty dependents are also affected by the new restrictions.

During the critical shortage period, dependents eligible for medical treatment will be issued certificates of non-availability by hospital commanders and will receive civilian medical care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS).

The CHAMPUS program generally calls for the government to pay a share of medical care costs. The proportion paid varies with the length and kind of illness concerned.

Under CHAMPUS, the patient pays his share of the charges directly to the source of care—the physician, hospital, outpatient facility or pharmacy. The source of care collects the remainder from the government.

Eligible personnel seeking advice on the CHAMPUS program should consult their hospital registrar.



ANF

NEW MEDAL

SOLDIERS shouldn't expect to see this medal for six months but here's what the new Meritorious Service Medal looks like. Created by a January 16 executive order the MSM will be awarded soldiers cited for outstanding noncombat achievement. The medal, which ranks with the Bronze Star (and is worn following if the soldier has both), is 1 1/4 inches in diameter and has an eagle, clutching laurel, superimposed over a star and six rays. The ribbon will be of the same ruby hue in the Legion of Merit with small vertical white stripes.

* * *

REENLISTMENT THOUGHT

Soldiers in pay grades E6 and below, regardless of years in service, are eligible to reenlist for an overseas area of their choice. Under the expanded Overseas Area Reenlistment Option, assignment to a particular area is guaranteed. However, there is no assurance of how long the individual will remain in the selected overseas command as tour length depends to a great extent on priorities in filling world-wide grade and MOS requirements. Personnel with over four years service must reenlist immediately to take advantage of this opportunity. For more details consult your career counselor.

* * *

WHAT'S FOR CHOW THIS MORNING?

When the alarm "Fire" is sounded here in the Nam, it is for real and not just another stateside, fake, 0330, last one out is dead affair. This was well proven here at Artillery Hill in the early morning hours of 19 May. The thatched-covered roof of the officers mess was ferociously blazing with 20 foot flames breaking the pitch darkness of the night and giving off 50 times more light than the needless flares that were slowly descending towards the battalion area. With the numerous cries of "Fire" came the scampering of all the sleepy off-duty personnel running, while struggling with fire extinguishers, blankets and buckets to where the action was. With constant swooshing sound of fire extinguishers busily at work and a few "Get that water up there!" the fiery, fire ball was reduced to a smolder. Needless to say, the officers and NCO's had smoked ham and eggs for breakfast that morning.

* * *

VIETNAMESE LESSON

PHRASES

- a. Very good (performance)
- b. Very good (quality)
- c. No good (performance)
- d. No good (quality)

PHONETIC

- a. Yoy lam
- b. Tote lam
- c. Gong yoy
- d. Gong tote

VIETNAMESE

- a. Giod lam
- b. Tot lam
- c. Khong gioi
- d. Khong tot

*

ALERT AWARDS

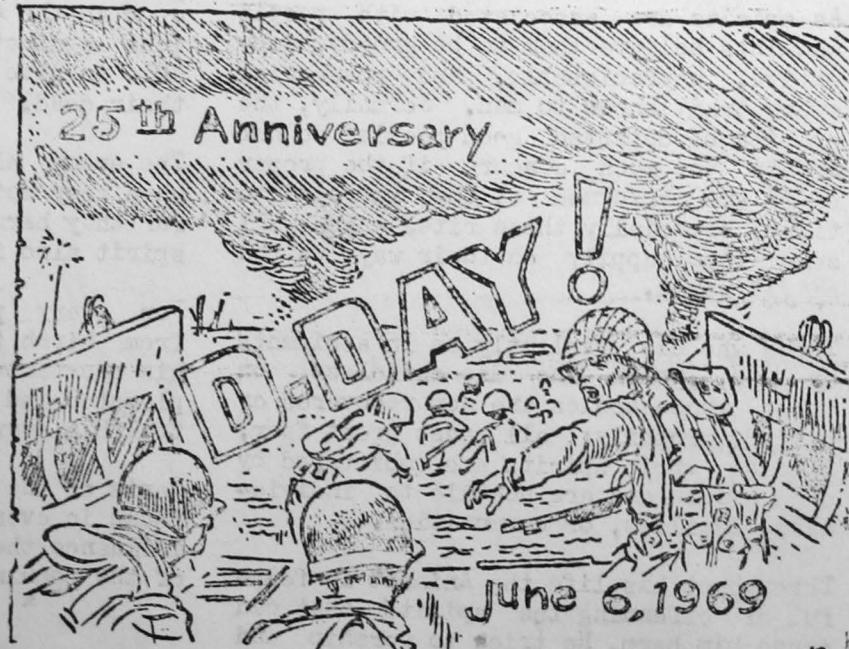
The Hook and Star proudly announces the winners of three awards presented for action during a recent early morning alert on Artillery Hill.

The Best Dressed Man award goes to SP5 Morris who was soon running about in the altogether as the fireworks were falling.

The Outstanding Trooper award goes out to SP4 Goldman who was worried he would get his TA-50 gear dirty. Rockets or no rockets, there was an inspection that morning.

The Leader of Men award is presented to SP5 Irvin who woke up long enough to announce to all that it wasn't our siren. When everyone was moving out for the bunkers it finally struck Irvin and he began yelling to an empty hutch "Everybody up-it's an alert!"

* * *



ANIMISM - THE SPIRITED RELIGION

To the pale newcomers with the still dark green fatigues and even to the old veterans with the all green boots, understanding the way the Vietnamese think and act is often a problem.

One of the main keys to this understanding is in the deep religious culture of the country which is so different than that of the world everyone seems to be in such a hurry to get back to.

The four main religions of the sunny "Nam" are Animism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. In an effort to get to know our little friends better, we'll be running a series of articles on these religions and their influence on the behaviour of the people.

Animism is a belief in spirits, both of dead persons and those of some inanimate objects such as stones, rivers, mountains and trees. This belief holds that each person has a spirit, which continues to exist even after death has claimed it's possessor.

As spirits are associated with people Animists believe them to be greedy, deceptive, unpredictable, and possessing every trait known to man. Normally, the spirits of departed good people do not create too much concern if the proper rites are performed at the appropriate times, especially those rites which will send them happily on their way to the spirit world.

Those who die violently as in accidents or war, women who die childless, or those whose bodies are not recovered or buried properly; all cause great fear, because their spirits are embittered by such a fate and are hostile to individuals, families, or communities.

Throughout his life the Animist is fearful of offending the spirits that can cause him harm. He tries to worship and live his everyday life in such a manner as not to offend them.

The Animist also places great emphasis on omens which may come to him in dreams or may appear as signs, for those are believed to be sent by the spirits as signs to warn of future good or evil.

The Animists see sickness and death as being spirit related and so take measures particularly to protect children. Parents may give children nicknames, often very unfavorable ones, and keep the real name in strictest confidence in order to decoy the spirits away from the child.

A similar custom is related to the fact that boys are more highly rated than girls. Therefore if a boy is sickly, he may be dressed as a girl or one earring put in a boy's ear in order to fool the spirits into thinking that the child is a girl.

Another important concept, again widespread in Vietnam, is that the dead must be properly buried or cremated, with the proper ceremonies, or the spirit will wander forever. This belief is played upon in the Army psychological operations against the VC and NVA who are unable to give proper burials to many of their dead.

The enemy also makes use of the belief when they mutilate and decapitate bodies for they harm not only the body but the spirit also in doing so.

For every part of the Animists life from birth to burial the spirits are his constant companion to be feared and placated and his beliefs about them control his every action.

Parts of the Animist religion can be found in every Vietnamese religion and influence the behaviour of a large part of the population.

* * *

Army helicopters were sent to Tay Ninh Province to withdraw friendly troops. The landing zone was supposed to be secure, and no Viet Cong ground fire was expected. Suddenly an excited voice shouted over the radio: "Lead, this is Nine Five. Drawing enemy fire from the right."

"Negative, negative," came the flight leaders reply. "Those are friendly troops down there."

"Affirmative," acknowledged the pilot who reported the fire. "Drawing friendly fire from the right."

* * *

REMINDER :
MAY 30- MEMORIAL DAY
*

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* * *

SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME

Recently several men from the Hook and Star Battalion have reached that long awaited DRCOS day only to be turned away from their scheduled flight and sent back to Artillery Hill.

The reasons they received this unexpected shock were all because of their appearance. The ruling now states that in order to leave the asian paradise you must have the proper uniform on with name, division, rank and U.S. Army patches on. Also required are shined boots and a neat haircut.

Don't take any chances of being delayed -look right for the big day.

* * *

UP COUNTRY



HE'S EITHER PRACTICING FOR THE
TRACK TEAM..OR IT'S THAT MALARIA
PILL AGAIN!.