

Always First

Bronco Tribune

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COMPANY NEWS

HHC "BASKETT'S LOGISTICS"

Personnel of Headquarters and Headquarters Company are working with the best of their ability and skills to make this year, a year of great progress.

A wise man once stated that "one grows older, while learning something new". HHC extends best wishes to 1LT ROGER A. WHITCOME, SSG WILLIAM E. NORRIS, SPC GEORGE C. BESTEP, SP4 STEVEN PASIEL and SP4 BRUCE NUGENT on their birthdays.

A hardy welcome goes out to 1LT KENNETH G. BASKETT, Commanding Officer of HHC and 1LT DAVID R. DICKERSON, Adjutant of the 3/1. They have recently returned from an illustrious vacation in Taipei. We are sure they were anxious to return to the scenic beauty of Bronco City.

Congratulations are in order for SP4 JAMES E. GABLE, the S-2 clerk. He became a married man while on R&R in Hawaii.

CO A "ALLIGOOD'S HOODS"

Big Al's "Hoods" spent a most enjoyable week in the mountains. Their festivities on numerous occasions were almost called due to rain. Also the "Hoods" were immolately imposed upon by the party crasher commonly referred to as "Chuch". He was promptly eliminated by the company bouncer, PFC EVERETT BUCK.

One day while on a hike, the Third Platoon led by the illustrious "Big Ollie" (1LT ROGER L. OLIVER), discovered a recently evacuated base camp. Charles left behind a few trinkets including mortar rounds, grenades, and a line type telephone. The telephone was out of operation due to an unpaid bill. The following day, the company spotted approximately 50 gooks in the valley below their location. The entire company held a fire power demonstration with 'ole Charles' as the target. Eyewitnesses described the enemy's actions as resembling those of "Bargin Day" at Gimbel's Basement.

This month Alpha is losing 13 good men due to DEPOS. The following men are going back to the world: SP4 JAMES MCCORMAN, SP4 BERNARD MAGEE, SP4 PETER RUSK, SGT NOEL W. RUSK, SGT FILLY BEVELIN, SP5 GERALD VECCHID, SP4 VINCENT DURANTE, SP4 JIMMY ELLIS, SP4 KERMIT ROBERTSON, SGT MICHAEL GOULD, SP4 DONALD RICE, SGT CECIL SMITH, SGT PRINCE SMITH.

We send our sincere wishes with them.

Congratulations are in order for SGT LARRY TECHMEIER. He had just received an accelerated promotion to SP4 before he departed for the Combat Leaders Course at Chu Lai. Upon finishing the course he was rated third highest in his class and given another accelerated promotion to E-5. Keep up the good work.

CO B

"WILLIAMS RAIDERS"

"Williams Raiders" engaged in light action this week. They managed to capture three 81MM mortar rounds and ten Russian type gas masks.

On 2 January, PFC EVEPETT W. BUCK was wounded while clearing a tunnel occupied by an NVA soldier. He was wounded when a hand grenade exploded.

The following day, three men were wounded by a booby trap while traveling down a trail. PFC LEE E. YORK, SF4 ALFONZO COCHARAN and PFC EDWARD STELMACK received frag wounds.

On 8 January, while the company was setting up a night loeger position, they were hit by a small enemy force. During this Action the following men were wounded: SGT JAMES H. DAVIS, PFC PHILIP W. WRENN, SGT JAY D. GARVIN, PFC RICHARD A. STEWART, PFC JAMES H. SAPGSY, PFC JIMMY W. WADKINS, 1LT THOMAS E. TETTY, SGT SHEPWIN BEL-VEAL, SF4 ROBERT D. COX, and PFC GLONNIE FAISON.

Bravo has had more than its share of bad luck lately. We sincerely hope for a speedy recovery of these men and for Bravo Company's luck to change for the better. We also would like to send our best wishes with SF4 ALFONZO COCHARAN who is to return to the States.

CO C

"THE GOOD GUYS"

Alas, Charlie Company is back in the "Boonies". They put forth a great effort to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year while filling sandbags and building fortifications on LZ Cork. Now they have rejoined the battalion in the mountains, for a little rest.

Losses have been great for Charlie Company lately. It seems that the old "Good Guys" are going back to the world. The following men have departed this week: SSG WILLIAM G. NORRIS, SSG CLARENCE FLEMING, SSG GEORGE R BREWSTER, SSG ERNEST N. WILLIAMS, SGT EARL T. CALANO, SGT LARRY B.

ECKELS, SGT NEIL A. BURKE, SGT LEO L. CALHOUN, SGT ROGER TAYLOR, SGT JAMES M. GIRVIN, SGT RICHARD F. VOSS, SP4 KENT R. WINEBARGER, SP4 BARRY HADLOCK, SP4 THOMAS M. TRAUTMAN, SP4 HENRY CRAWFORD JR., PFC LARRY W. GIVENS.

Charlie Company extends a warm welcome to 1LT DAVID F. KOPPE who has joined the "Good Guys".

SP4 TIMOTHY HILL, PFC STANLEY KITCHEN, and PVT CHARLES BROWN are on R&R this week. We hope these men have a great time on their well earned rest.

Special congratulations go out to RICHARD BATES on his well deserved promotion from PFC to SP4 this month.

The personnel of Charlie Company wish to express their sincere hopes for the speedy recovery of PFC ROGER SATO, PVT PRESTON STALLINGS(Tex Jr) PFC LEON GRAY(Tex Sr), PFC LEO SOLIS and PFC RICHARD KNUTSON who are presently in the hospital.

"The Good Guys" in the rear claim to have spent an uneventful Christmas and New Years but it is rumored that their spirits were fairly high. They all enjoyed the game of "pass the Bottle".

Charlie Company would like to express their sincere wishes for everyone in the Battalion to have a "Groovy Ground Hog Day".

CO D

"THE HUMPERS"

Late in the afternoon of 29 December, the "Humpers" received a typical resupply: four watermelons and a crate of apples--air dropped from 60 feet.

The next day, while following a well traveled trail toward the top of Hill 922, the Third Platoon, led by 1LT BILL WILSON and pointman PFC JOHN APSENAULT, made contact with 1 NVA and an AK47. The "Humpers" deployed assaulting the hill with SP4 JUAN RIVERA'S Second Squad, Second Platoon in the lead and SP4 TERRY PENNY walking point. The

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Second and Third Platoons worked together toward the hilltop. Much to the embarrassment of "GOOK COVELL, who spotted at least 10 NVA on the way up, only one NVA with an AK47 was killed. Incidentally, he turned out to be a 2LT in the North Vietnamese Army.

December 31 was a very happy New Year's Eve for SP4 RICHARD SWEETING who celebrated his 26th birthday. How many days old Toothy One? Finally on 3 January, the Humpers got a well earned rest being hooked out to LZ Cork to be Palace Guard.

Everyone is looking forward to 12 January when we can go back to work killing Charlie.

(by CPT JOHN S. WALKER)

CO E "JACKS OF ALL TRADE"

Echo Company's Recon Platoon is keeping busy as always. They made the outstanding discovery of a gigantic base camp containing approximately 60 hooches. It was determined that the camp had been vacated earlier in the day for "Charles had left some AK47 ammunition and C rations. (Ole Charles is loosing his touch) The camp was an NVA training camp but the students must have left for a term break. Recon was extremely excited about finding those C rations.

The Second Squad, gallantly led by SGT THOMAS LOWMEYER accounted for the lone KIA of the week. His squad and another squad were on an ambush when they encountered a small man carrying an M-1 rifle. Someone recognized him as being that nasty little man called "Charles" so they shot him.

1LT TOMMY BUCKLEY and PFC WILLIAM FACKLER continue their exceptional guidance of the 4.2 Mortars Platoon on the lovely resort of L.Z Cork. They are presently working in a redevelopment program. They have taken up the task of turning the weather beaten hill into an attractive tourist site.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

"Tips for the 'Always First' Soldier, published this week from information;"

compiled by:
SGM MELVIN M. BROOKINS
edited by:
SP4 Edward G. Silber

TIPS FOR THE JUNIOR NCO

This space will be utilized by me to communicate with the enlisted members of the 3d Bn 1st Inf. The topics that I choose each week will, I hope, come from talks I may have with you in the field, at LZ Bronco, and from advise from the officers of this battalion.

I will spend a lot of time dealing with the problems of the Fire Team Leader and those of the Squad Leader. You are the ones who have to do the job and any guidelines that I and the Senior NCO's can give you may enable you to avoid some of the mistakes that we made when we were in a position similar to the ones you now hold.

In the last few years there has been many suggested ways of improving the prestige of the NCO's. Some of the methods suggested have been distinctive uniforms, revamping the grade structure and much more. To me, it seems that some people have not taken a close look at the NCO that enjoys prestige in his unit. An NCO can not be given prestige; he must earn it by winning the respect and confidence of his men. This is leadership in its simplest form. With this in mind, I will try to help the junior NCO's of this Battalion to gain that prestige by giving them guidelines to help them deal with the various situations that they may meet. Helping you to know your job, makes my job easier, and will keep this Battalion "Always First".

SGM BROOKINS

BRONCO TRIBUNE

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