

*Always First*

# Bronco Tribune

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January 24, 1969

THE "ALWAYS FIRST", BRONCO TRIBUNE IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE S-1 3d BATTALION, 1st INFANTRY, 11th INFANTRY BRIGADE, APO SF 96217, AS AN AUTHORIZED ARMY PUBLICATION. VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

## COMPANY NEWS

HHC

### "BASKETT'S BANDITS"

Tragedy struck a heavy blow for Headquarters and Headquarters Company when "Charlie" and his counterparts from the North struck a devastating blow.

On the night of 18 January, on or about 2330 hours, LZ Cork came under a mortar attack. Defensive positions were alerted but it came too late. Immediately preceeding the mortar attack, an estimated NVA force of about 20 to 30 men were able to break into the perimeter from the north and, armed with satchel charges and generades, damaged the TOC, primeter defenses, and leveled the Battalion Commander's bunker along with a CP. They went on through screaming and carrying on until they broke and exited through the south side of the perimeter.

Communications were lacking and the Battalion S-1 staff waited, prepared and tense for the first reports to arrive. At first, it was reported that the TOC was still on fire at about 0145 hours on 19 January but this proved to be false. To sum the damage up, MAJ OGLESBY described it sufficiently by saying "It looked like a little hurricane went through the place."

Tragedy struck again the following night when "Charlie" tried to knock out the communications CP on LZ Cork. Initial reports indicated that LZ Cork was under a rocket attack but again, this resulted in another falsification. It turned out that the Communications CONEX was severely damaged from a direct hit by either a recoilless rifle or a 122mm rocket.

Steps are now being taken to in-

tensify the defensive positions there so that the next time "Charlie-gook" decides to mess around, he's gonna get greased, good.

Meanwhile, back on LZ Bronco, the men of HHC and the Headquarters sections of all the companies are making preparations for intensifying the defenses of LZ Bronco. On January 21, a practice Red Alert was staged under a simulated attack and insersion by enemy forces. All went off rather well, with the "Always First" reaction force being deployed in an efficient and speedy maner.

This week, we welcome back SGT FRANCIS W. DUBAY, SGT PAUL J. BRIHN, SGT THOMAS L. DRIER, and SP4 ROBERT F. SHEAKER back to unit after their well deserved rest. SGT DUBAY and SGT BRIHN had been home for their rest while SGT DRIER and SP4 SHEARER spent their time off in Sydney and Hong Kong, respectively.

Also, this week, added to the strength of Headquarters and Headquarters Company are PFC DONALD K. CUDD, PFC GEORGE F. RUSSO, SSG WILLIAM B. AUSTIN, PFC LEON SANDERS, and PFC HAROLD SMITH. A hardy welcome is extended to these men and we hope they have a pleasant stay here.

Co A

### "ALLIGOOD'S HOODS"

This week was one of much activity for Alpha Company. The men were planning on a little rest and a change from the every day monotony of beating the bush. Were they ever in for a surprise, for during the night attack on LZ Cork on 18-19 January, the first platoon CP was hit by satchel charges, leveling the CP Bunker. Also

toward the end of the attack on LZ Cork, two enemy soldiers attempted to capture PSG ENRIQUE PEREZ, but they picked the wrong man because PSG PEREZ stands approximately 6 feet, 1 inch, and weighs over 200 pounds! Needless to say, they were unsuccessful in their attempt.

Since the action of the 19th of January, "Charlie" has tampered with LZ Cork several times but the Hoods have been busily fortifying their positions and making ready for more fun and games with Charlie.

Meanwhile, the number one "Hood" CPT RODNEY ALLIGOOD was in Chu Lai for the week having some tests run on his back. He has now returned and is spending a short convalescence period here at LZ Bronco. The "Hoods" are anxiously awaiting the "ol' man's" return.

#### Co B "WILLIAM'S RAIDERS"

Bravo Company started off the week with a big bang. On the 17th of January, they came under a mortar attack at their night defensive position. Luckily, there were no casualties inflicted.

The Company is presently working with the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, about 10 miles west of Quang Ngai. By last report, the Raiders have a Battalion size enemy element surrounded in Tri Boa, and they will be inflicting many casualties on the NVA force. We wish them luck in their pursuit.

Bravo Company also welcomes back the following men who have returned from Rest & Recouperation; SP4 EARL E. HOCHDANNER and SP4 JAMES R. PLOWMAN who spent their time in Hong Kong, SP4 JAMES T. HAMBY who spent his time in Bangkok, and SP4 CLARENCE E. SMITH JR who had an in-country R&R in Vung Tau.

Next on the list for a little rest and relaxation is SGT LARRY J. RUNYAN who plans to go to Hawaii.

A hardy welcome is extended to our new replacements who have joined forces with the "Raiders" this week and are now out with the "old-timers"; SGT GEORGE VELDMAN, PFC JOSEPH HOLLINGSWORTH, PFC PAUL GALLAGHER, PFC JOHN CULVER, PFC RICHARD WADSWORTH, PFC DANNY JANNEY, PFC JOSE VALDEZ, PFC JOHN RAGIN,

PFC WILLIAM BUB, and PFC COLUMBUS COLLINS.

PSG LEWIS ANDERSON has been spending some time back at LZ Bronco, resting up so he can give his full attention to greasing "Charlie". He plans to return to his platoon very soon.

#### Co C "THE GOOD GUYS" The "Good Guys" Strike Again!

Charlie Company is credited with two KIA's over the past week. There were also four captures to make a nice gouge in the enemy. The First Platoon, under the leadership of LT WILLIAM KELLY, was given credit for one KIA and one enemy capture. SFC SILLIE HELMS was responsible for the KIA and PFC WILLIAM VANDERBUSH was responsible for the enemy capture. SFC HELMS is also credited with the capture of an AK-47 and an M-20 pistol.

The Second Platoon, under the leadership of LT DAVID PARR, accounted for three enemy captures and the Third Platoon, under the leadership of LT PETER KOCHER, accounted for the other KIA. Good work men!

The Welcome Wagon made a trip to Charlie Company this week to roll out the red carpet for the following new personnel; SP4 JULAIN L. BEAVERS, SP4 JOHN W. NELSON, PFC KITCHEL S. GIBES, PFC WILLIAM F. WARD, PFC GILBERT L. MUNOS RIVERA, PFC MICHAEL BLASH JR, JACK R. GANGWER, PFC RAYMOND LEE WANTA, PFC RONALD L. WOLFE, PFC CHARLES R. WALTER, PFC RARRY D. WHITAKER, PFC BRIAN L. DAWES, PFC ROBERT DANIEL TEETER, and PFC JAMES LESLIE MCGEE.

#### Co D "THE DRAGONS"

The "Dragons" had a quiet week operating as a blocking force and "Charlie" hasn't made it past the forty-yard line. While the "Dragons" were waiting for the enemy to make contact, the Mortar Platoon was harrassing him from LZ Cork with quick and accurate fire power, also providing support essential for the companies working in the area.

A new name has been added to the NCO list this month. ELWOOD WAMPLER has been promoted to Sergeant. Congratulations "WOODY".



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The "Welcome Wagon" made a trip to the Dragon's Den this week to roll out the red carpet to the following personnel; SFC JAMES SMITH, SFC GARY GOURLY, SF4 JAMES MEIER, PFC GANTT THOMAS, and PFC ANDREW BRACY. SFC SMITH and SFC GOURLY are beginning their second tour here in Vietnam with the Dragons.

A word of appreciation is in order for the men who work in the rear for the company. They are the seldom mentioned crew who are responsible for taking care of all the company's paperwork. They make sure each man in the field gets his resupply and when he comes in on Stand Down, they make sure he has a good time. A special thank you is in order for 1LT ARTHUR C. GRUETER, the company XO, 1SG ARLAND L. WHEELER, SGT MICHAEL AMOS, SGT DAVID E. CURRY, SF4 MICHAEL B. FUSILIO, SF4 REGINALD STEELE, PFC CHARLES A. SHAFEN, SF4 DAVID SHEA, and SF4 ERNESTO ROJAS who are all doing a fine job back in the Headquarters section of Delta Company. A special word of appreciation should go in for PFC SHAFEN who has been busily writing up awards for some of Delta's heroes.

#### Co E "JACKS OF ALL TRADES"

Echo's "Jacks" remain busy on LZ Cork after this week's excitement.

1LT TOM REICHAFT, 4.2 Mortar Platoon leader, has been added to the sick list this week. He was bitten by a little ole flying insect and it wasn't a love bug!

Congratulations are in order for SF4 EDDIE BENSON, Recon's famed blonde warrior. SF4 BENSON was named the Battalion's soldier of the month. The long tall Texan received the news after returning from a wild R&R week with his wife in Hawaii. Congratulations are also in order for SF4 EDDIE BECKMEYER of the 4.2 Mortar Platoon. His wife, Laura, gave birth to a 4 pound, 12 ounce baby girl on January 16th. Both mother and daughter were reported in fine condition.

Echo Company is starting an "in place" party which is expected to last about a month. Two pallets of Coke were purchased through the unit fund and are being distributed among the platoons.

Recon Platoon continues to work off LZ Cork under the leadership of 1LT PAUL YAMADA. The platoon members were happy to hear that five bodies of enemy soldiers were found in the area where they had directed artillery fire last week.

#### "TAKE CARE OF YOUR MEN"

One of the first things a leader is told is to "take good care of your men and they will take good care of you". The senior NCO's and I believe in this thoroughly. What we regret is that most of the young leaders do not understand what "taking care of their men" really means. Surely, seeing that the men get their mail, get to take a rest, and get hot chow is important but there is much more than this. You must make sure that they dig their fox holes, and prepare their night defensive positions so they will be ready in case of attack. If they are prepared for attack, they will be less likely to be wounded and it is more important that they go home in one piece than possibly not at all. If you can say that you were responsible for saving one man's life by making him prepare a good defensive position, it is worth more than all the fripes and complaints you may receive from your men during your entire tour here. Also it can be said that you are a qualified leader.

In being a leader, you will have to work harder than any man in your squad. When you have beat the bush all day are are tired, you still have the job of taking care of your men. They have needs to be taken care of. You must check to see if they need medical attention for their feet and that they take their malaria pills. Their malaria pill is especially important since malaria is a reoccurring disease and can cause them trouble when they get back to the states. They may complain now but they are sure to be grateful when it comes time for their DEROS.

You must also check their equipment to see that it is functioning properly, especially their weapon for this is their safeguard against the enemy.

I could go on and on about various things that you can do to

take care of your men. Most of them are things that they don't exactly like and you may earn the name of "Hard-Core" or some other unpleasantry when your back is turned. But always remember that a man who makes his men do their duty is doing it for them and any lacking on your part makes you just one of the boys, and not an NCO.

SGM BROOKINS

### MEDITATIONS

(A contribution from the Battalion Chaplain, CPT RONALD W. BENZING)

### "HOMESICK"

I don't have to tell You, Father, about the way I feel.  
You can look deep into my heart and see what I'm trying to hide from everyone else--  
that I'm homesick.  
I know lots of others too. You can tell it  
by the looks on their faces at mail call,  
the faraway, dreamy stares when they lie on their bunks.

When I find someone who would just as soon sit and talk,  
there's nothing we'd rather talk about  
than our girlfriends, our families, out homes  
and what we'd be doing if we were home right now

I wonder, Father, what they are doing tonight.  
How I long for a few days,  
even just a few hours,  
to be at home with them right now!  
To feel the squeeze of her soft hand,  
to taste my Mom's cooking,  
to have the dog wag along behind me,  
even to hear my Dad's usual last word:  
"Now remember, son; don't get home too late!"

Heavenly Father, watch over them, one and all!

It really means a lot to know that You are with them now,  
even as You are with me.

Many miles may separate us,  
but we are one because of You.  
You, Father, are our point of

contact.

For I remember--and they remember--  
Your promise:

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."  
And Jesus' words: "I am with you always,"  
are something for both of us to hold on to.  
We are still together--in You.

I know too  
that while I'm thinking and praying  
for them,  
they are thinking and praying  
for me.

Thank You for them!  
Watch over them!  
Guard and protect them!  
Bless and keep them  
that someday soon we may all be together again!

Taken from "ON ACTIVE DUTY"  
by Roy G. Gesch.

This newspaper is published weekly for the officers and men of the Third Battalion, First Infantry by:

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We are looking for something worthwhile to add to this newspaper, from the men in the field. If you have what you feel is an interesting story, or a cartoon you would think is a good one, that you would like to share with the officers and men of your Battalion, just write it down on this page and send it by re-supply chopper or hook to:

SP4 EDWARD G. SILBER  
EDITOR - BRONCO TRIBUNE  
S-1 3d BN, 1st INF

If you don't have any paper, detach this page and write on here and send it down. All reports and stories we receive will be judged to be of sound nature and are not of the position of the Editor and Staff but will be of the respective individuals.