

# Always First Bronco Tribune

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.

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## COMPANY NEWS

### HHC "BASKETT'S BANDITS"

Headquarters and Headquarters Company wishes to extend their best regards to Captain KENNETH G BASKETT who will soon be returning to a new duty station back in the world. However, his first duty station will be back with his family who have long awaited his return. Captain BASKETT is leaving the company with mixed emotions since he is leaving so many of his friends behind, yet he is returning to his loved ones. Leaving us, along with Captain BASKETT is Captain LARRY S BIRCHFIELD, S-3 AIR. The two men, after working side by side during their tour over here, are to make their last big CA together. They shall joyfully climb aboard the great "freedom bird" which will carry them back to the world. We extend our best wishes to these men for continued success in their military careers.

This week finds the men of HHC out on the bunker lines. Everyone in the company has been working diligently digging trenches and other ground fighting positions in preparation for the upcoming TET. Someone said it will be a quiet holiday but we are getting ready just in case there is a full moon and "ole Chuck" turns wolfman. If work continues as smoothly as it has been, "ole Chuck" will get his fangs knocked down his throat.

Also this week, HHC welcomed five new cooks and a new clerk who just arrived from a tour in Germany. The cooks are SP4 JOHN M COLLIER, SP4 RICHARD P BENNETT, SP4 JOSE D GONZALEZ, SFC EARL HANS, and SFC WILLIE F MARSHALL. The new clerk is SP4 BRUCE J WALTERS. We hope they enjoy their tour here.

### CO A "DANZ'S DEVILS"

After completion of a four week "vacation" on the lovely resort area of LZ Cork, the Devils marched off the hill in fine fashion, leaving their fortified mansions. As they marched proudly into the boonies, comments from Officers as well as NCOs witnessing the departure lauded it as being the finest display of strength they had ever witnessed. On lookers described Alpha Company moving out to the boonies as about 1500 meters of pure fire power. The mortar platoon bid them farewell as they are supporting their company from the LZ. The Devils tenure with nature is presently due to last an undetermined length of time, which means they can most likely plan on humping for a while.

Back in the rear area, the Bronco Devils are improving their perimeter defences. They are aiding in the Battalion project of digging trenches and other ground fighting positions in preparation for TET. They are making ready, in case "ole Chuck" decides to try to move in on them.

The big Devil in the rear, First Sergeant RAYMOND J MALPICA is contributing greatly to the cause. He has aided in the refor-tification of not only his own bunker, but also other bunkers. Good work "TOP".

### CO B "WILLIAMS RAIDERS"

After six weeks of "humming" in the boonies, the Raiders are securing LZ Cork and are glad to be on the lovely LZ after roughing it out in Chuck's hideaway.

His famous last words were "I shall return", and by golly, he did. Sergeant LARRY J RUNION has returned from his R&R in Hawaii,

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temporarily replacing Sergeant JAMES P CARLSON as Brigade LNCO in Chu Lai. Sergeant CARLSON has in turn, taken Sergeant RUNION'S place in Hawaii for an R&R of his own. Sergeant CARLSON is spending his well-deserved R&R with his wife in the beautiful Hawaiian Paradise.

The Company bids farewell to 1LT WILLIAM GLESENER who is now working as the Battalion S-3 AIR. He was a platoon leader for four months, then the XO for 1 month, rendering exceptional service to the company.

SP4 RUSSELL COOK has left for Sidney to enjoy his long awaited R&R. We hope he will bring us one of those Australian beauties we have heard so much about but we are afraid he may have trouble getting her through customs.

The Raiders welcome 1LT THOMAS PETTY who has returned from the hospital. They are extremely glad to have him back. They also welcome two newcomers, 1LT GREGORY A SMITH and 2LT ROBERT J YOUNG who have joined the Raiders this week.

CO C "THE GOOD GUYS"

The "Good Guys" have spent a busy week with the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry. On the night of January 24th, a small patrol from the Third Platoon, - "Kochel's Killers" - slipped out of their night logger positions and moved toward some suspected enemy movement. The "Twigey" paid dividends for 1LT PETEP KOCHEL, SP4 CHARLES L SMITH JR, PFC TIMOTHY R BELL, and PFC WILLIAM D O'KEEFE, as one VC did not move fast enough and was "greased".

The next day, the "Good Guys" went through An Tunet where they found two fresh graves which revealed two VC who had been killed within the last four to five days, according to PFC JAMES DANIELY - "The Deacon" - who was a mortician back in the World. Also uncovered were two tons of rice with the majority found by SP4 ROGER JOHNSON, SP4 EDWIN L SPEEDY, SP4 MARCO A JIMENEZ, PFC LITTLELIGHT, and Kit Carson Scout XUAN.

The following day, the "Good

Guys" G4'd into a blocking position West of Phioc Loc. PFC VANDERBUSH picked up a quick kill there!

After a few days of uneventful searching, the "Good Guys" struck once again, getting two KIA's and one POW. One KIA was credited to the quick reflexes of PFC WILLIAM D O'KEEFE. The other KIA and the POW capture were a combined effort of the knowledge of Kit Carson Scout Tan, who pointed out the hiding place and the luck of Captain WILLIAM J STRAUB when he threw a grenade into the ditch.

On the first of February, the "Good Guys" once again hit paydirt as they started uncovering weapons caches totaling in the end, 65 weapons, two 30-Caliber machine guns, over 2000 rounds of ammo, two boxes of Russian blasting caps, over 400 pounds of explosives, and a large tunnel complex. This find not only messed up "Charlie's" Groovy Groundhog Day, but also brought General CLEMENTS down to visit the Company.

The "Good Guys" wish SP4 MARK D CALLAHAN, SP4 L D DORSEY, AND SP4 CURTIS ALLRED good luck at the Combat Leadership School in Chu Lai.

The Company also welcomes SGT DONALD ESPOSITO, PFC RANDELL WOMACH, and PSG BERTALAN TOTH, and PFC RICHARD PALLAS, all newly arrived personnel to the Company.

The "Good Guys" arrived in LZ Bronco on the seventh of February to spend some time here working in the area of Duc Pho. They are glad to be back here after spending a long time in the boonies. Many compliments were made about the food at their first meal in the new messhall.

CO D "DELTA'S DRAGONS"

This week has found the Dragons working around the forward fire base of LZ Cork. They have been working in the area on search and clear operations. The Dragons have been searching high and low for "ole Chuck" but he has been making himself scarce.

The first platoon put a definite hurt on ole Chuck. They were on ambush when they caught four enemy soldiers skipping down a trail. Needless to say they are

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not skipping anymore.

One of the outstanding ~~Draws~~ of the week is PFC GERALD BLOOM, who has been cited for an award for his courageous act of singlehandedly engaging and eliminating an enemy soldier. ~~He was confronted by the enemy soldier while on a combat sweep in the area around LZ Cork.~~

CO E "JACKS OF ALL TRADES"

Echo Company has ended another successful week, getting another three enemy kills and one capture. The 4.2 mortars platoon accounted for two of the KIAs through their skillfull use of their mortars. The Recon platoon accounted for the other KIA, thanks to PFC BOBBY TAYLOR. They also accounted for the enemy prisoner.

SP4 EDDIE BENSON, Recon's blond haired warrior, has ended his humping days. SP4 BENSON is now the company's Commo Chief. Congratulations on your new job Chief.

Congratulations are in order for PFC JESSE L HOOD. PFC HOOD became the proud father of a 7 pound 12 ounce baby girl. His wife and daughter are reported doing fine.

Six men within the company recently celebrated birthdays. They are SGT RALPH E BAWLOW, PFC WILLIAM M. HAPNESS, PFC WILLIAM J. HADTWIG, PFC JOHNNIE L MADKINS, PFC THOMAS A VILES, and PFC LLOYD W WYCHE. Our best wishes go out to these men. We are happy to welcome another new replacement into the company. He is 1LT RAYMOND J PARRISH. Glad to have you, sir.

Also we are happy to welcome SP4 CHARLES GANOE into the company. He transferred from Headquarters and Headquarters Company and is now taking care of the generators on LZ Cork.

Returning from R&B are SP4 TERRY F SULA, SP4 GARY L HOLMER and SP4 JAMES M KUCZA. Judging from the look in their eyes, they all had a great time.

### IS IT WORTH IT?

Within the past month, there has been numerous incidents

concerning the behavior of the bunker guards in our "sector". 16 men have been caught for such things as wrongfully leaving their assigned post; sleeping on guard; and a few incidents concerning "Mumbles" and other unauthorized Vietnamese inside the perimeter.

Bunker Guard is no game in Vietnam. The Bunker Guard is protecting the lives of many fellow Americans who rely on his reactions in case of an attack. One of the biggest responsibilities of the American soldier is the protection of his fellowman.

Is it worth it in lives of buddies and fellow countrymen when one of those nights you give permission to allow a Vietnamese female to come into your perimeter and "she" turns out to be an NVA soldier with a 20 round satchel charge?

Is it worth it to fall asleep while you are supposed to be awake and alert, and wake up to the realization that you were responsible for the death and injury of many fellow American soldiers? Maybe you will be one of the many who never wake up again because you weren't alert when the time called for it, and on-bunker guard, that time is always.

It might not have seemed costly this time for the men who were caught, but it was costly. They paid in another way-with their money and their rank, from Non-judicial punishment. Between January 10, and February 10, They have been paying off fines totaling \$1,586.00; this does not include 3 men who were lucky enough, because their offenses were minor, to get suspended fines. If they had to pay, the total would be well over \$2,000.00. Then again, this is small compared to the thousands of dollars they are losing because they are now a lower rank than they were before.

Now, ask yourself, IS IT WORTH IT???

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EARLY RELEASE PROGRAM FOR ENLISTED PERSONNEL: Headquarters, USARV continues to receive inquiries which indicate misconceptions concerning the current 150 day early release program for enlisted personnel. Widespread rumors allege the program may be extended to 180 or 210 days. Department of the Army has acknowledged that these rumors have no basis in fact and that no plans exist to modify in any respect the current early release policy. Any enlisted man having 150 or fewer days remaining on his current term of service at DEROs will be separated from the service immediately upon return to the United States.

(AVDF-AGP/2717)

American Division Daily Bulletin  
6 February 1969, No 37

A PFC WHO WAS BEING TRANSPORTED BY AIRPLANE TO A COURT MARTIAL ESCAPED BY PARACHUTING FROM THE AIRPLANE. THE SOLDIER FIRST ASKED HIS GUARD FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO OPERATE THE PARACHUTE, AND THEN JUMPED FROM THE PLANE WHICH WAS 3,000 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND. HE WAS CHARGED WITH SHOWING DISRESPECT TOWARD AN OFFICER, DISOBEDIING A DIRECT ORDER, AND BEING ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE.

11th Infantry Brigade Daily News Sheet, Volume 3, Number 38, Dated February 7, 1969.

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

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

SICK OR WOUNDED

Help me, Lord Jesus  
Fellows keep coming in,  
and as they pass my bed,  
they make with the big smile,  
touch thumb and forefinger in  
an A-OK sign,  
and say: "You have it made, Buddy!"  
You have a one-way ticket home!"  
I know that when they leave,  
the smile fades,  
and they say what they really  
mean:  
"Poor guy! He's really in a bad  
way."  
I am, Jesus!  
I don't have to tell You,  
nor do I have to describe what  
it feels like.  
You already know  
better than anyone!  
Just knowing that You know helps  
me a lot!  
I think of how You went around tak-  
ing pain  
out of peoples' lives,  
healing them,  
helping them,  
giving them new hope,  
something to live for,  
something to believe in.  
I think of how You suffered-  
and You wouldn't even have had to  
except that You went to battle  
for me.  
Lord Jesus, I ask You to help me-  
please!  
Touch and heal, Lord.  
And while there is pain,  
give me strength to bear it,  
and keep me mindful  
that You will turn even this  
to my good.

Taken from "ON ACTIVE DUTY"  
By Roy G Gescell

