

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.

Vol 2 No 10

February 7, 1969

COMPANY NEWS

HHC

"BASKETT'S BÄNDITS"

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 reformation of not only his own bunker, but also other bunkers. Good work "TOP".

CO B

"WILLIAMS RAIDERS"

After six weeks of "humping" 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,

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 "Twiggy" paid dividends for 1LT PETER KOCHER, SP4 CHARLES L SMITH JR, PFC TIMOTHY R BELL, and PFC WILLIAM D O'KEEFEE, 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" GA'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'KEEFEE. 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 STPAUB 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

not skipping anymore.

One of the outstanding ~~Drag-~~
one 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 humming 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 SP4 RALPH E BAYLOW, PFC
WILLIAM M. HARNESSE, PFC WILLIAM J
HARTWIG, 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 RARRISH.
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&R 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 concern-
ing "Mumbles" and other unauthor-
ized Vietnamese inside the peri-
meter.

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 pound 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 in-
jury 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 offen-
ses 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 loosing 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)

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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, DISOBEYING A DIRECT ORDER, AND BEING ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE.

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

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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 taking
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 Gersch

MEDITATIONS

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

