

Always First Bronco Tribune

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COMPANY NEWS

HHC

"REICHART'S RACKETEERS"

The Racketeers have enjoyed another week of dodging rockets and mortar rounds as they go about their daily business at LZ Bronco. Apparently Charles has lost any interest he might have had in the Third Battalion area itself, but the paths to the bunkers are still well-beaten.

On Sat, 1 Mar, the Racketeers started their daily stampede for the bunkers to the tune of a new red alert siren located in the Aid Station. Unfortunately, the new siren turned out to be "The American Breed" with sound effects, playing on the medics' tape recorder.

For several days, now, the Racketeers have also been wending their way among puddles of oil as they move about the Battalion area. Most of the loose dirt in the area is being "oiled" to dampen the dust storms that fly up to greet each helicopter on arrival at the Southeast Pad. The oiled area includes the floors of the hootches, which are beginning to resemble asphalt about as much as they resemble plywood.

The Charlie Charlie helicopter was ambushed on Tues on its way from Cork to Quang Ngai. The door gunners exacted a heavy price from the VC machine gunners for their insolence.

R and R:

SP6 ROGER RICHARDSON, Tokyo

SP4 DANIEL LIDDY, Hawaii

SP4 JOSEPH HOLLOWAY, Hong Kong

SP4 NICHOLAS BARRIER, Hong Kong

SP4 PAUL H. WILT, Hawaii

BIRTHDAYS:

PVT RODGER NEGAL will be 19 on 11 Mar

SP4 FRANKLIN TATE will be 22 on 15 Mar

SP4 ROBERT BARTEL will be 22 on 15 Mar

Co A "DANZ'S DEVILS"

This past week was a busy one for the Devils of Alpha Company. On Tues, 25 Feb, they conducted a combat assault off Firebase Amy. The next day Hill #888 was designated as their objective.

After spending the night at this location, the Devils began making their way down the slippery, grassy slopes of 888. Their destination: the flatlands and rice paddies approximately 6 clicks away. The trek down the hill proved to be a difficult one due to the steep incline of the terrain. However, barring a few minor scratches everyone made it in fine fashion.

The morning of Fri, the 28th, was the beginning of a long day for Alpha Company. At 0800 hrs, while the Devils were preparing to move out of their night logger position, Charles decided to chuck a few mortar rounds in their direction.

The Devils responded immediately, with most of their machine guns on target before the fifth round left its tube. The guns limited Charles to 9 shots, most of which were wild.

About three hours later the Devils picked up an NVA Chieu Hoi. His only possessions were clothes, rice, and a few medical supplies.

Later on, at about noon, the first platoon encountered a couple more NVA, and engaged them in a brief firefight.

The weekend brought a much welcomed calm. The men were able to bathe in a near-by stream while not conducting local patrols from their rice paddy perimeter.

NEW ARRIVALS:

SGT ROBERT E. SWINDE, Center, Colo.

SGT THOMAS A PATRICK III, Alexandria, Va.

R and R:

SP4 ELMER GLENN, Hong Kong

SP4 OSCAR REYNA, Hong Kong

BIRTHDAYS:

SGT RONALD KNAUER will be 22 on 8 Mar
SP4 KENNETH LARSON will be 21 on
11 Mar

Congratulations to PFC STEVEN TOWNSEND and SP4 RONALD WATSON, who have decided to reenlist.

PFC MICHEL H. MATHIS has moved to HHC where he is taking on the jobs of S-1 Clerk, PIO PFC, and Editor of the Bronco Tribune.

And finally, welcome back to SP4 WILLIAM GUERIN, who returned Tuesday from a bout with Malaria.

Co B 1st Bn 20th Inf "WILLIAMS'S RAIDERS"

The Raiders spent the week in operations under the control of (Op Con to) the 1st Bn, 20th Inf.

The week started with daily patrolling in the Mo Duc area around LZ Dragon. On Tues, the 4th, the Raiders were combat assaulted to LZ Liz for an overnight stay. Then a brisk walk brought them back to LZ Bronco by about 1000 hrs the following morning.

Bronco brought a welcome resupply, sundry rucks, clean clothes, warm showers, a brief rest, and a malaria test.

The malaria test results showed the Raiders' average improving from good to better, with 84 positive tests out of 92 samples for a total score of 91%.

Also on Wednesday, the Raiders welcomed their new XO, 1LT CHARLES E. DYER, back from Radar Hill where he was filling in for 1LT PAUL H. YAMADA as Platoon Leader of Echo Company's Recon Platoon.

R and R:

SGT LAWRENCE RUST, Hong Kong

NEW ARRIVALS:

SP4 PAUL L. TILFORD, Kansas City, Mo.

Co C "THE GOOD GUYS"

For the past week the "Good Guys" have been chasing the Bad Guys in and amongst the rice paddies and hedgerows around Bronco.

Charles has been getting the short end of the stick as the many ambushes have been reaving dividends for the Good Guys. Unfortunately, not many bodies have been found when the areas have been checked the next day, but traces of blood attest to the accuracy of the Good Guys' fire.

On Thurs, the 27th, Helms' Hellers got in a firefight south of Bronco and wounded 1 VC. A tracker dog team was immediately deployed, and the results were heartening.

The First Platoon, with SGT BRUCE DANIELS, SP4 GEORGE JETT, and SP4 ROBERT GONZALES found a small hospital complex with considerable TA-50 equipment, including one air mattress used as a hospital bed.

Early the next morning, about 0030, one of the SRRP teams (SGT MIKE LARION, SP4 MARK CALLAHAN, SP4 RON BULUT, PFC WAYNE BRADLEY, PFC MIKE CAVUTO, and CPT WILSON from the 11th Artillery), after having spent two days bringing the max on Charles, received an attack of RPG rounds and Chicom grenades. They were safely extracted and returned to spend the rest of the night at Bronco.

On Sun, the 2nd, Kochel's Killers had a most successful ambush as they blew away 2 VC...thanks to the alertness of PFC LOUIS WILLIAMS, PFC HARRY KUBO, and SGT LARRY MARSHALL.

The next day was even more successful as SGT MIKE KRUEGER, PFC BRIAN DAWES, and PFC FRED KARAMAN zapped 2 VC hiding in a bunker, and then later in the evening SGT GILBERT DIAZ and SP4 MARCO JIMENEZ accounted for one more KIA when they surprised a dude walking along a trail.

NEW ARRIVALS:

SSG WILLIAM J. WHITE, St. Stephen, S. C.
PFC RANDALL L. WOMACK, Seattle, Wash.

LEAVE and R & R:

1LT PETER KOCHEL, Hawaii
SGT PHIL GAUKEL, Tokyo
SGT BILL LeBARBARA, Tokyo
SP4 LARRY MARINO, Tokyo
SP4 CLEVELAND WILLIAMS, Taipei
SP4 OPHREY IRVIN, Koala Lumpur
1LT WILLIAM KELLY, Vung Tau

BIRTHDAYS:

SP4 KENNETH DUNTON will be 21 on 13 Mar
SP4 TIM HILL will be 20 on 7 Mar
PFC GARY WHITAKER will be 20 on 9 Mar
PFC WILLIAM JACKSON will be 22 on 14 Mar

Co D"DELTA'S DRAGONS"

The Dragons continue to revel in the lap of luxury at LZ Cork.

BIRTHDAYS:

SGT DAVID CURRY will be 20 on 7 Mar
SGT ROBERT REED will be 22 on 10 Mar
SP4 PAUL COYNE will be 20 on 10 Mar

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Co E "JACKS OF ALL TRADES"

Echo company's Recon platoon spent another exciting week playing "King of the Mountain" with Charlie. Recon, pulling perimeter guard for Radar Hill, has again been successful at keeping the persistent enemy from penetrating during the past week.

Meanwhile, the 4.2 mortar platoon is keeping its two guns on a busy schedule at LZ Cork, providing indirect fire support for both Cork and Radar Hill.

NEW ARRIVALS:

SGT ALVIN J. ISEELL, 4.2,

Leonardtown, Maryland

SSG BRIAN W. RIEDEL, Recon

Edison, New Jersey

R and R: SF4 DAVE YUTEMA, 4.2, Sydney

BIRTHDAYS:

SF4 LEWIS P. GUARNIERI, Radar,

will be 21 on 8 Mar

SP4 FRANK MATYOKA, Recon,

will be 21 on 10 Mar

IFC JAMES A. SUKOWATEY, Recon,

will be 21 on 10 Mar

CAREER COUNSELORS' CORNER

Starting with this issue of the Bronco Tribune, we will be writing a monthly column in which we will discuss reenlistment opportunities and provide information that might be useful to you in planning your Army career.

Just because we plan to cover many areas of interest to you in this monthly column doesn't mean that we are closing our doors to personal visits and questions. Quite the contrary. We hope that this column will stimulate additional thinking and additional visits to our office. Drop in to see us. Just ask for SFC BILLY H. CHATONEY at the Aid Station.

We thought that we would use this first column to discuss something on everyone's mind: Vietnam. As we all know, there is a job to be done over here and experienced men are needed. However, a tour in Vietnam also offers opportunities that benefit you from financial and career standpoints.

For example, have you ever given any thought as to how much additional money you make and save while in Vietnam?

First off, all pay and allowances

for enlisted men are tax-free.

But that's just a start. Add the extras. Depending upon your rank, you receive an additional \$8 to \$22.50 a month foreign-duty pay. That's tax-free. Hostile-fire pay adds another \$65 a month to your paycheck, again tax-free.

What other benefits do you get?

Well, there is free postage and up to seven days of R & R for every 12 months of service. You may also go on a three day R & R within Vietnam.

When your one-year tour of duty is over in Vietnam, and if you decide to extend in the country for an additional six months, you will be given 30 days of non-chargeable leave, including free round-trip transportation to almost any point in the free world that you select.

For the man who does not want to extend his tour in Vietnam, there are other opportunities.

Toward the end of a Vietnam tour, any enlisted person, regardless of pay grade, may reenlist for the CONUS Station - of - Choice option. This assures a one-year stabilized tour at the stateside station you choose. It is normally open only to enlisted men in grades E-1 through E-6. In Vietnam it is open to everyone regardless of grade.

The Oversea Area-of-Choice option is another reenlistment opportunity open to enlisted men in Vietnam. It is available to men in grade E-6 or below without regard to number of years service completed. This offers a stabilized tour in the overseas area of your choice for the duration of a normal tour in that area.

A third option for which the Vietnam-based enlisted man is eligible is the drill sergeant reenlistment program. It offers a stabilized tour of 18-months at a stateside training center of the man's choice. Qualified NCO's and Specialists in grades E-4 through E-7 can reenlist for this duty while in Vietnam or any other short-tour area, where dependents are not allowed. A big advantage of the drill sergeant program is that a man can be promoted from E-5 to E-6 without regard to time in grade or service. Eligibility lists for this fast promotion opportunity are made up from those drill sergeants with four months of outstanding performance.

So, as you can see, your tour in Vietnam offers you both financial and career advantages.

We have additional information on the subject and we will be delighted

to discuss it with you.

Hope this column has been helpful . . . to you. For complete details as to how you can extend or reenlist in Vietnam or obtain information about other options see your career counselor today. Don't wait. Secure your future. Stay Army.

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

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MEDITATIONS

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord the God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

(Joshua 1:9)

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.

Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.

For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

(Isaiah 41:10-13)