

Always First Bronco Tribune

Vol II No 18

Friday, May 30, 1969

BATTALION NEWS

With only sporadic fighting in the field and relative peace and quiet on Bronco, the field troops are looking hopefully ahead to easier days and the refreshing break of stand-down in Chu Lai.

Bronco headquarters is busily preparing for the visit of Brigadier General WALLACE L. CLÉMENT, Assistant Division Commander, and many other Americal Division officials on 3 Jun-- Dedication Day for the new "Always First" Memorial Chapel. The chapel will be dedicated in memory of LTC WILLIAM L. PRITCHARD, JR, and all other members of 3d Bn 1st Inf that were killed in action. PSG JAMES A. JONES, CPT RONALD W. BENZING, and his assistant, SP5 JAMES S. ADAMS are filling the last few days before the dedication diligently putting the finishing touches on the structure, despite the onslaught of stormy weather.

Bunker building and reinforcing continues on Bronco under the inspiration of 12 May, a day that will not soon be forgotten by those present during the early morning rocket and mortar attack.

#

Charlie Company will also remember that day. Their hard-hitting persistent pressure on a battalion-size NVA unit gave the 3d of the 1st enough time to bring in reinforcements which severely crippled and nearly trapped the NVA battalion in a valley about five miles south of Bronco.

The final tally after a heavy day of fighting was 51 confirmed NVA KIA's, one 7.92mm Chicom heavy machinegun, two RPD machineguns, four AK-47's, two mortar pits containing 20 rounds of 82mm ammo, and 16 rounds of 60mm ammo.

For their valorous efforts that day, HHC, Co B, Co C, and Co D, 3d of the 1st, and 1st Platoon, E Troop, 1st Cav, are being recommended for a Valorous Unit Award (comparable to a Silver Star for each individual in the units).

About 10 days after the battle, Charlie Company moved to LZ Charlie Brown to guard the bridges and secure the LZ. There they have remained for the last two weeks, soaking up some

beach sunshine for a change after their long tour of humping the hills and rice paddies south of Bronco.

#

Alpha Company moved off Charlie Brown as Co C moved on. Two nights before, they had caught a sapper squad trying to sneak through the perimeter wire. At least three of the VC bit the dust in the blast of a Claymore and hand grenades.

Since Wed, 21 May, Alpha has been patrolling and sweeping "ambush alley" and the territory north and west of Charlie Brown.

Best wishes from 1st Platoon and the rest of Co A to SP4 JERRY W. OFSTEDAH. Next week he goes to Tokyo where he plans to meet his fiance, marry her, and enjoy a brief honeymoon during his seven days of leave.

#

Last week, after several weeks of patrolling out of LZ Debbie, Bravo Company moved off to the north to conduct ambushes and patrols on the highways and byways south of LZ Bronco.

On 13 May CPT WILLIE F. WILLIAMS moved on to his new duty assignment as Battalion S-1 Officer, and 1LT CHARLES E. DYER II took over the responsibilities of CO. CPT Williams was awarded a plaque and a company guidon in recognition of his devoted service to Co B. They were presented to him at an informal ceremony at the 3/1 NCO-Officers Club on Tues, 27 May.

On Fri, 9 May, SGT CLIFFORD R. MILLER returned from a three day pass to Qui Nhon. While there he met his brother MARVIN, an engineer on a merchant marine ship, the USS Upshur, which had just brought a load of Korean troops into the Qui Nhon port. During the short visit of the Upshur to Qui Nhon, her captain took SGT Miller on a complete tour of the ship.

Now SGT Miller is making plans to meet his brother again--this time in Tokyo during the second week of June. Both brothers have arranged for leaves from their respective jobs so they can meet for 7 days of rest and relaxation.

#

Delta Company has also been patrolling the territory between Debbie and Bronco. On Sat, 24 May they tallied 11

KIA's during rice paddy firefights southwest of Duc Pho.

#

The Recon Platoon of Co E has been setting up ambushes and observation positions in the foothills southwest of Bronco. The 4.2 mortars are currently stationed on LZ Charlie Brown, where they provide illumination and fire-support for the bridge defenses and the nearby beaches and rice paddies.

COMMANDER'S NOTES

COMBAT LOSSES: The loss of weapons and other critical items of equipment to the enemy on the battlefield is an area of vital concern to me. I expect every soldier to give this his personal attention. Maximum effort will be made to recover weapons and equipment to deny their use to the enemy. Anything less is unsatisfactory and unacceptable.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF WEAPONS AND

AMMUNITION: Weapons will be cleaned and inspected daily. Ammunition will be cleaned and inspected daily. Unsatisfactory ammunition is dead weight. DO NOT throw it away. Turn it in! Ammunition not carried on the person will be properly stored, checked, and rotated to preclude deterioration. Loose ammunition lying about indicates poor discipline, which will not be tolerated.

HEAT CASUALTIES: I have been informed that among heat casualties recently sustained by this unit, none of the victims interviewed had been taking salt tablets regularly. This is inexcusable. Effective immediately, the following measures will be enacted and enforced to correct this condition:

1. Each soldier will take two (2) salt tablets three times a day, preferably with his meals.

2. Squad leaders will check each man to ensure that this is accomplished.

MALARIA: The incidence of this disease is up again in the battalion. As with heat casualties, it is the same old story. The victims weren't taking their pills daily and nobody was checking them. Positive control measures will be taken to stamp out both major varieties of malaria in this battalion.

SP5 E-5:

HHC RAPHAEL K. MANUEL
MELVIN L. STEVICKS

SP4 E-4:

HHC LAWRENCE J. SCALES
Co A DENNIS L. STOUT
Co D FREDDIE L. FREDERICK

Promotion allocations for the month of May were meagre because of the approaching end of the fiscal year. Outlook for the next month or two is uncertain.



MALARIA BREAKDOWN FOR 3/1

COMPANY	1-30 April	1-7 May
HHC	1	0
Co A	0	1
Co B	0	2*
Co C	3	1*
Co D	2	1*
Co E	3	1*
Total	9	6

*falciparum

The incidence of malaria took a sharp upturn in May. Remember, we're the "Always First" Battalion. Let's be the first to eliminate malaria.

HEAT INJURY--PREVENTION AND CURE

The long hot summer has arrived in the Americal's area, with temperatures ranging in the nineties and humidity readings of eighty per cent or higher. This could result in your disability and can become a major problem, unless you are aware of preventive measures to protect yourself from heat injuries.

The most frequently encountered types of affliction from the powerful rays are; heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Heat illnesses usually occur during periods of high temperatures, accompanied by high humidity, and are more prevalent during times of vigorous physical activity, like beating the bushes to flush out "Mr. Charles".

Heat cramps are caused by a loss of salt and body fluids. Heat exhaustion is a result of water and/or salt depletion. When afflicted by heat exhaustion the skin becomes wet and pale, the pulse quickens and fainting may occur.

The most severe heat injury is heat stroke. Symptoms of heat stroke are: elevated temperature of the patient, red, dry, and hot skin, unconsciousness, delusions and convulsions. Heat strokes are fatal if not treated promptly.

A process of adaptation called "acclimatization to heat" takes place when an individual is exposed to an environment hotter than that to which he is accustomed.

Acclimatization begins with the first exposure to heat, and is usually well developed by the end of the first week. A period of acclimatization involves progressive degrees of heat exposure and physical exertion. Regardless of physical condition, a period of acclimatization is necessary, although the better an individual's physical condition, the sooner acclimatization is completed. After acclimatization, one's ability and capacity to live and work in a hot environment, without distressing symptoms of heat illness increases. A period of about two weeks is required for new arrivals in-country. Until acclimatization takes place, greater than normal amounts of salt and water are lost in perspiration.

The human body must have water to cool itself in a hot environment. An individual may lose up to one quart of water an hour in sweating. Six to eight quarts of fluid in a 24 hour period should be available to individuals engaged in tactical operations. Water purification tablets must be carried when potable water is not available.

Salt is another item necessary in the prevention of heat injury. Ordinarily, the diet contains an adequate amount of salt, but additional salt should be provided to unacclimatized individuals, in whom salt losses are great. Salt tablets are easy to carry. An excess intake of salt may cause an increase of thirst and intestinal disturbances. The salt tablets should always be taken with water.

The temperatures that we encounter here are intensely higher than those which we experienced in the states. Except when in direct sun, an individual is better off wearing as little clothing as possible. Clothing should be loose fitting especially at the neck, wrists and lower legs, to allow circulation of air.

Treatment for heat illnesses in the field should be limited to first aid. The individual should be moved to a cool place where he may rest. Elevation of the feet and moving or massaging the legs and arms are helpful. The deficiency of salt and water should be made up by administering large amounts of salt and water. Two salt tablets in a canteen of water should be sufficient. Heat stroke is a medical emergency which requires medical evacuation as soon as possible.

In the event of heat injuries in the field, the temperature of the individual should be lowered as rapidly as possible. This is the most important objective in the treatment of heat injury. The patient's clothing should be removed. If there is any source of water nearby, the patient should be immersed in water, otherwise water should be sprinkled over the patient and its evaporation hastened by fanning. In addition to these cooling measures the attendants should rub the patient's arms, legs and trunk briskly to increase circulation of the skin. The patient should be removed to a hospital immediately, and measures to cool the body should be continued until the hospital is reached.

Water plays a big role in preventing heat injury. Drink plenty of water, take salt--and "be cool".

Americal Division Command Information Fact Sheet No. 69-7

1. What five-letter word contains four personal pronouns, with the letters in the correct order?
2. Make a single common English word from these letters: pnlleeeessssss.

Answers: page 4

**PROPOSED
1 JULY 1969 PAY SCALE**

Pay Grade	2 Years Or Less	Over 2	Over 3
E-7	\$342.30	\$410.10	\$425.40
E-6	294.90	358.20	372.90
E-5	254.70	313.80	328.80
E-4	214.20	268.50	283.50
E-3	155.10	216.30	231.30
E-2	127.80	179.10	179.10
E-1	123.30	163.80	163.80
E-1*	115.20		

*Under 4 months

WASHINGTON (ANF) -- The above table reflects the proposed changes in rates of basic pay for members of the uniformed services effective 1 July 1969, under the authority of Section 8 of the Act of 16 December 1967, Public Law 90-207 (81 Stat. 654). This table is tentative and subject to change pending final approval.

IMPROVED CONEX TESTED BY AMC

FORT BELVOIR, Va. (ANF) -- A larger and improved version of the CONEX, the containerized express receptacle used to deliver materials to troops in Vietnam, is being developed by the U.S. Materiel Command (AMC).

Built of corrugated sheet steel, the new version presently undergoing testing at AMC's Mobility Equipment Research and Development Center, has a load capacity of 13,000 pounds as compared to 9,000 pounds for the current model.

The new CONEX features high-strength coupling devices that permit three units to be joined together. Weathertight doors swing out 270 degrees for full opening utilization.

MEDITATIONS

(A contribution from the Battalion Chaplain, CPT Ronald W. Benzing)

"THE PARABLE OF THE TOOLS"

For we are laborers together with God....

(I Corinthians 3:9)

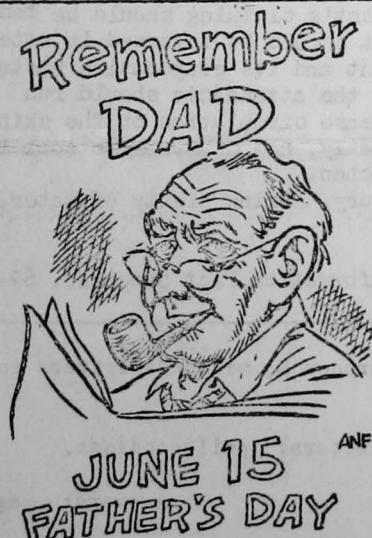
Some years ago R. T. Moore penned an interesting parable based on the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:9. "It seems," he says, "that the Carpenter's tools had a conference. Brother Hammer was in the chair, but the others had just informed him that he must leave because he was too noisy. 'All right, I'll go, but if I leave, Brother Screw must go also. Why, you have to turn him around again and again to get him to go anywhere.' To which Brother Screw replied, 'If you wish, I'll go, but Brother Plane must leave as well. All of his work is on the surface. There is never any depth to it.' To this Brother Plane replied, 'Well, Brother Rule will also have to withdraw if I do, for he is always measuring folks as though he were the only one who is right.' Brother Rule in turn complained about Brother Sandpaper, saying, 'I just don't care, he's rougher than he ought to be, and he's always rubbing people the wrong way.' In the midst of the discussion the Carpenter of Nazareth walked in. He had come to perform His day's work. He went to the bench to make a pulpit from which to preach the Gospel to the poor. He employed the screw, the sandpaper, the saw, the hammer, the plane, and all the other tools. After the day's work was over and the pulpit was finished, Brother Saw arose and said, 'Brethren, I perceive that all of us are laborers together with God.' O, how many Christians are just like those tools, fussing at each other because we think someone does not do things just the way he should. There was not an accusation made against any one of the tools but that was absolutely true; yet the Carpenter used every one of them; and there was not a place where He employed them that one of the others could have served as well."

Let us be careful not to find fault with any of God's chosen tools, for all of us are "laborers together" in the holy task He has assigned.

--H.G. B. Our Daily Bread, March 1969

Answers:

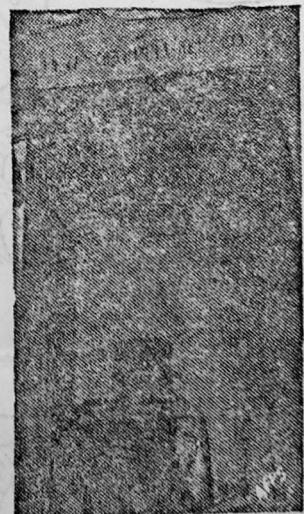
1. Usher - us, she, he, her
2. Sleeplessness





NEW MEDAL

SOLDIERS shouldn't expect to see this medal for six months but here's what the new Meritorious Service Medal looks like. Created by a January 16 executive order the MSM will be awarded soldiers cited for outstanding noncombat achievement. The medal, which ranks with the Bronze Star (and is worn following if the soldier has both), is 1½ inches in diameter and has an eagle, clutching laurel, superimposed over a star and six rays. The ribbon will be of the same ruby hue in the Legion of Merit with small vertical white stripes.



ALL THE COMFORTS—Equipment Operator 1st Class Gerald Homewood places a call from the phone booth he convinced the Bell Telephone Co. of New York to send to Construction Bn. Maint. Unit 301 in Dong Ha. It is believed to be the only one of its kind in northern I Corps.

SOMETHING FOR YOU SHORT TIMERS

You've made it this long---
why take any chances? BE SAFETY
CONSCIOUS, and you'll be able to
finish this calendar with no sweat.

