



ISSUE #16

FIVE STAR REVIEW

2 JULY 1967

VC ACTIVE AT

XOM TOM QUARRY

On the afternoon of 22 and 23 June members of the 557th Engineer Company (LE) came face to face with the Viet Cong in two separate incidents at Xom Tom Quarry.

On 22 June a D7E dozer driven by SP5 Jerald Rhoten of the 3rd Platoon, 557th Engineer Company was at work north east of the rock quarry clearing jungle for the development of a new laterite pit when he began to receive sniper fire. Initially the shots were wild. However as SP5 Rhoten turned his head to check for possible damage to the rear of his D7E he discovered he had company. An irate VC was running along behind Rhoten's dozer shooting up at him. SP5 Rhoten returned the fire and the VC fell.

Specialist Rhoten decided to call it a day and return to the Company area to reassess the situation. Once safely back in the Company compound Rhoten began to inspect his dozer for damage. The only thing he found was a 30 caliber bullet hole in the gas tank directly behind him - about two inches higher and Rhoten would have been hit in the back.

On the following afternoon the 3rd Platoon of the 557th and two dozers of the 168th Engineer Battalion Land Clearing Det. came under fire south of the rock quarry.

At the time they were on their way to retrieve two Personnel Carriers and an M-50 tank that had become stuck in a marsh. The armored vehicles were part of a 1/4 Cav unit which was attempting to relieve a patrol that had been ambushed earlier in the afternoon.

As they approached the mired vehicles the men of the 3rd Platoon began to receive small arms fire from both flanks. A fire fight developed and lasted for approximately five minutes. The VC broke contact as gun ships arrived overhead to add their firepower in support of the engineers and Cavalry. Under the protection of the hovering choppers the mired vehicles were freed and the men of the 3rd Platoon returned with the dozers to the security of the 557th compound.

DOG HOUSE

USAECV - Snarling German Shepards straining on handlers' leashes marked the arrival of 27 scout dogs at the new kennels recently. completed by Company C, 168th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 79th Engineer Group.

A site was bulldozed out of the jungle undergrowth to build the 34 pen kennel. Under the leadership of Staff Sergeant Arnold L. Bishop (SF Charles, Va.), the 1st Platoon, Co. C, engineers spread two feet of laterite for a base and covered it with five inches of reinforced cement.

Each pen has a cement floor and drainage apron. They are eight feet long and four feet wide and the wooden frames are enclosed with 10 foot high chain link fence.

The cement drainage aprons allow daily rinsing of the kennel floors, reducing the danger of the dogs contracting screw worms. The drainage aprons empty into four large sumps that handle all drainage and refuse.

A veterinarian and complete medical facilities are also housed in the kennel complex. There is a room for storing food, collars, leashes and

(cont. on pg.4)

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

by Chaplain (Major) Don Walsh

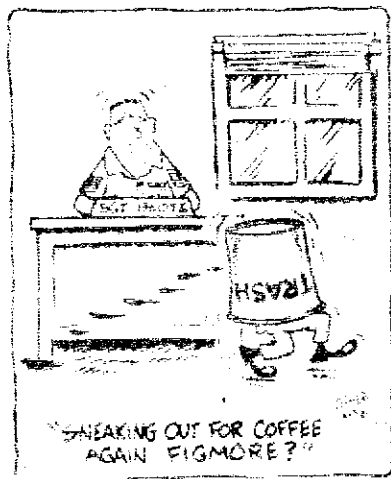
A soldier lives with the possibility that he may be called upon at any time to give his life for his nation. There is a presence of faith with us that our civilian counterparts do not so readily recognize in their lives. Job in the Old Testament asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14) A lawyer in the New Testament asked Jesus, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

These question and ours have behind them the age-old desire of the human spirit to live on after death of the body. Man is made in the image of God with a restlessness within until he is at peace with his Creator. Man's hope for immortality becomes a reality through Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament is a book of searching—searching for a way to be lifted up, to be at peace with God. The New Testament is a book of Witness. Man's searching is ended by the coming of Christ. Through Him we find the way to eternal life.

Jesus answered the lawyer by asking the question: "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" That is a lesson for us today! Search the scriptures, for they lead the way to eternal life.

SEE YOU IN CHAPEL SUNDAY!



Chaplain (Major) Don Walsh informs us that a painting has been donated by PFC Larry Lopresto of Headquarters Company for the Battalion Chapel. Done on velvet, the painting portrays Christ kneeling in prayer.

This is an authorized publication of the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion. The opinions and policies contained in the 350 copies which are published bi-weekly do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army.

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TON LE CHON

From 19 May to 5 June the 3rd Platoon of the 557th Engineer Company (LE) was involved in Operation Ton Le Chon. Their mission was to repair the C-130 airstrip, including the turn-around and parking apron, at Ton Le Chon. After arriving at Bien Hoa Air Base by convoy from the 557th Base Comp at Kom Tom Quarry the men and equipment of the 3rd Platoon were loaded on waiting C-130 aircraft to be airlifted to Ton Le Chon. Because of the size and weight of the equipment, the task of loading it aboard the aircraft was carefully supervised by Company Commander, CPT John L. Kammerdiener, Platoon Leader, 2nd Lt. Granville A. Higgins and SFC Charles H. Ford.

Upon arrival at Ton Le Chon it became apparent that a new turn-around would have to be built and that the airstrip and parking area would have to be rebuilt due to inadequate drainage. Consistent rainfall hampered reconstruction efforts, however, the drainage problem was finally eliminated by repacking and regrading the airstrip and parking area and installing two 35 foot long 36 inch culverts. While continuing to work on the airstrip the 3rd Platoon reconstructed a near by timber trestle bridge which had been destroyed prior to their arrival. Over the 17 day period needed to complete the projects the platoon put forth a total of 7855 man hours and 2380 equipment hours.

Considering the weather and time element we extend our congratulations to the men who participated in the Operation for a job well done.

PROMOTIONS

1LT

Gang, William G. DCo

SSG

Post, Robert V. ACo

Hinson, Charles W. ACo

Brasford, Theodore BCo

Kirchner, James E. DCo

Pearson, Benjamin DCo

SGT E-5

Hain, Joseph R. HHC

Walker, Clarence E. ACo

Echols, Melvin J. CCo

Baker, Thomas W. CCo

Beck, Roderick J. CCo

SP5

Fisher, Leroy 557

Turtle, Homer 557

Spencer, George T. HHC

Sims, Wrenford D. HHC

Cronkwhite, Gary D. HHC

Punches, Dennis O. HHC

Treece, Barton G. CCo

McCoy, Michael D. HHC

Underdue, Dovell ACo

Klutts, Coy W. ACo

Chappell, Hiram W. BCo

Coleman, Lawrence BCo

Marshall, Robert E. CCo

Hensley, Jerry P. ACo

Mitchell, Murdock 557

Anderson, James W. 557

Lopez, Perry L. 557

Garnen, Michael 557

Greasy, Warren E. 557

Cummins, Joe W. 557

Whitaker, Charlie 557

Wright, James ACo

Pertner, Gary R. ACo

Smith, Robert ACo

Massey, Larry J. ACo

Mercer, Robert D. ACo

Pobanz, Clifford BCo

Sluss, Raymond CCo

Schoenfelder, H. BCo

Ruczynski, Raymond CCo

Curry, Wayne A. DCo

Dampier, John R. HHC

SP4

Bush, Delbert J. 557

Corbin, Steven A. 557

Cotter, Clemmer P. 557

Elder, Michael R. 557

Fox, Fred 557

Galbraith, Daniel 557

Godley, Lonnie A. 557

Hanley, Robert J. 557

McHugh, Otho S. 557

Smith, Jack P. 557

White, Raymond L. 557

Roesner, Dean G. ACo

Pena, Santiago ACo

Cummings, Steven ACo

Young, Theodore ACo

Wisdom, Lester J. ACo

Snykowski, J. W. ACo

Bomely, Roger C. BCo

Neal, Dale E. BCo

Lopez, Jose G. BCo

Baker, Homer C. DCo

Bennette, Henry A. DCo

Diller, Larry W. DCo

Hannold, William DCo

Maldonado, Mercado DCo

Riffey, Herman C. DCo

Schmidt, Stephen DCo

Williamson, Perry DCo

Landolf, Leonard ACo

Center, Richard E. CCo

Jackson, Kenneth H. CCo

PFC

Forsythe, William HHC

Lopreste, Larry HHC

Maldonado, Hector HHC

Pugh, Glen D. HHC

Kellum, Foster L. ACo

Karin, Stephen J. CCo

Foraker, Gordon L. CCo

Thomas, Jimmie D. 557

Rose, George L. 557

DeCape, Joseph 557

McGuire, James G. 557

Darnell, Ernest I. 557

Michaliga, Joseph ACo

Webb, Leroy H. ACo

Karin, Stephen J. CCo

Cook, Vance L. BCo

Williams, Charles T. DCo

Viramontes, M. V. DCo



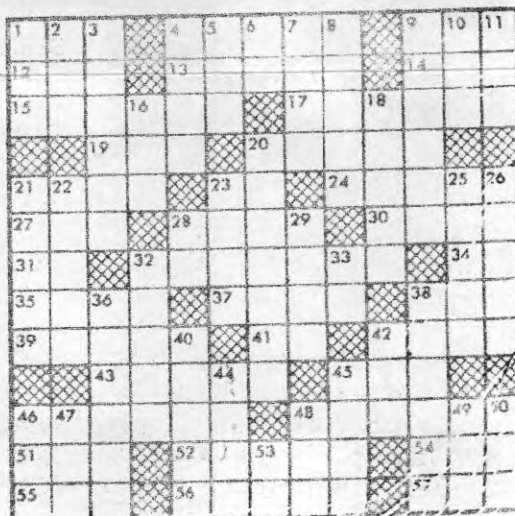
GERMAN BEAUTY—Pretty Hanna Smith in Gardens model Hanna Smith thinks America is an exciting country to live in and she should know. The shapely beauty has traveled around the world and contends that Florida is the place to be.

ACROSS

- 1-Snake
- 4-Dinner course
- 9-Soft food
- 12-Comparative ending
- 13-Downy duck
- 14-Dutch town
- 15-Close-fitting, heavy jacket
- 17-Cowboy competitions
- 19-Novelly
- 20-Profound sleep
- 21-Prophet
- 23-Part of "to be"
- 24-Move about furtively
- 27-Pronoun
- 28-Goddess of discord
- 30-Norse god
- 31-Conjunction
- 32-Serving plate
- 34-Prefix: down
- 35-Baked clay
- 37-Antlered animal
- 38-Meadow
- 39-Chairs
- 41-Teutonic deity
- 42-Notorious pirate
- 43-Long for
- 45-Strike
- 46-Come into view
- 48-Gasped for breath
- 51-Swiss river
- 52-Go in
- 54-Guide's high note
- 55-Ethiopian title
- 56-Cubic meter
- 57-Edo

DOWN

- 1-Ventilate
- 2-Observe
- 3-Like better
- 4-Sow
- 5-Ventilate
- 6-Lord (abbr.)
- 7-Danish island
- 8-Lets fall
- 9-Looked intently
- 10-Fuss
- 11-Footlike part
- 16-Distant
- 18-Giver
- 20-Struck
- 21-Discharges from gun
- 22-Weird
- 23-Macaws
- 25-Helped
- 26-Mix, as dough
- 28-Spanish article
- 29-Heavenly body
- 32-Man's name
- 33-For example (abbr.)
- 36-Strata
- 38-Scattered rubbish
- 40-Wise men
- 42-Relation
- 44-Lease
- 45-Rabbit
- 46-Organ of hearing
- 47-Cry of lamb
- 48-Through
- 49-Man's name
- 50-Obstruct
- 53-Symbol for tellurium



MEDCAP FOR GO VAP ORPHANS

In October of 1966 Captain Thomas Bielejeski of the 168th Engineer Battalion Medical Section began visiting the Go Vap II Orphanage as part of the 1st Medical Battalion MEDCAP team. Shortly thereafter he requested that the 168th Engineer Battalion medics assume full responsibility for the health needs of the 200 children of Go Vap II. This was done in December 1966.

Captain Bielejeski states that when his section started giving medical care to their children he noted three main disease problems, skin infections, intestinal worms and chronic ear infections.

Some 25 children were found to have ear infections, which CPT Bielejeski says is the most difficult problem to combat. Many of these children have had ear infections for so long that the ear-drum has been destroyed.

Originally CPT Bielejeski aided by Medical Section Sergeant, SSG Joseph Christian and Senior Medical Specialist, SP6 Henry Erwin tried treating the ear infections by weekly visits. However, it soon became evident that more vigorous treatment was necessary. Thus the medics of the battalion now visit the orphanage daily to administer ear drops and antibiotics.

Captain Bielejeski says that many of the ear infections are now clearing. He hopes that before he leaves Vietnam he will have the children of Go Vap II completely free of ear infections.

When asked why he is doing this work CPT Bielejeski replied that he enjoys working with children and the medical care these people needed, he could offer. He also says it has given him great personal satisfaction during his year in Vietnam to free the children from infections.

Captain Bielejeski states that he has never had more co-operative or appreciative patients than the children of Go Vap II and their smiles are his reward.



RELAXING TIME—Hollywood's Deborah Walley has the right idea for the summer—just taking it easy on a sunny beach.

(cont. - DOG KENNELS)

other items of equipment used by the handlers.

Construction of the kennels was completed in three months, including one modification after the first dogs arrived.

One ambitious Shepard decided to see the pens from the outside and leaped nine feet to the top of his pen. With one more leap he was on the outside looking in. The engineers added a top to the stalls to prevent further high jumps.

NEW 1st SGT FOR 557th

On 7 June 1st Sergeant Herschell Baker assumed his duties as the new First Sergeant of the 557th Engineer Company (LE). This is the second tour in Vietnam for First Sergeant Baker. From May 1965 to May 1966 First Sergeant Baker was assigned to the 584th Engineer Company at Cam Rahn Bay. Prior to arriving at the 557th he was assigned to the 554th Engineer Battalion (Construction) in the capacity as acting sergeant major.

First Sergeant Baker has 25 years service in the U.S. Army including combat tours in Europe during World War II and in Korea.

Although a native of Texas, First Sergeant Baker now calls Valley Station, Kentucky, where his wife and three children await his return, home.

Both the 168th Engineer Battalion and the 557th Engineer Company (LE) extend a warm welcome to First Sergeant Baker.

"AWARDS"

BRONZE STAR

SFC Aaron Goodson
1LT William Smith

HHC
CCo