

7X24

FIVE

168<sup>TH</sup> ECB

STAR

REVIEW

ASSISTANCE TO ALL

ISSUE #17

FIVE STAR REVIEW

16 July 1967

LAI

DI AN

KHE

HIGH SCHOOL

from SSG Arthur Browning

Of the many varied projects undertaken by Bravo Company this past month at Lai Khe two are of special interest.

The company is involved in priority construction of helipads and a runway for the 173rd Aviation Company. Adjacent to the 173rd biling area. The pads will be paved laterite hardstands, repaved and overlayed with PSP.

While working on Highway 13 one kilometer outside of Ben Cat it was discovered that a culvert needed to be installed to even the drainage on both sides of the road. Water was standing at road shoulder height on one side of the road while the other side was bone dry. The problem developed after the trench had been dug. There was so much flow that the culvert had to be installed underwater. So, the whole crew, including the Company Commander, were in chest deep water holding the culvert in place until it could be positioned and anchored. It sounds as though it might have been a job for the Sea Bees.

Construction has begun on a high school for Vietnamese students at Di An. The project has been assigned to the 3rd Platoon, Company A and is in conjunction with increasing the involvement in Civic Action Programs undertaken by the 168th.

When completed the high school will consist of five classrooms and one administrative office. The Vietnamese students will attend classes in half-day shifts due to the shortage of qualified teachers. If construction continues at its (cont. on Pg. #3)

10  
DAYS  
1000  
ACRES.

For the past three weeks the men and dozers of the 168th Land Clearing Detachment have been putting in some long hours demonstrating their knowledge of jungle clearing techniques. As practical training under field conditions the 168th LCD was given the job of clearing two areas near Di An suspected of containing VC base camps.

The first of these areas is adjacent to the new Revolutionary Development Village north west of Di An and within sight of battalion headquarters. Working almost exclusively with Rome Plows the dozers of the 168th LCD cleared 514 acres in four days. In the process they uncovered and destroyed three Viet Cong base camps and had their first taste of combat. One dozer was hit with a home-made claymore mine and another was hit with a 82mm rocket launcher round. 557

The next area to be cleared was near the rock quarry at Xon Ton. Here the jungle was heavier. As a result it took six days to clear 492 acres containing two more VC (cont. on Pg. #4)

ACM'S

Battalion Commander, LTC John R. Manning, presented Army Commendation Medals to six members of Company C on 8 July at Phouc Vinh.

Receiving the ACMs were SSG James L. Cline, SSG Thomas J. Knipschield, SP4 Robert C. Wine, SP4 William E. Young, SP4 Dan E. Coffin and PFC Mike G. Coughlin. All six awards cited the recipients for their performance during Operation Harvest Moon near Buanard from 2 April to 3 May.

FROM  
THE  
CHAPLAIN

To walk in sin is to forsake God. "He that hath not the Son of God, hath not life." \* 1 John 5:12. It is a delusion of Satan that sin is happiness. "You don't know what you're missing" is our modern temptation. Satan pictures righteousness as dull, cold, uninteresting; sin promises to be exciting and rewarding. Many a broken sinner will tell you that is a lie.

Our Lord leads in a way of righteousness because he loves us and wants to keep us from that which prevents our highest usefulness and greatest joy. The evil of sin is that in it we cannot see God, a blessing reserved for the pure in heart. Seeing God is the full measure of heaven and happiness. Following sin we see nothing at all. "Blessed (Oh the happiness of) is the man that walketh not in the way of the ungodly." - Psalm 1:1

"NOTES FROM PERSONNEL"

A reminder to immediately notify the Personnel Section of any change in information on DA form 41 (Emergency Data Card). This includes changes in next of kin, beneficiary or addresses.

It is also a good policy to personally audit your 201 File for possible corrections or changes at least once a year.

(HIGH SCHOOL - cont.) present pace the school should be completed in August for the Fall semester.

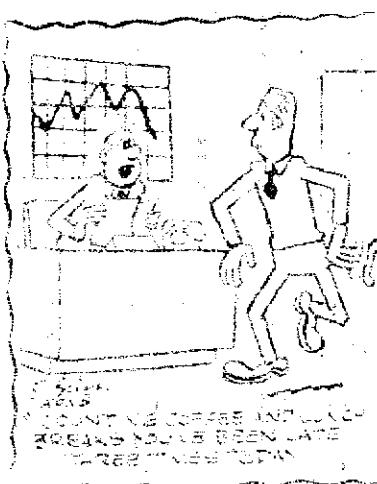
S.O.M.

PFC Eddie M. Watson, Battalion Soldier of the Month for July, was also selected as Soldier of the Month for the 79th Engineer Group. The selection was made as a result of competition held at Group Headquarters on 12 July.

PFC Watson is a member of the 2nd Platoon of Company D and completed his basic training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana. He arrived in Vietnam during March of 1967.

PFC Watson is from Lake City, Arkansas and was majoring in Radio and Television Journalism at Arkansas State University prior to entering the service.

For his performance before the Soldier of the Month Boards PFC Watson will receive two checks for a total of \$38.75 and promotion to Specialist Fourth Class.



"ATTENTION"

A replacement is needed for the position of Information Specialist and editor of the Five Star Review. It is desired that those wishing to apply for the job have at least four months remaining on their tour of duty.

Anyone who feels qualified and is interested in PIO work may obtain further information from SGT Jim Jeter, S-1.

GO VAP  
DEDICATION

On Sunday morning 2 July LTC Manning, MAJ Terpstra, Chaplain (MAJ) Welsh and Captains Barta, Steen, Bielejeski, Whitley, and Knell were the guests of honor at the Corner Stone laying ceremonies for the new church being built at Go Vap Orphanage.

The church is being built by the orphanage with assistance from US Naval personnel in Saigon, the 309th Air Commando Squadron and the 168th Engineer Combat Battalion. Father James Braunliep, Go Vap chaplain, issued personal invitations to the ceremony. The dedication itself was made by the Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Saigon.

For the past two months under the "No Waste" program the battalion has donated lumber, steel, cement, laterite, and crushed rock to Go Vap for use in construction of the new church.

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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## PROMOTIONS

TO SSG

O'Neal, Andrew 557  
 Clough, Allan A. ACo  
 McNab, Dennis CCo  
 Fandinola, Juan 27

TO SGT

Jeter, Jimmie T. HHC  
 Torrance, Fred W. HHC  
 Hackbarth, Ronald HHC  
 Turner, Dennis R. ACo

TO SP5

Greenhill, Jerry DCo  
 Gillespie, Phillip DCo  
 Graw, James E. DCo  
 Hitchcock, Carl A. DCo  
 Booth, Thomas L. CCo  
 Householder, Lynn CCo  
 Waalkens, Richard L. CCo  
 Kelly, Robert CCo  
 McMillian, Henry CCo  
 Way, John F. BCo  
 Curl, Charles R. HHC  
 Mauk, Michael J. HHC  
 Laudenslager, Thomas ACo  
 Asch, James W. BCo  
 Lewis, Thomas L. HHC  
 Rivas, Manuel A. 557  
 Rossi, Richard J. 557

Leurent, Thomas J. 557  
 Woody, John H. 557  
 Waters, Edward L. 557  
 Pankowski, William 557  
 Leonard, Leo A. 557

TO SP4

Avery, William J. CCo  
 Adcock, Aaron M. CCo  
 Foster, Edward B. CCo  
 Free, Jimmy B. CCo  
 Melin, Charles L. CCo  
 Spone, Ronald G. CCo  
 Teasley, Thomas L. CCo  
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 Harmon, Emery C. HHC  
 Hay, Delvin 27  
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 Jones, Harley W. HHC  
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 Oshiro, Basil K. HHC  
 Pritchard, Dale HHC  
 Shipton, Willain 27  
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 Briney, Charles BCo  
 Cooper, Craig R. BCo  
 Eply, Jerry A. BCo  
 Huhta, Maxwell BCo  
 Methis, Wilbert BCo  
 Morgan, Ronald BCo  
 Narlock, Joseph BCo  
 Neelcy, Jimmy BCo  
 O'Neal, Michael BCo

Pedersen, Richard L. BCo  
 Pitre, Ralph A. BCo  
 Pruett, Randle J. BCo  
 Rosado, Agustin BCo  
 Rosado, Francisco BCo  
 Stegall, William A. BCo  
 Woods, Gregory M. BCo  
 Fooshee, John BCo  
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 Simonds, Ronald G. 557  
 Spradlin, Danny K. 557  
 Younger, Leroy 557  
 Chong, Richard DCo  
 Sweet, Orville DCo

152,430<sup>p</sup>  
DONATION

Major John J. Terpstra, Battalion Executive Officer, presented the Reverend Monsignor A. Phan Dihn Trong with 152,430 piasters as a gift from the 168th to the Hoa Binh Orphanage in Xoi Moi. The money will be used to aid in financing construction of new classrooms, a kitchen and a dinning hall for the children of the orphanage.

The collection was initiated by Captain John C. Zwiers, former Battalion Chaplain after a visit to the orphanage last year. Over \$500.00 of the money was received in reply to letters Chaplain Zwiers wrote to friends in the United States.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS  
 1. Mail ship  
 4. High cards  
 8. Harvest  
 12. Anglo-Saxon  
 14. Key  
 15. We King stick  
 16. Great lake  
 17. Above (post)  
 18. Protagonist  
 19. Serpent  
 20. Novel  
 21. Novel  
 22. One who writes  
 23. French  
 24. Coin  
 25. Novelty  
 26. Novel  
 27. Retired  
 28. Miserly  
 29. Swordsman's  
 30. Blunder  
 31. Symbol for  
 32. Encountered  
 33. Stress signal  
 34. Sign of respect  
 35. Commemorative  
 36. Disk  
 37. Posed for  
 38. Portrait  
 39. Man's name  
 40. Paradise  
 41. Silver agent  
 42. Crooked law  
 43. River in Asia  
 44. Concess  
 45. Citrus fruit  
 46. Empire  
 47. Century plant  
 48. Short jacket  
 49. Period of time  
 50. Young salmon  
 51. Conquer  
 52. Star  
 DOWN  
 1. Top of house  
 2. Region

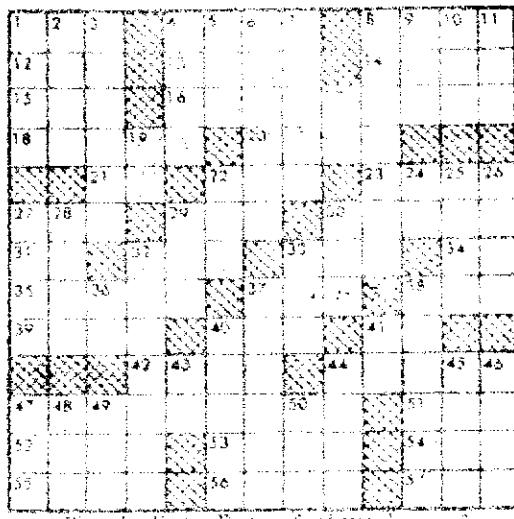
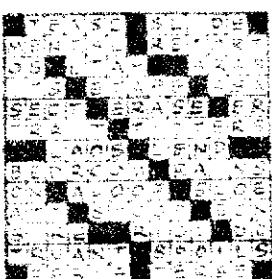


Photo by U.S. Feature Syndicate Inc.

## BIG DAVE

There is a man who does more than his share for the morale of the members of this battalion, particularly Headquarters, Alpha and Delta Companies. We want to take this opportunity to give him credit for his selfless service and dedication towards making this year a little less lonely for us all.

His name? SP4 Jim Davis from Taylerville, North Carolina. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting Jim, his primary job is Battalion Mail Clerk. Every letter and package received by you passes through his hands. Seven days a week Jim is on call to see that your mail is delivered without delay. Stop a minute and consider the difficulties in locating two or three men assigned TDY to a unit in the field perhaps 50 miles from Battalion Headquarters.

In March Jim took on an extra job. At 1930 each evening he can be found in the Battalion Chapel setting up the projector to show a movie. He volunteered to be projectionist because he wanted to make sure that the men would be able to count on having entertainment each night. However, if you ask him why he took the job, he will say it was because he likes to tinker with machines and he is good at tinkering with that projector.

For the last ten months



WOODCUTTER — Pretty Pam Strayer isn't dressed in a traditional woodcutter's outfit, but we're sure no one really minds.

Jim has been hearing two questions everywhere he turned; "Where is my mail?" and "What's on the movie?"

He has developed some pretty pat answers to both questions. If, however, the next person to approach him with one of these questions were to say instead, "Thanks for doing what you have for the rest of us, we appreciate it, Jim." He just might have a hard time thinking of a come-back. "Thanks, Jim."

(168th LCD-cont.)  
base camps.

The Land Clearing Detachment also discovered several of the various types of mines that Victor Charlie is so adept at putting out. One of these was a large AT type which temporarily decommissioned a D7E dozer.

In ten days the 168th LCD cleared over 1000 acres of land, destroyed five VC base camps and proved they are ready for more and bigger things to come.

ANYONE FROM THE EL PASO, TEXAS AREA WHO WISHES TO RECEIVE A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE HOOTOWN NEWS PUBLISHED BY THE STATE NATIONAL BANK OF EL PASO MAY DO SO BY WRITING THE STATE NATIONAL BANK, E PASO, TEXAS, 79999 AND CLOSING YOUR RETURN ADDRESS.

## TUNNEL RATS

Second Lieutenant Gordon Nelson has taken over the position of S-2 Intelligence Officer for the Battalion. Prior to assuming his new duties 2nd Lt. Nelson was assigned to A Company as a Platoon Leader.

His first task as the new S-2 Officer is to organize a "Tunnel Rat" Recon Team. The team will be formed from volunteers within the battalion. The only stipulation is that all volunteers must have at least six months of their tour left in Vietnam.

All volunteers will be thoroughly trained by experienced personnel in tunnel reconnaissance, exploration and destruction techniques.

Anyone interested in being a tunnel rat contact 2nd Lt. Nelson or CWO Allen, Battalion Personnel Officer. For all you adventurous minded young men who would like to be part of the 168th Tunnel Rat Team, here's your chance.

