

7X24

168TH ECB

ISSUE #17

FIVE STAR REVIEW

16 July 1967

LAI

DI AN

10

DAYS

1000

ACRES.

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 taxiway for the 173rd Aviation Company. Adjacent to the 173rd billeting area. The pads will be paved laterite handstands demarcated and overlaid 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)

A C M'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. Knipschild, 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 Buiard from 2 April to 3 May.

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)

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 sem-
ester.

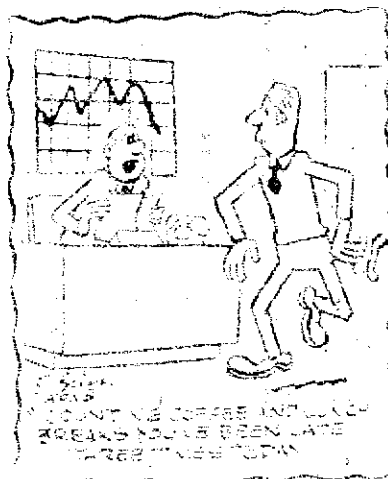
S.O.M.

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 Jin Jeter, S-1.

GO VAP
DEDICATION

On Sunday morning 2
 July LTC Manning, MAJ
 Terpstr, 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 Brawnliep, 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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Send all comments and contributions to HHC, 168 Engineer Combat Battalion ATTN: Five Star Review APO San Francisco 96289.

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
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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
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Spoone, Ronald G. CCo
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Huhta, Maxwell BCo
Mathis, Wilbert BCo
Morgan, Ronald BCo
Narlock, Joseph BCo
Neeloy, Jimmy BCo
O'Neal, Michael BCo

Pedersen, Richard L. BCo
Pitre, Ralph A. BCo
Pruett, Randle J. BCo
Rosado, Agustin BCo
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Spradlin, Danny K. 557
Younger, Leroy 557
Chong, Richard DCo
Sweet, Orville DCo

152,430^p
DONATION

Major John J. Terpstra, Battalion Executive Officer, presented the Reverend Monsignor A. Phan Dinh 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 dining 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

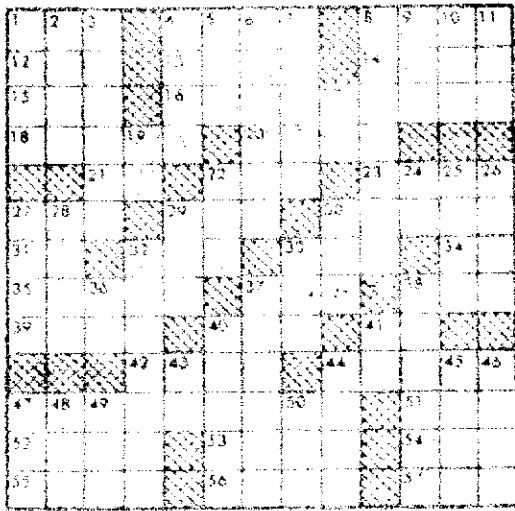
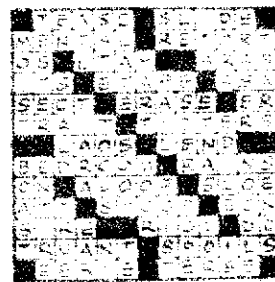
1 Male sheep
4 High cards
8 Hiccup
12 Anglo-Saxon money
13 Weaving stick
14 Great lake
15 Above (post)
16 Pre-nuptial
18 Denial
20 Ventricle
21 Man's nickname
22 One, no matter which
23 Coin
27 Novelty
28 Baker's product
30 Wander
31 Symbol for silver
32 Encountered
33 distress signal
34 Title of respect (abbr.)
35 Commemorative disk
37 Posing for portrait
38 Man's name
39 Paradise
40 Secret agent
41 Cooling lava
42 River in Asia
44 Concretes
45 Citrus fruit
51 Expiry
52 Century plant
53 Short jacket
54 Period of time
55 Young salmon
56 Common st.

DOWN

1 Top of house
2 Region

3 Designated
4 Go in 21 mules
5 Container
6 Motor
7 Run-down
8 Coats
9 Betray
10 Ventilate
11 Footlike part
12 Compass point
13 Open and fair
14 Musical instrument
15 Tautonic deity
16 Felt
17 Noice
18 Retard
19 Watered
20 Swordsman's dummystake
21 Drunkard

22 Operator
23 Deviate
24 Preliminary
25 Fairy
26 Lining device
27 More certain
28 Three fold
29 South
30 Operator
31 Deviate
32 Preliminary
33 Fairy
34 Lining device
35 More certain
36 Three fold
37 South



Drawn by [illegible] 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 Taylorsville, 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 HOMETOWN NEWS PUBLISHED BY THE STATE NATIONAL BANK OF EL PASO MAY DO SO BY WRITING THE STATE NATIONAL BANK, EL PASO, TEXAS, 79999 AND ENCLOSING 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.

