

The Castle Courier

(Publication published in April 1966 which had a story on page 2 which told of the completion of the road and bridges completed by the 3rd Platoon of the 299th engineer Battalion. Note the platoon is not mentioned but at least Company A of the 299th is mentioned. The ARVN did build one bridge of the eight constructed. Security of the road and bridges was provided by the White Horse Division of the Korean (ROK) Army.)

THE CASTLE COURIER

NO. 1

TAN SON NHUT, VIETNAM

25 April 1966

BRIGADE SPECIALIST CHOSEN ARMY SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

An 18th Engineer Brigade soldier has been selected the USARV soldier of the month for March. He is Specialist Four Raymond M. Dunham, a combat construction specialist with the 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat) at An Khe.

Specialist Dunham, son of Mr. Charles Dunham, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts was chosen for his outstanding performance and knowledge of assigned duties and general military bearing. From USARV he will receive a \$50.00 bond and a five day Rest and Recuperation leave. He was also awarded a portable radio from the 18th Engineer Brigade.

Specialist Dunham, 22, entered the Army in June 1961 and has been at his present assignment since August 1965.

Specialist Dunham's wife and their three children live in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

NCO REENLISTS WHILE SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTION

Sergeant Jerry A. White of Company "A", in the US Army's 70th Engineer Battalion is a busy man. When the time came for him to reenlist, he was to be found on the job site actively supervising equipment constructing a Perimeter Road.

No motion was lost because of lack of supervision on this project which is so important to the functioning of the An Khe Base Camp. Sergeant White was reenlisted on the job by his Company Commander, Captain Jack R. Owens, as his First Sergeant, Hamely L. Wadkins looked on approvingly.

MONKEY BUSINESS MARKS COMPLETION OF II FFV HQ

It might be said that there's no monkey business involved when the U.S. Army Engineers set their sights; however 6 banana trees have been allocated for the front of the newly constructed II Field Force Vietnam Headquarters which will be equipped with live monkeys.

The 46th Engineer Battalion, with aid from C Company, 168th Engineer Battalion, both of the 18th Engineer Brigade are in the final stages of construction of this complex which includes con- tonement areas for supporting units in the Long Binh area. January 26 marked the beginning of the project.

In undertaking the challenging project, engineers placed their operations on a day and night basis in order to complete the project within the required time allocations.

Spearheading the operation C Company of the 46th broke ground with extensive earthmoving tasks in order to prepare for vertical construction, while providing a workable drainage system to accommodate the monsoon season.

The vertical construction began with the pouring of numerous concrete pads. Hindering these ef-

orts was the effect the intense heat placed on the setting of the concrete. The process was then accelerated to prevent cracking or chipping within the pads.

The Headquarters buildings were constructed as a complex of quonset structures complete with air conditioning and interconnected by sidewalks. Mess halls have also been constructed to serve the Field Force Headquarters and the Corps Artillery Headquarters. They have been constructed in rectangular shape.

As a result of careful scheduling and efficient operational procedures, both participating units have been able to overcome many obstacles when construction requirements have changed. The end result: A secure operational base from which the II Field Force Vietnam will be able to direct its combat units.

35TH GROUP BEGINS ASPHALT ROADS AS CAM RANH 'FREEWAY' GOES IN

Brigade Engineers have begun work on Vietnam's first U. S. Army built asphalt road. The project is being accomplished by the 102nd Engineer Company (Construction Support), commanded by Capt. Jesse M. Tyson.

The initial asphalted section is a three mile stretch and is the first "hot-mix" asphalt poured by the Engineers in Vietnam. Eventually the Cam Rahn Peninsula will have a

50 mile network of paved 4 lane highways to carry the burden of the heavy military equipment and vehicles.

Poor roads have continually been a problem at Cam Rahn as the sand is very unstable and causes difficult driving conditions. As part of the 35th Engineer Group, The 102nd Engineer Company will help alleviate this problem through their efforts.

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

★ **BRIG GEN R.R. FLOGER** ★

The fact that the Brigade now has its own newspaper is just one more indication of our coming of age. The Brigade has now been in Vietnam for over six months, though some of our units have been here a year. The Engineers were among the first army units to be deployed to Vietnam in early May, 1965. The 35th Group and 864th Engineer Battalion were on hand to greet the infantry at Cam Ranh Bay, and likewise the 84th was on the beach at Qui Nhon when the Marines made their landing there.

During the past year the Brigade units have established an enviable record. Your excellent work is evident throughout Vietnam. I only wish that all members of my command could have the opportunity to visit the various construction sites and see the progress we are making. From Pleiku to Vung Tau your work stands as a tribute to your resourcefulness, perseverance and dedication.

I am proud to be your commander and congratulate you on the way you have added to the high tradi-

**FIRST COMBAT MISSION
SEEN BY BDE HHC TROOPS**

The 2nd Security Platoon of the 35th Task Force, composed of 37 men of the 18th Brigade Headquarters Company, encountered its first combat mission April 13, when it aided other security forces at the immense Tan Son Nhut Air Base during a mortar barrage.

After receiving the "red-alert" signal early Wednesday morning, 1st Lt James C. Brandon, 2nd Platoon Commander, dispatched his 37 man platoon by truck to the air base's flight line where they aided other task forces in securing a defense perimeter. The platoon also assisted in policing up "dud" mortar rounds following the attack.

The 1st Platoon, commanded by Capt. W. C. Dowdy, remained behind to establish necessary security precautions in the defense of the Company and Brigade Headquarters areas.

tion of the U. S. Army Engineer soldiers.


R. R. FLOGER

Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

"THE TURKEY AWARD"

By Cy Gontee

The turkey, a wire, bird like piece of junk mounted on a steel base, is the award given weekly to the Officer of the 864th Engineer Battalion, responsible for the "boner" of the week.

Presenting the award is the previous weeks winner who is sole judge of the present weeks nominations.

Past winners include a Second Lieutenant in charge of a quarry who, when told a General was visiting the quarry, rushed outside, and shouted "What General?" Turning around, he calmly said "Oh, good morning Sir."

The most famous boner of all occurred when the Chaplain shot the Battalion Safety Officer in the foot.

Each winner buys a round of beer on his selection.

The CASTLE COURIER is an authorized publication of the 18th Engineer Brigade, emanating from a renovated bomb testing site located near the banks of the blue Song Saigon. This publication does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Army, or for that matter it doesn't even reflect the views of Hugh Hefner or Joseph Heller.

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The CC comes out twice
each month!!!!!!

US, ARVN, ROK ENGINEERS COMPLETE ROAD IN QUI NHON

A thirteen kilometer road built by Brigade Engineers was recently dedicated at Qui Nhon.

Construction was performed by Company "A", 299th Engineer Combat Battalion, with support from the 362d Engineer Company, and the ARVN 62d Engineer Battalion.

The road is the primary route through the Binh Dinh Province rice center. The local population was dependent on the road for hauling the harvest until they were forced to flee when the Viet Cong gained control of the area last fall. As new sections of the road were opened, thousands of refugees returned to their land to renew their harvesting.

The project involved construction of eight bridges, placement of 500 feet of culvert, and hauling 40,000 tons of fill by

the Engineers. The Qui Nhon Bureau of Public works also hauled fill for the project. Prior to and during the construction the Capital ROK "Tiger" Division secured the area.

At the dedication ceremony, this joint US, ARVN and ROK project was praised by Brigadier General Floger, CG, 18th Brigade, and Major General Vinh Loc of the Government of Vietnam. All agreed that by working together the Free World Forces have made great progress in helping the Vietnamese people.

The 299th Engineer Battalion is commanded by Lt. Col. Rueben L. Anderson and is assigned to the 937th Engineer Group (Combat).