

expressed the hope that this cooperation and friendly relationship would continue to develop even more in the future. The ceremony ended with a farewell to each and a sincere dedication to develop better understanding and cooperation with each other in the future.

BUGLE BLOWS FOR 39th BN

Ta Dum Ta Da Dum, Ta Dum Ta Da Dum... The call of Reveille, Retreat, Taps, and other such sounds of former armies have almost become extinct in today's "new, modern Army." The romantic sound of the bugle has been replaced by the shrillness of a whistle or the harshness of a loudspeaker, in the Army's quest for expediency.

However, on the morning of 10 November, 1968, the stillness of the base camp of the 39th Engineer Battalion at Chu Lai was broken, not by the customary whistle, but by the notes of a bugle. Throughout days, the men were called to and from work by the bugle. The bugler, as it turned out, was none other than the battalion chaplain, Ctp. L.F. Utley.

Chaplain Utley got the idea from overhearing the battalion commander, LTC Tenho R. Hukkala recall the positive effect on morale as a result of having a bugler in his outfit in Korea some 15 years earlier. The chaplain wrote to some friends in the states, and in a short time... had a bugle. After a short practice session, he was in full swing just the day after receiving the instrument.

As he travels to the line companies the bugle will accompany him, giving other camps the opportunity to hear an almost forgotten sound. In his absence from the battalion headquarters base camp, the bugle will be replaced by a tape recorder.

Chaplain Utley plans to continue the project and expresses hope that it will remain a part of the 39th Battalion after he leaves. This new feature sets the 39th Engineer Battalion apart from the ordinary unit in that it becomes one of the few organizations in today's streamlined Army to use the Bugle call for formations. This link with the old Army gives a firmer root in the traditions of the armed forces. In this age of revolution and change, the call of the bugle, lends a touch of the past, and causes one to reflect upon his duties while serving his country.

AWARDS TO MEN OF 39th

Ceremonies were held recently at Headquarters, 39th Engineer Battalion to honor the men of Alpha Company, 39th Engineer Battalion. Alpha recently returned to the Chu Lai Headquarters from LZ Young where the company saw heavy action while working on Route 533 west of Tam Ky.

Brigadier General Galloway, Assistant Division Commander, Americal Division, presented awards for valor to several members of the company, including the Silver Star Medal which was presented to Staff Sergeant Julio Perez. Sergeant Perez was cited for his courageous actions during the ambush of his work party by a large enemy force. The citation accompanying the award gave this description of the action; Intense enemy fire from automatic weapons and mortars disabled several many casualties. SSG Perez immediately exposed himself to move through the bullet swept area to retrieve a wounded comrade from the killing zone. After assessing the situation, he effectively organized a defensive perimeter. Still under withering fire, he again exposed himself and directed retaliatory fire which silenced one enemy recoilless rifle and a number of automatic weapons. Throughout the night he continued to direct fire against likely enemy positions and rallied his badly outnumbered group to halt the enemy advance. Upon hearing noises around a disabled vehicle, he again exposed himself by moving to the vehicle where he found two enemy soldiers looting the dead in the vehicle. He immediately killed one and caused the other to withdraw."

Cpt. Richard S. Waldrop was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for his actions while he was commander of Alpha Co. Throughout the period he exposed himself to hostile action while directing his company in its actions.

Platoon Sergeant Tom Singleton Jr. was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for his actions during an ambush. Sergeant Singleton continually exposed himself while laying a base of fire and aiding the wounded.

Specialist Four Glen W. Stinson was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for his actions during an enemy ambush. Specialist Stinson exposed himself continually to protect a wounded comrade and his laying down a base of fire prevented the enemy from overrunning the friendly position.

These men were presented the awards for their personal bravery and devotion to duty. Their actions are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.

ATTACK IS THWARTED BY ALERT 39th

Two members of Charlie Company, 39th Engineer Bn. distinguished themselves recently in a heavy attack by fire and ground attack on their base camp at Nui Dep.

One of these was SP4 Nathaniel Williams. Specialist Williams was manning a perimeter guard bunker, along with PFC Walter Noble, right in the path of a squad of VC who had penetrated the perimeter wire. Noble was wounded by a grenade during the initial onslaught leaving only Williams to fend off the attackers. Williams alternated between an M-60 and M-14 for nearly a half

of an hour before assistance arrived. His action undoubtedly saved the lives of many men. Six VC KIA's were discovered within 20 meters of the bunker the following morning.

Also notable was the performance of Specialist Five Lannie R. Newman, a company medic. First Sergeant B.J. Thomas described the events:

"The attack started with incoming mortar rounds, RPG, and small arms rounds. I heard a cry from bunker 11. I ran for the commo bunker and sent a runner for Newman. I informed him a man was hit. Without regard for his own safety, Newman ran for bunker 11 as rounds were pouring in like rain."

"He administered medical aid to PFC Silva in a very cool and professional manner. I left bunker 13. I told Newman that he was needed at bunker 13. Again under heavy fire, Newman ran about 150 meters to bunker 13 and began to administer aid to SP Nobel. The wire in front of bunker 13 had been breached, and at least a squad of VC was in the immediate area around bunker 13.

"Both wounded EM were removed from the bunkers and brought to the CP where Newman continued to work with them until dust off arrived."

Newman, who leaves Vietnam this week, described his reaction to Sunday with one word, "Scared!"

The final toll was 14 VC dead, four captured assault weapons and two VCS captured.

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PROMOTIONS TO GRADE INDICATED

39th ENGR BN

HHC

SP5 Stephen L. Bilyeu
 SP5 James B. Boyles Jr.
 SP5 James A. Drake
 SP5 Frank W. Giroux II
 SP5 Gerlad V. Howell
 SP5 Lannie R. Newman
 SP5 Danny G. Sproat

CO A

SSG Charles H. Foster
 SGT Kenneth M. Duff
 SP5 Roger A. Montgomery
 SP5 James R. Russell
 SP5 Virgil K. Stormer
 SP5 Troy E. Wilburn

CO D

SGT Noal C. Christopher Jr.
 SP5 Gary L. Davidson
 SP5 Gerald H. Fitzgerald
 SP5 Cornell L. Nash

AWARDS

SILVER STAR

SSG Julio Perez

BRONZE STAR w/ "V" DEVICE

SFC George P. Naquin

BRONZE STAR

CPT Richard S. Waldrop
 1LT Wayne A. Passe
 SSG Jack L. Cogle
 SSG Theodore J. Lenegar

SP4 Stephen J. Decker

AIR MEDAL

LTC Tenho R. Hukkala
MAJ Norman J. Coutant Jr.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP4 Gregory N. Davis

PURPLE HEART

CPT Torrence M. Wilson
SFC Tom Singleton Jr.
SSG Jack L. Cogle
SP5 David L. Prichard
SP5 Billy W. Thompson
SP5 Douglas Watson
SP4 James E. Bonner
SP4 Thomas E. Hughes
SP4 James R. Russell
SP4 Virgel K. Stormer
SP4 Philip D. Walker
PFC John P. Murphy
PVT Morris Pattillo



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