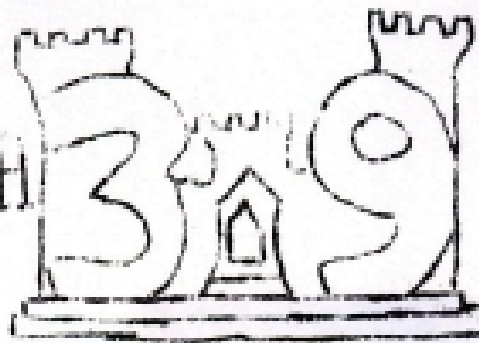


THIS MONTH



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THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE
NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

BRAVO FOR "BRAVO"

Early this month a pier on the Quang Ngai Bridge was blown as a result of Viet Cong action at night. The following morning a reconaissance was made and a report on the damages was submitted that evening. A few days later the 39th's B Company was given the assignment to build four Bailey crib piers to be set into place after the piles were driven by the 137th Light Equipment Company.

First platoon, B Co was assigned the job of carrying the piles and laying the stringers on them to form a platform for the piers to be set on. The third platoon is building the Bailey crib pier to be used. The pier is being built at the base camp, LZ Dottie, and will be transferred to the bridge site on low beds as soon as the piles are completed. The piers consist of two double double (2 vertical, 1 horizontal) trusses. The piers will be 15'1" and after they are capped they will be a total of 15'6". At the time of completion they will be lowered into place from the top of the bridge by two cranes.

provides men for the night security.

The operation is a combined operation but still a lot of credit will have to go to B Co for their hard work and long hours they have put into this operation. This job called for a lot of muscle power which the 39th Engr Bn is proud to say that B Co has a lot of. Whenever there is a job to be done of this nature the 39th can always count on B Co to get the job done fast and in an efficient manner. Their work is among the best. Our thanks goes to the men of Bravo.

The 26th Engr Bn has supplied the rafts for the work done at water level, also men to work the rafts and assist in the night security. B Company also

Take stock in America.
No-Redeemable Bonds of Maturity

FROM THE DECK OF THE COMMANDER
LTC W.R. MUNN

Bn Charles Command

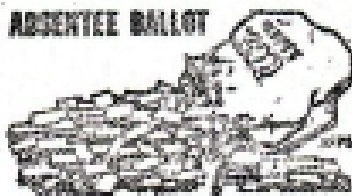
Safety

As the combat activity is scaling down, and the character of the environment becomes more garrison oriented, there has been a rise in the rate of accidental injuries. While redeployment of US forces continues, the level of accidents is expected to remain relatively constant, especially in motor vehicle accidents. In actual combat we are more apt to react effectively to safety needs, but when the "pressure is off" we are apt to develop a false sense of security. We may fail to realize that a speeding truck on a dangerous road can kill us just as dead as an enemy bullet. We can forget that a round chambered in our M16 or M79 cannot differentiate between friend and foe.

Even when we can mention and tell of acts of heroism and courage in cases of combat deaths, it is still extremely difficult to prepare a letter of condolence for a young wife or a loving parent. It becomes an almost impossible task when the obvious cause was negligence or a careless attitude.

There is a little of the gambler in each of us. But when our lives are at stake we must make sure we have the odds going for us. That is why a combat soldier carries extra ammunition, a driver services his vehicle before departing on a mission or a pilot performs pre-flight checks. Safety is a kind of life insurance. It is necessary that we all become more safety conscious. If your buddy drives or handles his weapon carelessly, remind him of proper safety procedures. Remember, the life you save may be your own!

ABSENTEE BALLOT



The morning of Feb 1, 1971, LTC James G Ton turned over the command of the 39th Engr Bn to LTC W.R. Munn. Those witnessing the ceremony included BC Attoberry, Assistant Div Commander 23rd Infantry Div; Col Clark, the 23rd Chief of Staff and serving as the reviewing officer LTC Remus, commanding officer of the 84th Engr Bn.

The various companies of the 39th were represented by the respective company commanders and the company guidons. Other units represented at the ceremony included LTC Dutchyshyn, commanding officer of the 26th Engr Bn; LTC Francis, commanding officer of the 57th Trans. Bn; LTC Holihan, Chu Led Installation Co-ordinator; and LTC Fell, commanding officer of the Chu Led Defense Command.

Prior to the actual change of command, LTC Ton was presented two medals by LTC Remus. The awards were the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and the Air Medal.

Leaving the 39th, LTC Ton has been assigned to the Engr Command in Long Binh. The new commanding officer of the 39th, LTC Munn, comes to the 39th from the office, Chief of Engrs, Washington D.C. where he served as Chief of Military Personnel and Administration.

A Pet Mongoose????

Each unit invariably adopts a mascot at one time or another. None other is more unique than Bravo Company's baby mongoose.

The mongoose was originally the pet of an ARVN Co at Quang Ngai but the men of Bravo talked them into selling it to them., and the new owners became Bravo's First Platoon. As most people know the mongoose is the enemy of rats and snakes or anything that it might mistake for a rat or snake. A beckoning finger seems a lot like a

(Cont'd from page 2)

juicy snake, especially to a barely wounded, near sighted baby mongoose. A few lacerations of the finger and the first owner is grateful to sell the pet. However not enough to sell at a loss.

Now the mongoose is the property of Headquarters Platoon, Motor Pool. In time, hopefully, the mongoose will make a unique pet and mascot. All anyone has to do is stop making the friendly fingers look like snakes!

Just Another Day

Sgt Charles Roberts

On Feb 7th, A Co was preparing for a long deserved stand down. Everyone was looking forward to it. By 730 am the sun was out and all indications were that it would be another nice, warm afternoon, and at noon steaks and beer were to be the order of the day. Just as things were beginning to look up, word came down that the VC had blown a culvert on QL1 and A Company had been assigned the mission of repairing the damaged culvert.

The second platoon was chosen to complete the task, and at first the men were pretty disturbed about having to work on their half day off, but by 8:15 am the platoon was ready to move out with culvert and equipment. It seemed the second platoon was going to miss out on another stand down. Around 1230 back in the company area the second platoon was not forgotten. Steaks and salads were being prepared to send out to the job site, and all in all the day turned out to be a big success. The culvert was completed and the second platoon returned back to the company to spend the remainder of the day enjoying the stand down.

Three days later the second platoon was again called into action when Charlie blew a 60" culvert on QL-1. Since QL-1 is such a vital supply route the damaged culvert had to be repaired immediately. Rumors are now going around that Charlie isn't going to blow any more culverts because he knows that it will be to no avail what with the second platoon

wanting to repair any damage to QL-1. Credit should be given to the second platoon for their arduous work and the long hours that went into the repair of Charlie's midnight work.

MOVING ON

1Lt James J Carpenter

On Jan 30th, the 511th Panel Bridge Co began a move that would see them leave the warmth and security of Chu Lai for a new strange location, Quang Tri Combat Base, 16 miles from the DMZ.

The 511th's 13 hr trip took them through many of the historical places in Vietnam. Convoying to Da Nang they stopped to eat in a local cemetery. Moving onward, they went through the dangerous Hy Van Pass, leaving the sun behind. After traveling through the pass, cold winds and rains greeted the Chu Lai Warriors to the northern part of MR I. Reaching Phu Bai, the 511th then proceeded onward to the historical city of Hue. Cameras were in an abundance as the convoy proceeded slowly through the city's crowded road ways. As dusk approached the 511th continued onward. Leaving the congested areas behind the movement of the convoy was picked up.

The 511 finally pulled into Quang Tri, cold and tired, only to find that a mission was awaiting them. They had to unload their own gear, then load the trucks with a Bailey bridge, set up living quarters and be prepared to leave for the bridge site at dawn. More than enough for the one day!

The 511th responded to their motto of "You Call, We Haul" and was ready ahead of time to complete their mission. !

Did you know???? That an inch-deep acre of wet snow can yield more than 5,300 gallons of water while a similar amount of light powdery snow may produce only 1,300 gallons!!!

My Lai Revisited
 Lt. Michael L. Shaw

Paintmen for Operation Dewey Canyon

Despite the inclement weather and the reports on increased activity, elements of C Company moved back to Route 521, a secondary road located in the infamous My Lai area of the Betangan Peninsula. The first and third platoons have been tasked with upgrading 521 to single, all weather road.

However, before the engineers begin work on the road they have to build a new night defensive position (NDF). The new NDF will be the home of the first and third platoons til their construction efforts have been completed. NDF Wrong Hole, which housed the engineers last construction season, has been turned over to the Regional and Popular Forces of Quang Ngai Province.

The new NDF is presently taking shape on one of the few mountains close to 521. Starting with only a determination to establish a new home, C Company dozers leveled the site, but not without some quite noticeable problems. Large, jeep sized boulders were encountered making the work much harder than anticipated. Since the new NDF will be home for several months, timber living bunkers will be constructed to provide maximum protection and comfort.

Most of the local Vietnamese remember the men of C Company from last construction season and are quick to give a friendly smile and a peace sign. Daily the Vietnamese bring in or point out mines, booby traps and explosives they have found making life safer for both themselves and the engineers. Now, with a little cooperation from Mother Nature, C Company will complete the rewarding job of helping the Vietnamese in getting their produce to market over an all weather-all year Route 521.

To the unexperienced, land clearing operations sound rather mundane and boring. A job that takes little skill and real knowledge, after all, just how difficult can it be to push dirt around? But, for the men of the 18th Engr Bde's 59th Land Clearing Company land clearing is an ever changing job that has as much challenge and danger as nearly any in Vietnam. Spearheading the Dewey Canyon II Operation in the drive from Ca Lu to the Laotian border, the men of the 59th worked round the clock opening Highway 9.

The 59th's job had been broken into two phases. First, serving as the point element in re-opening the road from Quang Tri north to the border of Laos. They constructed earth fill bypasses around 20 previously destroyed bridges. The work was a challenge for both man and machine. Not only were the hours long and difficult but the men had to be ever alert for the ever possible enemy ambush or harassment by mines and booby traps. Also the terrain in this area is a danger factor in itself. The road winds its way along the mountain sides and drops off the edge into steep ravines and rivers. Already several vehicles have been lost with the resulting casualties as they inadvertently went off the side of the road sliding over the edge and into the ravine. Working through the night in the early stages of the operation, the elephant grass made it virtually impossible to see ahead of the dozer blade. The "Push wackers" of the 59th exercised extra caution so as not to drive their dozer over the edge and send it cartwheeling towards the bottom. Fortunately no such troubles were encountered.

Having completed phase one, the 59th immediately started phase two, clearing areas in the immediate Khe Sanh vicinity. Then proceeding to clear land 50 meters on either side of Highway 9 from there to the border.

One thing you won't want to meet on your Vietnam tour is an adult king cobra snake which can conceivably measure 15 feet or more.

(Cont Page 5, Col 1)

While clearing land in the Khe Sanh area they soon found themselves literally in the middle of a problem--an unmarked Special Forces minefield. Luckily, many of the mines were useless by this time due to the weathering of two years. Other headaches included the hundreds of bomb craters left from the siege of Khe Sanh in 1968 not to mention the bombs that were dropped during air strikes that had failed to detonate. Taking a break, Specialist Four Thomas Morgan of Rockford, Ill discovered a yet to be detonated 500 pound bomb lying in front of his D7G dozer blade.

The men of the 59th have really set an example for the other units during the operation. As most people try to get out of work when ever possible, the "Bushweackers" couldn't seemingly find enough. At every deemed bridge they encountered, the lead dozers would get right to the task of building a causeway. The following dozers would then move to the sides of the road and begin to clear areas to be used as makeshift helicopter pads for resupply. When night approached the dozer operators would spread out and cut numerous night defensive positions from the dense jungles for the personnel assisting in the operation. The operators of the 59th rarely need prompting from their superiors on a job, they see what has to be done and do it.

In spite of the long and arduous hours, the lack of sleep and the multitude of problems, the morale of the 59th is extremely high. Reaching the Laotian border, the Bushweackers erected a concrete post they had carried with them from the base camp in Chu Lai. The post carried with it the name of the operation and the men involved. Next to this was a makeshift guidon for the 59th proclaiming to the world, that in spite of popular belief, the engineers are the Army's point men, not the infantry or armor.

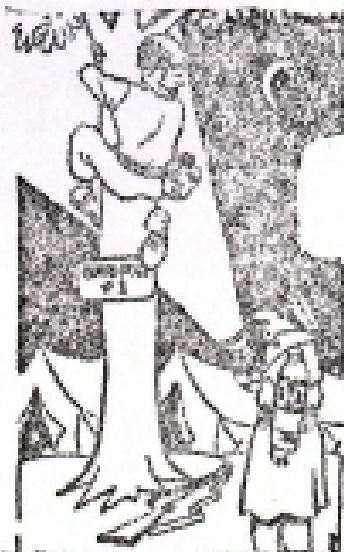
An interesting fact--On the island of Maui, it takes half a million gallons of water to produce a single ton of raw sugar.

The Trail

Sgt Charles Roberts

Construction season is here and A Company is all prepared to hit the road. A Company's third platoon is tasked with upgrading Route 522, which is far from the superhighway as everyone is used to back in the world. Route 522 is more like an old abandoned Indian trail. The road cuts in and out of mountains and through rice paddies. The first day on the road a thorough mine sweep was conducted with negative results. That in itself was strange because no one had been working on the road for at least the past several months. By placing 9 culverts within the first 4 1/2 miles, the road has taken on a much reformed look already.

Thus far only one mine has been found in the road and that within the last few days, so we can expect that Charlie's will be mining the road more frequently now. Thus far A Co has been returning to Chicken Little every night. However, as they progress farther out on the road they will set up an MIF, saving much time wasted in travel but also increasing the danger of enemy activity. MIF life is already familiar to the men of Alpha, this won't be the first nor the last time they will be living from an MIF. Each day they spend upgrading 522 makes the old "Indian" trail look much more like a real road.



OR, IT'S YOU SIR... YOU GAVE ME QUITE A TURN!

Hallucination

CPT Glenn Robbins
CPT Sam McAfee

Vietnam has long been noted for the speed in which the vegetation and climate resist the efforts of man to make his mark on the land. Clear areas become overgrown in days, buildings and roads crumble and land marks disappear overnight. Until now however, this effect has not been noticed in the major base camps in Vietnam. Nevertheless, the 39th's Headquarters Co received through its suggestion box a plea from a member of the company that read:

"It all started innocently enough one day. It didn't seem like a big deal when the outdoor stage disappeared, then re-appeared in a new location, and I hardly paid any attention to it. Then, a few days later, I went to the Headquarter's orderly room to check the duty roster. Arriving at the orderly room, (I thought) I was shocked to find it missing. After a brief search however, I found it in the former outdoor stage location. Shrugging, I thought 'that's the Army for you' and went on my way.

The next week I gathered up my linen and headed for the supply room to turn it in. You guessed it, the supply room had moved. It was now crouched behind the orderly room. Two days later, a new building was moved in next to the battalion surgeon and a sign saying 'Battalion Maintenance Officer' appeared, or grew, on the building. Feeling a little dizzy by then, I went on sick call. Afterwards, going out the back door of the aid station I walked into a wall that hadn't been there when I had gone in. After treatment for bruises, scratches, and a bad temper, I found out that I had just christened the new battalion drug clinic.

I am in sad shape these days. I went two days without clean clothes because I couldn't find the laundry concession, I was almost run over by the new unit day room and I have chafed ankles from chaining myself to my bench so I can sleep with security. If I could find the mail room I'd write my congressman. Please

(Can't Col 2)

help me! Signed, Insecure"

Upon questioning, a representative of the unit stated that the moves and relocation of many company and battalion facilities was undertaken for the purpose of making facilities more convenient to the personnel of the unit. Since the head-quarters area at Chu Lai has been described as either "the swaggiest sand dune in Vietnam" or the "sandiest swamp in Southeast Asia," many moves were dictated by health and sanitation considerations. The representative also stated however, that moving is like smoking, "It's hard to quit!" Statistics furnished by the unit include: 12 buildings having been moved, 3 disassembled and rebuilt, 2 buildings that were literally dropped by the crane. Of these two, one and a half buildings were rebuilt with 25 lbs of toothpicks being donated to the mess hall. For the 39th it is no longer the old cliché "Drive On", rather "Move On!"

Chaplain's Corner.....

Chaplain Billy D Ingram

I wish to share some valuable insights concerning the increase of drug abuse in civilian society and in the military. I share these insights not only with the drug user, but also with those of use who are mystified by this strange phenomenon.

Dr Helen Knowles in her book Drugs on College Campus in a questionnaire "Why do you take drugs?" discovered six classifiable reasons. 1) Curiosity 2) Increasing social reaction, liven up the party 3) Fun 4) More insight into myself 5) To gain meaningful social relationships 6) Exploring the meaning of life. There is nothing basically different in the first three reasons than those offered by the alcoholic users of past generations. The last three reasons are however, unique. The last three are an indict-

(Can't Page 7)

ment upon present adult society.

Psychologists in 'Guin Khan have discovered five characteristics of the typical heroin user. 1) they are from broken homes, 2) they do not have a healthy relationship with their fathers. One and often both parents are alcoholics. 3) They did not graduate from high school and offer as an excuse they could not get along with their teachers or else they just lost interest, 5) they were not able to hold a job in the adult world, 6) the majority of them are enlistees for the reason of getting away from home or else to stay out of jail. It would be fallacious to assume the same pattern fits for marijuana users. Among heroin users there are certain character disorders. 1) They have not learned to endure pain. 2) They have not learned to postpone pleasure for future gains. 3) They have not learned to cope with their impulses.

Perhaps one of the best sources of insightful information comes from The Whole World Is Watching by Mark Gerson, a 1970 Harvard graduate. He gives three reasons for the use of drugs 1) 'rites de passage, 2) awareness and involvement with the external world, 3) self-analysis

He states few young men approach pot or LSD ultimately in a quest for pleasure or escape, although these are sometimes initial reasons. Most college students go to these drugs.....to test their minds as previous societies tested endurance or resourcefulness as a sign of manhood..... Their goal is to push themselves as close as they can to the brink of sanity, without losing control.

"The almost universal reaction to popular pschedalic drugsis that the individual feels he was not aware of his life to the maximum before he used drugs. The cumulative effect of numerous highs is that one feels more aware of.....the beauty that is part of life.....the external world is appreciated in a way similiar(the user thinks) to that of pre-modern man, whose body had not become so removed from nature and dulled and desensitized in its sensations."

"This college generation uses drugs as tools for furthering self-analysis designed to root out the self defeating patterns of behavior that have been ingrained by mass society."

Criticism of the use of drugs by Gerson hits the root of the matter. "...not denying that drugs offer a potential short-term psychic benefit ...that benefit is gained at a price. Drugs cost in physical well being and self reliance what psychotherapy cost in money...They are using drugs as a permanent support, like the man who never leaves his psychotherapist. Whether it is destroyed lungs and constricted blood vessels from marijuana, or brain and possibly chromosome irregularities from LSD, or general physical irregularities from any drugs at all, drugs take their toll. And drugs do not give prolonged and continued psychic benefits which counterbalance the sacrifice."

"Too many drug users in this generation, after finding psychic involvement and physical pleasure through drugs, fail to realize that drugs are not the only or the best way to achieve that involvement or pleasure."



WE'RE ALL HOT AND TIRED, TOO,
FARNSWORTH, BUT...