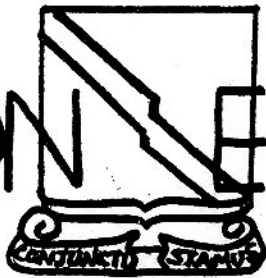


6TH BATTALION

CANNON EARS

27TH ARTILLERY



Vol. 1, No. 4

Quan Loi, RVN, APO 96490

15 December 1969

KINNARD TO CHIEF OF STAFF

GEN. ROBERTS BECOMES II FFV ARTY COMMANDER

Brigadier General Francis J. Roberts assumed command of the II Field Force Artillery in a ceremony Nov. 20, at Plantation Vietnam. •

Lieutenant General Julian J. Ewell, commanding general II Field Force Vietnam, reviewed the ceremony.

General Roberts, a native of Pittsfield, Mass., was graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., in 1942 and was chief of staff, Alaskan Command before coming to II Field Force Vietnam Artillery.

(See ROBERTS, back page)

SYMBOL OF AMERICAN HUMANITY

DAY ROOM COMPLETED

The ribbon was cut; the doors were opened; and months of US and Vietnamese cooperation and coordination culminated in the successful completion of another civic action project.

The project was the addition of a day room to the Binh Long Province Hospital.

Dr. Phan Ke Toai, province medical chief, thanked the Americans for
(See DAY ROOM, back page)

PRESENTS ON THE WAY

"OP VIET 69"

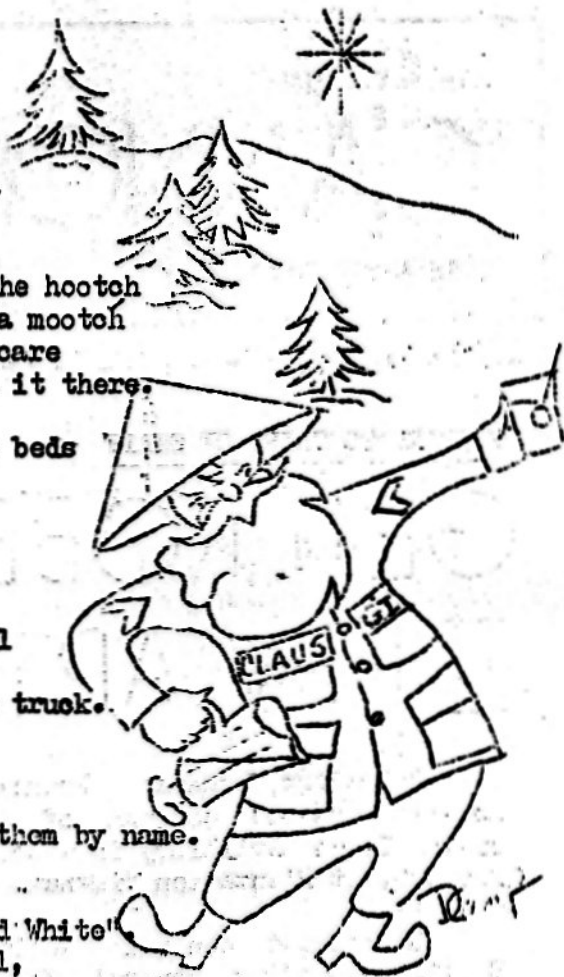
Eugene Tinory, Operation Vietnam 1969 program director, announced that almost 800 pounds of presents are on the way to Quan Loi. The gifts will be distributed to the men of this battalion and the maneuver forces it supports.

The packages are expected to arrive the week before Christmas and the presents are scheduled to be opened on Christmas Day.

Each Christmas since 1966, this battalion has been the recipient of hundreds of individual gifts from the students of E.W. Thurston Jr. High.

SANTA ON THE WAGON

Christmas Greetings



Twas the night before Christmas and all through the hootch
 There were empties and butts, left around by a mootch
 And the best quart I'd hid by the blastwall with care
 Had been swiped by some bum, who'd discovered it there.

My guests all had long since been poured in their beds
 To wake in the morning with god-awful heads.
 My mouth full of cotton, hung down to my lap
 Because I was dying for one more nightcap.

When through the doorway there came such a smell
 I sprang to my feet to see what the . . . well
 And what to my wondering eyes should show up
 But eight bloated reindeer, hitched to a beer truck.
 With a little old driver who looked like a hick
 But I saw it was Santa, as tight as a tick.
 Staggering onward, those eight reindeer came,
 While he hiccoughed and belched as he called them by name.

"On Schenley! On Seagram! We ain't got all night,
 You too, Haig and Haig, and you too, Black and White"
 "Scram up on this roof, get the hook off this wall,
 Get going you dummies, we've got a long haul."
 So up on the roof went the reindeer and truck
 But a banana tree branch hit Santa before he could duck.
 And then in a twinkling I heard from above
 A hook of a noise that was no cooing dove.

So I pulled in my head and I cocked a sharp ear,
 Down the doorway he plunged, landing smack on his rear.
 He was dressed in fatigues, unbloused wore his pants
 And the way the guy squirmed, well, I guess he had ants.
 He had pints and quarts in the sack on his back
 And a breath that'd blow a freight train right off the track.
 He was chubby and plump and he tried to stand right
 But he didn't fool me, he was high as a kite.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to work
 And he missed half the stockings, the plastered old jerk.
 Then putting five fingers to the end of his nose,
 He gave me the password . . . up the doorway he rose
 He sprang for his truck at so hasty a pace
 That he tripped on a sandbag and slid on his face.
 But I heard him burp back when he passed out of sight,
 "Merry Christmas, you rum-dums, now really got tight!"

JDS ALPHA-BITS WRO

By: SP4 John Wavra

ALPHA SHOOTS AT MARGE

The 175mm platoon of Alpha Battery recently moved out for a one day "hip-shoot". Traveling to LZ Marge, located near Loc Ninh, the 175mm guns moved into range of targets they could not reach from Quan Loi. In fact the targets, a series of bunker complexes and a bridge, were located in an area out of range of US and ARVN artillery. The operation was termed a success when the guns, escorted by the 11th Armored Cavalry, returned to Quan Loi that same evening after accomplishing their objective.

A DAY ROOM AT QUAN LOI ??????

Yes, plans are in the making to build a day room at Alpha Battery. As soon as the building materials are acquired, according to Captain Donald Albers, battery commander, construction will begin. As a start, the day room will contain such time consuming hobbies as scale model construction, a wood-working shop, and a giant slot-car racing set. Besides being a place to devote a little "free" time to a favorite hobby, it will be a place to write letters, read, or just relax.

THE FRIGID OVEN

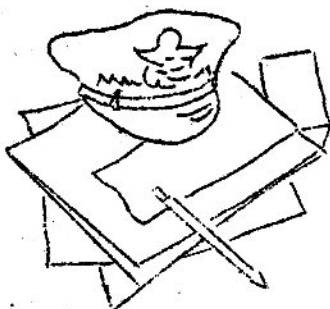
Remember when you first arrived in country and processed through the 90th Replacement Battalion--a long or short time ago? You were issued an Army OD wool blanket with a 98 degree sun beating down on you. You probably laughed and thought of the old story of the Eskimo getting a refrigerator. Little did you know that you would make good use of that blanket and your field jacket, if you had the foresight to bring it and had not turned them in at the 90th. Temperatures at Quan Loi have been fluctuating greatly from a cool 64 degrees at 0715 in the morning to a torrid 95 degrees in the afternoon. The temperature dropped almost 30 degrees on one occasion to an uncomfortable 66 degrees. With the advent of this cool weather, Christmas must be near.

DEPARTURES

Leaving Alpha Battery in the last month for reassignment at the most sought after duty station, Fort Sill, were: 1Lt Charles Allen, Sfc James Ashe, Sp4 Steve Aiken, and Sp4 Leon Allen. Sp4 Gerald Clare and Sp4 Claude Dancy departed also, but they will separate from the Army on their return to the United States.

NEW GUYS

Alpha Battery added several new guys to its roster: 2Lt Michael Netzel from Milwaukee; Ssg Charles Wilfork from Louisville; Sgt Bob Lipka hailing from Rochester, N.Y.; Sp4 Freddie Carter from McHenry, Miss.; Pfc James Byther from Raynham, Mass.; Pfc Joseph Ciullo out of Long Island, N.Y.; Pfc Donald Corbin from Lake Providence, La.; Pfc Michale Lemburg from Kent, Wash.; Pfc Carrol Loveless from Olivet, Mich.; Pfc Lewis Thompson of Lafayette, Tenn.; and Pvt Melvin Selman from New Castle, Ind. Alpha Battery welcomes all of its New Guys.



CO'S CORNER

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Looking down on the jungle from my helicopter today, I thought to myself-- "Christmas, ten days away--that is hard to believe." I'm sure that each of us has had the same kind of thought as the dust billows through the battery areas under a sunny cloudless sky. It is interesting how we have associated snow, red and green decorations, and Santa Claus with Christmas. The association is so strong that when these manifestations of the season are not present, the spirit of the holiday is difficult to develop.

Christmas, as we all learned in our youth is the birthday of Christ who gave Himself to the world. The spirit of Christmas, then, is one of giving. Each of you is living this spirit by your very presence in Vietnam. You are giving of your life for some other people. It is a wonderful gift that you make in this dusty, jungle covered country and to its people.

In each battery you will bring great personal joy to a small segment of the people whom you will host on Christmas. Although they won't understand your words they will understand your spirit--the true spirit of Christmas.

May each of you have a happy holiday knowing that the new year--1970--will bring each of you home to your family and friends.

---LEONARD F.F. REED JR., LTC

THE CANNON-EARS

The CANNON-EARS is an authorized, unofficial monthly publication of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, APO 96490. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army.

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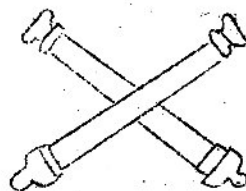
PRINTER: Sp4 Gary Walter

BEST SOLDIER AWARD

TOP EM

Sp4 Nels G. Osterholme of Astoria, Ore., a member of the ammo section in Charlie Battery, was chosen Soldier of the Month in the battalion's third month of competition. Osterholme, selected by a board on Dec 8, will receive a \$25 bond plus a three-day in-country R&R at Vung Tau. The top soldier was chosen by the battalion XO and first sergeants.

CHARGIN' CHARLIE CHATTER



By: SP4 Ron Frantz

TEXANS AND CRUISE

New arrivals to Chargin' Charlie were: 1Lt John Schuepbach from McAllen, Tex., and 2 Lt Stephen Bresk, Jr. from Houston. Alas, erroneously omitted from last month's roster of newcomers was 2Lt Dennis Vauter of Willoughby, Ohio. Those joining the ranks of the Firing Battery who could be seen searching for a bucket of muzzle blast, bore extractors, or lanyard grease were: Pfc Christopher Muff of Newport, Calif.; Joseph Elliott from Chesterfield, Va.; Pfc Earl Coleman of Somerset, Pa.; Pfc Robert Hepstall of Thomasville, Ala.; Pfc Wayne Pfeifer of Lester Prairie, Minn.; Sp4 Gregory Brueck from Bridgeport, Mich.; Pfc Rodney Farr from Oberlin, Kan.; and Pfc Wayne Vinson of Santa Rosa, Calif. Sp5 Kerry King of Columbus, Ohio rejoined Charlie from Service Battery.

FREEDOM FLYERS

Then there were those few who finally reached "Zero days and a wakeup." Those departing who were awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Service included Sp5 Jerry Brazil who was Motor Sergeant and Sp5 Allen Grissom who was chief computer in the Fire Direction Center. Ssg Robert Williams was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service for his tenure as section chief and ammo sergeant. A fond farewell was also paid to Sp5 David Boyer also awarded the Bronze Star Medal for service rendered as the battery medic over the past two years. During this time, "Doc" organized and participated in over 250 MEDCAPS, treated over 7000 patients, and formulated plans to help build "Green Acres" Chieu Hoi village outside Phuoc Vinh. Sp4 Chester Vanderkolk and Sp4 Mark Hershey left Charlie to become civilians. Also leaving the unit was 2Lt William Smith III who will assume his new duties as Battalion Aerial Observer.

MORE STRIPES

The following individuals were lucky enough to see increases in their monthly pay as they were promoted to their present grade: Sgt John Garvik, Sp5 Dennis Gendreau, Sp5 Daniel Holmes, Sp4 Nels Osterholme, Sp4 James Hollar, Sp4 Fred Sergeant, and Sp4 Joseph Wessels.

NAMED X

Not to be outdone by our Quan Loi counterparts, Chargin' Charlie, with the departure of its various canine mascots was also the somewhat proud owner of a pig whose name must remain withheld. The pig, however, whose future was somewhat speculative, had ideas of his own about any upcoming dinner in his behalf and after several unsuccessful attempts to escape, finally took off one morning without his usual pursuers--he escaped by taking a detour through a mine field.

THE NEW SOUTH

Plantation

SERVICE BATTERY

By: Sp6 Bobby Veteto

Service Battery has been busier than the three-ring circus it is often accused of being, changing itself around and making room for new faces. There is a new BC, ammo officer, first sergeant and battery clerk.

On top of that, the busy transient hootch has been relocated, the orderly room rearranged, the RTT rig decorated with a new coat of sandbags and taps sounded for the EM/NCO Club.

Cpt Robert Dieterlen, formerly battalion motor officer, is the new BC; 1SG Danny Tillman, new in country, is the new top sergeant; 2Lt Paul Masciarelli, formerly with Bravo Battery in Song Be, is the XO and ammo officer; and Richard "The Professor" Myers is the battery jerk.

The transients from the other batteries who find it necessary (or desirable) to go south for a multitude of reasons and non-reasons are finding things a bit more demanding. They make formations, clean their own hootch, and even fill sandbags. Plantation is no longer the easy livin' of the Old South; this is the New South. Times change.

The EM/NCO Club, which hardly got its feet on the ground after the battery move, gave its wares away for weeks, as Sp4 Bobrowski, the custodian, liquidated the stock. The II Field Force ordered the closure.

Also the Personnel Section, that anonymous group who control our precarious lives, has moved across the

The "Professor" will be taking over the Plantation writing chores from now on.

street from Service Battery--so they can reach each other's throats. Really, it makes doing business easier for those with personnel problems.

Otherwise, things go on much the same at Plantation. Rockets plop in eleven miles out and we go on red alert. The war drones on.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answers on Page 8

ACROSS

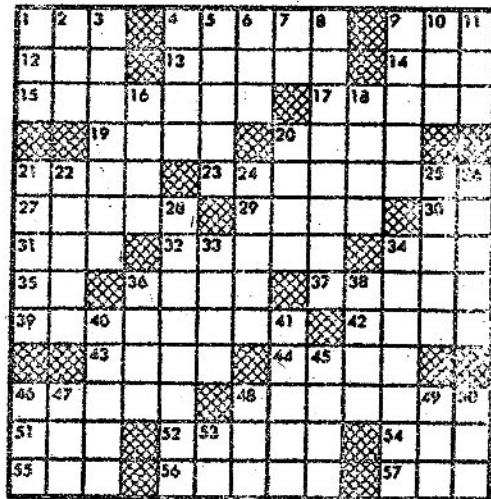
- 1-Knock
- 4-Mountain nymph
- 9-Prefix three
- 12-Goddess of healing
- 13-Out of date
- 14-Possesses
- 15-Three-pronged spear
- 17-Chore
- 19-Opening
- 20-Unlock
- 21-Reach across
- 23-Choke
- 27-Fall guy (slang)
- 29-Landed
- 30-For example (abbr.)
- 31-Mature
- 32-Eel fisherman
- 34-Equality
- 35-Sun god
- 36-Edible rootstock
- 37-Marsh bird
- 39-Scoffing
- 42-Direction
- 43-Soapstone
- 44-Word of sorrow
- 46-Trumpeter bird
- 48-Outlawed baseball pitch
- 51-Number
- 52-Memoranda
- 54-Man's name
- 55-Greek letter
- 56-Embrace
- 57-Tattered cloth

4-Unlock

- 5-Rages
- 6-Superlative ending
- 7-Conjunction
- 8-Gives up hope
- 9-Unit
- 10-Hurried
- 11-Suffix: adherent of
- 16-Lairs
- 18-Temporary shelter
- 20-Heraldic device
- 21-Masts
- 22-Hoathien
- 24-Claw
- 25-Jumps
- 26-Long-legged bird
- 28-Baby horse
- 33-Man's name



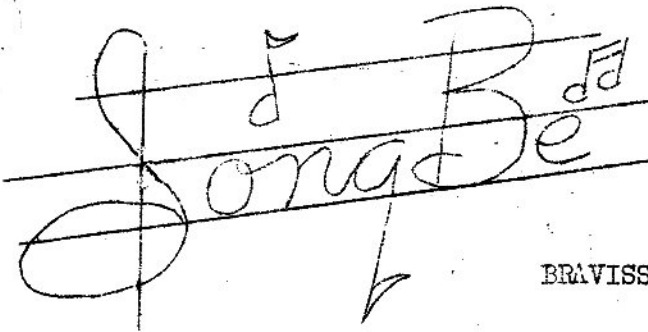
- 34-Turkish coin
- 36-Athletic group
- 38-Tidy
- 40-Babylonian hero
- 41-Yawns
- 45-Speech impediment
- 46-Devoiced
- 47-Obtain
- 48-Music: as written
- 49-Guido's high note
- 50-Outfit
- 53-Conjunction



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DOWN

- 1-Soak
- 2-Ventilate
- 3-Personal



BATTERY B

By: SP4 Robert Kane

BRAVISSIMO !!

MAJOR AT BRAVO

Bravo must be the most fortunate battery in the battalion in having a high-ranking officer working on one of the gun crews.

Major Jones, came to Bravo Battery from the deactivated 6th Bn, 15th Arty.

Seriously now, Pfc Major Jones comes from Tampa, Fla., and is a cameraman in Bustin Bravo.

DEE DEE MOWS

November saw six men depart from the battery after serving a year in Vietnam. The good-byes were short and we understand that Alvin Wong, Alan Hazen, Richard Williams, Manuel Santos III, Joel Lehtola, and Craig Bell were on time to catch the big "Freedom Bird" and its flight back to the "World".

NEW GUYS

New arrivals this month were David Pots, Lloyd Myers, Gail Page, James Smith, Ronald Johnson, and James Inman.

Some other new faces were supplied by the men from the deactivated 6th Bn, 15th Arty. They were: John McDollister, Clyde Jackson, Clayton Servilican, Major Jones, Tony Hagood, Jamie Killgore, Tom Holnaiser, Dan Cobb, Clyde Gibo, and William Gregg.

PRESENTATIONS

LTC Reed presented the following men with Army Commendation medals for service:

Sgt Delbert Russell
Cpl Thomas Koba
Sp4 Donald Mullins

FORTY-NINE MEN TO GO

DEC R&R'S

Forty-nine men from the battalion will be going on R&R this month. This is the highest figure for R&Rs in the last eight months. The previous high was 45 in May. December also marks the highest percentage of individual R&R requests allocated to our battalion. This month 93% of our requests were granted compared to 65 per cent in November and 73% in October.

Breaking the 49 allocations up by location, 24 men will be going to Australia, 11 each to Hawaii and Bangkok, 2 to Singapore, and 1 IM will be taking pictures in Hong Kong.

Bravo Battery, formerly an R&R site, will have 18 men going on R&R while Alpha will have 10, Charlie 9, HHB 8, and Service 4.

LOCAL FARMERS BENEFIT

HAMLETS SUPERVISE SELF-HELP PROJECT

SOOIE! SOOIE! HERE PIG! HERE PIG!
The local An Loc inhabitants are becoming accustomed to the sights and sounds of a bustling pig-growing project in their own backyard.

Lt. James Haynes, civic action platoon commander, 2d Civil Affairs Group, II Field Force Vietnam, has

been monitoring the progress of a successful self-help program.

Lt. Haynes related that last February six pigs were donated from US sources to the local farmers in an attempt to get the project started. Since the initial assistance, the Vietnamese have taken charge.

What makes the project unique is that the production and distribution of the porkers is directly supervised by the hamlets. Rather than send the pigs to the market to be butchered, they are handed out to the local farmers in the An Loc area.

ROBERTS, Continued from page 1

General Kinnard will be transferred to Headquarters II Field Force Vietnam to become Chief of Staff. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1944 and holds masters degrees in political science from Princeton University and international affairs from George Washington University. Before coming to the II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, he was the assistant for Nuclear Planning, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

DAY ROOM, Continued from page 1

their participation and lasting souvenir to Vietnam. Dr. Toai said, "The day room would remain a symbol of American humanity to the Vietnamese people."

The day room will provide a suitable place for patients to congregate daily. At nights, the room will provide sleeping accommodations for those unable to be housed in the overcrowded wards. Eventually, the day room will be equipped with cooking facilities, a television, and other recreational equipment.

The day room was constructed with financial contributions from the 6th Bn, 27th Arty, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and the 3d Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division, as well as local Vietnamese businessmen. The province chiefs provided materials for the roof and the concrete for the floor. Furniture was provided by the local merchants.

ANSWERS TO TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

