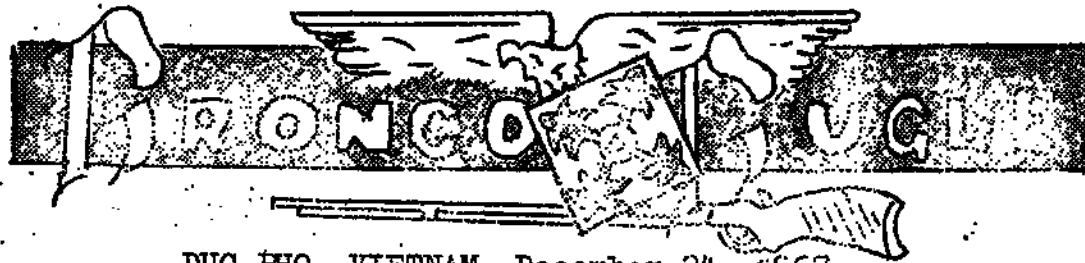


Merry ★ Christmas



DUC PHO, VIETNAM, December 24, 1967

COL Wear Extends Season's Greetings to 3d Brigade

I wish to extend to each individual in the 3rd Brigade Task Force my best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Realizing that Christmas is a time for children, families and friends it might be difficult to attach the word "Merry" to this Christmas. Even though we will miss the ritual parts of Christmas, such as the exchange of presents, parties and other material blessings; I think our mission in Vietnam really expresses the true spirit of Christmas, that of Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men.

Our mission will be a hard one to obtain because true peace can never be achieved while half the world's people live in slavery under Communism. But each man here can be proud that he is helping to make future Christmases "Merry".

I wish that every man in the Brigade could be home with his loved ones, but since we cannot, I hope that being a part of the best Brigade in Vietnam has some compensation.

Let me again wish you a Merry Christmas and the best of luck in the coming New Year. -- COL George E. Wear, Commanding

Marine Tops NCO Academy

For over a year, the 3rd Brigade has run an NCO Preparatory Academy for exceptional members of the Brigade to improve their effectiveness here in Vietnam and prepare them for duty as NCO's.

The school has met with great success in the Brigade and competition among units runs high for the honor graduate spot.

The 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery entered a surprise candidate in the last cycle, Marine corporal Mikel L. Stevenson, a Naval gunfire FO who walked away with top graduate honors and a lot of praise from the Academy cadre.

According to SSG F.C. Garcia, Academy NCOIC, "CPL Stevenson is a fine soldier and we found him very willing to learn. Being a Marine and learning Army tactics he did an outstanding job."

CPL Stevenson did not consider himself at much of a disadvantage however, "most of the material had been covered in my Marine training, but I sure took a lot of ribbing here!"

Personal congratulations and a letter of achievement for his 201 File were given the 19-year old Marine by 3rd Brigade commander COL George E. Wear.

Four other Bronco Brigaders also earned letters of achievement and promotion to the next highest rank for finishing as honor graduates. They were: SP4 Michael Berner, C 1/35; SGT Miles Sawvel, D 1/35; SP4 Mark Kaye, C 1/35; and SGT Frederick Priefer, D 1/14.

HAPPY 
NEW YEAR!

Medics Aid Orphans

One of the most touching sights of the Vietnam war to the men of the 3rd Brigade, has been the orphaned children who live in the CPT Ronald Rod Memorial Orphanage of Duc Tho.

As the holiday season approached, many efforts have been made by members of the Brigade to brighten Christmas for the kids. One soldier, SP6 Bruce L. Wilson (San Antonio, Texas) a medic with D Company, 4th Medical Battalion decided that publicity in the States would produce greater results.

SP6 Wilson wrote his wife, Patricia A. Wilson, who in turn, informed the editor of the SAN ANTONIO LIGHT that the children in this small village would enjoy some clothing and toys.

As a result of the publicity, 50-60 boxes of toys and clothing arrived at D Company. The presents were distributed at the orphanage to the 120 kids, and some of the toys saved for Thanksgiving when the medics treated a group of the orphans to a feast in their mess hall.

The boxes still kept coming and an even greater holiday is planned for Christmas. As one might expect, the children were not the only delighted ones as the hardened combat medics of 4th Med, away from home for many months, had a ball showing them how the toys operate.

FINAL NFL STANDINGS

Eastern Conference			
Capital Division			
Dallas	9	5	0
Philadelphia	6	7	1
Washington	5	6	3
New Orleans	3	11	0
Century Division			
Cleveland	9	5	0
New York	7	7	0
St. Louis	6	7	1
Pittsburgh	4	9	1
Western Conference			
Central Division			
Green Bay	9	4	1
Chicago	7	6	1
Detroit	5	7	2
Minnesota	3	8	3
Coastal Division			
Los Angeles	11	1	2
Baltimore	11	1	2
San Francisco	7	7	0
Atlanta	1	12	1

Dallas meets Cleveland and Los Angeles meets Green Bay this weekend for their respective conference championships. The two conference winners play Sunday, December 31 for the NFL title.

AFL STANDINGS

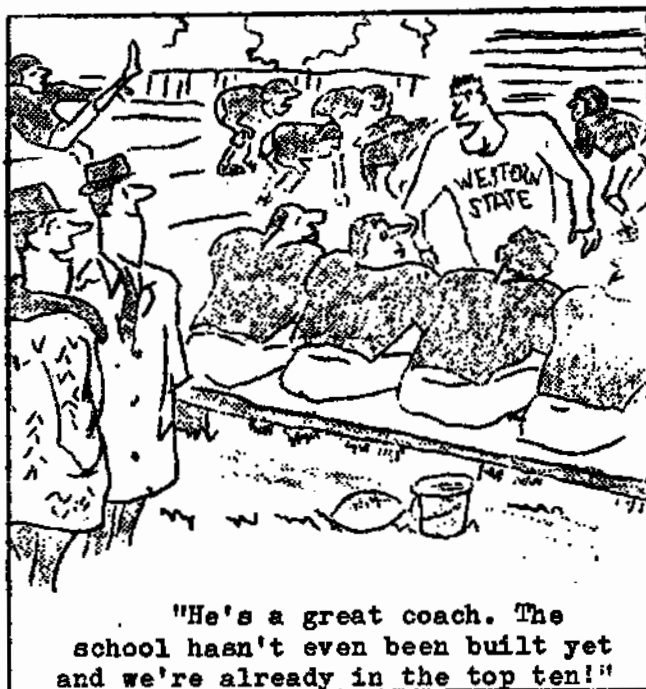
Eastern Division			
Houston	8	4	1
New York	7	5	1
Buffalo	4	9	0
Miami	4	9	0
Boston	3	10	1
Western Division			
Oakland	12	1	0
San Diego	8	4	1
Kansas City	9	5	0
Denver	3	11	0

Oakland, the Western conference winner, meets the Eastern Conference winner on Sunday, December 31 for the AFL title.

sports page

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Eastern Division			
	W	L	GB
Philadelphia	23	9	--
Boston	20	7	½
Detroit	18	14	5
Cincinnati	13	16	8½
New York	13	19	10
Baltimore	10	19	11½
Western Division			
St. Louis	24	8	--
San Francisco	22	11	2½
Los Angeles	17	13	6
Chicago	11	24	14½
Seattle	9	22	14½
San Diego	8	26	16½



"He's a great coach. The school hasn't even been built yet and we're already in the top ten!"

Scholarship

Honors 'Dragon'

ACADEMY

CONT.

C Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry was engaged in a search operation near Tan Ky. As the unit moved across the area, PFC Thomas Durbin perhaps was thinking of the letter he had mailed home a few days earlier.

He was proud of C Company, prouder of his platoon and proudest of his squad. His letter home to his parents had expressed this pride.

A hidden sniper fired. PFC Durbin fell, mortally wounded.

Like many other American soldiers, Durbin was a draftee, inducted while studying Veterinary medicine. He served well, counting days and planning to continue his education.

Escondido, California, his home town, was as proud of him as he was of Charlie Company. A group of citizens, among them Dr. John D. McCoy, Durbin's brother-in-law, developed a plan to express their gratitude for Durbin's sacrifice.

Remembering his plans for a veterinary career, the citizen's committee organized a scholarship fund named in honor of Thomas Durbin to provide aid for veterinary students.

The citizens of Escondido responded enthusiastically and, within weeks, almost \$500 had been donated.

Twelve thousand miles away in Vietnam, CPT Luis Gallegos, commander of C Company, learned of the fund in a letter from Durbin's mother.

Soon, the men of Charlie Company had donated about \$350 in memory of their fallen comrade. The battalion officer's fund contributed another \$125.

Far from home, Thomas Durbin made a great sacrifice. A grateful community is not forgetting.

Twenty - two others also graduated from Class 9-68:

SP4 James Allen, Jr.	3d SPT
SP4 Robert Allon, Jr.	C 1/14
SP4 Anthony Brown	D 2/35
PFC Elmer Bruce	B 2/35
SP4 Ronnie Collins	D 1/14
SP4 Gary Dittmer	A 1/35
SP4 Thomas Dombroski	B 2/35
SP4 Melvin Dorsett	E 2/35
SP4 Joe Eckardt	A 1/14
PFC Gary Englehart	B 2/9
SP4 Robert Evans	E 2/35
SGT Lyle Fikan	B 1/35
SP4 William Froy	C 2/35
SP4 Douglas Gohde	B 1/14
SP4 Daryl Hartman	B 1/35
PFC Henry Hogan	HB 2/9
SP4 Robert Martin	A 1/14
SP4 David Martinez	E 2/35
SP4 Shockey Mayle	C 2/35
PFC John Severn	C 2/9
PFC William Tagliatela	A 2/35
SP4 Ronald Whisenand	D 1/35

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Contributions are welcome and may be sent to: BRONCO BUGLE 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, APO SF 96355.

COL George E. Wear.....Comd Off
1LT Paul Armstrong.....Info Off
1LT James M. Cooke.....Paper OIC
SP4 John F. Coie.....Editor

BRONCO BUGLE

Page 4