

The Scorpion

1st Bn 83d Arty

MAY 1969

VOL V

IN MEMORIAM

On the 18th of May 1969, SP4 Fred H. Paddleford, a member of HNB, 1st Bn 83d Arty passed away quietly on the United States Hospital Ship Repose. He indeed had paid the supreme sacrifice for his country. He had been wounded while administering aid to the wounded during the early morning attack on Fire Support Base Bastogne on 12 May 1969.

Fred Paddleford was born in Buffalo, New York. He and his family lived there a number of years before moving to their present location in Jackson, Fla. After attending High School in Jacksonville, Fred enlisted in the United States Army in June of 1968. From Jacksonville, Fred went to Fort Benning, Ga. where he completed his Basic Training. On 9 September he went to Fort Sam Houston where he completed his training as a corpsman. Fred came to Vietnam on 17 Dec 68, and was assigned to HNB, 1st Bn 83d Arty on 23 Dec 68. He stayed in HNB until he was attached to C Battery on 14 Apr 69. He served at Fire Support Base Bastogne until he was wounded under hostile fire on 12 May 69.

During the past year, Fred has been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnamese Service Medal, The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, and the Purple Heart.

On the 21st of May 1969, a Memorial Service was held in honor of Fred at FSB Blase, the present position of Btry C, 1st Bn 83d Arty. Chaplain McLean of the 27th Engineers conducted the ceremony. An altar was erected, and it was near this altar that the rifle with bayonet was placed in the ground, the helmet placed on top of it and the spit shined boots placed in front of it. A small pouch, carrying the equipment which the Medic uses, a part of his uniform hung from the top of the rifle. On the right hand side of the rifle, the National Colors were unveiled and the Battalion Colors with streamers were unveiled on the left hand side. At this point, the National Anthem was sung followed by the Invocation. Following a Scripture Reading by Chaplain McLean, CPT Babb, the Battalion Surgeon, added pertinent comments concerning the activities in which Fred was engaged. After CPT Babb's comments, A Memorial Prayer was given by the Chaplain ending in a moment of Silent Meditation. The Benediction was given in conclusion.

Fred Paddleford was the first man of the 1st Battalion 83d Artillery to die of wounds received in hostile combat while this Battalion has been in Vietnam. He died in honor as he had lived and it is with this in mind that we pay him tribute.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eldrid Paddleford, 6905 De Lisle Drive, Jacksonville, Florida.

On 12 May 1969 Charlie Battery, then located at FSB Bastogne, was hit with RPG's and mortars. During the attack just persons were slightly wounded by schrapnel from the incoming rounds.

However, one RPG round struck a powder bunker causing it to ignite. While it was burning, SGT Kenneth Knabler and 1LT John Wank braved the flames and possible explosions in order to drive two 175mm ~~guns~~ to a safe location away from the burning powder.

The exploding powder eventually caused a pro Joe bunker to catch fire. Eventually the heat became so intense the crated fuzes exploded. Soon after approximately 125 175 mm HE pro Joes exploded leaving sixteen more persons wounded.

Members of the battery and medics from units stationed at FSB Bastogne gave aid to the wounded and helped in medical operations.

One of the wounded was SP4 Fred H. Paddleford. The wounds he received led to his death on 18 May 1969. Charlie Battery wishes to extend heartfelt condolences to SP4 Paddleford's family and friends. He gave his life while treating the wounded men in his unit. Many of us owe our deepest gratitude to SP4 Paddleford. We also wish to express our thanks to Chaplain McLean for providing a memorial service for Specialist Paddleford on 21 May 1969 at FSB Blase, Charlie Battery's new location.

Due to the loss of CPT Wittkopp and 1LT Wank because of fragmentation wounds, the battery received a new commander and executive officer. CPT Manning, formerly the S-2 Officer is presently in command. 1LT Schoch, who had previously been assigned to this battery but had departed to join B Battery, has temporarily returned to assume the duties of the executive officer.

Through the efforts of these two officers and cooperation of the entire battery, a successful and rapid move was made to FSB Blase on 14 May 1969.

On 16 May C Btry combined with A Btry and CS strikes by the Air Force to account for 140 KIA's in the fight for Ramburger Hill.

Although C Btry was dealt a sobering blow, the morale of the personnel has again risen to its normal high and everyone is eager to settle the score with "Mr. Charles."

DRIVER OF THE MONTH

The second winner of the monthly Service Battery Driver of the Month Award was SP4 John Garcia. John the second consecutive winner out of the Bn Ammo Section has displayed great driving skill and compiled a noteworthy accident record. There have been harrowing experiences however, just ask him what it feels like to slide backwards down a hill in a 5 Ton loaded with "joes". Congratulations are in order for John and all the other safe drivers in the Battalion.

BN AMMO SECTION STILL AT IT

For the fourth month in a row the Bn Ammo Section has been working at top speed and over full capacity. Daily ammo resupply missions keep the stalwarts of the battery moving in all directions except up. It is not unusual to see two runs in one day. SSG Leflore and his crew have been kept on the go for quite some time with no end in sight. Maintenance is growing to be a major problem as the trucks are always on the road but when a breakdown occurs, SSG Reddiok and his crew step in and get the vehicle on the road again with as much dispatch as the Army parts system will allow. Our hats are off to those men of the Bn Ammo Section and all of those that help make their job possible to perform.

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

The monthly award of the Outstanding Soldier of the Month went to SP4 Hargreaves who ably keeps the Battalion Finance Records in order. Hargreaves displayed great job knowledge and military bearing in winning the Soldier of the Month Award in Service Battery.

CPT JOHNSON ENTERS HOSPITAL

Service Battery will be temporarily without the services of their very able Battery Commander and Bn S-4 Officer. CPT Johnson will be going in a extended holiday although the circumstances for his absence leaves something to be desired. CPT Johnson will be entering the hospital for corrective surgery and is expected to be absent from 4 to 6 weeks. Good luck CPT Johnson and we all hope you will recover quickly.

NEW OFFICER IN HNB

CPT George M. McShea, having just arrived in Vietnam, has been assigned to HNB, 1st Bn 83d Arty. CPT McShea was born in San Rafael, Calif. on the 24th of May 1943. He attended the Brown Military Academy in Glendora, Calif. before attending school at Oklahoma State University. At Oklahoma State, CPT McShea majored in Trade and Industrial Education and graduated with a BS in 1965. After completing his BS at Oklahoma State CPT McShea received his commission in the United States Army. Before coming to Vietnam, CPT McShea was living in Beverly Hills, Calif. We certainly hope he enjoys his tour while a member of HNB.