

Tuesday - 23 Sept 69 - FSB Roy

Today the medics were talking about some of the shots they give. They get a great, long needle and show it to the man who is getting a shot. Then they ask him to drop his pants and turn around. They give him a shot with a little needle. The man will swear that he got the long needle.

Wednesday - 24 Sept 69 - Eagle

Today with two other soldiers I rode a McGuire rig. This is a technique for extracting men from the jungle by helicopter when the bird cannot actually land. Three men at a time are tied to ropes running out the two doors. We rode for ten minutes at one thousand feet. You just dangle around up there and yell at each other and look around. Great fun!

Thursday - 25 Sept 69 - Alpha Company

We have to install "speed breakers" in Highway One to get the Vietnamese to slow down in their buses and Fondas. Alpha Company has just put in a new speed breaker, a log laid flat across the road and sunk in, so half of it is above the surface. The natives really have to slow down in order to get over it without ruining their vehicles.

Friday - 26 Sept 69 - Eagle

Makes you feel good -- Today one of the troops told me about a conversation in which I was mentioned. He said a medic was talking and said that I had helped him learn how not to be afraid on a helicopter combat assault.

194

Tuesday - 14 Oct 69 - FSB Roy

Today driving out to the field we saw a really funny thing. Many streams are still flowing over the roads, leaving great mud holes for vehicles to cross. We had just got thru one of these holes in our three-quarter ton truck when a jeep came toward the hole from the other direction. He slipped and slid and splashed into the mudhole where the water was too deep. He skipped across the top of the water like a flat, spinning rock until he was half way across, then slowly sank to the bottom, his exhaust pipe still gurgling. The water covered the entire jeep and was up to the driver's neck. He got out, absolutely drenched and laughing. He hooked the jeep up to a two and a half ton truck, got pulled out, and started his engine. Like a dog, who has just gotten out of the water and shakes himself dry, the jeep shook off the water and roared away. The jeep is a remarkable little vehicle.

Wednesday - 15 Oct 69 - Eagle

The big news back in the world today is the moratorium and demonstrations about the war here. The soldiers in our battalion are little affected by such things. They continue to do what their fellow citizens back in the world have asked them to do.

A week of training may seem a bit odd right here in a combat situation. But not so for A and D Companies and Recon this week, and B and C Companies next week. You would be thrilled to feel and see the spirit and power in the living areas and training areas as the men return to the No Slack rear for a brief respite from combat.