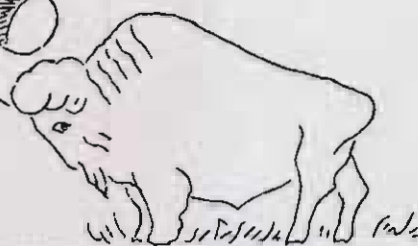


# BUFFALO BUGLE



SPECIAL

KOREA

EDITION



Luck & Godspeed;

## LT. COLONEL McCOWN LEADER OF THE HERD ROTATES TOMORROW

BY SGT. CHUCK FRANCISCO

TO MOST OF THE "BUFFALOES", THE MOST MEMORABLE MOVENT OF THEIR FIRST DAYS IN KOREA CAME WHEN A YOUNG FIT LT. COLONEL STROLLED BEFORE A GROUP OF REPLACEMENTS AT THE 17TH SERVICE COMPANY AND SAID:

"MOST COMMANDERS WOULD BE DAMNED FOOLS IF THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU THEY HAD THE BEST OUTFIT IN THE ARMY. WELL, I'M A LITTLE DIFFERENT... I DON'T HAVE TO LIE ABOUT IT!"

TOMORROW THAT SAME FIGHTING YOUNG COMMANDER LEAVES FOR HOME AND A WELL DESERVED REST. LT. COLONEL HAL D. MC COWN, FOR SEVEN MONTHS "LEADER OF THE HERD"; AT LAST GETS HIS CHANCE TO ROTATE.

COLONEL MC COWN JOINED THE 17TH IN A RESERVE AREA LAST JULY. AT THAT TIME HE ADMITTED, "I DIDN'T EXPECT TO COME HERE. IN A WAY I WANTED TO GO TO ANOTHER REGIMENT... I FIGURED I COULD MAKE MORE IMPROVEMENTS THERE...IT WOULD BE A CHALLENGE. BUT NOW THAT I AM HERE THIS IS THE PLACE FOR ME. MAKING A BET-

TER FIGHTING UNIT OUT OF AN OUTFIT AS GOOD AS THE "BUFFALOES" IS THE MOST ANY MAN COULD ASK AS A CHALLENGE!"

AND THE COLONEL LIVED UP TO HIS WORDS. IN ONE SHORT MONTH AFTER HE TOOK OVER THE REINS OF THE HERD, MC COWN WAS RIGHT WITH THE FORWARD ELEMENTS OF THE 17TH AS IT FOUGHT TO WHAT WAS PROBABLY ITS MOST SHINING HOUR IN KOREA...THE BITTER VICTORY OF THE BALD HILLS SOUTH OF KUMSONG ON THE CENTRAL FRONT.

DURING THE FIERCE FIVE-DAY ENCOUNTER ON HILL 351, "OLD BALDY", AND THE OTHER HONEYCOMBED FORTRESSES, THE "BUFFALOES" DESTROYED 3,234 COMMUNISTS. MEN OF THE 17TH WON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONE MEDAL OF HONOR, SIX DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSSES AND COUNTLESS SILVER AND BRONZE STAR MEDALS. COLONEL MC COWN HIMSELF WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR FOR DIRECTING THE OPERATIONS WHILE UNDER INTENSE ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE.

THE "LEADER OF THE HERD" HAD ANOTHER FAVORITE WORD HE LIKED TO PASS ON TO NEW REPLACEMENTS: "IN A FEW DAYS YOU'LL BE CLIMBING THESE HILLS AROUND YOU AND YOU'LL HAVE LEGS LIKE BULLFROGS!"

HE KNEW WHEREOF HE SPOKE. NO MATTER HOW BITTER THE WEATHER, NO MATTER HOW STEEP THE HILLS, NO MATTER HOW HEAVY THE ENEMY FIRE, THE "BUFFALOES" ON THE LINE COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON SEEING THE COLORFUL C.O., LEANING ON HIS HEAVY BLACK WALKING STICK, VISITING THE FRONT-LINE POSITIONS.

ON "NO NAME" HILL NORTH OF THE PUNCH BOWL MC COWN WALKED UNESCORTED THROUGH NO-MAN'S LAND TO REACH THE OUTPOST LINE AND PERSONALLY PIN SILVER STARS ON THREE OF HIS MEN.

COMBAT WAS NOTHING NEW FOR COLONEL MC COWN. IN WORLD WAR II HE SERVED AS A BATTALION COMMANDER WITH THE 30TH DIVISION. HE WAS CAPTURED BY THE NAZIS DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE BUT HE MANAGED A DARING ESCAPE TO FIGHT AGAIN.

IN THE WAR IN EUROPE HE EARNED THE SILVER STAR WITH OAK LEAF CLUSTER, THE LEGION OF MERIT, THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH OAK LEAF CLUSTER, THE PURPLE HEART, THE BELGIAN FOURRAGERRE, AND THE BRITISH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER IN ADDITION TO THE COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE.

BEFORE JOINING THE "BUFFALOES", COLONEL MC COWN SERVED AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE FAR EAST COMMAND IN TOKYO FOR 36 MONTHS.

IN HIS PARTING MESSAGE TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 17TH, COLONEL MC COWN SAID: "YOU HAVE MY UNDYING ADMIRATION FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE ESPRIT DE CORPS, AND FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPERIOR COMBAT EFFICIENCY. YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ALL TASKS I HAVE ASSIGNED TO YOU IN A MANNER THAT MORE THAN FULFILLED MY EXPECTATIONS. YOU HAVE NEVER FAILED ME.

"IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE AND AN HONOR TO ME TO HAVE SOLDIERED WITH YOU AND TO HAVE UNDERGONE BOTH THE HARD TIMES AND GOOD TIMES THAT WE HAVE KNOWN TOGETHER.

"I SAY TO EACH OF YOU, 'GOODBYE, GOOD LUCK, AND GOD BLESS YOU,' AND TO ALL OF YOU, 'WELL DONE, BUFFALOES.'"

THE BUFFALO BUGLE, SPEAKING IN BEHALF OF ALL THE BUFFALOES, PASSES THIS MESSAGE ON TO THE "LEADER OF THE HERD":-

"BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR NEW ASSIGNMENT AND GODSPEED!"