

5/23/68

Housekeeping in the 29th Brigade

by Lois Taylor



When Johnny comes marching home again, he's not only going to know how to take an M-14 rifle apart and survive in the jungle, but he will also have devel-

oped some extra peacetime domestic skills.

Up at Schofield Barracks, where the 29th Infantry Brigade of the Hawaii National Guard reported for duty May 13, the men are beginning rifle practice this week, but most of last week was devoted to housekeeping chores on a mammoth scale.

The quadrangles where the men are housed have been more or less deserted for the past few years since the 25th Division was sent to Vietnam.

"You can't say they were abandoned," said Sgt. Ron Fellows of the brigade's public information office. "They just haven't been lived in."

And if ever a building lacked the lived-in look, even with hundreds of men living in it, it's Quadrangle C, where most of these pictures were taken.

The Army gives points for neatness but isn't very strong on the homey touches such as pictures on the wall, rugs on the floor, or even basics such as chairs and tables.

In the barracks, each enlisted man has a cot, a foot locker and standing metal locker. This constitutes the decor.

The beds are covered in Army-green blankets, the metal lockers are either the same green or the color of canned milk, a favorite shade at Schofield. Most of the walls are that color, too.

The walls are freshly painted in the barracks visited. The floors were as clean as rough concrete smoothed by millions of feet can ever get, and the lawns and planting inside the quadrangle were carefully tended.

All these major homemaker chores are finished for the time being, and the men are now concentrating on training in the field with the new rifle.

But the day-to-day housekeeping, which is almost as foreign to most of the recent civilians of the 29th Infantry Brigade as the parts of the new rifle, goes on and on.

The meals are organized by the mess sergeant and prepared by men whose regular duty is to cook. The dishwashers are casual labor from the kitchen police, rotated on a regular basis like the guard.

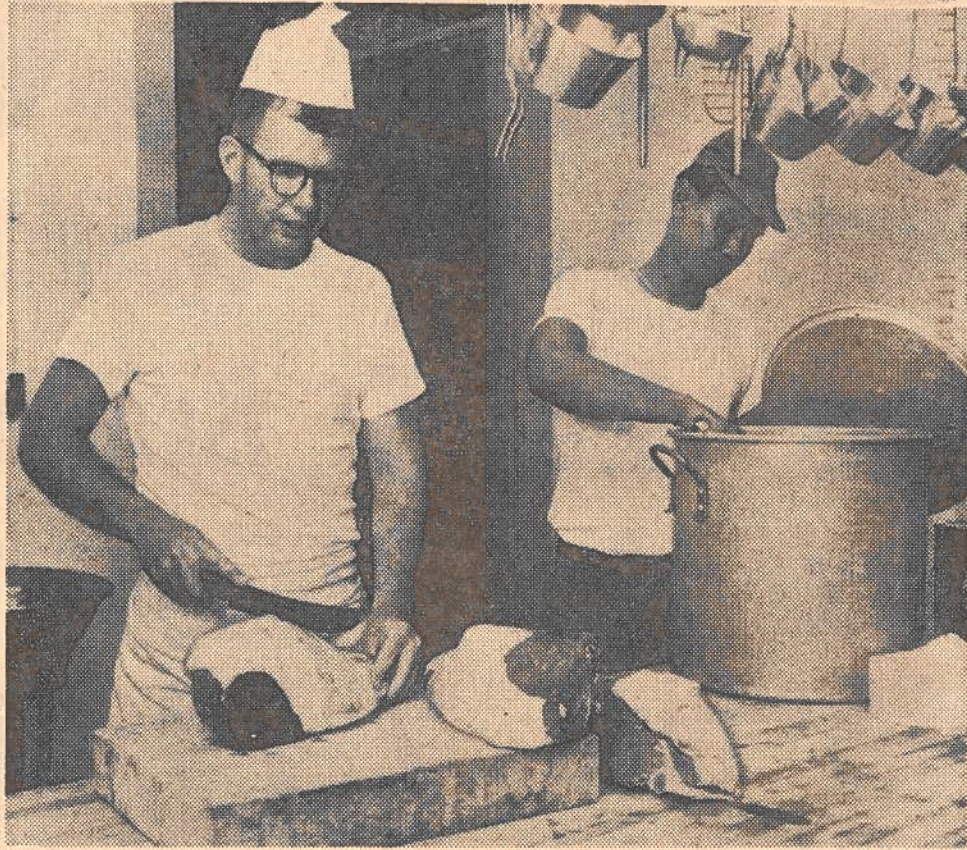
"K.P. used to be issued as punishment, but now it's just doled out. The men wash the dishes, mop the floors," Sgt. Fellows explained.

A fringe benefit to Island housewives whose husbands will be returning to civilian life in 719 days — a figure well established in the minds of most of the 29th Brigade — is that any formerly fussy eaters should have left all that behind.

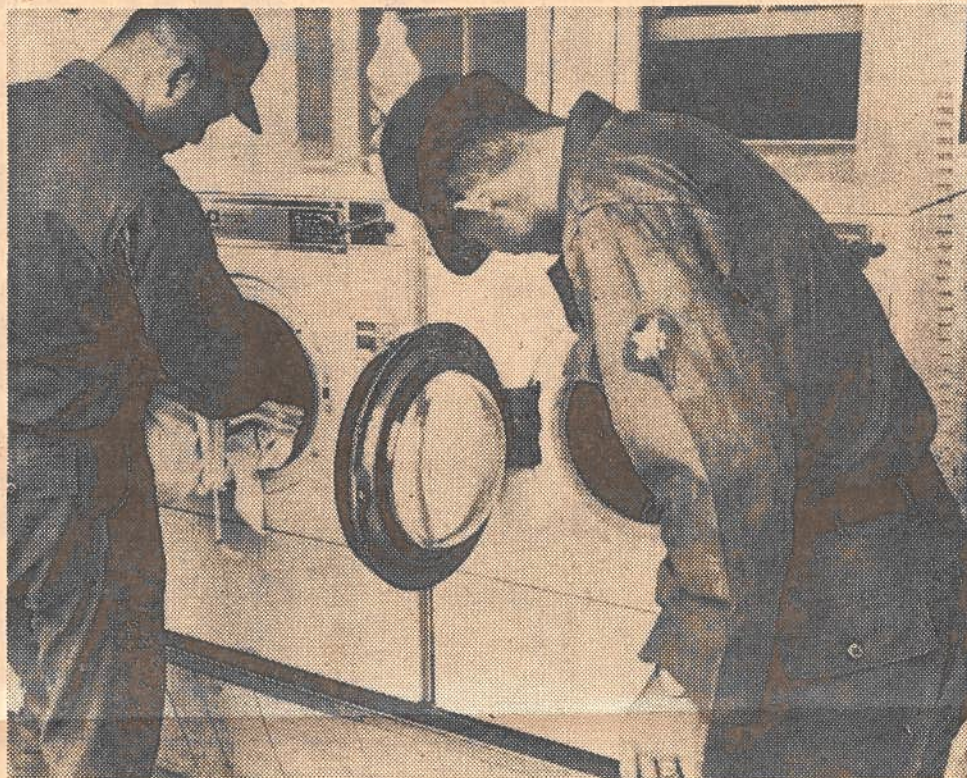
Lunch Tuesday was liver and bacon, an entree not highly regarded in many circles, and when it's presented in a stainless steel tub of the size you could wash a cocker spaniel in, it loses what appeal is left.

The meal was rounded out with chicken noodle soup which had been un-dehydrated but not quite enough, fruit salad, green peas, a tossed salad and coffee or milk.

Sgt. Lawrence Abreu of Pukalani, Maui, and a former employe of the Haleakala Dairy, is mess steward for Headquarters Co. He said the liver went over pretty well, but admitted that when you're hungry and there's



MEAT AND VEGETABLES — Pvt. Jim Mitchell, who used to be desk manager of the Pioneer Inn at Lahaina, Maui, trims the fat from a roast of beef while Spec. 4 Herbert Cauton, who was a printer at Weyerhaeuser Co. here, inspects a pot of raw vegetables which will be part of the meal.



WASH DAY — Pfc. Glenn Kadota of Hilo, a former student at the University of Hawaii, and Spec. 4 Manuel Lopes, who was a construction worker from Kahului, Maui, feed their laundry into the coin-operated washing machines located on the ground floor of each barracks.

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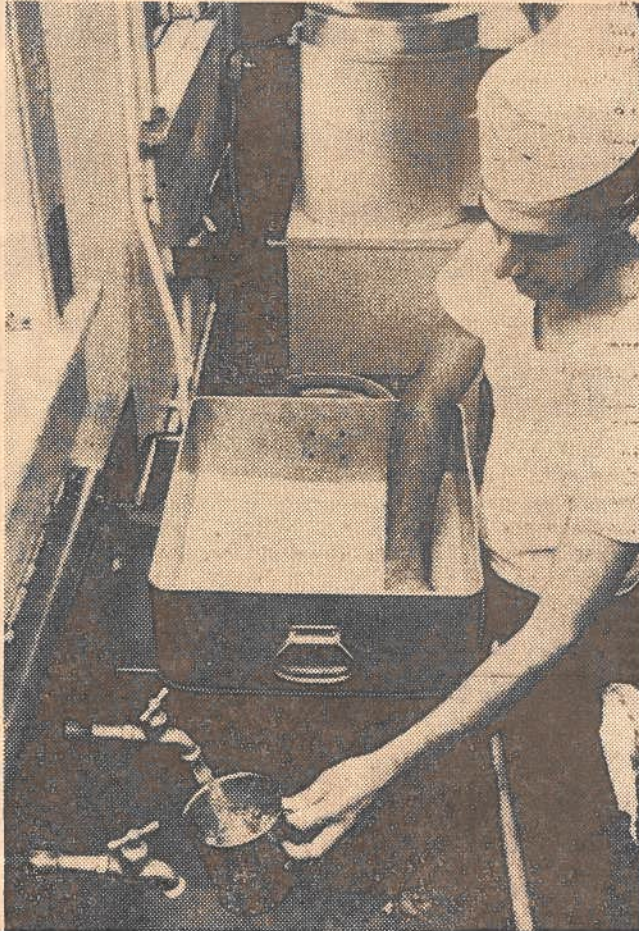
Rice has largely been substituted for potatoes on the menus of the 29th, but potato peeling has not gone entirely out of the Army.

"We don't peel many potatoes, though," Sgt. Abreu said, "because we usually use the powdered or flaked stuff."

The laundry of towels, sheets and uniforms is done either by the quartermaster corps or by civilian laundries with military contracts, but the soldier's personal odds and ends are his own problem.

Some have considered sending the laundry home as they did in college, but most of the men suds their duds in coin-operated washing machines scattered around the quadrangle.

Keeping up with the Joneses on a military scale already has raised its competitive head. The Headquarters Company had dug out from the lawn three letters,



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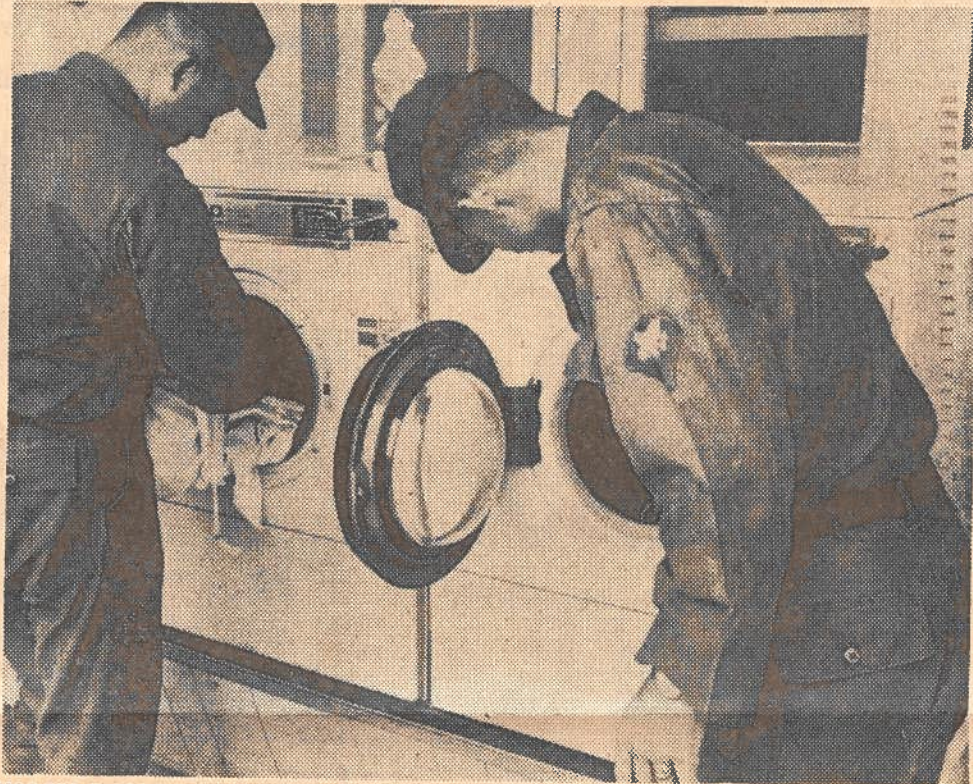
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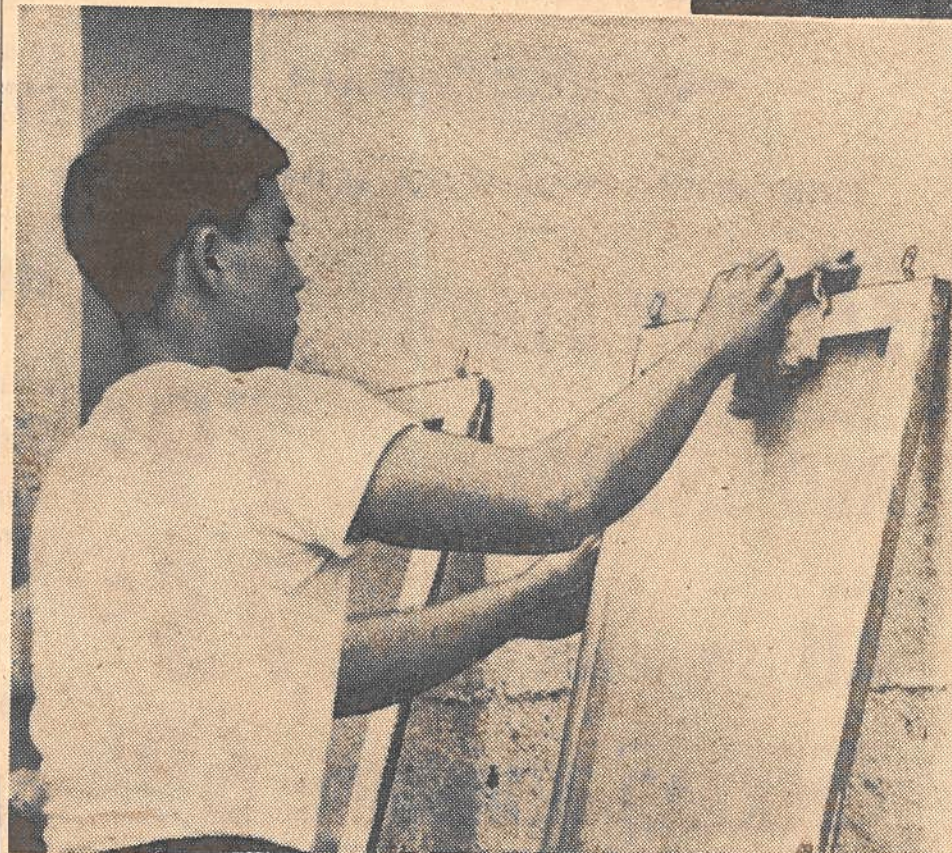
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COWBOY IN THE KITCHEN — Pfc. Joseph Amoral washes a basin of rice which frequently replaces the standard Army fare of potatoes for the men of the 29th Infantry Brigade. Pfc. Amoral is a civilian cowboy for the Haleakala Ranch Co. at Makawao, Maui.



CLEAN SCREENS — The traditional spring chore of cleaning screens is expertly handled by Pvt. Allen Nakagawa of Honolulu, a University of Hawaii student who took his exams early to be with the 29th Brigade when it was called up this month. — Photos by Terry Luke.

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ARMY GREEN THUMBS—A landscape gardening project involving the placement of white pebbles to form the letters "H.H.Q." in the lawn in front of their barracks is being undertaken by, from left, Pvt. Cleighton Pang, Pfc. Clifford Taira and Pvt. Martin Choy, all from Honolulu.



SQUARE CORNERS — Sgt. Andrew Tamori gives the final touches to his army cot in C Quadrangle at Schofield Barracks. Each cot has a pair of rubber slippers, a polished pair of GI shoes and often a pair of civilian shoes under it.

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about 10 feet long, and were occupied filling in the exposed dirt with white pebbles.

They intend to edge the letters with infantry blue paint and fly their headquarters flag from the area. The letters, "H.H.Q." stand for Headquarters, Headquarters Company," the kind of thing you seldom think of putting in pebbles.

Other companies were at work on similar projects. Crotons and a banana flourish in the red dirt. Most of the gardening seems to be

doesn't add much to its appeal. After lunch on Tuesday, Pfc. Lloyd Henry Bond Jr., a civilian structural engineer from Honolulu, and Pfc. Amos E. Fain, who was a mechanic from Wailuku, Maui, were feeding heavy plates under the stainless steel hood of the mechanical dishwasher as the machine clanked and steamed.

"I guess there are worse jobs," Pfc. Fain said philosophically.

While they were clearing up from lunch, a meal served in a room which looks remarkably like the lunch room at the old Maui air-

who were up for reveille at 4 a.m.

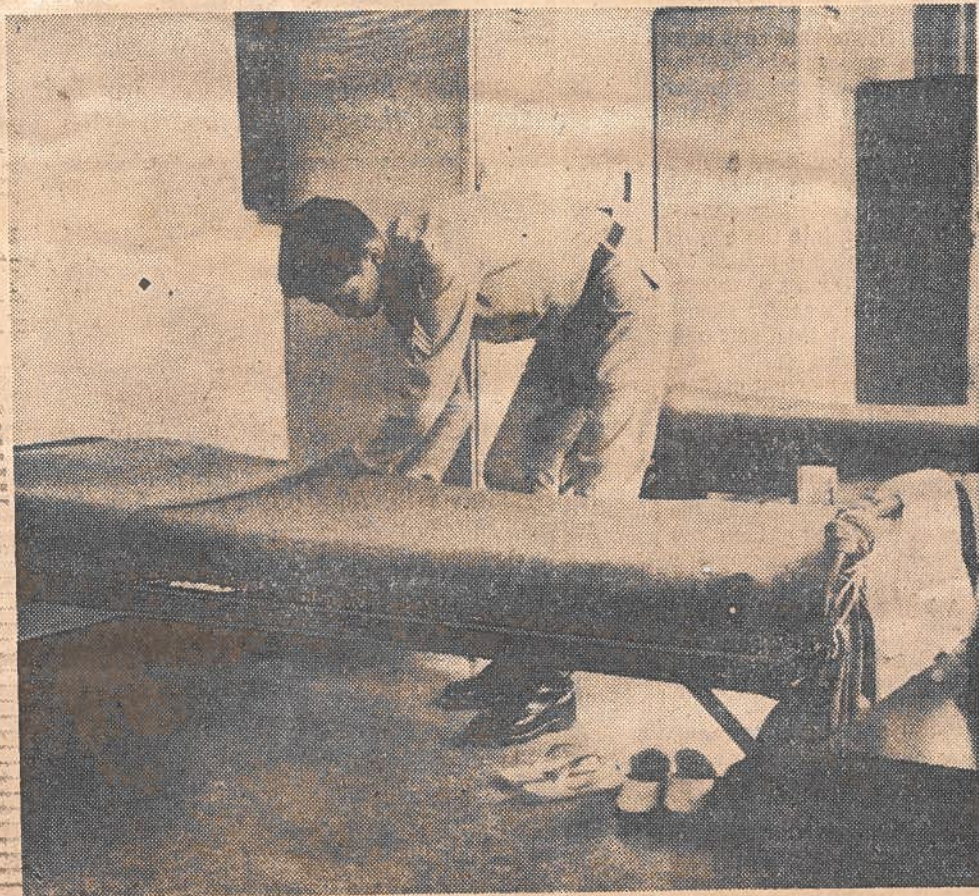
Roast beef, of a cut that few housewives would roast, mushroom gravy, instant mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes, cabbage slaw with vinegar dressing, bread and butter, ice cream and sugar cookies and coffee or milk was a meal being built by a team who appeared willing, if not up on the latest with Julia Child.

So, the new soldiers of the 25th stand over their hot stoves, scour their wash basins, do their laundry and plan their menus while they wonder if their wives back in

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Other companies were at work on similar projects. Crotons and a bird of paradise and banana palms flourish in the red dirt. Most of the gardening seems to be done with hand tools, with the Army entrenching tool used as a hoe.

Dish washing, however, is mechanized, which still

doesn't add much to its appeal. After lunch on Tuesday, Pfc. Lloyd Henry Bond Jr., a civilian structural engineer from Honolulu, and Pfc. Amos E. Fain, who was a mechanic from Wailuku, Maui, were feeding heavy plates under the stainless steel hood of the mechanical dishwasher as the machine clanked and steamed.

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While they were clearing up from lunch, a meal served in a room which looks remarkably like the lunch room at the old Maui airport, other men were preparing dinner.

Lunch is served at 11 a.m. which seems like the shank of the afternoon to the troops

who were up for reveille at 4 a.m.

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So, the new soldiers of the 29th stand over their hot stoves, scour their wash basins, do their laundry and plan their menus while they wonder if their wives back in town are managing to get the lawn mowed, the garbage cans out and the car serviced.