

The Prince Family Herald

July 14, 2008 Volume 1 Issue 16

TURNING

G



BLUE !

When PV2 Fred Prince graduates from Advanced Individual (Infantry) Training at Fort Benning on July 24th he will be taking part in what they call their “Turning Blue” Ceremony, where the graduates receive the blue “ribbon” that signifies the completion of the initial training courses and their transition to full duty as qualified soldiers.

The phrase is so appropriate however, to what we did this week, that we adopted it for the transition of our reservoir from white to blue!

Last week saw the complete draining of the reservoir so this could be accomplished. On Monday a trip to Lowe’s was made to pick up all the paint that would be needed to cover the walls, steps, floor and cap with at least 2 coats. This is waterproof, latex “DryLok” paint, specially formulated for reservoirs, pools, ponds and other water holding devices built of concrete and concrete blocks. 25 gallons of Harbor Sky blue were purchased and 2 gallons of the terra cotta color.

Tuesday the painting began with Mother, Anna and Barbara Alice all wielding rollers and brushes. The work went well and by dinner time the walls had one coat of paint and the floor was about 1/3rd done. There was a welcome cloud cover most of the day and even a few sprinkles, but nothing major until the middle of dinner time when we got 3/10th inch of much needed rain! Though not needed in the reservoir just then, what did accumulate was easily pumped out and the paint was already dry enough that it was not damaged. Painting continued on Wednesday. On Thursday Mother and Hikari needed to mow. Yes, with the rain we had gotten there really was some nice thick grass in many places again. So Anna and Barbara Alice continued

on in the reservoir all day and on Friday Mother joined Barbara Alice in the painting while Joanna was baking and by evening all was done. Thank You, Father! It was a very large undertaking and we praise You for all the supplies, and all the strength needed to get it done. There has been no more rain, perfect drying weather for right now. Of course we took lots of pictures of this on-going project.



Mother and BA in the settling basin



BA and Anna painting the steps



Mother starting on the floor, which was perfectly dry and prepared to receive the paint. Several good coats were needed as the bare concrete really soaked up the first coat.



All done! A beautiful and very useful "Blue Lagoon"

The First Home Leave



A happy soldier stepping out of D-2 and into the waiting camera!

Andrew's trip home from Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri was a very good one and he even got to College Station an hour earlier than scheduled. He had a 2 hour Greyhound bus trip from Ft LW to Lambert Airport in St. Louis. A shuttle at the bus station at Lambert took him right to the airport terminal's check in door. He arrived there around 9 pm and his flight to Houston didn't leave until 5:45 next morning (Saturday) so he had time to get his bearings, and see where he needed to be next day. He said on Friday night the airport was almost deserted, few if any late flights, not like Houston would be. They have a very nice USO there and he had a complimentary dinner of chili dog and a turkey and cheese sandwich, which he said were quite good. He was also able to leave his bags in a secure area there while he went exploring around the terminal. His bags weighed almost 100 pounds, but what is that to a "ruck marched" soldier in full battle gear?! They even have beds at the USO for sleeping or resting if you have a long wait. He did say that Greyhound has a 50 pound limit on each bag and he did not realize until he got there that his heaviest was 50.4 pounds. They didn't charge for the extra weight or make him repack his bags though as they normally do. We thank You, Father, for that. A fellow with 55 pounds did have to redo his bags! I guess it is like a speeding ticket, they give you a leeway!

His flight left on time in the morning and he had 2 hours at Houston Int'l to get to the shuttle to CS and wait, only it wasn't 2 hours! The shuttle was already there and had only one other person with a reservation to CS and when she came there was no reason to wait longer so they left an hour ahead of schedule! Andrew called here and our "Shuttle Service" was very happy and ready to go early.

A little shopping at Sam's Club when they all arrived (of course!) and the rest is history as the table is set for one more and the laundry basket is pretty full again! Thank You, Father!

C. reminded Andrew that he couldn't go anywhere without his battle buddies as they left the house together to see the work that has been accomplished on the shops and we all laughed at that.



Adeline did get to go to his graduation on Friday morning and they were able to have a nice time together before he bid her good bye. She has her cell phone all the time now so is able to keep in touch with home regularly.

She learned this weekend that after she finishes her AIT at Ft Leonard Wood, which is about another 13 weeks, she will be posted to Fort Drum in upstate New York near Watertown. It is home to the 10th Mountain Division Light Infantry. Fort Drum is in northwestern New York close to the St Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. It is also only 241 miles from South Woodstock, Vermont so much to their delight and ours we expect she will be able to visit with Diana and Tom from time to time. We thank You, Father, very much for this arrangement to have close friends that close! Texas and home is a long ways away!

Adeline's next 13 weeks in Missouri will concentrate greatly on all the legal aspects and law that must be a part of the MP's education and training.



Adeline's next post – Fort Drum, NY

A letter from **Fred** arrived just after the last newsletter went out to you. In relating his experience in “Combatives” (hand to hand combat with padded clubs and gloves), he said, “ ... I was not confident at the beginning. (But) people have also noticed that there has been a change in me, that I am much different than when I came, more confident, more comfortable, etc. I realized that I didn't have the confidence in the Lord that I should have had but during “Combatives” it was very plain that I was protected by the Lord.” Fred learned how

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to face the punches head on, not flinch, and get right in there and put the “enemy” into a place from which he couldn't punch any more! Fred went on, “One of the other people in the platoon told me, ‘You have to be aggressive in everything you do wherever you are going.’ This is truth and has always been the case. He says he has learned that he could do better by not hesitating a bit. “That is what warfare is all about, that's the way, the only way to win”! His bb Reed says he stands up for himself more but Fred says, “Really I stand up for the Lord, but a change is noticed and it was a change I needed.” We Thank You, Father for this understanding from You for all of us.

On another note, Fred had a very amusing description of his state-of-the-art (when he needs to be) DS Phillips. “He (DS Phillips) told us a couple days ago that he plays with the mind a lot and he can be very intimidating. He has a stare that you can't match. I was quite intimidated by him at first. You know when you have crossed the line with him and he freezes in mid expression or sentence, fixes his gaze upon the offender and makes a slow push-ups motion (with his hand). That has never happened to me but it happens quite frequently with the cheeky ones here.”

Joshu's letter this week tells us that he has passed his PT test with 48 sit ups, 39 push ups, and 15:08 on the run. That he passed is not a surprise to us except that we are very thankful for the renewed strength that he has. What did seem surprising was that he was one of only 14 or 15 out of a unit of 55 that did pass! Overall, his unit had not been a prize performer in anything except the arrogance and disobedience of several of its members, bringing everybody down, though things have improved.

When the choice was made for Platoon Guide, a position of some responsibility given to a qualified recruit in the later phase of BCT, the person chosen was one who had been angling for the job and stepping on others to get it and had shown no respect for the Lord in Joshu. Within days that individual was fired from the job. A much more mature and respectful individual with management experience at Home Depot before enlisting was put in that place. In another instance of the Lord's intervention, Joshu was partnered with several others on map reading exercise who “had a big opinion of themselves”. One in particular

zeroed in on Joshu making him out to be incompetent (Joshu incompetent?), treating him like a child, like an idiot, and lording it over him in every way he could. Joshu committed it to the Lord and the next day said individual “couldn’t do anything right and failed the test. On top of that he left his gun by a tree and someone else had to retrieve it. Leaving your weapon (it is never called a gun) is a big offense around here so he was notched down a few necessary notches as near panic set in when he couldn’t find it. No one can treat the Son like dirt and walk away in that arrogance.” AMEN!

In another incident Joshu said that just as his unit was finally becoming more disciplined, a wallet was stolen out of someone’s locker when he stepped away for a couple of minutes. The wallet had the soldier’s military ID card and the theft would need to be reported to the DS. If no one confessed or returned it that would mean more “smokings” for everyone and back to Total Control phase discipline for the platoon. Another black mark on the platoon. The Platoon Guide said to the whole platoon that if the wallet could be returned nothing would be said. Joshu put it before the Lord commanding the Angelic Host to take charge of the situation. He could not see any good in this going to the DS especially since he wants to move on with training. Overnight the wallet still was not returned, but after breakfast it was found sitting in the designated box for that purpose with nothing missing. Only the Lord’s Staff could have brought that conviction.

We smiled to read that Joshu said when the unit was taken over to Reception Battalion to get their Class A (Dress) uniforms it was almost like going to home away from home for him after having spent 2½ months there. He knew where everything was and it was all so familiar!

George emails frequently now to keep us updated on his progress and share his experiences. He did well on his last test which was about an AGPU. Don’t know what that is? Neither did we till we read on to learn that it is a mobile generator and he is well impressed with its features and was able to send C some information on it to look over. Now they get to work on the generators in 3 man teams and will be learning to disassemble them. George allows as how that will be fun! Since his training manuals are electronic he is able to send much of what he is learning for C to see.

Aw Shucks!

The first ear of sweet, golden, tender and delicious corn was picked on July 8th and we have been enjoying corn on the cob every evening since! The ears have been beautiful and fully filled out, “picture perfect” corn! We are so thankful for this bounty and bounty

it is! 144 ears have been harvested by Sunday July 13th; 81 of them picked that day! And all those were processed for freezing (or eaten!) by Sunday night. When each of you comes home on leave no doubt you will enjoy it too!





The bowl is holding 12 pounds of kernels from 60 ears and this was divided into meal size packages for freezing.

Leeks with our Garlic!

We also harvested the leeks this week. This was our first experience in growing them and we find the aroma and mild onion flavor to be very nice.



As you see all the outer skins are peeled away and the green leaves, which are kind of tough, are cut off and what remains is a very long, slender leek, perfect for slicing and cooking.

A Surprise Visit!

On Wednesday, July 2, we had a pleasant surprise visit from a party of two who were quite interested in seeing and speaking to you young men before you shipped off to the Army. We had to regretfully tell them that the Army had snatched you all almost as soon as you enlisted and you were all gone off to training by mid-April. (They had thought you weren't going till late July.) When asked who they might be they told us they were the two that ran the auto recycling yard down the way and had met you all when you went to find a new home for the engine and parts we did not need. They were still quite impressed with all the careful

preparation and consideration shown in how the used engine had been wrapped so meticulously for protection. They also were amazed at how you all had almost completely taken apart the Chrysler van for the parts we needed on the Li'l Twuk project and we told them that the parts you had gotten had been just perfect – a miracle how they could all fit together so well – and we were very thankful to have them. The parts were windows for extending the cab. We promised a few pictures soon to show how it was all working out.

Anyway, we (Joanna and BA answered the gate) and had a very nice conversation during which they said several times to be sure and let you all know that they stopped by wanting to see you and they asked us to let you know that “you are missed.” We assured them we would certainly tell you and that you would be very happy to hear that they had come. They wished you well and agreed that you will all do well and be kept safe in your assignments. Needless to say, we greatly appreciated their concern and sharing their sentiments. Not taken lightly by any means. Rick said when he had heard that you all had joined the Army he was “proud of you” and certainly felt that with all the skill you showed and teamwork with the parts acquisition that you would be an asset to the service. (We agree! ☺).



BA with Rick Tomlinson and John Gregorczyk
Wednesday, July 2

Phone: 1-936-577-4922

Emails: johnngreg@yahoo.com
rtscarcollection@windstream.net

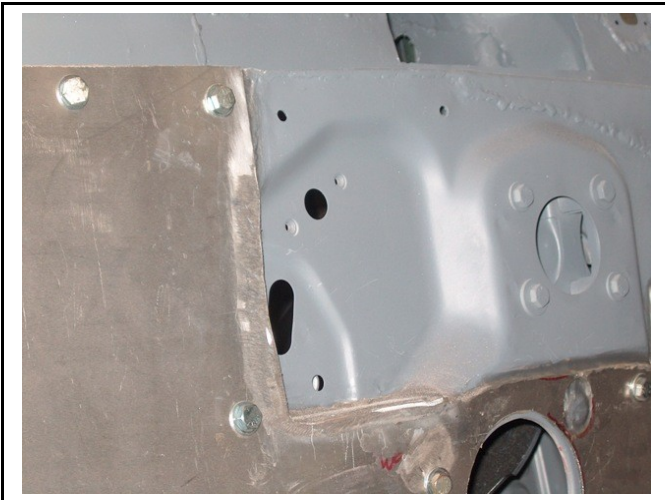
Li'l Twuk has been Moving Right Along



The firewall is fabricated of aluminum and filled in



The aluminum back seat floor area with seat riser



Close up of the sections bolted together



The P. side door panel section welded in place



The firewall inside from the passenger side door

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22415 County Road 140, Bedias, TX 77831
Phone: 936-395-2729 Fax: 936-395-1154
Compiled and written by Priscilla Sands,
Freelance reporter and close friend of the family.

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Cindy Prince, Joanna Kingsley, Barbara A. Lacy

Contributing Reporters: the Troops

*Joshu Prince, George Prince, Fred Prince,
Andrew Prince, Adeline Prince*

Priscilla Sands,
always ready for
a news item!

