

Thank you. I made those two corrections. This ATWv2_adq (272. No action in Dewey Canyon, but O'Rourke hears from Barb).

Below is a **strict factual + continuity validation** of Chapter 272 ("No action in Dewey Canyon, but O'Rourke hears from Barb"). As always, I do **not** alter your prose or comment on literary style — only accuracy, plausibility, and internal consistency.

✓ **OVERALL ASSESSMENT**

This chapter is **historically accurate, militarily plausible, and fully consistent** with your established continuity for:

- O'Rourke
- Lt. Klein
- Capt. Art Steward
- The 326th Medical Battalion
- The 2/506th Infantry (Currahees)
- The Dewey Canyon II / Lam Son 719 timeline
- Barbara Carpenter O'Rourke's location and duties

You continue to track the real-world operational sequence of early February 1971 with impressive precision.

✓ **SECTION-BY-SECTION VALIDATION**

1. Capt. Art Steward's introductory speech

Accurate and plausible. Medical officers often acknowledged their lack of field experience. The rotation system (some corpsmen in the field, some at the base) matches 101st Airborne practice.

Continuity: Art's ethical stance at Chu Lai is correctly referenced.

2. Briefing on the feint into the A Shau Valley

Your geography and operational details are **spot-on**:

- Pepper Landing Zone
- Route 548
- Lao Route 922
- Ho Chi Minh Trail feeder routes
- The purpose: create the impression of a possible border crossing

The colonel's comments about press leaks are historically accurate — secrecy around Lam Son 719 collapsed almost immediately.

3. Troop numbers

You write:

- ~9,000 U.S. troops in the Khe Sanh area
- ~20,000 ARVN troops

These numbers are **accurate** for the staging period (late Jan–early Feb 1971).

4. Regional ferment: Mekong Delta, Fish Hook, Parrot's Beak, Plain of Jars

Accurate. There were simultaneous operations and NVA movements in all these areas in early 1971. B-52 strikes in the Plain of Jars were ongoing.

5. Change in medevac staffing

You write:

“On each chopper there will be just two Americans, the pilot and one of you. There will also be a translator.”

This is **plausible** and consistent with Lam Son 719's unique constraints:

- ARVN troops were the primary ground force
- U.S. medevacs often carried ARVN wounded
- Vietnamese-speaking personnel were sometimes added

It is correct that medevac crews were stretched thin during the operation.

6. Night scene at Khe Sanh

Your depiction is **excellent and accurate**:

- Bulldozers working through the night
- Aluminum landing mats (PSP) being laid
- Soldiers stealing sheets for bunker roofs (this happened constantly)
- C-rations heated with C-4
- Two-beer ration on the honor system
- Mud, cold, and low ceilings

All historically consistent.

7. Flight into the A Shau Valley

Your terrain descriptions match:

- The Krong Da River
- The Rao Krong Da
- The Rao Lao
- The narrow valley structure
- The defoliated LZ Pepper
- The proximity of Hamburger Hill (Dong Ap Bia)

The geography is correct and matches maps of the region.

8. Reference to Orin Brown's earlier intelligence briefing

Continuity is perfect. O'Rourke recalling Brown's "crimp points" lecture is consistent with earlier chapters.

9. Charlie and Bravo Companies moving along Route 548

Accurate. The feint was designed to be visible but not provocative. The "do not engage unless fired upon" order matches historical ROE for the feint.

10. Two nights at the border with no contact

Accurate. The NVA largely avoided early contact during the feint. This matches the historical record: the A Shau portion of Dewey Canyon II saw little action.

11. Mail from Barbara Carpenter O'Rourke

Everything here is **plausible and consistent**:

- Binh Thuy (3rd Surgical Hospital)
- Her fatigue, sleeping in the clinic
- The dog "Kaoz" (very common for nurses to adopt strays)
- Her romantic tone
- Her reference to Lake Pepin and eagles (accurate for Minnesota)

The Bumper Bourne anecdote

This is **continuity-consistent** with your Minnesota network:

- Matt and Mary Brandt
- Fletcher Bourne
- Kentucky mountain upbringing

The injury (loss of a hand) is medically plausible for a Mekong Delta explosion casualty.

12. ARVN advance into Laos

You write:

- Day 1: 6 miles
- Day 2: another mile
- Then heavy resistance

This matches the real timeline of Lam Son 719:

- Feb 8: ARVN crossed the border
- Initial progress was rapid
- Then stalled under heavy NVA counterattacks

Medevac traffic to Khe Sanh and Phu Bai is historically accurate.

13. Charlie Company ordered back to Khe Sanh

Accurate. U.S. units rotated between Khe Sanh and forward positions depending on ARVN progress and medevac needs.

MINOR NOTES (NOT ERRORS)

1. “A-Shau” vs “A Shau”

Both spellings appear in historical documents. Your usage is consistent enough.

2. “20 Charlie Company choppers”

This is plausible for a multi-platoon lift, though in practice lifts were often staggered. Not an error — just a note.

3. “Two cans of beer per day”

This varied by unit and availability, but your depiction is plausible for Khe Sanh in 1971.

✓ CONTINUITY CHECK — ALL GOOD

This chapter aligns with:

- O'Rourke's arc (Ripcord → Hong Kong → Binh Thuy → Dewey Canyon II)
- Barbara's arc (3rd Surgical Hospital)
- Art Steward's introduction
- The Steward family backstory
- The Minnesota network (Brandts, Bournes)
- The operational timeline of early Feb 1971

No contradictions found.