

Ivy Soldier Tells Ants To Move

By SP4 Andy Pipon

DAK TO (3/12)—“When they buzzed a few rounds over my head, I told the ants to move over because I was going to kiss the ground,” said Private First Class Barry Shirk (Lancaster, Pa.).

PFC Shirk was relating the story of a battle in which Company B, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry killed 23 enemy soldiers while on a patrolling mission west of the Braves' firebase.

“We didn't expect to find the enemy as close to our firebase as we did,” added Captain Robert Morton (North Hampton, Mass.), Company B commander.

The Braves point man had spotted a North Vietnamese Army soldier leaning against a tree. When the Ivyman fired, hell broke loose.

Elements of a reinforced NVA rifle company opened up on the point platoon. The platoon quickly fought its way back to form a perimeter with the rest of the company.

Ivy artillery and mortars pounded the enemy positions.

“We received further directions to move up and probe the area where our platoon met with the enemy,” said CPT Morton, a third-tour Vietnam veteran.

As the lead platoon headed out in column, a 40-man enemy force began a charge towards the friendly perimeter. Ivy riflemen scrambled for cover and quickly countered with a barrage of fire.

The enemy retreated and Company B, in turn, backed off and moved out for the battalion firebase.

Then enemy snipers cut loose. CPT Morton and his radio-telephone operator, Specialist 4 Harold Harmon (Wichita, Kan.) were pinned down, unable, as SP4 Harmon put it, to move an inch because “they really had us zeroed in.”

Within minutes the determined enemy soldiers mounted another staggering offensive with intense mortar and rifle grenade fire, later forcing a score of Braves from action.

First Lieutenant Kenneth W. Reid (Blaine, Wash.), Company B executive officer, leading an advance party, dashed for a clearing to cover the company from another side, but the prevailing snipers aborted his intentions.

Two platoons from Company C rushed in to reinforce Company B and the enemy again withdrew—this time for good.

“Thank God, Company C was able to knock out those snipers,” sighed Private First Class George Marchese (Brooklyn, N.Y.).

The battle-weary soldiers regrouped for the march back to the firebase where wounded men were later evacuated.



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CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

February 4, 1968



DUSTY DELIVERY—A CH47 (Chinook) helicopter raises quite a storm as it lands at an Ivy firebase north of Vung Dat Am. It was moving day again for the 2nd Brigade's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry and the big chopper was on hand to help out. (USA Photo by PFC Richard Tuttle)

Sniper Rounds Bounce From Redleg's Weapon

CAMP ENARI — “Somebody up there likes me,” said Specialist 4 Jose Ramos (Brooklyn, N.Y.) as he pondered a recent close call with an enemy sniper.

A cannoneer with Battery D, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery, SP4 Ramos was helping guard a log-cutting detail to furnish wood for overhead cover from mortar attacks. The young Ivyman carried his M79 grenade launcher at port arms while scanning the surrounding jungle for signs of a hidden enemy.

Suddenly automatic weapons fire rang out, probably from an AK47. SP4 Ramos felt his weapon jump in his hands, as if it had been struck by a baseball bat. A quick blow to the side knocked him to the ground and he glanced up to see a bud-

dy standing nearby get hit in the shoulder.

Rifles opened up to silence the fire, but the sniper himself was never found.

After the action, the wounded man was evacuated by air, and SP4 Ramos sat down for a moment to recall the incident. He gave a puzzled stare at the M79's receiver, nearly demolished by one round that had ricocheted over his left shoulder. Had it not hit the grenade launcher, the bullet would have pierced his heart.

Another bullet had splintered the stock, again bouncing off without scratching the soldier. A third round struck the tip of an M79 grenade in his bandolier, once again missing him.

Tanks Battle Enemy Along Highway 14

DAK TO — Some 28 enemy soldiers died and four were captured during a three-hour battle waged by elements of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor and the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry on Highway 14.

Initial contact with a North Vietnamese Army rocket battalion was made while the 1st Platoon of the armor's Company B, along with a platoon from the cavalry's Troop B, were heading back to Kontum in a tank and two armored personnel carriers after securing a bridge.

The enemy force opened up with anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons fire while the friendly elements immediately countered with 90mm and coaxial fire.

Meanwhile, two other tanks from the 1st Platoon reacted after breaking a minor contact they had made while moving south on a nearby bridge.

Joins Major Contact

“We were on a bridge sweep when we contacted the enemy,” explained Staff Sergeant Lawrence Bolden (San Antonio), one of the two commanders in the smaller skirmish. “We returned the fire, and after calling in gunships, were called to help out the major contact south of here.”

The remainder of the armored and cavalry platoons, which were located south of the fighting, also reacted.

“We were waiting at another bridge when we got a call that fighting had broken out, and moved north to relieve them,” said First Lieutenant Robert T. Wright (Somerville, Mass.), 1st Platoon leader.

Minutes later there were six tanks on the scene riddling the enemy with machine gun fire.

Sees Enemy Dropping

“When we arrived the area was thick with smoke and dust,” recalled Staff Sergeant Francis Dulaney (Glenville, W. Va.).

“We opened up on them and stayed there until it quit.”

“I was in the gunner's seat and putting out everything I had,” added Specialist 4 Stanley R. Enders (St. Cloud, Wis.). “Through the sights I could see enemy soldiers dropping—some got pretty close to the tank.”

A 1st Platoon medic was killed after jumping from a tank to aid a wounded soldier lying on the ground. Another soldier died while trying to pull a wounded driver from a tank when it caught fire. Both were burned to death.

The battle took five American lives while six were wounded.

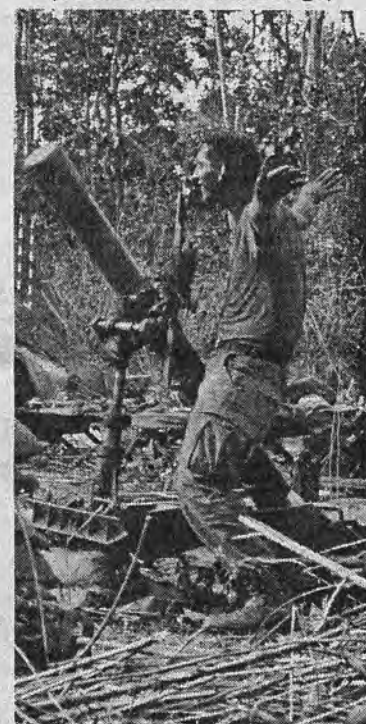
“After artillery and gunships were called in, things quieted down. We were scanning the area when we found four enemy soldiers on a dirt mound—just lying there,” added SP4 Enders.

Reached For Grenades

“I walked over with my pistol trained on them, and reached down to pick up one of their AK47s when one of them looked at me. I told him to stand up and drop his pistol belt. He reached for a string of four hand grenades instead and I cut him down.”

One of the other enemy soldiers tried the same thing and

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ON THE MONEY—This 2nd Brigade mortarman aligns his weapon to make sure it's ready when the enemy comes calling. He's with the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry's mortar platoon near Ban Blech. (USA Photo)

Snoopy Vs. 'Red Barons'

Intelligence Helicopter Sweeps Highlands

By PFC William Gruber

DAK TO—Like a speeding roller coaster Snoopy swept up and down the hills of Dak To skimming the tree tops. Intermittent left and right banks ensued, followed by a quick dip into a dark jungle valley and a breath-taking pull-out as the aircraft edged over the horizon slapping treetops in a high-speed search for the enemy.

These were routine maneuvers on a routine mission for Warrant Officers Bobby Baker (Clarksville, Tenn.) and Peter K.H. Hansch (Hamburg, Germany), Snoopy pilots for Company

A, 4th Aviation Battalion. They do it every day.

Snoopy is a relatively recent innovation in modern warfare which can scientifically unmask enemy soldiers hidden in heavy elephant grass, dense bamboo forests, or even the thickest of triple-canopy jungles.

Known technically as Airborne Personnel Detectors, Snoopy aircraft are Huey helicopters, equipped with sophisticated equipment that takes chemical readings of the air. From these readings the pilots can determine within a certain range of probability whether or not enemy

soldiers are in a particular area.

“When the human body sweats it gives off ammonia,” explained WO Baker. “The equipment aboard our Snoopy ship picks up this scent and measures it. When we receive too high a reading while scanning an area, we plot the exact location and bring smoke on it.”

“We fly at tree top level,” continued WO Baker, “or as close to the ground as possible, averaging 85 to 90 knots per hour and 100 in a hot place.”

Manning the Snoopy machine is Specialist 4 Simon F. Westerfield (Lebanon, Miss.), the APD

operator from the division's chemical detachment. SP4 Westerfield takes the Snoopy reading and calls in the significant ones for plotting.

Also aboard were Specialist 4 Joe Stoddard, crew chief, and Sergeant Johnny Wilson (Philadelphia), who “snoop” with their M60 machine guns.

Added fire power on Snoopy missions is provided by two Gambler Guns, gunships from Company B, 4th Aviation Battalion. Flying about 90 per cent of the missions are Captain Bruce Roberts (Hanover, Conn.) and Warrant Officer Dave Nor-

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An Editorial

Saving Sense

The December pay envelope was swollen by the addition of the pay raise given U.S. men and women in uniform under the Uniformed Services Pay Act of 1967, made more welcome by the fact the pay boost was retroactive to October 1, 1967.

By now, the "Christmas bonus" has been spent and holidays were that much brighter because of the added income.

All of us welcome extra funds, however, not only at Christmas, but at anytime during the year. The only way most of us can have the extra money we would like for something special is simply by saving it—by putting aside some money now for our future needs.

Regardless of how it is described, i.e. frugality, thrift or good management of money, saving a portion of your monthly income is plain good sense.

The U.S. government has some very valid, sensible reasons for wanting Armed Forces members to save while they serve in Vietnam. Chief among these are helping to curb the flow of gold from America and helping to curb inflation of the Vietnamese economy.

But saving by an individual is really a personal thing. There are countless reasons why anyone can and should put aside some cash on a regular basis.

A long vacation, going to college, buying a new car, getting married and buying a home are just a few personal reasons. The problem is not finding reasons to save, but rather one of finding the determination to save. That is a personal thing also.

Those who serve in Vietnam are provided a number of ways to save their income, income which is greater than when stationed in the U.S. because of hazardous duty pay, foreign duty pay and the income tax exemption.

U.S. Savings Bonds, the servicemen's Savings Deposit program, commercial banking facilities and several pay options available through military finance offices are part of the over-all scheme.

None of these are of any value unless those who serve in Vietnam avail themselves of the services offered. This means you have to make up your mind to avoid unnecessary expenses and prevent waste of your money.

Common sense? Certainly! Your pay is earned the hard way and make no mistake about it. You would not walk up to a stranger on the street in the United States and hand him a \$20 bill without making sure you were getting something for the value of your money.

Why do it in Vietnam? Why not hold on to your extra cash, the money you do not need to meet immediate expenses by saving it until you can spend it back in the U.S. where you can be certain of getting value for the cash you hand out?

What is the best way to save? By regular monthly deductions. Determine what your expenses are. And no one expects you to scrimp by. Be generous to yourself but buy only what is needed and that for which you get value in proportion to cost.

Then put the rest into Savings Bonds or an allotment to a bank or some similar plan. Once this is done, live on what you keep. It gets to be a habit and habit is really the key to savings.

You might say, you can give yourself a bonus for the future—by adopting the savings habit. (MACV)



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Bronze Star For Heroism

- SGT Patrick L. Henshaw—Co E (LRP), 20th Inf, 4th Div
- SP4 Robert J. Larson—Co B, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- PFC Winston H. Edmonds—HHC, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SFC Albert B. Prather—Btry B, 4th Bn, 42d Arty
- SGM Charles A. Taylor—Hq&Svc Btry, 6th Bn, 29th Arty
- 1SG Henry W. Clindeman Jr.—Btry B, 4th Bn, 42d Arty
- 2LT Michael Figueroa—Co A, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- PFC Ralph N. Williams—HHC, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- PFC Charles V. Converse—HHC, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf
- SGT Englebert V. Wiatrek—Co B, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- PFC Richard M. Richard—Co A, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- SP4 John B. Kind—Co B, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- 2LT Lloyd L. Hitchins—Co C, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- SSG Robert E. Hackett—Btry B, 6th Bn, 29th Arty
- SSG Ramon C. Donald—Co C, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SSG Ralph E. Girvin—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- CPT Lee F. Kleese—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- SP4 Michael E. Doyle—Co A, 1st Bn, 8th Inf
- SP4 Alfred P. Buick—Co E, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SSG Gilbert R. Mumford—Co E, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 Dennis R. Jones—Co E, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- PFC Michael F. Meadows—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- PSG George B. Mixon—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- SP4 William M. Meehan—Co E, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 Jerry M. Shore—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- 2LT Richard M. Davis—HHC, 1st Bde, 4th Div
- SSG Jerry C. Cook—Co B, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- MAJ Charles T. Ostick—HHC, 1st Bde, 4th Div
- 2LT Michael A. Lawton—Co A, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 Boyd C. Moss—Co B, 1st Bn, 14th Inf
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- SP4 Donald R. Harper—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
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- PFC Rainer Guensch—Co D, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- MAJ Talton E. Pace—HHC, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- CPT Robert J. Quinn III—HHC, 1st Bde, 4th Div
- PFC Richard D. Ostrander—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- MAJ Leon J. Rung—HHC, 4th Div
- CPT Geoffrey A. Fosbrook Jr.—Co A, 4th Engr Bn, 4th Div
- SSG Claron L. Forbes—Co A, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SSG Charles A. Dawson—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- SSG Charles F. Cole—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- PFC Herbert L. Rapson—Co C, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SSG William L. Wascher—Co B, 1st Bn, 14th Inf
- PFC Gary D. Dittmer—Co A, 1st Bn, 35th Inf
- PFC Gaylen J. Johnson—Co C, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SGT Fredrick A. Greenwood—Co E, 1st Bn, 14th Inf
- SGT Kenneth R. Vermillion—Co B, 1st Bn, 14th Inf
- SSG Louis D. Rice—Btry B, 5th Bn, 16th Arty
- SP4 Gene McFall—Co C, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- PSG Alfred M. Garron Jr.—Co C, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- 1LT Michael B. Teeters—Co A, 1st Bn, 14th Inf
- SP4 Barth B. Wills—Co E, 1st Bn, 14th Inf
- PSG Ronnie Harris—Co C, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- SP4 Wilson M. Barnett—Co C, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- SSG Santana P. Candelaria—Co C, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- CPT Charles F. Burke—Co D, 1st Bn, 8th Inf

Bronze Star

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- MAJ Joseph C. Gmelch—HHC, 2d Bn (Mech), 8th Inf, 4th Div
- CPT John W. Aljets—Trp B, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav
- CPT Eugene J. Welch—HHC, 2d Bn (Mech), 8th Inf
- 1LT John Bouzoni—Co A, 4th Engr Bn, 4th Div
- 1LT Bruce McNulty—Co C, 2d Bn (Mech), 8th Inf
- WO1 Thomas J. Shuttleworth—HHC, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- MSG David F. Butters—HHC, 2d Bn, 35th Inf
- 1SG George H. Coldwell—Co A, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- MSG Roy L. Sutherland—HHC, 1st Bn, 14th Inf
- SFC Robert L. Arter—HHC, 1st Bn, 4th Div
- SFC Thomas A. Cunigan—Hq & S&T Co, 3d Spt Bn, 4th Div
- PSG Laurence W. Rundle—Co C, 4th Engr Bn, 4th Div
- SSG Odell Freeman—Btry C, 2d Bn, 9th Arty
- 1SG Jerry W. Smith—HHC, 3d Bde, 4th Div
- SSG Howard A. Allen—HHC, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav
- SSG Garfield Gist—Co A, 2d Bn (Mech), 8th Inf
- SP5 Lawrence E. Johnson—Co C, 704th Maint Bn, 4th Div
- PFC Robert K. Correll—HHC, 1st Bn, 35th Inf
- SGM Robert R. Killingbeck—HHC, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
- 2LT Ronald J. Siengo—Co C, 2d Bn, 35th Inf
- PFC Charles D. McClurg—Btry C, 2d Bn, 9th Arty
- 1SG John Madden—Co B, 4th Med Bn, 4th Div
- CPT Barney M. Jones—HHC, 1st Bn, 8th Inf
- 2LT Michael J. Pulaski—Co C, 2d Bn, 35th Inf
- CPT Erik D. Fernandez—HHC, 2d Bn (Mech), 8th Inf
- SGM Paul E. Brannon—HHC, 4th S&T Bn, 4th Div
- SGM Wallace E. Stump—HHC, 1st Bn, 35th Inf
- CPT Eugene K. Lee—Trp A, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav
- WO1 Harvey C. Roe—HHC, 1st Bn, 22d Inf

- SFC Matt H. Jelks—Co B, 2d Bn, 35th Inf
- PSG Louis E. Baker—Co C, 2d Bn, 35th Inf
- 1SG Charles H. Robinson—HHC, 4th Div Arty
- SGT Daniel L. Jacobs—HHC, 3d Bde, 4th Div
- MAJ Ira W. Black Jr.—HHC, 2d Bn, 35th Inf
- CPT George G. Duffy—4th Admin Co, 4th Div
- CPT Glenn L. Taylor—HHC, 2d Bde, 4th Div
- 1LT Cary D. Allen—HHC, 4th S&T Bn, 4th Div

Air Medal For Heroism

- SP5 George A. Jacques—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- SP5 Albert W. Ekstrom—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- PFC Gaylor P. Mekelburg—HHC, 2nd Bn, 9th Arty
- SP5 Friedhelm Kerl—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- LTC William P. Junk Jr.—HHC, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf
- SP4 James F. Weiss—HHC, 3rd Bde TF, 25th Inf
- SP4 James W. Kincaid—Trp D, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav
- MAJ George R. Fourson—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- SP4 Sterling V. Kirk—HHC, 3rd Bde, 25th Inf
- CPT James W. Becker—Trp D, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav
- SGT Paul D. Sweckard—HHC, 3rd Bde, 25th Inf
- COL Charles R. Sniffin—HHC, 2nd Bde, 4th Div
- SP4 Eugene Robinson—HHC, 3rd Bde, 25th Inf
- 1LT George K. Thompson—HHC, 2nd Bde, 4th Div
- SP4 Sterling V. Kirk—HHC, 3rd Bde, 25th Inf
- MAJ Donald R. West—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- WO1 Russell B. Anderson—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- WO1 Howard A. Chambers—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- WO1 William E. Roberts III—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- WO1 David C. Stelljes—Co A, 4th Bn
- WO1 Partick C. Teague—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- WO1 Calvin Teel Jr.—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- WO1 Jame G. Zeimert—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- SGT Steve Jackovich—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- SGT Charles T. Spradlin—Co A, 4th Avn Bn

Army Commendation Medal For Heroism

- SGT James D. Pankey—Trp B, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav
- 2LT Dean R. Plager—Co B, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- PFC Sidney E. Hegener—Hq&Svc Btry, 6th Bn, 29th Arty
- PFC Larry E. Thorpe—Co D, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- SSG Pearly J. Thomas—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- SGT Jerry L. Ramos—Co A, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 Richard J. Hinson—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- PFC Walter O. Stephens—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- SP4 Leon M. Roberts—HHC, 1st Bde, 4th Div
- CPT Egbert Harrison Jr.—Co B, 2d Bn (Mech), 8th Inf
- PFC Michael Stevens—Btry C, 4th Bn, 42d Arty
- 1LT Jeffery R. Forbes—Btry C, 6th Bn, 29th Arty
- CPT John C. Morris—HHC & Band, 4th Div
- PFC Gyrel F. Murphy—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- PFC Gary L. Doolittle—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- SP4 Larry G. Bedoya—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- PFC Grant R. Mallery—Btry B, 4th Bn, 42d Arty
- PFC William G. Signorille—Co A, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
- PFC Vernon E. Watson—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- SSG Victor H. Ryrd—HHC, 1st Bde, 4th Div
- PFC David J. Remeszewski—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- PFC Sherwood Steele—HHC, 1st Bde, 4th Div
- SP6 James A. Wells—HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 David R. Haefner—Co A, 2d Bn, 34th Inf
- PFC Louis M. Barker—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- SP5 Larry J. Knight—Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
- SFC Cleo T. Wayman—Btry B, 6th Bn, 29th Arty
- SP4 Charles E. Carper—Co E, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 Jimmie M. Hunter—Co C, 1st Bn, 22d Inf
- SP4 Jimmy R. Matlock—Co B, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- SSG Delmar G. Hunt—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- SP5 Bob L. Coleman—HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 David A. Mihok—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- SP4 William E. Kitrell—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- SP4 Travis E. Case—Hq&Svc Btry, 5th Bn, 16th Arty
- 1LT Robert L. Kellas—Co D, 1st Bn, 8th Inf
- 1LT Donald J. Yott—Btry B, 5th Bn, 16th Arty
- SP4 Kay Lee—HHC, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- 2LT Richard L. Monroe—HHC, 2d Bn, 8th Inf
- SP4 Lawrence M. Lloyd—Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 Ronald J. Esselman—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- PFC David A. Decoste—Co C, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 Robert E. Nevreich—HHC, 3d Bn, 12th Inf
- SP4 Patrick F. Durrah—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
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- PFC Ralph Salmons—Btry B, 5th Bn, 16th Arty
- SP4 Fay P. Ryan—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- SSG Jerry T. Oliver—HHC, 4th Div Arty
- PFC Ernest Coppo—Co D, 1st Bn, 8th Inf
- SP4 Gerald Hatch—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- SP4 Bob L. Coleman—HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
- SSG Herman C. Roberts—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- MAJ George E. Nolan Jr.—Hq & Co A 204th Maint Bn
- SP4 Floyd V. Marrs—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- SP4 Harold H. Gonsar—Co C, 4th Engr, 4th Div
- SP4 James H. Sherrick—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- PFC Mario A. Grajeda—Co D, 1st Bn, 8th Inf
- SGT John L. Concannon—Co C, 3d Bn, 8th Inf
- SP4 David P. Noggle—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav
- SGT Lawrence E. Tollman—Co A, 1st Bn, 35th Inf
- PFC John A. Razor—Trp A, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav
- SP4 Terry L. Hammond—Hq&Svc Btry, 2d Bn, 9th Arty
- SP4 Gary D. Clark—Co C, 3d Bn, 8th Inf

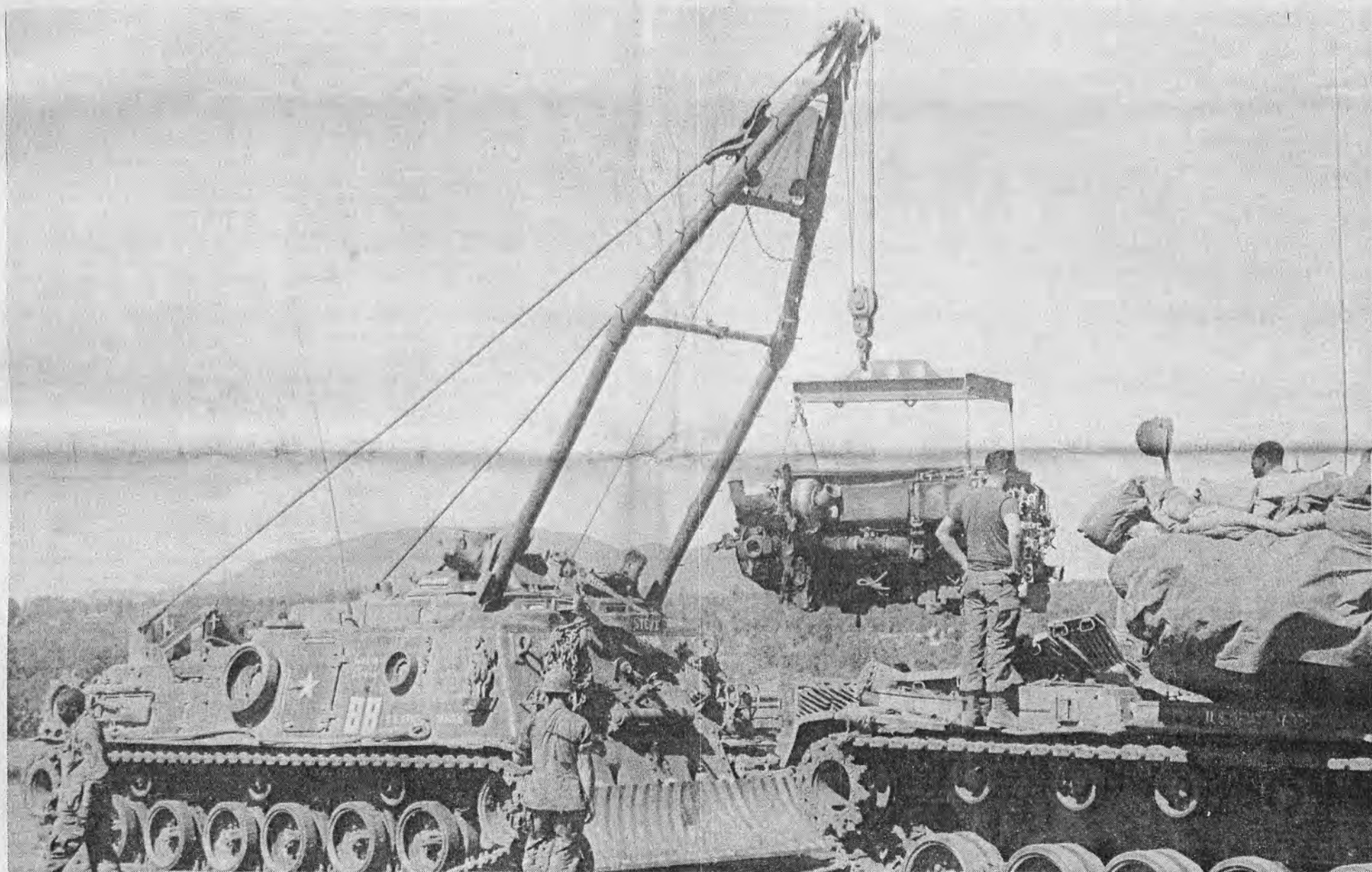


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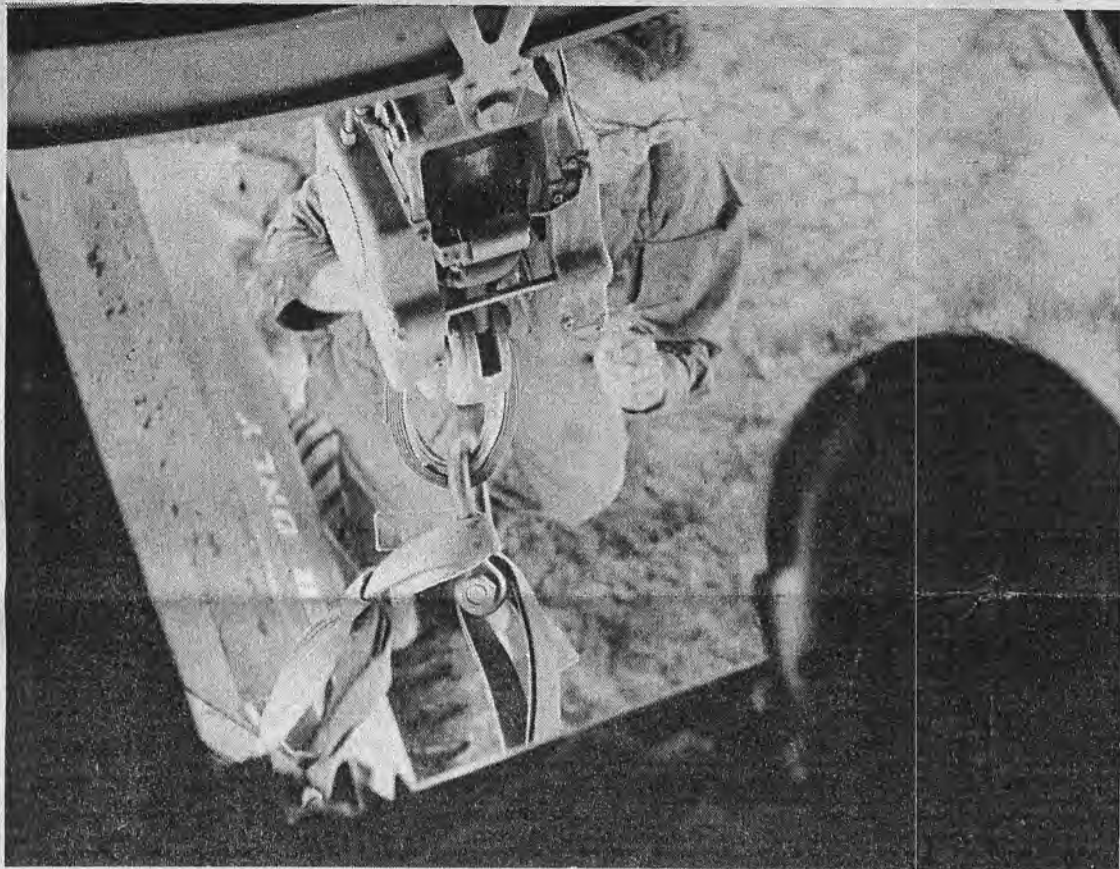
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HEAVY HOOKUP—A 52nd Aviation helicopter hooks up with a water trailer during a recent lift to an Ivy firebase in the jungled mountains near Dak To. (USA Photo by SP4 Andy Pipon)

'Quite A Day,' Says Officer After Bullets Take Embattled Hill

By SP4 Ralph Springer

DAK TO — First Lieutenant Patrick Emington (Louisville, Ky.) leaned back against the dank dirt wall of his bunker and rubbed his eyes. "It was quite a day," he said with a tired voice. "I don't want to have another like it again."

Drawing deeply on a cigarette, the 23-year-old platoon leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry settled back and began to talk about that day spent on an obscure hillside southwest of Dak To.

"Earlier in the morning, Company D moved from our combined night location on a sweep," 1LT Emington began. "They had moved out about 3½ kilometers and were on a finger-like ridge approaching a hill when they spotted seven North Vietnamese Army soldiers."

Company D immediately took the enemy troops under fire and called in artillery and tactical air strikes on the hilltop position.

Company Asks For Help

"Delta soldiers then radioed and said they were receiving heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from the NVA," 1LT Emington continued. "They wanted us to pack up and move to their location for support. It was apparently a large enemy force they had encountered."

Upon receiving the call, Company B "saddled up" and began moving toward its sister element, taking an arcing, half-moon route in an attempt to catch the enemy force by surprise and block his avenues of escape from the battle scene.

Although the distance was about two miles on the map, the rugged terrain, being craggy and mountainous and covered with thick jungle vegetation, doubled the distance.

"Anyone who has ever been in the sticks around Dak To can hardly picture the difficulty we had in moving," 1LT Emington said. "Knowing that potentially every minute counted, we were really moving. Most of the time running, stumbling and struggling to link up with Company D."

Shrapnel Is Everywhere

Company B finally reached a ridgeline adjacent to the finger where Company D was pinned down. Artillery rounds were crashing into the hilltop where the NVA were entrenched.

"Although we couldn't see the men, we had a good idea where all the action was taking place so we moved down off the ridge where we had stopped and started for the hill ridgeline where 'Delta' was in contact," explained 1LT Emington. "We approached the area on roughly a 90-degree angle to where Company D was fighting. We were going to flank the NVA element

by coming up the hill from the side."

Forming an assault line at the bottom of the steep rise, Company B soldiers paused brief seconds to catch their wind after the torturous march they had just made. Huge 155mm shells from supporting artillery continued to crash into the hillside, spraying shrapnel in all directions and creating a sound like ripping canvas as branches, bamboo and foliage fell crushed and splintered.

Up The Hill

"Everyone was determined to get up that hill," the young lieutenant said, "so we started up towards the top."

Company D, it was discovered later, had engaged an estimated NVA company and was battling a hard-core group of elite troops who stayed on the hilltop while the rest of the enemy company moved away from the contact. "They were a delaying force, I guess," 1LT Emington surmised, "but their tactics didn't work."

Nearing the top of the hill, Company B linked with the isolated elements from Company D, still pinned down by the heavy fire from the North Vietnamese.

"It was flying pretty thick as we approached the top," remarked the platoon leader, referring to the artillery shrapnel and enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. "Two men and their actions especially stand out in my mind, thinking back on the assault."

Story Of Two Men

One of the soldiers was Specialist 4 James F. Brown (Lakeland, Fla.). "Several times as we were moving towards the top, the intense fire and heavy artillery strikes would pin us down," said 1LT Emington. "SP4 Brown, at one point when we were stopped, jumped up and ran over to one of our men who was seriously wounded, disregarding the pinpoint enemy fire. In three minutes he treated four wounds that the man had sustained and then rejoined us when we were pushing for the top again."

Another was Private First Class Steve D. White (Seguin, Tex.), who also braved the murderous enemy fire.

"Steve, seeing that a sergeant had been wounded, started back down the hill to see if he could aid him," recalled 1LT Emington. "The sergeant tried to wave him off, but Steve reached him anyway despite the intense fire, and after checking to see that he was okay, moved back up with the rest of the platoon and joined the assault on the hill."

Although there were many wounded during the encounter, all the Bullets from Company B were on top of the hill when the two companies linked up and overran the enemy position, forcing the remnants of the North Vietnamese element to flee.

"It was one day I'd like to forget," sighed 1LT Emington. "Looking back, I can only recall the terrific noise, the swirling smoke — bluish-like cigarette smoke — and the struggle for the top. The whole company did a truly outstanding job."

Braves Discover Strange Note Enemy Left In Dak To Jungle

By PFC William Gruber

DAK TO — The sights and sounds of the jungle are peculiar at times, but the men of a platoon of Braves are convinced they've seen and heard everything.

While humping the hills of Dak To on a typically hot afternoon, Second Lieutenant Leo L. Hadley (Manhattan, Kan.), a platoon leader with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, received a call from his point man, Staff Sergeant Homer C. Fox (Ashville, N.C.):

"Is somebody playing a radio

back there?"

"Negative," replied 2LT Hadley.

"Well, I've got music to my left flank!"

A bit hard to believe, the report was disregarded until moments later when SSG Fox was back on the horn again:

"Repeat, I've got music to my left flank!"

With this, the bewildered lieutenant stopped his platoon and sent one squad with SSG Fox to search the area. Within minutes the sergeant was calling back:

"I found a music machine."

"A what?" inquired the lieutenant.

"A music machine. . . er a musical instrument. . . run by water!" answered the sergeant.

"Hold on, I'll be right there," said 2LT Hadley heading for their location.

"I wasn't quite sure just what to expect," reflected the lieutenant after the incident. "All I could imagine was some kind of paddle contraption."

Arriving at the scene he was awe-struck with SSG Fox's magnificent music machine. It consisted of a large bamboo superstructure which enclosed a row of varying lengths of bamboo suspended from one main string. The string ran from the superstructure 25 to 30 feet down to a stream bed where it was tied to another piece of bamboo rigged beneath a waterfall. The falling water vibrated the piece which tugged at the string and rattled the row of hollow bamboo lengths.

"It wasn't actually music, but it produced a very pleasant sound," recalled 2LT Hadley. "Very similar to an old hand-crank organ grinder or a small music box."

Much too amazing to destroy, the makeshift music machine was left undisturbed by the platoon. A search of the area turned up two enemy huts, some gourd-like vegetables and a small melon.

"We suspect the music machine was used by 'Charlie' while harvesting a nearby field," explained the lieutenant. "I guess he's like we are in one respect—he likes music while he works."

A Monkey Walks Point?

DAK TO—A monkey that walks point? Yep, the 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry has one, and in a recent assault on an enemy-held hill, it came through unscratched.

Riding on the shoulder of Sergeant Robert Goodpastor (Cambridge, Ohio), point man, Georgia, the monkey, probably has seen more combat than any other simian in Vietnam.

"When we were moving up that hill," said First Lieutenant Patrick Emington (Louisville, Ky.), platoon leader, "Georgia was right in front, crouched right behind SGT Goodpastor's helmet."

"Although we were under pretty heavy fire, ol' Georgia came through it okay."

Son In Delta

Star Visits Ivymen

CAMP ENARI — Leif Erickson, co-star of NBC's new hit series, "The High Chaparral," was the hit of the Highlands last week during a 17-day handshake tour for servicemen in the field.

The popular star of stage, screen and TV spent two days in the Ivy Division area chatting with the soldiers and bringing news and encouragement from the folks back home.

The rounds included a visit with Colonel Warren D. Hodges (Lawrence, Kan.), 2nd Brigade commander, and Ivymen at Vung Dat Am. He also toured the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry fire-base, accompanied a 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry MED-CAP team to a local Montagnard village, visited the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku and dined with Major General Charles P. Stone, division commander.

Lauding the Ivy Division as "a well-integrated operational unit," Mr. Erickson said he was highly impressed and deeply moved by what he saw and heard of local servicemen. A compliment well taken, for the veteran star is a veteran of World War II as well with experiences that enable him to identify with today's soldier.

As a chief photographer's mate in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Erickson was sent on a special mission by the secretary of the navy to photograph the most thrilling action in the Pacific — and thrilling it was.

Shot down twice in the open sea while on photographic reconnaissance, he had to be fished out by air-sea rescue teams. He was also blown into the sea from the deck of the USS Nevada when the ship was hit by a Kamikaze pilot.

Having already made his mark in the world of show biz, the native Californian returned to his career after the war with even greater successes in such productions as "Tea and Sympathy," "A Gathering of Eagles" and "The Carpetbaggers."

Almost 25 years removed from his role in the Pacific, Mr. Erickson is on another tour of a combat zone. This one, however, is with the USO rather than the Department of Navy and he's fighting for better communications from the homeland to the soldier in Vietnam.

He also hopes to communicate with a very special soldier serving with the Special Forces in the Mekong Delta — Private First Class Bill Erickson, his only son.



FOR THE BLACK PANTHERS—AND FOR GOOD REASON.



AN EYE OUT FOR THE ENEMY, BLACK PANTHER MANS MACHINE GUN.

Road Hazards

Story And Photos By 4th Division PIO

CAMP ENARI—It's units like the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor which take a lot of the hazards from driving on a highway in the Central Highlands. The Black Panthers' big guns more than even the score with any old-be ambushers.

The tankers have been giving our side added firepower for some time now. In 1940 the unit was activated at Fort Knox, Ky. During the following 13 years, elements of the battalion saw action in both the European and Pacific Theaters of World War II and in the Korean Conflict. Several unit citations went to the battalion in testimony of the important and courageous role it played.

Three months of intensive training prepared the men of the battalion for deployment to Vietnam in early 1966. Here, they took on the mission of providing road security in the Ivy Division's area of operations. They've been protecting convoys, securing artillery positions, air-land landing zones and brigade and battalion command posts ever since.

The 550 officers and men of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor perform a valuable task as their tracks rumble across the highlands.



A COMPLETE CHECK OF THE TANKS IS ALWAYS MADE BEFORE A MISSION.



PERSONNEL CARRIERS ADD SPEED AND FIREPOWER.

Enemy Ways Shatter Men's Beliefs

Former Foes Help Win Over Friends

By SP4 William Owen

BAN ME THUOT—"I was a Viet Cong a few months ago. But for a long time I had been dissatisfied with what I was doing, and I could no longer believe in what the Viet Cong stood for," blared the loudspeaker.

Speaking to the crowd of villagers that had quickly formed, was a member of the Armed Propaganda Team, composed entirely of ex-Viet Cong soldiers who had renounced their allegiance to the North to encourage the voluntary withdrawal of Viet Cong from Central Highland villages. The team had sided with the civic action element of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, headed by Captain Carl Brewer (Kansas City, Mo.), and was now working the village of Buon Hra near the Regulars firebase.

"I'm looking forward to working with the team as they have brought in 20 Chieu Hoi in the past four months. This is prime territory and we should see some definite results," remarked CPT Brewer. His words soon proved prophetic.

First Lieutenant Robert Goodstein (New York City), the team's American advisor and on whose head the VC had put a sizeable price tag, arrived later that morning and the patrol set out.

Arriving first at the village of Van Moui, the team's squad leader took a position behind the loudspeakers and skillfully told the villagers of his past. He went on to relate what had happened to him since he had become a Chieu Hoi.

Rice Collector Quits

The effect on the villagers was soon apparent as one man stepped forward, declaring himself a supply agent for the Viet Cong. It was his job to collect rice and gather bits of intelligence for the enemy.

"The VC come here every Friday and drain the village of its food reserves," he related to a school-trained interpreter with the Regulars. "They give us no weapons because they do not have enough for themselves," he continued.

After a search of the village, the civic action element conducted a medical civic action program (MEDCAP) for the villagers and then moved on to the village of Buon Ea Huk for another talk.

The propaganda team was effective here and before the afternoon was over had added three more Chieu Hoi to its list. After an interpreter had finished his talk to the men a group of young women came up and

identified themselves as wives of Civilian Strike Force (CSF) soldiers.

Women Scorned

One of the women admitted, "When the VC come, they mistreat and mock us because we are married to CSFs. We don't know what they will do to us the next time."

CPT Brewer assured them they would be protected and praised the women for helping to remove the scourge of the Viet Cong.

When the patrol left, a new Vietnamese flag was flying over the village and another Viet Cong supply center had been undermined.

The new Chieu Hoi were escorted with their families back to the firebase and later to Ban Me Thuot.

A comment from Sergeant Doyle Marugg (Pamona, Calif.), NCOIC of the Regulars' civic action team, summed up the day:

"We've got quite a team here. First the villagers hear the ex-Viet Cong who espouse the democratic ideal as opposed to terrorism and pillaging and then we prove our good intentions with medical care and gifts for the children.

"That's a combination that's hard to beat."

Warriors Suppress VC Press

By PFC Richard Tuttle

VUNG DAT AM — The propaganda activities of a small band of Viet Cong were abruptly curtailed recently when men of the 2nd Brigade's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry came upon its location, about 11 miles south-east of Kontum.

In the enemy's hasty efforts to vacate the premises, a printing press, numerous documents, ink, three baskets of eating utensils and letters taken from Army, Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers were all left behind.

"The only things they didn't leave were the printing plates," commented Second Lieutenant Alfred Wirt (St. Ann, Mo.), 3rd Platoon Company B.

The lieutenant said his platoon was moving through a dense wooded area when it discovered the enemy position. "We found three huts and four freshly dug bunkers," he added.

"The location had apparently just been vacated because we noticed a fire was still burning and rice was still cooking in the pots," 2LT Wirt said.

The lieutenant related that "after a thorough search of the area we found a printing press and various types of subversive literature. We also discovered about 100 documents in addition to letters which had been taken from ARVN soldiers.

"Everything was left except the plates to the printing press and Charlie made sure he got away with those."

Numerous sweeps were sent out from the enemy location in an effort to locate the fleeing VC but turned up nothing except tracks.

Most of the documents and letters were turned up by Private First Class Emmitt Chandler (Midland Odessa, Tex.).

The lieutenant estimated the band of VC numbered eight. "We have the feeling that Charlie was interrupted just about the time he was ready to relax and have dinner," he added with a smile.



TAKING CHARGE—1LT Lynn Lysack (Des Moines, Iowa), a platoon leader with the 4th Engineer Battalion's Company A, primes a charge of plastic explosive prior to blowing another tree during the clearing of a new firebase in the jungle near Dak To. His platoon is supporting the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry. (USA Photo by SP4 Andy Pison)

More Talks Planned

Redlegs Teach Lesson

DAK TO — A class on the finer points of artillery was conducted for members of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP), working with the 1st Brigade, by artillerymen of the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery.

"We gave the LRRP members training on the conduct of artillery fire," explained Captain Johnny L. Lambert (Lebanon, Ore.), the battalion's assistant operations officer. "It was geared to new LRRP members, but also served as a review for the more experienced team leaders."

The session covered such points as how to call in artillery, methods of adjustment, using points as how to call in

artillery, methods of adjustment, using artillery to determine position, results of each type of artillery round, safety in the use of artillery and map reading.

The class wound up with a practical exercise whereby each of the 13 students adjusted live artillery fire exploding on a nearby mountainside.

"The class members responded well to the exercise," continued CPT Lambert. "They appeared eager to learn and picked up the subject matter fast."

The artillery instructors said they hope to hold another session soon, but will set up for the classes as often as they are needed due to the rotation of the LRRP members.

Cavalry Foils Effort To Destroy Convoy

CAMP ENARI — The fast response and devastating firepower of a tri-platoon force of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry recently foiled an enemy attempt to wipe out a convoy of fuel tankers as the trucks rolled along Highway 19E about three miles west of the Mang Yang Pass.

The convoy was attacked by a combined force of about 50 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army soldiers heavily armed with an assortment of automatic and small arms weapons along with 60mm mortars and RPG2 rockets. Pinned down by vicious fire, the convoy commander quickly radioed Blackhawks, who patrol along the road, for help and in moments three cav-

alry platoons were rumbling to the rescue.

They arrived to find five of the 5,000-gallon tankers ablaze and quickly maneuvered off the road into the thick brush to flush out the aggressors. Their big guns brought immediate results as the enemy soldiers scrambled for their lives. With the added support of Battery B, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery along with the rockets and mini-guns of 52nd Aviation Battalion gunships, the enemy was soon routed.

Staff Sergeant Dudley J. Trafford (Augusta, Ga.), a scout vehicle commander with Troop B, commented, "Charlie knows how to fire the B50 rocket all right, but not how to employ it."

The sergeant referred to the rocket that slammed into the side of his vehicle, fired by a VC soldier from a nearby gully. Although the rocket damaged the track and one road wheel, the radius of the blast also caught the enemy who had fired the rocket from almost point blank range. He died instantly.

A search of the area later turned up 12 enemy bodies while four aggressors were captured.

Pandemonium

BAN BLECH — At times, an elephant can be as stubborn as a mule, but when faced with modern technology, the animal stands no chance.

It seems that a Montagnard farmer was making little progress with the family elephant. About that time, a reconnaissance element of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry happened by. Feeling sorry for the farmer, an ingenious member of the patrol pulled out a hand flare from his pack, took careful aim and sent the projectile on its way. The elephant trumpeted loudly and realizing that it had just been given a "hot seat," decided that a change of location was, in fact, desirable after all, and with his master hanging on for dear life, began clearing trails regarded previously as impossible to clear.

The moral of the story? If you are ever inclined to consider the elephant slow of foot, there's a Montagnard farmer somewhere who will surely convince you otherwise.

Rooster's Call Supersedes Sarge's Bark

VUNG DAT AM—While many Ivymen are awakened each morning to the blaring sound of a bugle or the bark of their platoon sergeant, medics of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry prefer the crow of a rooster.

Specialist 4 Eugene F. Abe Jr. (Flintstone, Md.), a Red Warrior medic, explains the oddity like this:

"One day we went to one of the local villages for a MED-CAP (Medical Civic Actions Program), and after we had treated them, the villagers gave us a rooster and hen as a gesture of appreciation for our aid.

"That was about two months ago and we've had them as pets ever since. They're a part of our medical team now and everyone around the firebase knows they belong to us."

Specialist 5 Douglas Grant (Philadelphia), another medic, said the rooster and hen are almost inseparable and many times will unexpectedly leap onto the shoulders of an unsuspecting passer-by.

"We make sure they have plenty of grain and water and bed them down at night—just like back home on the farm," SP5 Grant said, chuckling.



IVYMEN CAN GET A BREATHTAKING VIEW OF SCENIC PENANG WHEN THEY TAKE A RIDE ON THE SWISS-MADE TROLLEYS UP PENANG HILL.



A BEAUTIFUL SHORELINE LIES NEAR FAMOUS PENANG BEACHES.

Looking For Places To Visit On R&R? Try Scenic Penang

(First Of A Series)

CAMP ENARI—Orient yourself with the Orient while you can.

For many soldiers, a rest and relaxation (R&R) site is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and it would appear that many are missing a special treat. They come and go without witnessing the genuine charm of the Orient. The exotic East will provide a lifetime of unforgettable experiences for the man who is looking for something different.

Consider the tropical seaport of Penang for a starter. Located on the northeast coast of the Malaysian peninsula, Penang offers the many attractions of luxurious tropical beaches, tax-free stores in a shoppers' paradise, sightseeing from ancient pagodas to modern skyscrapers, a succulent selection of Chinese, Indian and European foods expertly prepared in fine restaurants and a night life that never quits.

Wine and dine, dance to the excellent combos, take in the sights, catch the latest movie or just relax in a tropical cabaret.

Do it all in one night if you like—every night if you can. And, of course, this will all be enjoyed in the warm companionship of the native Malay, Chinese and Indian populace, a unique example of people of different races living and working side-by-side in harmony.

When Recess Ends, Viet Cong May Find His School Finished

CAMP ENARI — A recent visual reconnaissance mission led a patrol from Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry to discover what appeared to be a deserted Viet Cong ambush site complete with over a dozen abandoned rifles, machine guns and mortars.

The satisfaction of recovering the haul was short-lived, however, when closer inspection by the Aero-Rifle Platoon revealed that the entire setup was as phony as a store window manikin.

The area turned out to be a rather elaborate VC classroom equipped with hand-carved

wooden "training aids" patterned after such weapons as the AK47 rifle, the U.S. carbine, M14 and M16 rifles, the Browning automatic rifle with tripod and grenade and mortar tubes. Also found were a half dozen straw dummies to man the weapons in the classic manner of the VC ambush. The realism even included beer cans dug into the road to simulate mines and punji stakes of assorted sizes.

The mock weapons and dummies were later removed by the Buffaloes. When the enemy returns from recess, he'll find that school is out, courtesy of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

Year Of Monkey Begins

Soldiers See 2nd New Year

SAIGON (MACV) — American servicemen in Vietnam last week observed a new year for the second time this year.

This one, the Vietnamese Tet, heralded the Year of the Monkey.

More than just the beginning of a new year, it corresponded to America's Christmas, New Year, Easter and Fourth of July combined. It was family reunion, a spring festival, a national holiday and everybody's birthday.

One of the cardinal rules of the holiday was that no loose ends were left over from the previous year. Business deals, social obligations and debts were all fulfilled as far as possible and animosities were buried under an avalanche of forgiveness and friendship.

Prices during the weeks preceding Tet were usually doubled. Most commercial establishments closed during the holidays and, despite the dangers of travel in war-torn Vietnam, the country's people made every effort to rejoin their families. Even the departed were invited back and greeted with daily meals, rituals and the sweet aroma of burning joss sticks on home and temple altars.

Anything that detracted from the impression of contentment and prosperity was taboo lest the

gods be annoyed. Grievances and annoyances were hidden beneath smiling faces and an amiable manner. Even the first guest of the holiday was often pre-selected to insure an auspicious start to the coming months. A person named Phuc (happiness) or Banh (handsome) was sure to be invited before someone named Cham (slow) or Cho (dog). After the select visitor, all company was welcomed and entertained graciously because an unkind word or thoughtless act is felt to indicate the perpetrator's conduct throughout the new year.

Tet also marked great activity in the spirit world. Good spirits headed for the palace of the Heavenly Emperor of Jade where they turned in the annual report on their respective areas of responsibility. At the same time, demons were released from Hell. This placed man in a delicate position of being vulnerable to the assault of the rampaging devils.

Man devised a mystic arsenal to protect himself during the absence of the guardian beings—a 30-foot pole with protective adornments (the Cay Neu); signs bearing significant words; the Apricot tree and flower (Bong Mai), the Narcissus, the unicorn dance, firecrackers and the powdered-lime circle of life drawn about the home with the sign of a bow and arrow in the front.

For American soldiers Tet was a brief glimpse of the diverse influences which shape the Vietnamese and their culture.

A New Form of Harassment?

Highway 19's Dirt Smolders

By 1LT Jerry Yahiro

VUNG DAT AM—Events along Highway 19, the pot-holed artery leading to the 2nd Brigade command camp, have presented many puzzling problems to Ivy-men in the past but recently, two incidents in as many days have posed yet another mystery for the men of the 2nd Brigade.

Late one afternoon, Major Joseph Gmelch (Moses Lake, Wash.), the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry executive officer, noticed a smoldering mound of dirt while driving along the highway. The major hopped from his jeep for a closer look at the smoking mass, piled off to the edge of the road.

"It looked as if someone had planted a mine there, but I

couldn't imagine why it was smoking," he said with a puzzled look. "No one had reported setting off a mine."

MAJ Gmelch radioed the unusual find to his headquarters and a team from the 4th Engineer Battalion was sent out to check the report.

Mine Smolders Away

Led by First Lieutenant James Blick (Milwaukee), the engineers arrived to find the mound still smoldering and a deep hole close-by.

A preliminary check revealed the presence of white phosphorus and the team quickly primed a charge of plastic explosive in hopes of causing a secondary explosion of hidden charges.

The initial blast proved the

engineers right, setting off a small secondary explosion. More charges of plastic explosive were set and fired, resulting in two more secondary blasts.

The bottom of the now-deep hole revealed what appeared to be a tunnel entrance, but with the quickening darkness a further probe was postponed until the following day.

More Smoking Dirt

Early the next morning, the engineer team came upon another smoking dirt pile while heading towards the scene of the hole found the day before.

A check of the new hole, clearly similar to the incident of the previous day, showed white phosphorus again and this time, two metal bands usually found on 155mm or 8-inch artillery rounds. A call to headquarters told of no artillery fired in the area and the crater's characteristics did not indicate a round had impacted there. There seemed to be no answer to the problem.

Moving on to the first hole, the engineers sought to uncover more evidence. To their dismay, the tunnel turned out to be only a six-foot hole angling off sharply to an abrupt end. Nothing else could solve the puzzle.

"I don't know what set those things off," admitted 1LT Blick. "I just hope 'Charlie' isn't thinking of new ways to harass us."

Tanks...

(Continued from Page 1)

was shot down by another member of the platoon. All four were taken in along with 3 AK50 machine guns, 11 AK47 sub-machine guns and numerous pistols, rockets and satchel charges found on the battlefield.

The fighting was preceded by a minor skirmish the day before when Company B's 3rd Platoon ran into an NVA platoon, armed with 75mm recoilless and automatic weapons, about nine miles west of Dak To.

Armor and cavalry elements have been securing Highway 14 since early last November.

Join Your 4th Division Association

Mail The IVY LEAF Home

FROM: *Sgt L. Mortenson*
C Troop 21 Cav Regt
APO SF Calif
06262



TO: *Oris Mortenson*
Pogot Lakes,
Minnesota 56472

Fold paper three times and secure edges with staple or tape before mailing. Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.



WORKING WELL—The Plei Wau village pump had broken down, but along came the civic action team of the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile) and fixed it. All it takes now is a lot of cranking. (USA Photo)

Impact Awards Start

CAMP ENARI—Major General Charles P. Stone, division commander, has created "Impact Awards" whereby an Ivy-man, performing a valorous act, receives an award the same day or within a short period after the action.

The first time that this policy was instituted followed the recent action of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry in the Bien Het area.

Under the new program, the commanding general intends to present the awards as soon after an action as is practical. In some cases the awards will serve only as interim presentations until a higher medal is approved at the appropriate headquarters.

The immediate presentation of the awards will not do away

with the required paper work, but will necessitate it being speeded up so the record of the presentation may be forwarded through the proper channels.

Recipients of the Bronze Stars with "V" device from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry were: First Lieutenant Kenneth W. Reid (Blaine, Wash.); Second Lieutenant Earnest J. Jones (Stone Mountain, Ga.); Specialist 4 Allan E. Mord (Hilmar, Calif.), and Private First Class John F. Sommer Jr. (Grove City, Ohio).

Receiving Army Commendation Medals with "V" device during the same ceremony were: Second Lieutenant Terrance W. Ernst (Brainerd, Minn.), and Platoon Sergeant Jimmie T. Messer (Shelton, Wash.).

LRRP Team Fights Off Flanking Enemy

VUNG DAT AM — Members of a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP), played a deadly game of "follow the leader."

Operating with the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, the LRRP members came upon a recently used North Vietnamese Army base camp. Judging from the ashes of the still-warm campfires and the fresh foxholes, the camp was apparently occupied by a multi-platoon size enemy force.

Higher headquarters directed the team to follow a trail leading from the base in search of the camp's former occupants.

Proceeding with caution, team members tracked the enemy force. As the dense terrain prevented visual observation, the patrol listened carefully for

signs of the enemy's whereabouts.

The team uncovered a few clues which seemingly indicated the enemy closeby and by late afternoon of the second day, the patrol was probing ever so alertly.

"We usually make contact with them (the NVA) head on," said Private First Class Arthur Wilder (Charleston, S.C.), "but this time I was more concerned with the flanks."

Entering a gully, the Ivy-men heard noises from a nearby stream bed and eased forward to check out the commotion. Two enemy riflemen ripped off a few rounds from the flanks—as the team had expected — and the patrol quickly spread out for action.

"There were about five to 10 enemy soldiers," related Staff Sergeant Clifton E. Popay (Calhoun, Ga.), team leader. "They opened up on us first with one or two shots, then with bursts of automatic fire."

Immediately returning the fire, the team eluded what could have been a deadly trap. "They were awfully persistent in trying to get us," added a LRRP member, Sergeant Charles Mathews (Jacksonville, Fla.).

The team quickly radioed for reinforcement and in minutes, 4th Aviation Battalion gunships were strafing the area while a platoon from the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry was jumping off at a nearby landing zone.

With the new odds, the enemy quickly broke contact and faded away into the jungle.

Incoming

DAK TO (3/12)—The sound of mortars popping from tubes in the distant jungle. A soldier screams, "Incoming mortars!" and Ivy-men at the camp scramble for the cover of their bunkers.

Almost a daily occurrence at the mortar base of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry's Company D, the company, along with the mortar platoon, are securing a site for an engineer work party which is building the camp.

The enemy wasted little time in lobbing a dozen rounds on the camp the first night the 1st Brigade company had moved to the location. The mortar platoon quickly countered with a few rounds of its own and Phantom jets cut loose with bombs on the suspected enemy positions.

Snoopy...

(Continued from Page 1)

ris (Birmingham, Ala.), who tail the Snoopy ship and when contact is made move in with machine guns and rockets. "They've exhibited some damn good shooting," added WO Baker.

Since they began flying last June Snoopy missions have been quite successful. Some ships have been lost, but countless incidents avoided by locating the enemy before he could strike. The chopper flew all during the battle of Dak To, "when our snooping turned up Charlies every day," smiled WO Baker.

At long last Snoopy is beating the "Red barons," and "snooping" is here to stay.



NEWEST MEMBER—Major General Charles P. Stone, Ivy Division commander, receives his membership card to the 4th Division Association at his office at division headquarters. Accepting the commanding general's dues is Division SGM Lawrence Hickey. During his command, MG Stone will serve as the association's honorary president. (USA Photo by 124th Signal Battalion)

Don't know how many more they need yet