

Ivy Men Kill More Than 500 Enemy

Enemy Soldiers Back Off

By SP4 Obelit Yador

CAMP ENARI — Ivy Division forces have killed over 85 enemy troops in the newest Communist offensive in the Central Highlands.

The enemy launched their offensive with a series of mortar and rocket attacks on U.S. and Vietnamese installations.

Special Forces and Montagnards defenders of Dak Seang, a village northwest of Dak To, reported killing 39 NVA soldiers in a day-long battle against mortar, rocket and enemy ground attacks.

The defenders of the camp suffered only light casualties, capturing 38 AK47s and a huge amount of other assorted small arms and ammunition.

In a futile attempt to disrupt 4th Division supply lines, the enemy struck daily convoys enroute to brigade base camp and firebases with road mines and ambushes.

Ivy and ARVN armored cavalrymen struck back at the enemy along Highway 14, between Pleiku and Dak To, killing 41 of the enemy dug in on both sides of the road.

Later in the week the 3rd ARVN cavalrymen killed 51 enemy troops south of Kontum, as the NVA attempted to ambush another 4th Division convoy on Highway 14.

The cavalrymen were supported by artillery and airstrikes in the battle.

In other action, a civilian strike force reported killing five Viet Cong west of Pleiku, and farther south Ivy's 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Air-mobile) killed 22 enemy soldiers in two-hour fight 35 miles northwest of Ban Me Thuot.

In the battle the squadron and its aero-rifle platoons captured a great number of enemy arms, documents, and about 300 pounds of explosives.

Throughout the offensive 4th Division forces kept a continuous fire on the enemy's heels.

(Continued on Back Page)



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CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

September 15, 1968



WAR WIRE—A soldier from the 4th Division scurries across a battalion firebase to investigate movement near the infantryman's perimeter. (USA Photo by SP4 Ernie Porcellio)

Lasts 4 Hours

Cavemen Fight Hard, Kill 22

By SP4 Peter Call

BAN ME THUOT—It started out to be a normal cordon and search operation covering three villages about 12 miles northwest of Ban Me Thuot.

The pilots of Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry flew

over the area and noted the villages were formed in a triangle shape, two being located almost side by side and one located to the south of the two.

Troop D waited to be inserted in the two villages to the north. They had left their armed

jeeps behind this time and were acting as an aero-rifle platoon.

Upon landing, Captain Anthony Hoyer of Haverstraw, N.Y., Troop D commander, split his men into two platoons to search the villages. In one village the cavalrymen found out from a villager that, just before their arrival, 30 Viet Cong had fled to the north.

"It was about 12:15 p.m., and I had one platoon to the east and one to the west as we moved to the southern most village," said Captain Hoyer. "When we neared the village our scout choppers reported two enemy running south, out of the village. We spotted them and opened fire."

"Then things began to break around us," continued Captain Hoyer. "One of our scouts was damaged and had to land and at the same time the platoon to the east was brought under light fire."

As gunships softened the area, Troop D entered the village. Troop D moved south, following fresh trails in the elephant grass.

Captain Hoyer moved his men farther south; they spotted two NVA. "We brought them under fire and they went down," he said.

Gunships continued to pound the area as Troop D turned (Continued on Back Page)

Duc Lap Battling Quiets

By SP4 Larry Hogan

ALL AVAILABLE military resources were employed to quell a massive enemy attack on the Duc Lap Special Forces camp and its surrounding areas.

In heavy fighting the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade, the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 7th Air Force, and several other U.S. Forces joined with Vietnamese and Montagnard units in all-out defense of the area.

Sporadic fighting is still continuing.

Over 500 enemy dead have been counted.

Enemy mortars and rockets screaming through the early morning darkness marked the beginning of the battle, concentrating the bulk of their attack on the smaller of the two hills upon which the camp was constructed. The enemy blasted away at the installation, and the defenders were forced to withdraw.

A lone civilian irregular defense group (CIDG) radio man remained at his outpost on the ravished hill, calling for support until he was silenced by an enemy bullet.

Once they had taken the first hill, the enemy turned their sights on the camp's remaining force positioned on the second rise.

By this time the camp's distressed calls had been received. Word was flashed to the besieged soldiers that additional troops were on the way.

"We knew reinforcements were coming," recalled First Lieutenant William T. Harp of Northfork, Calif., commander of the U.S. forces at the camp. "But would they make it in time?"

As the enemy advanced, the defenders slashed back at the NVA with two 105mm Howitzers positioned atop the outpost.

In spite of the heavy resistance put up by the defenders, the enemy made steady advancement. The attackers had almost reached their objective, when gunships came rallying out of the clouds, raining rocket and machinegun fire on the enemy.

Choppers from the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry and "Falcon" gunships from "stage coach operation" near Ban Me Thuot halted the advancing enemy and killed countless NVA in the process.

By this time the 2nd Brigade's A Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery had been alerted. The entire battery would soon be transported to an area near the camp where (Continued on Back Page)

LRPs Watch VC Sleep; Morning Brings Action

By SP4 John Trimble

OASIS — A 3rd Brigade Long Range Patrol (LRP) team spent a sleepless night within 25 meters of three Viet Cong.

"After we jumped out of the chopper we moved to a thicket and set up for the night," said Specialist 4 Terry Allen of Twin Falls, Idaho, the team leader.

"Everything seemed to be going smoothly until we heard some commotion around nine o'clock."

As the noise became louder the men began seeing lights.

"I spotted these lights moving our way. Then I knew it was VC or NVA," recalled Specialist Allen. "They kept walking towards us. I thought they

were going to walk right over us. Just as we got ready to fire, they stopped and sat down," he added.

The Viet Cong sat about 25 meters from the Ivymen.

"Not knowing the number of VC in the area we just kept quiet and watched them," said Specialist Allen. "There were three of them."

"It was kind of funny watching them," he continued. "They sat around and just smoked and laughed. They acted pretty much like any soldier, I guess."

Around 3:30 a.m. the three Viet Cong got up and walked away in the same direction they had come from.

"When daylight came we moved over to a hill top about

1,000 meters away and watched the valley," added the Ivymen.

When the patrol started back to its previous location, it came under heavy automatic weapons fire.

"At first, there was only one weapon firing. It looked like he was shooting right at me. I clicked my 16 (M16) to automatic and began firing at him. He fell," said Specialist Allen.

"Then other rifles chimed in and we fell back. I called in artillery, but we were in no position to search the area for its effects," he added.

The enemy rifles ceased fire and the LRP team returned to its night location. After the artillery barrage, it was Charley's turn for a sleepless night.

Explosive Back-up

Bridges are likely enemy targets. In order to safeguard against floating explosives, Ivy engineers innovate a new preventive system.

For the complete, illustrated story see pages 4 and 5.



SOUNDS AS IF THOSE MORTARS ARE COMING MIGHTY CLOSE TONITE...

From The Desk of
the
Commanding General



M G STONE

Voting

THIS NOVEMBER, elections will be held for the offices of President and Vice President, the U.S. Congress and numerous other national and state offices. The officials elected will become our chosen representatives for determining the policies and enacting the laws which govern our nation. These elections provide each citizen his principal means of influencing the course of government by exercising the right to vote for those candidates who stand for the policies he, the voter, would like to see put into effect. The vote is the citizen's voice in the political process in a democratic society, and the strength of our society rests on the proper exercise of this right to vote by every citizen. Any citizen who fails to vote not only neglects his rights, but also his duty.

You are a citizen as well as a soldier. As a soldier you are performing the highest service possible for any citizen in support of your country. As members of the Armed Forces serving overseas, your right to vote is protected by various laws and court decisions. Recently, the Federal Voting Assistance Act was amended to further guarantee you the exercise of your right to vote.

An information pamphlet, DA Pamphlet 360-503, has been published in order to provide you with the details concerning the elections to be held this year and how to go about casting your vote. This pamphlet summarizes the requirements established by your state concerning age and registration. It also tells you when to request a ballot, how to obtain it, and gives specific instructions for mailing your completed ballot. Your unit voting officer has this pamphlet as well as the Federal Post Card Application for Absentee Ballots. Contact your voting officer for assistance in obtaining and completing the application for a ballot from your resident state.

I realize that many of you have been away from your home state for some time and may not be familiar with local issues and candidates. This need not discourage you from voting for those issues and candidates with which you are familiar. Some states have established special procedures which allow you to vote only for certain offices. DA Pamphlet 360-503 gives specific instructions and information concerning the rules governing elections in each state. If after referring to this pamphlet, you still have questions, see your voting officer.

Your failure to vote when added to the millions of other citizens who may fail to vote can weaken the foundations of our democratic society. Voting in an election which offers the citizen a meaningful choice is still another way we may contribute to the worldwide struggle against communism—a struggle in which you are already playing an historic role. I urge each of you who are eligible to send for an absentee ballot and cast your vote in the elections this year for the candidates of your choice.

The 20th of September has been designated as Armed Forces Voters day by the Secretary of Defense. I encourage each officer and enlisted man in the 4th Division to exercise his inherent right to vote.

Charles P. Stone



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LTC Old Leads Bullets

CAMP ENARI—A 1954 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy assumed command of 8th Infantry's 1st Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel William D. Old II of Austin, Texas (below), took the reins of command in ceremonies September 2 at the Unit's forward base camp at Dak To.

The West Pointer attended the Airborne Ranger course immediately after graduation from the Academy. After completing the ranger course, the colonel was assigned to the 37th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division as platoon leader and later as battalion executive officer.

During the period 1955 to 1957 he served with the 8th Cavalry as a reconnaissance platoon leader. He has also served a tour in Korea with the 8th Infantry Division as the commanding general's aide.

While assigned to ROTC duty at Texas A & M, he completed requirements for the Master of Arts degree in Business Administration. He has also attended the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

The 14-year veteran is serving his second tour in Vietnam. During 1964-65 he was assigned as an advisor for the 14th ARVN Infantry Regiment and the 7th ARVN Division.

Prior to coming to the 4th Division, LTC Old was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff, Washington. The Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters are among the colonel's awards and decorations.



LTC W.D. Old



COMMAND CHANGE—Master Sergeant Herbert L. Gunn (right), 4th Aviation Battalion Sergeant Major, pins the green tabs on Lieutenant Colonel George F. Powers, Jr., during a change of command ceremony at Hensel Field.

(USA Photo by 124th Signal)

2nd Nam Tour

Avn. Bn. Gets CO

By SFC De Laney Casey

CAMP ENARI — Lieutenant Colonel George F. Powers of Milledgeville, Georgia, is the new commanding officer of the 4th Division's 4th Aviation Battalion.

Colonel Powers is a 1954 graduate of Alabama Polytechnic Institute where he received his ROTC commission and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture.

The colonel was assigned as an Infantry platoon leader and battalion executive officer after graduation. In 1956 he attended the Aviation School, Edward Grey AFB, Texas. He also attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va., and the Infantry School at Ft. Gordon, Ga.

The 14 year veteran is serving his second tour in Vietnam,

having served with the 52d Aviation Battalion as assistant aviation officer and as battalion S-2. Colonel Powers' other foreign service tour was in Germany in 1958.

His stateside assignments have been at Ft. Ord, California and Ft. Benning, Ga.

The Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal and the Senior Army Aviation Badge are among the colonel's awards and decorations.

Hide 'N Seek

SRPs Battle, Take Enemy Cache

By SP4 Lew Grass

BAN ME THUOT — A four-man Short Range Patrol (SRP) discovered a large enemy ammunition cache while playing hide and seek with an enemy force north of Ban Me Thuot.

The patrol from "C" Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry was on a two-day mission north of the company's patrol base when it located the cache.

"We found two bunker complexes on the way to the area we were going to check out," said Sergeant Paul Ogren of Wheaton, Ill. "They were vacant so we set up our night location near the bunkers and along the main trail."

The patrol remained in the same area the next morning, patiently watching the trail.

Shortly before noon, Private First Class Ronald Schulthies of Pocatello, Idaho, detected movement. Several NVA soldiers appeared coming down the trail past their position.

"They came right past us," said Private First Class Daryl Davis of Chillicothe, Ill. "They were still coming when one of them turned around and gave an order. After some discussion, they all turned around and went back up the trail. They didn't seem to be in any hurry."

By this time the patrol had called in artillery. "The artillery didn't bother them at first," said PFC Davis. "When we adjusted it was closer, it dawned on them that they were the target and moved out."

Then the game of hide and seek started. The patrol moved its position into a swamp area. "No sooner had we moved our location than we had movement again," said Sergeant Ogren.

"We called in artillery and could hear and see a lot of movement after the first rounds landed," said Private First Class Myron Cropp of Kellogg, Idaho.

From there the patrol moved up a small incline into a thicket where they found the cache of .82mm mortar and 50mm machine gun ammunition. The ammunition was still neatly in the shipping crates.

"When I moved out to set up security, I ran into a second cache about 25 meters away that was as large as the first," said PFC Schulthies.

Before the patrol could do any damage to either cache, they were taken under small arms fire and had to abandon further efforts of destroying the cache.

Moving out of the area, the patrol called artillery in around the area of the cache. The artillery continued throughout the night.

A demolition team was sent to join the

patrol the next morning, but before the demolition team could reach them, the patrol found itself again confronted with the enemy.

"They were moving through the area very cautiously," said Sergeant Ogren.

"They came right in front of us on the trail and stopped," said PFC Cropp. "Then they started moving straight towards us. One came right to me, stopped, and pointed at me. That's when we opened up on them."

The exchange of fire resulted in the killing of at least two enemy soldiers.

The patrol again packed up and pulled back as gunships came into cover their withdrawal.

"Those gunships really saved us," said Sergeant Ogren. "They came right in on top of the enemy."

It was then decided to send "C" Company in force to retrieve the cache. The patrol led the company to the cache. With mortar rounds sticking out of pockets and shirts, and with boxes of .51 caliber ammunition under arms, the company headed back toward its patrol base.

When the final count was made, the Red Warriors had collected 117 .82mm mortar rounds with fuses and charges along with 3,000 rounds of .51 caliber machine gun ammunition.

Ivymen Hug Live Grenade

OASIS — Two Ivymen were recently left holding something much more dangerous than the proverbial bag — two "live" hand grenades.

The incident occurred near Dak To at a 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry firebase. The 3rd Brigade unit was settling down for the night when a loud, splashing noise from a nearby stream caught the attention of Private First Class Jason Braunstein of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Sergeant Jim Waterman of Columbus, Ohio.

Knowing the area was NVA-infested, SGT Waterman and PFC Braunstein each pulled the pin from a grenade and prepared to throw the explosives. No sooner had they drawn their arms back when a message crackled over their radio.

"Our Company Commander called and told everyone to refrain from firing rifles or throwing grenades. He wanted to see what was out there before we opened up. Jim and I had already thrown the pins away, so we were left holding on for dear life," said PFC Braunstein.

The seconds ticked by dangerously slow. Both men broke out in a cold sweat. One slip, a loose grip . . . how long can it last.

Sergeant Waterman radioed and informed the company commander of their predicament. They were given permission to throw the grenades.

"Boy, I was never so happy to be rid of anything in my life," said PFC Braunstein.

"Those three minutes seemed like thirty years," he added.

Heavy grenade and automatic weapons fire were directed on the suspected enemy position. Due to the thick foliage and lateness of the hour, the "Cacti Green" were unable to check on enemy casualties.

"I definitely learned my lesson. From now on I'm going to look before I throw," said PFC Braunstein.



CHEW-IN—Montagnard tribesmen humorously chew on carrots; with the aid of the 4th Division, products like these, when sold in local villages, will better the Montagnard way of life. (USA Photo by SP4 Ernie Porcellini)

Villages Relocate For School, Market And Security

By PFC Tom Hurley

OASIS — The proposal of village consolidation came to a vote.

Wah, Montagnard chief of Plei Cham Bom and Lui, ruler of Plei Cham Ngol, decided to combine their two villages and move to a neutral site nearby. They agreed water was more plentiful there and there was more food for the cattle.

Nah, chief of Plei Cham Prong, rose from his squatting position, a look of concern on his face. He stalked to the front of the room, bowed in the direction of First Lieutenant Waldo Walker of Columbus, Ohio, and emotionally explained why his people couldn't leave Plei Cham Prong.

Mario, the 3rd Brigade interpreter, watched the venerable Nah closely, occasionally nodding in agreement. Though he had served three years with the 3rd Brigade, Mario is still a Montagnard and he understands their problem.

"Nah say villagers can not move from Plei Cham Prong because his people's ancestors are buried there," Mario told Lieutenant Walker.

Thus began the first Sector

Blue Good Neighbors' Council Meeting. Present at the meeting were all the Montagnard officials from the villagers served by 3rd Brigade civil affairs teams. The villages are located in the Pleiku-Oasis area.

The main topic of discussion was the village consolidation issue. Lieutenant Walker explained the program.

"We are attempting to consolidate the many small villages into a few large ones, for the villagers' own protection. Doing this we can set up a perimeter that can easily be defended by the Montagnards. Plei Cham Prong would be an ideal location for the project. We eventually hope to move civic action teams into the village to live. They would stay with the Montagnards 24 hours a day," Lieutenant Walker continued.

Other projects were also discussed at the meeting. The Montagnard chiefs were approached with the idea of constructing windmills in their villages to help with irrigation. The civil affairs teams also wanted to initiate riding lessons so horses could be used for more than just food. A plan to build two markets in Pleiku was also proposed so the Mon-

tagnards could sell their products directly to American soldiers at the lowest possible prices without going through merchant middlemen.

Colonel Stan L. McClellan of Ventura, Calif., 3rd Brigade

Vietnamese War Holiday

DAK TO — Vu Lan, a holiday, honoring the men slain in wars, has a special poignancy in the war-torn countryside of Vietnam.

This year, in the town of Tan Canh, a civil affairs team from the 1st Brigade did its best to relieve some of the distress of war.

Invited to the holiday ceremonies by the 42nd ARVN Regiment, the civil affairs representatives took part in Buddhist services at Tan Canh Temple; then distributed food and blankets to needy families.

Major John Beebe of Fayetteville, N.C., 1st Brigade civil affairs officer, joined the chief priest of the temple on a visit to the widow and family of an ARVN officer killed in action.

commander, spoke to the council. Colonel McClellan discussed consolidation as well as the achievements possible when Montagnards and Americans work together toward the same goals.

Warm applause greeted his speech.

Following Colonel McClellan's speech, refreshments were served and the men at the meeting settled back to listen to a Montagnard band. The strange, haunting music of ancient gongs filled the room.

The children present were also given a treat. Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck cartoons were shown. It was hard to tell who enjoyed them most, the Montagnards or the nostalgic American soldiers. All eyes were riveted to the familiar figures on the screen.

Afterwards the 31 village officials present separated into small groups with the civil affairs personnel that worked in their villages. The Montagnards discussed the success of the civic action program in each of their villages. The village officials were then gathered for a group meeting. The consolidation issue took precedence.

After discussion and debate, it was resolved that Plei Cham Bom would join Plei Cham Ngol, while Plei Bong Golar and Plei Cham Neh would also consolidate.

The remaining officials agreed to let their villagers vote on the proposals. Excited talk and laughter was exchanged among the proud Montagnards. They knew the meeting had produced results.

Lieutenant Walker rose from his seat and addressed his guests.

"I want to personally thank all of you for coming," he began.

"Today we have been made aware of many problems we didn't know existed. In the future we will do our best to . . ." At this point the 3rd Brigade civil affairs officer was handed a note. He read and emitted a low chuckle.

"I have been asked to announce that a pen is presently being built for the cattle of Plei Do. The people will no longer have to worry about their cows."

The first Sector Blue Good Neighbors' Council meeting adjourned.

Link Bridge Snags Possible Explosives

Story and Photos by SP4 Larry White

OASIS—If Charlie tries to blow the bridge leading into Kontum, he might get a bigger charge out of it than he expects, thanks to combined efforts of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William Mundie of Springfield, Va., and Company D, 4th Engineers, who safeguard the bridge.

The bridge is vital to 4th Division operations in the Central Highlands. Convoys continually cross the well-built structure carrying supplies to Dak To and other forward areas.

In order to foil enemy attempts to destroy the bridge, the engineers have constructed a chain link fence across the river.

The process took four days of continuous work by Charlie Company, 4th Engineers. Swift river currents made working conditions difficult and treacherous. The fence will stop explosive floating down the river from lodging on the bridge's pilings.

"We check the fence twice a day," said Sergeant First Class Henry Deston of Chesapeake, Va., "We use an inflatable raft that floats us across the river. A couple guys have to wade in the water to check the fence thoroughly. When we find sticks, grass, rocks or other debris in the net we clean it out. We haven't found explosives yet. If we do, we'll blow them in place."

The 3rd Brigade Infantry unit plays a different part in guarding the bridge. They stand guard day and night.

Bunkers border each side of the river for protection of the men in case of attack.

"When we hear noise in the river at night," said Specialist 4 James Logan of Memphis, "We bring a search light out in middle of the bridge and check it out. If there's anything there, we will see it."

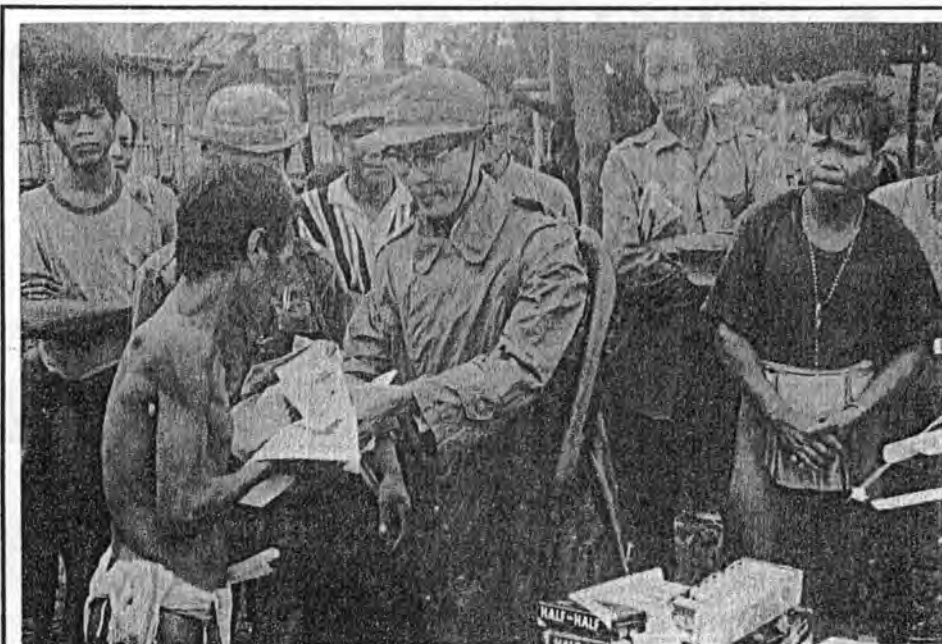
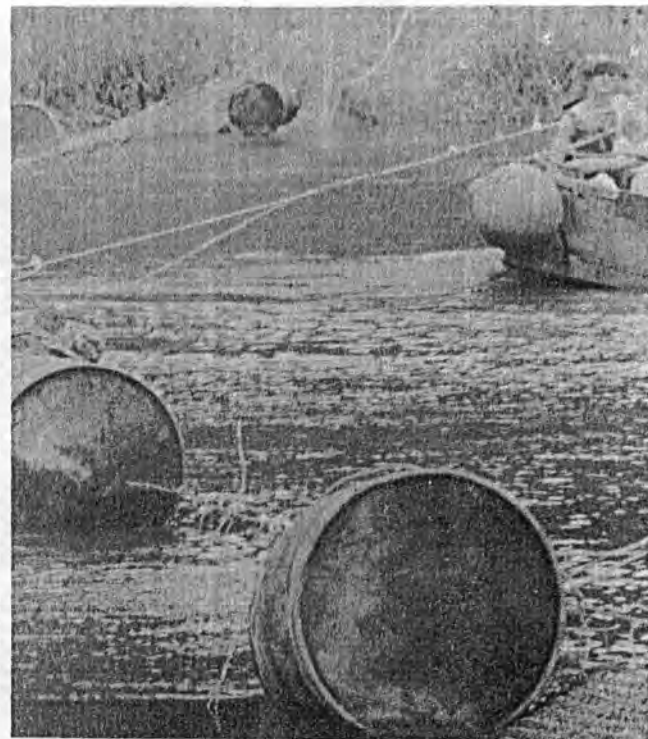
The 3rd Brigade soldiers also have to check all vehicles that cross the bridge at night.

"We do have a few advantages guarding the bridge," said one Ivyman. "We have the river to take a bath and swim in."

Focus On Foiling 'Charlie'

Picture Notes

It took the 4th Division engineers four days of continuous work and fight against river currents to build their chain link fence. 3rd Brigade soldiers begin their arduous task (far right) in the swim. In efforts to make certain that the links are still secure, Ivyman make daily checks (above right) and usually end up again in the swim (right).



ARVN MAJOR NGUYEN BAO PRESENTS "GOODIES" TO VILLAGERS.

By SP4 Jeffrey Tartar

US/ARVN Team Then Aligns Me

DAK TO—Winning the allegiance of thousands of Vietnamese villagers is no easy task—but it is a major part of the struggle to build a strong nation.

Recently a combined American-Vietnamese team penetrated deep into the lonely forests of the Central Highlands to visit the Montagnard village of Dak Kang Lop.

Their purpose: simply to show the people of Dak Kang Lop that the Vietnamese government cares about their welfare.

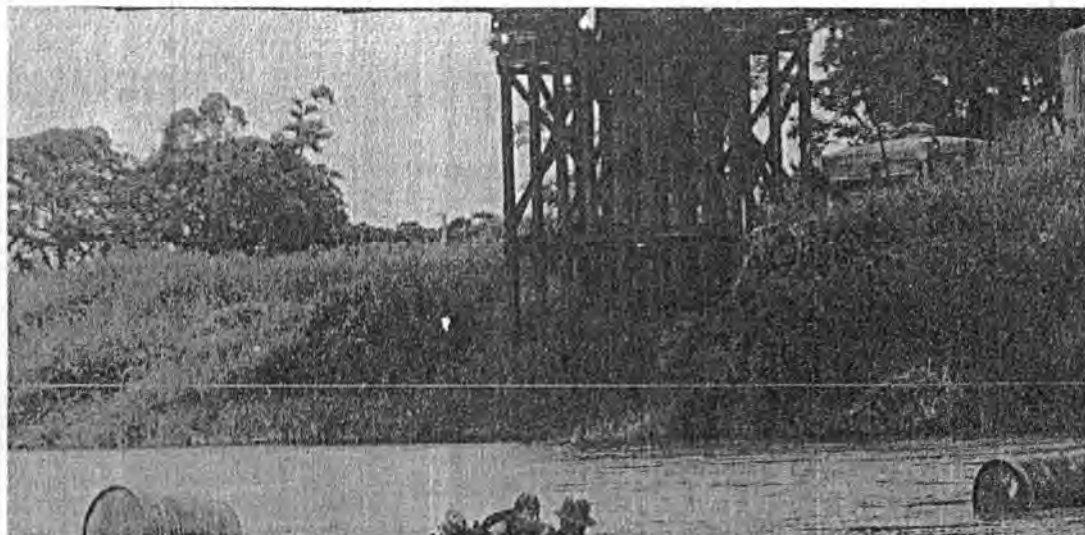
Clear proof of that concern was the presence of the man who led this visit: ARVN Major Nguyen Bao, chief of Dak To District.

With him came the assistant district chief, the district justice officer, a National Police team and Vietnamese medics.

A group of civil affairs specialists from the 1st Brigade and MACV at Dak To provided helicopters and technical assistance.

Interpreters gathered the villagers, advised them that the visitors meant no

harm. from: Th were the v Ar end s help M hand ing, c music Sc ward and s an A childr soon Engli: W group govern indiff Lop. At to be



A Special Hate For FACs

By SP4 Jeffrey Tartar

THE ENEMY hates him with a special passion. He is the Forward Air Controller (FAC); the FAC's O2 Bird Dog flying overhead is a promise of sudden discovery and destruction.

Skimming a bare 1,500 feet above treetop level, the FAC pilot has the slow, closeup view of the ground that no jet pilot can match. Day after day he combs an assigned patrol area, looking for clues to enemy activity. His clues may be new trails, water buffalo that the enemy uses for transport, a repaired footbridge, dying camouflage.

Must Notice Nothing

His job is to notice the unnoticeable.

If the signs point to enemy activity, a radio operator at brigade headquarters is ready to pass attack coordinates on for approval.

Minutes later, F100s or B57s or A1Es may be scrambled aloft and headed north.

Or nearby artillery may be zeroing in on the target, blasting the protective jungle cover to matchwood.

Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. Messorli of Council Bluffs, Iowa, oversees this deadly air show from 4th Division headquarters at Camp Enari. The Air Liaison Officer (ALO) for the 4th Division, the colonel explains that his FACs fly two kinds of strike missions.

"When troops make contact with an enemy," he says, "we run an immediate air strike, getting planes on target as fast as we can."

"Pre-planned strikes," he adds, "will wipe out roads, bunkers, bridges—whatever the FAC's brigade wants eliminated."

Terrain Experts

FAC flights, the colonel pointed out, are mainly directed at the

brigade level. To be most effective, pilots must become top-notch experts on the terrain of their local area of operation.

Five of these experts work out of the Brigade's forward base camp at Dak To: Major L. L. Griggs of Saint Augustine, Fla., Major Duane Aasted of Santa Barbara, Calif., Captain Dick Moseley of Montgomery, Ala., and Captain Ray Nickla of Merrick, N.Y.

Major Griggs, a West Point graduate who has flown F100s and SAC bombers, is the 1st Brigade's ALO.

A 4th Division correspondent recently joined Major Griggs on an airstrike near Firebase 29, west of Dak To.

On the way to the airstrip the air was misty with rain from low clouds. This was bad flying weather for an airstrike, but a patrol from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry was under heavy fire from the NVA. A1Es were already on their way to the target area.

While a ground crewman loaded fresh smoke rockets into the O2's wing pods, Maj Griggs talked about the 1st Brigade's FACs.

MAJ Griggs Talks

"We've had the busiest AO of them all," he declared. "I'd estimate we put in three times as many strikes as anyone else." Last May and June, he pointed out, six 1st Brigade FACs put in 135 sorties—820 separate strikes—during a 26-day period.

"We had a couple of FACs who put in ten strikes a day."

Minutes later the O2 was airborne, heading west into a front of choppy weather that drifted in from across the Cambodian border. "It's a bit hairy up here today," the major warned. The light plane began to lurch in the turbulent air.

The radio was alive with talk among FACs, ground control and the attack squadron. Halfway to Firebase 29 ground radioed Major Griggs's strike coordinates: a nar-

row draw near Hill 805. The coordinates went on the O2's window in grease pencil.

Wreckage Visible

For ten minutes the plane circled and banked in the wind, dipping as low as 500 feet from the ground. Trees, pale brown streams and a tangle of hills rushed by as the major matched landscape features with map symbols.

From this low in the sky, the wreckage was clearly visible: the giant craters of heavy bombs had turned river valleys and NVA bunker sites into a lunar landscape of red clay and jungle.

Suddenly a long dive, a flash as a smoke rocket blazed from its wing pod, and the plane was clawing for altitude like a roller coaster climbing out of a steep dip. A puff of smoke blossomed through the trees.

The ground patrol from Alpha Company radioed an adjustment. "Pop smoke," the major ordered. The FAC must know precisely where friendly troops are when his strikes come within a thousand meters of their position.

Yellow Smoke

Yellow smoke drifted off a hill top. "Yellow smoke sighted," he said.

A few more lurching passes over the twisted terrain, then again the roller coaster dive toward a patch of woods. As the O2 drove nose-upward for the second time, the radio confirmed that the smoke was on target.

The stage was set.

Moments later the A1Es came screaming down from high overhead. "Keep your heads down. They're coming in," the major warned Alpha Company.

Streaks of fire and thick black smoke exploded silently around the cotton-white puff of the smoke marker.

The FAC plane drifted around, then over the black cloud, as Major Griggs watched for bomb craters, fires, signs of enemy positions or casualties.

Then a second strike of A1Es bowed into their deep dives, sent ripples of bombs sparkling through the trees.

Again the black smoke rose, and again Major Griggs looked over the damage.

"A hundred percent on target."

Visits, Tagnards

village chief was summoned to rice paddy. The officer took a census. There are about NVA activity near

explained that the war will f the NVA and VC get no villages like Dak Kang Lop. e the Americans had gifts to ap, tobacco, matches, cloth- id leaflets. In the background from a record player.

ew villagers were coaxed for- microphone to make speeches their own language. Nearby, a captain drew a throng of 1 slight-of-hand tricks, and e children engrossed in an 1.

e Hueys returned for the urs later, South Vietnam's o longer seemed quite so the people of Dak Kang

nam was that much closer nation.



VIETNAMESE PAINTING—Soldiers from the Famous Fourth uncover a Vietnamese painting in which a Vietnamese family tells their son about the war. (USA Photo by 4th Div IO)

Civic Action Strives To Better Village Life

By PFC John Uhlar

CAMP ENARI — High in the mountains east of Pleiku there is a not too publicized war being fought. It is a war which may very well have a great bearing on the future of Vietnam.

Estimates have been made that upwards to 200,000 Bahnar Montagnard tribesmen inhabit the 4th Division's area of operation. They live in a world of hunger, cold, and constant disease.

For the most part, Montagnards are peaceful people, worshipping spiritual deities and relying on their craft for subsistence. At dusk this solitude is often disrupted as roving bands of hungry Viet Cong descend upon Montagnard villages in quest of food and replacements. Using threats and blackmail they are sometimes successful.

To combat VC activity, allied efforts place emphasis on civil affairs programs tailored to meet Montagnard needs.

"Montagnards have the man power and resources to make or break the picture up here," said First Lieutenant William Rollins Jr. of Swampscott, Mass., formerly with Company B, 8th Psychological Battalion and now the civil affairs officer for the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

"Viet Cong activity is not only aimed at control of Routes 14 and 19, but also diverting tribal support from the Government of Vietnam to the National Liberation Front. If the VC succeed in gaining support of these people, this leaves us with a next to impossible task of securing this area," Lieutenant Rollins stated.

Although new to the villagers, Lieutenant Rollins and his team medic, Tom Harms of Valentine, Neb., has already won the admiration and respect of the people. Each day the Montagnards eagerly anticipate their arrival.

Besides giving and teaching basic medical techniques, Lieutenant Rollins aids villagers in building schools and roads and provides transportation to Pleiku whenever supplies are needed.

Daily he travels from village to village, visiting the sick and lending a hand when necessary.

"Among the goals for which we strive," said Lieutenant Rollins, "are broader educational opportunities, where not only will the Montagnards learn the rudiments of reading and writing, but also realize what they have to offer to the future of Vietnam."

Results from the team's efforts have already begun to pay off. In the last few days three, 10 pound C-4 mines have been spotted and reported by Montagnard informants. Montagnards have also divulged areas of Viet Cong strongholds high in the mountains.

"It's information like this in the future which is going to help us rid the countryside of terror," concluded Lieutenant Rollins.

Horseman

OASIS — If mechanized infantrymen, Specialist 4 Robert Cherosky of Richmond Heights, Ohio, gives the appearance of riding a galloping steed instead of an armored personnel carrier (APC), it's because that pose comes natural to him.

A radio telephone operator with Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, Specialist Cherosky has been drenched in thoroughbred horseracing since early childhood.

His family has copped a raft of ribbons with their champion race horses. Over the years, the 21-year-old Ivyman has developed a keen and critical eye for Kentucky Derby prospects.

"He is seldom heard to complain if he doesn't receive his letters," laughed Executive Officer, First Lieutenant Gerald Koelling of San Bruno, Calif., "But if his 'Racing Form' doesn't arrive on time, he becomes as difficult to deal with as a high-strung stallion."

Kill 5

LRPs Fight Off Tough NVA

By SP4 Larry Hogan

BAN ME THUOT — "I dropped my rations, jumped behind a log and started shooting," recalled Specialist 4 Fred Fass of Saginaw, Mich.

When the shooting stopped, all five enemy were dead.

A Long Range Patrol (LRP) team from the 2nd Brigade, operating near Ban Me Thuot, had just stopped for lunch when the five North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers attacked.

Stopping near a large fallen tree, the team members were about to add water to their dehydrated meals when Specialist 4 Lennie Cobray of Okmulgee, Okla., spotted the khaki-clad enemy moving toward them.

At the same instant, the NVA soldiers noticed the Ivyman

and cut loose with their AK47s. Returning fire, the LRP members jumped behind the log.

Only a few meters apart, the soldiers blasted away at each other, filling the air with a steady stream of lead.

Creeping around the edge of the log, Specialist Cobray flipped the selector switch on his CAR 15 to automatic. Directing his air toward the enemy's right flank, the assistant team leader opened up, instantly killing two NVA.

At the same time, the deadly grey muzzle of an M14 appeared around the opposite side of the log. The team's leader, Sergeant John Miller of Milwaukee, Wis., carefully squeezed off a round. Clutching his wound, another enemy fell—dead.

A burst from an M16 cut short the advance of the fourth NVA.

In a futile suicide charge the final enemy ran toward the Ivy position, his AK47 blazing away.

Quickly, Specialist Fass thrust his M79 grenade launcher over the log. A loud blast cut through the jungle and the NVA fell silent.

"Let's get out of here," shouted Sergeant Miller.

As the team moved out, SP4 Cobray held back for a moment to make sure they were not being followed.

The Specialist's suspicions were soon proven correct. Suddenly a large enemy force appeared around a bend in the trail.

"I counted over 40 NVA and they were still coming," recalled Specialist Cobray.

Hoping to confuse and delay the enemy long enough to enable the team to reach a nearby landing zone, Specialist Cobray opened up with his rifle and began hurling grenades at the advancing unit.

The tactic worked and the main body of the enemy force scattered into the brush leaving only a squad to pursue the LRP team.

"They probably knew that we would call in gunships on their position and wanted to spread themselves over a wide area," explained Sergeant Miller.

Van Man Scans Sky

OASIS — Looking more like something capable of making a soft landing on the moon than a weather station, one of the Air Forces' latest portable weather observation units recently went into operation at the Oasis.

"I believe it's one of the first weather observation vans of this type to be used in Vietnam," said Air Force Sergeant Don Schuy of McAllen, Tex., who along with Sergeant James Can-

on of Oakland, Calif., operates the mobile unit.

All the equipment needed for accurate weather observation is housed in the compact van and the entire unit has been modified for use in Vietnam.

"Units like this are designed for exclusive use in the field," explained SGT Schuy. "With its own electrical generator, the van can be completely self-sufficient."





ARVN BASIC—A trainee at the Darlac Popular Forces Training center is caught "up in the air", left, as he goes through one of the training phases at the center. At right, amid the itching bugs of the rain-infested region, he goes through the infiltration course. (USA Photos by SP4 Larry Hogan)

Hunters Become Hunted

Massacre Stopped As Ivymen Turn To Right

By SP4 Obelit Yadgor
CAMP ENARI — A right turn instead of a left at a highland intersection turned what could have possibly been a massacre of a group of Ivymen to a flop

of an ambush by a squad of NVA. A civil affairs team of the 4th Division's 704th Maintenance Battalion had completed a MEDCAP at Plei Pao Xoi, a

Montagnard village 10 miles west of Pleiku, and was returning to base camp.

A 12-man group from the division's Supply and Transportation Battalion provided security for the team.

As the men were leaving the village, several Montagnards were walking in. They did not return the greetings of the soldiers, but kept walking past them silently.

Strange Doings

"That was strange," said Specialist 4 Ramon Fee of Nauvet, N.Y., "Montagnards in this area are overwhelmingly friendly."

"Just then," he continued, "I saw two men run across an open field to the right of the road in the distance. They seemed to be dressed in fatigues."

He quickly grabbed the radio and called Sergeant William Hoefsloot of Passaic, N.Y., the security team leader.

"By then we had reached a sort of intersection," said the rugged sergeant. "Our usual route had been the dirt road going to the left."

The road to the right led to another village nearby. It was a short-cut to base camp.

"I had a strange feeling about the road on the left," continued Sergeant Hoefsloot. "I told Specialist Fee, who was the point security, to take the road on the right."

B40 Hits

They had gone only a short distance when an NVA B40 rocket slammed into the back portion of their truck.

"I saw him stand up and aim his rocket launcher," said the sergeant. "I grabbed an M79 (grenade launcher) and fired,

but by then the NVA had hit our truck."

The Ivymen's grenade tore near the NVA soldier and hurled his limp body in a clump of bushes behind.

"By now we were all down and pouring fire at the NVA," said Specialist Fee. "Our fire was so heavy the NVA could hardly return fire."

The pitched battle continued for almost 20 minutes. The two forces at times fought within 10 meters of one another. The Ivymen had caught the enemy in a cross fire.

"They had set up their position to hit us from the back as we took our usual route, the one on the left," said Sergeant Hoefsloot.

Massacre Averted

"Had they hit us from the back, we wouldn't have had a chance," he continued. "But when we took the road on the right, that blew up their plans in their face. They pulled their ambush prematurely and hit us in the middle."

"When we opened up," broke in Specialist Fee, "we started hitting them from three sides, point, middle, and rear, and caught them in a crossfire."

Crumbling under the Ivymen's fire, the enemy troopers began hastily shifting positions and pulling back.

"I saw one of them turn around and run away," recalled Specialist Fee, "and I pumped six bullets in his back."

Gunships Called

During the battle the rear security had been cut off from the rest. Gunships of the 4th Aviation Battalion, buzzing overhead, were forced to hold off their fire in fear of riddling their own men.

"When the fighting was over, we back-tracked on the road to look for our rear security," continued Specialist Fee. "There were five of them. It took us a while to find them, but we did, all the time receiving sporadic fire."

"Then the gunships cut loose on the NVA," he concluded.

When the Ivymen made a sweep of the enemy's positions, the NVA had fled, dragging their wounded and dead in the heavily foliated jungle behind the open field.

"There were drag-marks everywhere," said Sergeant Hoefsloot. "I know Specialist Fee and I killed at least two of them."

VC Carpenter Is Kit Carson Scout

By PFC John Uhlr

CAMP ENARI—As mist dims the late afternoon glow, black shadows enshroud the small hamlet of Bon Son. Villagers brace themselves for the frequented circuit of Viet Cong terrorists.

Nature's silence is broken as dogs yelp at their arrival. They come for supplies, men, and information.

They assemble at pre-arranged areas, weary, foot-sore and plagued by mosquito and leach sores. They come tonight for men and a brief respite from allied pressure.

At dawn's hush they leave, fading like native fauna into the mountainous surroundings. With them they take 10 villagers, one, carpenter, whose wife and five boys must remain behind.

Through pathless jungle and marsh they travel, eating cold rice, day in, day out. Finally they arrive at their destination: a small bivouac area, circled by well-camouflaged bunkers.

The guerrillas welcome the new replacements. They speak of recent successes and future conquests. The war is almost won, they say.

After several weeks of intensive indoctrination, the new men are ready to join Viet Cong units.

For the new replacements, life becomes a series of painful marches, dragging pounds of food and equipment on their bleeding backs.

Malaria and dysentery intensify their already desperate condition, but they cannot speak out.

Fear grips them all. Some are left to die.

Giving vent to his feeling of helplessness and disillusion, the village carpenter willfully surrenders to American forces. He is questioned and later turned over to 4th Division for a Kit Carson scout training. After several weeks, he joins Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

For a while the carpenter is timid, perhaps taken back by American graciousness. He is fed, clothed and given time to visit his wife and five growing boys.

His newly-acquired American friends take to him immediately. They marvel at his determination to learn English.

Gradually the carpenter begins to think of himself as part of the cavalry unit. He laughs, jokes, and works side by side with his companions.

For once in his life he is at rest. Life holds a little more hope. The cause seems more just.

Medic Cooks Chocolate

OASIS — Specialist 5 Larry Dobbs of Cordell, Okla., doesn't hurt for succulent cooking while away from home. He cooks his own.

A medic with Company D, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, he received a package of goodies from home. Among the array of eatables were chocolate mix and butter.

Next came a small heat stove, a mermite insert, a wooden paddle, and then his own secret recipe for a very special concoction.

For almost two hours, he sat on his cot, resting his chin on one hand and stirring his conglomeration with the other.

As the brown ooze began to effervesce, his eyes brightened. His hand worked faster.

His eyes concentrated on the magic mixture before him.

After an hour of dead silence, he suddenly exalted, raising his hands: "Man, you're going to taste some of the best chocolate candy you've ever eaten in your whole life!"



OH, MAN—In case you Ivymen have been away from "The World" too long, what you see happens to be a woman, no kiddin'—36-24-36 inches worth. Her name is Julie Newmar, and you can see her in "Mackenna's Gold."

Duc Lap Battling Begins To Quell...

(Continued From Page 1) their 105s could be employed most effectively.

Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry and an aeroflight platoon of the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry were moved out with the battery. They would defend the battery and act as a blocking force against the NVA troops. Later Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Brigade would join this force, labeled "Task Force Lance" and headed by Major Lance Wildernood of Mission, Kan.

As the gunships pulled back, 7th Air Force Fighter Bombers came screaming into the area.

Enemy aircraft weapons lashed back at the jets and one F100 Supersabre was downed in the battle. In spite of the heavy barrage of bullets, the pilot managed to eject from his aircraft and parachute safely to earth.

As the day progressed additional troops were flown in by

Stage Coach Falcons and 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry "Chinooks."

These troops were mobile strike force (MIKE Force) members and like all MIKE Force units these three companies were composed entirely of Montagnards.

As the liftships prepared to land, the NVA machine gunners opened up on the choppers.

Returning fire, the choppers set down and the soldiers scrambled out.

Later, additional MIKE Force units would be flown in from Pleiku and Nha Trang.

As the day drew to a close, the enemy guns were still a menace to air traffic. Scanning the area, Captain Henry Tice of La Grange, Ill., a 2nd Brigade Forward Air Controller (FAC) spotted muzzle flashes from the nearby woodland. Swinging his O2 Spotter plane over the area, Captain Tice fired a marking round at the

guns and then pulled out.

This was what the fighter pilots had been waiting for. Time and again the jets blasted away at the position. Two large secondary explosions resulted, and the enemy guns fell silent.

Throughout the night the 2nd Brigade artillery battery which by this time had one-half of its guns in position poured rounds in on the enemy.

Day and night, choppers representing 1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry, Ban Me Thuot Air Ship, and 4th Aviation kept supply lines open to the besieged camp.

The next morning brought a renewed onslaught by the enemy who was now intent on taking the entire camp.

Throughout the following night 105 rounds from Task Force Lance and Spooky gunships fired on the enemy, who in turn poured mortars and rockets in on the defenders.

The next morning the enemy

was still continuing his vicious onslaught.

More air strikes and artillery were put in and additional troops arrived.

By that afternoon the defenders had gained enough strength to retake the lost portion of the camp. Four companies of MIKE Force charged up the hill. A bloody battle ensued, during which all possible supporting elements were employed.

Finally, two and one-half days after its loss the hill was retaken.

The following morning brought the final significant enemy ground attack.

As the NVA charged, artillery rounds from Task Force Lance caught the enemy in the open. Shells came bearing in on the attackers with deadly accuracy. Several NVA made futile charges at the camp, only to be torn apart by the artillery and thrown on the barb wire.

"I feel our artillery played a major role in breaking the back

of the enemy offensive," said Major Wildernood.

Charlie had lost his position as the attacker. He had to fight for his life.

Resupply choppers such as the "big windy" chinooks from Tuy Hoa kept the camp itself supplied while units such as 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry supported Task Force Lance.

The infantry units from Task Force Lance now began pulling patrols throughout the area in hopes of trapping escaping enemy forces.

For the next few days artillery and air power continued to blast away at the remaining enemy forces. One week after its beginning the massive attack of Duc Lap had been reduced to no more than sporadic fire.

The entire camp had been recaptured and secured, thanks to the complete cooperation and support given the besieged out-post by all concerned elements.

Kill 22...

(Continued From Page 1)

east and followed the contact, each step closing the distance between them and Charlie.

Troop A, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry was called from a nearby mission for support. The combination of air power, armed vehicles and foot soldiers broke the enemy's back.

The contact, ended after four hours of hard fighting. The enemy suffered 22 killed.

Captured articles included 20 packs containing clothes, cooking utensils, 20 chicom grenades and about 300 pounds of satchel charges. Documents and a large medical kit were also found.

Photography

Personnel assigned duties as information specialist or photographers with the 4th Infantry Division units are eligible to enter the 1968 Military Picture of the Year competition.

The competition is sponsored by the Department of Defense. Awards will be made in six categories: news, features, pictorial, sports, personality-portrait and picture story. Entries are limited to photos of military activities.

Entries should be addressed to: Military Picture of the Year, Journalism Annex 27A, School of Journalism, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. 65201. Mailing deadline is January 10, 1969.



GROOVING—The 4th Division soldiers get in the groove of things as the audience for the division talent show held in Dragon Mountain Service Club at Camp Enari. (USA Photo by SP4 Ron Johnston)

Back off...

(Continued From Page 1)

The 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry reported capturing three tons of rice north of Ban Me Thuot.

South of Dak Seang Special Forces Camp a 1st Brigade patrol killed five NVA soldiers. There were no friendly casualties.

And southwest of Dak To, 1st Brigade Ivy soldiers, on their constant search for the enemy, discovered 20 NVA bodies. The enemy had been killed by 4th Division howitzer batteries strategically scattered throughout the mountainous jungles around Dak To.

The 2nd Battalion, 42d ARVN Regiment killed 15 Viet Cong as an unknown-size enemy force pulled into position to ambush another Ivy convoy along the well traveled Highway 14 north of Pleiku.

The NVA force lost five men in a predawn attack at a strategic bridge site northwest of Kontum. Another Ivy unit discovered four NVA bodies near Ban Me Thuot. The enemy had been killed in a short fire fight two days prior.

After a week of fighting an estimated NVA regiment, Special Forces and their Montagnard Strike Force defending Duc Lap, near the Cambodian border, have reported the number of enemy killed soaring in daily sweeps around the camp. "Cacti Blue" of 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry killed two NVA soldiers northwest of Ban Me Thuot. An AK47, two packs, and several documents were also captured by the Ivymen.

A division Long Range Patrol (LRP) team ambushed about 45 NVA southwest of Ban Me Thuot. The enemy struck in the early hours of the morning with mortar and ground attacks.

The 42d ARVN Regiment's 1st and 2nd Battalions killed 87 NVA soldiers in two separate contacts near Duc Lap. Five enemy soldiers were detained in the fighting, which also netted the ARVN's, 12 AK47s, a 50 cal. anti-aircraft gun, and numerous other weapons.

LTC Maurer Becomes The New CO of 6/29th

DAK TO — Colors of the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery changed hands as Lieutenant Colonel William Maurer of Douglas, Wyo., assumed command from Lieutenant Colonel Albert Akers of Gallatin, Tenn.

Awarded the Legion of Merit, Colonel Akers told guests at the ceremony: "This battalion has met all challenges, large and small."

His successor, Colonel Maurer, was commissioned June 30, 1953, then served with the 10th Infantry Division at Fort Polk, La., and with the 2nd Armored Divi-

sion Artillery in Germany.

In 1957, he returned for advanced artillery training at Fort Sill, Okla., and in 1960, was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division Artillery in Korea.

Returning to Fort Sill in 1962, he joined the 2nd Battalion, 144th Artillery. A year later he was assigned to the 4th Field Artillery Group, and in August 1964, attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

After a tour with the Department of the Army's Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Colonel Maurer joined the 4th Division Artillery on June 30, as Division Artillery S-3.

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