

Ivymen Celebrate 51st Anniversary

By SFC Ben Casey
CAMP ENARI — Ceremonies at 4th Infantry Division headquarters and the forward base camps of each brigade December 10 will mark the 51st observance of the Fighting Fourth's anniversary.

Events scheduled for the day begin with the reading of the Anniversary Proclamation followed by visits to the forward base camps of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Brigades and the 1st Cavalry by Major General Donn R. Pepke, division commander and

Brigadier Generals Albin F. Irzyk and Robert C. McAlister, assistant division commanders. At each of the sites, appropriate ceremonies to include presentation of awards will take place.

Later in the day at 4:45 p.m. the official ceremony commemorating the 51st Anniversary will be held at the division headquarters building and at 5:30 p.m. each mess hall will feature an Anniversary Dinner.

Rounding out the day's activities will be a special TV show on AFVN Channel 11, and a special ARVN Cultural Show at the various unit clubs.

In celebrating its 51st anniversary, the Fighting Fourth can look back on its past accomplishments with pride.

Aisne-Marne, Lorraine, Normandy, Ardennes-Alsace, Sam Houston, Dak To and John Paul Jones are all familiar names to 4th Infantry Division sol-

diers. These are but a few of the campaigns the Ivy Division has participated in since its birth 51 years ago.

The Ivy Division distinguished itself in World Wars I and II and is now living up to its hard fighting tradition in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

Shortly after being hastily organized in 1917, the division was deployed to Europe to aid the allied cause in World War I. It was during this encounter that it earned its motto, "Steadfast and Loyal."

From action in the Aisne-Marne offensive to the last crushing campaign against the Kaiser's forces, the division proved itself as a fighting force. The war ended with the 4th preparing to launch an offensive inside the German homeland.

After 22 years of peace, the call to arms once again went out to the Ivy Division as World War II erupted.

From its landing on Utah Beach to Bad Tolz, the Fighting Fourth swept across Europe, leaving defeated Germans in its wake.



Vol. 2, No. 57

December 8, 1968

MG Pepke's Anniversary Message

AS WE PARTICIPATE in a brief moment of our nation's history, fighting a war undreamed of by our forefathers—we proudly celebrate the 51st anniversary of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division.

Organized in December 1917, during the heat of World War I to help fulfill our country's commitments, the Ivy Division's history is one of proud and professional service. The division's motto, "Steadfast and Loyal" has been lived up to in every respect.

The division's illustrious career records such feats as the cracking of the Hindenburg Line; the stopping of the Kaiser's forces at the defenseless gates of Paris and the storming of Utah Beach, and the repulsing of the determined German drive at the Battle of the Bulge.

Today, after serving in Vietnam for more than two hard-fought years, the 4th Infantry Division once again has upheld its proud tradition. As Ivymen defend a small, beleaguered nation, they witness with pride the defeat of the enemy on the battlefield and the contributions they are making to the security of this country and to the free world.

Courageous and heroic action have been displayed in Operations Paul Revere IV, Sam Houston, Francis Marion, and now Operation MacArthur. These operations will long be remembered in the history of our homeland.

I feel certain that future chapters of our division's unblemished history will maintain the courage, devotion and dedication to protecting freedom which they have shown in the past.



ORPHANED BY WAR, this youngster found his way to the sanctuary of the La Son Orphanage near Camp Enari. Clothes, a school and other facilities have been furnished by Ivymen to help care for the nearly 200 children at La Son.

(USA Photo by SSG Frank Madison)

See Photos—Pages 4,5

Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns will long be remembered by Ivymen. The battle of Huertgen Forest, the bloodiest of the war, and the impregnable Siegfried Line, were also important battles of Ivy soldiers.

All regiments of the division earned Distinguished Unit Citations and the entire division had been awarded the Belgium Fourragere for gallant action during the conflict.

At war's end the division was once again deactivated. But not for long. In 1947, the increasing cold war challenge caused it to be reborn.

Nineteen years after the truce was signed ending World War II, Ivy troops answered the nation's third call to arms and was deployed to Vietnam.

The division continued its steadfast and loyal spirit through campaigns Paul Revere, Sam Houston, John Paul Jones and Junction City.

During the battle of Dak To and the Tet offensive, Ivy troops once again rose to the occasion, smashing enemy attacks.

Already, three Presidential Unit Citations have been earned by Ivy units for their gallantry in the Vietnam war.

Fifty-one years ago the Fighting Fourth was preparing to join allied forces in Europe. Today, on its 51st Anniversary the division is serving proudly in Vietnam.

Tactics and terrain features are different, a new generation is fighting for freedom, but the Steadfast and Loyal spirit still remains.

Tanker Earns Highest Medal

CAMP ENARI — It's a long way from Vietnam's embattled jungles to the White House, but Specialist 5 Dennis Johnson's courage in the face of an enemy onslaught earned for him the trip and the Medal Of Honor which was awarded by the President of the United States.

Specialist Johnson's story is unique among heroes.

A tank driver for the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, Specialist Johnson brought his big track to a stop (Continued on Page 2)

Highlanders Find Enemy Dead

'Coffin Corner' Yields Graves

By SP4 Hans J. Lange
BAN ME THUOT — No one knows just how many North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars and their Viet Cong allies lie buried in makeshift, mass graves in "Coffin Corner."

But 4th Infantry Division ground troops from the 2nd Brigade and from "Highlander" support units continue to uncover them. . . on hillsides, in valleys and mountaintops near the Central Highland hamlet of Duc Lap.

Many of the enemy dead are presumed to be from the battle for the Duc Lap Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp, and from the frequent, sharp clashes in the Duc Lap area.

Southwest Of Duc Lap
 Coffin Corner lies southwest of Duc Lap, bordered on the

west by Cambodia, the south by the III Corps tactical area, and the north and east by mountains. In the northern sector, a large volcano rises above the surrounding rolling hills and valleys.

In early October, a Recon Patrol from the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William C. Moore of Alexandria, Va., stumbled across a shallow grave containing 15 enemy dead. The NVA, wearing green uniforms, were believed killed in a running fire fight a week earlier.

Similar graves, some with only one enemy body in them, some with more, have been uncovered by Ivymen from the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph T. Palastra Jr. of

Salina, Kan., and the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Daniels of Alexandria, Va.

More Bodies

Not all the graves and dead they hold are the result of face-to-face confrontations in battle. For almost two months, Coffin Corner was the target of unrelenting artillery fire and air strikes.

Ivy patrols at night and visual reconnaissance helicopters during the day often would hear or spot movement. Within minutes Redleg artillery batteries were pouring high explosive rounds into the suspected enemy positions.

Significant enemy activity has decreased in Coffin Corner lately and some days the only trace of the enemy are the graves he has left behind.

General's Aide

CAMP ENARI—Private First Class Willis W. Jones Jr., of Wadesboro, N.C., was chosen the enlisted aide to Major General Charles P. Stone, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division.

The 19-year-old Ivymen was honored with the weekly assignment because of his extensive knowledge in his military field, an outstanding attitude and an unmatched dedication to duty.

A well respected member of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, commanded by Captain Raymond Baird of Hilliard, Ohio, PFC Jones was selected from more than 8,000 competing Ivymen.

The honored soldier came to Vietnam following basic training at Ft. Bragg, N.C., and advanced armor training at Ft. Knox, Ky.

Bombing Halt: What It's About

EDITORIAL:

When President Johnson announced on Oct. 31, that all bombardment of Vietnam north of the 19th parallel would cease, servicemen serving in this war-torn country received the announcement with mixed emotions.

Some said it shouldn't be done while others wondered in amazement, "Are we giving up the fight?" "Are we allowing the enemy to regroup for another offensive?"

Still others had no comment.

To fully understand the bombing halt, it is necessary to review some of the events that have developed within the past few months, both on the battlefield and at the conference table.

Must Examine Position

We must understand our Nation's position with regard to the conflict in Vietnam. We must examine the goals stated at the conclusion of the October 1966 Manila Conference. The conference was attended by President Johnson, the Government of Vietnam, and representatives of all the Free World Military Assistance Forces fighting with us in South Vietnam.

However, the North Vietnamese continued their build-up of forces after the conference and during 1967. The United States and its allies acted with equal retaliation—an increase of force committed to defend South Vietnam.

Then in September, 1967, President Johnson made another proposal which he hoped would lead to negotiations and peace. Referred to as the "San Antonio Formula," it made clear that the United States would stop the bombing of North Vietnam when such action would lead to productive peace talks and not be used by the enemy for military advantage. Hanoi rejected this offer Oct. 3, 1967.

Turning Point In War

The major turning point in the conflict proved to be the Tet offensive in late January 1968. The enemy, hoping for an uprising of the South Vietnamese people in his support, was defeated both politically and militarily.

Again, President Johnson made another effort, March 31, 1968, to bring the conflict to the negotiating table. As a test of the good faith of the North Vietnamese, the President ordered a de-escalation of the bombing north of the 19th parallel. The North finally agreed to come to the negotiating table and on May 10, 1968, the talks got underway in Paris.

The fighting continued in South Vietnam, while in Paris the talks appeared to be nonproductive.

Prior to the latest bombing halt the talks entered a new, more hopeful phase.

In announcing the halt the President stated: "We have reached the stage where productive talks can begin. We have made it clear to the other side that such talks cannot continue if they take military advantage of them."

Negotiations Take Time

It must be understood that the bombing halt does not mean a halt in the fighting. Negotiations take time and hard fighting will continue in the South.

It is certain that every possible step is being taken to be sure the enemy does not take advantage of the halt.

Commanders are authorized to take any and all actions necessary to defend their units against attacks by the enemy anywhere in the country. The choices now are further de-escalation . . . or further destruction, whichever the enemy chooses.



Sound-Proof Booths Provided

Service Club Adds Tape Rooms



RIBBON CUTTING—Brigadier General Robert C. McAlister, assistant division commander, officially opens the new tape room at the Dragon Mountain Service Club. His pretty assistant is Miss Candy Coggins, a service club hostess. (USA Photo by SP5 Lee Fuhrmann)

CAMP ENARI — The 4th Infantry Divisions' Special Services Office has completed the first stage of its projected entertainment complex.

A side room in the Dragon Mountain Service Club has been transformed into a stereo tape laboratory for Ivymen.

A total of four sound-proof booths are provided, each with a separate tape recorder. The booths allow Ivymen to record letters to be sent home or to listen to tapes in complete privacy.

Also in the tape room, four cabinets have been constructed, each containing a tape recorder and a tape deck. These systems allow Ivymen to dub tapes from master tapes provided by the service club for personal listening enjoyment.

The only stipulations placed on the use of the tape room are that no machines will leave the room and Ivymen must provide their own tape for recording purposes.

According to Assistant Special Services Officer, First Lieutenant Benjamin McKnight of Miami, Fla., the entire project was constructed by Ivy special services personnel with the materials provided through the 4th Division Self-Help Program.

The bulk of the planning and actual building was done by Specialist 4 Gordon "Flash" Segal of Warren, Mich. In praising the Ivymen, Lieutenant McKnight said, "He worked feverishly on the project during all his spare time and I feel he did a tremendous job."

Additional projects planned in the near future by the Special Services Office are two combined basketball and tennis courts, a new miniature golf course, a driving range and an archery range, all for the pleasure of 4th Division soldiers.

Black Panther Gets Medal Of Honor For Heroism . . .

(Continued From Page 1)
beside two other tanks from his own platoon, all three immobilized by the withering fire of a battalion size NVA attack force near Dak To on Jan. 15, 1968. Realizing he could do no more as a driver, Specialist Johnson jumped from the tank, a .45 caliber pistol in hand and joined the pitched battle already taking its toll on both sides.

The tanker fired his hand gun and enemy soldiers fell. When the .45 was empty, he returned to the tank, found a machine

gun and was soon in the thick of battle, gun blazing. Again, more of the enemy fell.

The machine gun rounds expended, he swung the butt of his weapon and another attacker fell to the tankers blow.

Specialist Johnson paused long enough in the thick of the fighting to climb onto his platoon sergeant's tank, pull a wounded comrade to the ground and carry him to an APC for evacuation.

Returning to the same tank, he assisted in point blank firing of the main battle gun while

outside the fury of the fight continued. Again, armed only with a .45 revolver, Johnson left the tank. And again, enemy soldiers fell and the tanker stood.

Fighting his way back to his own tank, he climbed atop, remaining fully exposed to a stubborn enemy force and fired the externally mounted .50 caliber machine gun. This time the enemy fell back.

The victory was secured and a hero was born, not of his own choosing but out of concern for his fellow soldiers and at the risk of his own life.



(Circulation 8,000)

IVY LEAF, an authorized weekly publication, is published by the INFORMATION OFFICE, 4th Admin. Co., 4th Infantry Division, APO San Francisco 96262, for 4th Division forces and is printed in Tokyo by Pacific Stars and Stripes.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Army. This paper uses facilities of Armed Forces Press File and Armed Forces News Bureau to augment local news. Mailing address: IVY LEAF, INFORMATION OFFICE, 4th Admin. Co., 4th Infantry Division, APO U.S. Forces 96262. Telephone: Famous 151 or 159. Commanding General . . . Major General Donn Royce Pepke Information Officer . . . Major Donald D. David

STAFF

- Officer-in-Charge 2LT Brien P. Levy
- Editor SP4 Steve Wilson
- News Editor SGT Joe Perdue
- Editorial Assistant SP4 Russ London

Commander Takes New Staff Post

CAMP ENARI — Colonel Herbert J. McChrystal Jr. of Arlington, Va., has been named 4th Infantry Division Chief of Staff. He succeeds Colonel Warren D. Hodges.

Colonel McChrystal is no newcomer to the division, having commanded the 2nd Brigade since June. Prior to assuming command of the brigade, he served with the U.S. Army Element, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

A 1945 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Colonel McChrystal has served tours in Europe and Korea.

In Europe he served with the 18th Infantry Regiment as platoon leader, company commander and assistant regiment operations officer.

During the Korean conflict he was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division and saw action as company commander and later as assistant intelligence officer.

The colonel also served as a battalion commander with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1965-66.

He was graduated from the Command and General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, Kan., and the National War College at Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C. He has also studied international relations at George Washington University.

His decorations include the Silver Star with two oak leaf clusters, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with palm and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

'Eyes' Of The Artillery

Skill Essential To Good FO

By SFC Ben Casey

CAMP ENARI — A 4th Division rifle company makes contact with the enemy somewhere in the 12,000-square-mile Division area of operation in the Central Highlands.

Immediately, the artillery's forward team attached to the unit swings into action. And within a matter of minutes, artillery rounds are whizzing overhead, landing with accuracy, destroying the enemy.

This Highland action is repeated many times whenever Ivy Division infantry units make contact.

The man responsible for the timely and accurate artillery fire support is the Forward Observer (FO). His team, consisting of himself, a recon sergeant and a radio operator, is considered the "Eyes of the Artillery."

He is where the action is. He knows where the enemy is hiding, and he holds a place of honor alongside the infantry company commander.

The team is also considered the most essential element attached to an infantry unit. So much so that the 4th Division Artillery (DivArty), commanded by Colonel Virgil Wil-



THE BIG CURTAIN—Smoke billows from the mountains as a screen for the evacuation of Firebase 29 near Dak To. The smoke was dropped by Air Force planes to hinder enemy rocket launcher teams shelling the firebase. (US Photo by SP4 Lee Thurau)

Largest Smoke Screen Used

Bullets Bring Smoke On Charlie

By SP4 Bill Gibbons
DAK TO — "Bringing smoke on Charlie," is an expression used throughout the 4th Division and Vietnam. In polite circles it means that Charlie has been badly beaten.

In the Ivy 1st Brigade, commanded by Colonel Hale H. Knight of Alexandria, Va., it recently acquired an additional meaning.

Firebase 29 is now the abandoned headquarters of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William D. Old II of Austin, Tex. For several weeks Firebase 29 had been on the receiving end of hundreds of enemy mortar

and recoilless rifle rounds.

Because the area around the firebase could be controlled from the tactical location of Firebase 25 and the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp at Ben Het, it was decided to evacuate Firebase 29.

But Charlie was intent on making the operation as difficult as possible. Each time a helicopter tried to land at the firebase, enemy mortar and recoilless rifle fire would jeopardize its safe landing and takeoff.

When the problem was relayed to 1st Brigade headquarters at Dak To, Major Robert Hewitt of Utica, N.Y., the Brigade S-3, and Captain Thomas R. Martin of

Chester, Pa., the brigade assistant S-3 and chemical officer, came up with a possible solution.

Smoke Screen Used

Coordinating with Major Myron S. Prahm of Trot, N.Y., the 1st Battalion S-3 who was on Firebase 29, and Air Force Captain Donald L. Marx of Gary, Ind., a Forward Air Control (FAC) pilot, Major Hewitt and Captain Martin created a plan for the first large-scale smoke screen ever used in the 4th Division area.

Two F4Cs from the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phu Cat were dispatched to Firebase 29 along with two F100s from the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at Da Nang. Each plane was loaded with CBU12 smoke bombs.

Captain Marx flew over the firebase in the direction from which the enemy fire was coming and he fired two smoke markers.

Immediately, two of the planes laden with the CBU12s roared from the sky and dropped their bombs on a straight line.

Captain Marx then fired two more smoke markers, one at the base of the smoke curtain and another at a 120 degree angle a thousand meters away. The other two planes dropped their bomb loads between these two points.

The effects of these coordinated bombing runs was smoke that was so thick that the enemy forward observers and weapons crewmen could no longer see any portion of Firebase 29, making it impossible to adjust their fire.

Helicopters could then fly in from the rear of the smoke curtain and extract heavy artillery and other important equipment without the harassment of enemy fire.

Major Prahm said he could see nothing from the firebase in the direction of the smoke curtain. Captain Marx, who flew around the curtain and viewed its effects from both sides, confirmed Major Prahm's report.

Major Prahm commented, "I feel the screen was extremely effective. It enabled the evacuation of the firebase under the most hazardous conditions."

Smoke had been brought on Charlie — 1st Brigade style.

Cavalrymen Attacked By Flying Reds

By SP4 Larry Hogan

BAN ME THUOT — On a patrol 25 miles north of here, the 4th Division's 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Noce, engaged in a brief battle with the dreaded "Big Red Ones."

Grinding through a large rubber plantation, the squadron's Troop C, commanded by Captain William A. Brinkley of Florence, Ala., kept a sharp-eye for "Charlie."

Sergeant Thomas Ryan of Chicago, peered through the rows of rubber trees, which stood in long straight lines like soldiers in formation.

The armored personnel carriers (APCs) and tanks moved slowly through the area unaware of the goggle-eyed predators all around them.

As Captain Brinkley's APC rumbled past a tree, a low hanging limb brushed against the track and the battle began.

First Lieutenant William Horn of New Orleans, a forward observer, suddenly sprang to his feet and began slapping off the attackers.

The Ivymen had come into contact with an army of red ants.

The entire crew was now under attack.

Sergeant Ryan dived into the bottom of the APC and emerged with a can of insect spray.

A heavy mist covered the track and the stinging enemy was finally driven back.

Moving on, Sergeant Ryan, who was still brushing off a few of the "hard-core" ants, muttered to himself, "For a little bug, those things sure have a mean bite!"

VC Leader Screams Into Red Warriors

BAN ME THUOT — A forward observer for Bravo Battery, commanded by Captain James A. Houston of Lawton, Okla., and his radio operator got a big surprise on an operation near here.

First Lieutenant Edward Baldwin of Amityville, N.Y., and Specialist 4 John Kunkle of Kadoogan, Pa., both of the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Edward L. Frunczak, were on an early morning cordon and search of a village with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Captain Bruce Harris of Mineola, N.Y.

"I was having some trouble in establishing radio contact with the battery," said Specialist Kunkle. "I had to talk pretty loud."

"I saw this guy running at us screaming 'don't shoot,'" added Specialist Kunkle. "He ran right into my arms."

"He had a bag and a canteen in his hand," recounted Lieutenant Baldwin. "I thought the bag might be a satchel charge, but it turned out to be a bag of rice, and hot tea in the canteen."

The detainee turned out to be the second in command of the Viet Cong in the district.

In Three Wars—Steadfast And Loyal



GENERAL JOHN PERSHING INSPECTS 4TH DIVISION ARTILLERY IN GERMANY, MARCH 18, 1919.

(USA P)



IVYMEN CALL AND CORRECT FIRE MISSIONS IN PRUM VALLEY, GERMANY, MARCH 3, 1945.

(USA Photo)



IVYMEN CONTINUE STEADFAST AND LOYAL TRADITION IN VIETNAM.

(USA Photo by SP4 Jack McBrain)

2nd Brigade Picks High

BAN ME THUOT—Jungleers, Vanguards, Firebasers, and Ivy's Best. These are just a few of the many names submitted in a contest to give the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade a nickname.

A selection board made their recommendation to Colonel Herbert J. McChrystal of Arlington, Va., brigade commander, and he announced that, henceforth, Ivy-men of the 2nd Brigade will be known as "Highlanders."

The Highlanders, consisting of infantry battalions with attached engineer, maintenance, signal and other support units, were the vanguard of the Famous Fourth in the Vietnam War. They landed at Qui Nhon on August 10, 1966, made their way to the Central Highlands and roamed, but never left the hills and jungles of this vast area of Vietnam.

Named For Good Reason

"This is the main reason that this particular nickname was selected," said Colonel McChrystal. "The highlands are the heritage of this brigade's involvement in Vietnam, the first war in which the ROAD (Reorganization of Army Division) concept has been used and I think it

most appropriate that the 2nd Brigade carry the name derived in combat in Vietnam."

Command Sergeant Major Paul Plei Trap Valley, Cal artillery liaison section and the S-2 section of the 22nd Infantry Battalion, 22nd Infantry Division, announced the results of the contest.

"The nickname 'Highlanders' is already popping up in letters and signs," the sergeant said. Lieutenant Colonel Columbus, Ga., brigade commander, announced that the 2nd Brigade will have the tall feather as its distinguishing emblem.

As the years pass, the name of the 2nd Brigade is already popping up in letters and signs, the sergeant said. Lieutenant Colonel Columbus, Ga., brigade commander, announced that the 2nd Brigade will have the tall feather as its distinguishing emblem.

As the years pass, the name of the 2nd Brigade is already popping up in letters and signs, the sergeant said. Lieutenant Colonel Columbus, Ga., brigade commander, announced that the 2nd Brigade will have the tall feather as its distinguishing emblem.

They were Highlanders.



HIGHLANDER EARNS HIS NAME BY SCALING RUGGED TERRAIN.

Cavalry's Watch Keeps Death Trap Open To Convoys

Story And Photo By 1LT Gary Martin

FOURTEEN YEARS AGO, 2,200 French paratroopers were slaughtered by the Viet Minh in Vietnam's strategic Mang Yang Pass.

Today, Ivy Division tanks and armored personnel carriers of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, patrol the hills guarding the rugged pass where lie the bodies of France's finest as they fell.

Squadron Commander Lieutenant Colonel Donald Moreau speaks with respect for the Mang Yang Pass and past battles fought near his headquarters at Blackhawk firebase. "Mang Yang Pass is the gateway to the Western Highlands," he said, "cut off Highway 19 and the Fourth Division starves."

"We get paid to keep Charlie away from the road," the colonel related. "Our mission is to get trucks through to Pleiku and these young troopers are doing a darn good job."

Endless Convoys

More than three hundred trucks a day wind through the narrow pass carrying vital supplies for 4th Division soldiers. Nearly all the division's food, gas and oil arrive by daily convoys from Qui Nhon as do vast amounts of ammunition, clothing and repair parts of every description.

"The statistics that show we're doing our job are the ones which tell how many trucks and drivers have passed through unharmed," the colonel points out. "I have terrific troops. They are all two year men and doing a great job. I have all young troop commanders and they're outstanding."

The 40-year-old veteran of 23 years with the Army had nothing but praise for the modern combat soldier. "The trooper in Vietnam is the best the Army has ever had," he added.

The grandeur of the mountains surrounding the squadron's Blackhawk firebase between Pleiku and the Mang Yang Pass, has been unmolested by extended bombing and pitched battles between large forces. Deer thrive in the cool mountain air, while trout are said to crowd hidden streams tumbling from the hills.

Villages Dot Landscape

Montagnard villages, among the most primitive in all Vietnam, dot the lush valleys and mountain top pastures.

Colonel Moreau, a psychological operations officer with I Field Force Vietnam before coming to the 4th Division, says of his tribal neighbors, "The Montagnards have a philosophy of hospitality unheard of in our society. While most of the villagers will tell us when the Viet Cong have been in the area, they nevertheless continue to extend the same hospitality to the VC as they do to us. Because of this, guerrilla movement in the area is virtually unhampered."

Most villages near Blackhawk can be counted on to give an early warning of an enemy band nearby. When the cavalrymen at Blackhawk see a star cluster from across the valley, they know their Montagnard friends have visitors.

Of the tactical situation along Highway 19, Colonel Moreau says, "We experience mostly guerilla activity—harassment action which keeps us on our toes."

Lonely Outposts

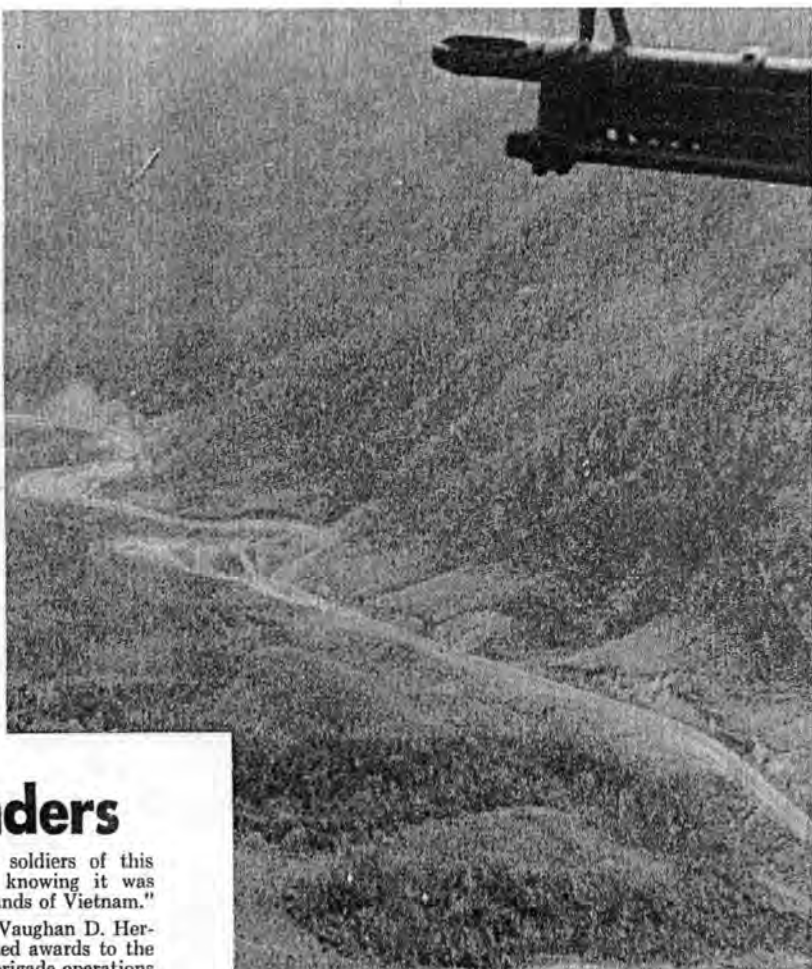
The cavalrymen in turn, work day and night to keep Charlie on his toes and on the move. Desolate outposts, manned 24 hours a day, rest atop high bald peaks.

With 200 meters on either side of the road having been cleared and plowed, convoys winding among the stately peaks of historic Highway 19 are less apt to be ambushed than in the days of the French. Tanks and armored personnel carriers rumble over the highway, pause overnight at a bridge and move into the hills at first light.

Traveling through the Mang Yang Pass, a bloody saga has left its indelible mark on the grass-covered slopes where so many French soldiers are buried, standing up, encased in lime. Lime having killed the grass, each plot is clearly marked.

The troopers of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, know they guard a living history book—written in blood. But as their tanks rumble along a mountain road, they grit their teeth and eat some more dust.

The slaughter at Mang Yang Pass is never to be repeated and the "Blackhawks" are there to see that it isn't.



CONSTANT VIGIL IS KEPT ON MANG YANG PASS.

Highlanders

at future soldiers of this nickname, knowing it was the highlands of Vietnam."

nt Major Vaughan D. Herif., presented awards to the on of the brigade operations and S-3 sections of the 1st ntry, who were co-winners

must be popular because it p on helmets, chopper pads ant major said.

el William S. DeCamp of ade executive officer, an- scottish Highlanders Tam, ; has been adopted as the m of the Highlanders.

and the deeds of Vietnam Revere III, Plei Djereng, la Drang Valley, Francis the battle of Duc Lap and hearts of men who were

nders!

STORY SKETCHED BY
COMBAT ARTIST
WILLIAM SIGFRIED



HERITAGE OF HIGHLANDS INSPIRES NICKNAME.



THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDER TAM IS PROUD SYMBOL.

Swallowing Eggs Easy For Champ

BY SP4 Bill Gibbons

DAK TO—"Mostly I did it because all these dudes up here were saying I couldn't," he said, sounding slightly offended that someone might doubt his capabilities.

"Actually I was only going for 26 to break the old record, but one of the lieutenants said he once knew a guy who ate 29. I didn't want him going to bed thinking I wasn't better."

The speaker was Specialist 4 Arthur J. Williamson of Jacksonville, Fla., a member of the 4th Division's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Captain Bardon Blizard Jr. of Belmont, Ohio. The record he spoke of was the Armed Forces Hard Boiled Egg Eating Championship.

Specialist Williamson, also called "The Beat" or "BB," which is short for Blood Bomber, ate 30 eggs in 39 minutes to easily eclipse the old record set by a Marine at Da Nang who

swallowed 25 eggs in one hour.

Among the witnesses were Lieutenant John M. Mikula of Cleveland, Ohio, the company's executive officer; First Lieutenant Ralph J. Parker of Sun River, Mont.; First Lieutenant Brian E. Conley of New York; Specialist Williamson's platoon leader; and First Lieutenant W.V. Armstrong Jr. of Jacksonville, Fla., forward observer for the company.

Gets To Be A Drag

"After a while," the champ explained, "it gets to be a drag I ate 16 in seven minutes and 25 in twenty minutes, but I spent seven minutes on that last yoke."

The remarkable thing about this record is that "The Beat" didn't have a training pattern. Previous record holders have gone two days without eating or have drunk gallons of water to stretch their stomachs. Specialist Williamson ate his normal breakfast and lunch and had the eggs for supper.

"I don't even know how it all started, but I have a reputation around the company for eating. Sometimes I'll go through the chow line three or four times at one meal. Once a friend and I came in off a two-day patrol and between us ate a case and half of C-rations."

He was telling his story at 1st Brigade headquarters in Dak To within ear shot of the MP billets. The MP's immediately produced a husky challenger who looked at the six-foot specialist, checked out his trim build, and said, "If you ate 30, I can eat 40."

Before he came into the Army, Specialist Williamson "shot pool and played golf." He is not sure what he will do once he gets out but would like to settle down and maybe teach skin diving classes.

He is aware that the Guinness Book of World Records lists the world hard boiled egg eating record as 44.

"I probably won't go after that unless I think there's a good chance of making some money endorsing a certain brand of eggs."

Promotion Falls With Each Tour

BAN ME THUOT — With as many promotions as tours in Vietnam, Major Robert Brooks of Pittsburg has obtained his present rank in Headquarters and Headquarters Company of 2nd Brigade.

Beginning his first tour in Vietnam as a 2nd Lieutenant with the Special Forces in the IV Corps area, Second Lieutenant Brooks was promoted to first lieutenant.

Returning to Vietnam for his second tour of duty he again was assigned to the Special Forces and was soon promoted to captain. During these two tours he made 50 parachute jumps and two amphibious landings.

At present, he is the commanding officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Major Brooks is the father of two children, both born while he was in Vietnam.

"My wife wrote me the other day after I made major that she wished I could be home, either for a promotion or a baby," said Major Brooks.



TIME OUT—Larry Jackson, second from left, a former pitcher with the Philadelphia Phillies, and Bing Devine, right, general manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, talk baseball with 1st Battalion, 8th Infantrymen, at Firebase 30. Ron Swoboda, the New York Mets' power hitter, was also along on the USO handshake tour. (USA Photo by SP4 Dave Stamps)

Children Get Bread

By SP4 Larry Hogan

BAN ME THUOT — Huge mouthfuls of bread muffled the children's attempts to express their gratitude.

In an effort to help provide food for the children of the Vinh Son orphanage here, the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade civil affairs team loaded a jeep and trailer with 600 loaves of bread and headed down the road to Ban Me Thuot.

Progress was slow. Staff Sergeant Darrell Rhodes of Decatur, Ill., found the shifting load of bread required adjustment every mile or so to keep it from spilling out on the road. Passers-by created somewhat of a traffic problem as they slowed to stare at the strange cargo.

But a desire to make needy children happy drove the team undauntedly forward until they finally reached the orphanage yard.

By the time Sergeant Rhodes reached Sister Beatrice, the Mother Superior, several excited children were clinging to his arms.

Talking over the squeals of the children, Sergeant Rhodes explained, "We have brought bread for the orphanage. Where can we put it?"

"Right here will be fine," said Sister Beatrice, pointing to a small table.

Realizing she had not comprehended the size of the load, Sergeant Rhodes led the Mother Superior through the crowd of children to the loaded jeep and trailer.

A gleeful expression swept over her face as she saw the mountain of bread. "Perhaps the kitchen would be more appropriate," she said with a smile.

Once the bread was unloaded, Sister Beatrice again offered her thanks to the entire 2nd Brigade and its commander, Colonel Herbert J. McChrystal of Arlington, Va.

But seeing countless happy children munching away on fresh loaves of bread was the only thanks Sergeant Rhodes and his team needed.

Computer Works Fast

FADAC Keeps Artillery Accurate

By SP5 Jeffrey Tarter

OASIS — In the middle of the night a red light flashes and a voice crackles over the radio. A radio operator scribbles a few terse notes.

And the controlled frenzy of an artillery mission begins again in the Fire Direction Center of Charlie Battery, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery, commanded by Captain Darwin O. Fee.

"As soon as we get a mission to fire, we've got to start pumping data through to the guns — fast," says First Lieutenant Michael Rippingill of Hollywood, Fla., one of Charlie's fire direction officers.

The battery's big 8-inch and 175mm howitzers must be fed a maze of calculations before they can hurl their deadly rounds onto a location miles away.

Getting these rounds near the target isn't too hard. Just point the gun in the right direction and fire the projectile the right distance.

Refugees Get Aid Station

BAN ME THUOT — With the help of the 4th Infantry Division, refugees from the battle of Duc Lap will soon have their own permanent medical aid station.

Allied forces, including the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade, commanded by Colonel Herbert J. McChrystal of Arlington, Va., crushed the enemy assault, but the local residents, many of whom were in need of medical attention, were left homeless.

Driven from their homes, the villagers huddled together in battle-scarred churches and schools.

It was at this time that the men of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William C. Moore of Alexandria, Va., went into action.

The Cacti Blue civil affairs team, led by First Lieutenant

But getting those rounds squarely on target is an exact science.

Real accuracy takes up-to-date information on air temperature, wind direction, exact projectile weights, powder temperatures, tube wear, grid conversions, target altitudes—even the rotation of the earth.

"The traditional way to crank out these calculations takes well-coordinated teamwork," Lieutenant Rippingill says. "When troops are in contact with an enemy there isn't time to fumble around."

A radio operator in the Fire Direction Center monitors frequencies of all units in the field 24 hours a day.

"Whenever they get in trouble, they know they can give us a call," Lieutenant Rippingill says.

As soon as that call comes in from the field, the team moves to its assigned tasks. A Vertical Chart Operator locates the target on a standard grid map, and reads off the target's altitude.

A Horizontal Chart Operator plots the target's distance and direction on a flat circular map of the area within the battery's range. This chart also shows where firebases and friendly villages are located.

With the figures provided by the two chart operators, a chief computer operator calculates the elevation for the big guns from tables of data and a slide-rule. When the Fire Direction Officer has worked out the size of charge to shoot the round, the mission is ready to fire.

Fast Figuring
All this figuring takes Charlie Battery—one of the fastest in Vietnam—no more than a minute or two to complete.

But there's an even faster way.

For most of its missions the Fire Direction Center uses a squat olive-drab device called FADAC—"Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer"—to do its arithmetic.

Once the target's coordinates have been punched into FADAC, the computer's circuits take over and do the rest of the work.

FADAC stores in its memory weather forecasts, locations of friendly positions, performance data on the battery's guns and ordnance.

FADAC's calculations also take into account all the tiny variables that might make a round wander slightly off course.

"A good team can do the basic calculations almost as fast as the computer," Lieutenant Rippingill declares. "But for a man to do as involved a calculation as FADAC would take a lot more time."

The computer really shows off its talents when the Fire Direction Center has to handle more than one mission simultaneously.

"There was a time once when we were receiving missions on both of our radios and had to back up a jeep here to use its radio for a third one," Lieutenant Rippingill recalls.

"But it was no sweat for FADAC—it ran all three at once."

Dust-Off Serves All Of Highlands

By ILT Gary Martin

CAMP ENARI—In the sprawling 12,000 square miles of rugged highlands that comprise the Ivy Division's area of operations, aeromedical evacuation meets its toughest test.

Covering the largest land area in Vietnam, the 283rd Air Ambulance Detachment in Pleiku (Dust-Off) supports not only the 4th Division, but also ARVN and local indigenous forces.

Within 10 minutes after a soldier is wounded, Dust-Off is on its way. The five man crew is briefed in flight, "Papa Charlie hit mine — two ambulatory — three litter—one with severe leg wound."

On the ground, five wounded men wait. Soon the clip of chopper blades in the distance signals help is on the way. The radio cracks, "This is Dust-Off. I see your smoke, am approaching from the north." Dust-Off has arrived and a modern Army miracle is about to transpire.

First to treat a serious wound—the medic. Well-trained and highly experienced, the Dust-Off medic earns his pay keeping men alive.

"I can't say enough for the job these men are doing," commented Lieutenant Colonel John E. Persons, commanding officer of the 283rd Air Ambulance Detachment. "Nearly all my men are here on extensions."

Colonel Persons from Meridan, Miss., has logged 5,000 hours flying time in three combat tours. "I'm on my second tour as a Dust-Off pilot and no one has died on my ship yet."

On the ground but a few seconds, Dust-Off can evacuate four litter and two ambulatory patients. Once airborne, the ship becomes a flying aid station. Bandages, splints, tourniquets, a forced air breathing apparatus and intravenous fluids are the medic's tools.

In the event a Dust-Off ship is forced down, the medic is equipped with emergency suture and tracheotomy kits. The medic knows what he is doing—he's seen it all before.

A trip to the hospital in Pleiku may be too long for the seriously wounded patient. "Because of the time-distance factor in this part of Vietnam, we make systematic use of doctors along the way," said Lieutenant Colo-

nel Carl Stracear of Alexandria, La., 4th Division Surgeon.

"We have fully equipped clearing companies at Dak To and the Oasis where a team of three doctors provides every medical need including blood, X-rays and emergency surgery. "During the battle of Dak To, not one soldier who made it to the 4th Medical Battalion clearing company died before getting to the hospital," Colonel Stracear added.

Next stop for the seriously wounded man is 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku. The 400 bed complex boasts more than 60 doctors, specialist everyone

—neurosurgeons to physical therapists.

Dust-Off can deliver the most seriously wounded man to 71st Evac in less than two hours from any spot in the Central Highlands.

"There is no finer hospital in Vietnam than 71st Evac," commented Colonel Persons, a frequent visitor to the hospital's helipad.

While under heavy enemy fire, Dust-Off once shuttled 60 patients from Firebase 29 to the clearing station at Dak To within 30 minutes.

Dust-Off is more than a helicopter. It is a specialized crew

on whose performance hang the frail threads of an injured man's life.

Dust-Off is 75 missions and 140 patients a week. It is an injured Montagnard warrior whose wife and children go along to the hospital.

Dust-Off can be a C47 flare ship, lighting the area for a night pick-up, or it can be gunships accompanying the evacuation chopper, gunships whose very presence keeps the enemy from revealing his positions.

Dust-Off is a hoist mission, a basket lowered 256 feet into the jungle while the chopper hovers, a motionless target for 10

dangerous and dramatic minutes.

Dust-Off is a mission of mercy, because a fellow soldier needs help quickly. It is the unseen ingredient that makes a pilot go in for a pick-up when he knows he may never climb above those trees again. But he does go in and he does save lives.

"Aeromedical evacuation has proven to be one of the greatest lifesaving tools available to any commander," concluded Colonel Stracear.

And a lot of combat veterans agree—they were Dust-Off passengers.



DUST-OFF—Combat Artist Allan Sosnowitz sketches this scene as a wounded soldier is rushed aboard a waiting chopper for evacuation to the 71st Evacuation Hospital.

SP4 David Stamps Recounts

Firebase 29's Daily Incoming Blasts

DAK TO — To the defenders of Firebase 29, "incoming" was about as popular as a lost shot record, but for four days in a period of seven, "incoming" kept increasing on the inhabitants.

Although no exact count is available, estimates put the number of enemy rounds received at 400-500 for the four days.

The enemy doesn't distribute time tables, but experienced padman, Specialist 4 Daniel R. Stewart of Lavonia, Ga., serving with the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William D. Old II of Austin, Tex., starts moving "breakable" items from his LZ into bunkered areas at 4:30 p.m. each day.

Spying the toiling S-4 worker, a friend jokingly calls down from the hill above, "Expecting a sudden storm, Dan?"

Specialist Stewart pauses a moment to squint at the glowing sun descending into nearby Cambodia. "Well, maybe," he grins back.

Up by the mess tent, head cook, Specialist 5 Richard Bondy of New York, stands with flour-covered hands on hips, glaring in the general direction of the waning sun.

"I'm getting sick and tired of Charlie's airmail special delivery letters interrupting my work."

Reaching inside the mess tent, he produces a paper cup full of jagged metal fragments which he rattles disgustedly.

"Here are some of the 'stamps' I collected around my tent this morning."

Specialist 4 Keith McClure of Kailua, Hawaii, sitting atop a pile of sandbags nearby, picks up the thread.

"Hey! It's not those letters having my name on it I worry about — it's all the ones addressed 'To whom it may concern.'"

Artillerymen farther down the finger of the firebase chuckle at the rejoinder, but the men of Battery A, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, commanded by Captain Larry Liberty of Tacoma, Wash., have a special dislike of their own for the "unsolicited" mail.

Their slightly hairy job is to man the guns during "incoming" to insure accurate replies are "outgoing."

"We used to get a lot of fire from a big mortar tube over there," indicates Specialist 4 Al Milburn of Kent, Ohio, who works in the fire direction control center. Following his pointing finger, you can discern a scarred billtop to the west.

Behind the gun pits, a returning short range patrol (SRP) gratefully dropped their rucksacks and, between gulps of water from canteens, recount their adventures to assembled friends.

"We were so close to the enemy mortars the other night we could hear them dropping rounds down their tubes," recounts Oklahoman, Private First Class Denny Harris of Tulsa. "Every time they dropped one in, we'd call back to the perimeter — 'shot out.'"

The soldiers around the returnees laughed and returned to their work.

One of these men, Specialist 4 Richard Davis of Eagle Lake, Tex., who is a team leader for Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, commanded by Captain Phillip Morris of Akron, Ohio, resumes cinching up his rucksack in preparation for leading his men out on another SRP mission.

To Specialist Davis "incoming" had a special significance two nights earlier when a bunker near his own suffered a direct hit.

Twice crawling through a communication trench despite the continued enemy barrage, Specialist Davis pulled two wounded comrades from their flaming bunker to safety. As a result, both men are well on their way to recovery from their wounds.

On up the hill, infantrymen pass filled sandbags hand to hand adding yet another layer to their bunker...

ARVNs Entertain Troops

DAK TO — What began as a morale-building effort for ARVN troops blossomed into entertainment for a variety of soldiers and citizens.

Captain Gary Olsen of Niles, Ill., the Famous Fourth Division's 1st Brigade assistant S-5, and First Lieutenant Michael J. Bean of Leavenworth, Kan., an audio-visual team leader, had arranged for 20 members of the 20th Political Warfare Battalion to entertain the 42nd ARVN Regiment.

Specialist 4 Gary L. Batcher of Long Island, N.Y., an administration assistant in the S-5 office at Dak To estimated the crowd at 1,500 persons.

The second performance was given the following afternoon. An audience composed of 2,000 people from the neighboring city of Tan Canh watched as the team sang songs of the history of Vietnam.

That evening the entertainers traveled the short distance to headquarters of the 1st Brigade, commanded by Colonel Hale Knight of Alexandria, Va., where they performed for 400 U.S. servicemen.

The show was one of the few live presentations to reach Dak To, and the thunderous applause and piercing whistles indicated the gratitude of the soldiers.

The versatile performers tailored their act to each audience, including in their repertoire both traditional Vietnamese songs and swinging rock 'n roll.

A total of almost 4,000 ARVNs, Vietnamese citizens, and American servicemen are extremely grateful for the extra efforts of the men and women of the 20th Political Warfare Battalion, and for the initiative of the officers who made the appearances possible.

Echo 58th Serves As 'Eyes And Ears' Of Division

By 1LT G.W. Hale
CAMP ENARI — Rapidly becoming familiar to 4th Division soldiers is a group of 118 volunteer officers and enlisted men who compose the 4th Division Long Range Patrol (LRP) Company.

Assigned to the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, Echo Company of the 58th Infantry, it performs long range patrolling missions throughout the 4th Division's huge 12,000-square-mile area of operation in the Central Highlands.

LRP team members have a rare blend of courage, knowledge of the jungle and the enemy that stalks it, devotion to duty and dedication to success. Their unique abilities enable them to perform a myriad of missions for commanders.

One day they may be the eyes and ears of any or all of the 4th Division Brigades, gathering valuable intelligence for use in planning future operations.

Use Cameras

Or they may assist Division Intelligence (G-2) directly, ferreting out information on enemy movements, positions, weapons or intentions and bringing back tantalizing photographs of his facilities.

"In the past, Echo 58th has been misunderstood," said the

Company Commander, Captain Reuben Siverling of Derby, Kan. "We are more than hunter-killers. Our principal mission is gathering intelligence.

"We are the youngest company in the division," Captain Siverling continued, "in existence only since last May. In fact, we're young in more ways than one. My men average only 21 years of age."

Men have left the LRP company at the end of their tour to celebrate their 19th birthday at home. One 18-year-old earned two Bronze Stars with "V."

Most Are Draftees

Oddly enough, 90 percent of the men are draftees. Some 25 percent are married. And 100 percent are as courageous as soldiers come.

It takes raw courage to go on a LRP mission. Out there, miles from friendly troops — and in territory where Charlie is perfectly at home — a LRP team has only its weapons and knowledge of the jungle for protection.

Becoming a LRP member, however, demands more than courage; both mental keenness and physical stamina are also prerequisites.

Initial training begins at the LRP company, where 10 days of classes in demolitions, artil-

lery adjustments, use of air support, map reading, first aid, escape and evasion, and inserting and extracting by rope, give LRP team volunteers a sampling of the skills that must be mastered.

A four-day mission follows, during which each student learns LRP members never talk while on patrol and that progress through dense jungle — often as little as a few hundred meters a day — is tedious.

The next training step is the Division Recon School, commanded by Captain Richard Beale, where the aspirant undergoes more schooling in patrolling techniques.

The top five division school students may go on to MACV Recon School in Nha Trang for three weeks of demanding physical training climaxed by an actual mission into enemy territory. If the mission is successful, the trainees become full-fledged members of the LRP company.

A graduate of the MACV school has gone the formal training route. Now, after showing his ability on several missions, he may be selected as a LRP team leader.

Honor Graduates

"In the last three classes, Echo 58th has contributed the

honor graduate," related Captain Siverling. "Naturally, we are proud of this achievement."

The officers, too, are of a special breed. Like all of their men, they are airborne qualified. In addition, they are Special Forces trained. Captain Siverling has six years experience with the famous Green

Berets and has previous service in Vietnam as an NCO.

Nearly every major 4th Division enemy contact has been the result of a Division LRP sighting.

As one LRP soldier commented matter-of-factly, "Long Range Patrolling isn't just a duty to us. It's a way of life."



CHARLIE WAS HERE—Specialist 4 William Taylor of Santa Monica, Calif., examines a trail for signs of enemy use. (USA Photo by PIO)

Disaster For The Enemy

Battle Of Dak To Recalled

BY SP4 John Trimble
A YEAR AGO last November, the mountains west of Dak To thundered with the sound of battle as American forces clashed with the North Vietnamese in one of the major battles of the war—the Battle

of Dak To. Today, a year later, the mountains still rumble now and then, but are silent most of the time. The 4th Division, aided by the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 1st Air Cavalry Division, defeated the NVA there on three hilltops.

Since the last NVA soldier fell, the enemy has been unable to mass significant strength in the Dak To area.

The numbers 875, 724 and 1338 denote the hills the 4th Division, and those units under its operational control, assaulted and took in 26 days of savage fighting. The numbers are the elevations in meters of the three hills.

Many Bodies Found

When the smoke of the Battle of Dak To slowly ascended from the dense jungle hills, 1,641 NVA bodies were found.

During the Battle of Dak To, more than 1,868 air sorties were flown. Helicopter gunships flew 1,101 sorties and more than 137,991 artillery rounds bombarded the enemy division. The battle was fought in two parts. During the first part from Nov. 3 to 12, the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, fought for and captured Hill 724.

The second and bloodiest stage of the battle was from Nov. 13 to 16. During those days, the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, took Hill 1338 while the 173rd Airborne Brigade captured Hill 875.

The enemy had massed more than a division-size force in the hills surrounding Dak To, apparently hoping to overrun the entire area. Their effort was in vain, they were defeated before they could launch an attack of their own.

The hills captured in the battle now offer a peaceful contrast to those days of fighting. The Ivymen occupying Hill 1338 today, known as Firebase 5, call it "R & R Hill."

Firebase 5 is now a base of operation for the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard X. Larkin of Annandale, Va., and

other units operating in the area.

Now Has Movie

Since the hill was taken, it has been built up with bunkers and even a couple of frame mess halls. Almost every night, there is a movie shown in its makeshift theater to entertain the men.

Hill 1338 was considered a strategic hill in the battle. When it fell to the Ivy Division, the NVA's plans were ruined and thus any attempt to overrun Dak To was foiled.

Since the Battle of Dak To, the NVA have been unable to move into the Dak To area in strength. The hills are now occupied by 1st Brigade units and the batteries of the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William Maurer of Douglas, Wyo.

The hills that once concealed the NVA are today an obstruction which prevent them from entering South Vietnam through Dak To.

The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, still maintains a company on Hill 1338, and the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, has its Battery B, commanded by Captain William F. Dworsak of San Antonio, Tex., perched atop the tranquil hill.

These 4th Division units guard NVA infiltration routes, hoping to prevent another Battle of Dak To.

Scholarship Fund Soars

CAMP ENARI—The 4th Division Scholarship Fund now totals \$115,889.37.

The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard Larkin, has not been challenged for its hold on first place. With contributions totaling \$1,256.25 during the month of November, the battalion remains far out in front with a grand total of \$13,236.60.

The 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Donald W. Moreau, bounced back into second place in the overall standings with

Jarai Tribesmen Guard Own Village From VC

By SP4 Bill D'Espinoza

CAMP ENARI — One day not long ago, 28 Montagnards, all farmers, left their village on the outskirts of Pleiku.

They recently returned as not only farmers, but also polished and well-drilled Popular Forces.

After nearly three months of Popular Forces training, the 28 men returned to take over protection of their village, a task which had been handled by the civil affairs team from the Ivy Division Artillery (DIVARTY) in their absence.

Plei Klan Ngot is a combined relocation village made up of five smaller Jarai Montagnard villages. It was decided by the villagers that they should be able to protect themselves, and the 28 men volunteered for training.

Drill and ceremonies, weapons and tactics were all

studied, and after their training, they came home to a people ready for their return.

The entire village was out in its best dress to meet the returning heroes. A celebration had been planned for weeks, and when the day finally came, all was prepared.

Chief Greeted Platoon

The newly elected village-chief greeted the returning platoon and the festivities began.

Rice wine was plentiful, and a cow had been killed and butchered. The village girls danced while the elders played a haunting melody on metal chimes.

Colonel Virgil Williams of Colorado Springs, Colo., DIVARTY commander, inspected the platoon. He commented on their good appearance and told the men how pleased he was with their accomplishments.

Colonel Williams presented a transistor radio to the village, and the party continued.

The village chief seated the colonel and his group, which included Sergeant Major Clyde Johnson, DIVARTY sergeant major, Captain Chris Bailey, the surgeon who visits the village regularly, and Captain Warren Williams, the S-5.

Village girls formed a circle around the group, and danced as the men played their chimes and beef ka-bob was given to all.

The colonel and his party left as all the villagers raced to watch the helicopter leave.

After nearly three months of training, the Montagnards relaxed with their families and friends.



BRIGHT SPOT — Outhining the glittering lights of Las Vegas are the radiant charms of Margaret Laverdy, surely a sight to brighten anyone's day.