

IVY LEAF

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Sergeant Major Of Army Visits Division Units

Dragon Mountain — Sergeant Major of the Army William O. Wooldridge recently visited units of the 4th Infantry Division.

Lieutenant Colonel Harold H. Lee, former commander of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, welcomed Sergeant Major Wooldridge to one of his battalion's fire bases and gave him a short briefing on the organization and mission of the battalion.

Sergeant Major Wooldridge talked with soldiers at the fire base and was particularly interested in learning what areas were causing the most trouble and the effectiveness of the weapons now being used by the Army.

He also toured the division's Dragon Mountain base camp.



TOP EM VISITOR—Sergeant Major of the Army William O. Wooldridge, left, is escorted on a tour of the Dragon Mountain base camp by 4th Division Sergeant Major Thomas J. Tobin. (USA Photo by Sp4 Rich Obermaier)

FROM COLONEL CUTRONA

4/42nd Artillerymen Receive Medals

Plei Djereng — Twelve members of the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery received decorations ranging from the Distinguished Flying Cross to the Purple Heart in recent ceremonies.

As Lieutenant Colonel Jack Woods, battalion commander, looked on, Colonel Joseph F. H. Cutrona, 4th Division Artillery commander, presented the awards.

First Lieutenant Whitney L. Young Jr. received the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was cited for heroism August 18 while assigned to the 48th Assault Helicopter Company, 10th Aviation Battalion near Tuy Hoa.

The officer also received the 11th Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal with "V" device for an action February 10.

Receiving the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device were Chief Warrant Officer George O. Hassell, Specialist 5 Robert L. Pool, and Private First Class Donald E. Lovett, all of the artillery battalion's Headquarters and Service Battery.

The trio was manning a

counter-mortar radar set at the 2nd Brigade forward command post January 3 when the area was hit by enemy mortars.

Although the rounds were landing close — some bursts were as near as 20 meters — the three continued to operate the equipment and eventually picked up two incoming rounds, giving the artillery a definite target location.

The radarmen allowed accurate counter-mortar fire to shorten the attack, thereby saving lives and reducing equipment damage.

Captain Winslow D. Jones, Captain Michael W. Keavney, Captain Ronald E. Yersky and First Lieutenant Geary R. McCabe, all of Headquarters and Service Battery, and Captain Gunnar C. Carlson Jr. of Battery A received the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight in support of the ground combat forces.

Purple Hearts were awarded to First Lieutenant Lister L. Sells for wounds received September 17 and to Private First Class James B. Helmich

for wounds received November 12. Both are assigned to Headquarters and Service Battery.

1st Brigade Ends Operation Adams

Saigon — Operation Adams — the longest operation conducted by the 4th Infantry Division — has terminated.

Troops of the Ivy's 1st Brigade concluded the search and destroy and harvest protection operation Sunday night.

The operation, which began October 26 and centered 43 kilometers northwest of Tuy Hoa in Phu Yen Province, accounted for 491 enemy killed, 2,043 suspects detained, and 160 individual and one crew-served weapons seized.

Air Force pilots flew 203 sorties in direct support of the combined ground-air operation.

Cumulative friendly casualties were 46 infantrymen killed and 278 wounded.

Major units that participated in Adams included the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry; 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry; Troop A, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry; and 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery. Elements of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division were also involved in the operation.

The 9th Republic of Korea Infantry Division and the Capital ROK Division have now joined forces in Phu Yen Province and are conducting Operation Oh Jak Kyo.

Elements of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Division and 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) killed 56 enemy and detained 869 suspects in light and scattered actions during the past week in Operation Per-

shing in Binh Dinh Province.

Infantrymen captured 12 individual weapons during the actions.

U.S. 7th Air Force pilots flew 15 sorties Monday in direct support of the operation.

★ ★ ★

The 4th Division terminated Operation Sam Houston Wednesday night and initiated Operation Francis Marion yesterday. It was announced last night. The new operation is being conducted in the same general area as Sam Houston.

Ivy's 2nd Brigade Grenadiers Armed With XM-148s

Plei Djereng — The 4th Division's 2nd Brigade grenadiers are being disarmed of their .45 caliber pistols and M-79 grenade launchers.

The dual-purpose XM-148, a combined M-16 rifle and M-79 grenade launcher, is replacing the two weapons.

The new weapon is identical to the standard M-16 rifle except for the modification of the front plastic grip which enables easy attachment of the grenade launcher beneath the rifle barrel.

Grenadiers will now enjoy the convenience of one compact weapon, not to mention the superior small-arms fire power and accuracy provided by the M-16 rifle.

The 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry was the first 2nd Brigade unit to receive the XM-148.



AIR FORCE TRIES IT — A visit to a 4th Division forward fire base brought new experiences to members of an Air Force B-52 crew. Air Force Captain Duane B. Chase, a B-52 co-pilot, sights in with a XM-148, a new dual-purpose weapon recently issued to 4th Division troops. He is instructed in the weapon's use by Sergeant Jackie Tackett (Dorton, Ky.), right, of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry. (USA Photo by PFC Mick Harsell)

COMMANDER'S NOTE:

Remember To Think

One of my duties as division commander is to review the records of trial of members of the division who have been convicted by general courts-martial.

One of the purposes of this review is to determine the appropriateness of the sentence adjudged by the court. I consider this duty to be a very serious matter as my action often affects not only the individual who has been tried but also the members of his family.

The records that I have reviewed since assuming command of this division convince me that on too many occasions when the individual committed the act for which he is being tried, he had not thought of its consequences upon his wife, children or parents.

For example, I have recently been called upon to consider the appropriateness of a soldier's sentence for raping a Vietnamese woman. The member was a married sergeant who had a very young daughter.

It was apparent to me that not until after he had committed the offense did he consider the anguish this act would bring to his wife and daughter at home.

To determine a just sentence, I must consider not only the effect of the sentence upon the man and his family, but also what punishment is just when considering the victim and the deterrent effect on other members of the command.

These factors are not easy to resolve in any case, but what saddens me most is the apparent thoughtlessness of the member for his family when he fails to resist an impulse and commits a serious offense.

I ask each one of you to try to remember to think of your family, whether it be your wife or your parents, before doing anything which may brand you a criminal, subject you to imprisonment and cut off your only means of providing support for them.

Above all, do not make any decision to commit such acts after you have had a few beers or a couple of drinks. It is almost sure to be a wrong decision and could well lead to disgracing yourself and bringing shame to your family and loved ones.

WILLIAM R. PEERS

Major General, United States Army
Commanding



(Circulation 5,000)

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You're Not Alone

Chaplain (Maj.) Paschal M. Jackson

The Bible is full of examples of God's promises to be with those to whom He speaks.

Hagar, a slave concubine, sent out into the bush by a jealous wife, "hears God's promise for Ishmael, Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is."

Jacob, running away from Esau, lonely and homesick, hears God's voice saying, "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."

Taking over after the death of Moses, Joshua is promised that the Lord "will not fail you or forsake you."

About to set out on their journey back to their homeland, the exiles were assured, "when you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire, you shall not be burned."

The disciples on a stormy night, rowing back to Capernaum, heard the Lord of the sea say to them, "It is I, be not afraid."

Jesus said of His own experience, "I am not alone, because the Father is with Me." He spoke of God as "My Father and your Father."

We never need go it alone, for He is with us. All we have to do is to put our hands into the hand of God and go forward in trust, believing the promise that Jesus made a few moments before His ascension to the Father, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

First Permanent Chapel Dedicated At Base Camp

Dragon Mountain — The first permanent chapel at the 4th Division's Dragon Mountain base camp was recently dedicated during an afternoon service.

Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander, attended the formal ceremony.

Colonel Joseph F. H. Cutrona, Division Artillery commander, welcomed the congregation to the dedication.

A Monagnard children's choir of the Protestant Young Peoples Group from Pleiku's Christian Missionary Alliance Church sang a Vietnamese hymn at the service. The Rev. Charles Long, the church's pastor, also attended the ceremony.

The chapel was constructed through the efforts of Chaplain (Major) Bruce C. Hemple (Alameda, Calif.), Division Artillery chaplain.

While stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash., he thought about the problem of erecting a chapel in Vietnam for his men. One idea solved the perplexing problem — Chaplain Hemple decided to take a chapel with him.

Three laymen from Tacoma, Wash. — C. Davis, Clarence A. Black, and H. A. Briggs — helped the chaplain's plans

become a reality.

The three suggested the chapel structure—a T-shaped prefabricated building measuring 21 by 60 feet and capable of seating 150 people.

Friends of the chaplain throughout the United States sent donations far in excess of the chapel's price of \$3,939.

"The response was wonderful," said Chaplain Hemple, "and showed that people gave because of a concern for men in uniform."

Lieutenant General Seaman Lauds 3rd Brigade Troops

Dau Tieng — Lieutenant General Jonathan O. Seaman, former II Field Force Vietnam commander, has added his praise to the accolades of others concerning the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division's clash with the Viet Cong which resulted in 631 enemy dead.

In a message to Colonel Marshall B. Garth, 3rd Brigade commander, General Seaman stated, "I want to extend my congratulations to you and your magnificent troops for their major victory at Landing Zone Gold on March 21.

"Fighting against a numer-

Lt. Col. Merritt New Commander Of 2/77th Artillery

Suoi Da — "This was the shortest command of my career," Lieutenant Colonel John W. Vessey, acting commander of the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery, said during a change of command ceremony, "but it will be the most remembered."

Receiving the guidon and command was Lieutenant Colonel Fred Merritt.

The ceremony was held on the site of the biggest battle of the Vietnam War just two days after the 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment launched a massive attack on the forward element of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division participating in Operation Junction City.

Colonel Vessey was awarded the Silver Star by General W. C. Westmoreland for his action during the fight.

Colonel Merritt told his new command that it would be difficult to follow in the steps of a man that did so much in such a short time.

Every battery in the battalion fought for its life as the Viet Cong launched "human wave" attacks on the Ivymen. Many of the artillerymen picked up their M-14 rifles and joined the brigade's infantrymen in knocking the Viet Cong away from the perimeter.

Colonel Vessey became acting commander of the battalion when Lieutenant Colonel Walter Rehm left Vietnam on emergency leave.

Attending the ceremony was Lieutenant Colonel John A. Bender, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry commander, who also received the Silver Star for his actions during the same battle which cost the Viet Cong 631 dead in six hours.

ically superior and well-equipped foe, the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division inflicted a devastating defeat on major elements of the 272nd Main Force Regiment. This is the most decisive defeat the VC have suffered in the III Corps Tactical Zone during my 18 months in Vietnam."

Colonel Garth, in conveying the message to his troops, added, "It is difficult to find words to express my deepest admiration for this exceptional display of bravery, so I would like to simply say thanks for a job well done."



PRAISE FROM GEN. WESTMORELAND

General W. C. Westmoreland stands on a jeep to speak to the men of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division after their four-hour battle with the Viet Cong which resulted in 631 enemy dead. The general called the battle "a major victory of the Vietnam War." (USA Photo by Sp4 Brad Bromley)

1/12th's Uninvited Guests Display Poor Etiquette

By Sp5 Al Seagroves

Plei Djereng—The North Vietnamese who came to dinner at a 4th Division battalion fire support base were late and showed their displeasure.

"Red Warriors" of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry had just finished their evening meal when Charlie's first calling card arrived, an NVA 82mm mortar round. More followed.

"All the men had eaten," related Specialist 4 Gary A. Wildman (Warren, Mich.), cook for the battalion's Headquarters Company, "and we had just started breaking down the chow line when we heard three 'pops' in close."

The battalion had just arrived at its new location and was digging-in when the action started. A few completed bunkers dotted the area and were soon filled as the warning "in-coming" could be heard above the boom of bursting mortar rounds.

Unfinished bunkers were hastily shoveled into deeper holes for protection from the deadly shrapnel flying through the air.

"It didn't take long for our artillery and mortars to open up," continued Specialist Wildman. "As our rounds started landing the enemy's

fire suddenly ceased."

The chow line and cooking utensils received the brunt of the attack with few injuries to troops.

"Charlie sure tried to raise a racket 'cause we had eaten without him," remarked Staff Sergeant Robert A. Gano (Kelso, Wash.), mess sergeant for Company C. "But in my books if a guest can't be on time, he shouldn't complain. It isn't etiquette."

"Dragoons" Use Grenades To Repel Enemy Soldiers

Plei Djereng—Sounds in the night recently spelled danger for the 4th Division's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, but hand grenades thrown from an outlying listening post drove away the North Vietnamese soldiers who were threatening the position of the "Dragoons."

Specialist 4 Charles Steinmetz (Newtown Square, Pa.) and Sergeant Theodore DeGroff (Santa Rosa, Calif.), fire team leaders, and their men of the 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon were occupying a listening post outside the company's perimeter deep in the jungle. About 9 p.m. the men began to hear movement near their position.

"Whenever a plane came

Artilleryman Turns Infantryman To Drive Back Charging Viet Cong

By Sp4 Gary M. Silva

Suoi Da—He was an artillery gunner turned infantryman—what more can a person say?

Sergeant James W. Evans (Buffalo) was working as a gunner for the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery when the biggest battle of the Vietnam War started during Operation Junction City.

The forward base camp of the 3rd Brigade unit was hit in the morning hours by the tough 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment with a full scale attack. Mortars

were falling everywhere and enemy soldiers began running towards the American bunkers in screaming "human waves." The Ivymen began to fight for their lives.

Sergeant Evans, a 26-year-old gunner from Battery A, was picked to work as a reactionary force to drive the advancing enemy back away from the hard hit perimeter.

His M-14 jammed and he had to work the bolt by hand as he fired into the never-ending ranks of Viet Cong.

Company B of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry was

forced to pull back, but Sergeant Evans grabbed a sandbag full of hand grenades, placed the bag in his teeth, put a grenade in each hand and started killing Viet Cong within five meters of his position.

After Company B had pulled back, Sergeant Evans found a new position with six Americans and began pouring small arms fire into the "human waves."

He ran forward again with the sandbag clenched between his teeth and started throwing more grenades. The artilleryman held at the new perimeter line until armored personnel carriers from the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry reinforced the Ivymen.

But Sergeant Evans wasn't through yet. He again drove forward behind the cover of the APC's and helped in knocking out small pockets of hiding VC.

By the battle's end he had helped eight Americans to an evacuation site after they were found wounded.

Sergeant Evans, an artilleryman turned infantryman for six hours.

G-5 Team Quickly Solves Mystery Of Missing Hogs

Dragon Mountain—As a part of the 4th Division's "Good Neighbor Program," the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry recently inaugurated an agriculture and veterinary program that, after a dubious start, has gained amazingly productive results.

The cavalrymen began an inoculation program in an attempt to cut down on the amount of communicable disease prevalent in the villagers' cattle. Only in its primary stage, the project has already achieved remarkable results.

Future plans call for the inoculation of all the tribal livestock and extensive crossbreeding to improve the meat content. New crops are being imported to add to the Montagnard diet.

This would also lead to the villagers being able to pro-

duce enough not only for subsistence, but to the creation of an agrarian home market. Updated methods of cultivation are also being introduced to increase the productivity of the soil.

An amusing anecdote was brought to light by Captain Donald M. Scher, deputy G-5, concerning the problems encountered in the area of crossbreeding.

It seems that a number of Yorkshire hogs were imported to be bred with the razor-back hogs now raised by the Montagnards. The Yorkshire breed is a lean, meaty-type hog with an even layer of fat. But, it is not adaptable to the highland climate.

The hogs were left in one of the villages with explicit instructions to the chief as to their purpose and value.

A few days later, the civic action team returned to find nary a Yorkshire. After a brief investigation, it was learned that the villagers could not overcome their curiosity to see what a Yorkshire tasted like.

It resulted in a village feast and the remaining hogs quickly met the fate of the first. More Yorkshires are being imported.

In the future, a veterinarian is expected from Saigon and new ideas of bringing the Montagnard out of his barter economy are being considered. The future of the Central Highland people and the stability of the government stands out brightly in face of the war.

A dedicated people are inspiring the largest tactical area in Vietnam to develop the potential which will be an unparalleled asset to the Republic of Vietnam.

Sergeants Major Present Weapons To General Peers

Plei Djereng—The sergeant majors of the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade presented captured weapons to Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander, during a recent ceremony at the 2nd Brigade forward command post near Plei Djereng.

A brass plate attached to each weapon named the battle in which the weapon was captured.

Sergeant Major George R. Greene (Honolulu) from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry presented an SKS carbine from the officers and men of the "Panther" battalion.

For the "Red Warriors" of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, Sergeant Major Lee R. Patrick (Springfield, Ill.) presented a B-40 rocket launcher.

On behalf of the "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, Sergeant Major Clarence Arruda (Tacoma, Wash.) presented General Peers with an AK-47.

AT SEASIDE HOSPITAL

'Pappy' Astacio Popular With Ivy Patients

Stories & Photos
by
SSgt. Bill Whitis

Cam Ranh Bay — Sergeant First Class Figuero Astacio of the 4th Administration Company is officially a liaison noncommissioned officer for the convalescents from the 4th Division at the 6th Medical Center at Cam Ranh Bay.

Unofficially, he is affectionately known as "Pappy" to more than 160 Ivy men recuperating from malaria

and battle wounds at this seaside hospital.

"Pappy" is sort of a combination father confessor and Santa Claus to the 4th Division patients. He listens to their problems and looks after their physical needs. If it is within his power, he will go to extremes to help them resolve most of their problems.

Daily he makes a 30-mile round trip by hitchhiking to the Army air strip to pick up their mail brought in by

courier flight from the division headquarters at Dragon Mountain.

The 43-year-old sergeant wants his boys to know he is "on their side;" he likes to "identify" with them. For that reason he rises before daybreak and joins them in their early morning physical training program which they undergo to regain lost strength.

From 8-9:30 a. m., the liaison NCO holds his office hours in the admissions and dispositions building. He is never too busy with administrative chores to stop whatever he is doing whenever one of "his boys" walks in for any reason.

A typical problem encountered and solved frequently by "Pappy" is supplying a patient with toilet articles, cigarettes or candy. He keeps an assortment of items in his desk drawer and even offers a choice of brands of cigarettes.

Like any good noncommissioned officer who feels a sincere responsibility toward his job, Sergeant Astacio does not like to be

tied to his desk. His job is looking after the welfare of all Ivy men at the hospital.

Some of his boys are still confined to their beds so he normally visits all 15 wards daily. Each bed is marked with an Ivy Division patch.

Usually all that is needed is a friendly hello and a chat to keep their morale up. As soon as he enters a ward, someone yells out, "Here's Pappy." Then a barrage of questions explode from the patients.

In the afternoon, "Pappy" holds mail call. That is the best time of day as far as the patients are concerned. When they don't get a letter, Sergeant Astacio tells them they will probably get several the next day. He does everything he can to keep their spirits up.

Even to the casual observer, it is readily apparent that he not only enjoys his job, but is doing an excellent job. If further proof is needed, patients of other units not yet represented by liaison NCOs will vouch for "Pappy" who has "adopted" them, too.

TO REGAIN STRENGTH

Malaria Convalescents Engage In Sports

Cam Ranh Bay—Soldiers of the 4th Division who are recuperating from the after-effects of malaria at the 6th Medical Center (Conva-

lescent) at Cam Ranh Bay are undergoing a physical therapy program to help regain lost strength.

Sergeant First Class Figuero Astacio, 4th Division liaison noncommissioned officer at the center, explained that the treatment involves having the patients participate in various sports as well as pulling a portion of details at the hospital.

"After the malaria victim has been here 17 days," Sergeant Astacio explained, "he becomes a 'Class II' and later a 'Class III' patient. They are assigned to kitchen police and other details to help get them back in condition to return to their units."

The sergeant said that when they are not on detail, the patients are encouraged to participate in some of the many sports offered. These include basketball, swimming, table tennis, and weight lifting.

Floor shows frequently play in the center's Red Cross hall and are attended by capacity crowds.

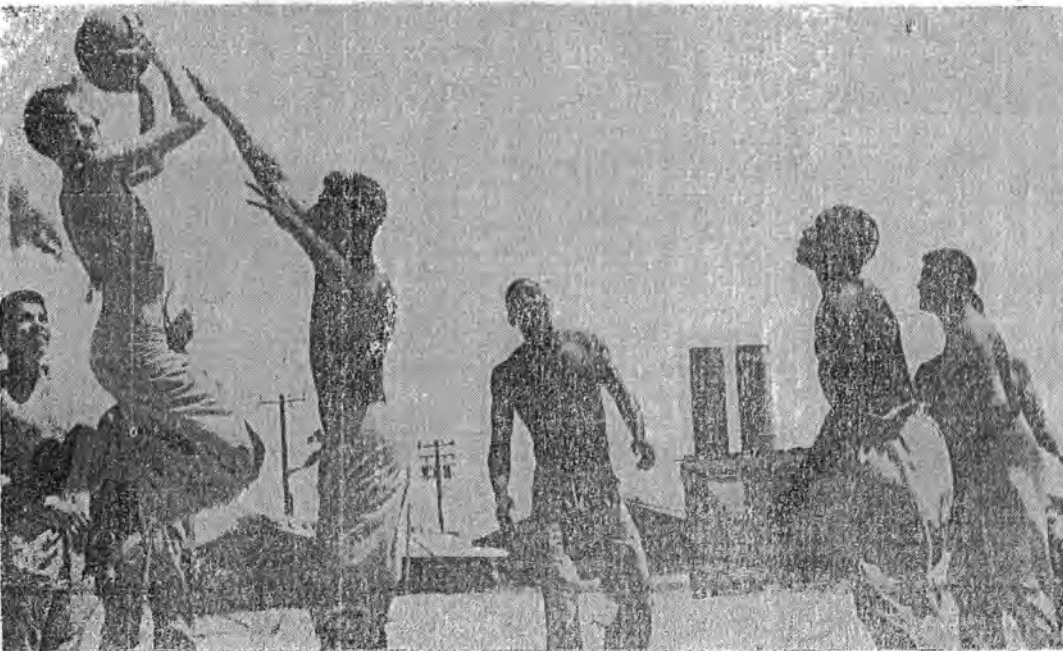
By the time the malaria convalescents have completed their stay at the center, they are back in good physical condition.



SFC ASTACIO



MAIL CALL'S TOPS— Mail call at the 6th Medical Center (Convalescent) at Cam Ranh Bay is the best time of day. Sergeant First Class Figuero Astacio, 4th Division liaison noncommissioned officer, holds mail call daily for Ivy Division malaria victims.



BOUNCING BACK TO HEALTH— Basketball is one of the favorite pastimes of 4th Division malaria victims who are well on the way to recovery at the 6th Medical Center (Convalescent) at Cam Ranh Bay.

'Regulars' Of Company A Engage In Fire Fight With NVA Force

By Sp5 George Beldler

Plei Djereng — A search for enemy mortar positions by the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry's Company A developed into a 10-hour fire fight with a two-company North Vietnamese Army force.

Moving in a wedge formation, the 4th Division unit approached the base of a hill where the enemy "tubes" had been pinpointed.

Artillery fire, which had been zeroing on the hilltop for hours, halted as the 22nd Infantry "Regulars" approached.

The first alarm was false. A point man following an enemy communication line was startled by an animal leaping across his path.

The animal thrashed into the brush as the infantrymen continued their search. Other patrol members heard the noise and interpreted it as enemy movement.

"We were all on edge after that," explained First Lieutenant John H. Lundgren (Glen Cove, N. Y.). "We knew we were going to have contact. There had to be

enemy around."

The point man of the 2nd Platoon was the first to see the enemy. "There were three of them sitting under a tree with loaded AK-47's cradled in their laps. I warned the guys, then opened up. I know we got them."

"The trees and woods were alive with NVA," explained Sergeant Ichio Nagato (Kalaheo, Kauai, Hawaii). Company A startled the enemy but the Ivymen were quick to react.

"They seemed to be ready for us," said the lieutenant, "but they just didn't expect us so soon. None of them were in position, but it didn't take long. They climbed trees like monkeys. They would throw their weapons over their shoulders and up they'd go."

The U.S. company was surrounded and immediately started receiving heavy sniper fire from all directions.

"The 2nd Platoon received the brunt of the contact," said Lieutenant Lundgren. "They were cut off, surrounded, pinned down and couldn't pull back because of their wounded."

"We sent squads down to help them, but they suffered heavy casualties too. We had only one medic. The sniper fire was murderous. There were quite a few light machine guns and rockets too."

As the battle continued,

artillery and air support were requested. "The air strikes were right on the dot," commented a radio-telephone operator. "That one guy cut loose over our heads and my hair stood on end. Boy, those babies sound good."

"We regrouped and formed a perimeter," said Lieutenant Lundgren. "That's the only way to do it. Just flip your weapon on semi and lie there. Let them come to you. They get down right bold. When you see one you fire one or two rounds and you know you got him because the body's right in front of you."

After numerous efforts the remainder of the 2nd Platoon and its wounded were pulled back. The company regrouped and the wait began.

"It didn't take long," said Private First Class Alex Abril (Yuma, Ariz.). "There were three of them peering over a bush. I couldn't believe it. They didn't see me. I just opened up."

The fire fight continued at this pace until Company C "linked-up" at 6:30 p.m. The seriously wounded were immediately lifted out by helicopter from a drop zone.

Supplies were brought in and the two companies prepared for a long but uneventful night.



WASHING UP— Staff Sergeant Curtis Mullins (Tacoma, Wash.), a member of 4th Division Artillery, helps a Montagnard boy clean up using water from a spillway built for the people of Plei Le Lann. Through the coordinated efforts of the Office of Civil Operations and the 4th Division, Montagnard youngsters will receive more attention in the months ahead. (USA Photo by PFC Norman Johnson)

Soldiers Stop Mortar Attack On Fire Base

Bong Son— Three enlisted men, all with the counter-mortar radar unit supporting the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, stopped a North Vietnamese Army mortar attack on the battalion's fire support base after 140 rounds and a hectic night.

Their fire base was mortared three times during the night and it was the job of Sergeant Allan Carswell (Detroit), Specialist 4 Ernest M. Correia (Boston), and Specialist 4 John D. Sutherland (Radford, Va.) to plot the enemy mortar positions and direct counter mortar fire on their locations.

The ever-moving NVA were in three groups of at least one mortar per group. "We would locate their positions and throw 100 rounds or more at them only to have them fire at us from a different location a few hours later," said Specialist Correia.

"We finally got them about 8 a.m. It was an all-night job, but they won't be bothering us again," he said.

The three men, part of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division, and the 2/35th are in the Central Highlands on Operation Sam Houston.



WHAT'S FOR ME?—A dirty-faced urchin from the Montagnard village of Plei Cham Reh watches anxiously as an Ivy Division civic action unit distributes fruit and gives medical assistance to his village. (USA Photo)

NEW ORGANIZATION

OCO Coordinates Pacification

Pleiku—The war in Vietnam is a maze of alphabetical terms.

Operations are planned in the DTOC for execution by a TF using APCs and UH-1Ds to lift the GI into the AO.

On the civilian side of the pacification effort there are an equal number of abbreviations—USAID, JUSPAO, CARE, and now OCO.

The letters OCO stand for the Office of Civil Operations which was organized in December 1966 to provide unity of command throughout the civilian agencies working in the pacification program in Vietnam.

In the past there has been no single coordinator for the U.S. agencies below the Embassy. Now with an OCO director in Saigon, OCO regional directors at each of the four corps headquarters, and an OCO province representative in each of the 44 provinces in Vietnam, there is a chain of command to coordinate activities of the field agencies with U.S. Armed Forces and advisors at all levels.

The director of OCO in



JOHN ROGERS

Saigon is responsible for all of the operations of six divisions—New Life Development (formerly USAID field operations); Public Safety (formerly USAID Public Safety); Psychological Operations (a part of JUSPAO); the Organization for Refugee Coordination (formerly USAID ORC); the Revolutionary Development Support Directorate (formerly a division of the Office of the Special Assistant to the Ambassador);

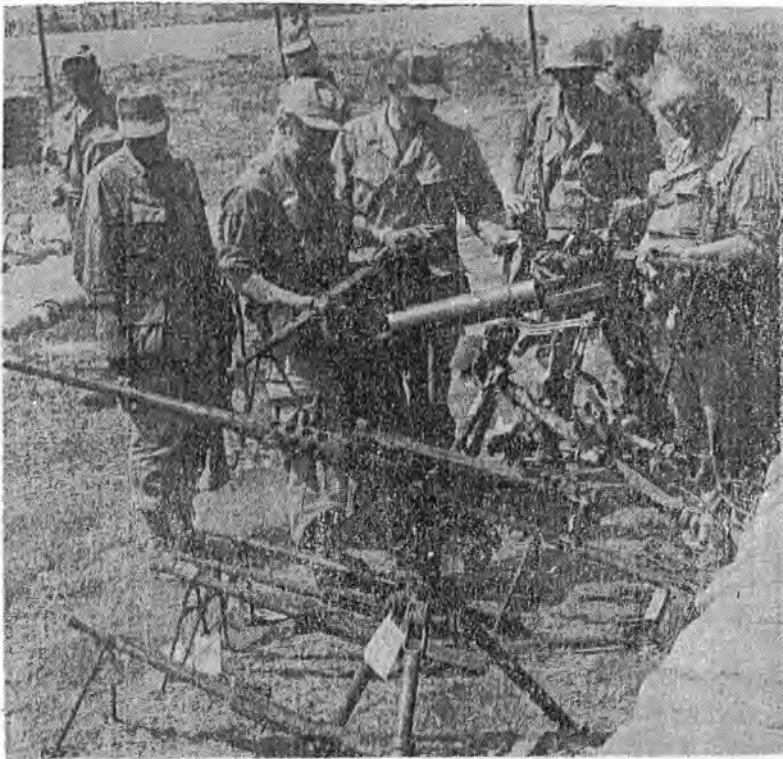
and the Chieu Hoi Division.

In Pleiku Province the OCO representative is John Rogers who has served for two and a half years in the Highlands and was formerly the USAID province representative.

Under Mr. Rogers are representatives of USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and JUSPAO (Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office), who function as advisors in the fields of agriculture, public safety, refugee resettlement, logistics, new life development and the Chieu Hoi center.

Weekly meetings are held in which representatives of OCO, the MACV advisory team to Pleiku Province, and the 4th Division G-5 meet to coordinate efforts of all U.S. personnel in the province.

Prior to the creation of OCO, attempts at coordination were lengthy and complicated. With the organization of OCO, greater cooperation and a more efficient civic action effort will be achieved.



CAPTURED ENEMY ARMS

Soldiers from the 4th Division examine captured enemy machine guns taken during Operation Sam Houston. The cache was found by Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry near the Cambodian border and included 11 light and heavy machine guns packed in cosmoline plus a large amount of ammunition and spare parts. (USA Photo by SSgt. Bill Whitis)

DURING SAM HOUSTON

2/35th 'Cacti Blue' Kills 61

Bong Son — The 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry "Cacti Blue," under the operational control of the 4th

Division, encountered two North Vietnamese Army battalions west of the Se San River near Plei Djereng while participating in Operation Sam Houston.

The action began on a Sunday morning when Company A of the "Cacti Blue" left its base camp on a southwestern course to investigate a recent B-52 strike.

About 9:30 a.m. the 1st Platoon made contact with NVA snipers in trees and fortified bunkers. The 2/35th troops shot one NVA and became pinned down by automatic weapons fire from a bunker position.

The 3rd Platoon maneuvered left and also made contact, but was unable to penetrate the enemy defense.

Company A withdrew to call in artillery and air fire, but was still pressed by the NVA.

Companies B and C were helilifted to nearby landing zones to support Company A. Artillery fire was called in to block the enemy's withdrawal.

The next morning Company A conducted a sweep of the battlefield which

revealed 61 NVA bodies and numerous small arms and assorted NVA gear.

An extensive bunker system uncovered by the "Cacti Blue" was actually interlocking base camps with handrails connecting the bunkers so the NVA could move from one to the other at night without straying outside the perimeter.

The gear the NVA left behind was new, indicating Charlie was either a new unit or had recently been completely resupplied.

MEDIC, RADIO-TELEPHONE OPERATOR

Two 1/22nd Ivymen Cited For Actions

By Lt. William Salling

Plei Djereng—Two members of the 3rd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, recently distinguished themselves in two successive days of combat action in the Central Highlands during Operation Sam Houston.

The two men are Private First Class Julian White (Apopka, Fla.), the platoon medic, and Specialist 4 Stanley Cameron (Catskill, N.Y.), the platoon radio-telephone operator.

As the platoon was advancing through thick jungle near the Cambodian border, it was taken under heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire by an entrenched enemy force.

While the platoon was using

fire and maneuver to eliminate the enemy force, one of the squad leaders was seriously wounded by a sniper firing from a tree.

Disregarding his own safety, PFC White immediately ran to the wounded squad leader and began administering first aid. He bandaged the wounds as sniper fire continued to pound the area around him.

When wounded in the foot by one of the sniper's bullets, he ignored his own wound until his patient had been completely cared for and evacuated to a safe area.

Specialist Cameron, then a private first class, distinguished himself the following day when the company again came under heavy small arms and mortar fire.

When his platoon leader was seriously wounded by mortar shrapnel, Specialist Cameron, without hesitation, took over the situation, relayed orders from the company commander, supervised evacuation of the platoon leader, and controlled the platoon until the platoon sergeant could work his way to the front to assume command of the platoon.

Five-Member Combo From 124th Signal Entertains Troops

Plei Djereng—The fabulous Ivys, a five-piece rock n' roll combo from the 4th Division's 124th Signal Battalion recently entertained the troops of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor in the forward area.

The group, organized two months ago, includes Second Lieutenant Jerre F. Spruill (Marietta, Ga.), Specialist 5 Hudson T. Gingery (Ironwood, Mich.), Specialist 4 Lionel Demers (Newington, Conn.), Private First Class Cherrel W. Burleson (Cullmann, Ala.) and Private First Class Dennis C. Groff (Quarryville, Pa.).

"Everything is not so bad when you are smiling and enjoying good music," said Lieutenant Spruill.

The combo also took part in a civic action program by playing their instruments at three Montagnard villages.

Lt. Col. Wright Assumes Command Of 'Warriors'

Plei Djereng—Lieutenant Colonel Corey J. Wright (Omaha, Neb.) has assumed command of the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

He succeeds Major Grady Williams who commanded the infantrymen for the past month. Major Williams has been reassigned as the S-3 of the Ivy's 2nd Brigade.

Colonel Wright comes to the 4th Division from Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam where he was assistant G-1.

Soldier From 4th S&T Bn Serves As General's Aide

Dragon Mountain — Specialist 4 Jesse R. Davis Jr. (Hebron, Ohio) of Company A, 4th Supply and Transportation Battalion is this week's enlisted aide for Major General William R. Peers.

Selected for the honor in previous weeks were Specialist 4 Robert L. Hudnall of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry and Specialist 4 Thomas C. Farr of Headquarters and Service Battery, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery.



MAN-SIZED LOAD—That's 150 pounds of trouble for Charlie on the shoulders of an Ivymen from the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. (USA Photo By SSgt. Bill Whitis)

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