



LOPSIDED BATTLE

2/8th Troops Kill 119 NVA

Colonel Garth Passes Command Of 3rd Bde To Colonel Buell

Dau Tieng — The man responsible for gathering almost 3,000 draftees together at Ft. Lewis, Wash., training them as a fighting unit and bringing them to Vietnam where they fought in six major operations has left the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

Colonel Marshall B. Garth turned command of the 3rd Brigade over to Colonel Kenneth E. Buell in a ceremony yesterday morning at the brigade's Dau Tieng base camp.

Colonel Garth has been reassigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon after commanding the Ivymen for the past 16 months.

The departing commander was presented the first award of the Oak Leaf Cluster for the Legion of Merit during the ceremony.

"You men are the smartest and the most capable men that I have had the privilege to serve with in 26 years of service," Colonel Garth told the brigade in his farewell speech. "You are the greatest soldiers our Army has ever produced.

"If I did what I feel like doing," the colonel said in an aggressive voice, "I would dig my heels in and they would have to drag me away."

Colonel Garth, taking numerous risks right along with his men, supplied the needed punch to defeat the 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment when the enemy unit decided to attack a brigade artillery support base while the Ivymen were on Operation Junction City.

He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions when he personally directed reinforcements to the stricken unit. It was a bitter defeat for the VC, resulting in 631 enemy dead.

Commissioned a second lieutenant in July 1942, Colonel Garth served with the 104th Infantry Division in positions from platoon leader to battalion command-

er at the age of 25.

Having fought in World War II and Korea, the 47-year-old colonel has been

awarded two Silver Stars, the Bronze Star with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit and the Purple Heart.



ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT

Riflemen from Company A, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division watch for enemy activity while riding on Army engineer assault boat down the tricky and treacherous Saigon River. Continuous boat patrols began on the second day of Operation Manhattan to prevent Viet Cong sampans from moving supplies to areas south of Dau Tieng. (USA Photo by MSgt. Don Perkins)

TASK FORCE OREGON

Naval Gunfire Kills 61 Enemy

Saigon—Units of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Division continue to participate in the Army's Task Force Oregon which is under the operational control of the III Marine Amphibious Force.

A naval gunfire observer attached to the 3rd Brigade called in fire on an enemy position on the beach five kilometers north of Duc Pho last Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Sixty-one enemy were killed, 91 structures, 12 bunkers and 300 feet of trenchline destroyed and four large secondary explosions were triggered.

A 3rd Brigade company last Friday at 1:46 p.m. made contact with an unknown-size enemy force 34 kilometers south-southeast of Quang Ngai City. Armed helicopters

and air strikes supported the infantrymen.

Eleven enemy were killed. There were no friendly casualties reported.

At 4 p.m. that day an

artillery battery of the 3rd Brigade fired on an estimated 100 enemy in the open 19 kilometers west of Quang Ngai City. Fifteen enemy were killed.

Ivy Association Membership Drive Set

Dragon Mountain — A membership drive for the National 4th (Ivy) Division Association starts Wednesday.

The association, which maintains the prestige of the 4th Division both nationally and locally, is open to any person who is serving or has served with any unit attached or assigned to the Ivy Division.

Active chapters of the association have been establish-

ed in several large metropolitan areas in the United States.

Annual dues are \$4. The national chapter receives \$3 and the balance is retained by the division chapter which sets aside 50 cents for the company of each member who signs up. Unit commanders may draw from their company fund once a quarter for projects.

The national chapter uses

Saigon—The enemy death toll has climbed to 119 in Monday's day-long battle between elements of the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade and a North Vietnamese battalion.

One U.S. infantryman was killed and one wounded in the clash which occurred in Operation Francis Marion. The kill ratio in favor of friendly forces was one of the biggest of the war.

The enemy force, believed

to be part of the NVA 95B Regiment, was entrenched in bunkers and caves in heavily wooded terrain 35 kilometers southwest of Pleiku City.

A reinforced company from the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized) 8th Infantry first encountered the enemy at 8:50 a.m.

Tanks firing cannister rounds with individual pellets as big as marbles accounted for a high number of enemy dead in the first hour of the clash.

As the tempo of contact increased during the day, Army armed helicopters and artillery and 33 Air Force strikes supported the friendly force.

The enemy broke contact at 3:45 p.m. Contact was regained at 4 p.m. and varied from heavy to sporadic until 7 p.m.

The Ivy's 1st Brigade, also participating in Francis Marion, has started operating in areas of Darlac Province for the first time.

Company A of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry task force took five rounds of enemy 60mm mortar fire while in the new area last Saturday. Five infantrymen were wounded.

The 1:04 a.m. attack occurred 43 kilometers north-northeast of Ban Me Thuot.

The same company later found an enemy base camp in the same area. The complex included 180 to 200 one-man foxholes, six kitchens, one dining area and two classrooms. The Ivymen also picked up various types and amounts of ammunition.

its portion of the dues for projects and a quarterly publication which is sent to each member.

The national association is presently planning to build a memorial on Utah Beach in France to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 4th Division's landing in World War II.

Membership application forms will be available from unit commanders.

1/22nd Soldier Answers 'Traitors To Freedom'

What does the infantryman sludging through the jungle of the Central Highlands think of the war he's fighting?

Private First Class Richard Davis (Covington, Ky.), an Ivy Division soldier with the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, put it this way:

"I am not a very eloquent writer. I am in fact no writer at all. However, I feel that an answer must be given to those who oppose our position in Vietnam.

"Men who wish to be free and who are willing to fight and die for the privilege of freedom are entitled to the support of other men. The greatest thing a man can do in his lifetime is to stand and defend the cause of freedom. This is why we are here in Vietnam—to defend freedom.

"It is not so important where we defend it, but it is important that we are willing to aid people in gaining their freedom and building a nation. History shows that we started our great nation in that same small way.

"We are not professional soldiers. Who at age 19 or 20 is really professional at

anything, especially the managing of meeting life or death?

"We don't really understand all the geo-politics of this war, but we do understand the feeling of freedom and how great a place our homeland is.

"So, we will travel halfway around the world and be splattered with mud and suffer weariness and fear death, to respect the heritage that is ours: a big word, 'Freedom.'

"This is my answer to all of you traitors to freedom everywhere in the world. I regret that I have but one life to give in the cause of freedom, for the whole world and my family.

"Freedom and liberty are the only thing that you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others."

USMA Prep School Expansion Offers New Opportunities

The current expansion of the United States Military Academy Corps of Cadets affords new opportunities for enlisted men to prepare and compete for appointments to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Army Regulation 350-55 sets forth application procedures for the USMA Preparatory School. Interested personnel in the 4th Infantry Division should consult their commanding officer now. Applications must be submitted prior to June 30.

Applicants are selected by the commandant, USMA Preparatory School, on the basis of records and the endorsement of their commanding officers.

3rd Bde, 25th Division Soldier Named CG's Aide

Dragon Mountain—Specialist 4 John R. Grady (Bethpage, N.Y.) is this week's enlisted aide for Major General William R. Peets, 4th Division commander.

Specialist Grady is a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.



STEADFAST AND LOYAL

Silver Star

- PFC Paul D. Mapes—Co C, 2/8th Inf
- SSgt. Ta'utau Fanene—Co B, 2/8th Inf
- 1st Lt. Joseph Maracacio—Co C, 1/14th Inf
- Sp4 George O'Connor—Co A, 2/22nd Inf

Posthumous Silver Star

- Sp4 Melvin Lipscomb—Co A, 1/22nd
- Sp4 Leslie P. Bernstein—Co A, 1/22nd
- PFC William C. Pearce IV—Co A, 1/22nd Inf
- PFC Clarence Rollen—Co A, 1/22nd Inf
- Sp4 Dennis A. Prentice—Co A, 1/8th Inf
- PFC Charles P. Terhune—Co A, 1/22nd Inf

Distinguished Flying Cross

- Maj. James C. Blewster—170th Assault Hel Co
- Capt. Obe D. Coleman—HHC, 2nd Bde, 4th Div
- Capt. Clifford M. Walker Jr.—170th Assault Hel Co
- 1st Lt. William C. McAdams—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Capt. Thomas W. Murphy—2nd Plat, 498th Med Co
- Capt. Douglas J. Mann—Co B, 4th Avn Bn

Posthumous Distinguished Flying Cross

- Sp5 James C. Patterson—155th Assault Hel Co

Soldier's Medal

- Sp4 Thomas M. Alvarez—HHS Btry, 4/42nd Arty
- Sgt. Clyde W. Shell—Co C, 2/35th Inf

Bronze Star Medal For Heroism

- Lt. Col. David M. Peters—3/12th Inf
- 1st Lt. Christopher J. Dorney—Co A, 3/8th Inf
- PSgt. Richard R. Bagley—Co A, 1/22nd Inf
- PFC Raymond A. Downs—Co A, 1/22nd Inf
- PFC Julian White—Co B, 1/22nd Inf
- 1st Lt. Anthony E. Stricker—HHD, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 Jerry J. Bishop—Btry B, 4/42nd Arty
- Capt. Antone F. Salel—HHC, 2/8th Inf
- Capt. Christopher A. Keuler—Co A, 1/22nd Inf
- PFC Clyde G. Williams—HHC, 2/35th Inf
- Sp4 Edward E. Bunch—Co B, 2/8th Inf
- Lt. Col. Paul F. Brain—HHC, 1/22nd Inf
- Sgt. David B. Middleton—Co C, 1/14th Inf
- Capt. William R. Harvey—Co A, 2/8th Inf
- Capt. Melvin Deutsch—HHC, 1/12th Inf
- Sp4 Richard B. Winton—Co B, 2/8th Inf
- 1st Lt. Larry L. Patterson—Btry A, 4/42nd Arty
- PFC Leith G. Sneekner—Co B, 2/8th Inf
- Sgt. Robert T. McCrimmon—Trp D, 1/10th Cav
- PFC Robert W. Douglas Jr.—Co A, 1/35th Inf
- PFC Jeffrey J. Tracey—Co B, 2/8th Inf
- PFC Arthur L. Collins—HHC, 2/8th Inf
- 1st Lt. Arthur J. Gipson—Co A, 1/12th Inf
- Sp4 Robert J. Bills—Co B, 2/8th Inf
- Sp5 Jerry L. Garrett—HHC, 1/8th Inf
- Sgt. Francisco B. Acevedo—Btry B, 6/29th Arty
- PFC Leo W. St. John—Trp D, 1/10th Cav
- Sp4 Robert C. Miller—Co C, 2/12th Inf

Posthumous Bronze Star Medal For Heroism

- SSgt. Fred N. Hanshaw Jr.—Co A, 1/22nd Inf
- PFC Sanchez A. De-Jesus—Co A, 1/22nd Inf
- PFC Edwin Jones—Co A, 1/22nd Inf
- Sp4 Marshall E. Clements—Co A, 1/22nd Inf
- PFC Harry E. Taylor—Co B, 1/35th Inf
- Sp4 Filiberto G. Miranda—Co A, 2/35th Inf
- PFC Edward R. Reid Jr.—HHC, 1/35th Inf
- PFC Louis W. Potempa—Co A, 1/14th Inf
- PFC Rogers S. Kohut—Co A, 1/22nd Inf

Bronze Star Medal

- Capt. David A. Hill—HHC, 2nd Bde, 4th Div
- 1st Lt. Bob T. Ponder—HHC, 2/35th Inf
- Capt. Bobbie D. May—170th Assault Hel Co
- Maj. Verlan E. Huth—Hq&Co A, 4th Med Bn
- Capt. John W. Heiss—HHT, 1/10th Cav
- Sp5 Thomas Kuhar—HHC, 3rd Bde, 25th Div

Posthumous Bronze Star Medal

- Sgt. Timothy X. Murphy—Co A, 1/8th Inf
- Sp4 William T. Kauffer—Co B, 1/8th Inf
- Sp4 Richard S. Sedes—Co A, 1/8th Inf
- PFC Richard D. Kaminski—Co A, 1/8th Inf
- PFC Gary M. Ladd—Co A, 1/8th Inf
- PFC John Zupan—Co A, 1/8th Inf

- Sp4 Louis H. Jilek—Co C, 1/69th Armor
- Sp4 Donnie R. Beasley—Co B, 4th Engr Bn
- Sp4 Rauf Montes—Co A, 1/8th Inf
- PFC Robert D. Jenkins—Co B, 1/8th Inf
- PFC William O'Brien—Co B, 1/8th Inf
- PFC Joseph R. Piamino—Co B, 1/8th Inf
- PFC Jerry L. Pickworth—Btry A, 6/29th Arty
- PFC Billy J. Witzkoski—Co A, 1/8th Inf
- PFC Jack B. Meacham—Trp C, 3/4th Cav

Air Medal For Heroism

- Sp4 Richard L. Knight—179th Assault Hel Co
- 1st Sgt. Roy A. Laughrum—179th Assault Hel Co
- WO Lyman E. Gaudie Jr.—119th Assault Hel Co
- Sp4 Dwight E. Strahan—119th Assault Hel Co
- Sp5 Gary L. Patsley—179th Assault Hel Co
- Sp4 John A. Stelter—179th Assault Hel Co
- PFC Peter F. Forchini—119th Assault Hel Co
- Sp4 Robert A. Bye—Co A (AM), 4th Avn Bn
- Capt. Douglas J. Mann—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 Dennis W. Boettcher—170th Assault Hel Co
- Sp4 John R. Webster—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- WO Michael D. Dufour—119th Assault Hel Co
- Capt. William L. Robertson—170th Assault Hel Co

Air Medal

- WO Clayton W. Cooper—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Maj. William J. Henderson—HHC, 4th Div
- Maj. Grady Williams—HHC, 2nd Bde, 4th Div
- 1st Lt. Ronald Pollom—HHC, 4th Div Arty
- WO Richard P. Sellers—Trp D, 1/10th Cav
- WO Larry A. Antczak—Trp D, 1/10th Cav
- WO Robert J. Babecek—Trp D, 1/10th Cav
- Sp5 David B. Edwards—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Maj. David L. Doyle—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- 1st Lt. Thomas E. Roundtree—Trp D, 1/10th Cav
- 1st Lt. Kenneth W. Barnes—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- WO Ronald C. Wilson—Trp D, 1/10th Cav
- Sp4 Ray H. Bockerich—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- WO Arthur J. Ohmer—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Col. Joseph F. H. Cutrona—HHC, 4th Div Arty
- Lt. Col. Lawrence T. Saltee—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Capt. Ronald H. Thorquist—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp6 James W. Denney—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp5 William E. McLin—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp5 Kurt F. Church—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp5 Terrance E. Dachs—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp5 Thomas W. Sears—Co B, 4th Avn Bn
- Col. Judson F. Miller—HHC, 2nd Bde, 4th Div
- WO Jack R. Wade—Trp D, 1/10th Cav
- 1st Lt. Sidney W. Richardson—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- WO Stanley S. Smetzer—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 Donald J. Adams—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 George A. Alexander—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 Gordon L. Hill—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 Dean E. Klump—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 Fredrick E. Stall—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 Duane A. Struntz—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 Richard D. Swaisgood—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- PFC David Bornhoffer—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- PFC James J. Peterson—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- PFC George A. Jacquez—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- PFC Edward E. Ford—179th Assault Hel Co
- Sgt. Maj. John F. Gay—HHC, 3rd Bde, 25th Div
- WO Kenney C. Jones—HHC, 3rd Bde, 25th Div
- WO William E. Lancaster—HHC, 3rd Bde, 25th Div
- Capt. Milton E. Brown III—HHC, 3rd Bde, 25th Div
- Maj. Gerald K. Cross—HHS Btry, 6/29th Arty
- WO Clarence R. Moore—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- WO John C. Moore—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 Richard R. Cullen—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Sp4 James O. Wells—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- Lt. Col. Vincent W. Bezich—HHC, 4th Div Arty
- 1st Lt. Charles A. Ritchie—HHC, 199th Inf Bde

Army Commendation Medal For Heroism

- Sp4 James H. Gaines—Co B, 2/8th Inf
- Sp4 Paul P. Purnell—Co A, 4th Avn Bn
- PFC Gordon A. Corwin—HHC, 2/8th Inf
- SSgt. Harold E. Miller—170th Assault Hel Co
- Sgt. Willie L. Goodall—Co B, 2/8th Inf
- PFC James E. Stephens—Co B, 2/8th Inf
- Sp4 Bazil D. Mathews—Trp D, 1/10th Cav

Army Commendation Medal

- Sp5 Russell E. Huffman Jr.—HHC, 1/35th Inf
- Sgt. Joseph C. Mason—Co B, 1/22nd Inf
- Sp4 Zsolt Jancsik—HHC & Band, 4th Support Comd



IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH

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LUCKY PHOTO? — Specialist 4 Richard W. Fish (Long Beach, Calif.), radio operator with the 36th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, talks to three Rangers. Originally he was talking to just two, but they consider it bad luck to have three in a photo and they invited one more person.

36th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion 'Fierce In War, Generous In Peace'

Story & Photo by Lt. Larry Augsburger

Dau Tieng — One of the most dedicated Vietnamese fighting units is the 36th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion now on operations in War Zone C.

Under the operational control of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, the Rangers are primarily a reaction force for the III Corps area.

Major An, Vietnamese commander, received an American Silver Star from General W. C. Westmoreland for his actions with the 1st Division last October.

The battalion is comprised of 360 soldiers representing nearly every Southeast Asian country. South Vietnamese, North Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodian, Laotian and Montagnard soldiers live and fight together with complete cooperation and harmony.

Each man is a volunteer who goes through a tough six-week course in jungle fighting in order to wear the patch of the screaming tiger, emblem of the Ranger Battalion.

Training and operations are conducted with a small contingent of American advisors—a total of only 14 Americans, all graduates from the U.S. Ranger School—working with the 36th Rangers.

According to Captain John Parker (Little Rock, Ark.), the senior American advisor

who has worked with them for the past three months, there isn't a better Vietnamese unit.

The battalion takes its work seriously and morale is high. The Rangers work well with their advisors and like Americans as much as they hate the Viet Cong.

Since the Rangers have been formed, there has never been a case of Viet Cong infiltration.

Captain Parker attributes this to two main reasons.

First, the battalion is constantly on the move and isn't accompanied by dependents and, second, the unit is very security conscious in everything it does.

The Rangers do not trust local citizens in areas in which they operate—they keep all civilians away from them. This way there is no chance a peddler can get close enough to observe or pick up loose talk of plans and activities.

The 36th Rangers have worked with several American divisions and try to prove that they are a loyal, capable combat force.

"We try to leave a favorable impression with Americans, and I think we've impressed all the divisions we have worked with," says Captain Parker.

The unit uses strictly World War II American weapons. The .30 caliber machine guns, 60mm mortars,

carbines and M-1 rifles are kept in immaculate condition and gleam as if they were brand new.

Every soldier who wears the tiger suit with a snarling tiger head on a yellow shield on his left sleeve attempts to convey the slogan of the 36th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion.

Translated into English, their motto is "Fierce in War, Generous in Peace."

2/8th 'Panthers' Mark 200th Day Of Combat Action

Oasis— Champagne toasts and steaks recently marked the 200th day of continuous combat for the Ivy Division's 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

At the "Panther" Battalion forward headquarters, the mark was observed with a special dinner attended by the officers and key non-commissioned officers of the unit.

Sitting at the head table were Lieutenant Colonel Gordon J. Duquemin, battalion commander; Brigadier General Glenn Walker, assistant 4th Division commander; Colonel Judson F. Miller, division chief of staff; and Colonel James B. Adamson, 2nd Brigade commander.

Colonel Duquemin, who has led the battalion since November 18, opened the affair with toasts to the "Panthers" and to the 2nd Brigade. Later he recounted the exploits of the unit since its arrival in Vietnam.

The battalion, he said, arrived in country August 10 after a 19-day voyage across the Pacific.

After three weeks of getting established at the division's Dragon Mountain base camp, the "Panthers" moved out for an 18-day mission near the Chu Pong Mountains in Operation Paul Revere III.

After a two-day respite in

base camp, the unit was assigned a five-day security mission for an engineer battalion moving from Ban Me Thuot to Phu Tuc.

On September 25, the colonel continued, the "Panther" Battalion moved into the rugged hills west of Pleiku to take part in Operation Paul Revere III. The operation evolved into Paul Revere IV, Sam Houston, and currently Francis Marion.

The unit moved west to the Se San River October 21, entering some of the thickest jungle in Vietnam where the "Panthers" fought North Vietnamese Army regular units.

Operating against an enemy fighting in company and battalion-sized forces, the unit was involved in some of the heaviest fighting in the Central Highlands.

As a result of the combat, seven members of the battalion have been awarded Silver Stars and 25 have received Bronze Stars.

The future of the unit calls for additional time in the field, but operating in a different mode. As Colonel Duquemin stated at the luncheon, "the 'Panthers' will soon be trading in their boots for tracks."

IN SUPPORT OF IVYMEN

633rd Support Group Plays Vital Role

By PFC Bob Boudreaux

Pleiku — The field of combat support, so vital to any armed forces, is often the least glamorized of combat activities.

The 633rd Combat Support Group of the 7th Air Force is such a group.

Located in the Central Highland city of Pleiku and comprised of eight subordinate units, the air base provides air support to all the units in the Republic of Vietnam's II Corps area.

The field of air support is not limited to combat action alone. Besides being the home of the notorious "Puff the Magic Dragon" and the A-1E "Skyraider," the air base has three air commando

squadrons, one aerospace rescue and recovery squadron and the 15th Aerial Port Squadron.

Of all the base units, the aerial port is the most reckoned to military and civilian personnel of the highland region. It is through this terminal that most replacements get their first view of Vietnam and it is the homeward-bound soldier's last view.

Commanded by Colonel William K. Bonneaux, the base saw it beginning as a military installation of the Vietnamese government when, in 1958, the Vietnamese Army set up its II Corps on the ground where the base now stands.

Since then it has grown to

to include a paved runway that accommodates everything from Cessna Birdog scout planes to the huge C-141 "Starlifter" jets transporting troops to and from the United States.

Huge warehouses filled with cargo testify to the efficiency and expediency of the support group.

As the population of both civilian and military personnel in the highland region increases so does base expansion.

Though not sharing the glamor of its neighboring infantry units, the 633rd Combat Support Group plays an important role in the defense of Vietnam.



THE 150,000TH SHOT—One of the highest paid gun crews on record recently fired a 105mm round from a 4th Division forward fire support base. The round was the 150,000th fired by the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery since arriving in Vietnam last August. Loading the howitzer is Lieutenant Colonel Jack C. Wood, 4/42nd commander. Colonel James B. Adamson, 2nd Brigade commander, waits to pull the lanyard. Not shown is Lieutenant Colonel Thomas G. Rosell, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry commander, who prepared the data for the howitzer. (USA Photo by Capt. Ed Ciliberti)

THANKS TO MONTAGNARDS

LRRP Member Spots NVA Soldiers

By Sp5 George Beidler

Oasis — A fleeing North Vietnamese Army soldier was killed recently when three Montagnard laborers inadvertently warned a 2nd Brigade Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol of danger.

Under the direction of Staff Sergeant Sherman T. Tilley (Savannah, Ga.), the

four-man team was patrolling in the Central Highlands. During the first afternoon the team discovered a cache of rice and NVA uniforms.

Early the following morning the LRRP received word to serve as a blocking force for elements of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry who were in contact at a nearby landing zone.

"While moving through the thick brush to a pre-designated location we crossed two well-used trails," recalled Sergeant Tilley. "Finally, we set up in the woodland surrounding a large field."

"There were some Montagnards working out in the middle," said Specialist 4 William L. Branson (Ewa, Hawaii), assistant team leader. "I watched them for about half an hour and then they moved out rather quickly. I knew they hadn't spotted us, so I began looking around."

"There they were," continued Specialist Branson, "three enemy—one in khakis, the other two in pajamas—coming out of the brush about 60 meters to our front. One was carrying an SKS. I warned the team, then fired a burst into him."

The LRRP pulled back and set up an ambush along a trail without venturing into the field to search for the two remaining enemy soldiers.

Four-hours later the team

was extracted. "It was kind of hairy revealing ourselves," concluded Specialist Branson, "but with the gunships on call, you can get up the nerve."

4/42nd Artillery Fires Its 150,000th Round

Oasis — The 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery did it up right recently by inviting one of the highest paid gun crews on record to fire the unit's 150,000th round since its arrival in Vietnam last August.

Preparations were complete at the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry forward fire support base's artillery area as the members of the gun section arrived on the scene.

The highly polished 105mm howitzer rounds lay on a pedestal behind one of Battery C's five guns.

Under the direction of Sergeant First Class Thomas J. Davis Jr. (Tacoma, Wash.), chief of firing battery, Staff Sergeant Sam A. Keys (Tacoma, Wash.), chief of section, gave the order that sent his crew into action.

Captain Edmund S. Solymosy, Battery C commander, but on this occasion serving as cannoneer number two, handed the round to cannoneer number one, Lieutenant Colonel Jack C. Wood, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery commander.

Data "on the gun" had been checked by the gunner, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas G. Rosell, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry commander, and assistant gunner, Colonel James B. Adamson, 2nd

Brigade, 4th Division commander.

Colonel Wood loaded the round into the howitzer and and at the sound of Sergeant Key's beaming command, Colonel Adamson pulled the lanyard and fired the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery's 150,000th round.

The artillery unit's main party arrived in Vietnam August 10 and began firing almost immediately. Simple division shows that the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery's batteries have fired an average of one round every two minutes and 24 seconds since their arrival.

The batteries are assigned to support 4th Division infantry units and have moved 70 times to various fire bases throughout the Central Highlands.

Of the 150,000 rounds expended, 7,000 rounds were fired in Tuy Hoa by Battery C. Seventy-five thousand rounds were fired across the Se San River in the Central Highlands and the remaining rounds were fired west and southwest of the Pleiku-Oasis area.

The 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery has participated in six major 4th Division operations while suffering only very light casualties.



CALLING CARD — Specialist 4 Melvin A. Faber (Bancroft, Iowa), acting squad leader, displays one of his unit's calling cards—the Ace of Spades. The card supposedly causes fear in the enemy. Specialist Faber is with Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry participating in Operation Francis Marion. (USA Photo by SSgt. Bill Whitiz)



FRIENDSHIP

Lieutenant General Stanley R. Larsen, 1 Field Force commander, is presented with a friendship bracelet by a young Montagnard girl from the village of Plei Bong Hiot. The general was visiting the village which is sponsored by the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. (USA Photo by Lt. Paul Armstrong)

FOR 3RD BRIGADE INFANTRYMEN

2/77th Provides Close Fire Support

By Sp4 Dave Hamson
Dau Tieng — Staggering firepower from 18 105mm howitzers, the ability to go where the infantry goes, and dogged determination to fight when the guns are threatened characterize the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery of the "Famous

Fourth's" 3rd Brigade. The "Redleg" unit arrived in Vietnam October 12 after a 19-day cruise across the Pacific on the USNS General Nelson M. Walker. No time was wasted in getting the artillerymen to Camp Martin Cox at Bear

Cat, Long Binh Province, where they linked up with the advance party led by Lieutenant Colonel Walter R. Rehm, battalion commander. Two short weeks later, the battalion was in the field supporting the troops of the 3rd Brigade on Operation

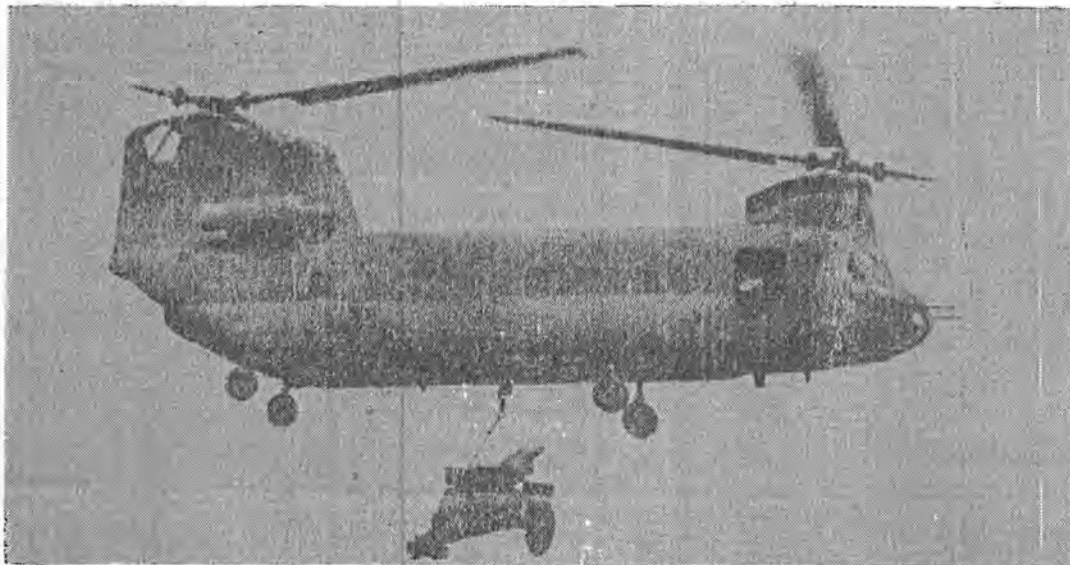
Bremerton in the Rung Sat Special Zone about 20 miles southeast of Saigon. The mud and marsh of the area posed new problems for artillery that could not have been duplicated in the training exercises the battalion

had held at Ft. Lewis, Wash. Many of the lessons learned in Bremerton would be put to good use in the operations that followed.

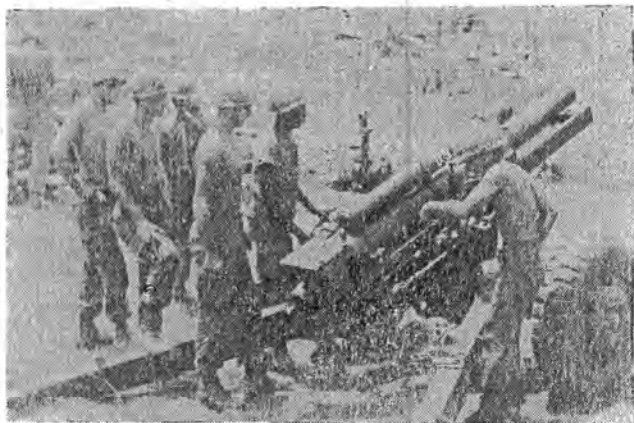
The battalion was split shortly after Thanksgiving when two batteries convoyed with the brigade to Dau Tieng where the new brigade base camp was set up amid the sprawling Michelin Rubber Plantation. The third battery rejoined the battalion after completing pacification operations in the Nhon Trac District.

Out of the Dau Tieng base camp, the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery has moved with the brigade on several operations, including Attleboro, Cedar Falls, Gadsden, and Junction City. On each occasion the battalion went with the brigade and gave close fire support where it was needed.

In addition to its combat role, the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery has been active in civic action projects in the village of Dau Tieng. A nursery was recently opened for the children of Popular Forces troops who defend the village.



AIRBORNE — Mobility by air is the key to the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery's ability to go where the infantry is fighting. (USA Photo by Lt. Ralph F. Campbell)



LOOK OUT, CHARLIE—One of the 18 howitzers in the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery sends its 105mm calling card to the Viet Cong. (USA Photo by Sp5 George Swengros)



PROTECTION— The men of Battery D, 71st Artillery run crew drills while attached to the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery at Prek Klok. The big quad-fifty caliber machine guns provide protection for the battalion's big guns. (USA Photo by Sp5 George Swengros)



BATTLEFIELD — The howitzers of the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery continue to pound the enemy during the Battle of Suoi Tre while a dustoff waits for an injured man. (USA Photo by Sp4 Brad Bronley)

Engineers Rushing To Complete Road Before Summer Monsoon Begins

By Sp5 Conrad Clark

Le Thanh — "And The Rains Came," a best seller of years past, was written by Pearl S. Buck, based on life in China.

The novel might just as well have been written about "the monsoon season" in Vietnam.

Within another three weeks the summer monsoon starts, and it has become a battle between the rains and an engineer battalion of the 1st Brigade, 4th Division.

The first round in the battle was won recently by Company A, 20th Engineer Battalion of the 937th Engineer Group with headquarters at Dragon Mountain.

A timber-trestle pile-bent bridge was built at the entrance of the brigade's base camp. Built on Highway 14B, the bridge is 22 by 80 feet, and can support a load of 55 tons.

The bridge was built within two weeks by the 1st Platoon of the company, under the supervision of Second Lieutenant Eual Moore (Napa, Calif.), platoon leader, and Platoon Sergeant David W.

Henry (Franklin, N.C.).

Before the "rains come" the company expects to complete building, grading and surfacing an all-weather road on Route 14B—leading from Jackson's Hole—to Route 19.

Although the distance is only about five kilometers, there are turns and bends in the road that must be straightened, and culverts laid. The culverts will help to provide better drainage along the road during the rainy season.

Plans call for 18 of the culverts to be built and installed on the road, and already the 1st Platoon has installed eight. Each one is from 35 to 40 feet in length and is first assembled in the company's area before being installed.

The 2nd Platoon, under the supervision of Second Lieutenant Carl Petri (Detroit), platoon leader, and Platoon Sergeant Clifford Butler (Milwaukee), operates a laterite pit.

The 3rd Platoon, headed by Second Lieutenant Jerry Thinnis (Hammond, Ind.),

platoon leader, and Platoon Sergeant Tommie Brooks (Columbus, Ga.), is building the road.

The project is scheduled to be completed within eight weeks.

2/8th Company Locates NVA Training Area

Oasis— The North Vietnamese cadre seem to think they will be victorious during the monsoon season, or at least they want their trainees to think so.

Evidence of this was found when placards were removed from a recently discovered NVA basic training area. Translated, the placards read, "We beat the Americans last year during the monsoon season and we're going to do it again this year."

The training area was discovered while Staff Sergeant Creseniano M. Mayo (North Hollywood, Calif.) and his men from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry were patrolling the area.

The area included enemy bunkers, huts, classrooms and bamboo bleachers.



ANOTHER SWING

A few more swings and a landing zone will be cleared for 4th Division helicopters to bring in supplies. The soldier is a member of Ivy's Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry. The 2nd Brigade unit is participating in Operation Francis Marion. (USA Photo by PFC Jeffrey L. Pearce, 69th Signal Bn)



GIFTS FOR THE STUDENT

A Dau Tieng youngster stands proudly with assorted gifts presented to him on completion of six years of elementary school. The gifts were partially donated by the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division. (USA Photo by Sp4 Gary M. Silva)

WITH MODERN EQUIPMENT

Dental Office Set Up At Oasis

By PFC Stephen Frye

Oasis — Frowning faces from aching teeth are a thing of the past at the Oasis.

Company C, 4th Medical Battalion recently set up an emergency dental office at the Oasis to ease the dental pains of 2nd Brigade troops.

The office, headed by Captain William P. Greene

(Besemer, Ala.), has been in operation for a little more than a month.

"The office was originally set up for emergency purposes, mostly extractions," said Captain Greene, "but now my assistants and I are doing permanent filling work also."

Private First Class Frank-

lin Martinez (San Juan, P.R.), dental assistant, pointed out that "the portable high-speed dental unit used by our staff is one of the most modern dental units in use today."

The unit is equipped with a suction apparatus, air and water syringes, and a high and low speed dental drill. It operates from an air compressor.

"We usually average six patients a day," said Private First Class George Morfin (Los Angeles). "We also go on MEDCAP missions once a week," the assistant added.

Captain Greene recently performed mouth surgery on a young Montagnard girl. Anesthesia was administered during surgery.

"The girl's father, not knowing the effects of the anesthetic, was uneasy," explained PFC Martinez. "But when his child awoke, a sigh of relief was given," he added.

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