



IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH



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CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

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CLOUD OF SMOKE—A tanker from the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor watches a tank in a Route 509 convoy move through heavy smoke after a skirmish with North Vietnamese soldiers along the highway. (USA Photo by SP4 Steve Frye)

N. Vietnamese Lose 45 Soldiers In Ridgeline Fight

By SP4 Ralph Springer

DAK TO — Ivymen from Companies A and C, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry recently engaged a battalion-size North Vietnamese force on a ridgeline three kilometers from Dak To, and after three days of bitter fighting, accounted for more than 45 enemy killed.

Company C had moved from its combined night location on a hilltop in the Suim Ngok Tu mountain range northeast of the 1st Brigade command camp at Dak To on a sweep of a long, meandering ridgeline that runs the length of the hill mass. Company A stayed back at the position for security as Company C left the perimeter and started down a well-worn high speed trail.

"We were moving along a finger, following the trail," said Sergeant Guy Baxter (Atlanta,

Ga.), a Company C squad leader, "when we started up a low hill. All of a sudden hand grenades began exploding and machine-gun and AK47 automatic rifle fire was pouring down at us."

Entrenched on the crest of the low rise was a large NVA element.

"We poured fire into the top of the hill," continued SGT Baxter, "and then pulled back and called for artillery and air support."

At Any Price

Almost immediately, artillery batteries at Dak To had the correct coordinates and devastating artillery fire was battering the area.

Soon, Air Force jets were swooping in and dropping tons of bombs on the enemy force as the Company C soldiers moved back up to their night location and joined their sister element.

All through the rest of the morning and into the afternoon, the small knoll was pounded with artillery, lifted only to allow the jets through to make their bombing runs.

"About four in the afternoon, our company commander, Captain Terry Esse (Fayetteville, N.C.) called for a volunteer patrol to go back down to the contact site," explained SGT Baxter. "During the initial contact, everyone dropped their rucksacks and in our haste to get back here, we left them behind. Our point man, who had been killed in the initial engagement, was still there and we wanted to get him out and police up our equipment."

Volunteers, All

Every man in Company C volunteered to go, but a 16-man patrol was selected and it moved back down from the night location towards the enemy-held hill.

"As we were nearing the top of the rise where the NVA were, we saw about five of them walking around, policing up their own dead and wounded," the young squad leader said. "We located our casualty but it looked like the North Vietnamese might have booby-trapped his body. We were trying to get close enough to tie a rope to him when they started firing rifle grenades at us. We moved on back, called in more artillery and then made it back to the night location."

It was dusk when the Bullets entered their night perimeter. (Continued on Back Page)

Fruit Fills New Menu Of Ivymen

VUNG DAT AM — The staple of the U.S. fighting man in Vietnam, C-rations, has recently been redesigned to keep pace with the ever-changing tastes of the modern soldier.

While at first glance the C-rations appear unchanged, a closer look reveals several new additions to the menu. Also in some instances old standards have been retired.

For example, the ever-popular (?) ham and lima beans will soon disappear from the combat trooper's diet. A fresh new treat will take the old favorite's place — a meal featuring spaghetti with meat sauce.

In the past only four meals per case of rations contained fruit. With the new cases, eight-fruit lovers will be satisfied.

In response to the menu change, Sergeant Bobby L. Settlementier (Corinth, Miss.) of the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry quipped, "It's a great change. They've added more fruit and that's the main thing."

"I can't say that I'll be sorry to see the ham and limas go," admitted Specialist 4 Dale R. Gorman (West Union, Ohio).

All Specialist 4 Herman Vaughn could say about the new meals was a simple but enthusiastic "up tight!"

Regulars Storm Fortified Hill As Enemy Fire Rains Down

By SP4 James Doyle

KONTUM (1/22) — "I won't send anybody else up that damn hill until it's been leveled," barked a determined Regular company commander, wounded during a murderous fire fight when his men tried a second assault on Hill 684 during the recent outbreak of fighting at Kontum.

A company from the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry had been probing the foothills on the city's edge, searching for an enemy who had been severely crippled in the battle for the city of Kontum.

As the Ivy company moved up the tree-studded slope of Hill 684, enemy machine guns opened up. "They hit us from dug-in positions on three sides," recalled First Lieutenant Jim Hascal (Spokane, Wash.), one of the platoon leaders. "I lost a lot of men in the first encounter."

The company pulled back to regroup while artillery pounded the hill, and air strikes shattered what the thunderous cannons missed.

Again the Regulars started back up the hill, determined more than ever to take it.

But once again came an overwhelming wave of machine-gun fire, rifle grenades and mortars from the other side of the hill, plaguing the company's advances.

"It was hell," asserted Sergeant Bill Galvin (Washington,

D.C.). "We couldn't see them and yet we wanted to hit back at them so bad."

The company commander had been hit by the burst of a mortar round and the company was forced to reconsider its plans, pulling back down the hill despite the heavy fire.

Then 1Lt Hascal took charge of the company and quickly pulled back into a tight perimeter while he radioed for more artillery and gunships to give his men a chance to dig in and breathe.

The fury of battle had taken its toll. Water became scarce and friends had died but the tired Ivymen were nonetheless

Photo On Page 7

determined. As they readied for the next attack, Captain David Hartley (Portland, Ore.) rode in on a dust-off and assumed command.

Quickly he called for more air strikes and artillery which belted the hill for another two hours, seemingly destroying the entire hill top.

And with another company as reinforcements the Regulars stormed back up the hill a third time.

Now, despite the heavy enemy fire and grenades, they reached the first line of trenches and held on.

Then came a strange quiet as darkness forced an end to the battle and the war-weary soldiers ambled back to their patrol base at the foot of the hill.

The next morning, after C-47

Dragonships had raked the enemy position most of the night, Air Force jets rolled in with 1,000-pound bombs while artillery men from the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery's Battery C pumped more than 1,100 rounds to virtually insure no further enemy resistance.

Then came the final charge up the hill, this time almost unopposed and finally the lead platoon crested the top.

"The enemy was really dug in," commented CPT Hartley. "He had about 12 feet of overhead cover. It's no wonder we had such a rough time getting them out."

On the top lay more than 50 enemy bodies along with 25 B40 rockets, hundreds of rounds of AK47 ammunition and assorted weapons and grenades.

Sighted Snake—Shot Same

Python Pays Surprise Visit

VUNG DAT AM — As the noisy tracks of the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry's scout platoon rumbled through the deep grass, the gleaming black predator watched them through small close-set eyes.

The jungle through which the platoon moved was his home. The heavy foliage falling under the weight of the armored personnel carriers (APCs) had long provided the huge python a hiding place.

Soldiers were all around him now as he lay undetected in the

tall grass. Slowly the big snake began to wind among the vehicles perhaps intent on attacking an unaware Ivymen. But his slithering movement attracted the attention of Private First Class Richard Gunnell (Hightstown, N.J.), a Panther infantryman as he sat puffing a cigarette.

The startled private sprang to his feet and managed a few quick shots at the deadly, 15-foot long snake but the bullets seemed to have little effect.

PFC Gunnell fired again and

then fell to the ground and, a moment later, took a final shot at the jet-black python.

"That's got him," shouted First Lieutenant Charles Guthe (Fort Collins, Colo.), the platoon leader.

Quietly PFC Gunnell hopped aboard his APC and the platoon moved out to continue with its mission.

"That was one of the biggest snakes I've ever seen," sighed the still-shook Ivymen as he wiped the sweat from his brow.

An Editorial

Accidents Bring Senseless Grief

ONE OF THE great human tragedies comes when a life is lost by accident, or—worse still—by careless or reckless behavior. To avoid senseless grief, a soldier must understand that, just like his rifle, the truck or jeep he drives can either be a safe friend or dangerous foe in a combat zone. If carelessness or recklessness are allowed to enter into the picture, human sorrow fast becomes the by-product.

Both weapon and vehicle stand for the possession of power—and with such possession comes the obligation to exercise it with care. The man behind the wheel, like the man behind the rifle, must proceed with caution.

Unfortunately, however, many Ivy Division soldiers have learned this lesson the hard way. The division's motor vehicle accident rate has been on the upswing in recent months. Accident fatalities and loss of productive man-hours have become serious problems.

The accident rate for December was double the accident rate for November. Likewise, the rate for the last quarter was double that of the previous quarter.

And accidents are expensive in terms of property, as well as men. In January alone, the total for all categories of accidents involving Ivymen cost more than \$250,000. That's enough to fully equip more than 700 soldiers with weapons, uniforms and individual gear.

Thus, it was only logical that an ad hoc committee on safety be formed in order to reverse this trend. The purpose of this committee is to determine problem areas and recommend a program to reduce the number and severity of accidents in the division.

The committee has already made the following observations:

Vehicle accidents account for a large percentage of all accidents within the division. The prevention of such accidents falls squarely on the shoulders of the individual soldier. He must be familiar with his vehicle, aware of Vietnamese driving habits and hazardous driving conditions, and must develop a good defensive driving attitude.

Two main causes of accidents are speed and drinking while driving.

To assist the individual driver in developing defensive driving habits, the military police use a device called a mirror box to determine a vehicle's speed. Many drivers are familiar with this system. Two mirrors are set up a given distance apart and, by timing how long it takes to go from one mirror to the other, the speed of the vehicle is determined.

When one is sitting behind the wheel of a vehicle, it is easy to forget the potential danger.

Still, exercising safety is not only prudent but it's your responsibility. Safety laws and regulations have been established for your benefit. Be mindful of the role you play in the prevention of needless human tragedy and senseless property damage.

New Shot Policy Adopted

SAIGON (MACV) — Fewer servicemen will be turned away at planeside as they leave Vietnam, thanks to a tighter policy on immunization checks. An increase in the number of people denied permission to leave the country has been traced to deficiencies in their shot records: Incomplete personal information, all required immunizations not taken, or too great a time lapse between the original shot and re-immunization.

Commanders and sponsors have been given the task of checking the shot records of personnel in their area of responsibility. This includes a final check one week before the de-

parting individual boards a plane to leave the country.

The designated supervisors will check the completeness of personal entries including the subject's signature, as well as insuring that all shots are taken at the proper time, duly entered and authenticated. In the case of smallpox vaccine, the authentication must include the type of vaccine, origin, and batch number, plus the date and the doctor's signature. The cholera immunization must be authenticated by a doctor's signature. There is a six day waiting period on cholera shots if the re-immunization was more than six months after the previous shot.



By Chaplain (LTC) Joseph F. Sheehan

Dear Soldier:

A baseball pitcher, no matter how strong his arm, how fast his fast ball and how cunning his pitches, won't make the grade in the big leagues unless he has the control and puts that ball where he wants it.

You, the soldier, no matter how strong your body, how keen your mind, how vivid your imagination, how sharp your appetites, how enthusiastic your spirit, won't make the grade as a man unless you are exercising self-control in forming your own character.

Self-control means restraint and coordination of your own acts and impulses, insuring your own proper development and, here in Vietnam, just staying alive.

1—The Body: Out on patrol, a soldier must be like a runner on first base. He watches the pitcher's every move, moves just so far off base, listens to his coach and hurries back to the bag or breaks for second on the pitch. He is controlled, self-controlled.

2—The Mind: The only way to prevent your mind, as well as your body, from getting fat and shabby is to control it. Control of the mind involves setting a goal and staying with it; developing a talent, hardening your experience; in short, realizing your full potential.

3—The Imagination: The character or personality of a man, the kind of a man you are, is largely a matter of control. Control is a function of the will. One of the aspects of man's nature, that influences his will, is his imagination. There is no room in combat for fear or any of the other failures in control that come from the imagination.

4—The Appetites: Perhaps the greatest potential danger to the development of character is in a man's failure to control the appetites which are put in his body and are natural to its well-being. Among these are the appetites for food, drink, rest and sex. We readily recognize that all these are good, but it is quite as obvious that, without control, any one or all of these appetites may induce an excess in man that can ruin his life and even destroy his body.

5—The Spirit: The best way for man to control his body is to exercise the life of the spirit. The soldier who moves forward against the enemy in the face of murderous fire from which his bodily nature shrinks, gives testimony to the life of the spirit within him. The life

of the spirit is nourished on ideals, on faith, on hope and on love. All these are rooted in prayer.

To do this effectively, a man should first know himself, be conscious of his strengths as well as his weaknesses, cultivate the one and convert the other. He should recognize that every man is uniquely himself and guard against any tendency to copy another without also acquiring his virtues: i.e., he should be himself. And finally, if a man is ever going to be successful in developing self-control, he must work at it always. Just as in war, a moment's relaxation can cause one quickly to lose the ground that has taken days to capture. In the struggle with oneself, a moment's dissipation can strip the gain in self-control that has been won only after months of striving—the effort must be constant.

It has been said, and with some truth, that if a man doesn't control himself, he will be controlled by others. The best control, in keeping with our dignity as free men, is self-control.

A friend,
JOSEPH F. SHEEHAN
Chaplain (LTC), USA
Division Chaplain

Ivymen Get Rewarded For Valor

VUNG DAT AM—A claim to fame was not long in coming for five Ivy medal winners after a recent encounter with the enemy.

The heat of battle had barely subsided when Major General Charles P. Stone (Bellaire, N.Y.), division commander, landed in his helicopter to present "impact awards" to five members of the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry's Company B, at the unit's base in the jungle west of Pleiku.

"I would like to present you with these awards," said MG Stone, "because I'm sure all of you deserve one. Thanks for a job well done," he added.

Thirty-eight NVA soldiers had been killed and another two detained when the company clashed with an estimated battalion-size enemy force about 11 miles south of the 2nd Brigade command camp at the Oasis.

During the ceremony, Captain Richard B. Griffiths (Nampa, Idaho), Company B commander, and Specialist 4 Richard L. Nesselrotte (Hominy Falls, W.Va.), a rifleman, were awarded the Bronze Star for heroism. Army Commendation Medals with "V" Device were presented to Sergeant Bobby L. Newton (Ellijay, Ga.), a squad leader, Specialist 4 Al Clark (Wichita, Kan.), a medic, and Specialist 4 Stephen J. Whittenberg (New York City), a rifleman.

Kontum Bishop Plans To Confirm Soldiers

CAMP ENARI — Homes lay smoldering, children were en-crusted by open wounds and entire villages disappeared during this year's Tet, historically a time for festivity.

In the wake of this tragedy, a brief, but mutually beneficial, conference was held at Kontum between Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel), Joe Sheehan (Brooklyn, N.Y.), division chaplain, and the Right Reverend Speatz, Bishop of Kontum. On behalf of the Ivy Division, Father Shee-

han gave the bishop \$1,000 to aid the wounded and the homeless in his diocese, which includes Pleiku, An Khe and Kontum.

At a happier time and under more fortunate circumstances, Bishop Speatz will journey to Camp Enari this coming St. Patrick's Day to confirm eligible Catholics in the division, making them soldiers of Christ in addition to being soldiers of the United States Army.

The ceremony is set for 3 p.m.



DEPUTY CHIEF—Lieutenant General Edgar G. Doleman (center), USARPAC deputy commander, listens to point made by Major General Charles P. Stone (right), division commander, during LTG Doleman's recent visit to Camp Enari. (USA Photo By SP4 Ronald Uszak)



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Complex To Provide More Room

'Mr. Chips' Plants Seeds of Education

MINUS his Greer Garson-like companion, the Ivy Division's new educational director, Ronald G. Reed (Texarkana, Tex.), nevertheless brings enough educational acumen to rival the famous white-haired, bespectacled, black-robed English boys' school teacher, Mr. Chips. And like his literary prototype, Mr. Reed intends to beef up the available education at Camp Enari.

After dropping out of high school in 1953, Mr. Reed dropped in again while stationed in Japan. Under the General Education Development program, he received his high school diploma in 1954.

"Since that time, I've certainly reassessed my beliefs concerning education," he commented.

When he received his masters of education degree from the University of Kentucky, Mr. Reed taught social studies and was a guidance counselor in high school. Later he worked with the Job Corps for the Department of the Interior. Now temporarily housed at the Headquarters commandant's office, Mr. Reed is beginning to innovate at Enari.

"Group study is what we're eventually aiming for," he said, "but it takes time. When the four-building complex located near Special Services is completed, we'll have the necessary room to really operate."

Partially instructed by military personnel with college degrees, the education center will tap the latent education strength at Camp Enari.

Presently, a backlog of soldiers requires high school and college preliminary testing.

"This is our main interest now," remarked Mr. Reed. "After the initial testing, we can determine the programming necessary for the students." In order to publicize his program, Mr. Reed says he intends to speak to the

men of the various division units, individually discussing the opportunities of the center.

Virtually any course—English, language, mathematics and technical courses—can be taken by correspondence. The cost for the course is reasonable. United States Armed Forces Institute courses are complimentary. The major stateside universities operate on a three to one basis: The government pays 75 per cent while the individual pays the remaining 25 per cent.

"I'm very glad to be here," said Mr. Reed as he began his 12-month overseas assignment. "Education is the source of power I'm certain the Army is interested in investing in. And I'm certain with the proper push, our new program will be successful."

With the drive of this latter-day Mr. Chips, education seems bound to take root in the red dust of Camp Enari.

Scratch 1 Raft

CAMP ENARI—"No Navy Needed" is the cry of the men of the 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery's Battery C these days.

The battery proved its point recently when called upon by an Ivy air observer to fire on an enemy raft which was being used to ferry supplies across a river. The artillerymen responded to the fire mission as if they were engaging a normal, everyday, run-of-the-mill target.

Result—six rounds later... one each raft, enemy type—SUNK!

Milk Stains On Tie, Boston Tot Writes

AN APPLE-CHEEKED, blonde, blue-eyed girl with freckles peppered on her round, pinched face stood at the side of her wooden desk. She carefully opened a piece of lined yellow scrap paper with the names, ranks, and units of soldiers fighting in Vietnam scrawled on it. Pushing up the top of his desk, a small six-year-old boy, chocolate milk stained on his blue tie, pulled out a heavy white cardboard chart with names neatly printed on the front, each letter "S" written backwards; he took the yellow paper and began to inscribe the rest of the names on the board.

Across the green room, two rows of children began to write short notes in pencil. A row of girls wrote addresses on envelopes. An hour passed—all the wide-eyed faces were staring at the nun in front of the room as she opened an envelope stained in red dust with the word "Free" hastily written in the right corner.

This was the first grade of St. Mary's School, East Boston, Mass., engaged in its special project: THE SOLDIER IN VIETNAM. The class' goal is to raise the soldier's morale mentally through letters and spiritually through prayers. Last Christmas, it mailed hundreds of classroom-made cards to Vietnam. Now it continues to say a daily rosary and tuck away part of the day for its special project.

One letter to an Ivyman read:

i am in the Gr. I. Sister reads to us about you. Sumtimes at nite i see you on my tv. We pray four you every day and we are goin to wright to you during our prodjet time. It is snowing here. How old are you? Does it snow there?

*Your friend,
Jimmy*

At the forward firebases, Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Joe Sheehan (Brooklyn, N.Y.), the division chaplain, distributes the letters he receives and tells the Ivy-men of the children's prayers. "The guys at the front get a fast laugh and a tug at their hearts when they read letters like this one," he said.

Jimmy tagged a postscript on his letter:

P.S. Will you wright to me. i will wright as long as you are there.

*Your friend,
Jimmy*



FAN CLUB—Youngsters from the first grade class at Saint Mary's School in East Boston, Mass., gather around their teacher to hear responses from the letters they've written to Vietnam-based soldiers. The young fans, whose class project is writing to and praying for U.S. soldiers, provide a breath of fresh air for the Ivy infantrymen.

Pilots Scout At Night

Copters Add Light To Dark

THERE'S a new breed of pilots scouting the treacherous highlands jungle these days. Tagged "Nighthawks" by their commander, Lieutenant Colonel Myles H. Mierswa (Dumont, N.J.) of the 4th Aviation Battalion, the pilots are the skippers of newly devised searchlight helicopters which patrol the highlands after dark.

Two types of the special aircraft are being now employed to search for Charlie. One features a cluster of seven C123 landing lights mounted in the door of the helicopter and the other has a huge Xenon searchlight mounted on the side of the ship. The Xenon beam additionally provides an infra-red capability allowing the penetrating light to go undetected by the naked eye. Both sets of lights are controlled by the aircraft commander with the use of a remote power switch. Acute coordination of the crew members is especially important since the flight of the helicopter must be geared to the direction of the beam and the area to be illuminated.

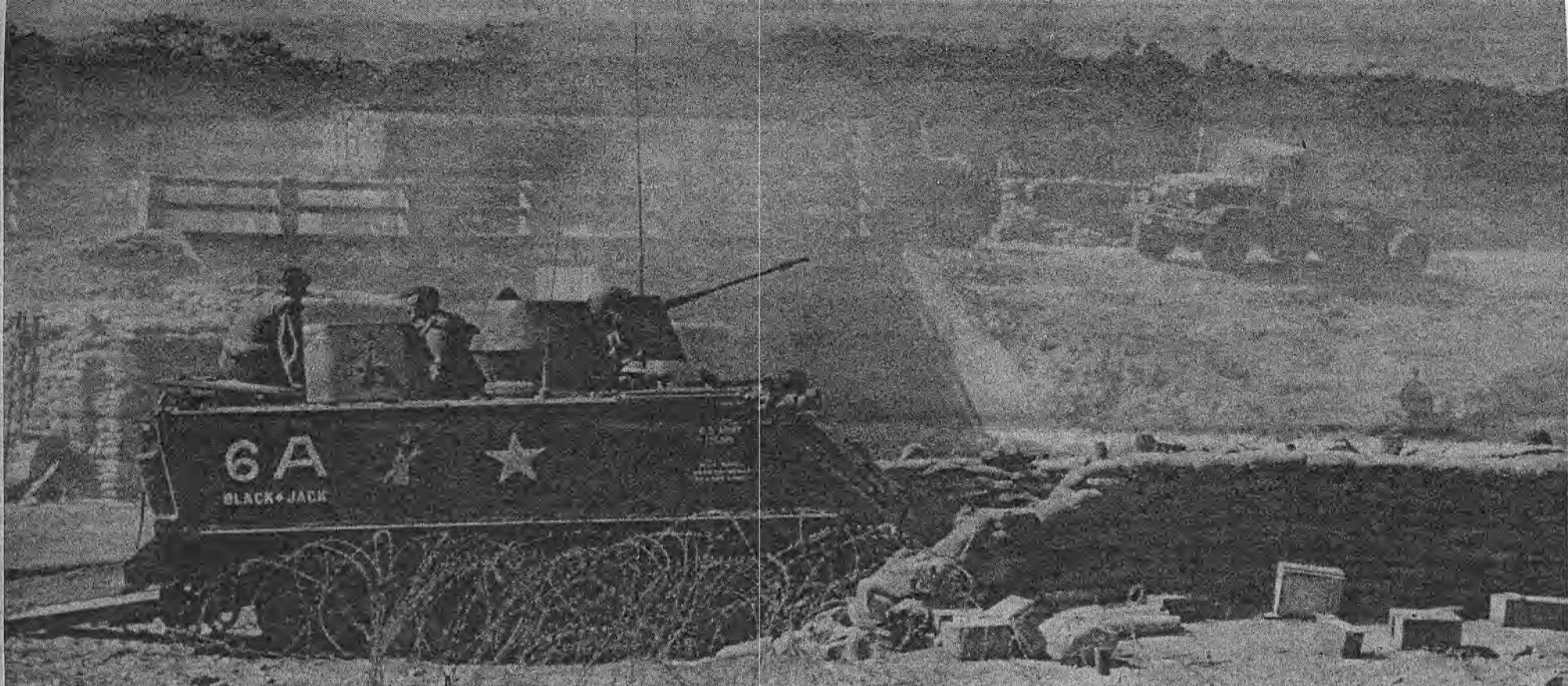
The "Nighthawks" have been operat-

ing primarily around Camp Enari, but recently they were called to shed some light around Kontum and Pleiku during the war-torn Tet holiday and proved effective.

The "Nighthawk" operation supplements base camp defense as the powerful lights bring about greater perimeter illumination. The technique provides a thorough reconnaissance of ravines and gullies which persist in the highlands jungle as well as an effective probe of suspected and known enemy positions.

In event a target is uncovered, 4th Division pilots carry flares to further light up the position so that the situation may be pursued accordingly. The "Nighthawks" can also provide supporting illumination of enemy troops when Ivy-men on the ground are in contact with them, without exposing the friendly unit.

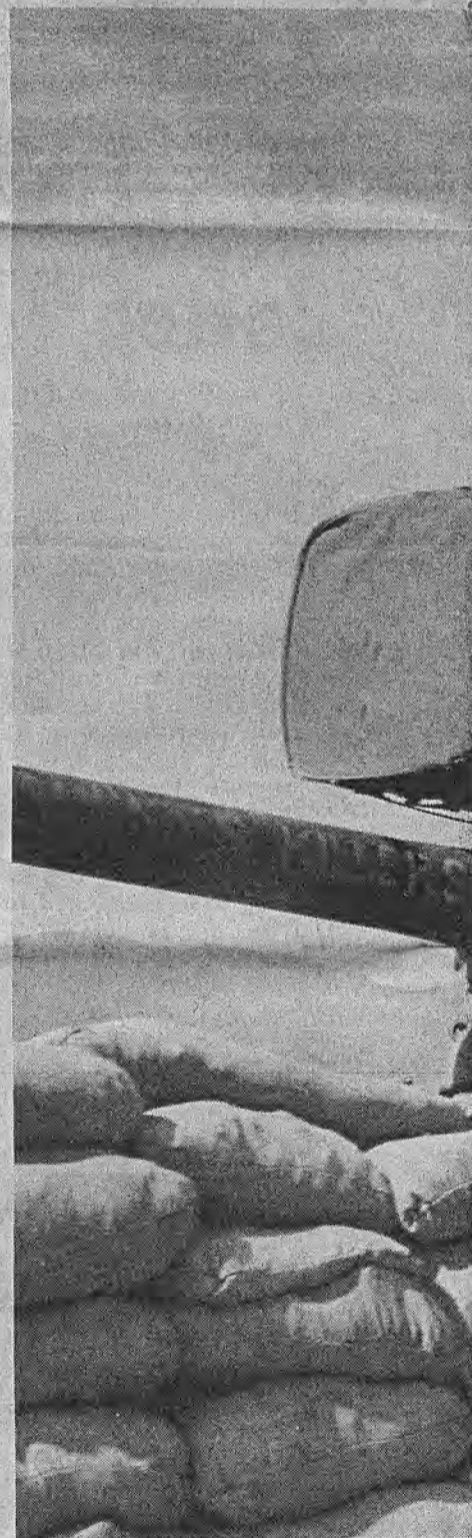
"The technique of employing searchlight helicopters is nothing new as we flew similar missions in the Delta region when I was there two years ago," remarked LTC Mierswa. "It's the first time the method has been used in the highlands, however, and it's really proving successful."

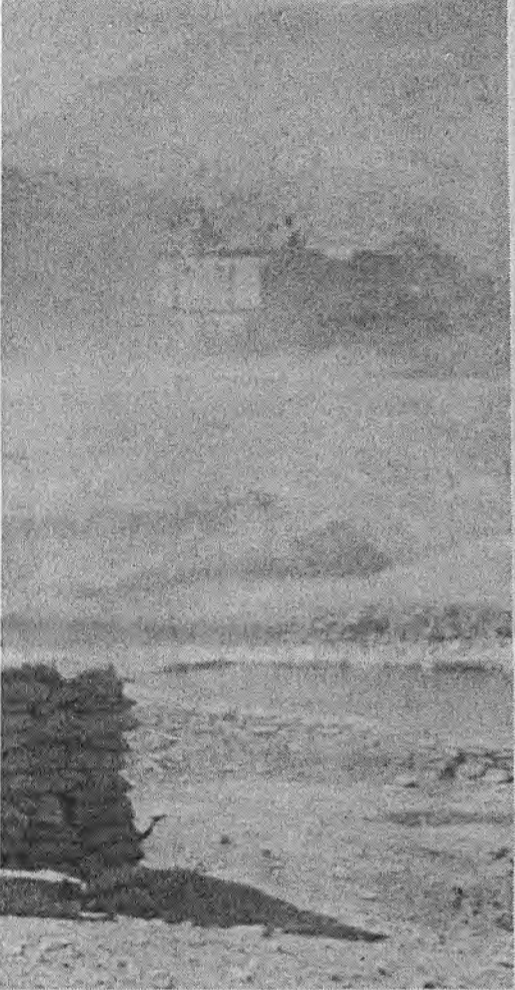


The men of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment—the Blackhawks—have a rich heritage to live up to. Here's how they're going about it with the Ivy Division in the Central Highlands of Vietnam: Bridge security along Highway 19 (above) keeps many of the cavalry men busy. Their big, M48 tanks (right) help keep the highway open to vital supply traffic. Always ready to swing into action, a Blackhawk scout vehicle (below) awaits orders to move out on another patrol. Cavalry assault vehicle (above, far right) seeks out an enemy in a highland village, while two Blackhawks man big guns atop another M48 tank, (below, far right) ready at a second's notice to add a powerful punch to the Free World's cause.



...Go A





1st platoon

YESTERDAY the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment celebrated its 135th anniversary. Like many of the unit's yesterdays, it was another milestone in the colorful regiment's history.

For in the 135 years since March 2, 1833, when Company B, 1st Cavalry (from which the 2nd Squadron traces its lineage) was constituted, the 1st Cavalry Regiment has won 70 battle streamers, making it the most battle-honored unit in the Regular Army.

Just open up the history books from 1833 on and you'll find the unit was around for just about every major crisis. At first there were the Indian uprisings to put down in Oklahoma. Then, from 1846 to 1848, the unit fought in the Mexican War. When it had ended, the regiment went back to fight in the Indian Wars.

The days of Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettys-

Photos By
SP4 Ronald Uszak

burg, Cold Harbor and Shenandoah ring of special meaning to the men of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry. Their regiment won many of the 13 battle streamers it received in the Civil War on the hallowed ground of these battlefields.

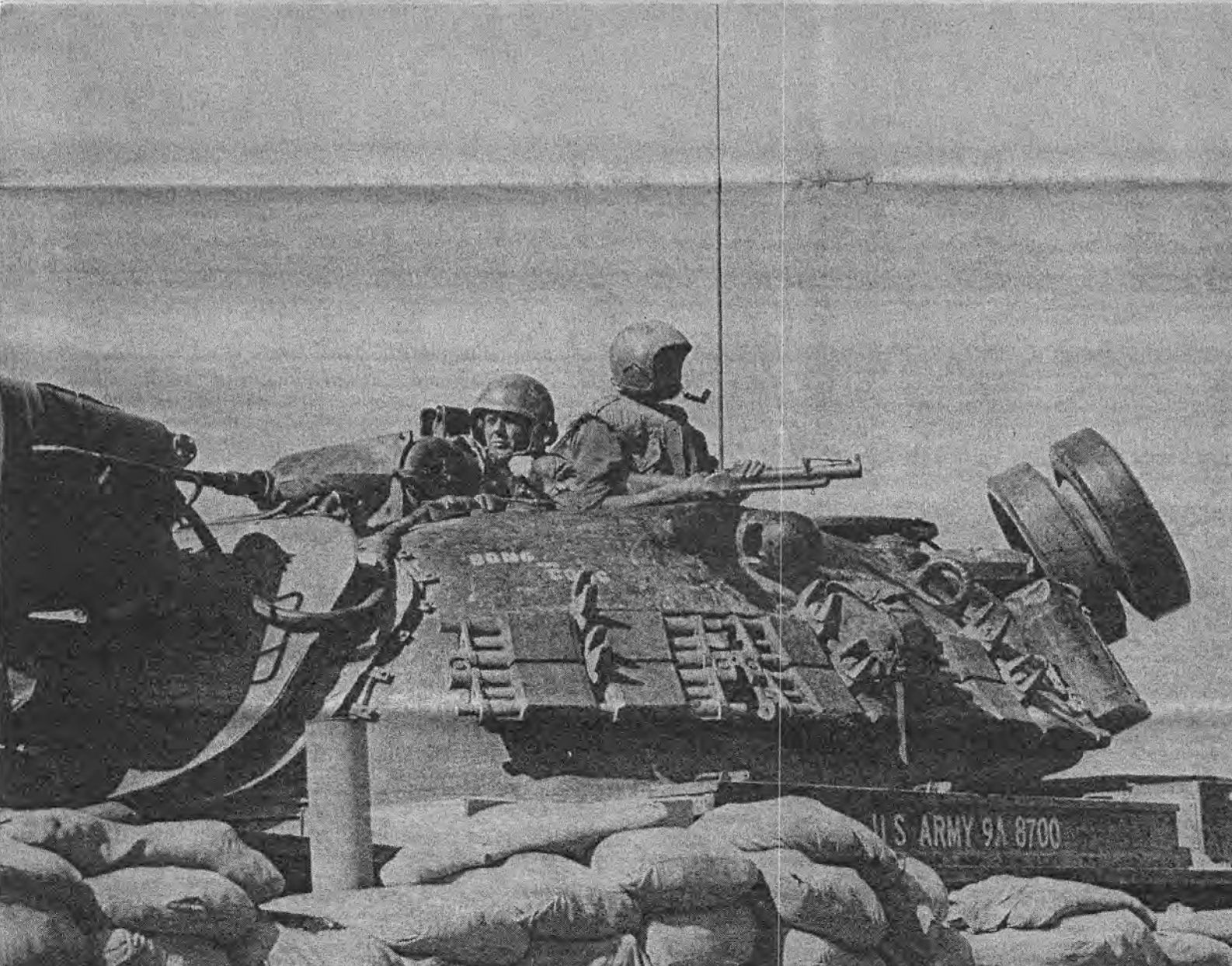
In modern times, the unit won seven more battle honors in the blood-stained fighting from North Africa to the Po Valley in Italy during World War II.

Now, 22 years later, the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, is again serving in the defense of freedom. This time it's with the 4th Infantry Division, and one of its major tasks is to guard the roads, over which supplies for the soldiers, fighting in the highlands, must flow.

For the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, it is only one of a long list of calls-to-arms. But, if history keeps on repeating itself, this call, too, will be well answered.

The Blackhawks . . .

about Answering Another Call-To-Arms



Brothers Drive Ambulance Under Fire

Some Ivymen Just Can't Avoid Enemy Contacts

By SP4 Steve Frye

VUNG DAT AM—Staff Sergeant Sherman T. Tilley (Savannah, Ga.), member of a Long Range Reconnaissance patrol working with the 2nd Brigade, just can't avoid contacts with Charlie.

SSG Tilley recently paid what turned out to be an exciting visit to six relatives, all stationed in Long Binh. During his stay, the Long Binh post came under heavy enemy attack and SSG Tilley volunteered to help evacuate the wounded. Along with his brother, Specialist 4 Sanford T. Tilley, a medic with the 584th

Medical Company, the 19-year-old sergeant drove an ambulance between the enemy lines to pick up the wounded.

After most were evacuated SSG Tilley and his brother headed for Black Horse, home of the 11th Armored Cavalry, to see if help was needed there. During the 80-mile round trip, their truck took 40 rounds of small arms fire but neither of the two soldiers was injured.

With the situation at Black Horse under control, the brothers returned to Long Binh and heard that a nearby ammunition

dump had blown up, resulting in several casualties. In separate trucks, the two barreled off, arriving at the time of a second explosion which blew SSG Tilley's vehicle on its side. Shaken but safe, he climbed aboard his brother's truck and they headed back for the medical company.

"Sandy's company commander told us not to ride in the same vehicle for fear that we might both be killed," said SSG Tilley later. But he didn't say anything about going to the same place."

But the attack on the ammunition dump resumed and the pair

charged off to help out again. Fate struck again and this time SP4 Tilley's truck was smashed by the exploding mortar rounds. A wheel was torn from the ambulance and the radiator spouted hot water; it, too, hit by the shrapnel, but SP4 Tilley emerged without a scratch.

When all the wounded had been evacuated from the ammunition dump, the brothers headed for Saigon to help with the casualties which had resulted from the fighting there. After their last pass over the bridge dividing Long Binh from the South Vietnamese capital,

they learned that the NVA had wrestled control of the crossing.

"Man, we made it just in time," sighed SSG Tilley.

Before returning to Camp Enari, Captain James E. Dewey, commander of the 584th Medical Company, presented SSG Tilley with a letter of appreciation.

It read in part:

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for your assistance during the conflict at Long Binh. I'm sure that your commander is proud to have a man of your caliber in his unit."

Action Near Dak To Calmly Compares To Rest Of Vietnam

By SP4 Ralph Springer

DAK TO—Ground action in the 1st Brigade's area of operations around Dak To was relatively light during the Tet lunar new year holiday (January 29 to February 2) compared to the heavy fighting that raged elsewhere in Vietnam in the same period.

"I would have to credit excellent artillery and air support and good patrolling techniques for the relative lack of activity around Dak To during Tet," said Captain Leslie Jones (Denver), the brigade's chemical and assistant operations officer. "We sent out small unit patrols during Tet. Whenever they contacted or engaged the enemy, we would pour artillery down on the positions. I believe we kept a step ahead of the North Vietnamese by using these tactics."

A summary of ground action encountered by 1st Brigade units during the 5-day Tet period follows:

January 29—Army Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) troops engaged an estimated North Vietnamese Army battalion in the town of Tan Canh near Dak To. Two tanks from the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor were dispatched to the small hamlet for reinforcement.

January 30—The 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry's firebase and company patrol bases were hit with mortars and 75mm recoilless rifle fire. The 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry's firebase and company patrol bases were hit with 82mm mortar and 75mm recoilless rifle fire. The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry's firebase and company patrol base received 60mm mortar and 122mm rocket fire. The same day, a mine sweep team from the 299th Engineer Battalion moving west on Route 512 was hit by an estimated two squads of NVA which attacked with B40 rockets and small arms and automatic weapons.

January 31—The 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry's firebase and company patrol base were hit again with sporadic mortar fire. The 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry's firebase received 75mm recoilless rifle fire, and in the heaviest attack launched against a 1st Brigade unit during Tet, the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry's

firebase No. 25 was pounded with 60mm mortar fire. The 299th Engineers, accompanied by a unit from the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor was hit again with B40 rocket fire and 75mm recoilless rifle fire, followed by small arms and automatic weapons fire while sweeping Route 512 west from Dak To. The ARVNs continued to battle dug-in NVA in the town of Tan Canh.

February 1—Company patrol bases and the firebase of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry received 75mm recoilless rifle fire while the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry reported receiving B40 rockets, small arms and automatic weapons fire and 21 82mm mortar rounds at its firebase. The mine sweeping combination of the 299th Engineer Battalion and the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor was hit with small arms and automatic weapons fire for the third day while moving along Route 512.

February 2—A patrol from the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry engaged an estimated NVA platoon north of Dak To and killed seven of the enemy while sustaining only one wounded Ivymen. The 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry's firebase again received 75mm recoilless rifle fire and 82mm mortar rounds. The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry's firebase was hit with 60mm mortars while the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor was attacked with 75mm recoilless rifle fire, B40 rockets, and small arms and automatic weapons while providing mine-sweep security on Route 512.

The 1st Brigade command camp at Dak To received sporadic mortar fire every day during the Tet holiday period with the most severe attack occurring on the day after Tet, February 3, when about 27 rounds of mixed 82mm mortar, 75mm pack howitzer and 122mm rocket fire slammed into Dak To.

Field artillery batteries from the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery and the I Field Force, Vietnam's 52nd Artillery Group fired close to 14,000 rounds from firebases around Dak To during the five-day holiday, in response to the 460 enemy mortar, rocket and recoilless rifle rounds that hit the 1st Brigade field units during the same period.



CAPTIVE AUDIENCE—2LT Tom Salamone (Rawlins, N.C.), a civil affairs officer with the Ivy Division's G-5 staff, hands out cake to eager Vietnamese children during a recent visit to Pleiku. (USA Photo)

Bridge Still Stands

Braves Thwart NVA Sabotage

By SP4 Andrew Pipon

DAK TO (3/12)—Two bridges span the Dak Poko River just west of Dak To. One was built by the French in the early 1950s and has outlived its usefulness except for pedestrian traffic. The other, completed by 4th Engineer Battalion just a few months ago, is a vital link in the supply route to the firebases west of Dak To.

Recently, the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry posted a platoon from Company B and its "Apache" reconnaissance platoon to secure the site. The tenuous span needed protection.

Immediately following the Braves' arrival, the area was fruitlessly assaulted with rocket and mortar fire by North Vietnamese Army troops lurking atop a nearby ridgeline. Then one night the determined enemy soldiers tried a new approach. "Charlie's rockets had failed to do the job. The enemy knew he would have to attempt the destruction from closer quarters," said Second Lieutenant Earnest Jones (Dayton, Ohio),

Company B's 2nd Platoon leader. "Voices were heard about 50 meters from the bridge, so we waited until he came a little closer."

The Ivymen opened up with automatic weapons on the advancing North Vietnamese. The next morning an abandoned roll of detonating cord attested to the enemy's presence. An alert team dug in under the bridge to ward off further efforts to destroy the bridges. That night splashing sounds alerted the team to the enemy's approach along the west bank of the river. When the Ivymen opened up, the NVA regulars heaved hand grenades into the team's position, injuring the entire team.

Staff Sergeant Gilbert Mumford (Rising Sun, Md.) rushed to aid the wounded men while the rest of the company cut loose toward the hostile advance. SSG Mumford succeeded in pulling one wounded man to safety.

"I knew the other two were there but I couldn't see them in the darkness," remarked SSG Mumford. "I had just pulled the one man to the safety of the bunker when off went the loudest explosion I've ever heard.

I thought the two bridges went sky high."

Enemy satchel charges had succeeded in destroying part of one bridge—the old French structure. The newer bridge was back in use minutes after the attack.

"I had to cross the bridge to drive the three injured men to the hospital," said First Lieutenant James R. Russell (Cairo, Ga.), executive officer with the 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery which supports the Braves. "I even put the headlights on high beam so Charlie would get the message."

The following morning the damage to the old French bridge was discovered as only slight. The new bridge continues to support heavy military traffic—and the supplies are still rolling through.

Join Your
4th Division
Association



The dust, omnipresent and annoying, is forgotten as a convoy moves down Highway 14 toward its destination.

Ivymen Fight Hard...

Photos By SP4 James Doyle
And 221st Signal Company

DUST FOLLOWS in the wake of a convoy on its way back to Camp Enari after delivering supplies to the 1st Brigade command camp at Dak To. An artillery forward observer directs supporting fire for the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry. Amid the smell of cordite, other artillerymen step over emptied canisters as they busily go about firing their big, 105mm howitzer. Then, just outside Kontum, a platoon leader stops for a second to ponder the battle he and the men of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry just fought for an erstwhile unknown piece of land called Hill 684.

This is early 1968 in the Central Highlands. The men of the Ivy Division, who long since left the comforts of home behind, are men at war.

The dust becomes mud on sweat-streaked faces. The ears become deaf to the thunder of firing howitzers. The fatigue and aches are forgotten as a unit fights to crest an enemy-held hill.

The unendurable qualities of war—"the blood, toil, tears and sweat"—are endured.

For the soldiers of the Ivy Division—like all American soldiers in war-torn Vietnam—are continuing a tradition, began almost 200 years before. The tradition of fighting so that men might be free.

And that makes it worthwhile.



ILT Al Williams ponders a battle he and his men just fought.

... And With A Worthwhile Cause



The 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery ends one mission, starts another.



A forward observer plots direction of enemy guns.