

Ivy Units And Gunships Battle Enemy-Size Battalion

BAN ME THUOT — An estimated NVA battalion picked a light observation helicopter out of the sky near Ban Me Thuot, but got more than it bargained for when two U.S. Companies struck a swift retaliatory blow.

Almost before the crippled LOH had limped to earth, the aero-rifle platoon of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, and gunships were on the scene. With the gunships pounding the area, the aero-platoon scrambled from their liftships and

charged for the woodline.

NVA Blast Away

The helicopters were barely off the ground when the platoon came under a heavy barrage of enemy fire as the NVA blasted away from their well-fortified bunkers.

In spite of the overwhelming odds, the platoon held its position, compensating for its lack of manpower with a fierce defense.

As the true size of the enemy force became evident more lift ships began bringing in men of Company B, 4th Battalion,

503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. The airborne soldiers, under the operational control of the 4th Infantry Division, had their rifles blazing as they dashed from the choppers.

Airborne Called

"We had been working with the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade for several days," said Captain Bruce Sisco of St. Petersburg, Fla., the company commander. "We were the closest unit and it took us only a few minutes to get to the scene."

By the time the airborne company arrived, the Armored

Personnel Carriers (APC) of the squadron's Troop A were crashing through the underbrush and deadly fighter bombers were pouring their ordnance on the enemy position.

The APCs grumbling toward enemy positions gave the friendly forces the upperhand and they began to move through the enemy camp on foot, between the cavalry armor.

14 Killed

Guns blazing, the formation would halt, only on occasion, to allow a man to toss a hand

grenade into a bunker and retrieve enemy weapons or supplies the NVA left behind. The unit would then move out again, slowly grinding its way through the enemy fortifications.

For the remainder of the day and part of the next, as the soldiers combed the area, they found 14 NVA bodies and a cache of enemy arms and equipment, including 11 individual weapons, 200 pounds of TNT, 101 grenades, 10,000 rounds of AK47 ammunition, and 35 packs.



Vol. 2, No. 47

CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

September 29, 1968



HELPING HAND—Ivy Long Range Patrol (LRP) members make a hasty get-away with the aid of a doorgunner, after contact with enemy forces in the central highlands. (USA Photo by PFC Tom Hurley)

Posthumous Award

Ivyman Receives Medal of Honor

CAMP ENARI — A 4th Division infantryman has been awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for saving the lives of several fellow soldiers in Vietnam.

Private First Class Louis E. Willett received the Nation's highest award for combat heroism for his action in Kontum Province on February 15, 1967.

His father, Mr. Louis E. Willett of Richmond Hill N.Y., accepted the medal for his son. Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor presented the award in a ceremony at the Pentagon.

PFC Willett became the 24th U.S. Army serviceman to receive the Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam. He was serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.

While conducting a security sweep, PFC Willett's squad made contact with a large enemy force.

Despite the deadly enemy fire, PFC Willett rose to his feet firing rapid bursts from his weapon and moved to an offensive position so that his squad could withdraw to the

company perimeter.

As he covered the squad's withdrawal, he drew enemy fire on his position and was wounded several times. Again the squad was pinned down. PFC Willett struggled to an upright position, and disregard-

ing his painful wounds, moved from position to position, engaging the enemy at close range until he was mortally wounded. PFC Willett's acts of bravery insured the withdrawal of his squad to the company position.

Lost And Found Dept.

2nd Brigade Returns Captive Husband To Wife

BAN ME THUOT — The 4th Division's 2nd Brigade has gone into the business of returning lost husbands, complete with their slightly used vehicles.

A few months ago, a citizen of Ban Me Thuot was driving between his city and a neighboring hamlet when he was attacked by a Viet Cong platoon.

The man was taken prisoner and his jeep hidden in the nearby brush.

A short time later, the men of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, under the operational control of the 2nd Brigade, and commanded by Lieutenant Colo-

nel William C. Moore of Alexandria, Va., uncovered the vehicle while on a sweep near the ambush site.

The Ivymen then returned to their firebase and began the long process of tracking down the vehicle's rightful owner.

The serial number of the jeep was forwarded to brigade headquarters.

From there, the information was sent to Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) district headquarters in Ban Me Thuot, and MACV, in turn, relayed the information to the local authorities at Darlac Sector.

The Darlac Sector authorities

disclosed the jeep was registered to a woman living in Ban Me Thuot, and that she had reported her husband missing a few days before.

The next problem facing the Ivymen was transporting the jeep from their base, deep in the jungle, to the woman's home.

A special rigging had to be devised to airlift the civilian jeep. A CH47 "Chinook" helicopter had to be assigned the moving task, and most of all, time had to be found to complete the delivery.

With the battalion's busy tactical schedule, over a month passed before "operation jeep"

could be carried out.

The woman was clearly pleased by the return of her vehicle but her face betrayed the anxiety she felt for her lost husband.

A few weeks later a 2nd Brigade operation north of Ban Me Thuot uncovered an enemy hideout. As the enemy fled, they left behind a prisoner: an exhausted civilian from Ban Me Thuot.

Wounded in the action, the man is now recovering in a local hospital where his wife visits him every day.

The woman has no trouble managing her daily trips. She now has her own jeep.

LRPs Kill Foe; Later BG Irzyk Awards Medals

By SP4 Larry Hogan

BAN ME THUOT — Completely surrounded and greatly outnumbered by the enemy, a Long Range Patrol (LRP) team smashed through an NVA ring and sprinted for a landing zone (LZ), leaving several dead enemy in their wake and earning themselves medals for valor.

The team, headed by Sergeant Reynold Moreland of Maysville, Ky., had set up its night location an hour before and was now beginning to settle down in the cool jungle underbrush. A full moon shone.

A few moments later the silence of the jungle night was broken by the rustle of movement to the team's front.

The sound stopped for a moment and then began again, slowly creeping toward the team. Other sounds were heard to the unit's sides and finally to their rear. The Ivymen were completely surrounded.

"There they are," whispered Private First Class Doyle Strokes of Sikeston, peering through the dense foliage, spotting a figure moving toward the unit.

The NVA took two more steps and a ray of moonlight passed over his body revealing the outline of an AK47. The silhouette then silently disappeared into the shadows.

From time to time more movement was heard and other figures were seen. The enemy force, which now numbered over 30 men, kept moving in only a few feet at a time, but each snail-like movement tightened their ring around the tiny patrol.

Sergeant Moreland had al-

ready radioed his situation back to the 2nd Brigade. There was nothing left to do but wait and pray.

Hugging the ground, the Ivymen remained motionless, barely breathing, and waiting for a chance to make their move.

Slowly the enemy crept closer.

"Our timing had to be perfect," said Sergeant Moreland. "If we waited too long, they would have us trapped."

Privates First Class Stephen Wallace of Port Lavaca, Tex., and James Fowler of South Bend, Ind., gripped their weapons tightly. Every instinct told them to run, but their training told them to wait.

"It seemed so unreal," recalled PFC Fowler, "just lying there, listening to them crawl toward you."

Three hours had passed since the first sounds of movement had been heard. The enemy was now only a few feet away.

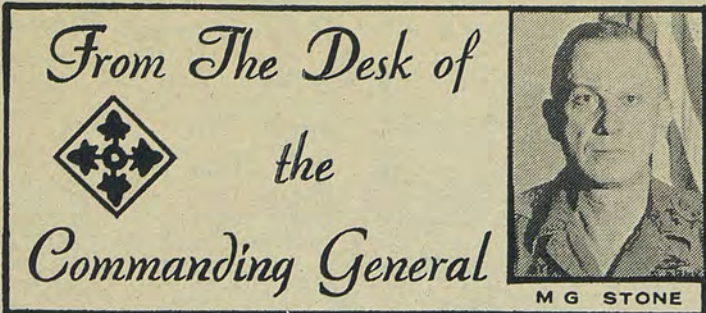
On signal from Sergeant Moreland, the team opened up, their weapons blazing automatic fire.

Three of the closest enemy were so stunned by this sudden outburst they stared at the team in disbelief for a moment before they were cut down by Ivy bullets.

Their rifles still blazing, the team broke through the enemy circle and headed for the landing zone.

Thick vines and overgrowth clawed at the men's legs as they tore through the jungle. Branches reached out to trip them, but the Ivymen smashed

(Continued on Back Page)



Unclassified Waste

MANY OF YOU probably wonder why we have to destroy unclassified waste. I believe it is obvious to everyone that the enemy is attempting to obtain as much information as possible about our units. Likewise we are trying to find out all we can about the enemy.

Unclassified waste can give the enemy important information about us. From unclassified unit rosters the enemy can not only obtain name and rank of assigned personnel, but more important he can determine unit strengths. Carelessly discarded personal mail can give additional information. The enemy can obtain home addresses. He can gain knowledge of a problem at home. In the past he has used this information for activities by groups sympathetic to his cause. These groups have harassed and pressured loved ones back home.

In most of the 4th Division's Area of Operation indigenous personnel have access to our waste. It is very easy for an enemy agent to sift through the trash in the dumps or in abandoned fire bases and retrieve the unclassified waste we haven't destroyed.

Now USARV Regulation 380-5 tells how unclassified waste should be destroyed. Burning, melting by chemical decomposition, shredding into very small pieces, or pulverizing are all acceptable. The important thing is to do it. Do it to every piece of unclassified waste.

Let's not make it easy for the enemy to collect intelligence on us. Remember the trade-off for careless security is usually American lives. It could be your life or your buddy's life.

Charles P. Stone



JEWISH HOLIDAYS—An Ivy chaplain's assistant conducts a Jewish service in DIVARTY Chapel. (USA Photo by 4th Div IO)

Rosh Hashanah Takes Ivy Jews To Nha Trang

CAMP ENARI — Nearly 150 Iyvemen made a pilgrimage to Nha Trang, September 22-23, to celebrate the Jewish holiday, Rosh Hashanah. Chaplain (Captain) Mark Golub conducted the services for all Jewish soldiers in II Corps.

Rabbi Golub, of Brookline, Mass., arranged the special holy day worship to augment an already extensive program designed to provide a meaningful Jewish program for the men serving in the 4th Division.

"With the help of General Stone and the 4th Division Chaplain's office, we are attempting to realize our mission of bringing Jewish boys closer to God and God closer to them," Chaplain Golub explained.

He has able help in the division area in the person of Specialist 4 Abraham Katz, of New York, his assistant liaison. Specialist Katz, in addition to conducting services every Friday night at the DIVARTY Chapel, provides Iyvemen with information concerning Rabbi Golub's visits, literature, and kosher foods.

At the present time he is helping arrange details for the next Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur, October 1.

"As with Rosh Hashanah, our Yom Kippur worship will be in Nha Trang," Specialist Katz said. "We have billeting, food, and transportation arranged through the sub-area command."



HANGFIRE, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO AWARD YOU THIS SPECIALIST FOUR RATING FOR DEVOTION TO DUTY, RESPONSIBLE HANDLING OF ALL YOUR OPERATIONS, AND CONSISTENT ATTENTION TO DETAIL! IT ALSO GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BUST YOU ONE GRADE FOR YOUR SHORT-TIMER'S ATTITUDE ...

Battle Report

Ivy Contacts Net Over 180

CAMP ENARI—Ivy Division and other allied forces killed over 180 enemy troops in a week of light and scattered contacts in the Central Highlands.

An unknown-size NVA force struck a firebase about five miles south of Duc Lap with mortars and ground attacks. The 4th Division and 173rd Airborne Brigade defenders of the firebase repulsed the predawn assault, killing 16 enemy soldiers.

fighters reported light casualties.

Near Plei Mrong, a Camp Strike Force (CSF) struck an estimated two companies of NVA. The CSF soldiers called in 4th Division artillery on the fleeing enemy, and four hours later 20 NVA troops lay dead.

In more light and scattered contacts throughout the Central Highlands, a Montagnard Strike Force ambushed an estimated squad of Viet Cong northwest of Ban Me Thuot. In the short firefight two Viet Cong were killed.

About four kilometers southwest of Ben Het Special Forces camp a recon patrol from 4th Division's 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, found eight NVA bodies.

And a patrol from the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, found another NVA body southwest of the Ivy Division's 1st Brigade base camp at Dak To.

The Cacti Green soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, killed an NVA soldier on Highway 19. And in three separate contacts the combined 4th Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade, and ARVN forces killed 12 enemy soldiers.

Friendly casualties were termed light.

In another contact near Duc Lap, the 1st Battalion, 45th ARVN reported killing 10 NVA soldiers and detaining another.

As the allied soldiers continued to flush out the enemy in the Duc Lap area, the 1st Battalion, 45th ARVN Regiment, again ran into an unknown-size NVA force. The enemy fled after the initial contact, but two hours later the regiment caught up with the NVA.

With the help of U.S. C47 "Spooky" gunships the ARVNs killed 48 of the enemy. The regiment's casualties were light.

Meanwhile, a Regional Force (RF), on a cordon and search mission along Highway 430, 10 kilometers north of Ban Me Thout, reported killing 47 enemy troops in a three-hour fire fight.

The RF soldiers were reinforced by 4th Division's Troop A, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry. There were no U.S. casualties in the fighting, and the RF

Brigade Sponsors Labor Bash

BAN ME THUOT — Charcoal broiled steaks, golden brown baked potatoes, light and tasty baked buns, vanilla ice cream and all the refreshments you could drink, highlighted the 2nd Brigade headquarters Labor Day party.

The 2nd Brigade Mess Steward Specialist 6 George Hull of Rhodes, Mich., and his men worked hard in the hot and steaming kitchen preparing for the party.

"The hard work PFC John Twehus of Jefferson City, Mo., spent on preparing the steaks was well worth it, witnessing the way the men dug into the steaks.

"The Iyvemen had all they could eat for the night.

"We tried to let the men know that someone is thinking of them," said Captain Robert Brooks of Pittsburgh, Pa., Headquarters Company commander.

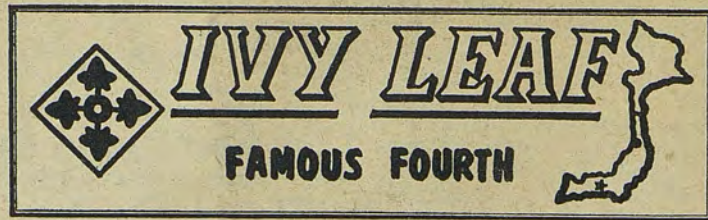
"The men have been working hard ever since we moved down to Ban Me Thuot," said First Sergeant Alexander Heidel of Wartburg, Tenn., who was responsible for the planning of the party. "The men needed a little extra to build up their moral; so we threw a party for them."

Montagnard neighbors donated 20 banana trees and 16 pineapple plants to beautify the 2nd Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company mess area.

"We are planting the banana trees in the area to form a lane and eventually provide some shade," explained Specialist Hull.

"We are also putting in gravel walks to eliminate walking through the mud."

"When completed it should look like shady lane USA," said Specialist Hull.



(Circulation 8,000)

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

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

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KIT CARSON SCOUTS—In realistic, combat surroundings, former NVA soldiers are retrained to work with the 4th Division as scouts. At left, scouts work with

Ivy men on fast survey of make-shift perimeter and, at right, one scout blasts at possible enemy position. (USA Photos by SP4 Ernie Porcelli)

Kit Carson Scouts Act As Jungle Ears And Eyes

By SP4 Jeffrey Tarter

DAK TO—The jungle is an ally, their Viet Cong instructors taught them.

This time they were somewhere between Dak To and Hill 1338 when Nguyen Thieu pointed suddenly. Up the hill, partly hidden by the thick foliage, appeared nearly a platoon of the enemy.

"Beaucoup—beaucoup!" he whispered.

At his side, Nguyen Tong snatched up his rifle, ready for a suicidal dash against an enemy he hated. Thieu pulled him back. Caution was best.

Soon American artillery rounds shook the ground under them. The barrage kept up through that long, grim night, but Thieu and Tong never panicked. In the morning the patrol slipped away down the valley, unharmed by the enemy.

And when the Huey roared into the LZ to extract the patrol, Thieu and Tong were among the Long Range Patrol members (LRP) who scrambled aboard.

"They know generally how the VC and NVA operate," explained Specialist 4 Emory Spraggins of Mesa, Ariz., the LRP team leader who led Thieu and Tong during their contact with the NVA platoon.

"For instance, I can show them an area on a map where we know there's NVA," he said. "They'll show me where the NVA base camp probably is, and where the trails will go. When we get there, they're usually right."

For the LRP teams the skills brought by ex-Viet Cong like Thieu and Tong—known as "Kit Carson" scouts—prove their worth on every patrol they join. The work of a Kit Carson scout is no different from that of any small, lightly armed LRP team patrolling deep enemy-held territory.

Their goal is intelligence about enemy strength and troop movements, but detection by the enemy often means a rapid firefight against whole companies before the LRP team can escape.

It is a job that Kit Carson scouts know to perfection. They have, after all, been trained in guerrilla tactics twice; first by the Viet Cong, again by the LRP teams.

Home base for Thieu and Tong is now

the 1st Brigade LRP compound at Dak To. They have been at Dak To a little over a month—and are the first Kit Carson scouts to work with the 1st Brigade LRP teams.

So far they speak almost no English. Communication is handled with sign language and gestures in the field, and by interpreters back at Dak To.

Though Tong, 21, and Thieu, 16, come from different districts originally, they tell much the same story of life under the VC and NVA.

Both were drafted. One day, Tong recalls, the VC came to the seaside village in Song Cao district where he lived, gathered the people and told them "The North Vietnamese are popular forces on liberation from the American Empire."

Tong was invited to join the VC, but politics confused him and he refused.

The next day the recruiters returned with a choice; join or have your throat cut!

He became part of a Viet Cong guard detachment for Song Cao district. In the next year and a half he became a sergeant, but he says, no amount of Viet Cong propaganda could persuade him to ignore the misery he had to suffer.

Finally, when he was given command of a reconnaissance platoon that was gathering information about American and ARVN forces in Doc Can district he slipped off and surrendered to an Army Unit.

When Thieu was drafted by the Viet Cong, he was a 14-year-old boy in Tuy Hoa district. He was sent to work for the 14th NVA Battalion, and spent two years following the battalion as a cook.

The Americans, he was told again and again, came to Vietnam for one purpose; to kill Vietnamese.

But life was hard, and the NVA propaganda officer did not quite convince him.

Finally, when he was on a mission carrying rice supplies for his battalion, Thieu also escaped.

As Hoi Chanhs, the two ex-VC were offered several jobs with the 4th Division's civil affairs branch. They chose to join Ivy training at Camp Enari—they proudly display training certificates—then came to Dak To.

Since then, they have risked their lives to defend the men and cause they once opposed.

Start Friendship

Docs Stop Fever

By PFC Tom Hurley

OASIS—A crowd of Montagnards and Vietnamese stood outside the ancient house. Inside a young girl lay sick on bed, her body racked with convulsions and high fever.

Approaching the house on the muddy trail leading to Plei Gao Del, the most populous village in the area, the 3rd Brigade civil affairs workers, Staff Sergeant Mario Ramos-Leon of Maunabo, P.R., and Private First Class Thomas Valenti of Milwaukee, Wisc., realized by the size of the crowd that something was wrong.

Private First Class Valenti parked the jeep as Sergeant Ramos and Staff Sergeant Phu, a Vietnamese interpreter, ran to the house to see if they could help.

A Vietnamese boy told Sergeant Ramos in broken English of the sick girl inside and gestured wildly with his hands, indicating she was suffocating.

"The room was crowded with people and all the windows were closed, despite the fact it was hot outside," said Sergeant Ramos. "Incense burned all around me. The girl lay on a bombo bed in the far corner of the room. She was obviously having trouble getting air."

Sergeant Phu ran outside and told PFC Valenti to move the vehicle in front of the house. Moments later Sergeant Ramos emerged from the stifling room, the young girl cradled in his arms.

He carefully placed the youngster in the back seat and drove in the direction of the Oasis, home of the 3rd Brigade.

Private First Class Valenti radioed ahead to the 4th Medical Battalion and told them to prepare for their arrival.

In the meantime, he applied chest pressure to the girl to clear her lungs. The treatment slowly brought her around.

Minutes later the team arrived at the medics headquarters. Two attendants came out and took the barely-conscious child inside.

After spending the night there, where she was treated and her convulsions stopped, the girl was returned to Plei Gao Del.

The payment the civil affairs and medical workers received for their efforts was a smile from a grateful child, but they knew that smile was worth more than any reward they might have received.



USA Photo by SP4 Lew Grass
WOMEN HEAR DOCTOR'S REPORT.

Heavy Rains Rush Bridge-Building

By SP4 Jeffrey Tarter

SWOLLEN BY a week of rain, the river scattered wreckage along its grassy banks and flipped massive I-beams off concrete bridge piers.

Steel anchor cables snapped on the pontoon bridge that carried Highway 14—lifeline of the 1st Brigade at Dak To—across the Dak Psi River at Dien Binh.

Cut off from the stream of supplies which reach Dak To by convoy, the 1st Brigade watched anxiously as its reserves of fuel, food and ammunition dwindled.

But only hours after the pontoon bridge ripped loose, Army engineers converged on the flood-choked river to repair the damage.

The old pontoon bridge was a lost cause, never intended for a permanent crossing point. Just downstream a row of solid concrete piers marked the site of a half-built bridge that would eventually replace the pontoon bridge.

The flood had smashed trees and debris into the piers and swept away the I-beams laid across them. But the piers withstood the worst the Dak Psi could throw at them.

The engineers' first task was to get a cable across the river. A small crew pushed off from the north bank in a rubber raft, trailing a rope behind. But the current was too strong.

The raft drifted into the tangle of debris by one of the piers. Scrambling through tree branches, the men got close enough to the south bank to fling the rope's end to a man waiting there.

The rest was hard, dirty work, around the clock.

The 15th Light Equipment Company from Dak To laid new road approaches of crushed rock.

The 509th Bridge Company brought truckloads of panel bridge parts up the treacherous road from Kontum. Slithering through deep orange mud, they showed work crews from the 299th Engineer and 4th Engineer Battalions how to bolt together transoms and braces, pins and clamps.

Slowly, section after section of the all metal bridge took shape on the south bank. The work never let up. The 399th's Alpha Company worked all day, then rested while Delta Company worked through the night.

The next day Alpha Company was back in the mud or perched precariously over the icy yellow torrent.

As each section of the new bridge was assembled, a bulldozer on the north bank revved up its diesel engine and pulled the steel cable taut across the river.

Squealing over the rollers, the new section crept farther over the river, inch by inch.

Downstream, Vietnamese ferrymen paddled black wicker punts across the Dak Psi laden with passengers and market goods.

Helicopters from the 57th Helicopter Company hopped back and forth between the two sides of the river with high-priority supplies.

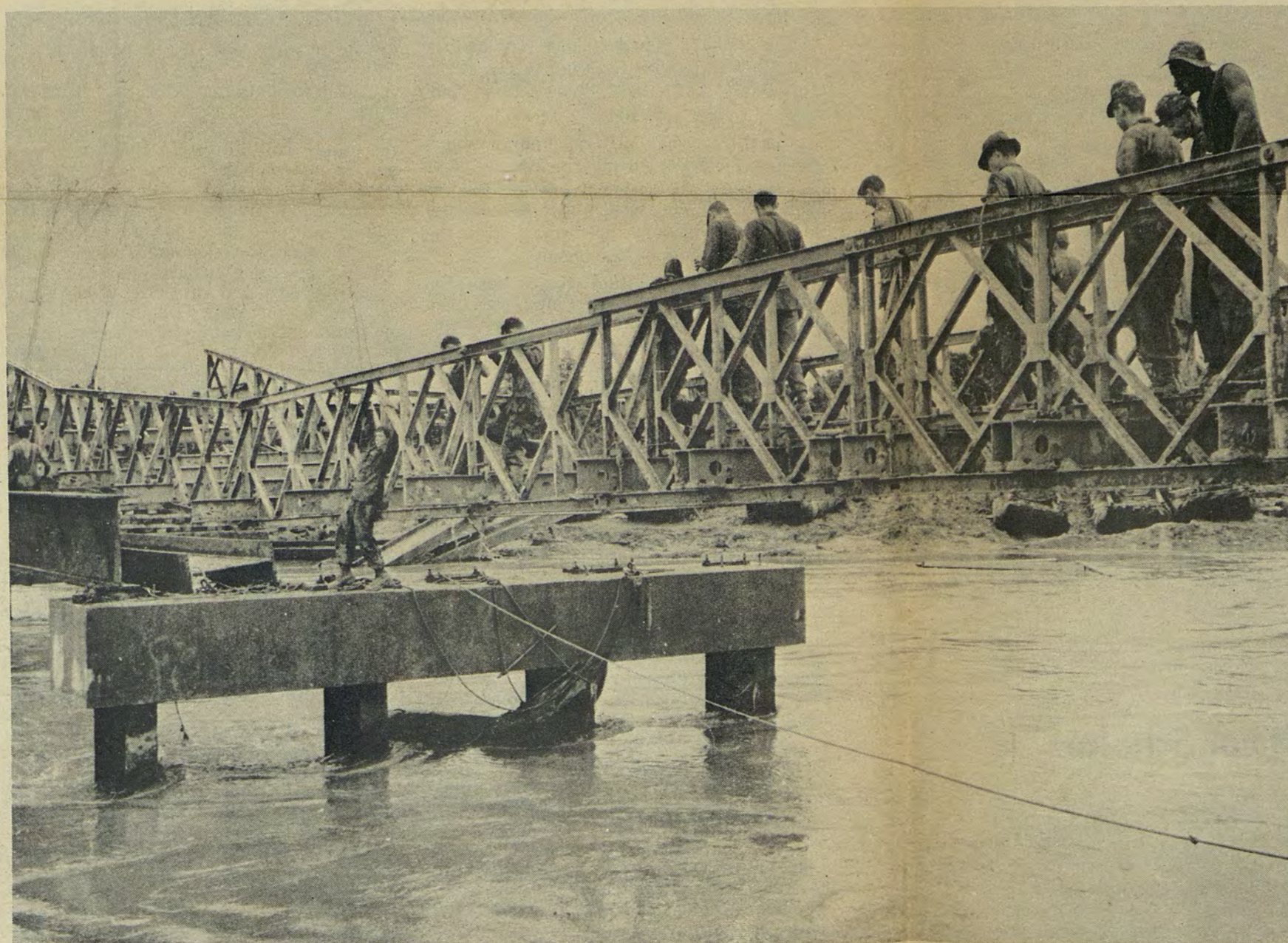
In Dien Binh the mud was boot-deep.

Over 70 trucks waited on the south bank, a dozen more in Dien Binh on the north bank.

It went on this way for three days and three nights.

By early afternoon on the fourth day the new bridge stretched across the frothy river and the last bolts were tightened to anchor it to the concrete facings.

And the convoy began to roll through the rain, past knots of tired men, on to Dak To.



Picture Notes

Plagued by a week of monsoons and rain, a temporary—but important—bridge connecting Highway 14 across the Dak Psi River to Dak To was destroyed. The reminders of what had been, top left, stood as incentive to the men of 1st Brigade. At center left, engineers carry I-beams for the new bridge. Men keep their raft afloat, above, cleaning the collected debris from the churning currents. To tighten the initial strand of cable for the bridge, SSG Leroy Wise of Spring Lake, N.C., left, works precariously over the water. And finally, bottom left, Ivy men place the steel girders in place, one of the last steps in their hectic three-day program.

Photos By
SP4 Ron Johnston

Extra Medic Along

A Captain Receives Bars, Then Foils NVA Ambush

By SP4 Steve Wilson

OASIS—It was a strange initiation for the young, tall captain from Texas. Little did he know that on the very day his captain bars were pinned on him, enemy soldiers would spring an ambush.

Such was the fate of Captain Charles Lauderdale of Midland, Tex., commander of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry.

It was strange, too, that the enemy would strike when the Panthers were equipped with one more medic than they usually had. He wasn't assigned to Company A. He was there because he wanted to be.

Specialist 5 Larry Dobbs of Cordell, Okla., had only a few days remaining in Vietnam, and was taking orders for the battalion yearbook that fateful afternoon—a beautiful, sunny afternoon.

Captain Lauderdale's company of armored personnel carriers was traveling in a column formation down a pot-holed trail northwest of Pleiku. From just within the woodline came a loud, ear-piercing boom.

Seconds passed. Another explosion followed.

Instantly, the drivers swung their tracks in the direction of

the woodline, and simultaneously let loose with a fusillade of brush-leveling fire. Fifty caliber machine guns smoked; M60s blazed; M16s rattled ferociously, ripping away the jungle thickets.

Automatic weapons fire was returned, then fast snuffed out by the onslaught of lead from the Panthers. As more sporadic bursts thundered from the jungle, Specialist Dobbs ran pell mell to the command track.

From there, he scurried to a lead track, treated a scathed infantryman, and sought one who seemed to be missing.

Shortly he was found, almost covered with mud in the water-logged trail. Specialist Dobbs, with rifle clinched, made sure he was all right and helped clean him up.

All the while, Captain Lauderdale, in a cool and calm manner, ran up and down the line of steel vehicles, shouting orders, directing his men into safe positions and planning fast strategy.

Then Specialist Dobbs, with a fellow Ivyman at his side carrying an M60 machine gun, dashed to another track and treated the injured.

The firing ceased.

Then a North Vietnamese infantryman fired a B40 rocket. Again, a deadly volley was returned.

An NVA soldier was spied running through the brush. An Ivyman cut loose with a burst from his M16. The enemy soldier doubled up, tumbling headlong onto the ground.

Dusk was now approaching. Captain Lauderdale directed his men to a safe clearing as artillery fire was called in. Through the night, jets bombarded the contact site while 4th Division artillery saturated enemy positions.

The following day, Staff Sergeant Clifford Feltner of Columbus, Ga., led the Scout Platoon on a sweep of the area.

In that search, 40 rounds of 105mm rounds were found, along with 30 fuses, tripod mounts for .30 and .60 caliber machine guns, and even an M-1 quadrant sighting device.

Also garnered were fifty 60-mm Chicom mortar rounds, four NVA pith helmets, a mount for a mortar tube, pick and shovel, an NVA shirt and four hammocks. "All torn to shreds from the artillery fire," observed Sergeant Feltner.

Further found were 10 old fox holes, said Sergeant Feltner, and a dozen new ones, each about six feet deep.

Although Captain Lauderdale's silver bars were but a few hours old, his skillful maneuvering was that of a seasoned combat soldier.



THE KID WINS AGAIN — Drawing faster than a man — Specialist 4 Greg Sikorski of Gloucester, Ohio—can clap his hands, Specialist 4 Charles "Kid Wesley" Flowers of Bisbee, Ariz., keeps his reputation. (USA Photo by SP4 Ron Johnston)

Fast Draw Returns

By 1LT Gary Martin

CAMP ENARI—One of the fastest guns in the West has come east.

A 4th Infantry Division soldier, Specialist 4 Charles Flowers of Bisbee, Ariz., can draw, cock, aim and fire his custom .45 revolver in .19 of a second—accurately.

An infantryman with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, in Vietnam's Central Highlands, Specialist Flowers totes a Colt .45 as well as a rifle, entertaining combat troops with his dazzling speed and trick shooting.

It has been a long road to the top for the young entertainer who now owns his own ranch and horses in Arizona.

"I owe a lot of credit to Stan Sweet, the famous quick draw artist," the cowboy relates. "When I first became interested in the fast draw, my friends thought I'd never make it, but Stan worked with me, giving me a lot of professional tips."

Known as Kid Wesley among gunslingers, he and a friend, Roy Wyatt, organized the "Gun Hawks," a club formed to perpetuate the fast draw as well as other skills from the Old West. Of the 11 members in the club, three are now serving with the Army.

The "Gun Hawks" have toured throughout the Southwest, appearing in fast draw competition and western stage shows.

Fast draw competition requires both speed and accuracy. The clock starts when a signal light tells the shooter to "draw," and stops when the target is hit.

In official competition, an electronic timing device has clocked the Kid's draw at .19 of a second—.01 of a second short of the world record.

As Kid Wesley's skill and reputation grew, he appeared on television's Wide World of Sports, Huntley-Brinkley News and was given a television contract with a Phoenix, Ariz.,

station.

Reaching for even greater stakes, the young cowboy appeared in a western movie with John Wayne — Paramount's "McClintock."

In Tombstone, Ariz., the town too tough to die, Kid Wesley has many times thrilled tourists in a reenactment of the "Gunfight at O.K. Corral." Playing the part of the outlaw, Billy Clanton, he draws against the Earp brothers and Doc Holladay in the famous and bloody 55 second duel.

Entering the Army in July of 1967, the mild-mannered specialist's career seemed certain to falter. However, at Fort Bliss and later Fort Polk, Specialist Flowers found an entirely new audience and was soon making the USO rounds.

Performing with the 4th Division, Specialist Flowers was again approached by the USO and will soon be touring Vietnam, carrying a ready smile and a genuine, "Howdy," along with an act as old as Billy the Kid and Wyatt Earp.

A variety of draws add interest to amazement as the cowboy makes believers of skeptics. "Thumbing," explains Specialist Flowers, "is the conventional one-handed draw you see on television."

By far the most accurate form is the "punch draw" or "sand-baggin," in which the revolver is cocked with the opposite hand and fired from in front of the shooter's body.

Not satisfied with a near world record, Specialist Flowers will "go west" at the completion of his Army service and eventually hopes for an acting career.

With all the emphasis on Eastern affairs is Specialist Charles Flowers worried about a waning interest in the old West?

He flashes a modest smile, showing white teeth below a dark, trim moustache, "I'm sure the West is here to stay."

Armor Bn. Changes Command

BONG SON—Lieutenant Colonel Stan R. Sheridan Jr. of Alexandria, Va., recently assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor at the battalion basecamp, LZ Uplift, 20 miles north of Qui Nhon.

He replaces Lieutenant Colonel Theodore S. Riggs who commanded the battalion since February, 1968. LTC Riggs rotates back to the United States where he will assume duties in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Pentagon.

The armor battalion, whose parent unit is the 4th Infantry Division, is currently under the operational control of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and conducting road security and sweep and clear missions along Highway 1, north of Qui Nhon along the north central coast of Vietnam.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and a holder of a Masters Degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Southern California, LTC Sheridan has also graduated from the Armor Basic and Advanced course and the Command and General Staff College.

His wife, Ruth, and their two sons are presently residing on Candlewood Drive, Alexandria.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Richards of New Orleans, he was the Assistant for Combat Materiel to the Secretary of the Army, prior to coming to Vietnam in August.



NO FOAM—A Montagnard tribesman demonstrates his shaving technique to 4th Division soldier Specialist 4 Teriel Hayes of West Covina, Calif. The method? He yanks the whiskers out with slits in the bamboo he's holding. Specialist Hayes was on a visit to the village of Ply Die Re as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry's MEDCAP team.

(USA Photo by SP4 Ron Johnston)

Contributions For Scholars

DAK TO—The pay officer of Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, doesn't have to ask twice for contributions to the Ivy Division's Scholarship Fund.

For three consecutive pay days Delta Company, commanded by Captain Ronald Foss of Athens, Ga., has led the divi-

sion in contributions, with now over \$2,600.

The battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Jamie Hendrix of Meter, Ga., stands alone at the top in contributions to the fund.

The 4th Division Scholarship Fund will provide college scholarships for children of Ivy soldiers killed in action.

Plei Chi Teh Receives Dispensary

OASIS—The sprawling, consolidated Montagnard village of Plei Chi Teh just east of Camp Enari now has a permanent dispensary for its 1,900 villagers.

Staff Sergeant James Black of Cedar, Okla., of the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry's civil affairs team, explained that three months had been devoted to the new building.

Plei Chi Teh consists of eight separate Montagnard hamlets that were consolidated upon the establishment of the 4th Division base camp.

It is a village of many firsts: Completely fortified with bunkers, barbed wire and punji pits, projects are no sooner completed than others are begun.

"Working in conjunction with us, are fellow team members of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry," said Sergeant Black.

"Our projects are very time consuming, but we are slowly enhancing the villagers' living conditions, the education of their children, and the supplements to their diet."

One such undertaking was finding enough water for the large consolidation. The Montagnards themselves hand-dug ten wells to a depth of almost 100 feet.

"We are now in the process of putting in one windmill," explained Sergeant Black. "It is being donated by the Australian government, and their engineers will install it in the near future."

Another project currently underway is the stocking of fish ponds. The tribespeople dug six such ponds near their village, and the Vietnamese government pays for the purchase of the fish, all examined and bought by the civil affairs team.

"The fish are a delicacy to the Montagnards," explained Sergeant Black. "Our only real problem is keeping them out of the ponds for at least two months."

"After that time the ponds are ready for harvesting, and the villagers fast let us know it," Sergeant Black smiled.

Kill 2

Warriors Take Bunkers

BAN ME THUOT — The men of Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, recently interrupted the enemy's lunch period while on operations near Ban Me Thuot.

"About 200 meters from our landing zone we ran into a fresh company-size bunker complex," said Captain Lyle Gessford of Gooding, Idaho. "It looked as though the occupants had just left and had done so very rapidly."

When they had gone 200 meters, they came to another company-sized bunker complex.

"This one was fresher than the first," said Captain Gessford. "The fires were still burning, with pots of rice and fish heads still cooking."

The Red Warriors moved through the second bunker complex in pursuit of the enemy who could not be far ahead.

As the company cautiously moved forward, the point man spotted a third bunker complex near the top of the ridge. Suddenly the left flank came

Mamasan Listens, Then Understands

By SGT James Dillard

CAMP ENARI — I was sitting alone in the barracks reading when Mamasan came walking in.

Usually we joke back and forth whenever we meet, but this time I was engrossed in a story and only glanced up at her as she passed me by.

Realizing that I was not my jovial self that day, she crept up behind me and tried to discover just what was so interesting about the newspaper.

Since she could not read English, curiosity got the best of her, "Who dot?" she finally asked, pointing to a figure peering into a bunker.

"Him American soldier," I replied, somewhat annoyed at being disturbed.

"What he do?" I turned and looked up at her and was no longer annoyed. Her face was filled with curiosity.

I explained, "He look for VC." And then I pointed to another picture. "Him catch VC."

"Ah," she said, pleased. "VC number ten."

She then turned the page for me and studied other photographs. One, illustrating a Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) soldier in progress caught her attention in particular.

"What soldier do?" she asked

harshly, pointing at the medic ready to give an injection to a crying baby.

I explained that the medic was giving medicine to the baby to make it well again. The needle hurt a little but that was better than letting the baby stay sick and maybe die.

"American soldier do that?" she asked me. Mamasan was from the city of Pleiku and had never seen a MEDCAP in action.

"Sure," I said. "You don't know that?"

"No." She looked at another picture and wanted to know about that. It was the picture of a child clinging to the leg of a soldier. It had been taken in an orphanage.

"Him Vietnamese. Have no mother, father." "Why?" "VC kill with rockets. What happen?"

"People America and soldier take care. Give food and clothes, place to live. Pretty soon baby go school, learn things."

"Yeah?" she said, smiling at me.

"Sure."

She studied the pictures again silently with me, then put her hand gently on my shoulder. Then walked away.



Makes Village Modern

Civic Affairs Builds A 'Time Machine'

BAN ME THUOT — Members of the 2nd Brigade's Civil Affairs (CA) Teams have scored two more victories in the "other war" of Vietnam.

Under the leadership of Major Lance L. Wildermood of Mission, Kan., the CA teams have exhibited hard work and unlimited patience in helping develop, from the ground up, the villages of Plei Chi Teh and Plei Kong Brech in the Central Highlands.

Plei Chi Teh boasts 1,800 inhabitants of the Jarai and Bahnar Montagnard tribes and is located only a few miles from Pleiku on a rise overlooking a vast green plain.

"The village was consolidated at the request of several chiefs," explained First Lieutenant Thomas M. Keenan of Collegeville, Pa., the assistant civil affairs officer for the brigade. "The Viet Cong were giving them problems; so for security, we formed the village."

Five members of a CA team, headed by Staff Sergeant James Black of Cedar, Okla., are the only Americans living in Plei Chi Teh, as the Montagnards provide the complete security for the village.

"These men who make up the security force are all volunteers who have undergone a special, 12-week training program given by the Vietnamese government," Sergeant Black explained. "They want to do things for themselves and they aren't afraid to work."

Sergeant Black is especially pleased with the new school and nearly completed dispensary.

"Anything they want they build themselves," he said. "Our job is to show them how to use the materials which we provide."

Pointing to the perimeter of the village, Sergeant Black said, "Two weeks ago we had a mountain of wire to spread around the village. When the people saw it arrive, they had the wire off the truck almost before it stopped rolling. It took them only two weeks to lay about a mile and a half of wire."

Two other projects, a series of cement causeways to deliver fresh water and a fish pond, have recently been completed. The Vietnamese government stocked the pond.

"The fish will supplement their diet," explained Major Wildermood, "and the causeways will provide an adequate supply of clean water."

Plei Kong Brech, the second village under the 2nd Brigade civil affairs, is set up in a similar fashion.

"We tried something new in Plei Kong Brech," said Major Wildermood, "Up to this time the Montagnards kept their livestock under their hut. We called the village chiefs together and convinced them to keep the animals outside the village in pens we helped them build. It should certainly keep the area around the huts much cleaner."

Off in the distance, the voices of children singing could be heard.

"That's their new school," Sergeant Jerry Manning of Des Moines, Iowa, pointed out. "The girls are in school now and the boys attend in the morning. We haven't acquainted them with the idea of going together yet but that will come in time."

Inside the modern cement building, a small child was at the slate board pronouncing Vietnamese words under the watchful eye of the Montagnard teacher.

"We teach every word in Bahnar and dialects in the Vietnamese language," Lieutenant Keenan explained. "The parents realize the importance of education and they force the children to attend. At this stage of the game, however, we have a hard time getting the kids to leave when school is out."

Sergeant Manning pointed to a small boy, dressed in a well-worn sportcoat and a pair of red shorts.

"His name is Doe and he can understand every word of English you say," he said. "A little while back I had a hard time getting him to school but that's all changed. Now, he wants to learn."

"I enjoy working with people, especially kids," added Sergeant Black. "When we leave here, much that we have done will remain longer than the memories of war."

As dusk fell on Plei Kong Brech, the Popular Forces assembled to lower the Vietnam-

ese flag in front of the school. Their faces mirrored the pride they felt for their village.

The flag was brought down and Major Wildermood exchanged salutes with the leader and shook his hand. Turning aside, he said, "With the help and encouragement of our CA teams these people are making real progress toward a better and safer life."

For the Montagnards of Plei Chi Teh and Plei Kong Brech, life becomes a little better each day. The clock of progress, once stopped, now is kept wound by the civil affairs teams of the 2nd Brigade.

Hometowners

CAMP ENARI — Ivy hometown clerks have been working overtime during the first two weeks of this month as 1,144 home town news releases have been processed through the Division's Information Office.

Two units have already hit the century mark thus far. The leader, 4th Engineer Battalion has submitted 107 releases while 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, is just three releases shy of the top spot with 104.

Closest units to the leaders are 8th Infantry units, First and 2nd Battalions. Both have submitted 81 releases.

Sergeant First Class Chauncy Tate, NCOIC of the Home Town News Release Program, stated, "We will definitely reach the 3,000 mark this month if this keeps up."

Last quarter the division led Army units worldwide with 5,924 releases processed through the Army Home Town News Center in Kansas City.

Viet Requirements

States Give Money

CAMP ENARI — Five states are currently offering bonuses to Vietnam veterans. The states are Massachusetts, Illinois, Louisiana, Connecticut and Delaware.

To be eligible for a bonus military personnel and veterans must meet both the service and residence requirements established by the appropriate state.

State requirements are:

Massachusetts—(Vietnam bonus)—At least six months' service since July 1, 1958, and at least six months' domicile immediately before entry into military service. These who have seen active service in Vietnam will receive \$300; service elsewhere allows payment of \$200. For full particulars and application blank write: Vietnam Bonus Division, Room 227, State House, Boston, Mass. 02133, or local city or town hall veterans' agent.

Connecticut—(Vietnam bonus)—At least 90 days active service in the armed forces between Jan. 1, 1964 and such date as determined by U.S. Government as the date of termination of the Vietnam Era. Residence requirements call for domicile in the state for at least one year immediately prior to entry on active duty. Compensation amounts to \$10 for each month of active service between the dates specified above up to a maximum of \$300. For full particulars and application blank apply to State of Connecticut, Office of the Treasurer, Vietnam Bonus Division, 15 Lewis St., Hartford, Conn. 06115.

Delaware—(Vietnam bonus)—Service requirements: At least 90 days of service in the armed forces after Aug. 5, 1964. A claimant must have resided in Delaware at time of entry into service if native born; otherwise, must have resided in the state at least 12 months immediately before entry. Compensation: Each month of countable domestic service will earn \$15 up to maximum of \$225. Each month of foreign service will earn \$20 up to maximum of \$300. For full particulars and application blank write Department of Veterans Affairs, State of Delaware, Dover, Del. 19901.

Illinois — (Vietnam bonus) —Persons must have served on active duty in the armed forces on or after Jan. 1, 1961, and prior to such time as the U.S. Congress declares such a person ineligible for the Vietnam Service Medal. He is entitled to bonus if still on active duty,

honorably separated, released from active duty to the reserves, or has retired. Residence requirements call for domicile in Illinois for at least 12 months immediately preceding entry into active duty. Applications must be received before July 1, 1970. For full particulars write: Illinois Veterans Commission, 221 West Jefferson St., Springfield, Ill. 62704.

Louisiana—(Vietnam bonus)—Service requirements call for active military service in Vietnam Combat Area between July 1, 1958 and the official end of hostilities as established by the U.S. Government. Applicant must have been a resident of Louisiana at time of entry into military service. Service must have been honorable. Compensation is \$250 regardless of length of service. For full particulars write: Louisiana Department of Veterans' Affairs, Vietnam Bonus Div., 150 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, La. 70801.

Infected Mosquitoes

Females Bug Ivymen

The malaria parasite is carried by the Anopheles female mosquitoes and the jungles of Vietnam are over populated with this malaria-carrying pest.

The great concern for the prevention of malaria came after 9,297 cases were reported among American service personnel in 1967. Seven of these cases were fatal.

The disease attacks the red blood cells of the body, causing chills, fever, headache, nausea, weakness, and sometimes death.

Servicemen stricken with malaria are a loss to their unit, and most important, from a personal point of view, they endure what will probably be the most miserable time of their lives.

There are two strains of malaria present in Vietnam: vivax malaria and falciparum malaria. The latter strain, the far more dangerous of the two, is found mostly in the Central Highlands—the 4th Division's area of operation.

Upon arriving in Vietnam every serviceman is introduced to the malaria pills. Every person in Vietnam is required to take a weekly chloroquine-primaquine tablet for the prevention of vivax malaria. In addition, Ivymen are also required to take a dapsone tablet each day for the prevention of falciparum malaria.

2nd Brigade Contest

BAN ME THUOT—Camera bugs of the 2nd Brigade will have an opportunity to display their talents and compete for top prize in the fourthcoming 2nd Brigade photograph contest.

The contest is open to all officers and men either assigned or attached to the brigade.

Photos must be submitted to the 2nd Brigade Public Information Office on or before November 30, and the winner will be announced as "Top Photo Bug."

Only two photos per person may be submitted and negatives should accompany all pictures. The entries must be in black and white.

Photos may be of any size, and subject matter can range from men in combat to children at play.

Throughout the contest, outstanding entries may be presented in the Ivy Leaf.



HELPING OUT—PFC Thomas Valenti of Milwaukee, Wis., a medic with the 3rd Brigade civil affairs team hands out gifts.

Objector Is Always Very Conscientious

Photo and Story by SP4 John Trimble

OASIS—The people of Plei Jong Le, a village near the Oasis, anxiously watch down the dirt road entering their village.

A short time passes.

The 3rd Brigade civil affairs truck comes into view. The people are waiting for their daily MEDCAP.

The slow moving truck bounces into the hamlet and stops. Private First Class Thomas M. Valenti of Milwaukee, Wis., a medic with the team, gets out and offers warm greetings to the people who are bowing and smiling.

The children rush up to him laughing. He plays with them a few moments, then starts treating the villagers' minor ailments.

A conscientious objector, PFC Valenti is a Seventh Day Adventist.

"I had no objection to serving in the Army," he commented, "as long as I didn't have to carry a weapon."

Trained as a medic at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., PFC Valenti said, "They have a special basic there for objectors. We went through the regular basic except we had no training with guns. In place of rifle training we had extra PT and first aid instruction."

After basic, the Ivymen was assigned to the medics school at Ft. Sam Houston. His medical training lasted 10 weeks, after which he was sent to Vietnam.

In addition to MEDCAPs, the issuing of sundries and the building of recreational facilities for the Montagnards and Vietnamese, PFC Valenti is now starting to teach the people English.

"Before coming in the Army I was going to school to be a teacher. I enjoy teaching, and these kids are very responsive," continued the medic.

Working in the villages of Plei Jong Le and Plei Gao, the 4th Division team has instituted a movie program for the villagers. The team shows movies about sanitation and cartoons.

"They get a big kick out of the cartoons," the Ivymen continued.

"I'm getting experience over here in teaching and working with children I probably couldn't get anywhere else. I enjoy my work," PFC Valenti concluded.

BG Irzyk Gives Awards to LRPs...

(Continued From Page 1) through the foliage like miniature tanks.

Reaching the LZ, the men found their ordeal was far from over. The enemy had pursued them through the jungle and was now closing in on the LZ.

Opening up on the enemy again, the Ivymen fought back like demons, tossing grenades, firing M79 grenade launchers, and firing hand held flares into the face of the enemy.

At one point Sergeant Moreland was pounding away at a small group of attackers when he suddenly heard another enemy soldier break through the woodline to his rear.

Before the Sergeant could move, PFC Fowler thrust his weapon over his team leader's shoulder, the muzzle only inches away from his head, and

let go with a burst, dropping the attacker.

Though outnumbered, the LRP team had gained fire superiority from the beginning of the fight and maintained it.

By this time a flare ship had arrived and was busy lighting the area. Then gunships began their runs over the enemy positions.

Sergeant Moreland guided the gunships in on the enemy locations while the team kept up a constant wall of lead. At times the Sergeant held the radio hand set in one hand, guiding the choppers, and used the other hand to fire his rifle.

As one flight of gunships expended the last of its ammunition, a new flight came screaming in.

With its ammo supply running low, the team threw

smoke grenades at the enemy and fired pin flares.

"We threw everything we had at them," PFC Stokes recalled.

Finally the fighting subsided long enough for a lift-ship to land.

Two days later, Brigadier General Albin L Irzyk of Washington, D.C. assistant division commander, awarded PFCs Wallace, Stokes and Fowler the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and Sergeant Moreland the Bronze Star with "V" device.

He offered the team members and the entire LRP platoon his personal congratulations.

He said: "Based upon what you do, battles can be won and lives can be saved. I am proud to be here with you this afternoon."

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