

Red Warriors Assault Hill, Kill 88



THE STEADFAST AND LOYAL

FAMOUS FIGHTING FOURTH

Vol. 1, No. 7

June 29, 1969

Sappers Repelled At LZ St. George

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS—The moonless, overcast night and the dark outline of the trees facing the perimeter served as an excellent cover for the enemy sappers.

Dressed in black pajamas, the intruders used the darkness as they moved toward their target: Landing Zone (LZ) St. George, battalion firebase of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry.

As they came within about 150 members of the firebase's southern perimeter, the sappers began moving into their individual assignments. Still undetected by the bunker line, the sappers prepared for the final assault on the Famous Fighting Fourth Division unit.

Suddenly one of the sappers made a little noise and the bunker line was alerted.

Adding to the enemy's problems was the presence of a starlight scope, which quickly deprived them of their cover.

The starlight scope, manned by Sergeant Roger Koenig of Postville, Iowa, enabled him to spot the enemy, and the bunker guards opened up with M16 and M79 fire.

With Sergeant Koenig directing fire, the sappers were forced to make a hasty retreat.

"At first glance I was able to see one sapper crawling in the grass," explained Sergeant Koenig, a member of Alpha Company. "Then five appeared out in the open."

First Lieutenant Wilbur Scott of St. Cloud, Minn., platoon leader of Alpha Company's 3rd Platoon, credited the use of the starlight scope as the determining factor in stopping the sappers.

"The starlight scope and the illumination enable us to catch them in the open. They were never able to get any closer to the perimeter," said Lieutenant Scott.

"At first they looked determined to charge us," explained Sergeant Koenig. "But after the scope picked them up and the firing began they seemed to be trying to gather their dead and move out."

The sappers had paid a heavy price for their encounter with the starlight scope. Eight men in their

ranks had been killed, and their plans to attack the firebase had been ruined before they were ever put into effect.

Shop Is Easy To Locate

OASIS—"If an officer tells a man to get a haircut, he can no longer claim that he can't find the barbershop," smiled Private First Class Robert Palmer Jr., barber for the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry.

PFC Palmer is referring to the newly painted red and white building which makes the barbershop so easy to find.

PFC Palmer decided to take part in the area beautification program. So he went to work and painted alternate boards red or white. The colorful facade indicates the building's function as well as any barber pole could.

Charlie In A Hole

CAMP RADCLIFF—A frightened North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldier scurried back into the hole from which he had half-way withdrawn himself.

There were a lot of American soldiers searching the area five kilometers east of An Khe after the abortive late afternoon attack on the convoy on Highway 19, minutes before. And those men in the helicopters . . . had they seen him?

Warrant Officer James A. Tebeau of Toledo, Ohio, had spotted the enemy and he abruptly swung his Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) around and made a second pass over the concealed position. Then he excitedly called the other Delta Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry LOH and two Cobras that were part of the formation. "Warrant Officer Tebeau rolled into the area and dropped red smoke on the enemy location as a marker for our gunships," recalled Warrant Officer Robert Collins of Cleveland, who was piloting the other LOH.

Bullets screamed toward Warrant Officer Tebeau's LOH as he made the difficult and dangerous smoke drop. As the red smoke rolled through the enemy area, 1st Lieutenant John Quam of Austin, Minn., accompanied by 1st Lieutenant John Thrash of Huston, Tex., in his highly maneuverable Cobra gunship streaked toward the awaiting target. Mini-gun fire and rockets poured into the area.

As the smoke began to clear and the choppers waited overhead, ground forces swept the location and found the bodies of five NVA regulars.

By SP4 Roger Seip

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—Eighty-eight North Vietnamese (NVA) soldiers died in the smashed rubble of a hilltop bunker complex when Red Warriors from Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, under heavy enemy fire, attacked the position.

As Bravo Company pushed through a wooded area five miles south of Highlander Heights, the point element spotted a group of NVA soldiers moving in the opposite direction 25 meters from the Red Warriors.

Private First Class Thomas Donnelly of Arnold, Mo., sighted the movement and counted ten enemy trudging along a hillside. "They all wore green fatigues," he said, "and each carried a weapon."

Searching the area from a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) a Red Warrior also spotted the enemy squad. He quickly gave instructions to his pilot who maneuvered the LOH neatly above the treetops and bore down on the fleeing NVA. The men inside began firing from the open doorway of the charging helicopter killing eight enemy.

The reconnaissance of the area continued until a LOH observer noticed a system of bunkers spread across the low hill which Bravo Company was ascending. Warning the Red Warriors, he called in artillery and air strikes to destroy the emplacements.

Captain Phillip Patrick of El Paso, Tex., Company B commander, alerted to the danger, halted his men and prepared for the expected firefight that would accompany their impending assault on the enemy positions.

When artillery fire from Landing Zones (LZs) Nicole, Joyce and Penny ceased firing on the enemy position, gunships raked the hilltop preparing the area for Bravo Company's assault.

The men of the 1st Platoon crept from concealed positions, organized for an assault maneuver and pushed up the grassy slope reconning by fire.

"While we were moving along the side of the hill," said Specialist 4 James Phillips of San Angelo, Tex., "and NVA opened fire on us from a spider hole. We killed him with bursts from our M16s."

When the platoon reached the woodline near the crest of the hill they stopped, and enemy small arms fire suddenly exploded from the trees. The Red Warriors quickly returned fire.

"My M79 man did a fine job," said Specialist Phillips. "He placed a number of high ex-

(Continued on Back Page)



Searching the area from the air in a LOH, the Red Warriors spotted the enemy squad. The pilot quickly maneuvered the chopper neatly above the treetops and bore down on the fleeing NVA. (Artistry By SP4 Ted Phillips)

LT Flies Crippled Dog Home

By SGT Peter Call

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—The O-1D Bird Dog shook as the enemy bullets punctured its frail skin, cutting the wire sinews leading to the control surfaces.

Inside the rapidly descending aircraft, 2nd Brigade Head-

hunter pilot, 1st Lieutenant Bernard Serafinowicz of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., began his fight to keep an airplane flying that theoretically couldn't fly.

With nothing to guide him but instinct and the jungled mountains west of Kontum getting closer every second, the 219th Reconnaissance Airplane Company lieutenant rammed the throttle to the firewall and trimmed the aircraft's nose up.

The solid green color of foliage which previously filled the front windshield turned into blue sky as the nose lifted and the Bird Dog struggled for altitude which would give it safety from enemy fire. The pilot had but a few moments to decide a course of action.

"I made a fast appraisal of the situation," Lieutenant Serafinowicz said, "and what I came up with didn't look too promising."

"All I had to control the aircraft were my ailerons and a six inch piece of metal on the elevators called the trim tab."

"The rest of my controls—the rudders, elevators and flaps—were all dead, but with the controls I did have I could adjust my altitude and direction."

By making a series of uncontrolled skids, accomplished by banking the aircraft sharply, Lieutenant Serafinowicz man-

aged to point the plane east toward Kontum airfield.

"We were about 10 miles out from the field when I pulled my survival radio out, contacted the tower and reported the situation."

"I had to take it real easy," Lieutenant Serafinowicz explained, "because if I adjusted my trim too much, I'd either stall or go into an uncontrolled dive."

"Once I descended to a certain altitude, I knew there wouldn't be a second chance to make the strip. I had to hit it on the first pass and believe me, I was really sweating."

"As I began my final approach almost a half-mile from touchdown I had the aircraft at 500 feet and level but I couldn't be sure how it would react when I cut the power."

"It looked pretty good coming in but when I cut the power just short of the field we started to drop like a rock," the lieutenant continued.

"I tried to pull up the nose but didn't have the altitude so we hit hard. . . not a great landing, but one I'll be real happy to take credit for."

When the Bird Dog came to a halt, both men freed themselves and walked away leaving a growing number of bystanders, most of them fellow pilots wondering what it would be like to fly a plane that couldn't fly.

From The Desk of
the
Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Shoot To Kill!

THE INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER must realize that one well-aimed shot is more likely to find its mark than a random spray of unaimed automatic fire, and it is less likely to give away his position.

Every soldier receives excellent training in marksmanship during basic training. Through combat experience it has been found that many soldiers disregard their training in marksmanship when the tactical situation becomes critical. This critical period is the precise time to remember and apply the training that has been received.

If every soldier were selective in his firing, far more enemy would be killed. Many soldiers let fear overcome them during a firefight and fire their weapons at random. This type action assists the enemy in three ways; first it indicates where the firer's position is, thus providing the enemy soldier with an acquired target; secondly, it gives the enemy soldier a better chance of surviving to kill more American soldiers; thirdly, it gives the enemy confidence that he will not be subjected to well aimed fire.

It is always difficult to detect the enemy so that he can be engaged and killed. The ability to detect the enemy comes through training and practice. There is no doubt, however, that a calm man sees more than a man who is stricken with fear and is firing indiscriminately at nothing.

WHEN AMERICAN SOLDIERS remain in position and fire their weapons accurately at acquired targets, the enemy knows that he is confronted by a highly trained and well disciplined unit. This knowledge has a tremendous psychological effect on him.

Throughout history armies of the world have been told by their officers to shoot well. Sayings such as "Wait till you see the whites of their eyes", "Make every shot count", and "One shot, one enemy" are all attempts to inspire soldiers to be selective shooters.

It behooves every soldier in the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division to review in his own mind the techniques of good marksmanship and to apply them as often as possible. We all know these techniques. It is just a matter of application and practice. Remember, shoot to kill!

Patch Is Now In Museum

OASIS — An original Fourth Infantry Division patch, worn in World War I, has been presented to the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry museum by the son of the man who wore it.

Captain Timothy Donovan, Jr., of Bristol, Conn., maintenance officer for the 10th Cavalry's Headquarters Troop, made the presentation at the squadron's headquarters at the (LZ) Oasis.

The four-pronged patch was worn by his father, Timothy H. Donovan, Sr., when he served as an infantry sergeant with Company A, 39th Infantry Regiment, Fourth Division, during the war.

"I knew I was coming to the Fourth Division before I left home," Captain Donovan explained, "so my father dug this patch out of his 50-year-old footlocker and gave it to me."

Captain Donovan said his now 78-year-old father was with the division in all of its major battles during the war, including Chateau Thierry and the Argonne.

The patch has been placed in the squadron museum at Camp Enari.



THE TERRAIN in Vietnam's Central Highlands presents everything but "easy traveling." This soldier from Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry trudges up an embankment by a stream west of Duc Co. (USA Photo By SP4 Ron Johnston)

Beyond The Call

SILVER STAR

Booth, John P., MAJ
Gray, Robert W., SFC
Gruenther, Richard L., COL
Holmes, John, PFC
Itchner, Charles L., CPT
Parker, Charles M., SGT
Pederson, Odd O., MSG
Ross, Jay W., SP4
Salamone, Luciano C., MAJ
Sanders, William C., MAJ
Turner, Charles E. Jr. CPT
Warner, Charles R., 1LT
Wrigley, Edward, SSGT

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Adams, Frank S., MAJ
Bach, Charles T., 1LT
Erkie, Norman L., WO
Holley, Charles D., CWO
Johnson, James A., 1LT
Ward, John J., CWO

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

Kiley, Daniel P., SGT

BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR

Barrera, Elpidio Jr., SP4
Brown, Melvin C., PFC
Budzinski, Lawrence Jr., SP4
Cartwright, Warren D., SP4
Ceplina, Frank N., 1SGT
Clark, John W., 1LT
Connor, Vaughn T., SP4
Cressman, David A., SP4
Delaney, William T., PFC
Deters, Bradley K., SP4
Feist, Robert W., 1LT
Fields, Robert, SP4
Gallant, Mark L., SP4
Gillett, Robert A., SP4
Goodson, Mark T., SP4
Grzenda, David, SP4
Hunter, Jackie, SFC
Jackson, Walter L. Jr., SGT
Kaufman, Robert, SP4
Kirby, Jessie J., SSGT
Kossman, Stanley, SP4
Kraszewski, John S., SP4
Lander, Robert B., LTC
Landry, Thomas, SP4
Laumer, Dennis L., SGT
Leach, Robert E., CPT
Link, Clark D., SP4
Lynch, Ralph, SP4
Martinez, Florent, SP4
Mays, John R., 1LT

McGunnigle, Paul E., 1LT
McManus, William E., 1SGT
Medley, Kenneth G., SP4
Millard, Gary L., SP4
Miller, George D., PFC
Naranjo, David, SGT
Nelson, Alfred C., CPT
Newman, Allan R., SP4
Padilla, Joseph, SGT
Peek, Johnny G., SP4
Rapp, Russell E., SP5
Rice, Robert E., SGT
Rinehart, Carl A., SP4
Robinson, George, SGT
Sandlin, Rodney V., 1LT
Schlender, Jeffrey E., SP4
Shake, Wilfred R., SSGT
Shea, Gregory T., 1LT
Sheehan, Albert J., MAJ
Smith, Morvelle, SP4
Smith, William C., SP4
Spack, Micheal, SP4
Swafford, Walter L., SP4
Swift, Fred, SP4
Trevino, Fred, SP4
Troxell, Thomas, SP4
Turney, Lonnie L., SP4
Vogt, Steven D., SP5
Weekley, Gary L., SP4
Weeks, Peter F., SP4
White, Gene L., SGT
Williams, Glen L., SSGTM
Williams, Virgil H., COL
Wood, Dan, SP4

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Jenkins, John C., CPT
O'Fihelly, Jeremiah, CWO

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

FOR VALOR

Brodtrick, Kenneth T., PFC
Conklin, William M., SP4
Harris, Charlie W., SP4
Heuser, Harold, SP4
Mister, Claude B., CORP
Nieves, Jose R., SP4
Nixon, Larry A., PFC
Pugh, Loren C., CORP
Sagun, Michael G., SP4
Samoge, Joseph Jr., PFC
Schatten, Alan D., SP4
Schular, Ronald, SP4
Showalter, Michael D., SP4
Vander Molen, John III, SP4
Welch, Kenneth R., SP4

General's Aide

Private First Class David L. Waltemath, a rifleman with the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, was selected as enlisted aide to Major General Donn R. Pepke, commander of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Waltemath of King City, Mo., PFC Waltemath was chosen for the honor by the Brigade Sergeant Major and a panel of

senior NCOs from the 1st Bde.

Before entering service in September, 1968, PFC Waltemath was an agriculture major at St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kan.

Of his new position in the Famous Fighting Fourth Division, the delighted soldier remarked, "It's a once in a life time opportunity to work for the general and to see firsthand how the Fourth Division operates."



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Arty Battery Keeps Charlie In The Spotlight

By SP5 Robert G. Frechette

CAMP RADCLIFF — The men of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division, along with Vietnamese and Montagnard villagers in the Central Highlands, are steadily learning that the old cliché said by many Vietnam veterans, "the night belongs to Charlie," is quickly being written off the books.

Responsibility for illuminating pitch black nights into radiant sunny days at a moment's notice rests with the men of Battery B (Searchlight), 29th Artillery, operating from 1st Brigade Headquarters with the 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery.

According to Sergeant First Class William White, Jr. of Colorado Springs, Colo., his unit "... will furnish illumination upon request to any unit that desires it."

The searchlight battery maintains light crews at many sites throughout the Division's area of operations.

"We have two types of searchlights in use at the present time," related Captain David P. Schneider of Auburn, N.Y., battery commander.

"We use the 30 inch lights at this location and at Pleiku. The 23 inch lights, with infrared capabilities, are located at the other sites."

The range of the 30 inch light has been known to extend 50 miles under favorable conditions, while the 23 inch light approaches the 5,000 meter range.

The searchlight can be requested by a unit in the same manner as artillery support. The Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) personnel are also afforded the protection of instant illumination.

Sensing Charlie's presence, these units call their district headquarters which in turn calls a Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) location that makes the request to a Searchlight Direction Center. The corresponding azimuth is then given to the light crew which springs into action bringing instant light to the designated areas.

The searchlight battery has been working through American pacification personnel to spread the word of the available support to villagers. All it takes is a phone call to have support in minutes.

The successful use of the lights in the pacification effort can be evidenced by recent use of the lights at Pleiku by an ARVN Regional Force outpost position. Sensing the presence of the enemy, outpost personnel called for artillery illumination, but because of the area population density, clearance could not be granted. The searchlight was requested. Pinpointing the designated position, the giant beam illuminated a surprised enemy force preparing for attack. The enemy was engaged with small arms fire before retreating from the area back into the confines of darkness.

Although the searchlights are being used primarily for perimeter defense, the detachment is receiving an increasing number of "on call" missions requesting assistance.

Battery B (Searchlight), 29th Artillery, is responsible for a 24,000 square mile area of Vietnam, ranging from Ben Het in the northern area of the Central Highlands to Phuoc Vinh, just north of Saigon.

Their ever expanding efforts are making a great contribution to the pacification effort and fight for freedom in the Republic of Vietnam.



MIX AND SERVE—A grunt from the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry's Charlie Company drops his rucksack and fixes a little refreshment. Nothing tastes better than flavored ade after a long day humping the boonies . . . except maybe a cold beer, Pepsi, Coke, milk shake, etc. But you have to do with what you've got! (USA Photo By PFC Chuck Colgan)

Third Brigade Adds Emergency Facility

By PFC Jerry Cannon

OASIS—A new underground emergency ward will provide safer facilities for patients and doctors of the 3rd Brigade.

The new ward, which will accommodate emergency patients, was constructed at the Oasis for the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's Delta Company, 4th Medical Battalion.

Built by Delta Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, the new ward, under normal conditions, is capable of housing doctors and equipment for six emergency patients and, if necessary, an estimated 30 patients can be accommodated.

Clean Atmosphere

The spacious 30 by 50 foot ward with its raised floor, side paneling, lighting and drainage system will provide a cool, clean atmosphere for both the patients and the doctors. Two spiral ramps will provide entrances and exits for stretcher patients and quick

access to the medical facilities.

The safety factors provided by the new ward are its major advantages. Because of the ward's underground position, the medical staff will be able to continue their work, even while under attack.

Safer Place

"The new ward will provide a safer place to work on patients than the old facilities," explained Captain (Doctor) Philip Lebovitz of Pittsburgh.

The safety of the patients is the prime factor. "Most of the patients will feel safer below ground, thus the element of fear is eased and their chances of going into shock are reduced," explained PFC Eric Feaver of Washington D.C., a medic.

The new underground ward promises to be a major addition to the life saving capabilities of the doctors and medics of the 3rd Brigade.

A Proud Heritage

The Famous Fighting Fourth was first organized at Camp Greene, N. C., in 1917.

Our tradition began with participation in historic battles during World War I. Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse campaigns are best remembered by the first men to wear the Fourth Division patch.

World War II saw the Famous Fourth leading the way as allied troops landed on Utah Beach.

Chaplain's Message

Making The Best Of Your Situation

By Chaplain (MAJ) Edgar P. Shackelford

The late Karl Barth once told a group of reporters that if he had not been a theologian, he might have liked being a traffic cop. "What a thrill it must be," he mused, "to stand in the middle of the intersection and tell all those cars where to go!"

I suspect that we all have the cop-image occasionally: the temptation to tell someone or everybody where to go, whether it is some figure of authority or the person that is "bugging us" at the moment.

At other times we probably feel like someone caught in the middle of the intersection and say "stop the world, I want to get off." We enjoy that popular tune, "Make the World Go Away," because it would be so nice to spend the remainder of our days on some isolated beach (with the person of our choice, of course).

But the majority of us cannot be traffic cops, nor can we stop the world. We continue to be torn by a dilemma, which, represented by military terms, is attack or withdraw. We want to strike back at those who torment us or we seek to escape from a trying situation.

No one denies that we live in a complex world, a world torn by war, upheaval, hunger, even loneliness. The individuals serving in Vietnam have seen suffering tragedy face to face. We long for the new day when peace prevails, but even if peace came tomorrow most of us would still have something to attack, some place or person to flee.

We would still be motivated by our anger, our desire to get

away from all the pressures and anxieties. Pardon my saying so, but there is no magic pill—medicinal or otherwise—to extract us from the dilemma. And those subtle tactics—which we all develop and sharpen—simply postpone and render inevitable our final collapse.

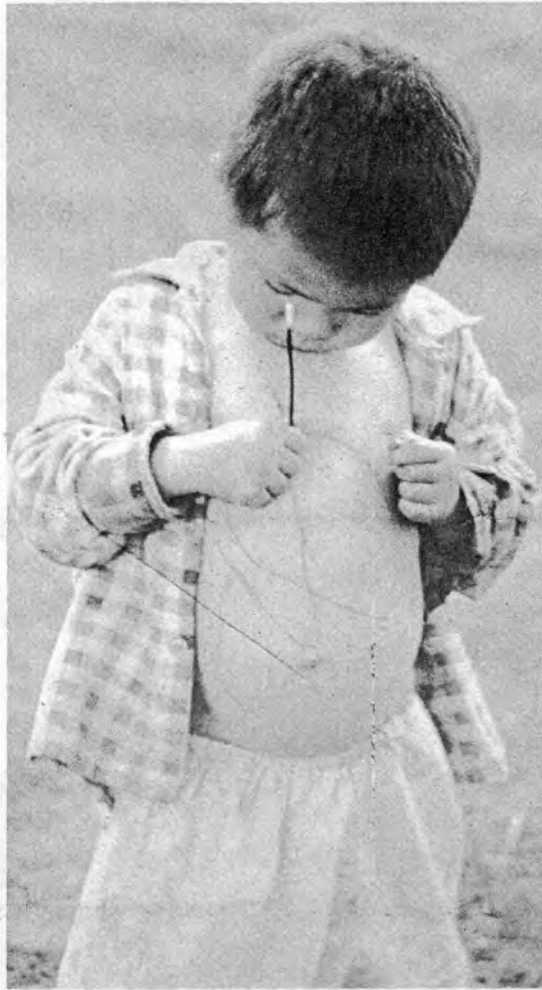
In short, the more we seek to evade the issues that challenge us and the more we avoid making decisions that must be made, the harder it is to affirm life, to take our place in society, to seize the moment and act.

The great men of the Bible, aware of their present evil and potential good, were inspired by God to be His instruments. They were not puppets; they were fully human. Many were touched by tragedy; some questioned the justice of God and some even tried to escape from responsibility. But ultimately they remained, or returned, to be His servants.

It is my conviction that the world of which we are a part, though not chosen nor shaped by us, can be remolded and transformed by us. But we must give up our desire to attack everything that offends us, displeases us, or disturbs us. Likewise, we must surrender the dream of total escape.

What can we do, then, if we cannot be the traffic cop that tells everybody where to go and if we cannot stop the world? We simply take the moment that God has given us and we live as if everything depended on us: where there is brutality, let us enhance beauty; where there is danger, let us seek deliverance; where there is lust, let us demonstrate love.

Pacification: The 'Second War' W



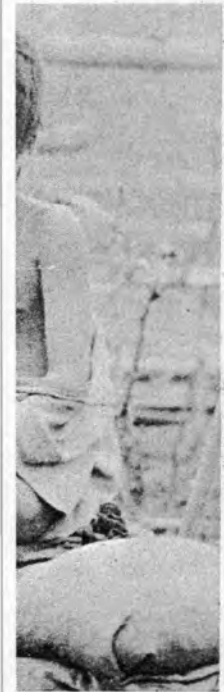
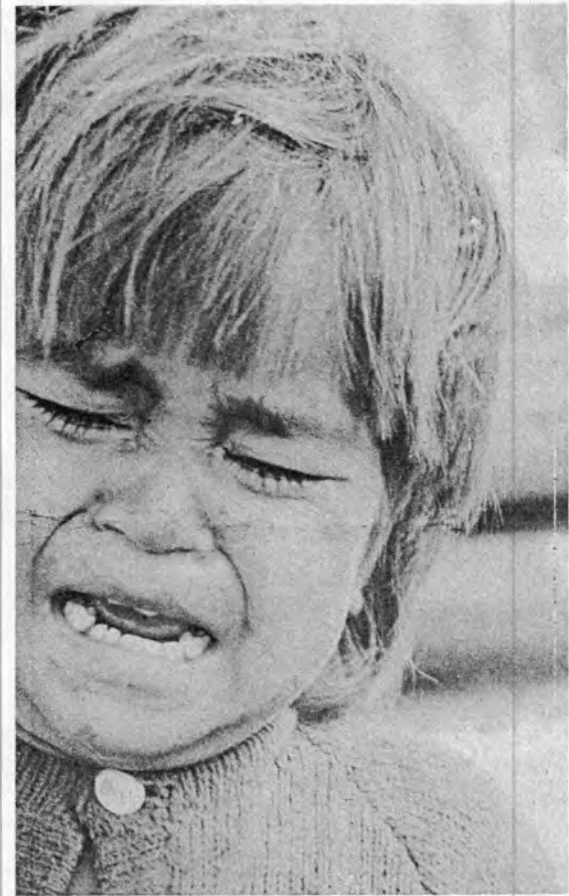
**Photos By
SP4 Dave
Drew, PFC
John Warwick
And 1LT
David Hooks**



*"War has many faces, but people are much the same t
over. In the midst of turmoil, life in the Montagnard t
the Central Highlands remains pretty much the same."*

We're Fighting In The Highlands

"Pacification is an important phase of the American soldier's mission in Vietnam today. It means being able to react to the many moods of the people of Vietnam. It is more than making peace. It is the conciliation of the people who grow and work together in mutual agreement and understanding. It is most importantly education. Education in the context of their daily lives."



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d villages of

Arty On Target, Kills 3

OASIS — As the three North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers leisurely bathed in the Dak Trouille River, a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) suddenly appeared.

The last thing the three NVA expected was a visual reconnaissance of the river, 15 miles southeast of Pleiku.

"We were flying low over the steep banks of the river and as we rounded a bend I saw the three bathing soldiers," said Major Craham W. George of Dallas, Tex., S-3 of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry.

Tried To Hide

As the LOH descended on them, the NVA made a futile effort to hide themselves.

But as the LOH began to swing around for another pass at the river, the NVA were convinced that the Golden Dragons knew where they were.

Gathering their green fatigues from the riverbank, the enemy soldiers raced toward an adjacent cave complex.

Major George fired half a magazine from his M15 carbine as the LOH made another dive.

The cave, with its natural rock overhang and camouflaged cover of logs and leaves, was too hard a target for small arms fire. Major George requested artillery assistance from nearby Landing Zone (LZ) Redfox.

Answers Call

The guns of Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, answered Major George's call.

Firing for adjustment, the first two 105mm rounds landed directly on top of the cave in a dazzling display of artillery accuracy.

The efforts of Major George and the artillery resulted in three enemy deaths and may prompt the NVA to put the Dak Trouille River "off-limits" as a bathing point.



GUARDED INSERTION—A Famous Fourth Ranger team sprints for the concealment of a nearby woodland after insertion into a hostile area near Kontum. The machine gun belongs to a chopper but it will only be there for a few moments as the Rangers take off on their own to watch for enemy movement. (USA Photo By PFC Tom Hurley)

Lt John Credited With 4

CAMP RADCLIFF — Two Light Observation Helicopters (LOH) joined forces with a pair of gunships which proved to be a fatal combination to four enemy soldiers 12 miles southwest of An Khe.

The LOHs from Delta Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, were on an early morning mission, skimming the tree-tops looking for enemy activity while gunships covered them from a higher altitude.

The pilot of the lead LOH, Warrant Officer Bob Collins of Northfield, Ohio, spotted three men dressed in NVA uniforms with rucksacks and AK47s lying in a tree line apparently trying to hide.

"The scouts were down right on the trees when they spotted them. The enemy had ducked into some heavy brush but you can't hide from these scouts," gunship pilot, Lieutenant Quam John of Austin, Minn., explained. "They marked the target with a smoke grenade and while the other gunships covered me, I rolled in with rocket and mini-gun fire."

The helicopters continued their search and within an hour the sharp-eyed scouts picked up another NVA scurrying for cover. Again smoke was popped, and with other gunships covering him Lieutenant John moved in for his fourth kill of the morning.

The 'Big Eye' Is On Charlie

OASIS — Silently, efficiently and endlessly the "Big Eye" watches the night skies of the 3rd Brigade.

The Big Eye, as it is called by its operators, is a counter-mortar radar.

Operating as part of the Fourth Division's 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, the Big Eye watches for the first sign of enemy artillery fire.

When an enemy firing position is detected, the information gathered by the radar is relayed to the artillery, which responds immediately.

"There have been cases when we have relayed information to the artillery in time for them to fire before the first enemy round has hit the ground," said Specialist 4 John Robideau of Malone, N.Y.

The information compiled by the radar is accurate enough to place friendly artillery fire within one meter of the enemy's position.

"The Big Eye's ability to track and plot our own artillery quickly and accurately makes it an excellent forward observer

(FO)," explained Sergeant James Campbell of Wapokoneta, Ohio. "One radar can handle up to three firing positions at one time."

The radar can perform many other diversified tasks, such as directing airstrikes, locating lost aircraft and acting as an early warning system to prevent an enemy attack.



FILL 'ER UP—A huge "Flying Crane" takes on fuel before heading back to a 2nd Brigade firebase to continue its work. The Crane is the workhorse of helicopters supporting Famous Fourth soldiers in the Central Highlands. (USA Photo By 1LT Jay Kivowitz)



SOLDIER AND FRIENDS—This Division soldier is alert to the surroundings as he keeps a friendly hand on two 40mm guns commonly referred to as "Dusters." He is part of a unit which was sweeping an area close to Camp Enari. (USA Photo By SP4 John Johnson)

Dragoons Zap 3 With 81mm

CAMP ENARI—Teamwork and skill are two of the infantryman's most effective weapons; both were employed by the Famous Fighting Fourth's Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, when a forward element spotted three North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers southwest of Kontum.

Operating approximately 100 meters from the perimeter, the patrol, led by Specialist 4 Donald Butts of Fullerton, Calif., spotted three NVA carrying rucksacks and automatic weapons, moving toward the perimeter.

Immediately Specialist Butts notified his platoon leader, 1st Lieutenant Stephen Ray of Modoc, S.C., of the situation.

Lieutenant Ray immediately directed his men

to return to the perimeter to enable the 81mm mortar crew to engage the enemy without endangering Specialist Butts and his men.

Within seconds the first round was fired toward the enemy position, scoring a direct hit and killing three NVA. The mortar crew fired an additional five rounds in succession to insure that other enemy elements had not moved into position to recover the NVA bodies.

Upon completion of these additional five rounds, a squad size element was dispatched to the flank of the enemy. Led by Specialist Butts, the squad maneuvered toward the enemy's position, finding the three NVA bodies, three rucksacks, four CHICOM grenades and several enemy documents.

Bring Back The Good 'Ole Thick, Red Dust

CAMP RADCLIFF — The men of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry have stopped their never ending complaints about the dust; the clouds of swirling, red powder that were continually kicked up by the soldiers as they tramped up and down the Highlands of Vietnam have now disappeared.

Every member of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division, has a new complaint—mud.

Those gullies which seemed to exist for the sole purpose of collecting ankle and knee-deep deposits of soft, powdery dust, now hold either swirling torrents of water or soft, gooey mud.

Gone are the complaints of sweat-dampened clothes. Now the complaint is of rain-drenched uniforms. There are no more complaints about not having enough water to drink, the gripes have turned to the food that now swims in C-ration cans and mess kits.

Kicking through that dust doesn't seem quite so bad now that clumps of mud cause an uneven wobbling on every step. Kick the rocks, the trees, the tent pegs; mud still clings to the treads of the boots.

It didn't seem such a tragedy to have lost that rain gear during the dry season, but with the first rain the frantic search began.

"I wonder where I put that poncho? Do any of you guys have a spare rain jacket?"

The questions vary in what they ask, but they all mean, "Does someone have a way to keep this rain off me?"

The mud-caked soldiers find a semi-dry spot to sit after a long day's walking.

"Boy, remember those good days when it was nice and dry?"

"Yeah, it wasn't so bad then. Easier walking, you could keep cleaner. I can't wait for the dry season."

In Vietnam, the grass is always greener.



And The Rains Came

Cacti Green Troops Get Monsoon Relief

OASIS—With the arrival of the monsoons in the Central Highlands, the daily life of an infantry soldier has become a little tougher.

Under a new program instituted by Lieutenant Colonel James Burris of Chattanooga, Tenn., commander of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, platoons of the Cacti Green's five companies, on a rotating basis, will have from a five to seven day stand down at the Oasis.

The 1st Platoon of Bravo Company was the first element to use the new facility and, naturally, the order of the day was cold beer and soda, hot chow, and a shower. The men also had the opportunity to receive routine medical care and to resolve any personal problems they may have had.

"The stand down that they have set up for us is great. We have a chance to enjoy good food, cold drinks, take a shower and receive clean clothes," said Specialist 4 James Reed of Dallas, Tex. "It gives us a chance to rest before we go back to the field."

Other platoon members voiced the same opinions, adding that the stand down gave them a chance to write and even call their relatives back in the United States through the MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System) facility.

Various sports equipment was also available to the men.

As one member of the platoon said, "At least when it starts raining here, we have a tent to run to. We truly appreciate the stand down."



Patrol Takes Break On Higher, Dryer Hillside

Village Children Learn English

By PFC Gerald Ducharme

CAMP ENARI — Inside the Montagnard village of Plei Wau, school children sing new songs and learn new words—they are being taught English.

The teacher, Specialist 4 Joseph Driscoll of Louisville, Ky., is a member of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry Civic Action (CA) team.

The villagers repaired the school house and, with the aid of an interpreter, Specialist Driscoll, a teacher by profession, began teaching school to a class of 10 to 15 children.

"Once the village chiefs saw what we were doing, many more of the children started attending classes. They were usually accompanied by their parents, which created an informal atmosphere," explained Specialist Driscoll. "The children were well-behaved due to their parents'

attendance."

The children first started learning words as their new teacher pointed to an object and repeated the name in English several times to them. They would then repeat it themselves.

As with most young school children, learning new words is a treat, and the Plei Wau children are no exception. They responded by learning "Ole MacDonald" and the 1959 hit of "Witch Doctor." The children even learned "Brother John" in both French and English.

On the last day of school before summer recess, Specialist Driscoll, with his own money, bought each of the 30 children a dictionary which translated their language into English words. In appreciation, the children sang one of their favorite Montagnard songs to the CA team leader, and gave a party for all the members of the team.

It's Only A Bear

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS

"We were humping up a hill when all the sudden we heard movement," stated Sergeant John Prielipp of Marion, Mich. "We headed for cover thinking it must be a battalion of NVA to make that much noise."

"We were all ready to open up, and then we saw it — a bear came roaring down the hill crashing through the brush. It must have weighed 300 pounds."

"I was so relieved it wasn't the NVA I didn't even think to take a shot at it. And just think what I could have carved on that tree over there: 'JOHN PRIELIPP KILLED A BAR HERE.'"

Telephone Change Will Include Pleiku

SAIGON — For the first time an advanced telephone system of direct dialing will be installed in a combat theater.

Within the next two months all Class "A" telephone subscribers will be able to dial direct long distance throughout the Republic of Vietnam and Thailand.

When the new Tandem Switch System is fully operational, the telephone system supporting tactical, logistical and administrative operations in Southeast Asia will be comparable to the telephone service in the continental United States.

THE CUTOVER TO THE SYSTEM IN THE TAN SON NHUT-SAIGON-LONG BINH AND NHA TRANG AREAS WILL BE THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLICATED CONVERSION EVER ATTEMPTED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. DURING THE CONVERSION 50 PER CENT OF ALL TELEPHONE TRUNKS WILL BE MODIFIED AND CUT OVER.

AS A RESULT THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM WILL BE OPERATING AT REDUCED EFFICIENCY FROM JUNE 24 TO JULY 4 IN TAN SON NHUT AND IN NHA TRANG FROM JULY 18 TO JULY 26. DURING THESE CRITICAL PERIODS OPERATION MINIMIZE WILL BE IN EFFECT AND THE VOLUME OF CALLS PLACED INTO, OUT OF, OR THROUGH THESE AREAS WILL BE CUT DRASTICALLY WITH A CONTROL IMPOSED ON ALL LONG DISTANCE TRAFFIC.

Other areas included in the Tandem Switch System are Bangkok, Warine and Korat in Thailand, Can Tho, Pleiku, Da Nang, and Vung Chua Mountain in Vietnam. Each dial telephone exchange will be connected to the nearest Tandem Switching Center (TSC) which is to be connected to all other centers.

The routing of calls will be completely automatic in the exchange and the centers.

Even though all calls eventually will be completed by direct dialing, an operator will be standing by to assist in placing high precedence calls. However, in most cases, calls will be completed more quickly after the critical periods of conversion and after Operation Minimize ends on July 26.

Planning for this advanced system began in 1965 by the Defense Communications Agency-Pacific (DEA-PAC).

The U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command (USAST-RATCOM) was asked to engineer and install the system. Under the auspices of the 1st Signal Brigade, a Joint Cutover In-

tegrated Working Group (JCIWG) was formed from the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, and civilian contractors to implement the system.

Upon activation of the individual switches, the various services will take over their designated switches.

The system completion is programmed for Jan 1970 when Pleiku receives its cutover.

Charlie Had Food Prepared

And Guess Who Came To Dinner

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS—The elaborate cave complex, equipped with stream water for showers, must have provided a unique resting place for a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) battalion.

Neatly tucked away at the foot of the Kong Grang Mountains, 13 miles northeast of Pleiku, the complex seemed to be the best possible location for an estimated 500 enemy soldiers to relax without fear of intrusion by Famous Fighting Fourth Division troops.

But the NVA honeymoon ended when Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, discovered the stronghold shortly after the occupants had vacated the premises.

The cave complex and a smaller area of enemy bunkers and huts were found by the Golden Dragons almost as soon as they entered the area of operations.

First Lieutenant Charles White of West Grove, Pa., Delta Company commander, explained that the complex was built in natural rock formations and was able to accommodate approximately 500 men.

Ranging in depth from 4 to 20 feet, the caves, 75 feet by 50 feet in length, served as more than adequate sleeping chambers and fighting positions for the NVA soldiers.

The enemy soldiers had left



TANKERS of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor smash through the heavy undergrowth in search of enemy troops and their staging areas during a mechanized sweep near An Khe.

(USA Photo By SP5 Mike Cobb)

the complex in such a hurry that they didn't have time to eat. "The whole area was covered with food," said Sergeant Watson.

The bunkers and huts, located approximately 1,000 meters downhill from the cave complex,

had been used within the last several hours by members of the Vietnamese-Montagnard Cong (VMC).

There were seven huts with straw roofs and four bunkers built into the side of the mountain. A 122 cannister was found

at the site along with some prepared food which indicated recent use of the area.

The homeless enemy soldiers apparently decided not to return. So, Delta Company used explosives to close off the cave complex.

Elementary Rule Of Combat, Pistols No Match For Tank

By PFC Chuck Colgan

CAMP RADCLIFF—An enemy soldier armed only with a pistol discovered the hard way it doesn't pay to charge a tank.

The over-zealous officer was one of five North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers killed during an unsuccessful attack on a tank and armored personnel carrier three miles east of An Khe.

The armored vehicles from the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, were hit by an estimated NVA platoon as they stood on a piece of high ground overlooking Highway 19.

Sergeant Michael Roselle of Oklahoma City, the tank

commander, explained what took place.

"We were on a hill approximately 100 meters from the road and the APC was almost 200 meters to our right on another hill when the NVA opened up with recoilless rifle, rocket, mortar and automatic weapons fire from three positions to our front. Most of the fire was coming from the treeline on a hill between us and the APC, so that's where I directed my 90mm fire."

The APC took three direct hits from the recoilless, but all failed to penetrate the hull.

Sergeant Roselle continued, "We traded fire for a while. Then I looked to the rear and saw a man armed with a pistol stand up and motion for two others to follow him. He came from 100 yards away running toward the rear of my tank."

"One of the other men was carrying a small bamboo tube, possibly used to fire a mortar round, and the third one had an AK47. They came at us, and the guy with the pistol had a big grin on his face, but that disappeared when I swung the main gun around and fired. We got the one carrying the tube too, but the NVA with the AK escaped before I could get off another round."

The tank quickly swung the big 90mm back to fire at the enemy positions on

the hill and succeeded in silencing their fire.

A sweep of the area conducted by Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, turned up five bodies. A recoilless rifle, an AK47 several grenades and a CHICOM pistol were also recovered.

Documents found on the body of the NVA with the pistol identified him as an officer.

Sarge Drops Lone Enemy

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Staff Sergeant Eltezer Ayala of New Brunswick, N.J., a platoon sergeant with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, was credited with killing one NVA near Landing Zone (LZ) Penny, ten miles south of Kontum City.

Leaving the company perimeter to locate an observation post (OP) for his platoon, Sergeant Ayala spotted the NVA and fired at him. The NVA went down.

The kill was confirmed later in the day by an OP team from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry which spotted two NVA carrying a body on a stretcher improvised out of a poncho.

"Collins (Specialist 4 Jack F. Collins of South Barre, Vt.) and I had just gotten into position. Approximately ten minutes later we heard movement," said Private First Class Doug Boughton of Stanley, N.Y. "Then we saw two NVA carrying a third on a stretcher."

"Specialist Collins, who saw them first, opened up and they dropped the stretcher and took off. One of them ran so fast he lost his Ho Chi Minh sandals."

Red Warrior Victory On Hill

(Continued From Page 1) plusive rounds directly in the bunkers."

Amidst the explosions and whizzing bullets, one of the enemy began firing his AK47 from a well protected trench close to the American position. Private First Class Roger Ranken crawled forward, threw a hand grenade at the sniper and killed him.

Meanwhile Sergeant William Butler of Grass Valley, Calif., was leading his squad into a better flanking position when an enemy rifleman fired on them. "I shot him and he dropped out of sight," said Sergeant Butler. "The 'anthill' he had been hiding behind turned out to be a bunker."

Moments later a B40 rocket exploded a few meters away, knocking Sergeant Butler and

one of his men to the ground. "It knocked the wind out of us," the sergeant recalled, "but we didn't get a scratch."

Branches broke and feet thudded on the ground as the enemy, pressed by the Red Warrior attackers, rushed madly from tree to tree and bunker to bunker.

One NVA soldier burst from his bunker running. Sergeant Jim Berry of Presque Isle, Maine, pulled his M16 to his shoulder and fired, killing the enemy.

The 1st Platoon maintaining a high volume of fire power, forced the enemy into attempting a flanking movement. This tactic was defeated as 1st Lieutenant Tim Murphy of Massena, N. Y., led the 2nd Platoon onto the flank and provided covering fire for the 1st Platoon.

"They hit us with everything they had and we took it all," said Staff Sergeant Fred Osment of Truman, Ark., after the eleven hour firefight.

Platoon Sergeant John Cribb of Johnsonville, S.C., proud of the way the men had performed, said, "They did an outstanding job. These boys are unbelievable."

In a sweep of the area the following morning the Red Warriors discovered approximately 50 bunkers arranged in a horseshoe pattern around the hilltop.

Recovered from the battleground was a wide assortment of enemy equipment including a field telephone, a Chinese flare gun with flares, four sacks, bottles of penicillin and sulphur, three CHICOM grenades, rocket charges, helmets, eating utensils and 81 enemy bodies.