

Enemy Dead On Chu Pa Rises To 103

OASIS — Famous 4th Division soldiers killed 103 NVA and VC in a ten-day sweep down the rugged slopes of Chu Pa Mountain. The steep and triple-canopied Mount Chu Pa, a formidable objective in itself, is located 21 miles northwest of Pleiku.

The 5,000 foot Chu Pa (Big Mountain) has been a base area of the 24th NVA Regiment.

"They have been a clever fighting

force," commented Assistant Division Commander Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk. "They had taken repeated bombardments from air strikes and artillery, but still hung onto their positions."

The sweep by the Ivy 3rd Brigade began Feb. 8 and was designed to deny the enemy his sanctuary and to prevent him from probing the more populated areas to the east.

During two separate firefights, Golden Dragons of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry killed 83 of the enemy. Battling at extremely close quarters against a tenacious and well dug in unit, Bravo Company accounted for 58 of the total NVA killed.

Company B made maximum use of fire support as they called in over 500 rounds of artillery during the night of the

second firefight, often to within 25 meters of their perimeter.

Red Warriors of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, uncovered a large arms cache on the fifth day of the sweep. Moving through an area honeycombed with foxholes and squad-sized bunkers, Alpha and Charlie Companies unearthed two finds which included 23,500 rounds of AK47 ammo and 11,100 SKS rounds.

IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH

CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

ARVN's Kill 120 In Deep Mountain Push

By SP5 Hans J. Lange

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—In a follow up of one of their most successful Highlander sweeps ever, ARVN soldiers pushed deeper into communist-infested mountains southwest of here killing 120 enemy and destroying his base camps and logistical routes.

It was early January when ARVN Rangers and infantrymen, from the 24th Special Tactical Zone (STZ), with Famous Fourth Division artillery and helicopter support,

first stormed the enemy sanctuaries west of Plei Mrong, a Civilian Irregular Defense Group camp.

Seize Weapons

In 17 days of engagements with the communists, the ARVNS killed 231 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars and seized huge stores of weapons, ammunition, food and medical supplies.

The sweep was called Binh Tay 48/Sledgehammer.

At its conclusion the ARVN moved back, brought fresh troops and re-entered the enemy domain.

Two Ranger battalions — the 22nd and 23rd — joined the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Infantry in a westward push across the heavily-overgrown mountains and valleys about 15 miles southwest of Kontum.

They met resistance almost immediately.

"We knew the enemy had a base camp in the area," said Colonel Nguen Ba Lien, who commands the 24th STZ. "The Reds have been using the corridor west of Plei Mrong to infiltrate the Central Highlands. Our move was to close that corridor."

Intelligence read-outs led allied commanders to believe the NVA were using the area as a main base, having built and stocked it with supplies flowing down the Plei Trap Valley leading out of Cambodia.

However, the Plei Trap was sealed more than three months ago by a concerted effort of 4th Division units and air power, practically isolating the NVA west of Plei Mrong.

Stop Threat

"But they were still operational and capable of inflicting serious damage to cities and allied installations in the Highlands," said Colonel Lien. "So we laid plans to eliminate the threat."

"When we initially moved into the area it became evident that the enemy was in there in force and that he was protecting something," the colonel continued. "The terrain is rugged and the undergrowth very thick. He did not have to stick and fight. He could have avoided us. So we destroyed him and his supplies."

"From the amount and type of equipment we seized in Binh Tay 48 and from the information we received from a Hoi Chanh (a rallier to the government), we knew that there was much more of the same in the area," added Colonel Lien.

And that's when Binh Tay 49 was launched.

The five-day second sweep in (Continued on Back Page)

Vol. 3, No. 10

March 9, 1969

Ivymen Down Tiger For Buffalo-Hunting

FIREBASE McNERNEY — A routine 1st Brigade Ranger patrol turned into a big game hunt drama when the team found itself confronted by an irate water buffalo and a hungry tiger at the same time.

The Ivy Ranger team had been in concealed positions along a trail for three days without seeing anything of the enemy. Early in the morning on the fourth day, they heard heavy movement on the trail and prepared themselves for action.

Instead of the expected VC squad, there came 13 water buffalo, led by a huge bull, ambling down the trail.

"When the bull came alongside our position, he stopped and looked right at our position. He must have caught our scent. Then he started snorting and pawing the ground. We were sure he was going to charge us," related team leader Specialist 4 Frank Hise of Blackwood, N.J.

Then out of the corner of his eye, Specialist Hise caught a glimpse of a tiger slinking out of the heavy brush down the trail from where the water buffalo had come.

"He crossed over to our side of the trail and went into the brush. We were afraid the tiger was stalking us, so I moved back to a piece of high ground to cover our rear," recalled assistant team leader Specialist 4 Larry Flanagan of Brockton, Mass.

"If he got into that tall ele-

phant grass behind us, he would have been on top of us before we could see him."

As it turned out, the tiger was actually stalking the buffalo and moved silently up the trail toward them. Just as the animal crouched to spring on a young calf at the end of the string, Specialist Hise pulled the trigger of his M16 putting two rounds through the animal's shoulder.

The tiger finally went down when another team member, Private First Class Jacob Ruiz of Chicago, sent two rounds into him.

"He just rose up and stiffened then fell over when PFC Ruiz hit him," Specialist Flanagan said.

"All the time we were watching the tiger, we completely forgot about that big mad bull, and we never did see where he went. Actually we probably had more to sweat from that buffalo, but the tiger was definitely the center of attention," mused Specialist Hise.

The tiger was the second bagged in a month by soldiers from the 4th Division's 1st Brigade.



MINSTREL SHOW—Stealing an idea from the old-time traveling medicine shows, this 4th Division medic Specialist 4 Jose Pagan, took a few minutes to entertain his Montagnard hosts. (USA Photo by SP5 Robert G. Frechette)

Captain Receives Many Awards At Once

FIREBASE McNERNEY — Two Silver Stars, the nation's third highest award for heroism, a Bronze Star with "V" device and the Purple Heart were awarded at a ceremony here, home of the Fighting 1st Brigade — all to the same man.

Captain Alfred C. Nelson, former commander of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, now serving with the brigade S-2, was the proud recipient of the awards.

While commanding Alpha Company, the courageous cap-

tain gained the medals during the period of Dec. 19, 1968 to Jan. 1, 1969 in actions in VC Valley east of Firebase McNERNEY.

One Silver Star citation read in part: "Seeing one of his men injured in enemy fire, Captain Nelson moved through a hail of enemy fire to aid him. Exposing himself to the enemy, he crawled to within five feet of the enemy position before engaging it with grenades and rifle fire — eliminating the enemy position."

"In another action, Captain Nelson received wounds while

single-handedly disarming an enemy sniper and preventing an enemy ambush.

"Captain Nelson's courageous acts, determination and exemplary devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army."

Standing proudly beside the decorated captain during the ceremony was First Lieutenant Brian Conroy of Rockway, N.J., from Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, also a recipient of the Bronze Star with

"V" device.

Presenting awards were Brigadier Generals Albin F. Irzyk and Frederick A. Schaefer III, assistant division commanders, and Colonel Hale Knight, 1st Brigade commander.

An added highlight to the ceremony was the official dedication of the 1st Brigade Headquarters. General Schaefer and Colonel Knight unveiled the brigade sign, naming the firebase after First Sergeant David H. McNERNEY, a brigade Medal of Honor winner.

From The Desk of
the
Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Reporting The Five W's

TACTICAL DECISIONS are based on timely, accurate information of the friendly and enemy situation. When poor information is received or information does not become available until too late, the result can mean lives lost or the loss of valuable time and equipment. Timely, accurate reporting is my key to the effective allocation of fighting resources. Our reporting throughout the Division leaves much room for improvement.

Initial or Spot reports must be transmitted immediately and contain as much information as is available at the time. Most of the time a good deal more is known than is actually reported.

INTERIM REPORTS should follow as additional and clarifying information becomes available. Interim reports provide us the capability for correcting erroneous initial reports and putting the situation in perspective.

Final reports must be as complete, accurate, and timely as we can possibly make them. The key to good reporting is the constant push at all echelons for information. You cannot sit and wait for reports to come from lower echelons. When you report to higher headquarters remember the who, what, why, when, and where—the essentials of good information.

Remember also, that the more higher headquarters knows about your situation the faster and more decisively they can react. This may save your life and the lives of others in your unit.

CSM Taylor Speaks Out



Fire Prevention Week

ONE WEEK out of the year is set aside for "Fire Prevention Week." During this time an all-out effort is made to explore the causes of fires and ways in which we can prevent them.

But fire prevention is a continuing project that requires attention 52 weeks of the year.

Fires are costly. Not only in dollars and cents, but also in human lives.

Fortunately, here at Camp Enari we have not had the misfortune of someone losing their life in a fire. On the other hand the dollar value of fires during the past year reached well over the hundred thousand dollar mark. The exchange fire alone cost over \$260 thousand in building material and merchandise.

The fire department lists the most common fires around the Ivy base camp as misuse of immersion heaters, M52 Field Ranges and fuels when burning latrine waste.

CARE SHOULD be taken in the use of fire in all three instances. Most immersion heater fires occur when someone attempts to boost the flame at a unit shower point. The gas jet is turned on full blast, causing the heater to flood and in some instances overflow. The flames from the overflow then engulf the shower point and you have a fire on your hands. And, if someone is taking a shower at the time, he could be seriously injured.

In the case of the M52 burners, the users light the burner too close to the mess hall. When the burner does have a malfunction the flames leap out and, of course, burn anything within reach—man or building. In addition to lighting too close to the mess hall, there are times when personnel lighting the burners do not understand the proper operating procedures of the burners.

The cost of these fires is unbelievable. The cost of building material and labor alone for a 180-man mess hall is \$11,200 and the average cost of the typical shower point is two thousand dollars.

THE MAIN CAUSE of these fires, or any other fire, is carelessness.

Even though there have been no fires reported as a result of smoking in bed, Ivymen are reminded that smoking in bed is prohibited—either in a sitting or supine position.

This is the dry season in the Highlands. Everything is bone-dry and it doesn't take much to reach the kindling temperature. Watch out for unsafe acts involving fire.

Career Corner

Opportunist's Delight

A **SUCCESSFUL** man is one who recognizes opportunity and takes advantage of each opportunity presented to him. This is true whether a man pursues a military or civilian career. The degree of success that a man achieves is generally indicative of how effectively he used his opportunities.

In the military each man has many opportunities presented to him which, if he takes advantage of them, will aid him in being a successful soldier. Let's take a look at a few of the opportunities available to military men which can help them be a success.

First of all, he is offered the opportunity to continue his education. No man should ever stop learning. The more knowledge we acquire the better able we are to move up to positions of greater responsibility and better pay. The beauty of the army system of education is that we can earn while we learn, for while we are studying we are still on full duty status drawing full pay.

THE MILITARY also offers the opportunity to travel. American soldiers are stationed in all parts of the world and most army personnel can expect to travel to these stations at some time during their army career. Many seasoned world travelers would give a lot just to have a few of our travel opportunities. Through travel we learn of other people and how they live and very often return to the US with a real appreciation for the things our countrymen take for granted.

We are offered the opportunity for promotions. Many high ranking officers started their career in enlisted status. We often hear the comment that promotions go only to the favored few up in headquarters, but this is not true. Promotion in the military, as in civilian industry, is based on ability, enthusiasm and the desire to get ahead. Enlisted personnel are not limited to promotions within the enlisted ranks. If a man feels that he is capable of going further and faster, he can work toward being a commissioned officer or a warrant officer.

EACH YEAR, qualified personnel from within the service are offered the opportunity to take competitive examinations to enter the US Army Military Academy (West Point). Individuals who complete this schooling are awarded a degree in engineering and are commissioned lieutenants in the Regular Army.

Qualified EM may apply for Officers Candidate School (OCS). This is a highly accelerated course where, upon successful completion, a man is commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the reserves with a concurrent call to active duty. Personnel may also qualify for a reserve commission by completing prescribed courses offered through the army extension program. After completing the required studies, personnel may be commissioned a reserve 2nd Lieutenant and may request call to active duty.

The Warrant Officer programs give personnel an opportunity to advance within specific technical fields such as supply, personnel management, electronics and maintenance. Don't forget the flying warrant program where men not only qualify for flying warrant, but also draw flight pay.

Finally, the Army offers us the opportunity to retire with a good monthly income at an age when we are young enough to enjoy it.

Yes, the opportunities are here with the Army. How well we take advantage of them is up

to the individual. Why not stop in to see your career counselor today and let him help you decide on a course of action that will help you climb the ladder of success in your chosen field.

Ask the man who knows, your Career Counselor!

Chaplain's Corner

Making Your Day Count

By Chaplain (MAJ) Arthur F. Bell

EVERYONE COUNTS DAYS. There is a saying among our troops that goes something like this, "I don't know how many days I have left in Vietnam, but if I were counting I'd have 143." We know don't we? Although a few are able to put it out of their minds for awhile, the exact figure of the days remaining can be counted real fast.

There's another saying in our unit which goes like this, "Don't count the days, make the days count." It is said in jest, but it is definitely good advice. This philosophy actually makes the days go by faster.

IF YOU ARE concerned only about counting days and nothing else, then that day will be made up of 1440 minutes of 86,400 seconds. Sit and watch a second hand on your wrist watch all day, and you will find that 86,400 seconds is a long, long time. Right now watch your second hand for only one minute. It takes quite awhile for the hand to complete just that one minute. Get up now and find something to occupy yourself. You will find that the minute goes by almost before you realize it. Involvement is the answer to making the day count.

Involvement is the answer, but mere busyness is not. Key your mind to what you are doing and concentrate on doing your job to the best of your ability. If you have off-duty time, participate in an activity in which you can totally immerse yourself. The service clubs, the library, sports activities, letter writing and religious worship are available for you. Religious worship and its allied activities are especially beneficial to you. It helps you to practice patience, to achieve calmness of mind, and aids you in developing a purpose for life.

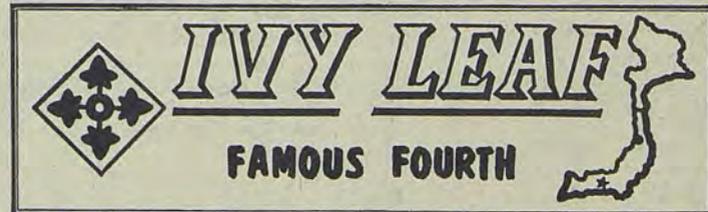
'Regular' Serves As Aide

CAMP ENARI—Specialist 4 Vincent Liberio was selected as enlisted aide to Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division Commander.

The 25-year-old native of Rochester, N.Y., is a team leader with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry. Before entering the service, Specialist Liberio was working toward a Masters Degree in economics at the University of Rochester, and employed as an assistant manager of a local bank.

"It's interesting to find out just how much division headquarters knows about what we're doing out in the field. It's good to find out they really watch everything we do, and that they have good reasons for asking us to accomplish certain missions," Specialist Liberio says.

Specialist Liberio is planning to meet his wife for R&R in Hawaii during April.



(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: Camp Enari 151 or 154.

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'Cacti Green' Give NVA Wild Valentine's Day

By SP4 Craig MacGowan

OASIS — A lightning fast combat assault by the Famous 4th Division's Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, netted one NVA killed and discovery of a 100 bunker NVA complex, loaded with munitions and more than 2,700 pounds of rice.

Minutes after a 3rd Brigade Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) had been hit by enemy ground to air fire, Company B was airborne and then on the ground in the exact location where the enemy fire had originated, west of Firebase Lillie.

"It was a wild Valentine's Day for all of us," exclaimed Private First Class Lannie Spaninger of Hilltown, Pa.

Crossed Rice Paddy

"We were crossing a rice paddy after we had combat assaulted to the suspected enemy area. Seven of us from the 2nd Platoon reconned the wooded area near the rice paddy and came under heavy automatic weapons fire almost immediately.

"We were pinned down, on and off, for almost four hours. The 1st and 3rd Pla-

toons tried to help us, but were also taken under heavy enemy fire."

During the initial attack, one of the 2nd Platoon members was pinned down by the enemy fire. Private First Class Spaninger, accompanied by two others, low crawled to the top of a small hill. While the others crawled to safety, PFC Spaninger remained atop the hill, laying down a blazing volume of covering fire.

"We could not see the enemy automatic weapons position ahead of us until we were almost on top of it," recalled PFC Spaninger.

"We were almost there when they ambushed us," recalled Sergeant Wright.

Specialist 4 Archie Sanders of Seadrift, Tex., was the first man to see the enemy and yelled out to the others to get down. As he did, the NVA opened up on the Ivy squad.

"Immediately we hit the ground and threw our rucksacks up against some small trees for cover," said Sergeant Wright.

"Then we heard mortar tubes start popping in front of us about 50 meters away, with heavy machine gun fire com-

ing at us from about 25 meters to our front."

The squad was pinned down and separated from the rest of their unit, which was about 10 to 15 meters to their right rear flank.

Knowing that they would have to gain fire superiority in order to move to a better position, Sergeant Wright fired 30 rounds from his grenade launcher at the tops of trees, spraying shrapnel and limbs down on the enemy 60mm mortar position. That stopped the tubes from firing.

1st Platoon Stops

Two machine gunners and the remainder of the 1st Platoon were then deployed to stop the remaining NVA small arms and automatic weapons fire.

Private First Class John Fritchett of Racine, Wis., in the similarly pinned down 3rd Platoon, killed an NVA who ran past his position.

"The guy was wearing dark fatigues and pack," said PFC Fritchett. "We put a lot of firepower on the enemy and they finally backed out."

The following morning, Bravo Com-

pany further reconned enemy positions and uncovered approximately 100 bunkers and a company-size mess hall area with a total of some 2,700 pounds of rice.

According to Captain Jonathan R. Tower of Essex, Conn., company commander, captured enemy equipment included nine B40 rockets with boosters and detonators, 40 pounds of TNT, 30 small cans packed with explosives, Chicom grenades and three 60mm mortar rounds.

Miscellaneous letters and documents were also found in the 18 NVA rucksacks captured in the two-day action.

Impact awards were presented by Assistant Division Commander Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, in ceremonies at Firebase Lillie.

The Bronze Star with "V" device was awarded to PFC Fritchett, while the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device was awarded to Sergeant Wright, Specialist Sanders, and PFC Spaninger.

Warrant Officer Francis J. Martin, of Fairfield, Conn., the pilot of the 3rd Brigade reconnaissance helicopter, was awarded the Air Medal with "V" device for his actions.

PAGLIAS COMPANY

Cacti Blue Net Huge Ammo Pile

BAN ME THUOT — The Reconnaissance Platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry routed enemy troops from a bunker complex and captured a quantity of ammunition and medical supplies.

A scout dog leading the platoon was shot by the enemy as the Ivymen followed a trail into the NVA bunker complex.

"We had all grown attached to that dog and hated to lose him, but he probably saved a bunch of us," said Specialist 4 Thomas M. Helton of Kingston, Tenn.

"We formed a skirmish line and started to move into the bunker complex," reported First Lieutenant Charles R. Winn of Anaheim, Calif. "As we moved into it, a B40 went off right over us in the trees. We fell back and let air and artillery hit them."

Return Next Morning

The Recon Platoon, along with Alpha Company, returned to the bunker complex the following morning where they found enemy equipment.

"Everything was packed and ready to go. I think we only got part of the stuff. I imagine they took a lot with them," said Lieutenant Winn. "The vegetation was not too thick so they could get out fast. Unfortunately we could not stick around to make a thorough search for bodies."

The captured enemy equipment included one RPG machine gun, over 11,000 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, nine B40 rockets, four 82 mm CS mortar rounds, sixty 60 mm mortar rounds, 9 75 mm recoilless rifle rounds, 300 rounds of 7.62 mm long (SKS) and five drums for Chicom DPM machine guns with ammunition.

Also found was a quantity of medical supplies.

In addition, the enemy in their flight abandoned 180 pounds of salt and 40 pounds of rice.



AN OLD SOLDIER—Actor Pat O'Brien pulls the lanyard of a 105mm Howitzer at Landing Zone Tommie west of Pleiku. Mr. O'Brien was visiting Famous 4th Division troops while on a goodwill tour of Vietnam. (USA Photo by 1LT Jim Hughes)

33 Enemy Bagged In Week Lull

CAMP ENARI—Ivy units were credited with 33 enemy kills, confiscation and redistribution of nearly five tons of rice, and the discovery of a huge weapons cache during the week (Feb. 15-20). The lull in ground activity was attributed mainly to the declaration of the Tet holiday truce.

Early in the week, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry discovered numerous shallow graves as they swept the steep inclines of Chu Pa, the heavily-timbered mountain 28 kilometers northeast of Plei Djereng. Eleven NVA bodies were found, apparently the victims of last week's fierce fighting in the area. The unit turned up three more enemy bodies in the same general location on Feb. 17.

In Pleiku Province, a small ambush element of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry dealt the enemy a deadly blow during the early morning hours of Feb. 19.

Counted 62

The patrol reported counting 62 NVA soldiers who moved past their position along a trail network. The enemy unit was laden with rockets, mortars and launchers. Deciding to engage only the tail end of the column, the ambush patrol killed five NVA soldiers with withering small arms fire.

Later the enemy initiated a probe of the patrol's hasty perimeter. One NVA was killed in the exchange of fire. At dawn, the area was swept and one AK47, three rucksacks, four heavy rocket warheads, three rocket motor assemblies and two fuses were found.

A deadly arsenal was uncovered 25 kilometers northeast of Plei Djereng Feb. 20 by Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry. When the company completed its inventory, 340 B40 rockets, four canisters of propellant, 44 82mm mortar rounds and a case of AK47 ammo were found.

Alpha and Charlie Troops, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry denied the roving enemy nearly six tons of food this week. The rice was redistributed in friendly Montagnard villages within the Cav's area of operation.

Scattered firefights accounted for the remainder of enemy kills for the week. American casualties were light.

JAN 22 1969

Keeps Dictionary Handy

Burning Desire To Help Won

FIREBASE McNERNEY — An intense desire to help people less fortunate than himself, coupled with elemental knowledge of the Vietnamese language and a letter to his commanding general, led to a position on a 1st Brigade civil affairs team for Specialist 4 Jose M. Pagan.

The 4th Division soldier became interested in the civic action program during his first Vietnam tour in 1967. In his spare time, Specialist Pagan, then a 1st Brigade Long Range Patrol (LRP) team member, "read stories and a book on the topic," he said.

"The book emphasizes the benefits of knowing the Vietnamese language. Whenever possible, I tried to learn the language. After learning many of the most commonly used phrases, I decided to write a letter to the division commanding general." (Then Major General W.R. Peers.)

That was during October 1967.

General Peers gave Specialist Pagan a chance to cultivate his interest. He was given a job with the S-5, civil affairs section, of the 1st Brigade's 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Specialist Pagan quickly made friends with the Vietnamese interpreter aiding his new unit. In the evenings, when the day's work was done, the interpreter gave the ambitious Ivyman one or two-hour language lessons. This went on every night for over a year.

"I learned to read, write and sing the songs of the Vietnamese. The songs helped most since it was easier to remember the phrases that way," related the native of Puerto Rico.

Talks With Natives

As his knowledge increased, Specialist Pagan entered into conversation with the native population whenever possible. "That also was a good way to learn. Now, whenever I go into a village, the people are surprised to hear me speak to them in their language. They are

pleased . . . and also correct me when I make mistakes."

While most of his work takes place in the Montagnard inhabited villages of the Central Highlands, the Ivyman experiences few language difficulties. "Although there are many different Montagnard dialects, most of these people understand Vietnamese."

Specialist Pagan keeps steady company with Vietnamese language books. They are crammed into the pockets of his fatigues. He acquires them through Vietnamese interpreter friends and spends spare moments brushing up on things he does not know. (One of the books is a dictionary.)

At present, he is looking forward to visiting his father and the family grocery store in the Spanish Harlem section of New York City. The leave is one he earned by way of another tour extension.

Soon afterward, he will return to his activities of aiding the Vietnamese.

World War II Skyraider 'Jack Of All Trades'

Story By SP4 David C. Drew



IN AN AGE of jet propelled machinery, an airplane called the A-1 Skyraider could be imagined as one of the fastest of the new jets.

However, the Skyraider is far from a supersonic plane of the sixties. The A-1 is an old propeller driven fighter that was first flown by the U.S. Navy in 1945 and used for electronic surveillance and reconnaissance.

Based at the Pleiku Air Base, the 6th Special Operations Squadron (6th SOS) is the only American-manned Skyraider squadron stationed in Vietnam. The Ivymen of the 4th Division can be thankful that the Central Highlands is the "Home of the Spads".

The A-1 Skyraider appeared in Vietnam in the Spring of 1964 and moved into Pleiku in 1966. Their duty since arrival has been to fly every conceivable mission, day and night air strikes for interdiction and close support; leaflet drops for the psychological warfare effort, air cover for helicopter assaults and rescue operations; forward air controlling; escort for defoliation and road convoys and limited aerial resupply.

Go Wherever Needed

Although the 6th SOS's area of responsibility is concentrated in the II Corps area and its main support is for the 4th Division, they have been sent wherever needed and have worked missions in every corps in Vietnam.

The Skyraider has been referred to as slow, ugly, hot and uncomfortable and is usually covered with oil and dirt; they are nevertheless, versatile and effective.

Because of its lower speed, a maximum of 400 knots, the aircraft has lower flying capabilities which allows it pinpoint accuracy in delivering its ordnance in jungle terrain. Its big 2700 horsepower engine, the same engine that powered B29s, enables the machine

to carry heavy ordnance and fly combat configurations for a longer period of time. This is a valuable asset to the ground unit which often needs close air support for a considerable length of time.

A large percentage of Skyraider pilots are older, more experienced flyers with backgrounds and experience in jets, bombers and cargo planes.

The majority of the Skyraider's missions are flown in support of ground troops. In these operations there are two ways in which the planes can be called into action.

A normal mission is a preplanned strike set up in conjunction with the 4th Division for action in preselected areas. These areas are picked by the Famous Fourth on advance information they receive in relation to the operations they have planned.

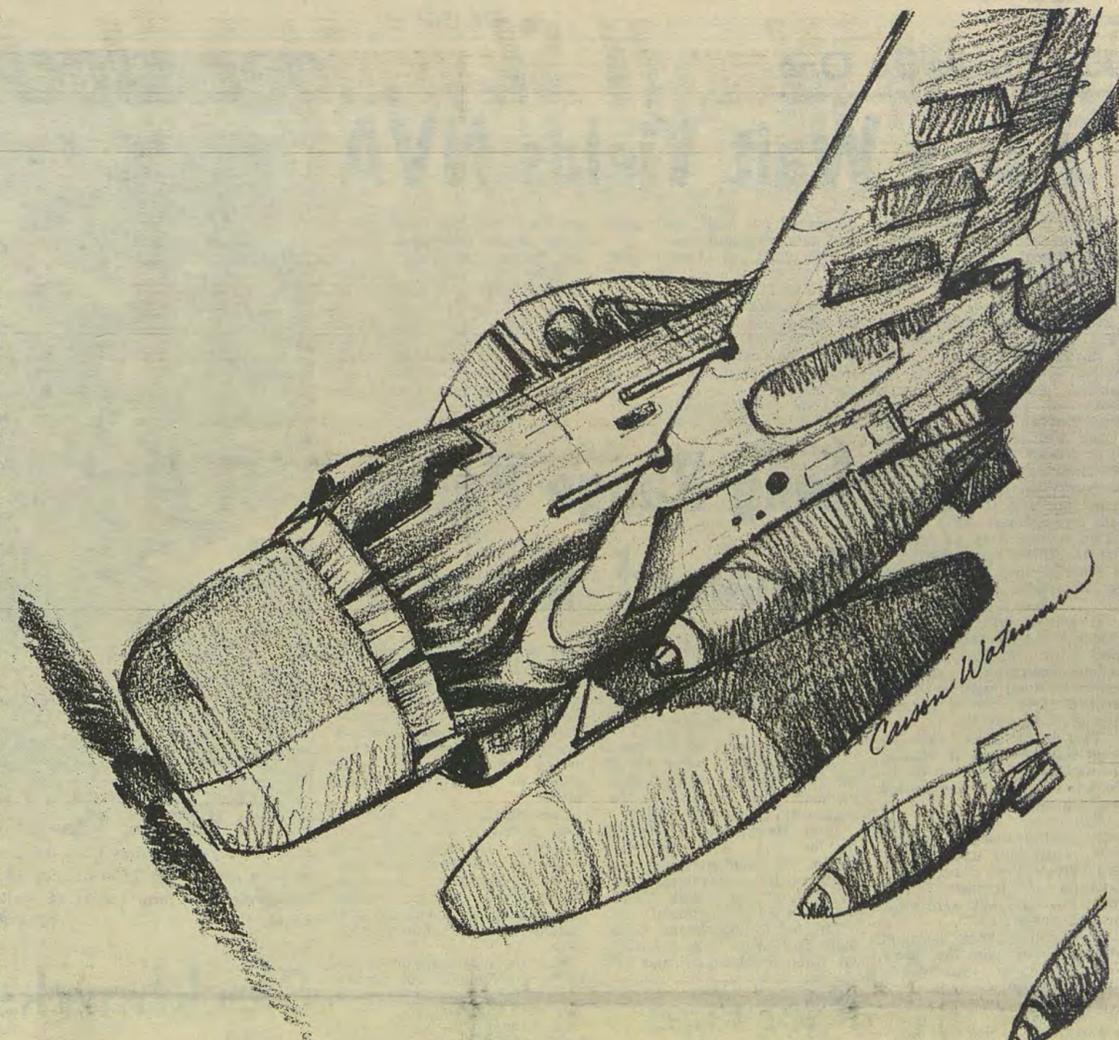
Estimates Air Support

The 4th Division estimates the air support needed, notifies the 7th Air Force which channels the information to the 6th SOS. The pilots are then given a ground briefing as to the unit in the field, time for the strike, the target to be hit and ordnance required.

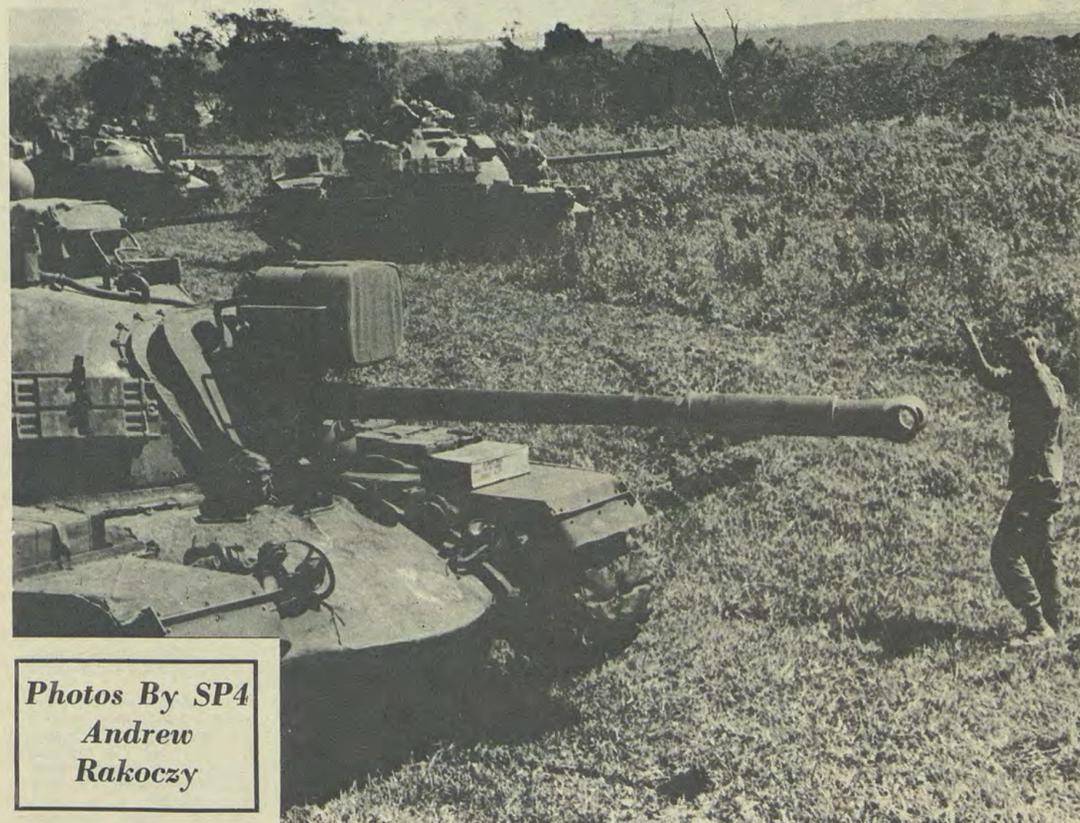
The second type of mission comes under an alert commitment when a unit in the field calls for air support. As soon as the 6th SOS is notified, the planes are scrambled into the air within 15 minutes. Skyraider missions are always flown in pairs and four aircraft are on alert at all times.

Maintenance hasn't been a problem for the squadron. The highly skilled crews keep the planes in highly operational condition. The planes are used often and hard, but respond well under the strain.

Eighteen Skyraiders make up the 6th Squadron, manned by 220 airmen. The unit has 24 front line pilots who fly the missions in support of 4th Division soldiers.



Armor-Clad Bisons Keep 'Charlie' Pushing



Photos By SP4
Andrew
Rakoczy

ARMORED BISONS SET UP NIGHT PERIMETER NEAR BAN ME THUOT WHILE SUPPORTING DIVISION GROUND TROOPS.



THIS GUNNER SITS IN THE COCKPIT OF HIS TANK, FOREVER READY.



TANKERS PLOW THROUGH JUNGLE STREAM WHILE SUPPORTING THE 2ND BATTALION, 35TH INFANTRY.

LRPs Chalk Up One

2 Day Wait Yields NVA

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — For two days the Ivy Long Range Patrol (LRP) team sat on the seemingly deserted peak west of Kontum and nothing around them stirred.

But early on the third day the pace quickened. "When we finally started seeing action, it was almost too much for us to handle," said Sergeant Larry Moore of Canal Winchester, Ohio, the team leader.

The Famous 4th Division LRP, from Echo Company, 58th Infantry, were on a mission to observe enemy activity in the mountains west of this 2nd Brigade forward base camp.

Two routine days passed before the LRP had opportunity to exercise their skill of detecting, yet evading the enemy.

Spot 2 NVA

"It was a little after eight o'clock in the morning when we spotted two North Vietnamese soldiers moving past us about 25 meters from our night location," recalled Specialist 4 Joseph Seay of Richmond, Va.

"They didn't see us," said Sergeant Gary Wofford of Atlanta, "so we let them pass. But we decided to follow them and started breaking camp."

"We were collecting our packs, getting ready to go after them, when they came back," said Private First Class Dennis Erickson of Remsen, Iowa. "Only this time they were heading right toward us."

"They were making a lot of noise, so I don't think they knew we were there," remembered Sergeant Moore.

"When they were about 10 meters out, their lead man looked up and his eyes got real big," the team leader continued. "He spotted us so we opened up on them."

"After we each emptied a clip from our weapons, we threw a frag grenade at them just to make sure," he added.

When it was apparent that no movement was coming from the NVA, the LRP moved up. They found the body of one NVA and

recovered his AK47, web gear and assorted equipment.

"We didn't have time to look for the other one," Sergeant Moore said.

"We wanted to get out of there as fast as possible," added Sergeant Wofford, "because we had been compromised and there might have been more NVA in the area."

So the team began to move

quickly through the thick underbrush toward their landing zone and the extraction ship.

When they reached it, they called in artillery to saturate the area they had just left. "We heard some movement behind us and the Redlegs would take care of any would-be bushwhackers," Specialist Seay said. "Then we jumped aboard the slick and got out of there."

Long Range Patrol Renamed 'Rangers'

CAMP ENARI — Long Range Patrol units (LRPs), in recognition of their performance, have been organized into one regiment and redesignated "Rangers."

The Department of the Army has announced the activation of the 75th Infantry as the parent regiment and custodian of the regimental colors and trophies.

Their Headquarters, situated in the U.S. Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Ga., will contain a Ranger Training Command. A total of 15 units are involved in the reassignment.

Affected by the change, Company E, (LRP) 58th Infantry, the Famous 4th's LRP unit has

been redesignated Company K (Ranger) 75th Infantry.

The 75th's proud history traces its origin to the famous World War II 5307th Composite Unit more commonly known as Merrill's Marauders. This is the most appropriate unit with which to identify the former LRP.

Conceptually the Rangers were primarily an intelligence gathering unit concerned with seek, find and report type missions. Merrill's Marauders changed this concept, became more offensive-minded and conducted combat infantry missions.

With the incorporation of the LRP, the Rangers will assume more of the mission under which they were originally conceived.

In addition to the introductory training given at Ft. Benning, an intensified program, much the same as the one now presented by the 4th Division, is designed to help the new Rangers orient themselves to the in-country environment.

Although the name has changed, the mission will be the same. Fourth Division Rangers will continue to wear the Ivy patch and will continue to procure intelligence of the enemy by scouting enemy forces and positions in every 4th Division area of operation.



RANGER INSIGNIA

Pilot Flies Hit Copter To Safety

OASIS — "Holes were appearing throughout the entire cockpit. We were taking a lot of hits."

These were the words of the Famous 4th Captain Robert D. King, member of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, describing a medical evacuation (MedEvac) mission.

Captain King's chopper was on a MedEvac for Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry. Because of the enemy resistance in the area, artillery fire was used to cover the chopper's flight into the LZ.

Still, the roughness of the terrain forced the Captain to hover above the LZ, exposing his chopper to hostile fire.

Being able to carry only a partial load, Captain King prepared to vacate the area. NO GO! His chopper lacked sufficient power to rise to safety. The only way out was to hover his craft long enough to build-up adequate power to resume flight, and in the same process, expose the craft to more enemy fire.

Once in the air the captain faced even greater problems.

Enemy fire had crippled the engines. Suddenly, they lost all power. The captain, through the use of autorotation, "glided" his chopper to a safe landing at the old Plei Djereng airfield.

Because of his heroic actions during this mission, Captain King, a resident of Colorado Springs, Colo., received the Air Medal with "V" device.

The award was presented by Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, assistant division commander.



HIDE 'N SEEK—Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry remove part of the 2500 pounds of husked rice hidden in a well-concealed tunnel east of Pleiku near Firebase Blackhawk. (USA Photo by SP4 John Uhlar)

Blackhawks Detain Villagers In Search

FIREBASE BLACKHAWK — Ivymen from the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, using the element of surprise and deception on a cordon and search mission with National Policemen from Le Trung Province, halted three detainees and came home with 2500 pounds of husked rice.

At first light, the cavalrymen from the 1st Platoon, Troop C, pushed to the south of Highway 19 toward a twin village complex separated by a narrow rice paddy.

Minutes later a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) with Troop C Commander Captain John H. Abrams of Falls Church, Va., began making passes over the first village, while armored assault vehicles and tanks moved in position to cordon the second settlement.

"While we circled overhead," explained Captain Abrams, "the villagers started grouping in an

open area, preparing for what they thought was to be a cordon while on the other side of the rice paddy, the settlers remained unmoved, perhaps resigned to the fact that our efforts were not aimed at them."

As the ground elements began to near their objectives, LOH pilot Chief Warrant Officer James Meredith of Angola, Ind., and Captain Abrams quickly changed course and headed toward the neighboring village to direct the cavalrymen from the air.

Three men, sensing the mock cordon on their neighboring village was an evasive tactic, began to run but were quickly apprehended by the Ivymen.

The tactic had proved successful for not only had the detainees tipped their hand, but they also led the cavalrymen to a 2,500 pound rice cache not far from their village.



TRANSPLANT — This lovely native of Norway comes to us courtesy of Playboy. Her name is Britt Fredriksen and as you might have guessed, she had no problem establishing herself in Yankee land.

Pilots See Other Side Of War

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — The four men dressed in Air Force flight suits at the 2nd Brigade base camp area were no strangers to the Kontum area, but in their job, "they seldom see the ground."

These four men comprise the crew of a B52 and many of their missions are in support of 4th Infantry Division ground troops.

Taking advantage of a program which enables the crews to visit ground units in Vietnam, the airmen spent two days with the Highlanders, "seeing the other side of the war," as one of the visitors put it.

'Can't See Much'

"Most of the time, we fly so high that the cloud cover blocks out the view," said Captain William A. Buono of Wells, Maine "and even when it's clear, we can't see much detail."

"This visit gives us an idea of what's going on down below," continued First Lieutenant Lawrence D. Bowers of Bridgewater, Va. "The crews have a problem understanding the importance of our job because we never get a close look at the results of our work."

The two-day visit included a trip to forward firebases where

the crew met some of the Ivymen they support.

"We arrived just in time to watch B52s drop their ordnance and the guys on the hill cheered," said Captain Thomas Radziewicz of Bricktown, N.J. "It made us all feel good."

"When we return to our base after this visit," Staff Sergeant Monroe Randel of Robins AFB, Ga., said, "I think we all will have learned a lot."

"Normally we don't get a chance to meet the people we support and just talking to the guys really gave us a boost," he said.

NVA Officer Reveals Life In Hanoi

Sketching
By Combat
Artist
SP4 Carson
Waterman



Story By CPT
David R. Fabian

'THE NVA SOLDIER FOUND HIS FOES TO BE COMPASSIONATE. HIS WOUNDS WERE TENDED, AND HE IS ALIVE TODAY TO TELL HIS STORY.'

LIEUTENANT X had been extensively trained as a recon specialist in North Vietnam prior to his infiltration south. After serving four months in South Vietnam with the 320th Regiment Recon Company as a Master Sergeant, he received a battlefield commission and became the executive officer of the 19th Recon Company, 320th Regiment, 1st NVA Division.

He participated in the battles of Chu Do, Chu Ben and Hill 800 in Kontum Province in 1968. In late summer his unit was moved further south toward Ban Me Thuot. While on a recon mission, he was found wounded by an alert 4th Division LRP team.

The desire to live had been sapped from his body. Now he suffered the grave mental anguish of a severely wounded soldier who had been abandoned by his fleeing comrades.

Perhaps he felt as though death had smoothed her lap and beckoned him to rest his head. Or perhaps he felt that his battered body had begun melting into the thickly carpeted jungle floor.

The desire to destroy the enemy, however, still pulsed, and with what little strength he could muster, he cradled two grenades beneath his body, intent upon killing his American captors in a final gesture of hostile defiance.

To his surprise, the NVA soldier found his foes to be compassionate. His wounds were immediately tended, and he is alive today to tell the story of his tour with the North Vietnamese Army.

What follows is the first in a series of weekly installments which will make known to Ivymen the contents of a lengthy interview between the NVA

officer—we shall call him Lieutenant X—and intelligence experts. The comments made by Lieutenant X during the interview were offered freely and sincerely.

The IVY LEAF wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Major Billy J. Biberstein, Commanding Officer, 13th Military History Detachment, who transcribed notes of the interview into narrative form.

Here, however, the narrative has been abridged and in part specially rewritten to meet practical demands. No factual material has been altered in any way.

Part I

'GENERALLY SPEAKING, I enjoyed a relatively good childhood. Although my father died before my birth, my mother was able to manage household and financial affairs throughout my early childhood because she was successfully renting sections of our 50 hectares of rice fields to neighbors. When I was six years old, however, my mother and I—I should mention that I was an only child—moved from Nam Ha, the place of my birth, to Ngol Cao village in Ninh Binh Province in North Vietnam. We did so because we wished to escape the fighting being waged by the French and the Viet Minh.

"While living in Ngol Cao, I attended school for eight years, earning the equivalent of a high school diploma. I recall enjoying mathematics a great deal, but I felt I had little aptitude to appreciate and understand literature.

"In 1960 I joined a high school youth group. For me, membership in the group was a new experience. Perhaps it was because my mother was fairly rich, or perhaps it was because I was cherished by her as her

only child, but prior to joining the group I led what would be referred to as an irresponsible and reckless teenhood. My social life was very active. There were always folk festivals, dances and movies.

"The high school group matured me. It was not a communist organization, however. My first experience as a member of a communist youth organization occurred later when I was drafted into military service. I am not certain, but I think that every NVA soldier must be a youth group member.

"Personally, I am not pleased to be under the communist regime. Before it became prominent in North Vietnam, my mother was able to sell our farm products directly to the people, but after they (the communists) came, she was forced to sell all her products to the cooperative."

(At this point in the interview, Lieutenant X mentions the numerous hardships his mother encountered when trying to sell crops at the cooperative, the loss of personal property, and the rationing of foodstuffs in North Vietnam).

"The North Vietnamese people do not like it under the yoke of the communist party either, but they dare not express their true feelings and anti-communist sentiments for fear of punishment. If they do speak out against the ideologies which have been imposed upon them, they are immediately arrested and sent to a reform center for one to four months. If they are guilty of more flagrant violations against the government, the sentences are longer...."

NEXT WEEK: Lieutenant X will tell about his military training in North Vietnam.

Brownies Adopt N.Y. Specialist

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — "A little love and thoughtfulness from someone is all a fellow needs to make his tour in Vietnam go a little easier," said Specialist 4 Richard Pluta of Rocky-point, N.Y., "and I'm getting plenty of it."

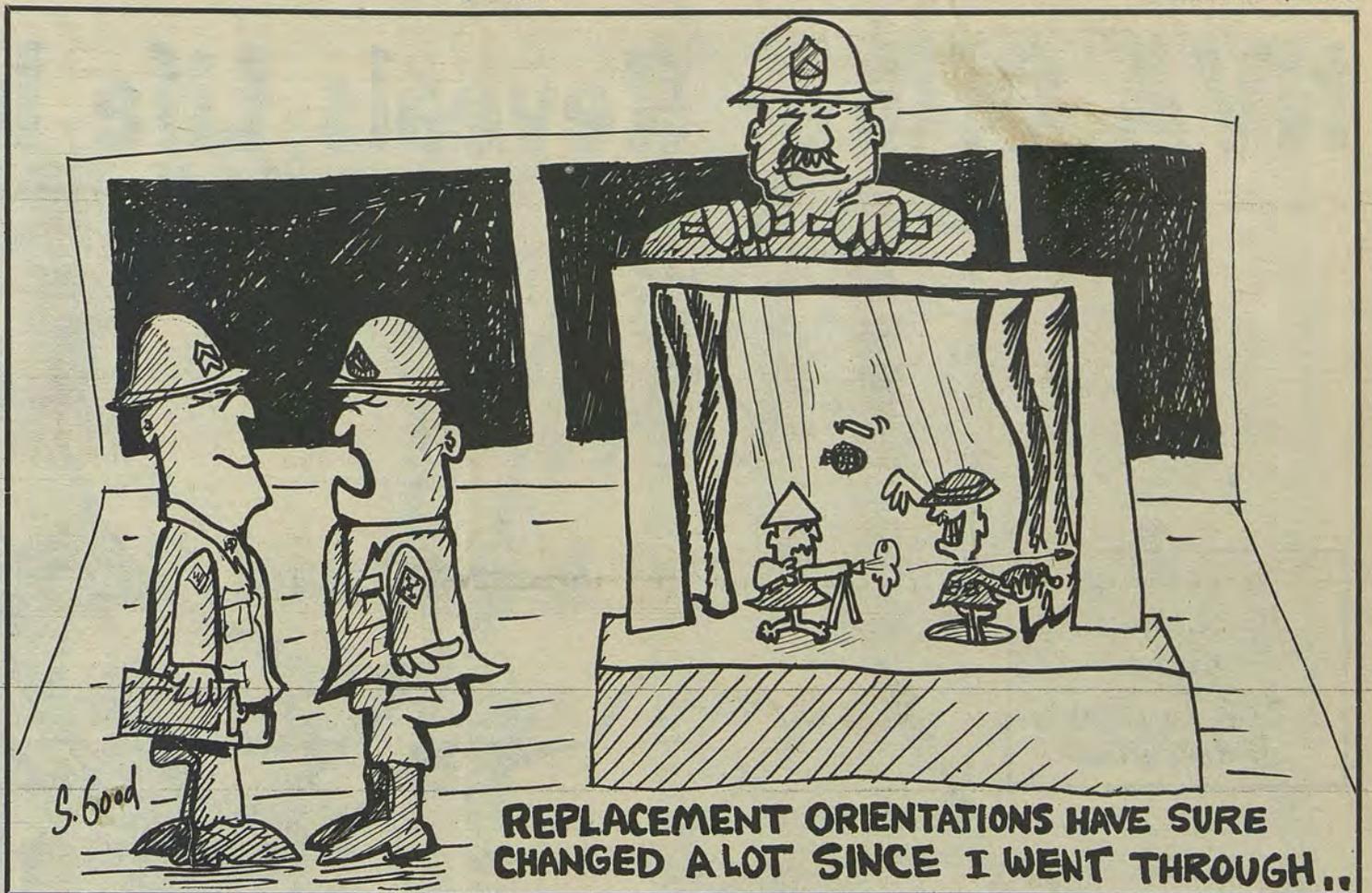
On Valentines Day, Specialist Pluta, a dining room orderly for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, received a huge valentine from a group of Brownies of Selden Long Island, N.Y.

The heart-shaped card, two feet by three feet, was loaded with little cards and notes from over 30 girls in Brownie Troop 392.

"The Brownies wanted to do a little something special for a soldier in Vietnam, so they adopted me," explained Specialist Pluta. "Now on every holiday they send me packages and cards such as this one," explained the Highlander with a smile.

One of the notes from a nine-year-old read, "I want to thank you for fighting to keep our country free."

"It really warmed my heart to know someone cares," added Specialist Pluta.



Porky Pig Saved From VC Stewing Pot

FIREBASE McNERNEY — Specialist 4 Jose Pagan represents the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry in its cooperative efforts with Famous 4th Division S-5 teams.

His days are fairly routine, usually consisting of MED-CAPS or goodwill visits to neighboring Montagnard villages. He seldom finds any problems in his work.

But early one morning, Specialist Pagan found himself faced with a unique situation. A message from his battalion headquarters told him to expect some "detainees" that afternoon, 13 pigs, which elements of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry had "captured" during patrolling missions in VC Valley. The pigs were being back-hauled on supply ships.

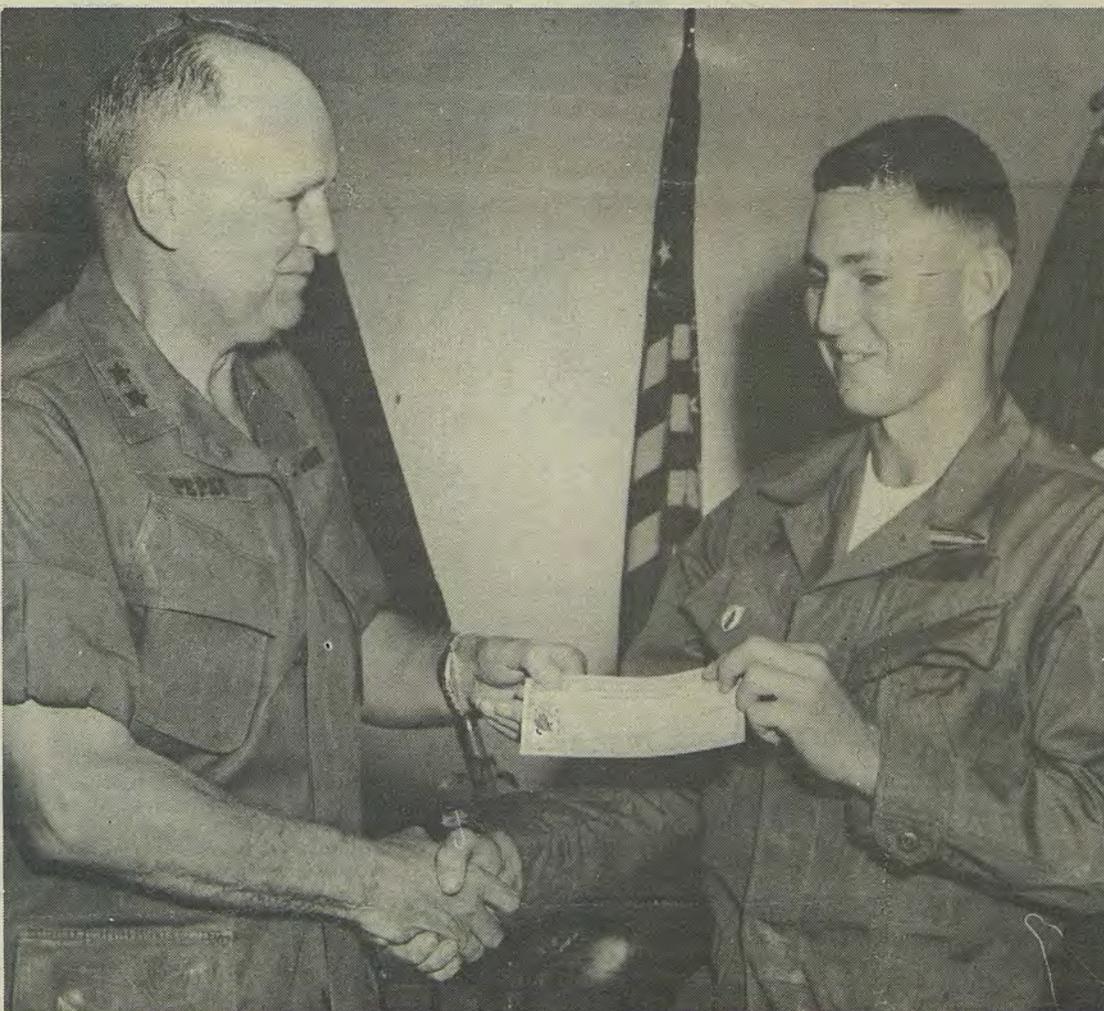
After confirming the message — imagine the embarrassment of asking a pad operator if your pigs had come in yet — Specialist Pagan borrowed a truck from the 1st Brigade S-5

section and awaited the arrival of his pork without lima beans.

When the full grown sow and her brood of 12 arrived, Specialist Pagan loaded them onto the truck and started out for LeTrung District Headquarters, four miles away. He lightened his load along the way by giving four of the small pigs to Montagnards who were walking along the road.

After arriving at district headquarters, Specialist Pagan offered the pigs to First Lieutenant Nguyen Loi, the assistant district chief. Lieutenant Loi thanked the Ivyman for his gift and promised to see that the animals were distributed to local villagers.

"That worked out pretty well," Specialist Pagan mused, "but if they ever start back-hauling snakes or tigers..."



TOP IVYMAN—Specialist 4 David M. Mara is presented a \$25 Savings Bond by Major General Donn R. Pepke, Division commander. Specialist Mara was awarded the bond after being chosen Soldier of the Month in the 4th Division. (USA Photo)

SP4 Named Soldier Of Month

CAMP ENARI—Demonstrating a high degree of professional competence, grasp of military knowledge and exemplary personal appearance, Specialist 4 David M. Mara was named the 4th Division Soldier of the Month.

First chosen to represent Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, Specialist Mara then went on to demonstrate more qualities than his five opponents at the battalion semi-finals and the nine competitors at the division finals.

The 21-year-old Lincoln, Neb., native was pre-

sented two \$25 Savings Bonds. The first for capturing the battalion honor, and the other for his selection in the division.

An eight-month veteran in Vietnam, Specialist Mara is presently serving as a team leader for Charlie Company.

Prior to entering the Army, Specialist Mara was a student at the University of Nebraska. Upon completion of his military commitment he plans to return to the university for his degree in Mechanical Engineering.

ARVN's Smash 120...

(Continued From Page 1) the Binh Tay series ended with 120 NVA killed, confirmed by American advisors, plus more than 200 estimated enemy dead.

Seized were one complete 60mm mortar, two light machine guns of undetermined caliber and origin, one AK47 assault rifle, one Russian-made carbine of undetermined calibre, one

7.5mm model MAS-36 rifle, one U.S. AN GRC9 radio, 18 82mm mortar rounds and 200 miscellaneous fuses.

Also seized were 350 pounds of TNT, five Chicom heavy AT mines, 37 miscellaneous hand grenades, 24 shovels, 186 B40 and B41 rounds and 40 drums of 12.75mm heavy machine gun ammunition.

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