

Dragoons Smash NVA On Hill 947

By SP5 Robert G. Frechette

POLEI KLENG—When the men of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry set up their night position on Hill 947, 23 kilometers southwest of here, little did they realize that they would be pinned down at the location for a day and a half by NVA rocket, mortar and sniper fire in a battle that would claim the lives of 139 NVA regulars.

The 4th Infantry Division's fighting men knew there was a good deal of enemy activity in the area. That day, they had met a six man NVA patrol on a heavily traveled foot path, killing four of the enemy and freeing a captured American soldier the patrol was escorting.

fire from all sides. We also found that the earlier perimeter movement was caused by the enemy setting up claymores facing us. These were also fired in the initial contact."

After the outburst, enemy fire died off somewhat. "There were still snipers in and behind trees surrounding us," reported Sergeant Robert Edwards of Atlanta, Ga. "Whenever we tried moving from our holes, they would shoot at us and throw in mortar rounds."

Movement Began
Things were quiet as the Ivymen set up their night location on Hill 947. As darkness crept in on the camp, occasional movement could be heard along its perimeter areas. This activity increased about 5:00 the next morning.

During the entire day, the besieged 1st Brigade company was supported by artillery, gunships and air strikes. The 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery's forward observer with the company, First Lieutenant Hank Castillon of Green River, Wyo., reportedly laid out in the open throughout the entire operation, calling in and adjusting artillery on the enemy positions whenever other methods of outside support were not being used.

"Just as we were beginning to send men out to our OPs (observation posts)," related Specialist Donald Bosch of Bismark, N.D., "we were hit with mortars, rockets and heavy sniper

That night, the NVA attempted to slip into Delta Company's position. They made frequent use of grenades in their short range probes.

Spooky Assists

Spooky 42 spent almost the entire night spraying lethal ordnance in support of the Ivymen.

"Spooky began working out 400 meters from our location and worked his way in," explained First Sergeant Julius C. Smith of Harrisonburg, Va. "He did a tremendous job for us . . . firing right into the edge of our perimeter."


Specialist 4 Arlan Anderson of Butte, Neb., along with other members of the company command post group, flashed lights on the trees nearest the enemy.

(Continued on Back Page)




The Remains

The charred remains of two NVA 105mm howitzers rest in the 1st Brigade's tactical command post at Polei Kleng CIDG Camp after being hit by artillery, gunships and airstrikes. The NVA weapons, manufactured in the U.S., were captured by the Communists during the French-Indochinese War. (USA Photo By SP5 Robert Frechette)



IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH



Vol. 3, No. 13 CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM March 30, 1969

Total Now 10,075 In Vietnam War

Fighting Increases, 289 NVA Fall

CAMP ENARI — Aggressive Ivy units were credited with 289 kills this week (March 8-14), bringing their overall total since arriving in country in August 1966 to a confirmed enemy body count of 10,075.

Later in the afternoon, the two companies detected a tunnel complex, which, upon investigation, was found to lodge an additional 11 NVA bodies. Another nine bodies were found the following morning as the two companies continued their sweep.

strict Headquarters for distribution to the civilian population.

On March 8, Bravo and Charlie Companies, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, sweeping an area of heavy contact 23 kilometers southwest of Polei Kleng, found two mass graves containing a total of 39 NVA soldiers.

Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, closed in on a suspected enemy storage site 17 kilometers northeast of Camp Enari and unearthed a rice cache totaling 3,200 pounds. The rice was evacuated to Le Trung Dis-

Bridge Destroyed
On the afternoon of March 8, D Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry destroyed a wooden bridge capable of supporting one-half ton vehicular traffic while reconing an area 18 kilometers southwest of Polei Kleng.

The northern sector of the Plei Trap Valley erupted again on March 9, as two platoons of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, while reconing in force 13 kilometers northwest of Polei Kleng, exchanged a withering volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire with an estimated NVA company.

Only two other significant contacts occurred during the remainder of the week.

Two companies of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry linked together on March 11, 23 kilometers southwest of Polei Kleng to block movement of an estimated NVA platoon. Twelve NVA soldiers were reported killed.

On March 12, elements of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, teamed with C Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry to beat back an estimated NVA company. Together, the Bullets and the Ruthless Riders killed 23 of the enemy.

When contact was broken by the enemy, the two platoons swept, finding 36 enemy dead. U.S. casualties were light during the day-long battle.

The same day, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry destroyed two wooden bridges capable of supporting tank traffic and showing signs of recent use. Camouflaged by thick overhead foliage, the bridges could not be detected from the air.

Action Moves

Action moved closer to Polei Kleng on March 10, as Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, reinforced by the battalion's Company C, and Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, killed 13 NVA four kilometers beyond the CIDG camp's perimeter. Three AK47 rifles, one light machine gun, and one RPG rocket launcher were captured.

By midweek, it seemed that the enemy went into hiding. NVA units avoided contact — a good indication they needed time to lick their wounds — and action subsided considerably.

Cav Provides Cover, RF Conduct Sweep

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — The ranks of an NVA unit were decimated when elements of Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, and Vietnamese Regular Forces (RF) coordinated with Air Force F-100 Super Sabres in a combined effort that netted 18 enemy dead.

mored personnel carriers (APC).

"We were about two-thirds of the way through the village with negative findings, when all of a sudden the enemy opened up with a barrage of small arms fire from the woodline to our right-front," recalled Captain Deter.

A Big, Ugly Needle

PLEI CHI TEH — There was excitement here recently, when a medical team from Pleiku Province Hospital came to immunize the Montagnard citizens against the dreaded bubonic plague.

Like American soldiers, faced with similar fears of being punctured with big, fearsome needles some of the Montagnards were naturally skeptical. They stood back and watched the braver ones step forward to receive their vaccine.

"It won't hurt you," coaxed one of the members of the civil affairs team from the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry. "You should have seen all the shots I got before I came to your country."

Through an interpreter and display of his shot record he convinced the dubious ones. They took his word and offered themselves to the menacing needles.

It helped to have a medical team that was able to give painless shots.

"I really saved face, thanks to them," said the civil affairs member.


Over 1600 men, women, and children were given the life protecting serum in one day. The following day the team vaccinated 36 more from a nearby leper village.

Immediately, the tanks and APCs riddled the woodline with their main guns, machine guns, small arms and M79 fire. Minutes later both sides ceased fire.

Moving up to the enemy position, Staff Sergeant Augustine Peterman, the platoon sergeant, noticed movement in one of the trenches the NVA had been using for cover. Unable to shoot at the enemy movement from his position, Sergeant Peterman circled around the trench and dropped a hand grenade on the unsuspecting enemy.


(Continued on Back Page)

From The Desk of



the

Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Practical Morality

OUR RECENT ENCOUNTER with enemy tanks brings to mind one of General George S. Patton Jr's famous quotes about his men: "Wars may be fought with weapons—but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and the man who leads which gains the victory." The winning spirit of a soldier is the result of self-discipline and establishing and observing a practical morality.

What is practical morality? Morality is the positive sense of values that determines a meaningful and satisfying life. Practical morality, then, is what we actually do with life, relating these values to our particular situation; these are workable means of attaining worthwhile but realistic goals.

"Will a man gain anything if he wins the whole but is himself lost or defeated?" (Luke: 9:25) We might say, "What will it gain the Division to overcome the enemy in every battle if the individual American soldier does not share in the spirit of personal victory?"

The "spirit" General Patton noted was a unifying, driving force — the voluntary massing of human effort towards the attainment of a common goal. The success of the group is dependent on the participation of each of its members, and each must appreciate the importance of his individual role within the group and its contribution to the objective.

I CANNOT MAKE personal decisions for the officers and men of this Division, nor may I compel them to establish and follow individual codes of ethics and honor. I am bound, however, to try to influence their decisions in this regard. Each individual must determine for himself his own personal goals, and practice positive, honorable means of attaining those goals.

Virtually every phase of practical morality requires self-discipline: accepting authority, seeking and exercising responsibility, respecting the rights of others, and genuinely seeking a more meaningful existence for ourselves and our comrades-in-arms. Man's success may be measured two ways: first, by his establishing a healthy and moral philosophy for his life, and, second, by his personal attainment in living it.

Are you interested in what "others" think of you? Your family at home? Your sweetheart? Your friends? Your soldier buddies? Do you value their respect? What of the opinion of the Vietnamese or Montagnards who will judge your country, freedom and democracy, and your religion by you? If for no other reason, isn't it practical morality to live up to the expectations of your loved ones while serving in Vietnam?

What of the "circumstances?" It is easy to feel sorry for ourselves. But it is the healthy, well-adjusted, moral man who is able to adjust to any circumstance and to make the most of it. True greatness of character is created and tested by adversity and heroes are born under fire.

VERY FEW SOLDIERS deny a belief in and a dependence upon Almighty God. Our life as soldiers keeps us close to elemental things—the earth, the sky, pain, death and God! One of the minor prophets sums up God's expectations of us by saying: "What doth the Lord require of Thee, O Man, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thy God." (Micah 6:8)

The war in Vietnam will be won by spirited men who lead and who follow loyally in the course of combat. The ultimate direction of our destiny as free people and the common joy of personal fulfillment will be ours for the daily discipline of this practical morality. May this total victory be yours.

Soldier Of The Month

Specialist 4 David K. Meyer-cord, a team leader for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Inf Infantry has been selected Division Soldier of the Month.

Specialist Meyer-cord, from Dallas, Tex., is a member of the same platoon as last month's winner, Specialist 4 David M. Mara.

The Cacti Blue is awarding

Specialist Meyer-cord with a \$25 savings bond, and a promotion to Sergeant. The Division awards each Ivyman chosen as Soldier of the Month with a \$25 savings bond and a three-day in-country R&R.

A history major at Dartmouth College before entering the service, Specialist Meyer-cord plans to go to law school when he leaves the Army.

Career Corner

Continued Education

A military career means a great deal more than regular pay and an excellent retirement program. There are many benefits which the individual does accrue by virtue of being in the service. Of course, for complete information about all the advantages of a military career, personnel should keep in touch with the career counselor servicing his unit. He is an expert. He is the man who knows.

Modern technology and methods are constantly reminding us of the need for additional education. For the average man, formal education stops when he leaves school. He very often does not have the money or time to attend classes to acquire the extra education that might mean more money, fast promotion and an all around better life.

The U.S. Army is well aware of the urgent need of supplying educational facilities and means whereby men serving with the Army can continue their education. The Army educational program is in fact a world-wide system of instruction providing educational opportunities to all individuals regardless of where they are stationed.

To satisfy individual educational needs, the U.S. Army offers five major sources of education.

1. The United States Armed Forces Institute, commonly known as USAFI, offers approximately 300 different courses at the elementary, high school and college level. Courses are both academic and technical in scope. USAFI courses may be studied in a classroom or through correspondence.

Group study courses can be set up anywhere there are enough men desirous of studying a course and a suitable instructor is available. Correspondence courses are available anywhere an individual might be stationed.

An initial enrollment fee of \$5.00 is charged for USAFI studies. Upon completion of the initial course, personnel may continue on with additional courses without additional cost.

2. Correspondence courses at the college level are available from 44 cooperating colleges. These schools offer approximately 6400 courses in almost every field. The cost to the soldier will vary with the course but will be a reduced price offered only to the Armed Forces.

3. The college tuition assistance program makes it possible for personnel to attend organized classes offered by recognized universities and colleges at the post where the man is currently stationed. The cost is nominal as the Army pays up to \$7.50 per semester hour toward the total cost.

4. If personnel desire to be trained in a technical field of their choice, the Army offers training in Army service schools. These courses cost the individual absolutely nothing but the time it takes to apply. This is one of the best ways to acquire the desired training at no expense to the individual.

5. In addition to all the above, the Army provides the means for individuals to attend a university to complete their education and obtain a degree. Of course, they must meet certain prerequisites and be able to qualify for a degree within a certain period of time.

If a man has any intention of furthering his education under this program, there are two things he must do now! First, he should evaluate himself honestly

to determine which field he is best suited for and what he would like to do as his life-long work. Secondly, he should contact his Army Career Counselor to discuss the Army education program, and how it can help to

develop his full potential in a satisfying Army career.

Remember, your career counselor is more than a reenlistment NCO, he is in fact your consultant in all matters affecting your future.

CSM Taylor Speaks Out



Battlefield Commissions

TODAY THERE ARE many young men doing an outstanding job on the battlefield. Many have been cited for using excellent judgement while under fire, and for taking command when superiors were either killed or wounded too seriously to do the job.

These men, if otherwise qualified, may apply for a "battlefield" commission in the U.S. Army Reserve with immediate call to active duty.

This is made possible through the Department of the Army (DA) program to recognize those with qualifications necessary to become an officer. DA allots a certain number of "battlefield" commissions to USARV, which has the authority to make its own appointments—if the soldier to be commissioned meets the stringent standards.

Do you meet these standards?

- have served on active duty with USARV for a minimum of three months and served in grade E-5 thru E-9 for at least six months;
- are of good moral character;
- are a citizen of the United States;
- have no military or civil court convictions;
- are between 18½ and 28 years of age (waiver authorized for the maximum age limit);
- are a high school graduate or have a GED equivalent; and
- possess a GT score of 115.

If so, then you may apply for one of these "battlefield" commissions.

IN AN ARMY that is constantly changing, there is a great need for leaders, for men who are willing to learn and desirous of work.

In this respect, commanders should encourage qualified personnel of their commands to take advantage of this opportunity to become an officer in the United States Army.

But, the responsibility of finding these leaders to fill the officer ranks belongs to one very important person. This is the man who decides to earn a commission, this is the man who will work and sweat for it. The man who reaps the benefits of a commission—that man is you.



IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH



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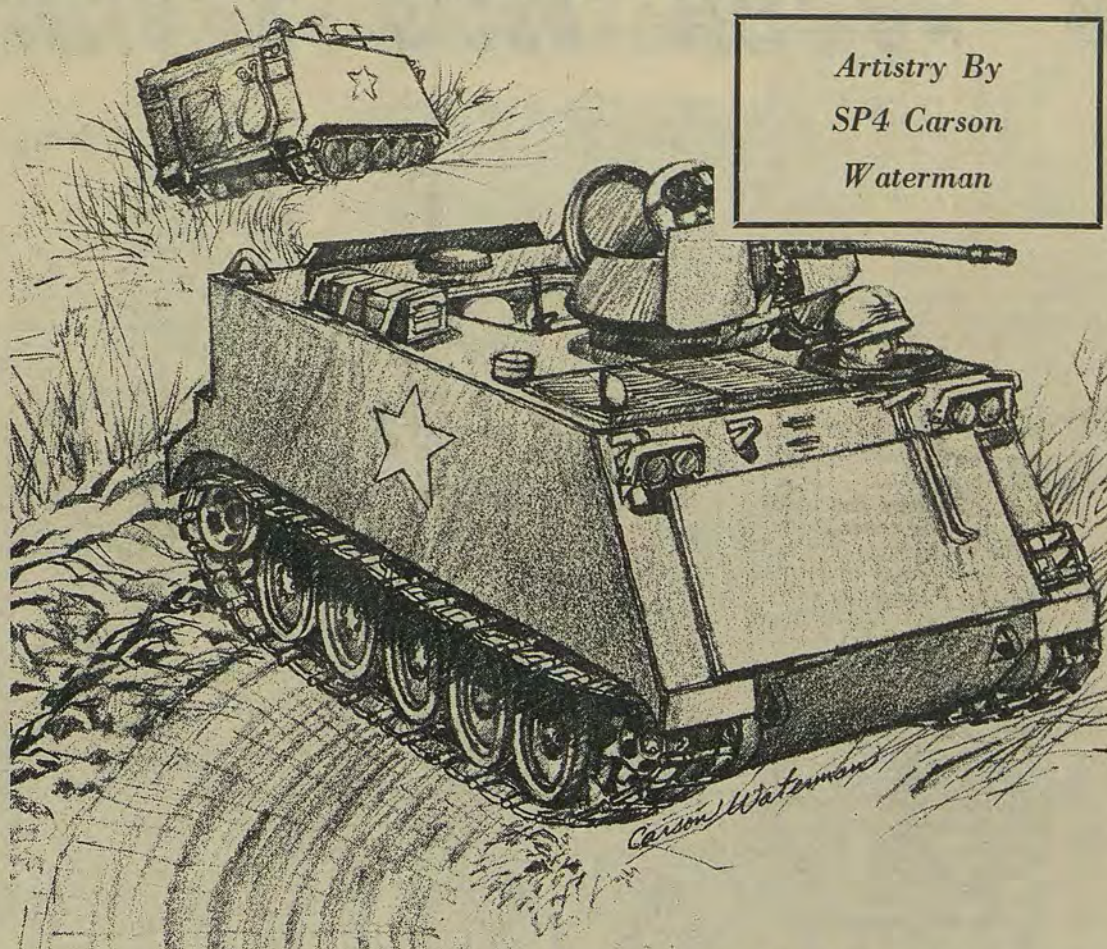
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"Sergeant Robertson Whipped His Vehicle Into The Contact Area . . .

Mechanized Warfare Pays Off

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—By employing the finest aspects of mechanized warfare—shock-action, fire-power, mobility—elements of the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized) 8th Infantry erased a fortified enemy position in a battle 16 miles southwest of Kontum City.

Three enemy soldiers were killed when assaulting Panthers of the 3rd Platoon, Company C overran enemy bunkers after their armored personnel carriers (APCs) received B40 rocket and small arms fire.

The attack was centered on the Panthers' trailing, or drag, track driven by Specialist 4 Bill Robertson of Ashville, N.C. Immediately upon receiving the first rounds, Specialist Robertson whipped his vehicle into the contact area while Sergeant Millard Skidmore of Stanton, Ky., the

track gunner, sprayed machine gun fire into the enemy bunker complex.

Additional automatic weapons fire was concentrated on the enemy by Sergeants Dennis Wooley of Eugene, Ore. and Otis Bradford of Dallas, Tex., both of whom raced their vehicles to the support of the drag track as it absorbed the brunt of the enemy attack.

"When the enemy initiated the contact," stated platoon leader First Lieutenant Tony Salcido of San Antonio, Tex., "our tracks turned into the fire and charged their position. The reaction time was excellent and, combined with heavy and accurate fire, it enabled us to overrun their position.

"I hope the enemy who escaped died so with the knowledge that they failed to hit any of us or even damage a track."

SRPs Teach Deadly Lesson

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — A Short Range Patrol (SRP) operating in the sweltering jungle west of Kontum gave three NVA soldiers a deadly lesson in the art of warfare.

The SRP team from the reconnaissance platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, was returning to its patrol base when Specialist 4 Jay Melton of Moline, Ill., whispered a hurried warning of enemy movement.

Hears Sound

A faint sound had cut through the darkness of the triple canopied jungle, breaking the stillness.

Urgency was in the eyes of Private First Class Steve McCartney of San Jose, Calif., as he alerted the other members of the patrol to the presence of enemy in the area. Silently the Red Warriors slipped into a large bomb crater.

The distinct sound of human voices came nearer as the Ivymen patiently waited.

Then three NVA soldiers appeared, carelessly walking down a trail cutting the brush as they moved. "They came down that trail just like they owned it," said Private First Class Hector Borrero of New York City, "and

they made no effort to hide their presence."

Deadly Fire

The unsuspecting enemy stepped through the dense undergrowth into a deadly wall of M16 fire. One NVA soldier was killed immediately. The other two fled into the jungle.

"When they realized we were there," explained Specialist Mel-

ton, "they could do nothing but try to escape."

The dead NVA was found with his AK47, two extra magazines, and a canteen.

"Their uniforms were brand new," recalls Private First Class Dave Langston of St. Louis, Missouri, "and their actions indicated that the soldiers were also new."

Bushes Growing A Little Fast

CAMP ENARI — Everybody knows the tropical climate in Vietnam encourages rapid growth of plant life. But to the trained eyes of a sharp forward air controller (FAC), the clump of bushes in an open area which he had been flying over for the past three days simply grew too fast.

Warrant Officer Roger Maine happened to be piloting 1st Brigade Aviation's Hummingbird 1, a light observation helicopter (LOH), in the area. The FAC requested that he drop down and take a closer look at the suspicious vegetation.

As the LOH descended toward

the area, ground to air fire spit into the sky. Mr. Maine made a quick pass over the location, as First Lieutenant Frank Christensen, riding as an observer, raked the position with M60 machine gun fire.

Mr. Maine identified 51 calibre machine gun fire coming from the bushes. The FAC went to work calling for an airstrike and marking the target as the fighter-bombers came into the area.

The F100s dropped their payload, completely eliminating the bushy area. As the smoke cleared, a suddenly-uncamouflaged round bunker housing a 51 calibre anti-aircraft gun was clearly evident. There was no sign of the gunner who, if he

So Sorry Charlie, Panthers On Foot

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — A combined mounted-dismounted sweep accounted for the deaths of 14 enemy soldiers in separate battles 14 miles northwest of Kontum City and proved that a mechanized unit can operate on foot.

Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, launched the offensive which continued for two days after receiving mortar and rocket fire within the perimeter of its forward firebase.

Five Killed

Five enemy were killed, six other detained and a quantity of weapons and supplies were recovered in the initial contact the first day.

First Lieutenant Richard Kirby of Long Beach, N.J., and Sergeant First Class Hector Garcia of Tacoma, Wash., sent elements of the 1st and 3rd Platoons into action on foot after spotting the enemy positions from their armored personnel carriers (APCs).

"Air strikes and artillery concentrations were directed on the enemy, but Panther small arms, automatic weapons and grenade fire was the key to the success of the sweep," recalled Captain Charles Lauderdale of Big Springs, Tex., Alpha Company commander.

Move Vehicles

Ivymen moved their vehicles deep into the contact, spitting automatic weapons fire into suspected enemy positions. Several Communist soldiers, spotted inside bunkers, drew the attention of the Panthers who focused a heavy barrage of small arms fire which silenced the aggressors.

A firefight was reinitiated by the enemy as Ivymen pulled back into their perimeter, located about a mile from the contact area. Again accurate Panther marksmanship drove the enemy back.

The enemy lobbed another series of mortars into the perimeter and occasionally used small arms fire to harass the Ivymen that evening and early the following morning.

Sergeant Directs

During the shelling, Sergeant Garcia pulled two members of his platoon from an APC which had been hit by incoming rounds. After bringing the men inside the perimeter, Sergeant Garcia directed elements under the control of the Panthers into defensive positions, and prepared Alpha Company for a return to the enemy bunker complex it had encountered the preceding day.

This time Panther machine

gun, rifle and grenade fire accounted for nine dead. During the battle, Sergeant Craig Messett of Seattle, Wash., spotted three enemy as they ran from the bunkers, and quickly eliminated the intended threat of a crossfire with a burst of his automatic weapon.

"This was the first time I've had an experience where Charlie wanted to actually stand and fight," smiled Specialist 4 Bill Rogers of Emporia, Kan., "No matter what tactic he employs, however, he just never seems to accomplish anything."

NVA Die, Arsenal Captured

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS — Five days of fighting in the Chu Prong Mountain Range by the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, accounted for 25 enemy deaths and the uncovering of a large enemy weapons cache by the battalion's Reconnaissance Platoon.

Three of the battalion's companies — Alpha, Bravo and Delta — plus the Recon Platoon were engaged in heated contacts with NVA elements in the area northwest of Pleiku.

Locate The Enemy

Major Frank Adams of Brisbee, Ariz., battalion S-3, explained that the missions were "to locate the enemy with NVA elements in Chu Prong who have been harassing traffic along Highway 14. There is something up there they want to protect," said Major Adams.

He added that the Cacti Blue forces believe the enemy resistance has been coming from the 24th NVA regiment, the force which had earlier taken heavy losses in fighting on Chu Pa Mountain against elements of the Famous 4th Division's 3rd Brigade.

Kill Ten

Alpha and Bravo companies credited with six kills each, while the Recon Platoon killed four enemy without a friendly casualty.

More than 100 enemy bunker complexes were found by the probing Ivymen and as a result were destroyed by gunships and artillery fire from B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery.

The enemy caches and materials recovered indicated the presence of at least a battalion size enemy force in the area.

Ivymen Discover Tunnel Complex

CAMP ENARI — Ivymen of Company A, 4th Aviation Battalion discovered a tunnel complex large enough to accommodate an enemy platoon, complete with sophisticated trap doors and underwater entrances.

Inspection of the tunnels uncovered maps, VC tax rosters, important documents, drawings of installations in the Pleiku area and other items of intelligence.

NCOs Give Lighters

The Council of the NCO Club has voted to donate cigarette lighters to all 4th Division soldiers wounded in action.

The council is going to purchase 2,000 lighters and they will be handed out by the NCO's medical liaison at the 71st Evacuation Hospital.

The lighters will be engraved: "TO A WOUNDED IVYMAN."

Action-Packed Week Had Ivymen On The Move



Golden Dragon In A Hurry West Of Duc Co



Chinook Makes A Quick Drop On Ivy Firebase With M50 Machine Gun At Ready



A Bison M48 Tank Moves Across A River In Search Of The Enemy

Combat Photographers
PFC David Himmel
PFC Dan Weaver
SGT Ron Johnston
SP5 Robert Frechette
SGT Ron Schulthies



PFC Harlon R. Smallwood Grabs A Shave At LZ Swinger



Pace Setters Swiftly Change Direction Of Their Guns On Firebase Mile High



Red Warriors Scurry As The Dust Flies From Their 4 Deuce Mortar

Enemy Repelled By Heroic Ivy Platoon

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—The weariness of battle, mingled with justifiable pride, showed on the faces of the men of Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry's recon platoon as the Fourth Infantry Division Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk awarded the entire platoon the Bronze Star for heroism.

The drama began four days earlier in the rugged mountain terrain west of Kontum when the platoon, led by First Lieutenant Michael Ranger of Farmington, Maine, was assigned the mission of screening the battalion from an expected NVA battalion-sized offensive.

The eerie light of dawn cracked the darkness on Landing Zone (LZ) Roberts when four NVA soldiers set off two trip flares as they approached the platoon's perimeter. Privates First Class Ronald Taylor of Weston, W. Va., James Savoy of Brandywine, Md., and Terry McCandless of Evansville, Ind., saw the NVA, opened fire and threw grenades at the surprised enemy.

Later that morning, a ten man patrol checked the woodland around the perimeter. PFC Reginald Cole of Frankfort, Maine, the point man, detected an awaiting ambush. "I knew something was wrong, so I started to move off to the right. An NVA soldier stuck his head out from behind a tree and I shot and killed him."

IMMEDIATELY THE PATROL received a heavy volume of small arms fire. The patrol maneuvered and engaged the NVA in a close gun battle, killing several enemy.

More enemy arrived on the scene with B40 rockets, machine guns, and grenades as the remainder of the platoon tried to come to the aid of the besieged patrol.

Mortar rounds rained in, B40 rockets screamed into the bunkers, and enemy machine gun fire stitched zig-zag patterns across the perimeter, pinning the platoon down.

As friendly artillery fire came in, the patrol scrambled back to their bunkers.

Following the artillery and airstrikes, Lieutenant Ranger led eight men back to check the contact area, which they found strewn with the grim evidence of battle. Lieutenant Ranger and his men were then attacked by a group of six NVA. The fire was returned and three of the NVA were killed as the remainder scattered for cover.

Artillery and airstrikes showered destruction on the NVA and enabled the patrol to break contact. On top of the hill, direct hits from B40 rockets and 82mm mortars were taken by Lieutenant Ranger's substantial bunkers without injury to his men.

The NVA closed in on the small perimeter from all sides. Lieutenant Ranger called for artillery, airstrikes and gunships on his position. After two and a half hours, the attackers were driven away.

A sweep of the area was made in the morning which turned up 248 CHICOM grenades, 43 B40 rockets, one dead NVA soldier, and two AK47 rifles.

INCOMING MORTAR and rocket fire continued intermittently that day. Scout ships detected enemy bunkers on the ridgeline surrounding LZ Roberts. Artillery and airstrikes were continuously placed on these positions.

"We were receiving a set of fighter bombers every 15 minutes. They and the artillery set off secondary explosions which continued all day and night. We stopped counting them when we reached 200," recalled Lieutenant Ranger.

That night snipers sneaked inside the perimeter and kept the platoon pinned down until the 20mm cannons of the airstriking jets eliminated the enemy.

Extensive use of artillery, airstrikes and gunships prepped the area for the extraction of the platoon. Just before the extraction, the NVA added 122mm rockets to their arsenal and bombarded the entrenched Red Warriors.

Three "Ghostrider" helicopters of the 189th Assault Helicopter Company, extracted the platoon, each receiving heavy enemy fire. As the last "bird" lifted off, the NVA stormed the top of the hill.

Later, Specialist 4 Timothy Redman smiled as he sipped a soda. "Lieutenant Ranger was just great. One time he was blown off his feet by a mortar round and he just kept calling in the artillery, airstrikes and gunships."

"The support we received was fantastic and without it we wouldn't be alive now," said Lieutenant Ranger.

Lieutenant Ranger was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

It was estimated that the Red Warriors knocked out two companies of NVA.



B40 Rockets Screamed Into The Bunkers... (Artistry By SP4 Larry A. Reid)

With Civil Affairs Assistance

Villagers Find A Better Way

CAMP ENARI — The South Vietnamese farmer has been very successful in the cultivation of his vegetable gardens throughout the Central Highlands. Skilled in the handling of animal-pulled plows, the Vietnamese farmer has been able to turn his soil quickly, bringing his crops to harvest with ease.

By contrast, Montagnard farmers in the same vicinity failed to follow the example set by their Vietnamese neighbors. Instead, they spent backbreaking hours in their fields turning

up the soil with small hand hoes. **Didn't Understand**

Famous 4th division Civil Affairs teams noted with interest the failure of the Montagnards to follow suit and use their animals to pull plows. Upon further investigation, they discovered that strangely enough the Montagnards of Pleiku Province believed animals understood only the South Vietnamese language.

The Ivymen combed the countryside and learned that Montagnards from nearby Phu Bon Province, however, were in the habit of using animal drawn plows.

The Division's 41st Civil Affairs team officer, First Lieutenant Peter M. Balonon of Miami, Fla., attached to G-5, had as an interpreter a Montagnard from Phu Bon Province. He decided to use Nay-Tor, his Montagnard friend who spoke both the Bahnar and Jarai dialects, as a demonstrator for his civil affairs agricultural projects.

Plans were made, and eventually an experimental garden was planted near the South Vietnamese village of La Son.

Last week, with Nay-Tor as a demonstrator, Lieutenant Balonon assembled a group of village chiefs from Plei Bong Ga-

lor to prove that cattle oxen and cows could be coaxed in Montagnard dialects to pull a plow. After Nay-Tor's demonstration, each chief was asked to work the animal-drawn plow for 10 to 15 minutes.

Chiefs Amazed

The chiefs were amazed. After Lieutenant Balonon lent them the plow, they returned to their village. Over the weekend Division Civil Affairs team instructed the Montagnards in the harnessing of animals to the plows. Three days later the villagers of Plei Bong Galor approached the CA team and asked whether they might purchase the plow with collective funds.

"The demonstration was a success," remarked Lieutenant Balonon. "The Montagnards realized that the animals did understand their language. Much time and effort can be saved that will enable them to work on other projects and perhaps have a bit more leisure time."

Lieutenant Balonon's colleague, First Lieutenant Robert R. Foster of Arlington, Va. added, "Now our hope is that the industrious Montagnards will model hand-made plows after ours so that every farmer will eventually have his own."

Let Army Help You

"Operation Bootstrap" may be the most important operation that any individual has begun while a member of the 4th Division.

The operation, in conjunction with colleges and universities in the U.S., is a program by which the Army hopes to make a college degree more readily available to its career-minded personnel.

An individual who has served as an officer is given 30 hours credit toward a degree, and an enlisted man receives 12 hours credit.

They also accept the successful completion of the Comprehensive College Test as being worth another 30 credit hours.

Combined, these two qualifications can mean an officer or enlisted man could begin his course work with 60 or 42 hours respectively already credited to him.

Other credit requirements toward a degree can be satisfied by residence credits earned at other colleges and universities, extension credits at other colleges and universities (maximum 30 hours), USAFI Subject examinations, End of Course Tests, or Subject Standardized Tests (maximum 30 hours) and Correspondence courses at either USAFI (United States Armed Forces Institute) or civilian colleges and universities (maximum 30 hours).

For full information on how you can begin to work toward a college degree while serving with the 4th Division, contact the education center at Camp Enari 321.

Your Move, Charlie

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — What's in a name?

The question arose when the Task Force organized to rid the area west of Kontum of the last remnants of NVA resistance was in need of a name.

The 1st and 2nd Brigades, commanded by Colonels Hale Knight and Gordon J. "Duke" Duquemin respectively, comprise the Task Force, which is coordinated by Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, assistant division commander.

The names Knight and Duke evoke thoughts of royalty, which makes the analogy between the chessboard and the battlefield a meaningful one for the Task Force. As in war, the action on a chessboard centers about the maneuver, attack and counter-attack of opposing armies. Superiority in battle, expertise in maneuver, and skill in planning a move are necessary prerequisites in chess and on the battlefield.

With Colonels "Duke" Duquemin and Knight controlling the juggle chessboard, the Task

Force name of CHECKMATE was a choice of the obvious.

The NVA, stalled at every turn by the Famous 4th, finds the number of possible moves they can make more limited with each passing day.

The final move of the victor in chess, CHECKMATE, renders the opponent incapable of further maneuver or attack.

CHECKMATE, CHUCK...



Enemy Officer Tells Of Daily Life

By CPT David R. Fabian

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 Battalion. 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.

Part IV

‘DURING THE DAYS when I am not on operations my life in the North Vietnamese Army is very easy. I wake at 6:00 a.m. daily, brush my teeth and bathe. At 7:00 I breakfast with my fellow officers, and then I join the men of my company and generally chat with them until 10:00. We talk of personal matters—home, family, and of course, sex. After lunch I nap until about 2:00 p.m.

“Our food is usually rice and canned meat. It is brought from China and prepared for us by the two cooks attached to my company. The canned meat is usually pork, and we tire of eating it so often.

“In the afternoon I go fishing with one or two members of my company. Never do we stray more than two kilometers from our base camp. We are very careful with members of our units who appear to be worried or whose morale is low. We watch them closely and accompany them continuously...

“At 6 p.m. I eat supper and then gather with the rest of the company for a meeting held by the political officer. This is a daily meeting during which the political officer praises NVA heroes and slanders the South Vietnamese government. He also rants about the numerous great victories we are achieving against the

US units. I do not think the political officer is very effective: the soldiers fail to listen attentively, and they become bored quite quickly with his speech.

I think their failure to heed his words can be attributed to the fact that he never accompanies us on our combat operations and he never sees us take casualties. Hence the soldiers do not put any stock in his stories.

‘SOMETIMES I JOIN my men after the political meetings and we sing songs and tell jokes and try to cheer each other up. We go to bed at 9:00 p.m. If we are located far enough away from the enemy, we sleep in hammocks; if we are close to the enemy, we sleep in trenches and foxholes.

“When we are in the mountains avoiding contact our most vulnerable elements are the combat patrols we send out and some of the companies we have guarding our outermost perimeter. Food is no problem when we are avoiding contact. The rest area itself is always around a source of running water.

“It is easy to distinguish our officers during battles because they will always attack with the headquarters element, which consists of the CO, XO, radioman, and runner. Officers wear neither pistols nor insignia of rank in battle.

“Prior to any attack we prepare a lengthy plan... All units involved must follow the plan faithfully, and an individual soldier must execute all orders even if many get killed. The attack must be launched at all costs. The plan always includes how to gain entrance to an objective, the location of key points to be destroyed, and the best routes to exfiltrate.

Artillery support is fired prior to the attack to confuse and pin down the enemy. Unfortunately, we sometimes fail to lift the fire and it kills our own men. If the enemy pins down our attacking force, we use artillery to aid in a retreat. Finally we employ artillery fire when we decide to break a major contact.

“When the battle subsides, we pull back to rest and bury the dead. It is NVA discipline that you always try to recover a comrade’s body. We have no religious rites

for the dead; merely bury them unceremoniously. The victim’s personal effects are kept by his friends. The same unit is rarely used to attack an objective a second time if they have suffered numerous casualties. Anytime heavy casualties are inflicted morale is very, very low.

‘OFTEN WE MUST resort to a control technique to help weak soldiers. That is, we will organize into three-man cells. Selection is not based upon friendship, but by picking two skillful men to support one weak one by offering advice and encouragement...

“My reconnaissance unit is usually briefed on our mission at least one day prior to moving out... For our movement we use maps and compasses to navigate. The maps are either 1:100,000 or 1:50,000 scale. They are French-made but contain Vietnamese writing. Our division supply element can provide these maps for any area very soon after request... We conduct the recon in three-man groups, one compass to a group.

“The special equipment we usually carry consists of radios, binoculars, notebooks, and knives. I inspect every man as well as the condition of his weapon and gear. During movement to a recon objective we usually travel about three kilometers an hour, breaking for 10 or 15 minutes. Rarely will we travel more than a day and a half without sleeping...

At 3:00 p.m. we find a night campsite. Upon arrival at the recon site, we usually establish an OP approximately one or two hours away. We penetrate the objective, locating heavy weapons. If we are successful we withdraw using the same route; if we are discovered we return fire immediately and attempt to disengage and withdraw.

“In our reconnaissance of cities we are normally met by Local Force liaison people at prearranged locations within or close to the city. They escort us to the points of attack. If there are ARVN soldiers in the area we will disguise ourselves as ARVN; otherwise we wear civilian clothing. Normally challenge and passwords are utilized to recognize liaison people...”

NEXT WEEK: MAKE-UP OF THE NVA



Bullets Prize

A captured one and one half ton Soviet-built truck hit by US Air Force tactical and helicopter gunship airstrikes is examined by members of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry. The truck, brought to Plei Kleng after being immobilized in the area of the Plei Trap road network 30 kilometers northwest of Plei Kleng also contained 52 rounds of 105mm ammunition and 1,200 pounds of rice. (USA Photo By SP5 Robert G. Frechette)

Share Your Experience

No doubt when you first went forward with an Ivy Division unit, the most helpful guy you met was your platoon sergeant, who passed on many beneficial suggestions that made your adjustment to combat life a lot easier.

The IVY LEAF staff would like to enlist the assistance of our platoon sergeants and NCOs-at-large throughout the Division to offer any tips from their own experience that we could pass on to the troops via these pages. Some quick examples:

- 1) Don't throw away that C ration wire after you've

grabbed up your chow — the wire can be used in making a poncho hooch or an equipment rack.

- 2) If you're looking for something to carry your camera or wallet in, look no further than your platoon RTO. The plastic bags he has for his PRC batteries are great as a waterproof case. They make good map cases, too.

- 3) A Redleg NCO we know uses old ammo boxes for built in storage cabinets inside his bunker.

The number of useful pointers around the Division is, as you can imagine, virtually unlimited. So Alphas, the IVY LEAF will need your help in spreading the good word. We plan to acknowledge all the suggestions that we print.

Anything you might want to pass on — be it for the health, comfort or convenience of the troops; field expedient devices appropriate to a particular situation; comms or weapons care is fine with us. There is no limit other than your own imagination. Got the idea? Let us know about it, then.

Weapons Cache In Cacti Blue Hands

OASIS — A soldier's search to find the easiest way down a ridge netted a large enemy weapons cache in the Chu Prong Mountain area.

Specialist 4 John D. Grindle of La Mesa, Calif., was a member of a search patrol sent to scout an outlying area by the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, when the patrol was told to come down from the ridge to a stream bed.

On the descent, Specialist Grinde spotted an unnatural looking, partially covered hole. An examination of the hole, which was covered by logs, found a cave filled with enemy weapons and resulted in the uncovering of the first of four enemy weapons caches in the area.

Included in the caches were 300,000 AK47 rounds, 43 B40 rocket fuses, 78 60mm mortar rounds, 103 Chicom grenades and four SKS rifles.

Also part of the caches were four RPG7 rockets, 126 ignition cartridges for 60mm mortars, an NVA claymore mine, 164 mortar fuses, 11 AT grenades, an M16 rifle and 440 M16 rounds.

In discovering another cache one member of the Famous Fourth Division's recon patrol was able to make a first hand observation of the enemy's camouflaging.

Private First Class David Peterson of Allendale, N.J., said he "saw two logs that had been cut and attached to a third log so they were shaped like an arrow

pointing right toward the cache."

The discovery of the enemy caches came on the second day of the recon platoon's mission and shortly after a contact which resulted in the death of one NVA.

Sergeant First Class J.F. Tibbit of Leesville, La., observed a group of 20 NVA soldiers walking near the Recon Platoon's LZ and opened fire with his M16.

One enemy troop was killed instantly, and the remainder fled the area.

After guarding the weapons cache overnight in a rice paddy, the Recon Platoon needed the assistance of four helicopters to transport the cache to LZ Valentine, the battalion firebase.

Even with the cache out of the way the action wasn't over for the Recon Platoon. The platoon accounted for three additional enemy deaths in a contact the following day.

"We saw about 10 NVA coming down the hill toward the blue line," said First Lieutenant Charles R. Winn of Anaheim, Calif., Recon Platoon leader.

"We were hoping they would keep coming into the open but they were suspicious and began going back up the hill."

As the NVA started back up the hill the security element of the Recon Platoon opened fire.

The platoon stood fast the next day as artillery fire detonated seven secondary explosions on nearby Hill 881. The recon team then drove to the peak of the hill to become the first friendly force to accomplish the mission without enemy resistance.

The discovery of the weapons caches were the second of a sizable amount the Recon Platoon has discovered this year.

Blackhawks Power Gets Two Chances

KONTUM—Unleashing the tremendous firepower of their armored vehicles, Ivymen from B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry inflicted heavy casualties over a three day period on an estimated company-sized element of North Vietnamese regulars.

Before making their daily mine sweep on Highway 14N just south of Dak To the 2nd Platoon of B Troop was informed that the village of Dak Honong, in their area of operations, had been a refuge for Communist forces the night before.

"We decided to move out on the sweep with the first light and cordon the village when we reached that point in the road," recalled First Lieutenant Ralph Freese of Sumner, Wash., the 2nd Platoon leader. "ARVN ground elements entered the village as we moved into supporting positions."

These maneuvers, however, seemed to be anticipated by Charlie. Not yet into position, Ivy vehicles, tanks and armored personnel carriers (APCs), began receiving intense fire from the west side of the village. "The Cav Troopers charged into action and returned a crippling

volley of fire from their small arms and main tank guns.

When the firefight ended friendly forces counted four enemy dead as the remaining Communist force had retreated into the surrounding jungle.

Two days later the 1st Platoon of B Troop, and another ARVN unit were called upon to make another cordon and search of the same village. Again, the cavalymen came under heavy attack as they moved into position, but the armored combatants were alert and prepared for the situation.

"We were sure that we would receive enemy fire when we encircled the village," explained First Lieutenant William Farrell of Philadelphia, "and we certainly gave them more than they had bargained for."

Swift maneuvering of vehicles and well placed protective fire quickly smothered the enemy offensive. The Ivymen and ARVN soldiers were credited with 18 kills, and had again defeated Charlie at Dak Honong.



Beautification

As part of the preparation for the upcoming monsoon season, Ivymen based at Camp Enari took part in an all day rehabilitation and beautification effort on the post. This Ivymen is putting the touch on an area just before concrete will be poured for a sidewalk.

(USA Photo By SP4 Arthur Reilly)

Cavmen Aid RFs...

(Continued From Page 1)

Making a sweep of the area, the RF and cavalry forces found two bodies from the estimated squad-sized element.

"The RF made the sweep as we provided security in case of contact," explained Captain Deter.

As the cavalry stood ready and watching, the enemy unloaded with a barrage of mortar, rocket and small arms fire from an opposite woodline.

Again the armored cavalry counter-fired, this time hitting the enemy with 10 minutes of steady fire. A cease-fire was finally ordered, and as the smoke cleared the enemy was again silent.

FAC Watches

The Air Force's Forward Air Controller (FAC) flew overhead with a constant eye on the ground below; suddenly FAC Cider 13 noticed movement in a clearing near the contact area.

Within minutes, the FACs had F100 Super Sabres on the scene.

As the Super Sabres swooped in to bombard the enemy, they received intensive ground to air fire. The diving jet pilots unloaded their munitions and were away — unharmed.

No further sound or movement came from the fleeing enemy, they had been defeated again.

A sweep of the area was conducted and according to RF officials, a total of 18 enemy bodies, two AK50s, assorted 82mm mortars, recoilless rifles, 60mm mortars, B40 rockets and a rifle propelled grenade were confiscated.

Dragoons Win Battle...

(Continued From Page 1)

trenched Ivymen, showing Spooky how close he could fire.

Spooky moved out of the location about 7:00 the next morning. Shortly afterward, the enemy opened fire on the camp with mortars and gas.

Light observation helicopters (LOH) from the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry came to the aid of Delta Company; "and they sure did the job," commented Sergeant Edwards.

By Cpt David R. Fabian
POLEI KLENG — Aircraft of Alpha Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th

Cavalry observed two suspected enemy 105 artillery emplacements, in a vine entangled area 28 kilometers northwest of Polei Kleng.

The Ruthless Riders called in immediate gunship and artillery fires on the suspected locations. An air strike followed, and it was reported that the positions were destroyed.

Several days later Famous 4th Division troops from Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, supported by elements of the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry made a combat assault into the area to assess damage to the emplacements.

Closing in on the location, Delta company received periodic sniper fire from the south. Countering with small arms fire, they silenced the sniper and captured one AK47.

Once the ground units made their way to the artillery pieces, a Hook was called in to make the extraction.

"The howitzers were firmly entrenched," reported Specialist 5 Robert Frechette of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., "and extraction was cumbersome. The pilot of

the hook had to do some fancy manipulating to lift out the first gun."

The wreckage of both artillery pieces was taken back to Polei Kleng.

An assistant Operations Officer, Captain James J. D'Ambrosio Jr. of Downers

Picture On Page 1

Grove, Ill., commented on the condition of the weapons. "It has been reported to me," said Captain D'Ambrosio, "that the guns were U.S. manufactured 105 howitzers. One was a 1942 model, the other a 1945 model. Neither was operational, although both remained somewhat intact. Firing mechanisms were destroyed by the combination of gunship expenditures and the air strikes. Both guns were extremely charred."

Some military spokesmen at Polei Kleng believed that the pieces had been captured by the Communist during the French-Indochinese war.

Spent casings littering the emplacement area suggested the weapons were firing CHICOM 105mm artillery rounds.

General's Aide

Specialist 4 Ken Hinchman of Rolling Hills Estates, Calif., was selected as enlisted aide to Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division Commander.

The 22-year-old Ivymen, from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry feels his duties as general's aide have allowed him to experience things he would not have had the opportunity to do or see during his tour in Vietnam.

"I have seen all the firebases and gone places with General Pepke that I would not have been if it wasn't for this honor. I've seen other company's defenses and perimeters," smiled Specialist Hinchman, "but it will be good to get back to my unit."

Specialist Hinchman is planning to return to his former job as a machinist in California upon his completion of military service.

Looking For Experienced News People

The 4th Division Information Office has begun a search for dedicated men with experience in any news specialty.

Ivymen who hold either a 71R or 71Q MOS, or who have had professional radio or photography experience should contact their brigade PIO immediately.

They are; 1st Lieutenant Robert Janosko, 1st Brigade; 1st Lieutenant John Doran, 2nd Brigade; and 1st Lieutenant James Hughes, 3rd Brigade. Other qualified persons may contact Captain David R. Fabian, Division Information Officer, at Camp Enari 151 or 159.

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