

Capt. Frank Moen Collection

Captain Frank Moen served in the 4/42nd Artillery, which supported the Red Warriors. Here are articles he saved from his time in Vietnam, 1968/69

Artillery Pounds NVA Positions

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS —
Landing Zone (LZ) Mile High
fired 11,000 105mm rounds in a
month, which amounts to a
“shot, over” every four minutes.

This high total doesn't include
the rounds of 42mm and 81mm
mortar fire which also bomb-
arded the enemy.

The 4th Battalion, 42nd Artil-
lery, which fired these rounds
from Mile High, received 328 in-
coming enemy rounds during
the same period.

4th Inf. Div. Marks 3rd Year in RVN

CAMP ENARI, Vietnam (Special)—The 4th Inf. Div. marks its third anniversary in Vietnam Saturday.

The unit's first elements arrived at Qui Nhon on Aug. 10, 1966, but the division functioned as a complete unit for the first time in Operation Paul Revere IV, which began on Oct. 18.

The 4th Div. left Fort Lewis, Wash., in late July of 1966 by troop ship. At first, the three brigades of the division were scattered throughout Vietnam — the 1st Brigade at Tuy Hoa, the 2nd Brigade at Pleiku and the 3rd Brigade at Bearcat east of Saigon. Later, the three brigades were reunited as a single unit.

Responsible for covering the largest area of operations, the central highlands, the 4th quickly established itself as one of the top fighting units in Vietnam. Enemy units operating near Dak To, Kontum and Pleiku all felt the brunt of the 4th's power.

Operation Paul Revere IV resulted in 1,182 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers killed and tons of enemy equipment captured, while the 4th Div.'s participation in Operations Sam Houston, Francis Marion, Reely, MacArthur and Task

Force Winner also resulted in heavy losses to the enemy.

Last February the division's 1st Bn., 69th Armor, operating in support of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) base camp at Ben Het, captured two Soviet PT76 amphibious tanks.

The 4th Div's success in Vietnam has not been limited to the battlefield. An intensive civic action program has bettered understanding and cooperation between the division and its Montagnard and Vietnamese neighbors.

Vietnam is the third war for the 4th Div. Activated in 1917, the division saw combat at Septarges and Aisne-Marne, before becoming a part of the Army of Occupation in Germany at the end of the war.

In World War II, the division's 8th Inf. became the first Allied unit to land on Utah Beach on D-Day, and elements of the division were the first to enter Paris. The 4th Div. then pushed on through Belgium and Germany.

Highlighting the observance of the 4th Div.'s third anniversary in Vietnam will be the presentation of the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm to the division.

The Gallantry Cross with Palm, an award similar to the American Presidential Unit Citation, is being awarded for the period Oct. 1, 1966 to July 28, 1969, one of the longest periods of sustained action for which

any American division has received the award.

Several special events are planned in conjunction with the anniversary. A photo and art show will be held at the Dragon Mountain Service Club, and the Division Support Command will sponsor an anniversary cake baking contest and provide a steak dinner for every man in the division.

Competitions will be held in swimming, basketball, marksmanship, driving and map reading. A pass, punt and kick contest will also be held.

Dragoons Stand Fast As 52 Sappers Die

LANDING ZONE PENNY—An NVA sapper attack launched against Landing Zone (LZ) Penny, 15 kilometers southwest of Kontum City, was turned into a rout during the early morning hours by the Dragoons of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

After the thwarted attack, Bravo Company Commander, Captain Edward W. Griffith of Jacksonville, Ark., and Lieutenant Colonel W.J. Mickel of Kansas City, Mo., counted 52 NVA bodies strewn about the contact area.

NVA troops fired over thirty mortar rounds into the perimeter shortly after midnight and a suicidal sapper probe was launched beginning at 3 a.m., as NVA soldiers, clad in khaki shirts and shorts with sandals tied around their waists, assaulted the perimeter from three directions.

The attackers were met with a withering volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire as they reached the wire.

Eight NVA soldiers managed to breach the wire and fire B40 rounds into the battalion command post. Despite several direct hits, the occupants of the command post continued their

operations during the three and one half hour assault.

Two of the heroic defenders of the perimeter were Specialist 4 Harry Gray, who was personally credited with killing nine NVA soldiers when they tried to overrun his bunker, and Specialist 4 Michael Hetterscheid of Stayton, Ore., who drove off 8 NVA soldiers who attempted to penetrate the wire near his position. Three of the bodies lay within meters of Specialist Hetterscheid's bunker.

"It was the determination and courage of the troops—of men like Specialists Gray and Hetterscheid — that saved the morning," commented Captain Griffith after the attackers had been beaten off. "They just held tight in their bunkers and pushed the NVA back."

Colonel Mickel, who was present with the defenders throughout the battle, added, "Every NVA kill here is the result of extremely close-in small arms fire. Captain Griffith's men refused to flinch."

Littering the contact area were 13 AK47s, eight rocket propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, a Chinese radio, numerous B40 rounds,

satchel charges and several documents and overlays. Two of the 52 killed were tentatively identified as officers.

Acrobatic Rangers Use Rope Trick

By 1LT Robert Janosko

CAMP RADCLIFF—A First Brigade Ranger team stopped an NVA patrol cold, then pulled off an acrobatic extraction by climbing up a single strand of rope into a hovering helicopter.

It was Specialist 4 Matthew Gentilella's first mission as a team leader. Before it was over, the New York City native would be an old pro.

The team knew they had been spotted by the enemy on insertion when they saw one individual running from the area of their landing zone (LZ).

The Famous Fighting Fourth Division Rangers quickly moved from the area to higher ground where they established commo. The area was covered by recently used, crisscrossing trails. The possibility of contact looked very good.

A night location was selected next to what looked to be the most traveled trail in the area. Several huts containing food were located nearby, so the team set up and waited for the occupants to return.

Several times heavy movement was heard, but it was not until their last day in the field that they made contact.

On that day a number of airstrikes were going into the area along a ridgeline and the team decided to move up to a point where they could see anybody heading away from the impact area toward them.

Specialist Gentilella had just saw four NVA, dressed in khaki

positioned his team when they uniforms and carrying AK47s, moving toward their position in a hurry.

"I got one and Sergeant Hunter hit another with his M16. Then we blew the two Claymores we had just set up and the other two went down," recalled Specialist Gentilella.

He and his teammates, including Sergeant Michael Hunter of Bellingham, Wash., continued to rake the area with small arms fire and grenades. A call was put in for gunships.

Finally the guns and extraction ship from the 119th Assault Helicopter Company arrived on the scene. While the gunships expended on the area, the extraction ship slowly descended on the Ranger's position, but was unable to land in the thick jungle below.

The only extraction device available was a length of rope, so as the ship hovered over the area, the Ranger team went hand over hand up the rope.

"I must have tried going up that 'string' three or four times, but my hands were slipping. Somehow I managed to get up, but my hands were pretty badly rope burned," said Specialist Gentilella.

Montagnards Teach GIs Art of Eating

Menu: Rats, Bats, Lizards and Ants

By SPEC. 5 BILL GIBBONS
S&S Staff Correspondent

PLEIKU, Vietnam — If the expression "an army travels on its stomach" is true, Montagnard scouts serving with American units in the Central Highlands should be able to go anywhere.

When the scouts are in rear areas they almost always eat in GI mess halls, but in the field they like to embellish the always drab C-rations.

Embellishment in this case means almost anything that moves, and surprisingly enough, many Americans welcome the additions. Leaves of certain trees can be as appetizing as

green vegetables when prepared properly, and fish, which are often "caught" with grenades, can go a long way in adding variety to a meal.

Among other delicacies with which the Montagnards have surprised their American friends are termites, grubs, worms, snakes, bats, mice, rats, beetles and lizards. Says one Special Forces sergeant, "The stuff isn't that bad if you have enough sense not to ask what it is."

But it would be incorrect to assume Montagnards are not discriminating in their selection

of gourmet's delights. For one thing, no self-respecting Montagnard would consider eating a rat or mouse caught in the city. They prefer those from the countryside which have grown up on a steady diet of grains and fruits. Besides being less gamey they are usually fatter and have a better texture.

Monitor lizards, which in some cases grow to a length of three feet, are chased down, clubbed to death and thrown on an open fire. After they are cooked they are gutted and eaten. Americans report the lizards taste something like fried chicken, a much

tastier treat than pigeon heads, which they call "indescribable."

"Termites," says 1st Lt. Charles A. Beasley of the 5th Special Forces G. at Pleiku, "have a bite to them. Swallow them quickly."

It is reported that grubs taste like chewing tobacco, snakes taste like chicken though not as tender as monitor lizards, and mice, rats and bats taste like rabbit.

When one Montagnard interpreter from the 4th Inf. Div. was asked what beetles tasted like he said, "like crickets, only fatter."

Red Warriors Kill 7...

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Sergeant Lloyd Morgan of Huntington Beach, Calif.

A second NVA Regular was wounded as the Red Warriors poured a deadly stream of fire from the right flank. The wounded enemy soldier stumbled down the ridgeline and fell in a heap at the bottom of the hill.

Specialist 4 Walter Helms of Westminster, Calif., carefully approached the fallen enemy. "He appeared to be dead but his rifle was pointed up hill at Sergeant David Heines of Marion, Iowa. As I approached him, he sat up and started to fire his weapon."

The Red Warrior reacted instantly and killed the enemy soldier with automatic M16 fire.

At the same time, artillery and mortar blocking fire brought two NVA Regulars running directly into the Red Warrior positions.

One of the enemy wore a bush hat, brown pants and no shirt.

Specialist Wilson again opened fire, killed one enemy soldier and sent the other running back into the artillery and mortar barrage.

Meanwhile, the 3rd Platoon had forced two snipers to seek temporary refuge in bunkers.

It was a deadly mistake for the two NVA Regulars. The Red Warriors yelled at the two enemy soldiers to Chieu Hoi but their reply came from their weapons.

Specialist 4 John McCarthy of Philadelphia maneuvered to the bunkers that the enemy soldiers were in and silenced them with hand grenades.

The enemy's over confidence depleted their ranks by seven soldiers, two SKS rifles, three bolt action rifles, one AK47 and one light machine gun.

An ammunition cache contained 28 60mm mortar rounds, 14 82mm mortar rounds, 49 B40 rockets, three CHICOM grenades, 100 SKS rounds, 243 AK47 rounds, 160 12.7mm rounds and 40 82mm mortar fuses.

Red Warriors Catch NVA Unit Napping

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — In the past the dense jungles of the Central Highlands have provided a cloak for NVA activities.

With increasing frequency, the troops of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division are intruding on this past refuge of the enemy.

The Red Warriors of Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, caught a platoon of NVA soldiers relaxing under the shade of the triple canopied jungle west of Kontum and turned the supposed sanctuary into an NVA graveyard.

The Red Warriors were sweeping suspected enemy staging areas when they discovered a series of large bunker complexes.

Sergeant Eugene Murphy of White, S.C., detected someone running near their right flank.

The men of Charlie Company dropped their rucksacks, secured the flanks and the point element carefully moved forward.

Soon, Specialist 4 Gary Wilson of Taylor, Mich., spotted an NVA observation post (OP). "There were two of them lying just off to the side of a trail. They were talking and smoking, not paying attention to their job."

Silently and quickly reinforce-

ments joined the point element suddenly the two unsuspecting enemy looked up into a wall of M16s, tried to run, and were killed.

Immediately, the right flank exploded with small arms fire.

An NVA regular peered around a tree and was killed by

(Continued on Back Page)

Panthers Give Enemy Double Barreled Trouble

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—Grenadiers from the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry have doubled their firepower with the acquisition of the experimental XM203, a combination M16 rifle and M79 grenade launcher.

"The best feature of the weapon is that a grenadier can fire a high explosive round, then spray a contact area with rifle fire," said Specialist 4 Lyle Atkinson of Harrisonville, Mo. "I've tested the weapon and I can see where it will be a valuable addition to a squad."

The mechanized battalion received 85 of the 500 XM203s which have been distributed for testing purposes to five units in Vietnam.

"This battalion will evaluate the effectiveness of the weapon in a report to the Department of the Army, which will help determine the future of the XM203," explained Captain Wiley Jones of Ft. Benning, Ga., head of the XM203 demonstration and dissemination program.

The Army is awaiting results from participating battalions before having the weapon mass produced.

Sapper attack fails, 4th Inf holds LZ

LZ PENNEY—An NVA sapper attack launched against this landing zone 10 miles southwest of Kontum City was halted during the early morning hours by the men of Co. B, 3rd Bn., 8th Inf., 4th Infantry Division.

After the thwarted attack, the company commander, Capt. Edward W. Griffith, along with Lt. Col. W.J. Mickel, counted 52 NVA bodies strewn about the contact area.

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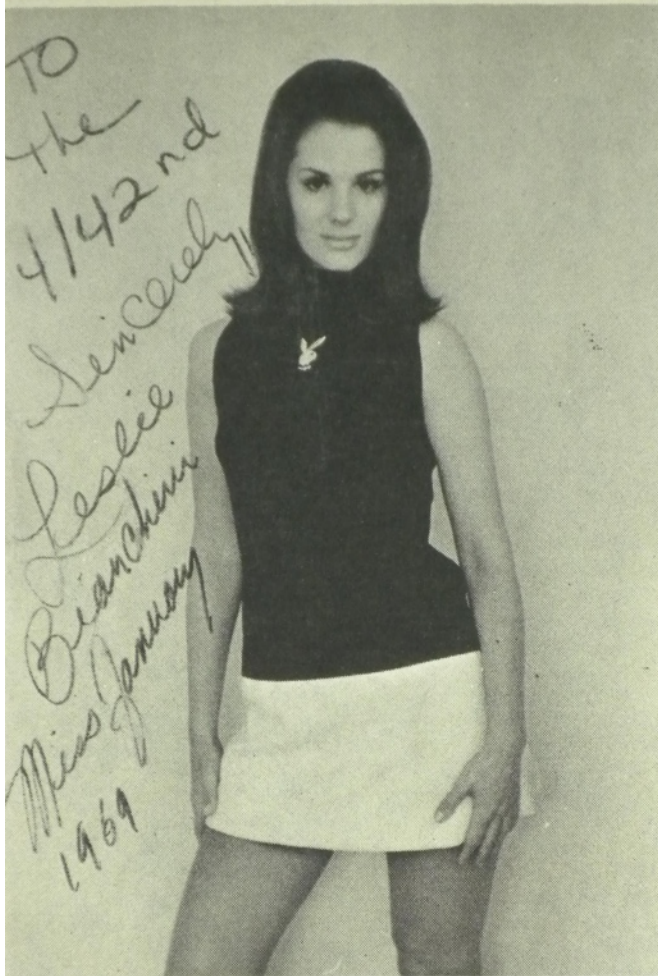
The attackers were met with a withering volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire as they reached the wire.

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Two of the heroic defenders of the perimeter were Spec. 4 Harry Gray, who was personally credited with killing nine NVA soldiers when they tried to overrun his bunker, and Spec. 4 Michael Hetterscheid, who drove off eight NVA soldiers who attempted to penetrate the wire near his position. Three of the bodies lay within yards of Hetterscheid's bunker.

Mickel, who was present with the defenders throughout the battle, added, "Every NVA kill here is the result of extremely close-in small arms fire. Griffith's men refused to flinch."

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RAVISHING REDLEG — Miss Leslie Bianchini, Playboy's Miss January 1969, has adopted Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery as part of "Operation Popcorn". The program was initiated by people of San Carlos, Calif., the home of Miss Bianchini, to provide soldiers with special items from home. Rumor has it that the artillerymen are building a bunny cage in their battalion area and are looking for a bigger than usual package in the mail. (Photo Courtesy Of PLAYBOY Magazine)

Playmate For Arty Battalion

CAMP ENARI— French bread, Italian salami and American can openers—a strange combination to be sure, but to the Redlegs of the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, a most welcome one.

Recently, under the auspices of "Operation Popcorn," the artillerymen have been receiving gifts of a widely assorted nature from the citizens of San Carlos, California. Officially adopted by the city council on September 23, 1968, the men of the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, have been literally deluged with hundreds of packages from the generous Californians.

Originally instigated by Sergeant First Class John Hagan, a San Carlan of 22 years, the battalion has received everything from a huge California state flag to countless loaves of fresh French bread and Italian salami.

"In response to a letter from Mr. Lloyd Trewitt, the chairman of the operation, the men of the battalion have been requesting everything from penlight batteries and deviled ham to Miss Leslie Bianchini herself.

"Leslie is a former PLAYBOY Playmate of the Month and long-time San Carlos resident," commented 1st Lieutenant Ronald Berry of Catoosa, Oklahoma, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, Information Officer. "In fact San Carlos has been so generous we would not be too surprised at all if Leslie herself arrives soon!"

Special delivery, we hope.