

# FACES OF THE FAMOUS FIGHTING FOURTH



**VIETNAM**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL

MG Donn R. Pepke

Welcome to the Central Highlands of South Vietnam and to the 4th Infantry Division. As you join the ranks of the Famous Fighting Fourth, you take on a proud heritage—a tradition of dedication and pride which has been firmly implanted by the men who have gone before you. Our honorable task is to carry on this tradition and pass on this heritage to 4th Division soldiers of the future.

The 4th Infantry Division is made up of many different types of units, each of which plays an important role in accomplishing our mission of defeating the Communist enemy and returning this land to peaceful self-government. There are nine infantry battalions in the Division, one of which is mechanized. Four artillery battalions, an armored cavalry squadron and a tank battalion provide us with great combat power to support the infantrymen. A signal, a medical, a maintenance, a supply and transport, an engineer and an aviation battalion provide the special support needed to sustain our operations. The 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry and the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), both under operational control of the Division, greatly enhance our capability.

Since its arrival in Vietnam in July of 1966 from Fort Lewis, Washington, the 4th Infantry Division has combined successful combat operations against both Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces with civic action programs. This other face of the struggle in Vietnam is critical to accomplishing our ultimate objective of helping to restore this nation to peace and self-determination. Your actions as an individual member of the Famous Fourth are important in this effort, no less than is your performance in combat.

The Division base camp is Camp Enari, located near the city of Pleiku in the Central Highlands. Camp Enari, fittingly, is named in honor of First Lieutenant Mark N. Enari, who was the Division's first posthumous recipient of the Silver Star. His gallantry in the service of his country stands as a reminder to us all of the tradition of service which is our heritage in the Famous Fighting Fourth.

Proud as we are of our past glories, in past wars as well as in Vietnam, we are confident that we can maintain the record of the 4th Infantry Division at the highest standard in the years to come. You are now a part of this record. Wear the Division patch with pride so that we may pass on to our successors the finest division in the United States Army—the Famous Fighting Fourth. Welcome.

Donn R. Pepke  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

Division nerve center

# CAMP ENARI



## *A City in the Jungle*

The Famous Fourth Division base camp is literally a city in itself, complete with power plant, police force, school and water supply. In its administrative sections, a soldier's pay is prepared and his R & R is arranged. Division government is centered in the Tactical Operations Center (DTC), but all 4th Division units maintain their own county seats within Camp Enari's perimeter. The movie theatre, service club, swimming pools and volleyball courts provide recreation, and the PX shopping center offers necessities as well as cameras, tape decks and other luxuries to the city's full-time residents and its commuters from the field.

**Pools provide afternoon "R & Rs"**



**Memorial to fallen 4th Division soldiers**



*1st Battalion, 8th Infantry "Bullets"*  
*3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry "Dragoons"*  
*3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry "Braves"*

## FIRST BRIGADE

After enemy-shattering victories against the Viet Cong in Operation Adams along the coast of Vietnam, the First Brigade moved into the Central Highlands in February of 1967. The "Fighting First" soon joined the Second Brigade to seek out and destroy the aggressive enemy forces harbored in the dense, mountainous jungle near Plei Djeng.

In early April the Brigade base camp was established near a deserted French complex at Le Thanh (nicknamed Jackson Hole) in the Ia Drang Valley. The "Fighting First" immediately built a reputation by crushing NVA soldiers during the now-famous "Nine Days in May."

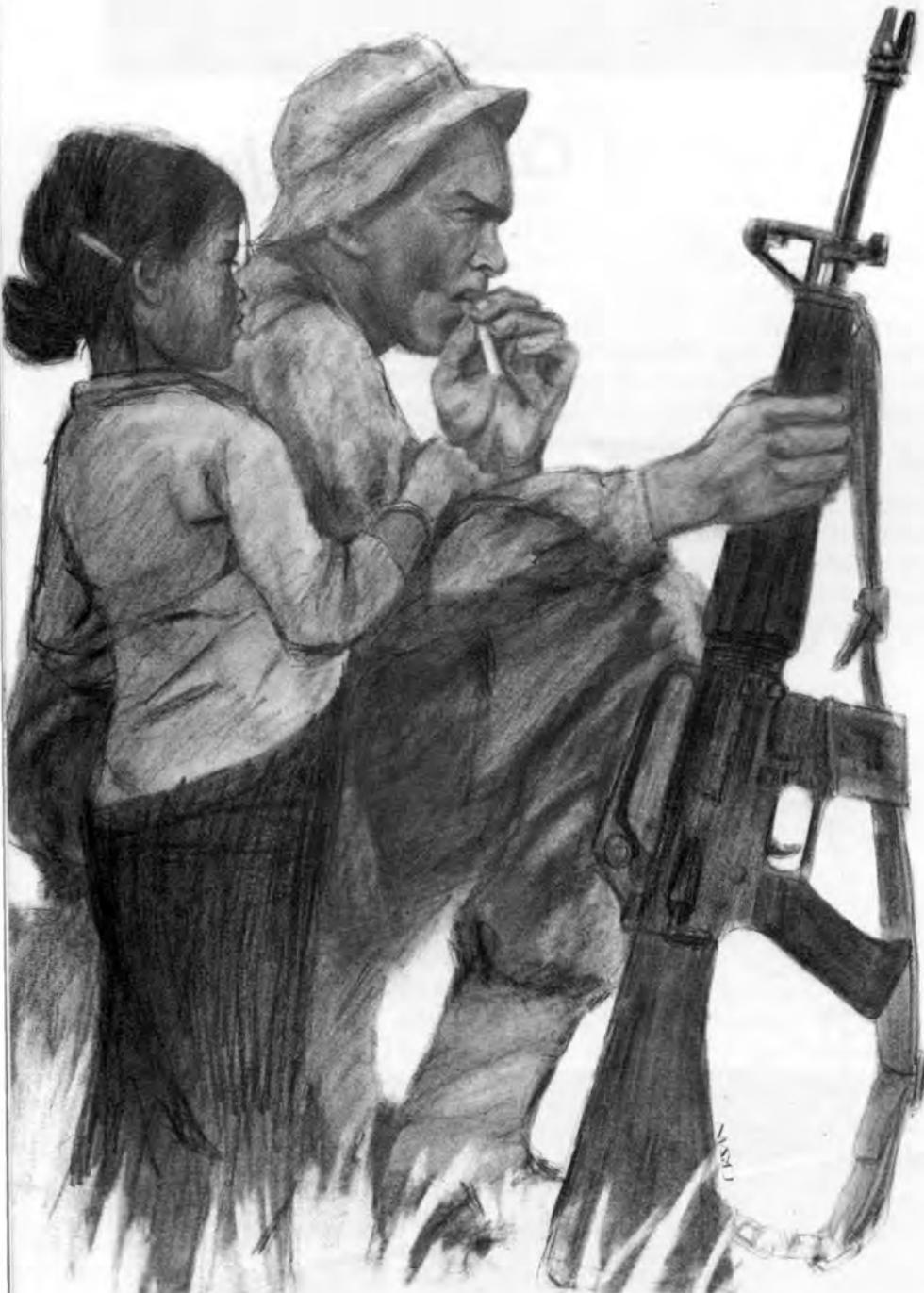
After checking border infiltration in western Pleiku Province during Operation MacArthur, the First Brigade quickly moved into the Dak To area as enemy forces staged a massive buildup in what was later to be declared "The most significant battle of the war" by General William C. Westmoreland, then Commander of US Forces in Vietnam.

Enemy strength was assessed at three regiments and a division. Reinforcements were flown in immediately and, on November 3, 1967, the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, scaling Hill 1338 overlooking the Dak To base camp, made contact with a deeply-entrenched NVA force. The climatic battle for Dak To had begun.

In 27 days of savage fighting, American and ARVN soldiers, employing every weapon from B-52 bombers to bayonets, destroyed the enemy forces.

During another massive build-up in May of 1968, Task Force Mathews went into the Dak To-Ben Het area. Air and artillery strikes, together with extensive ground sweeps, forced the determined enemy to withdraw to his border sanctuaries.

After almost 15 months of occupancy at Dak To, the First Brigade moved to Sui Doi in January of 1969 to be nearer the extensive enemy-seeking operations along the Dak Poyou River. The new



base camp was named Camp McNerney after First Sergeant David H. McNerney who won the Medal of Honor while serving with Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Throughout the Central Highlands, the First Brigade has proven to the enemy that 4th Division soldiers are the sole rulers of their area of operation.

**A slip means a bath!**



**A joke between buddies keeps minds off the heat**

**Religious services at a landing zone**



**A "hook" brings in the day's supplies**



**Inspecting an enemy rice hootch**





APCs add versatility and mobility

## SECOND BRIGADE

*1st Battalion, 12th Infantry "Red Warriors"*  
*1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry "Regulars"*  
*2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry "Panthers"*

As the first 4th Division unit to arrive in Vietnam, the Second Brigade pioneered into the Central Highlands in August of 1966 to establish the Division base camp near Dragon Mountain. The "Highlanders" pushed on to secure enemy-infested terrain near Plei Djereng.

In early 1967, during Operation Sam Houston, the Second Brigade swarmed into the Plei Trap Valley. By the end of the operation, the "Highlanders" had impressed a determined enemy by crushing his forces at each confrontation.

Playing a key role in Operation Francis Marion, the Brigade's efforts were divided between protecting Edap Enang, a consolidated Montagnard Village, and conducting reconnaissance-in-force missions in the Ia Drang Valley.

Constantly on the move, the nomadic "Highlanders" were later airlifted into the Cheo-Reo and Phu Tuc area to smash large enemy troop concentrations. Eleven days later the Brigade was again moved—this time into Darlac Province where they severed infiltration arteries previously used by NVA forces.

The year 1968 saw the "Highlanders" extending their elements over a vast range of territory to support strategic Dak To, Ban Me Thuot, Duc Lap, Mewall, Plei Kleng and VC Valley. The combined efforts of the Second Brigade and ARVN soldiers destroyed enemy prospects of a major victory over ARVN forces.

On August 23, 1968, a six-week battle to lift the siege at Duc Lap ensued against three NVA regiments in which artillery and airstrikes, coupled with constant "Highlander" ground pressure, brought about a substantial enemy defeat and forced the tattered NVA forces to flee.

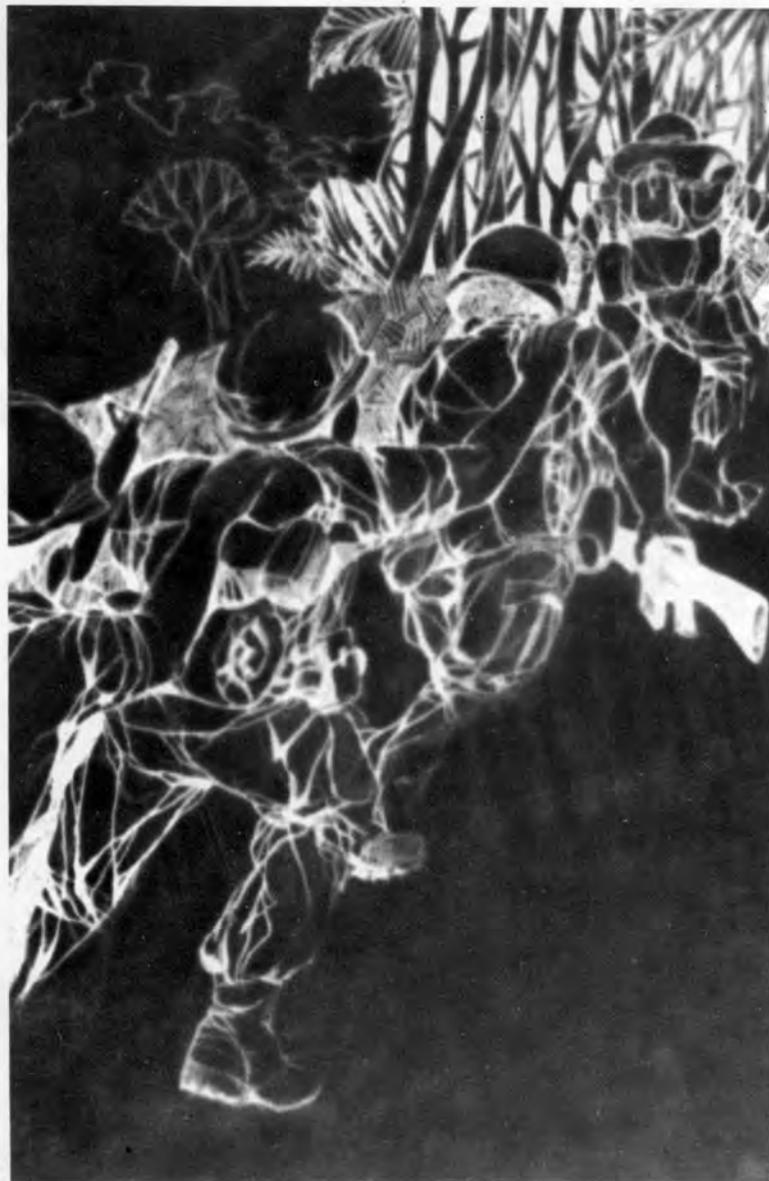
The Second Brigade soon moved to LZ Mary Lou near Kontum and rechristened the scenic base camp "Highlander Heights." From this location, the "Highlanders" again invaded the Plei Trap Valley to interdict enemy use of the Plei Trap Road for troop and supply movement and conducted an extensive pacification program throughout Kontum Province.



Platoon leader calls for  
artillery fire



Clean-up time



Night patrol



Checking for mines

# THIRD BRIGADE



*1st Battalion, 14th Infantry "Golden Dragons"*

*1st Battalion, 35th Infantry "Cacti Green"*

*2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry "Cacti Blue"*

Initially part of the 25th Infantry Division, the Third Brigade landed in Vietnam in December of 1965 as a task force component and immediately deployed into the Central Highlands where it dealt crippling blows to the enemy in Operations Paul Revere I, Thayer II, Pershing and Lejeune.

The Brigade then made a lateral sweep north to the coastal plains of Quang Ngam Province, flushing out the Viet Cong who once controlled most of that area.

In August of 1967, the Third Brigade became a 4th Division element. Contributing to the success of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa north of Chu Lai, the "None Better" soldiers were excellent spokesmen for the "Steadfast and Loyal" Fourth.

During the summer of 1968, the Third Brigade established its base camp at the Oasis near Pleiku. In response to a large NVA buildup, the Brigade then seized critical fire-base locations around Duc Co.

Since then, the Brigade has continued to interdict enemy supply routes from Cambodia into the Central Highlands.

The Third Brigade has established an enviable record in operations that have taken it from the coastal plains to the Cambodian and Laotian borders. Each encounter with the enemy has demonstrated the Third Brigade's combat superiority.

**"Anybody home?"**



Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) member



Inspecting captured enemy weapons



"Cranes" hustle ammo into firebases so there is plenty for the day's activities





*The Short Range Patrol (SRP) concept is used extensively throughout the Division to find the enemy, fix his position and call in fire to destroy him. SRP teams are a crucial part of the Division's effectiveness, for once a SRP screen is positioned the enemy cannot make a move without being detected and engaged with the resounding firepower available to the SRP leader.*

WATERMAN



Mail call

One soldier scans Central Highlands terrain...



....Another uses it for concealment



The Fourth Division's huge 12,000 square mile area of operation includes a great variety of terrain. Most characteristic of the Central Highlands are the sheer mountains which jut skyward from green river valleys, providing perfect vantage points for observation of enemy activity and strategically-located firebase platforms for artillery emplacements. There are also open flatlands, triple canopy jungles and slushy rice fields to negotiate, but 4th Division units have consistently conquered the terrain and used it to their advantage.



## *Supply, Service and Surgery*

A successful war effort requires a monstrous volume of supplies, equipment and service. From base camp to firebase to foxhole, the Division Support Command insures that each soldier is properly equipped to accomplish his mission.

Composed of three battalions, DISCOM provides the Division with logistical support, maintenance and medical care.

Insuring that all supplies destined for the 4th Division ultimately reach the individual soldier—no matter how inaccessible his position—is the responsibility of the 4th Supply and Transport Battalion.

Complex equipment requires 24 hour-a-day care: The men of the 704th Maintenance Battalion see to it that trucks, tools and typewriters continue to perform as efficiently as possible.

But soldiers themselves also require a certain amount of maintenance. The competent hands of 4th Medical Battalion personnel tend to the soldier's bodily needs. The shout of "Medic!" on the battlefield activates the most sophisticated medical facilities ever possessed by an army in conflict. In addition, the 4th Medical Battalion administers the same capable and modern care to the soldier on sick call and is responsible for the Division's Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) which is designed to administer medical aid to Montagnard villagers throughout the Division area of operation.

When hungry men are fed, when worn equipment is replaced or repaired, when injured soldiers are treated—it is then that the importance of the behind-the-scene efforts of the Division Support Command becomes ever so evident.

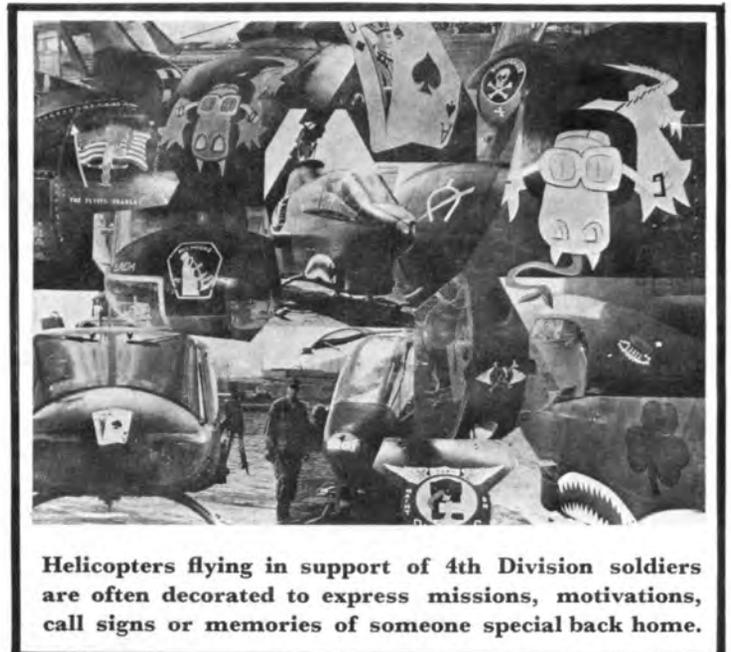
**Unloading CONEX containers**



Out with the old, in  
with the new



4th Division band members provide neighboring Montagnards with a sample of Dixieland music



Helicopters flying in support of 4th Division soldiers are often decorated to express missions, motivations, call signs or memories of someone special back home.

# CIVIC ACT

## *Good Neighbors M*

A significant part of the 4th Division Highlands is an extensive civic action program aiding the birth and development of neighboring Montagnard tribesmen. Making transforming ideas into realities are a goal of civic action is securing a community help themselves.

The 4th Division G-5 section monitors while civil affairs teams from major most of the mechanics in villages with

Medical aid to the sick and injured materials; hamlet consolidations that scattered hamlets into defendable villages. Educational programs that teach basic skills self-improvement and personal hygiene necessary for a new way of life—all are fingers of an extended hand of friendship which show the Montagnards of the Highlands that someone cares about their welfare.



# CTION

## *Make Good Fences*

Division's effort in the Central  
tion program aimed at encour-  
ment of progressive ideas among  
men. Materials and assistance for  
are also provided, but the true  
ommitment among the people to

monitors the overall program,  
major subordinate units handle  
within their areas of operation.  
jured; construction projects and  
that resituate vulnerable  
e villages; and educa-  
skills of commerce,



The 124th Signal Battalion is composed of three line companies and a headquarters detachment. Each company paints a different section of the Division's overall communications picture.

Company A, located primarily at Camp Enari and nearby Dragon Mountain, operates FM retransmitting communication stations, the Division communications center, wire and cable platoons and the Division switchboards.

Company B has a forward signal center platoon located with each of the Division's brigades. Each platoon provides HF, VHF and FM radio, communication center facilities and telephone switchboards for communication with other elements of the Division.

C Company provides combat photographers who accompany infantry units in the field, a VHF radio station at Division headquarters and signal displace-

# 124TH SIGNAL BATTALION

## *Linemen for the County*

ment platoons to assist movement of brigade and tactical command posts throughout the Division.

A signal battalion has more equipment per person than any other type of battalion. This quantity of technical equipment justifies the extensive signal maintenance section which is also part of the 124th Signal Battalion.

Even in light of the fantastic communications network essential to a widespread infantry division, the Signal Battalion has not neglected the need for soldiers to communicate with people back home. A Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) station is located at Camp Enari and at all three of the brigades.

Since its arrival in Vietnam, the 124th Signal Battalion has admirably accomplished its mission of installing, operating and maintaining all Division communications systems.



## Quick-Reacting Air-Ground Force

The 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry is the 4th Infantry Division's organic cavalry squadron. Its three armored troops and one air cavalry troop deployed to Vietnam with the Division.

The extensive mobility and firepower of the cavalry troops have been effective in reconnaissance, road clearing, search and destroy missions and ground operations in support of Division infantry battalions and ARVN forces.

The air cavalry troop provides the 4th Division with aerial reconnaissance of large areas, devastating gunship support and a quick-reacting aero-rifle platoon for insertion into the most inaccessible jungle areas by the troop's inherent lift ships when the situation calls for immediate reinforcements.

Despite the jungle, mud and dust characteristic of the Central Highlands, the spirit and dedication of the "Buffalo Soldiers" of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry continue to lead the way in the 4th Division's fight against the enemy.

# 1ST SQUADRON, 10TH CAVALRY



The aero-rifle platoon is extracted

# AVIATION

## *Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines*

It is an air war as well as a ground war. Aviation provides on-the-spot mobility, versatile resupply, immediate casualty evacuation, essential command and control, "Charlie-chasing" firepower and tale-telling reconnaissance—all essential to 4th Infantry Division soldiers as they rout the enemy from the Central Highlands.

Steady traffic over Camp Enari's Hensel Army Airfield, named in honor of Warrant Officer Ernest V. Hensel, Jr., first Division aviator killed in action over Vietnam, attests to the fact that the UH-1 lift and

gunships, LOH6s and AH-1G Cobras of the 4th Aviation Battalion handle the bulk of Division air missions. Helicopter support is also provided by the 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion from nearby Camp Holloway, whose "Chinooks" and "Flying Cranes" move heavy loads throughout the Highlands.

Fixed wing OH-1 "Headhunter" planes from the 219th Aviation Company provide key air reconnaissance and help direct devastating airstrikes on enemy positions.

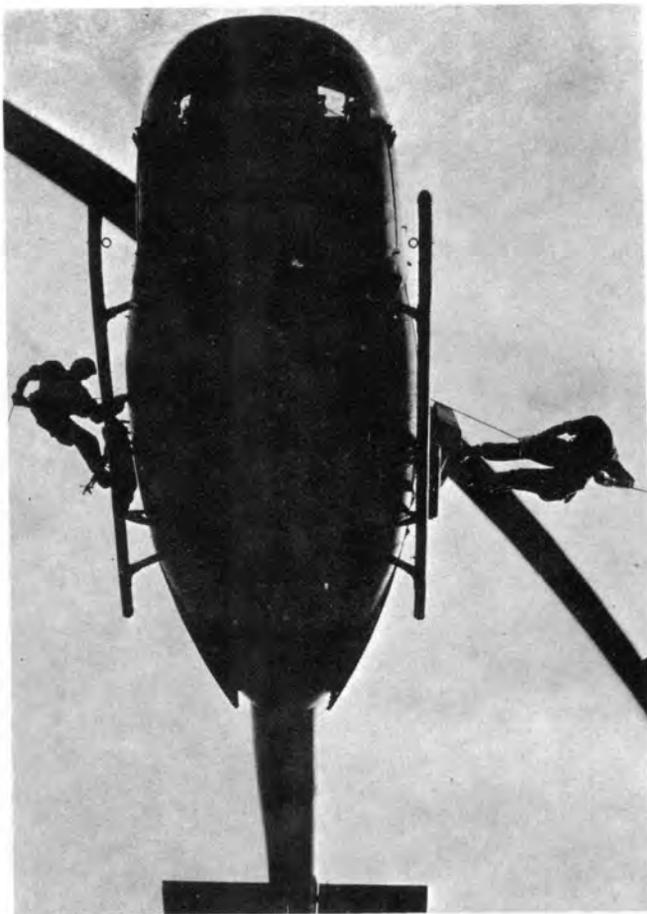
Air Force air support is also available to 4th Division units. Forward Air Controllers (FACs) flying O-2As direct air strikes delivered by F-4s (Phantoms), F-100s (Supersabers), A1/Es (Spads), B-57s (Canberras) and B-52s (Stratofortresses) from fighter-bomber units throughout South Vietnam.

Estimates of the number of additional troops which would be required to conduct the war without air support vary, but all are staggering. Aircraft play a key role in keeping the Division on the move and "Charlie" on the run.





Carbon Waterman



Engineers rappel from chopper

# 4TH ENGINEER BATTALION

## *Division Handymen Provide Combat Support*

Engineer support for the 4th Infantry Division is provided by the 4th Engineer Battalion. Arriving in the Central Highlands with the Division's advance party in August of 1966, the engineers began transforming the base of Dragon Mountain into a city in the jungle.

Base camp construction is only one of the diversified tasks which falls to the 4th Engineer Battalion. Combat engineers may be found as far forward as the infantry company, clearing landing zones and building fire support bases. An engineer element usually accompanies the infantry on combat assaults. Engineers build the roads on which convoys hauling troops and supplies move, clear wide swaths along either side to prevent ambushes and sweep the roads daily for mines.

The monsoon rains tax the engineers to the fullest. Keeping roads open and building firebases are tasks not easily accomplished in knee-deep mud.

But no matter how difficult the challenge, the men of the 4th Engineer Battalion are always on the scene to do more than their share.

Blowing...



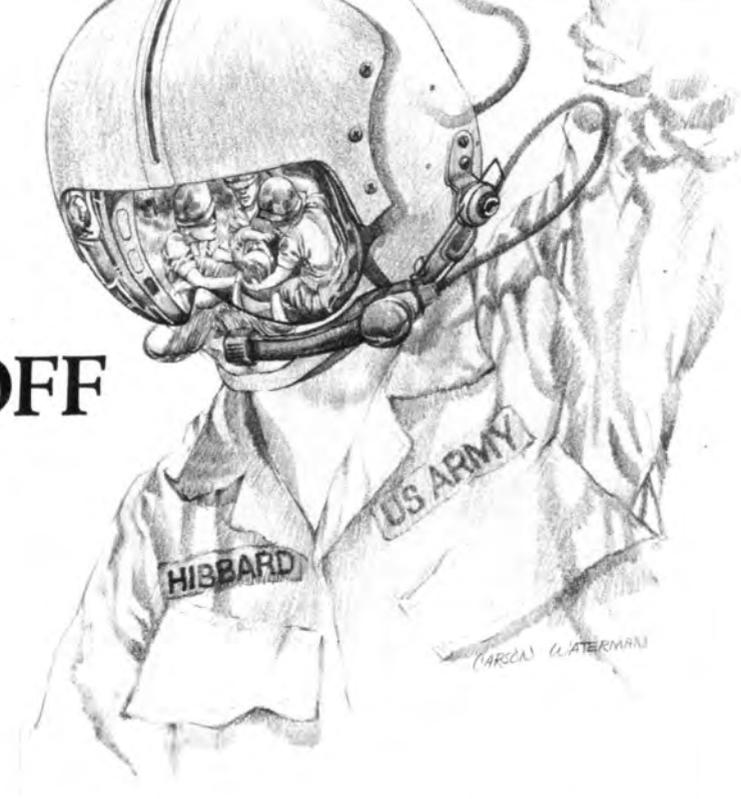
...and clearing a landing zone

The widespread use of helicopter "dustoffs" has brought medical aid to within minutes of an injured 4th Division soldier.

The 4th Medical Battalion supports the 4th Division in the Central Highlands by placing a medical company in direct support of each infantry brigade. These companies set up clearing stations which provide minor medical and surgical treatment and routine laboratory, x-ray and dental facilities. The clearing station is usually the first stop during medical evacuation from the field.

The 283rd Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance) and the 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) provide "dustoff" aircraft for the Division. They respond instantly to calls for medical evacuation and maneuver into even the thickest jungle to lift out wounded soldiers. Infantrymen Division-wide exude constant praise for the courageous MEDEVAC pilots and crews who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

## DUSTOFF



## *Medical Care Just Minutes Away*





An APC's .50 speaks into the night

## Roaring Engines and Clattering Tracks

The 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry arrived in Vietnam in August of 1967 and rumbled its armored vehicles along Highway 19 to Camp Enari.

Immediately joining in the combat operations of the Famous Fighting Fourth, the "Blackhawks" brought to Division infantrymen the firepower and mobility of tanks and armored personnel carriers. Since then, "Blackhawk" tracks have overcome the treacherous jungle and dealt fatal blows to the enemy in every encounter.

Operating from Firebase Blackhawk east of Camp Enari, the 2/1st tracks patrol large segments of the vital lifeline which is Highway 19, insuring that its treacherous curves and vulnerable bridges remain open for supply and troop movements.

In addition to their extensive combat operations, the "Blackhawks" conduct an impressive civic action program. Neighboring Montagnard villagers have often seen the cavalrymen extend their friendship by providing tracked mobility and protection, education, construction and medical aid.

# 2ND SQUADRON, 1ST CAVALRY



Tanks pull security on Highway 19 bridges



Rumbling toward Blackhawk



## Shock and Mobility in the Highlands



The 1st Battalion, 69th Armor is one of two armor battalions in Vietnam. Arriving in January of 1966, the "Black Panthers" were attached to the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division.

When the 3rd Brigade moved to Pleiku to join the Famous Fourth Division, the tankers came along. After operating with the 4th Division for nearly a year, the 1/69th officially became a part of the Central Highlands team in August of 1967.

Missions of the armor in the Highlands include search and destroy, road clearance and security, convoy security, direct and indirect fire support of infantry units, perimeter defense and mobile reaction force.

The 1st Battalion, 69th Armor has amassed an impressive record in combat actions; to the enemy's dismay, the "Black Panthers" have become an integral part of the overall military posture in the Central Highlands.

Inherent armor shock and mobility have also contributed to the civil affairs program in 4th Division country. On several occasions, the "Black Panthers" have used their vehicles to aid Montagnard villagers in cattle drives and roundups.



In action near Ben Het during the 1969 offensive, the 1/69th demolished an enemy PT 76 tank and appropriately decorated it.



# 7TH SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY

*"Bringing Smoke"*

*on the Ground*

*and in the Air*

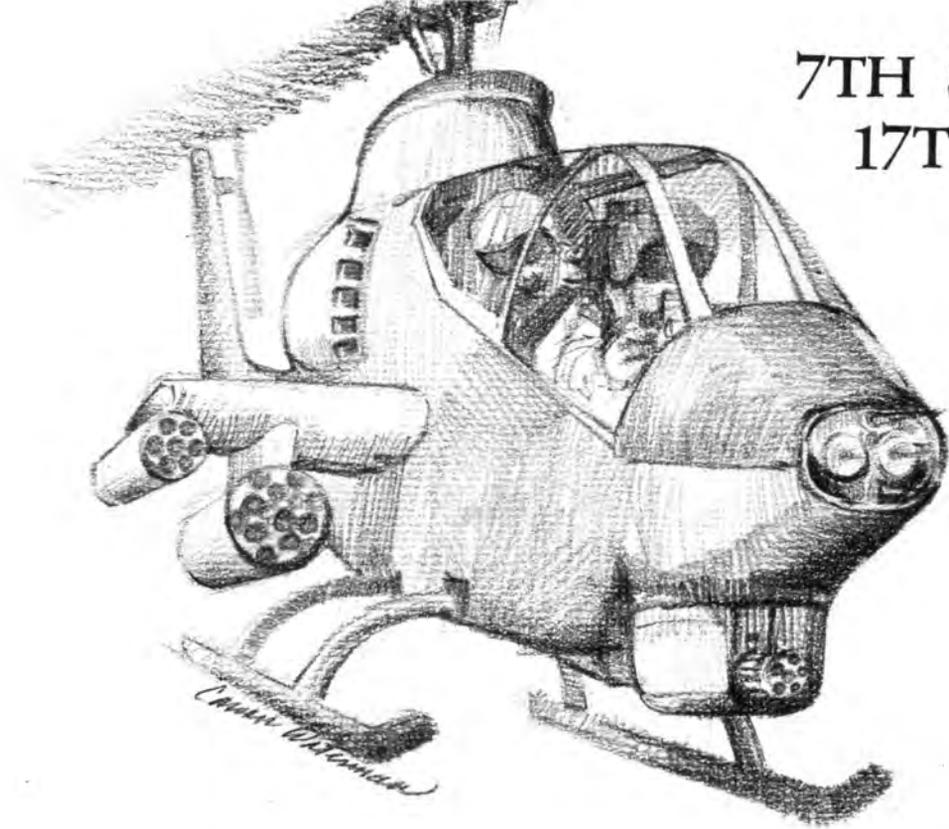
The 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry became OPCON to the 4th Division in October of 1967, adding an impressive air cavalry capability that has proven extremely effective in jungle warfare.

Each of three air troops of "Ruthless Riders" employs light observation helicopters (LOH6s) for extensive aerial scouting.

Once they have located the enemy, the LOH pilots call for their big brothers—the heavily-armed Cobra gunships—which engage the enemy with their snarling rockets and miniguns. The aero-riflé platoon may be inserted by the troop's inherent lift "Slick" helicopters to add still another dimension to the vicious Cav attack.

Also on the ground, a troop of wheeled vehicles sporting machine-guns, recoilless rifles and mortars prowls the jungles, flushing out the enemy as birddogs do quail.

Traversing the Central Highlands to provide even more teeth to the 4th Division attack, the 7/17th troopers are a welcome sight to infantrymen. Their versatility lends itself perfectly to the many faces of jungle warfare.



**On patrol with  
Delta Troop**

**LOH6 scout ships seek the  
enemy in nearly any terrain**



Lugging shells

*Far-Reaching  
Firepower  
on Constant Call*

## DIVISION ARTILLERY

Every soldier in the 4th Infantry Division realizes the tactical significance of artillery support: the "Redleg" is literally worth his weight in spent brass.

Division fighting men capitalize on the great tactical advantage of having fast and accurate fire support available at any time day or night. A call to Division Artillery (DIVARTY)—the Famous Fourth's organic artillery unit—promptly rains destructive steel on the enemy.

DIVARTY is composed of three battalions of 105mm towed howitzers and one composite battalion of 155mm and 8-inch howitzers. The 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery is in direct support of the 1st Brigade; the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery is in direct support of the 2nd Brigade; the 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery is in direct support of the 3rd Brigade; and the 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery is in general support of the Division.

Supporting fire is also available from elements of the 52nd Artillery Group, which provide general support reinforcement to certain DIVARTY units.

The value of artillery has been considerably increased by the helicopter. "Chinooks" and "Cranes" supply the power to airlift artillery to forward firebases and LOH6s from the DIVARTY Aviation Section are used for aerial observation and fire control. Infantry units in the most remote jungle areas of the Central Highlands can thus count on immediate "Redleg" support.

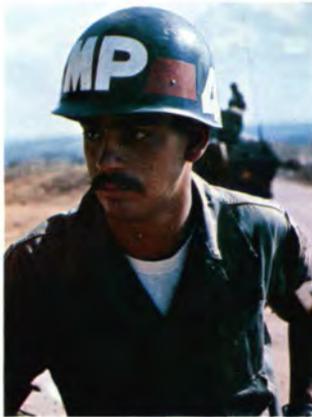
The "King of Battle" lends



demoralizing and devastating firepower to infantry units. Screaming artillery rounds are a major factor in quelling enemy offensives and defeating NVA forces.



Duster



The faces of the Famous Fighting Fourth are many, and then again they are just two. For although we are aviators, tankers, infantrymen, engineers, medics, artillerymen and administrators, we are, on one hand, dedicated fighters for our country's cause and, on the other, compassionate friends to the people of a war-torn land. Those of you who are new to the Division will soon find yourselves living the legend that sustains both of these faces.

Prepared by the 4th Division Information Office

Information Officer:  
Major George M. Maxwell, Jr.  
Editing and Design: 1LT Gerald W. Hale  
Combat Art: SP4 Carson R. Waterman  
SP4 Louis J. Orsan  
SP4 Larry E. Thompson





# REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

The Fourth Infantry Division was first organized at Camp Greene, North Carolina, in 1917. The Division symbol—the Ivy Leaf insignia—was adopted from the Roman Numeral “IV.”

During the First World War, the 4th Division fought staunchly in the campaigns of Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne. It returned to the United States for deactivation in August of 1919 after serving seven post-Armistice months of occupation duty.

Reactivation at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1940 and amphibious training in Florida during 1943 prepared the 4th Division for its January 1944 departure for World War II action.

A regiment of the Division earned the Distinguished Unit Citation for its D-Day landing on Utah Beach. Fourth Division soldiers spearheaded the drive on Cherbourg and, by 14 September 1944, had breached the “impregnable” Siegfried Line in four places. By VE Day, 8 May 1945, the Division had driven deep into Germany, leaving a trail of outstanding achievements attested to by many personal awards, three Distinguished Unit Citations and the Belgian Fourragere.

Deactivation in 1946 and reactivation as a training unit in 1947 followed. In May and June of 1951, the Division deployed to Germany for five years’ service with the NATO structure, after which it returned to Fort Lewis, Washington, and maintained a high state of readiness through continual training and frequent maneuvers as part of the United States Strategic Army Corps.

The Division deployed to Vietnam between July and October of 1966. The 2nd Brigade established the Division base camp at the foot of Dragon Mountain, sacred center of the universe to the Jarai tribesmen, while the 1st Brigade remained in the Tuy Hoa area for Operation Adams. The 3rd Brigade was originally under operational control of the 25th Infantry Division, while the Famous Fighting Fourth took control of the 25th Division’s 3rd Brigade, which was already operating in the Central Highlands. The two 3rd Brigades changed colors in August of 1967 to become permanent parts of the Divisions with which they had worked for nearly a year.

The 4th Division soldiers proved their prowess in Operations Paul Revere IV, Sam Houston, Greeley,

Francis Marion and MacArthur, constantly concerned with eliminating North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars from the Highlands and interdicting the eastward flow of men and materials from Laos and Cambodia.

In spring of 1967, the 1st Brigade saw five hard-fought battles during the “Nine Days in May.” November 3rd began the famous Battle of Dak To, during which the 4th Division took a tremendous toll of enemy soldiers.

The 1968 Tet offensive began on 30 January, with major action centering on Kontum, Pleiku and Ban Me Thuot. Combined forces killed 2,641 NVA and Viet Cong soldiers during the 5-day offensive.

NVA units in the 4th Division area of operation then withdrew for reorganization and resupply. By the end of April, vicious attacks on 4th Division firebases near Poley Kleng had been successfully repelled by hard-fighting 4th Division soldiers.

Task Force Mathews was established on 24 May to eliminate an NVA division in the Dak To-Ben Het area. The NVA unit soon retreated across the border.

Late summer plans by the NVA to attack Ban Me Thout were upset by the movement of the 2nd Brigade to that city. The enemy diverted his attack to the Duc Lap Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp, but suffered huge losses from quick-reacting 4th Division units.

During November, Operations Tollroad and Deadend successfully interdicted the heavy use of the Plei Trap Road in Kontum Province for enemy resupply. Task Force Winner, during December of 1968, was designed to deprive the enemy of his traditional strongholds in the Dak Payou River Valley in Pleiku Province. Tons of rice, weapons, ammunition and miscellaneous equipment were left behind by the fleeing enemy.

In early 1969, US and ARVN forces launched a joint operation in the Chu Pa Mountains northwest of Plei Mrong, again depriving the enemy of a key storage and staging area.

As Operation MacArthur draws to a close and Operation Hines commences, the 4th Infantry Division continues to employ its murderous firepower, mobility, reconnaissance capability and fighting spirit to make the Central Highlands increasingly untenable for the enemy.



David W. Johnson