

Enemy Hurls Tear Gas At 3/8th Mortar Platoon

Le Thanh — A platoon of the 1st Brigade, 4th Division received a heavy dose of tear gas near the Special Forces Camp at Duc Co the morning of April 6.

The mortar platoon of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry was manning an outpost with Civilian Irregular Defense Group troops when the attack occurred.

At about 12:50 a.m. the men experienced burning eyes and throats. They manned their bunkers and prepared for a ground attack.

The Ivymen fired mortar illumination rounds, small arms, and grenades in the general direction of the attack, but, because of the chemical agent, they were unable to detect the enemy.

The attack lasted approximately five minutes. Five to eight knot winds kept the chemical agent from lingering over the area.

Another wave of the agent followed at 1:40 a.m. The enemy attempted no ground attack.

There were no friendly casualties in the attacks.

Later that morning, the platoon swept the area looking for possible enemy casualties. The men found 12 new-type agent dispensers, made of vinyl-type plastic bags measuring about seven inches by four inches.

The bags were found 20 meters outside the unit's barbed wire perimeter in a line about 20 to 30 meters long. Current estimations are

that four or five enemy employed the gas.

According to Captain James H. Shegog, brigade chemical officer, this was the first reported incident of the use of chemical agents against 1st Brigade troops.

He also made the observation that this is the first known encounter with agents being disseminated by bags. In the past, the enemy has used chemical grenades primarily as an escape mechanism.

The agent used is suspected to be C-N (chloroacetophenone), a well-known tear agent. Samples taken at the site have been sent to the chemical technical intelligence unit in Saigon for a detailed analysis.

Tanks From 69th Armor Attack Fortified Hamlet

Saigon — Tanks from the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 69th Armor this week were assisting a multi-company force of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in a battle against an estimated enemy company in Operation Pershing.

The enemy force was trapped within a fortified hamlet in the northern An Lao Valley, 20 kilometers northwest of Bong Son in Binh Dinh Province.

On April 9, a platoon of tanks from Company A, 69th Armor fired against the strongly fortified positions in the hamlet.

The enemy death toll in three days of fighting stands at 78.

Dragon Mountain — The last major elements of the 1st Brigade have joined the 4th Division in the Pleiku area after completing Operation Adams in Phu Yen Province.

Almost 200 vehicles comprised the two-day convoy of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry which stayed overnight in Qui Nhon in the journey from Tuy Hoa on the coast to the division's Dragon Mountain base camp in the Central Highlands.

Three isolated sniper shots



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1st, 2nd Brigades Engaged In Operation Francis Marion

Saigon — Units of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st and 2nd Brigades are now conducting Operation Francis Marion in the Central Highlands of Pleiku and Kontum

Provinces. Francis Marion was initiated at 12:01 a.m. April 6, one minute after Operation Sam Houston terminated. The new operation is cover-

ing the same area as Sam Houston, centered 35 kilometers west of Pleiku City. Company C of the 1st Brigade's 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry located a large enemy installation last Saturday 60 kilometers southwest of Pleiku.

The area, estimated to be six-months-old, contained 250 bunkers, foxholes, spider holes, two animal pens, a spring-fed pool and 12 cook houses.

Between 6:55 and 7:20 p.m. that day a forward command post of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry was hit with 40 rounds of 82mm mortar fire which resulted in three cavalymen wounded and light materiel damage.

The same night at 7 p.m., the 2nd Brigade forward command post, 26 kilometers southwest of Pleiku, was the target of an enemy mortar attack.

All 40 to 50 of the 82mm mortar rounds landed outside the CP's perimeter. There were no U.S. casualties.

Operation Francis Marion, named for the famed "Swamp Fox" from South Carolina who was an effective guerilla fighter against the British during the American Revolution, continues to be a different kind of war for the 1st Brigade.

In Operation Adams near Tuy Hoa, the infantrymen were accustomed to search and destroy missions against hard-core local Viet Cong.

In Francis Marion, like Sam Houston, the Ivymen are fighting a more conventional war against reinforced regulars and are attempting to engage North Vietnamese infiltrators crossing the border.

In Operation Sam Houston, which started January 1, units of the Ivy's 1st and 2nd Brigades and the 25th Division's 3rd Brigade killed 733 enemy, detained 305 suspects and captured 181 individual and 50 crew-

(Cont'd Page 5, Col. 5)



2/22ND ROUTS VIET CONG

Supply and dustoff helicopters sweep over the heads of the men of the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry during a heavy engagement in Operation Junction City. The mechanized infantrymen went on to route the Viet Cong. (USA Photo by Sp4 Brad Bromley)

TUY HOA TO DRAGON MOUNTAIN

3/12th Joins Sister Battalions

along Highway 1 were the only incidents during the trip.

The 1st Brigade troops were greeted by the 4th Division Band when they arrived at Dragon Mountain.

The men of the 3/12th remained a few days in the base camp, repairing equipment, restocking supplies and getting their personal affairs in order in preparation for the link-up with sister battalions and 2nd Brigade units in the Francis Marion area

of operation.

This marks the first time that two complete brigades of the 4th Division have joined forces in the Central Highlands. The 1st Brigade had been located in Phu Yen Province since its arrival in country last fall.

One soldier was heard to comment as he prepared to leave for the Highland jungle, "I arrived at Tuy Hoa in time for the monsoons and now I'll go through the monsoons again."

TWO AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY

13 Soldiers Receive Silver Star Medals

Dragon Mountain— Thirteen soldiers have been awarded the Silver Star for their actions in combat against the enemy.

Receiving the nation's third highest award for valor were Lieutenant Colonel Harold H. Lee, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry; Major Grady W. Williams, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry; Captain Edward D. Northrop Jr., Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry; First Sergeant Jimmie E. Jones, Staff Sergeant Fred L. Case, and Private First Class Byron W. Thompson, Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

Also Platoon Sergeant Walter G. Hill and Specialist 4 John M. Mucci, Company

C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry; Specialist 5 Ernest E. Hathaway, Headquarters and Service Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery; and First Lieutenant Thomas J. Blue and Second Lieutenant Donald M. Keith, Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry.

Awarded the Silver Star posthumously were Captain Colin D. MacManus, Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry; and Specialist 4 Michael P. Reilly, Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

During Operation Adams, when a company from his battalion came under attack, Colonel Lee, former 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry commander, repeatedly moved among his men to direct the

action and give them moral encouragement.

Major Williams, former 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry commander, was cited for actions in a landing zone in the Central Highlands.

Immediate Contact

As the formation of helicopters began to land, immediate contact was made with an enemy force of unknown size.

Major Williams, who was flying in a command and control chopper, landed and made his way to the command post where he learned that the unit was pinned down by small arms fire to its front.

After organizing his force and devising a plan to destroy the enemy positions, Major Williams moved with the maneuver element and personally directed a drive around the enemy's flank.

Captain Northrop, First Sergeant Jones, Sergeant Case, and PFC Thompson distinguished themselves during an all-out attack on their fire base position by an estimated three North Vietnamese companies.

Intense Fire

In each circumstance, the awarded individual continually exposed himself to intense enemy fire to give support to beleaguered comrades, resupply ammunition, and aid wounded men.

Sergeant Hill and Specialist Mucci, members of the 35th Infantry, were on a search and destroy mission during Operation Sam Houston when their company was hit by intense enemy fire that saw the company commander fall critically wounded.

Specialist Mucci, after treating the commander, manned the radio and maintained contact with the battalion commander while continuing to fight the onrushing enemy.

Due to the suddenness of the attack, elements of the company became separated.

Sergeant Hill continually exposed himself to enemy cross-fire in order to best maneuver his troops into a defensive perimeter. As the heated battle continued, the sergeant aided in treating and evacuating the wounded.

At one point a rescue chopper was shot down. Disregarding his own safety

and displaying what was termed "magnificent" leadership, he organized a rescue party and evacuated the wounded occupants.

Specialist Hathaway was serving as senior medical aid man with Battery B, 42nd Artillery when its fire support base came under heavy mortar and small arms fire. Before the first call for a medic had been made, the specialist was outside his bunker checking each position for wounded.

Wounded Men

A howitzer received a direct hit from enemy mortars and extensive secondary explosions from the 105mm ammunition ensued. The medic rushed to the position and evacuated the wounded men. He then returned to the battle area and continued to treat the wounded while exposed to enemy fire.

Lieutenant Blue led his weapons platoon on a skillful assault through hedgerows and open rice fields to destroy a fortified bunker position that had pinned Company B down with intense automatic weapons and machine gun fire.

He exposed himself to enemy fire on many occasions and personally killed several enemy, allowing his company to continue its attack.

Lieutenant Keith's expertise in directing effective fires of the artillery, rocket firing helicopters and gunships on the enemy's critical positions readily gave Company B the advantage against a numerically superior enemy force.

The lieutenant, an artillery

forward observer, called in continuous fires all afternoon and throughout the night, and when the company commander was wounded he assisted in reorganizing the unit and establishing unit integrity.

Captain MacManus distinguished himself as his company moved rapidly through the dense highland jungle to assist a surrounded sister unit.

As the company moved toward the link-up point, it was taken under heavy enemy fire from the front and flank.

As the company's progress slowed under the attack, Captain MacManus moved to the point position and led his forces to Company A. As the link-up was nearly completed, he was fatally wounded.

Specialist Reilly was acting as a radio-telephone operator for his platoon when his unit was besieged by automatic weapons fire.

Hit In Arm

As Specialist Reilly moved with his platoon leader through intense hostile fire toward the engaged elements, he was seriously wounded in one arm by automatic weapons fire.

Despite the wound, he continued to move forward. Then, as he attempted to forward his handset to the platoon leader, he received a wound in the other arm.

Nevertheless, he again attempted to pass the handset to the platoon leader. With the next burst of enemy fire, Specialist Reilly was fatally wounded.



Silver Star

Lieutenant Colonel Harold H. Lee
Major Grady W. Williams
First Lieutenant Thomas J. Blue
Second Lieutenant Donald M. Keith
Captain Edward D. Northrop Jr.
First Sergeant Jimmie E. Jones
Platoon Sergeant Walter G. Hill
Staff Sergeant Fred L. Case
Specialist 5 Ernest E. Hathaway
Specialist 4 John M. Mucci
Private First Class Byron W. Thompson

HHC, 1st Bn, 8th Inf
HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 35th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 35th Inf
Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co C, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Hqs & Svc Btry, 4/42nd
Co C, 2nd Bn, 35th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf

Posthumous Silver Star

Captain Colin D. MacManus
Specialist 4 Michael P. Reilly

Co C, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf

Distinguished Flying Cross

First Lieutenant Roland L. Hoffer

HHC, 4th Div Arty

Bronze Star

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Citrak
Second Lieutenant William L. Crews
First Sergeant Herbert Tinnant
Staff Sergeant Carlos V. Rivera-Luna
Sergeant John E. Portteiger
Sergeant Dwight A. Hansen
Sergeant James W. Ingram
Sergeant Robert G. Senn
Specialist 4 Peter J. Raineri Jr.
Specialist 4 Raymond L. Beech
Specialist 4 Michael G. Simm
Specialist 4 David R. Richardson
Specialist 4 Bruce A. Pealer
Specialist 4 Raymond P. Howard
Specialist 4 Russell Hutto
Private First Class Wade W. Leech
Private First Class Travis N. Lamkin
Private First Class Tony W. Hartsfield
Private First Class Juan M. Garcia
Private First Class Ronald E. Norton
Private First Class Mose Poindexter

Hqs & Svc Btry, 5/16th
Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 35th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Btry B, 4th Bn, 42nd Arty
HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
3rd Bn, 22nd Inf
3rd Bn, 22nd Inf
3rd Bn, 22nd Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 35th Inf

Posthumous Bronze Star

Captain Robert C. Allen
Specialist 4 Anastacio H. Beltran
Specialist 4 Thomas V. Ford Jr.
Specialist 4 Johnie N. Daniels
Private First Class James L. Elliot
Private First Class George M. Sloan
Private First Class Michael Batson

Co B, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf
Co A, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf
Co C, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co C, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf
Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co C, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf

Army Commendation Medal

Captain Melvin Duetsch
Specialist 4 Joseph W. Whalen
Specialist 4 George A. Pippins
Private First Class Thomas D. Buchanan
Private First Class Neil T. Ahern

HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Co C, 1st Bn, 12nd Inf
Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Btry B, 4th Bn, 42nd Arty
Co A, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf

Air Medal

Specialist 3 Norbet Zavadin

Co B, 4th Avn Bn

Posthumous Air Medal

Specialist 4 Ronald D. Hart

Trp D, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav



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COMMUNION

Chaplain (Captain) David J. Woehr, assistant 1st Brigade chaplain, holds communion for 4th Division soldiers in the Highland jungles. The unit is participating in Operation Francis Marion. (USA Photo By PFC Fred Schuller)

'Red Warriors' Search For NVA In Nearly Impassable Jungle

By PFC Bob Boudreaux

Le Thanh — With a minimal amount of confusion, the men of "Chargin' Charlie" of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry moved into formation and prepared to leave the security of their forward fire base and enter the dense jungle of the Central Highlands.

"Move out," came the word from Captain Edward D. Northrop Jr. (Linthicum Heights, Md.), company commander.

"The NVA came after us here at the fire base," said First Sergeant Francisco Pareda (Barrigada, Guam), "and we sent what was left of them back into the hills. Now we're going after their compatriots and when we find them, watch out."

Combat Veterans

The faces of the men were tense. They were young faces, each one different yet somehow the same. Seasoned combat veterans, these men withstood two of the most vicious attacks the North Vietnamese have thrown at the Ivy Division.

Both times "Chargin' Charlie" inflicted extremely severe losses on the enemy while sustaining very light losses. But, one loss for the "Red Warrior" company is one loss too many.

The snake-like files weaved

slowly through the thick foliage as the point men hacked trails in vegetation that seemed impassable. Overhead jungle canopy provided shade from the fierce heat, yet the grueling terrain left the men dripping with perspiration and sweat-soaked clothing clung to tired soldiers.

Insects buzzed everywhere adding to the discomfort. Now and then someone would pause and take a sip from his canteen. Water is precious in the highlands during this time of the year, and there is none to be wasted.

Stream Of Data

In the center of the company formation walked Captain Northrop. Behind him, the radio operator received a continuous stream of data from the various elements of the company and relayed it on to the commander.

The enemy was definitely in the area. Fresh graves, bandages and dried blood were grim tell-tale signs.

That the enemy was running scared was evident by the equipment hastily strewn along the trails. Belts of machine gun ammunition, discarded clothing, and half eaten rations were left in his flight.

Artillery rounds whined overhead as the fire support base bombarded the surrounding area keeping the elusive enemy on the move.

Bombs Away

Air Force jets periodically screamed across the sky, shaking the ground as they dropped payload after payload of 750-pound bombs on suspected enemy concentrations.

From nearby came the sounds of small arms fire. Trigger fingers became edgy and every bush was brought under close scrutiny. Forward progress slowed considerably while the point men investigated possible enemy ambush sites.

During lengthy stops C-rations were broken out and eaten. No one talked as there was little to talk about.

Word came down from the point man that an ideal site to "dig in" had been secured. Quickly and efficiently the remainder of the company moved into position, broke out axes and entrenching tools and began building defenses for the night.

Cries of "fire in the hole" followed by explosions and the crash of toppling trees indicated that the engineer squad was blasting out a landing zone.

Aching muscles and broken

blisters were forgotten at the thought of hot chow, mail, and possibly cold beer.

The bunkers were soon finished, a landing zone cleared and observation posts set up. The jungle was again quiet.

Private First Class Cleveland Love (Bakersfield, Calif.), radio operator and point man, softly sang of a faraway city named San Francisco.

Cellophane-covered pictures of wives and sweethearts were gazed on for the millionth time and pens were busy, reassuring loved ones of the senders' safety and speedy return home.

The droning of a UH-1D "Huey" chopper broke the tranquil stillness and the men scrambled to the LZ to help unload the "goodies." Two more ships followed the first, then once again the jungle was quiet.

Nightly Vigil

Night fell quickly and the Ivymen, sipping hot chocolate and coffee, began the nightly vigil of watching for the enemy.

"Things are too quiet," said Staff Sergeant William J. Grandy Jr. (Tacoma, Wash.), "he's probably going to hit us tonight."

No sooner had he uttered those words when one of the listening posts began signaling frantically, "Movement to our front, movement to our front."

The calming voice of Captain Northrop came over the radio, directing the LP and informing all elements of the situation.

Artillery was called in, and with unerring precision, rounds began to fall directly outside the company perimeter. The men hugged the ground as burst after burst tore up the earth. The barrage ended as quickly as it began.

Enemy Movement

Time dragged on and once again the LP's heard movement. This time the commander ordered them to throw grenades toward the sounds. The enemy still did not make his move. They evidently elected to pull back.

Dawn pecked over the tree-tops and "Chargin' Charlie" prepared to move out. As the Ivymen kicked in and buried their fortified positions, Private First Class Marvin Marshall (Chicago), assistant machine gunner, said, "I'm trying to figure out which is my worst enemy, the NVA or the hard labor."

"Move out" came the command from Captain Northrop,

Receptionist Personally Delivers Stereo Unit To 3rd Brigade Troops

By Lt. Ralph F. Campbell

Dau Tieng—Ten thousand miles is a long way to come to deliver a gift, but that is how far Miss Brenda Muntz (Van Nuys, Calif.) traveled to give a stereo tape unit to the men of the Communications Platoon, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry.

Miss Muntz, a receptionist for a Southern California stereo manufacturer, was one of a quintet of employees who agreed to dash out to a nearby park and pose for a picture that later appeared in a magazine read by the men of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division.

When the men of the Commo Platoon saw the advertisement, they decided to write to the magazine and request to have the stereo system installed in each of their platoon's vehicles personally by the model indicated. Included with the request was the advertisement

with Miss Muntz circled.

The letter was forwarded to Miss Muntz's boss who sent her and the stereo units — enough for each major unit in the brigade — to Vietnam.

The idea of stereo-equipped jeeps was not practical, but home-type tape recorders for use in the service clubs were sent.

Miss Muntz arrived at Dau Tieng dressed in a blue jersey and matching bermuda shorts. Her first stop was at the Commo Platoon where she presented a stereo unit to the men.

She was then ushered over to the new 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry enlisted men's club where she met and talked to the men who requested her visit.

"The letter was more or less a joke about the demonstration by the model," said Specialist 4 Edward Rydzewski (Newark, N.J.). "We never expected to get a reply, let alone a visit to

include a stereo tape set for the platoon."

When questioned on how the men felt to have Miss Muntz at Dau Tieng, comments such as "great," "she's the best thing that has happened to Dau Tieng in a long time" and "morale is up 100 per cent" were received.

Lt. Col. Gannon Takes Command Of Ivy's 1/8th

Le Thanh — Lieutenant Colonel Timothy G. Gannon (York, Neb.) is now commanding the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry.

The new commander, formerly executive officer of the 3rd Brigade, 25th Division, succeeds Lieutenant Colonel Harold H. Lee.

Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander, presented Colonel Lee with the Silver Star during the change of command ceremony.

Division Artillery Plays Key Role In Combat Mission

By Maj. Guy E. Peterson

Dragon Mountain—Move, shoot and communicate are the by-words of all field artillerymen.

However, to make these actions meaningful and effective, guidance and coordination is necessary.

This is the mission of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Division Artillery—to plan, supervise, and coordinate. In addition, it complements the weapons systems of Division Artillery by furnishing survey control, meteorological data, and target intelligence.

The hub of activities is the Division Artillery tactical operations center. It is here that the operation and fire direction section maintains the necessary maps, orders, charts and communications network to coordinate the actions of all firing units. Tactical plans and operations orders are developed and the most current situation and intelligence is maintained on the situation and intelligence maps.

Working in close coordination with the operations section is the fire support element located at the division tactical operations center. The FSE is responsible for preparing fire support plans and coordinating the fire support efforts of Army artillery, and Air Force and Army Aviation elements.

The target acquisition pla-

toon, under the S-2, provides a portion of the target acquisition capability of Division Artillery, in addition to furnishing survey and weather data to firing units. Personnel of the AN/TPS-25 radar section operate in the base camp and furnish target data for defense of the base camp.

The AN/TPS radar is capable of detecting individuals or vehicles. With such equipment as the theodolite and distance measuring equipment (DME), the survey sections have established survey control points throughout the division's area of operations. Common survey control increases the accuracy of fires and permits effective massing of widely separated units on a common point.

Using gas-filled balloons, a radio transmitter and a radio receiver, the metro section obtains information on temperature, wind direction and wind speed at different elevations above the earth.

This information, normally obtained four times a day, is sent to firing units as soon as the data is processed. With this data, firing units compute corrections to compensate for the effects of weather, allowing them to keep registration data current and to place accurate, unobserved fire on known targets.

The Division Artillery aviation section not only

provides a means for visual reconnaissance but also provides aircraft and crews for command and control, limited resupply and artillery adjustment.

Tying together the coordinating and firing elements of Division Artillery is the function of the communications platoon. This platoon establishes and maintains the internal radio and wire nets, switchboards, message centers, and the external communication nets to subordinate, adjacent and higher units.

Essential elements of any organization are those that provide the necessary administrative, logistical, and maintenance support to house, feed, resupply and maintain the health and welfare of a unit.

The elements performing these necessary functions in Headquarters Battery are the mess, maintenance, battery headquarters, administrative, logistical, and medical sections.

The counterinsurgency environment has created some new tasks for the personnel of Headquarters Battery. A very important and major additional task is the responsibility for coordinating all base camp defense activities.

In addition to furnishing

the personnel and equipment to man and operate the base camp defense installation coordination center, the battery is also directly engaged in base camp defense by manning a sector of the base camp perimeter and by furnishing patrols to operate in the base camp area of operations.

While the activities and functions performed by Div-

ision Artillery's Headquarters Battery are many and varied, all contribute to the combat mission of the division.

The task of the Headquarters Battery is to provide assistance to all artillery with the division so that each firing unit may shoot, move, and communicate effectively in support of the 4th Division combat operations.

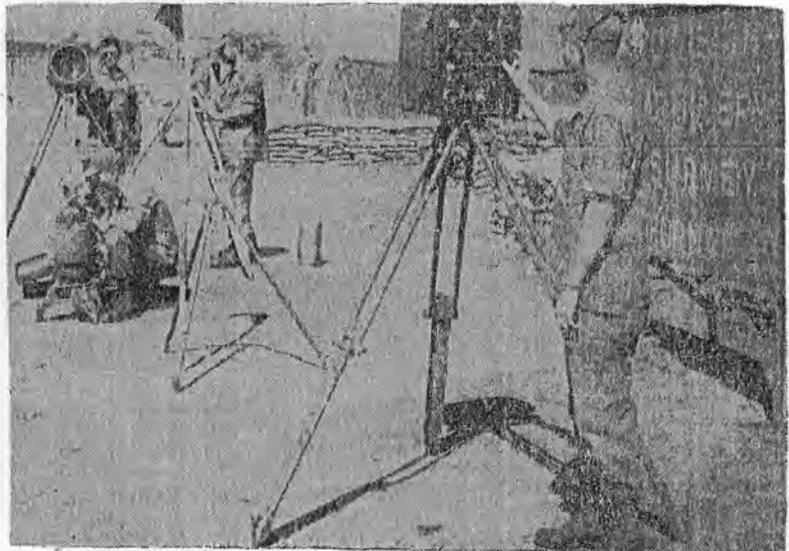


POSTING THE BIG PICTURE—Sergeant Major Andrew Blanchard (Tacoma, Wash.) and Private First Class Keith Hall (Sumner, Wash.) post the situation map in the Division Artillery tactical operation center. Both Ivymen are assigned with the fire direction and operations section.



CHECKING THE WEATHER—Staff Sergeant Richard Roberts (Atkinson, Neb.), left, and Specialist 5 James Kelly (Klamath Falls, Ore.) of the meteorological section check out the Rawin Set (radio receiver) prior to sending a transmitter aloft to check weather conditions.

Photos
By
Sp5 Louis N. Farrell



GETTING READY TO SURVEY—Checking out their survey equipment are, from left, Specialist 4 James Taylor (Baltimore), Specialist 4 David Straznac (Grand Haven, Mich.), who is partially hidden, Private First Class Joe Limon (Houston), Specialist 5 Edgar Lang (Perisberg, Pa.), and Specialist 5 Dewey Norman (Mt. Airy, N.C.).



'CACTI GREEN' MEDICS

A Vietnamese mother and daughter receive aid from medics of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry while father looks on. Elements of the "Cacti Green," part of the 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Division, found the trio while participating in Operation Pershing in the Bong Son area and airlifted them to the battalion command post where mother and daughter were treated for severe burns suffered in a cooking fire. (USA Photo by PFC Robert Metz)

'Spooky' Looks Innocent But Demoralizes Enemy

By PFC Bob Boudreaux

Pleiku—Six men, dressed in silver-blue flight suits, sat in the alert room of the 4th Air Commando Squadron playing cards to while away tense hours.

They were part of the squadron's 2nd Detachment located at the New Pleiku Air Base. Their mission is to fly the ominous "Spooky" on security flights over the air base and surrounding units. "Spooky" crews are in the air or on ground alert 24 hours a day, ready to scramble.

Six rings on the command phone broke the stillness and sent this reporter and the crewmen scrambling towards the camouflage-painted "bird" poised on the runway. In less than five minutes we were airborne and circling the vicinity of Pleiku City.

The AC-47 airship at first glance appears to be nothing more than a common cargo plane. But there the similarities end.

This innocuous looking craft carries three 7.62mm gattling guns capable of dropping a round every few inches in an area equal the width of a football field. In addition to this arsenal, it carries a payload of 2,000,000 candle watt-power flares, capable of making midnight look like high noon.

The crew consists of a pilot, co-pilot, navigator, three gunners and a gunnery chief.

On this particular mission,

a unit near Bong Son was under attack by an unknown-size enemy force. As "Spooky" circled the fight dropping flares, Air Force 105's streaked in to drop load after load of bombs and rockets.

After the jets had finished, "Spooky" swooped down to spray the surviving, thoroughly demoralized, enemy. As one gun would become empty, its gunner would reload and have it ready to fire again. The crew worked expeditiously, putting out a scarlet stream of fire until all the ammo had been expended.

Then they sat back, lit cigarettes, circled the blackened area once more and headed home. Before they had touched down, the ground forces had radioed their thanks to the aerial team.

Staff Sergeant Leo Erickson, gunnery chief, commented on a recent mission in support of the 4th Division. The Ivy men, engaged in Operation Sam Houston, had run into heavy enemy opposition, and found themselves fighting against heavy odds.

"It was Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry," said the air sergeant. "The Ivy men were near the Cambodian border and Charlie was swarming all over the place. The infantrymen found themselves bearing the brunt of an all-out NVA assault. They called for help and in a matter of minutes we were there bringing all kinds of smoke on Charlie.

"We fired all three guns simultaneously and not only did the rounds mow down the NVA, but cut fields of fire through the dense jungle for the combat troops."

Detainees, taken after such vicious battles, often tell of the horror and demoralizing effect these planes cause. Watching one in action I know why they are called "Spooky."

Francis Marion

(Cont'd from Page-1, Col. 5) served weapons.

Friendly casualties were 172 U.S. soldiers killed and 767 wounded.

U.S. 7th Air Force pilots flew 2,184 sorties in direct support of the combined ground-air operation.

On the final day of the operation, Company C from the 2nd Brigade's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry located a regimental-size bunker complex 55 kilometers west of Pleiku City.

The complex contained 99 bunkers and eight graves.

Villagers Outrace Machine In Well Digging Contest

Plei Bong Golar—It didn't really come "in" like a geyser, but when water bubbled up from the bottom of a 62-foot-deep well in the Central Highlands, the Montagnard villagers of Plei Bong Golar and their advisors from the 704th Maintenance Battalion were just as elated as if they had struck oil.

Besides insuring a new source of pure water to the village of 150 people, the onrush of water terminated a well digging contest which had been going for several weeks.

The need for a source of water close to the village prompted the villagers of Plei Bong Golar to ask Captain Harry Peterson (South Bristol, Maine), then S-5 of the 704th, for assistance. It was decided to dig a well.

Calling on Second Lieu-

Engineer From Company B Named Soldier Of Week

Dragon Mountain—Specialist 4 Patrick J. Agbincola has been selected as the 4th Division's soldier of the week.

As soldier of the week, Specialist Agbincola, a member of Company B, 4th Engineer Battalion, is serving as enlisted aide for Major General William R. Peers.

tenant Andrew Lattu (Millbrae, Calif.), of the 41st Civil Affairs Section for technical guidance, the men of the 704th developed a plan for sinking a well in the center of the village.

At first, the Montagnards were reluctant to go down into the well to dig. But with encouragement from Specialist 5 Walter Martin (Lenapah, Okla.), the villagers soon began digging deep into the hard clay.

Unknown to the villagers and the 704th Battalion's civic action team, another well was begun at the Dragon Mountain base camp of the Ivy Division. The purpose of this well was to provide water for the division's new ice plant and ration break-down point.

The race was on. On one side were the hard-working men of the village, and on the other hand was the latest in mechanized deep-drilling equipment.

In the nightly briefings the last question of the evening became, "What's the progress on the villagers' well?"

It became a race, with betting evenly split between the Montagnards and the mechanical monster.

The joyous report was

relayed late last month by First Lieutenant Harvey Shapiro (Detroit), the new S-5 of the 704th. Water had been found at 62 feet.

In a tradition going back to John Henry's great duel with the "steel-driving" machine, man had won again in his contest against a machine.

1/22nd Company Clerk Makes Business Calls In Jungle

Oasis—Company clerks are not usually found within the combat elements but Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry has what it calls a "combat clerk."

Specialist 4 Hernan J. Canel (Bronx, N.Y.) often surprised his unit, while it was taking part in Operation Sam Houston near the Cambodian border, by jumping out of a helicopter in the middle of a tiny jungle clearing with his brief case in hand and a bedroll on his back.

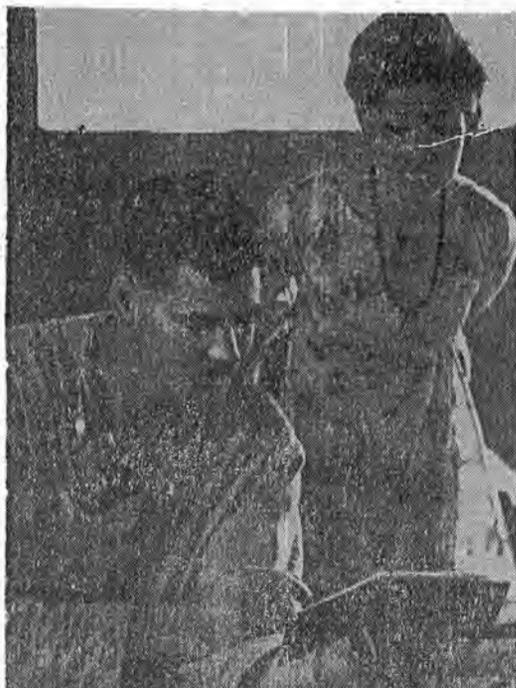
"The only way to keep the company paperwork up to date is to join the men regardless of the enemy situation," said Specialist Canel. With the unit on the move for two or three weeks at a time, the only way to see the company is to drop

out of the sky into one of many landing zones.

After spending as much time as required to complete his business, Specialist Canel grabs the next available departing chopper, carrying enough additional administrative work to last until the company reaches another landing zone.

Born in Cuba, Specialist Canel grew up during the Batista regime and escaped to America shortly after the Bay of Pigs invasion. He is presently striving to become an American citizen.

"I will not be able to effectively do my job," explained Specialist Canel, "until I can also handle the mail." He is not allowed to act as mail clerk because he is still an alien.



SOMEONE ALWAYS CARES

A young Vietnamese woman, a member of the Vietnamese Military Family Support Association, distributes gifts the association bought for the men recuperating at the 4th Medical Battalion hospital. The women traveled to the Ivy Division's Dragon Mountain base camp from Pleiku to deliver the gifts and talk with the soldiers. (USA Photo by PFC Norman Johnson)

Dau Tieng Chapel Built By 'Scrounging' Material

Dau Tieng — The 3rd Brigade, 4th Division base camp, nestled in the Michelin Rubber Plantation at Dau Tieng, has many French constructed villas and living quarters, but one of the buildings that stands out among the rest is American made — the brigade's new chapel.

Dedicated as the 3rd Brigade Memorial Chapel, the building had its first services on Easter Sunday, and as Chaplain (Major) Louis G. Alder (Oklahoma City) said, "even though the infantry battalions were in the field we still had over capacity attendance for the Protestant and Catholic services."

The chapel was constructed with a tropical setting in mind. A double wall of bricks surrounds the building which will eventually hold tropical plants and it is the hope of the brigade's four chaplains to have the chapel completely encircled by colorful jungle plants.

The chapel was built with the help of the 588th Engineers, details from various units and volunteer help. The

New Battery Commander Duc Co — Captain Francis J. Komornik has succeeded Captain Clark D. Meek as commander of Battery C, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery.

entire chapel was built by "scrounging" and making do with what was on hand. "For example," Chaplain Alder said, "the support beams were taken from ammunition ships unloading ammo in Saigon."

The chapel will eventually have a walk-in patio, according to Sergeant Jerry Toppen (Chicago), a chaplain's assistant.

"The chapel," Chaplain Alder said as he scanned the 40 by 50-foot building, "is a monument to those who gave their life to freedom, and it's a symbol of the values that we stand for."

3/22nd Locates Command Base Of 272nd Viet Cong Regiment

Dau Tieng — "It was the biggest enemy base camp I've seen in Vietnam."

That's the way Captain George G. Shoemaker described the latest Viet Cong complex found by the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division during Operation Junction City.

The camp, a command base for the 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment, was approximately 800 by 400 meters in size.

When the Iyymen of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry found the base on a search

and destroy operation, they were met with heavy contact, but soon had the VC defenders scurrying after killing three enemy soldiers.

The "Regulars" had one man wounded during the brief encounter.

The camp had a prisoner of war section, a resting area and an elaborate hospital.

The hospital was complete with six wards — with room for 20 men in each

ward — one surgical ward and an aid station. Built four feet under the ground, the massive hole measured 200 by 200 meters in size.

The "Regulars" captured 37,400 pounds of rice, 14,000 pounds of peanuts, 12,000 pounds of sugar and 1,000 pounds of candy, medicine, clothing and ammunition. A large quantity of narcotics was also seized during the search.

I/35th Soldier Experiences Unusual Ride

Bong Son — Infantrymen in Vietnam experience various means of transportation in helicopters, tanks, personnel carriers or trucks.

But the ride that Specialist 4 Jorge W. Marfisi received was not welcome or expected.

As the 2nd Platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry moved up to a thickly vegetated hillside, the men heard a noise in the underbrush to their left. They became tense and ready for battle.

Suddenly a deer bolted from the underbrush. With its head lowered, it ran between the legs of Specialist Marfisi, lifting him off the ground.

The ride was short, for the deer soon re-entered the underbrush as quickly as it had come out, and Specialist Marfisi was left lying on his back, slightly shaken, a little amazed, but unharmed.

Specialist Marfisi later said, "It happened so fast I never even saw the deer. I didn't even know what was happening until it was all over, and it was a ride that I could have gotten along without."



WHEW — A happy Private First Class James A. Raymer points to the damage done to his steel helmet by a Viet Cong carbine round.

Steel Helmet Saves Life Of Rifleman From 1/14th

Story & Photo by Lt. Peter J. Wascher

Bong Son — Private First Class James A. Raymer (Huff, Ky.) was shot in the head with a round fired by a Viet Cong and is up and smiling today thanks to his steel helmet.

"PFC Raymer is lucky to be alive," said Private First Class Michael Boothby, a combat medic with the 51st Medical Battalion, 70th Medical Battalion.

The 21-year-old rifleman was on patrol with the 1st Platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry when four Viet Cong were spotted.

PFC Raymer got off about 10 rounds before he was knocked off his feet by a carbine round.

"I thought someone had

hit me with his rifle butt in the excitement and knocked off my helmet," he said. "When I regained my footage, Charlie had dropped his rifle and some documents and had left in a hurry."

It was later learned that PFC Raymer's helmet deflected the round causing it only to graze his head. If it hadn't been for the helmet the round would have entered his skull.

Said PFC Boothby, "You were lucky. I'm glad you're alive."

"I am too," the veteran of three months in Vietnam said. "Someone back home has been praying for me."

The incident occurred near the Suoi Ca Valley in Binh Dinh Province, south of Bong Son. PFC Raymer's platoon is with the 3rd Brigade, 25th Division on Operation Pershing.

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