



**LACK OF SNOW** isn't going to stop the man in the white beard from visiting 4th Division soldiers. Santa, the American Red Cross, Ivy chaplains and our friends at home have teamed up to make even this Christmas a merry one. (American Red Cross Photo by Mark Stevens)

**IVY LEAF**  
**FAMOUS FOURTH**

Vol. 2, No. 59      CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM      December 22, 1968

# Christmas Spirited Citizens Send Deluge Of Packages

**CAMP ENARI**—Back in the States, the weeks leading up to Christmas can be pretty hectic; folks never seem to have time to get everything done.

But the same busy people have taken time to think of soldiers who are spending Christmas in Vietnam. Ivymen throughout the 4th Division area of operation are witnessing true Christmas spirit in the form of a deluge of packages and cards.

As December rolled around, packages by the hundreds were stacking up in the G-3 plans office of Major John M. Trebbe of Middletown, Conn. Their origin: the ROTC detachment at Boston College.

Major Trebbe, a former ROTC instructor at the college, explained: "This has become an annual project for the cadets. They gather shoe boxes and items to fill them from local merchants, raise money for wrapping and shipping, and send the filled boxes to someone

they know in Vietnam for further distribution."

Ten bulging mail sacks in the corner of the Major's office attested to the students' effort. "They'll all be in the hands of soldiers in the field by Christmas," Major Trebbe concluded.

### Citizens Show Spirit

Citizens of Cincinnati, who have "adopted" the Ivy Division, demonstrated their bountiful Holiday spirit by sending 26,000 candles, 47,520 packages of cold drink mix and a multitude of other packages for the 4th Division Christmas.

"Gifts come from groups such as sororities, dormitories, scout troops and from individual

families," commented Red Cross girl Liz Gibson of San Andreas, Calif. "We're seeing that they get to men manning firebases throughout the area."

Ivy Division chaplains have also served as middlemen in distributing Christmas parcels. "Welfare and Christmas packs are bulging the mailbags and continue to be distributed upon arrival," said Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Vaughn F. Leaming, 4th Division chaplain. "One of our chaplains reported that he had 190 packages by early December."

The sources of these gifts are varied. "An exceptional gift (Continued on Back Page)

## Vietnam Bound? Santa's No Fool

By 1LT G.W. Hale

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through my bunker,

My buddies were snoozing a less-than-sound slumber. Our stockings were hung to dry from the ceiling; Mosquitoes were biting the bites that were healing

And I in fatigues and a pot on my head, Was thinking of home and a warm, cozy bed When out to my flank, in a cut field of fire, I spotted some movement, first low and then higher.

I started to stare, then remembered my training, "Night vision is better when eyes are not straining." As the object approached I was glad that the sound Was not like the scream of an incoming round.

I gasped with surprise as the object grew nearer, The image of Santa grew clearer and clearer. Traditional suit and a beard flowing white; I shook Joe beside me—to witness the sight.

A man and his reindeer, a sleigh full of cheer, Just as we remembered from Christmas last year. But spirits declined as he passed overhead; We'd hoped he would land; he di di'd instead.

We searched for a motive, for some reason why, But words told a story we couldn't deny. A voice drifted back as his image grew hazy: "Land in that place—you think that I'm crazy?"

### Season's Greetings

## Major General Pepke Lauds Fighting Ivymen

**CHRISTMAS 1968** finds us again in Vietnam, separated from our loved ones. But we are comforted and inspired by the fact that we are aiding a struggling nation to attain freedom and peace.

Over a thousand years ago, Christ's birth was heralded as a blessing on earth. The violence and inhumanity which faced the world then still lives with us today, as evidenced by the indignities and terrors suffered by the Vietnamese citizen at the hands of the enemy.

We are engaged in this vital struggle in hope that Christ's message of peace on earth, goodwill to men can become a reality in this war torn land.

**AT THIS TIME** of solemnity and reverence, let us join together to ask God's blessing and to pray that we may return to our loved ones victorious in this most Christian of causes. I extend an invitation to each of you to join me in fervent hope and prayer that our efforts during the coming year will make the future a little more secure to the hamlets and villages of Vietnam, and will in time bring the peace on earth heralded by the angels at Christ's birth in Bethlehem.

To each and everyone of you, I send my warmest personal wishes for a joyous Christmas and a successful and satisfying New Year.

### General's Aide

**CAMP ENARI** — Private First Class John R. Escobedo of New York was selected as enlisted aide, the first to the newly assigned commander of the 4th Infantry Division, Major General Donn R. Pepke.

The 21-year-old "Cannoner" serves with Battery B, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, commanded by Captain Emery Hill of Bangor, Maine.

Newly arrived in Vietnam, PFC Escobedo said, "I was shocked when it was announced I came out on top. I was also shocked with the way the high ranking officers have been treating me. Since I came to base camp to fulfill this honor, I have met a one, two, three and four star general."

Prior to being called upon to serve in the Army, PFC Escobedo was a student at St. Johns University in New York.

# CSM Taylor Speaks Out



A REPORT OF the Department Task Force on narcotic and drug abuse states, "The illegal use of drugs by members of the Armed Forces is a matter of concern that requires intensive coordinated . . . effort for control and elimination."

And rightly so.

We in the military service, unlike civilians, have a special dependency on each other. This has been proven many times in our effort to quell the enemy here in the jungle highlands of Vietnam.

EACH MEMBER of a rifle team is dependent on his buddies for survival in a combat mission. Alertness and a sense of awareness is required by each member. Drug users do not have this alertness or awareness.

The drug abuser in the military service also leaves himself wide open as a security risk—for example, he can be blackmailed by threat of exposure. He can also be led to sell or give away classified information to support a drug habit.

The drug abuser puts his military career in jeopardy. While there is no article of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) specifically dealing with drug offenses, such offenses are prosecuted as violations of the "general article" (Art. 134 UCMJ).

ASIDE FROM LEGAL prosecution the drug abuser also puts his health in danger. Chronic use may lead to both physical and psychological dependence on the drug. The psychological dependence is the more serious of the two, since it is still operative after drug use has been discontinued.

While the use of these drugs may make the user feel on top of the world for a while, the consequences are not worth the risk.

The important factor in drug abuse is the abuser, not the drug. Drugs have a definite place in our society and should be treated with respect. When drugs are abused, not only does the individual suffer, but also society and especially the military organization's ability to effectively perform its mission—providing the nation's security.



CHRISTMAS DINNER is something special even 10,000 miles from home. These 4th Division soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry are preparing to enjoy their holiday meal at a firebase west of Kontum. (USA Photo by SP4 George M. Menke)

## Brothers Exchange Stories

# Sergeant Gets Surprise Visitor

DAK TO — Christmas arrived early this year for Sergeant Robert Stine of Montebello, Calif.

As coordinator of supplies and equipment for the Tactical Operations Center, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, Sergeant Stine was hurriedly off-loading a helicopter filled with firebase supplies and Christmas mailbags.

He stopped suddenly, not believing what he saw before him. There, seated on a case of C-rations, was his brother, Seaman Randall Stine.

"Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday," shouted Seaman Stine above the roar of the rotor blades.

Seaman Stine works in the Covered Storage Depot of the Naval Support Activity in Da Nang where he obtained a five-day incountry leave for his surprise visit to Dak To.

"I'm due to go home before Christmas. Bob won't rotate for another six months and I wanted to see him before I left," stated the sailor.

The Commander of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, Lieutenant Colonel William D. Old II of Austin, Tex., learned of Seaman Stine's arrival in Dak To and made arrangements for him to fly up to the firebase where he surprised his brother.

Seaman Stine spent a three-day reunion with his brother atop the firebase. He accustomed himself to the hectic pace of an infantry unit and pitched in to help his brother with the handling of supplies and equipment.

During the off duty hours, Seaman Stine relaxed with his new friends, listening intently to their "war stories."

"There is a great difference between this life and Da Nang. Up there we have showers every day, clean clothes and plenty of hot chow. These C-rations give me heartburn,"

admitted the seaman. On the eve of his return to Da Nang, Major Byron F. Prahm, battalion operations officer from Troy, N.Y., held a short ceremony to honor the seaman. Command Sergeant Major William E. Hahs of Columbus, Ga., presented Seaman Stine with an M16 round, making him an honorary member of the Bullet Battalion.

After the brief ceremony, Sergeant Stine added with a laugh. "This has been quite a surprise for me. Not only did we celebrate Christmas, but this is the first time he's remembered my birthday."

## Fighting Fourth

# Battle Briefs

SPORADIC and scattered enemy contact characterized the combat week in the 4th Infantry Division's central highland area of operation, Dec. 1 through 6.

During sweeps, recon elements found enemy bunkers and equipment left behind by the enemy. Two enemy soldiers were killed in the action with Allied casualties termed as light.

Most of the enemy fire was from small arms except at Ban Me Thuot where rocket rounds hit the airfield. The strip came under attack at midnight Dec. 5 when less than 25 rounds of 82mm mortar fire were directed at the airfield. There were no casualties or damages.

NEAR DUC LAP, the perimeter of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, received less than 15 rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle fire on the same day with no casualties or damages. Artillery was called in on the enemy positions with results unknown.

A recon patrol from 2nd Brigade came in contact with a small enemy element. In a brief exchange of small arms fire two NVA soldiers were killed. The action took place southwest of Ben Het, Dec. 1.

The 42nd ARVN Regiment, operating west of Dak To, discovered a well-stocked enemy cache. Among the items uncovered were shovels, uniforms and packs, six 60mm mortar rounds, B-40 rocket rounds, a field telephone, one mine, 800 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, cooking utensils and numerous documents.

IN OTHER ACTION, mines were discovered along Highway 14 and 19. On Highway 14, 20 kilometers north of Kontum, five mines were found. Four of the mines were found by Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry.

Another mine was unearthed on Highway 19 by a 4th Engineer Battalion sweep team.



(Circulation 8,000)

IVY LEAF, an authorized weekly publication, is published by the INFORMATION OFFICE, 4th Admin. Co., 4th Infantry Division, APO San Francisco 96262, for 4th Division forces and is printed in Tokyo by Pacific Stars and Stripes.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Army. This paper uses facilities of Armed Forces Press File and Armed Forces News Bureau to augment local news. Mailing address: IVY LEAF, INFORMATION OFFICE, 4th Admin. Co., 4th Infantry Division, APO U.S. Forces 96262. Telephone: Famous 151 or 159.

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## Yule Hullabaloo On Tap For Club

CAMP ENARI—The Dragon Mountain Service Club brings cheer to Ivymen with a Christmas week theme of "Holiday Hullabaloo."

Dec. 23—Christmas Caroling at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Party  
CHRISTMAS—Coffee Call at 10:00 a.m. and a Card Tournament at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 26—Show and Tell at 8:00 p.m.

Dec. 27 — Pinata, a Hail and Farewell Party at 8:00 p.m.

Dec. 28—Ping Pong Tournament at 2:00 p.m., Pool Tournament at 3:00 p.m., and a Movie at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 29 — "Let's Break the Ice," at 2:00 p.m. and Bingo at 8:00 p.m.

Dec. 30—Fireside Chat at 8:00 p.m.

Dec. 31—New Year's Eve Party at 8:00 p.m.

## Kids Enjoy Tasty Meal At Din Binh

DAK TO — The officers of Company B, 4th Medical Battalion at 1st Brigade Headquarters were enjoying a leisurely Thanksgiving Day dinner when Warrant Officer Grannville Angel of Satellite Beach, Fla., a MEDEVAC pilot, suggested, "Why not share all this with the kids?"

His idea was supported by Captain Stephen N. Bell of New York, the company commander who enlisted the aid of Captain F. Stephen Byrne of Flemington, N.J., First Lieutenant Terrence L. Yankie of Albion, Mich., and Private First Class Garries A. Prince of Phoenix, Ariz.

### Visit Mess Halls

The Ivymen visited the mess halls of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery; 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry; and the 704th Maintenance Battalion to collect whatever food was left over from their Thanksgiving meals.

Their efforts brought them enough food to fill the MED-EVAC helicopter which was prepared for a quick run to the Catholic orphanage at Din Binh.

The unexpected arrival of an American helicopter puzzled the children and Sister Marie, a French nun who helps operate the hospital.

Captain Bell explained the meaning behind the American holiday and told Sister Marie that "perhaps the children would like to join us in our day of thanks." He knew that many of the children go to bed hungry.

Sister Marie expressed her gratitude as she helped the doctors and medics unload the helicopter. Her eyes began to fill with tears as the helicopter left and she whispered a brief "God bless you" to Captain Bell.

## General Irzyk Presents Awards

# Four Ivymen Receive Cross Of Gallantry

By SP4 Craig F. MacGowan & SP5 Jeffery Tarter

OASIS—Four soldiers from the Ivy Division's 3rd Brigade have won the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (Division Level) for their part in allied efforts in Kontum Province.

Their actions helped to virtually wipe out two NVA battalions.

Receiving the awards at Firebase Joan were Major Robert C. Woodworth of Maple Shade, N.J., Captain John A. Sans of San Jose, Calif., Specialist 4 David M. Bowman and Specialist 4 Joseph McCullough, both of Chicago.

Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, assistant division commander, presented the awards to the four Ivy men.

Major Woodworth, who headed the combined Task Force of ARVN and Ivy soldiers, recalled that the action kicked off with a bombing strike east of Highway 14 between Kontum and Pleiku.

"This area," he said, "was the headquarters of an NVA unit assigned to interdicting the highway.

"They haven't done it since then," he said.

"There were an awful lot of NVA buried in bunkers that had collapsed on them from the airstrikes and artillery.



THE 39TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT was presented a Meritorious Unit Commendation by Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division commanding general, in ceremonies at division headquarters. Lieutenant Colonel Harold R. Larson, detachment commander, looks on as General Pepke attaches a streamer, commemorating the award, to the unit's guidon. (USA Photo by 1LT G.W. Hale)

## General Pepke Lauds Unit

# Dentists Cited For Service

CAMP ENARI—Leadership, esprit de corps, devotion to duty, initiative, and an innate desire to accomplish a mission.

These are the inherent qualities in any military organization that displays the exceptional performance of duty that the 39th Medical Detachment, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel

Harold R. Larson of San Antonio, has.

Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division commander, presented the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the dental detachment in a ceremony held in front of Division headquarters.

The detachment was cited for its distinguished actions in support of military

functions, its outstanding Montagnard Civic Action Program, its assistance of local civilian orthodontists, and its many goodwill missions that have won the friendship of the Vietnamese people.

General Pepke's laudatory remarks expressed the Army's appreciation of the detachment's fine service.

Riflemen were sent out from Company C and moved around and behind the wounded enemy to distract his attention. Meanwhile Specialists Bowman and McCullough ventured into the open and detained him.

Medic worked feverishly to save the NVA soldier's life—and their work paid off.

NVA Messenger

After questioning, it was discovered the prisoner was an NVA regiment messenger who revealed thorough knowledge of enemy forces in the area. At the time he was captured, the mes-

senger was also carrying a pouch full of military documents.

In addition to the enemy dead, the sweep uncovered several bunker complexes and large amounts of NVA weapons and ammunition.

Specialists Bowman and McCullough are still assigned to Charlie Company, now commanded by Captain Lee A. Smith of Mobile, Ala.

Major Woodworth is now the S-2 and Captain Sans the assistant S-3 of the 3rd Brigade, commanded by Colonel Stan L. McClellan of Ventura, Calif.

## June 17 Special Day To Young Yugoslavian

OASIS—June 17 is a red-letter day that Specialist 4 Ivan Mijolovic of the Bronx, N.Y. isn't likely to forget.

That day has marked a turning point in his life for each of the last three years.

On June 17, 1966 Ivan Mijolovic came to the United States, a refugee from his native Yugoslavia.

On June 17, 1967 the young refugee became Private Mijolovic of the United States Army.

# LRP Team Extracts By Gymnastics

BAN ME THUOT—The helicopter could not come to the soldiers, so the soldiers climbed to the helicopter.

A Long Range Patrol (LRP) team from the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade had completed their mission in the thickly wooded jungle north of here and was ready to head back to their command camp.

The 2nd Brigade "Highlanders," then commanded by Colonel Herbert J. McChrystal of Arlington, Va., arrived at a small clearing, and popped smoke for the waiting chopper.

Private First Class James Henisch of Halletteville, Tex., a door gunner with Company A, 4th Aviation Battalion, commanded by Major Charles L. Woodhurst of Anderson, S.C., peered from his perch in the lift ship.

"I didn't believe it," the gunner said. "The trees were so thick there was no place to set down."

### Enemy Spotted

Suddenly the team received word that enemy movement had been spotted near their location.

There was no time to find a new landing zone.

The chopper dropped down as low as possible. A gap of several feet still remained between the team and their transportation.

After a moment's hesitation, the teams largest member assumed a squatting position and the smallest member scrambled onto his shoulders.

With a deep grunt, the heavy-weight straightened up. The man on his shoulders wobbled to his feet and grabbed for the chopper.

Encores of the balancing act followed. The remainder of the team were placed aboard the chopper.

A rope was then lowered to the final member, and with all hands pulling, he was hauled aboard the ship.

With their gymnastics completed, the "Highlanders" settled back and the chopper disappeared into the clouds.

## Boxing Pro

CAMP ENARI — Troopers of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, no longer think it odd when Private First Class John Neeley of Meridian, Miss., goes through his daily pugilistic exercise alone, and weaving as if in the ring.

Since high school, PFC Neeley has boxed, taking on all challengers successfully.

"It got to the point," he recalled, "that I knew I was good, but needed further advice and instruction to improve."

By chance that opportunity presented itself when Lightweight Champion Carlos Ortiz and former Featherweight King Sandy Saddler stopped by Blackhawk firebase while touring the 4th Infantry Division.

Luring Sandy Saddler from the small gathering formed around the two champions, PFC Neeley proceeded to show the Featherweight King the style which made him invincible in the amateur ranks, winning 73 out of 74 fights.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL E. STRACENER, 4TH DIVISION SURGEON, TALKS WITH MONTAGNARD CHILDREN.

(USA Photo by 1LT Gary Martin)

*"Medical care in Vietnam is fantastic compared to most areas in the states. The chances of surviving a serious accident in a large city are much less than on the battlefield."*

## Jungle Survival Hangs On Small Box

**CAMP ENARI**—A simple olive-drab rectangular box containing a multitude of colored wires, knobs and dials is one of the most important items the military provides for jungle survival.

In past wars, where clearly defined boundaries marked areas of friendly and enemy encampments, communication to the rear was relatively simple and messages sent by telephone were secure.

With the advent of localized Communist-inspired revolutions, a new species of war was born. One which rendered orthodox telephone procedures nearly useless.

To effectively communicate under such conditions, radio signal transmission became the most dependable means of communication.

### Radio Relay Vital

In a cavalry unit, where mobility and operational range highlight troop activity, a properly working radio relay network is a vital necessity.

For the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, a four-man crew of radio operators and radio repairmen, led by First Lieutenant Parks R. Burgass, signal officer from Hiddenite, N.C., are on constant standby to meet radio problems.

"What makes our mission challenging," said Lieutenant Burgass, "is the vast area we have to cover. Whether it be a convoy escort from Ban Me Thuot to Dak To, an

operation in the Plei Bon Valley or a LRP platoon scaling the waters of the Dak Ayan River, we have to maintain communications with the squadron's center of operation."

To overcome this problem, Lieutenant Burgass and his men search the area surrounding Blackhawk Firebase, home of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Donald Moreau of Leavenworth, Kan., seeking elevated terrain suitable for effective relay transmission.

### Effective Relay Found

"We have found," pointed out Lieutenant Burgass, "that the cavalry's chain of observation posts overlooking Highway 19 offer the most suitable area for effective relay, but whenever vocal transmission weakens, we must abandon our post in a hurry and seek out another area."

Quite often these "other areas" have no roads, making accessibility difficult, if not impossible.

If the jungle barriers render communication relay impossible, the cavalry's helicopter troop will respond to the emergency.

From the air, radio messages pass to the communications command track, then to the squadron center of operations.

Thus, Ivymen from the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, are always in range of artillery, gunships and other reinforcements.

## Wrangler Teaches 'Yard Tribesmen New Use Of Horses

By 2LT Brien P. Levy

**CAMP ENARI**—Staff Sergeant Robert B. Parker of Junction City, Kan. is one of the last men in the modern army to carry a horse handler's MOS.

Long before Sergeant Parker rode in the last mounted review of the 7th Cavalry, he had decided

he was not going to leave the army or horses after the animals were phased out of the service.

Sergeant Parker is currently assigned to the 4th Infantry Division's 41st Civil Affairs team. His job is to teach the Montagnards that their horses can be used for something other than sacrifice and food.

Charlie, a Montagnard horse purchased by G-5, was trained by Sergeant Parker to carry a pack loaded with four baskets, and to be ridden. Now Sergeant Parker and Charlie, along with First Lieutenant Robert R. Foster of Arlington, Va., demonstrate to the villagers that their horses are useful.

"The Montagnard horses are basically docile," stated Sergeant Parker, "but the Montagnards are afraid of them merely because they've never tried to tame them."

The training entails setting a date with a village, procuring wild horses, demonstrating Charlie, then training the wild horse to carry loads.

The Montagnards are extremely enthusiastic and enjoy watching the Ivymen accomplish what they had considered impossible. After a horse has been gentled, the 4th Division team teaches the Montagnards to train horses and make packs out of available material.

"It takes about three days to gentle a horse, train it to carry a pack and break it for riding," Lieutenant Foster concluded. "It often involves a few runaway horses and long chases, but in the end we always succeed."



FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT FOSTER AND SSG BENJAMIN PARKER DEMONSTRATE USE OF PONY TO MONTAGNARDS, BY ATTACHING A PACK CARRIER.

(USA Photo by SP4 Tom Hyldahl)

## Develops Child-Resistant Medicine Bottle

# Pediatrician Reminisces His Vietnam Tour

By 1LT Gary Martin

**"DOC" STRACENER** is probably the most unusual division surgeon in Vietnam—he is a baby specialist.

Having gained prominence in the field of pediatric clinical practice and research, 4th Division Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel Carl E. Stracener is about to complete his first assignment in "field medical care"—the combat arm of the Army medical profession.

"This is not a bad assignment for a pediatrician," said the amiable doctor, himself the father of three children. "Approximately two-thirds of our hospital admissions in Vietnam are for disease, and only one-third for injuries received as a result of combat."

"As a pediatrician, I have had additional training in the prevention and treatment of infectious disease," he continued. "Pediatricians are not limited to premature babies or small infants and children. In fact, the subspecialty of adolescent medicine is primarily a pediatric responsibility."

"However, from a patient's viewpoint," he pointed out, "it would seem that the family doctor's personal touch is lost in the volume of patients given medical care in the military."

### Best Medical Care

"The science of medicine practiced in the Army is superior," Colonel Stracener reiterated.

"The artistic practice of medicine sometimes is sacrificed—the traditional bedside doctor who holds your hand when you're sick—this is hardly possible when military families are constantly on the move."

All but two of the division doctors will leave the service when their time is up. This constant loss of experienced medical personnel creates constant shortages in military medicine.

However, Colonel Stracener is quick to point out, "Physician shortages are not unique to the military community. There are simply not enough doctors to go around—anywhere."

### Current Doctor Shortage

"This is due in part to the rapidly expanding population experienced in recent years as well as the demand by a better informed and wealthier population for more and better quality medical care services. Nearly every community in the United States has a doctor shortage."

Colonel Stracener's Vietnam duties contrast sharply with his previous 12 years in the Army Medical Corps.

The colonel completed medical school at Louisiana State University in 1956. Following tours at Brook General Hospital in San Antonio, Tex., Germany and at Sandia Base, N.M., Colonel Stracener did one year of pediatric research at Walter Reed Institute of Research in Washington, D.C.

The following year at Madigan General Hospital in Tacoma, Wash., the colonel combined clinical research with his pediatric teaching assignments.

The Pediatrics Department published his work in poison prevention techniques which led to the Army's acceptance of a child-resistant medicine container.

Starting in military channels at Madigan, the use of this hard-to-open pill bottle is becoming world-wide. The lives of untold numbers of alert, healthy and inquisitive children are being saved each year as a result.

### Recognition In Pediatrics

Colonel Stracener is a Diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics and his continued interests in furthering the health and welfare of children have earned him recognition as a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Viewing the Army medical profession's contribution to the war effort, Colonel Stracener said, "Medical care available to the patient in Vietnam for accidents or wounds is fantastic compared to most areas in the states."

"The chances of surviving a similar serious accident in a large city in the states are much less than on the battlefield," he continued. "Emergency care and treatment response over here are much faster. Specialists are closer when you need them, both with emergency medical attention, rapid medical evacuation and rapid availability of well-trained physicians."

From Vietnam's battlefield clinic, Colonel Stracener will return to Madigan General Hospital and continue his "childcare clinical research."

"Doc" Stracener came to the 4th Division as a pediatrician, scientist, writer and lecturer. He leaves with one more hard earned and well-deserved title—combat surgeon.



COVER—As one of their choppers furnishes air cover, soldiers from the 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry move along a ridgeline in the rugged Highlands. (USA Photo by SP4 John Stidham)



DETAINED—A Viet Cong detainee is led from the jungle by a trooper from the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry. The air cavalry unit has completed its first year in support of 4th Division soldiers in the Central Highlands. (USA Photo by SP4 John Stidham)

# 'Ruthless Riders' Hit Fast, Keep Enemy On The Move

**CAMP ENARI**—The "Ruthless Riders" are giving Charlie little rest in the Central Highlands.

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Robert M. Reuter, the elite 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry Regiment has operated in support of the 4th Infantry Division since becoming operational one year ago.

Harassment is the key word for the mission of the 17th Cavalry. Working in aerial scout teams of two gunships and two light observation helicopters (LOH), the spotter ships reconnoiter large areas at tree top level. When the teams spot something unusual, the Cayuse LOH hovers directly over the objective.

If this close observation reveals enemy activities of any type, the gunships move in with rockets, grenades and miniguns. When increased heavy resist-

ance is encountered, tactical air strikes and Ivy artillery are called in.

### Able To Surprise

The Cav's intensified aerial reconnaissance is often followed by ground scouts or an aero-rifle platoon. With close air cover the foot troops can search an area, surprise the enemy and quickly be withdrawn.

Last February the Cav's ships detected enemy movement in the hills near Kontum. Launching a devastating surprise combat assault on a large concentration of NVA forces preparing to attack the city of Kontum, the Ruthless Riders forced the enemy into prematurely committing his troops.

The results were disastrous

to the enemy's Tet offensive in the highlands.

April climaxed three months of scattered probes in "VC Valley" with more than 700 well-fortified bunkers—occupied by an NVA regiment — destroyed.

Working with the Ivy's 2nd Brigade at Ban Me Thuot and Duc Lap, the Ruthless Riders added a powerful punch in the defeat of a stubborn enemy force threatening that area.

Responsible for every 7th Squadron ship in the air are the mechanics and signal repairman who keep the Cav going. These soldiers work around the clock seven days a week. Their kind of heroism which goes unseen, is vital.

## Cooks Turn Carpenters

**DAK TO** — Hammers and saws have temporarily replaced pots and pans in the hands of the cooks of the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William D. Old II of Austin, Tex.

Despite the 3 a.m. to 9 p.m. job of preparing three meals daily for 1,000 men, the cooks have become carpenters in their off-duty hours.

Having completed an addition to the existing mess hall large enough to seat the officers and NCO's, the cook-carpenters are now putting the finishing touches on another addition to the main dining area. The newest addition will increase present capacity by 50 percent. Future plans call for an expansion of the kitchen facilities.

Two of the "journeymen carpenters," Specialist 4 Boyce H. Ross of Central City, Pa., and Specialist 4 Sidney L. Runyon of Denver, Colo., give most of

the credit to Staff Sergeant Robert J. Brown of Ocala, Fla., mess steward of the Bullet Battalion.

"The additions to the mess hall were Sergeant Brown's idea. He felt there wasn't enough room for the officers and enlisted men to eat," remarked Specialist Ross.

Sensitive to the men's needs, Sergeant Brown, along with Staff Sergeant Earl Minter of Baltimore, Md., assistant mess steward, returned to Camp Enari where they obtained wood for the new structure.

"We didn't exactly scrounge, but we had to make good use of any wood that came our way," related Sergeant Minter.

The structure is nearing completion and it won't be long before the men of the Bullet Battalion will be eating in the new addition.

"Then I'll be able to get rid of this hammer and saw and go back to the kitchen and be a full time cook," said Specialist Runyon.

## Highlanders Help Villagers

**BAN ME THUOT** — Even though the Viet Cong terrorized the village of Buon Ea Trum, the morale and spirit of the Montagnard inhabitants are as high as ever.

The VC may have won in their night of pillage but they lost the hearts and minds of the people.

With the first break of dawn, the civil affairs team from the 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, took fast action to help the disrupted villagers.

Flying to the village in a light observation helicopter, Captain Robert H. Dobson of Greenwich, Conn., the 2nd Brigade S-5 officer, spotted the burned Rhade long houses.

Several tribespeople with light sharpnel wounds were administered immediate first aid.

# Pre-Recondo Class Trains Top LRPs

By 1LT G. W. Hale  
**CAMP ENARI** — As First Lieutenant Bob Longstreth of Atherton, Calif., walks through the pre-recondo training area of the 4th Division NCO Academy, he is greeted by a sharp salute and an enthusiastic "Recondo, Sir!"

The unusual greeting is just part of the taxing physical, mental and psychological training that he, as officer in charge of pre-recondo training, provides for Ivy Division soldiers who think they have what it takes to become qualified for long range

patrols (LRP).

First Lieutenant Bruce Mitch of Ft. Worth, NCO Academy executive officer, describes the pre-recondo training as an "intense eight-day course based on the MACV recondo training offered at Nha Trang.

"Realizing the professionalism required on LRP missions," he continues, "we strive to offer the most up-to-date training form instructors hand-picked on the basis of their knowledge of the material and teaching ability. We solicit qualified personnel from 4th Division units and then

select the 'best of the best' to teach at the Academy."

The tiger-suited instructors waste no time getting their voluntary trainees into the meat of the subject. On the first morning of the cycle, the men run a mile with weapons, full web gear and 30-pound sandbags on their backs. The run is topped off with 14 repetitions of the 12 Army physical training exercises known as the "daily dozen."

#### Seven-Mile Tote

As the week continues, the morning run is increased by a

mile each day until, at the end of training, students are toting their equipment and sandbags a total of seven miles in less than 90 minutes. Repetitions of the "daily dozen" are also increased each day.

But strenuous as the physical training sounds, it doesn't overshadow the academic excellence required of pre-recondo students.

Classroom instruction includes 20 hours of map reading which Lieutenant Longstreth terms, "some of the best the Army has to offer."

Artillery classes teach calling in and adjusting fire as well as effective use of pre-planned concentrations.

Infiltration, exfiltration, patrolling, gathering and using intelligence—all train the men to make the most of their LRP missions. Immediate reaction drills instill reflex behavior to be used in breaking contact with the enemy.

Noise and light discipline are also emphasized. "There are tricks for moving through certain kinds of plant life," comments Lieutenant Longstreth, "that enable LRPs to move swiftly and quietly where lesser-trained soldiers would be stymied."

#### Rappelling By Rope

Pre-recondo school also emphasizes rappelling—the art of sliding down a rope from a helicopter or precarious cliff top into otherwise inaccessible areas. Students spend an average of one hour a day sliding the 40 feet from the top of the Acade-

my rappelling tower to the sun-baked clay below.

"It's a little frightening at first," Specialist 4 Edward Mateer of San Diego, Calif., commented casually after a near-perfect training slide. "But form is most important. If you don't keep your left arm straight, the weight of your pack might turn you upside down.

"And you've got to land on your feet," he added, "in case Charlie's fire is encouraging you to 'di di mau' the area."

"Not everyone finishes the course," explains Lieutenant Longstreth. "This class started with 23 and will graduate about 10. Some decide they don't have what it takes; others wash out on academics. Of course, that seven-mile run discourages a few."

The top three to five students go to Nha Trang for more training.

"Our instructors visit the MACV school occasionally, thus keeping abreast of what is new so we can thoroughly prepare our students for the next challenge," says Lieutenant Longstreth. "We pride ourselves in the fact that many of them sail through the Nha Trang course without taking a note."

During 1968, the pre-recondo school has graduated 165 LRP-qualified soldiers and 97 have been sent to MACV recondo school. But all are making significant contributions to the Vietnam war effort as some of the best trained soldiers in the U.S. Army.



**REDONDO RECONDO**—Sergeant James E. Isaacs of Redondo Beach, Calif., receives an award signifying his selection as the honor graduate of the Ivy Recondo-LRP Preparatory Course. Presenting the award is Command Sergeant Major James L. Taylor.

(USA Photo by SP4 Mike Cobb)

## Academy Graduates Vietnamese

**CAMP ENARI** — "In the end, whether or not the government of South Vietnam is successful, particularly in the rural areas, will depend upon the efficiency, effectiveness and dedication of the soldiers in the Regional Forces (RF) and Popular Forces (PF) units that live with the people."

So spoke Major General Charles P. Stone, then 4th Division commander, at the graduation of 50 RF and PF officers who composed the first 4th Division NCO Academy RF-

PF leadership course.

The ceremony, also attended by Major General Lu Mong Lan, II Corps commander; Brigadier General Robert McAlister, assistant division commander; and Brigadier General John W. Barnes, deputy senior advisor and commanding general of II Corps Advisory Group, marked the end of two weeks of intensive study for the Vietnamese officers.

"The course is designed to teach advanced leadership techniques," commented Captain

Richard H. Beal of Dallas, commandant of the NCO Academy.

"Map and compass reading, artillery adjustment, radio and weapons training and tactics improve the ability of the officers and enable them to further train their own troops."

Regional and Popular Forces are composed of full-time soldiers who serve in their home areas, putting their knowledge of the local situation to the fullest use.

"The officers who attended our course," continued Captain Beal, "are selected by American advisors from units throughout the II Corps area. Warrant officers, aspirants and lieutenants composed the first class, but we will also offer training to RF-PF senior NCOs in future classes."

Three interpreters help in circumventing the language barrier. "But we sometimes experience problems," said the officer in charge of RF-PF training, First Lieutenant Bob Krajnak of Lansford, Pa., "especially involving mistaken meaning of test questions and commonly-used military abbreviations. Experience helps us overcome these obstacles."

Describing the calibre of officers in attendance, Captain Beal said: "We found them quick to catch on and equipped with a significant knowledge of tactics. We soon realized that we could skip some of the basics."

## Supply Sergeant Artist

**HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS** — The paintings in Staff Sergeant Robert Rosak's tent would probably be more numerous if his job as supply sergeant for Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, didn't demand so much of his time.

The Plain Field, N.J., resident started painting four years ago because, "I tried it one day and found out that I had talent for drawing."

The pictures on the wall of his supply tent, plus those hung in various mess halls and offices around the area, depict a wide range of subjects, from landscapes to still lifes.

"I was surprised to find out someone wanted one of my drawings to decorate his tent. I gladly gave him one, and I guess word got around. People came in wanting to get an

'Original Rosak.'"

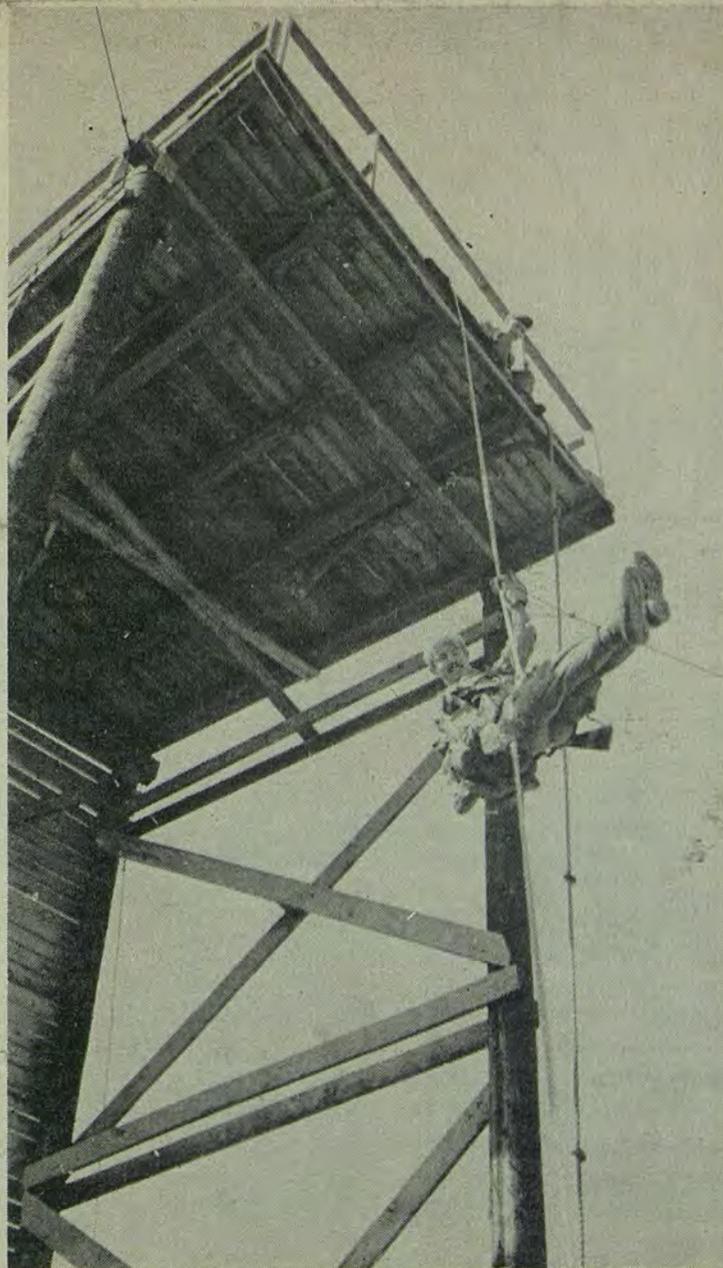
The sergeant's studio is his supply office and a small field desk, his easel.

"I use pictures and photographs as models and get a steady supply of art materials from home. These are all I actually need," Sergeant Rosak said.

"I first started with pastels and chalks, but as I learned more, I started using different materials such as watercolors and oils."

When asked about his future as a painter, Sergeant Rosak mused, "Right now, I paint for a hobby. It helps pass the time over here."

"Each picture takes me about six hours of steady work, but my time to sit down and paint is rather limited," he smiled.



**EASY WAY DOWN**—Specialist 4 Edward Mateer of San Diego, Calif., swoops to the ground via the rappelling technique during training exercises at the 4th Division's Recondo LRP Preparatory Course.

(USA Photo by 1LT Gerald Hale)



# FAC Spots LRP's Plight, Guides Ivymen To Safety

By SP4 Larry Hogan  
**HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS** — The enemy stood no more than 20 feet in front of them when the Ivymen opened up killing all three NVA regulars.  
 A Long Range Patrol (LRP) team from the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade, commanded by Colonel Herbert J. McChrystal of Arlington, Va., had set up on a hill overlooking a Central Highland trail.  
 "It was our job to give early warning to a larger unit in the area," explained Specialist 4 Steve Wallace of Port Lavaca, Tex., the team leader.

Scanning the trail below them, they suddenly spotted the three NVA soldiers moving out of the woodline.  
 Quickly, Specialist Wallace called for artillery and air support.

"We were pretty sure there were more NVA around," recalled Private First Class Tom Reed of Pacific, Mo., the team's scout.

Moments later, shells came screaming in on the trail, scattering the enemy.

**Heard Movement**  
 As the thunder of artillery subsided, the team heard movement around them.

Apparently more NVA were moving in toward the team's position.

While the team prepared a hasty ambush, Specialist Wallace and Specialist 4 Walter Hoy of Gilman, Ill., moved around the side of the hill.

The two Highlanders rounded a clump of brush and swiftly ducked behind a rock.

Three enemy soldiers armed with AK47 rifles were scrambling up the hill.

"It looked like they were running from the artillery," Specialist Wallace recalled.

When the enemy came within 20 feet of the hidden Ivymen, both Specialist Hoy and his team leader opened up, their weapons blazing on automatic.

**Return To Team**  
 Leaving three dead NVA, the two men returned to their team. "Move out," shouted Specialist Wallace.

After moving about 500 meters, they stopped to set up a perimeter.

Before the team members could take their positions, AK47 rounds began to pass over their heads.

Moving out again the Ivymen began employing evasion and escape tactics, first moving one way, then cutting back, then zig-zagging.

The rugged terrain made movement difficult.

Charlie was getting closer. Sweat streaming down their faces, the team were fighting to

find a way through the maze of bamboo when their radio came to life.

"Take it easy down there, I've got you in sight."

**Glimpse Spotter**  
 Glancing up the Ivymen saw an Air Force O-2 spotter plane. Major Weston Smith of Bowling Green, Ohio, a forward air controller (FAC) with the 2nd Brigade, had seen the team's dilemma and come to their aid.

Banking his plane sharply, Major Smith first came screaming in on the enemy, blasting away at them with his rockets.

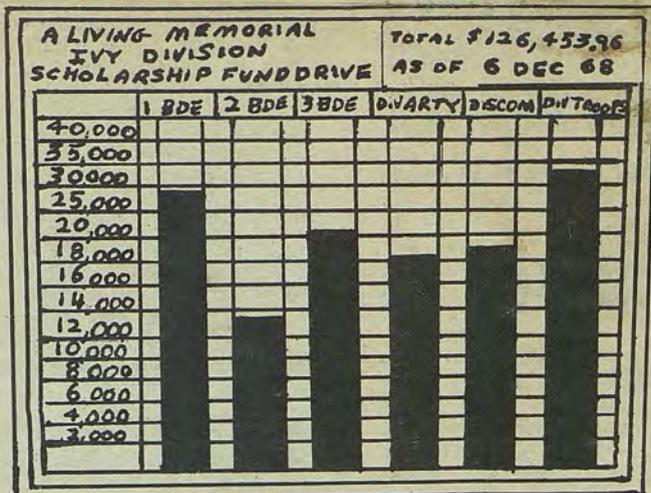
Then the pilot flew ahead of the team guiding them through the jungle.

While Major Smith alternated between guiding the team and pounding the enemy, Specialist Wallace called in a wall of artillery in front of the pursuing enemy.

Finally, the Ivymen reached a friendly firebase.

Looking up, they saw the tiny FAC plane turn and head back toward Pleiku.

"I'd like to meet that guy sometime," Specialist Wallace said, "just to tell him thanks."



*Christmas Cheer*

## Fund Reaches New High

**CAMP ENARI**—The majority of units have yet to turn in their November payday contributions, but already the 4th Division's Scholarship Fund has reached \$129,545.11.

The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard Larkin has yet to be challenged for its hold on the top position. Their grand total now stands at \$13,287.10.

The 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Irving Monclova, broke into the top three this week. A \$1,851.90 effort by the "Golden Dragons" vaulted them into second place with a grand total of \$8,222.35.

Lieutenant Colonel Donald Moreau's 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry dropped a notch into third place with \$7,295.10.

Special mention goes to the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Garret Buckner, with contributions of \$2,068.80 since the November payday.

The holiday spirit of giving has inspired Ivymen into generous donations. The goal of \$150,000 is well within reach for the month of December.



AN ENEMY BUNKER complex is examined by two members of a 4th Division Long Range Patrol (LRP) team near the Cambodian border west of Kontum. (USA Photo by 1LT Gary Martin)

## Citizens Send Packages...

(Continued From Page 1)  
 comes from an organization, backed by many well-known people, called Vietnam Gift Pack," Chaplain Lemming continued. "The contents have obviously been carefully chosen to meet the needs of soldiers in the field."

**Food Packages**  
 Nine packages of assorted foods came to the 4th Division from the SHAPE Top Graders Wives Club located near Brussels, Belgium.

A SHAPE Chaplain (Captain William T. Smith), who served at Fort Gordon, Ga., with Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division commander, forwarded the packages to the general, who in turn gave them to Chaplain Lemming for distribution through 1st Brigade chaplains.

Organizations such as Temple Beth Tikvah in Wayne, N.J., were instrumental in assuring that no Jewish personnel were forgotten during their Channukah season.

"Beth Tikvah has given constant support to men of the 4th Division," said Chaplain's Assistant Specialist 5 Abraham Katz of Brooklyn.

Thanks to the efforts of Christmas-spirited Americans and many hard-working 4th Division

personnel, Ivymen will find spending Christmas away from home a little easier.

## Haberdasher

**DAK TO**—Captain Gary Olsen of Niles, Ill., 1st Brigade assistant S-5 and haberdasher extraordinaire, teamed up with his parents some 12,000 miles away to clothe the children of Yang Lo Noh, a Montagnard village near here.

The clothes were collected by Mr. and Mrs. H. Theodore Olsen from the people of Niles and sent to Captain Olsen for distribution.

Loaded with two boxes of clothes, Captain Olsen and a MEDCAP team from Company B, 4th Medical Battalion, commanded by Captain Stephen N. Bell of New York, went to Yang Lo Noh.

Little Montagnard girls ran around the village with their coarse linen pants sticking out underneath their yellow party dresses. Their mothers smiled approvingly but their smiles didn't compare with Captain Olsen's.

He knows there are eight more boxes of clothes on the way.