

NVA DIE IN VC VALLEY

Ivy Units Reap Big Arms Pile

By SP4 Bill Gibbons
FIREBASE BLACK-HAWK — The 4th Division's 1st Brigade, commanded by Colonel Hale H. Knight of Alexandria, Va., is solving a problem which has faced the forces of freedom for almost 20 years.

VC Valley, a communist stronghold since the Indo-China War, is being cleared of enemy units and their heavy concentration of supplies.

Located near historic Mang Yang Pass, the terrain offers ideal conditions for guerilla warfare.

Deep, rocky gorges with caverns that can sleep up to a platoon of men are plentiful. In some areas it would be possible to sleep an entire battalion within a 200-meter diameter. Many of the caves have as much as 10 feet of solid overhead rock, often making artillery and air strikes only moderately effective.

The valley is also covered with dense vegetation which protects the enemy from observation from the air. Hundreds of small streams trickle through the valley supplying communist forces with as much fresh water as they need.

Capture Weapons

The mission began with a blocking force at one end of the valley, and two battalions, the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard X. Larkin of Omaha, Neb., and the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Penel Hickey, sweeping through the valley floor.

In support were elements of the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Donald W. Maurer.

Initial finds of weapons and equipment were among the largest in the 4th Division's Vietnam history. One of the more significant discoveries was an almost new Chinese AM radio.

Major Robert Davis of Manchester, N.H., the 1st Brigade signal officer, said the radio is comparable to the US Army's PRC 74 and would normally be carried by at least a battalion.

(Continued on Back Page)



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CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

January 12, 1969

115 Foe Beat Out Of Action

By SFC Ben Casey

THE DAK PAYON RIVER Valley, commonly called VC Valley, a communist stronghold since the Indo-China War, erupted in action Dec. 22-26 as 4th Division troops made several contacts with enemy forces.

The majority of the action concentrated on search and clear missions with enemy supplies being unearthed throughout the week, netting more than 15 thousand pounds of rice.

Elsewhere in the division's area of operation, allied forces accounted for 16 enemy dead, 75 detained and 24 Hoi Chanh.

In two days of searching the valley floor, elements of the 4th Division's 1st Brigade, commanded by Colonel Hale H. Knight of Alexandria, Va., discovered 250 bunkers and 219 huts. The fortifications were destroyed, but not before enemy supplies were evacuated.

Company D, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, during an early morning sweep Dec. 22, found 1,300 pounds of rice hidden in the jungle. Later, in the afternoon, the unit discovered enemy supply caches yielding more than 13,000 pounds of rice. Also unearthed were 500 pounds of corn, four bags of cotton and tools.

See Related Photos On Pages 4, 5



WONDERMENT—The bewildered look on this Vietnamese youngster's face came about as his older brother pointed toward a 4th Division artillery unit which was moving through the Central Highlands into VC Valley. (USA Photo by SSG Frank Madison)

The following day, the Scout Platoon, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, discovered 1500 pounds of rice in 21 bunkers. Along with the rice were ammunition and 200 pounds of miscellaneous tools and documents. One detainee was taken.

In addition to the search missions, enemy contact was made east of VC Valley. On Dec. 22, a helicopter received fire from a communist ground element but took no hits. Air strikes were called into the area with unknown results.

Three enemy soldiers were killed in the valley battle zone. A 4th Division forward observer, working with an MSF company, spotted three VC in the open. He adjusted artillery fire killing all three.

Near Kontum, small incidents were reported during the week. In a contact Dec. 22, the 1st Platoon, Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, engaged eight NVA in a fire fight, killing one and capturing his AK47. The troop also found five mines on (Continued on Back Page)

Leaves For High Post Assignment

Gen. McAlister Recalls Highlights Of Tour



GEN. McALISTER

CAMP ENARI — After serving 17 months in Vietnam, Brigadier General Robert C. McAlister, assistant commander of the 4th Infantry Division since Aug. 19, 1968, will leave Vietnam Jan. 15.

General McAlister, assigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, will handle U.S. defense activities in the Western Hemisphere.

He served his first year in Vietnam as Commander, 4th Division Artillery. During that period he found that, despite the many differences in tactics between Vietnam and past theaters of battle, the techniques of gunnery proven in the past were again effective.

"During the battle of Dak To, the Tet offensive and battles with three NVA divisions in April and May 1968, extensive fire support was required. The performance of fire support units — air artillery, gunships, mortars — in coordinating and delivering this fire was one of the highlights of my time in the division," General McAlister reflected.

General McAlister's promotion to brigadier general came on Oct. 1, shortly after his assignment as assistant division commander.

"The new assignment required me to broaden my thinking," he commented. "I was concerned with many things that are often taken for granted. I

developed a much greater appreciation of the combat service support units of the division, whose remarkable efforts are not always evident. But these are the people who take care of our troops and keep our equipment running."

Complimenting 4th Division soldiers, General McAlister noted: "I have always been impressed with their ability to get the job done. This war is physically very demanding, but Ivy men continually live up to the challenge.

"Our long and short-range patrolling concepts," he continued, "have placed great responsibility on the shoulders of young leaders. I've been im-

(Continued on Back Page)

Tax Problems

CAMP ENARI—All Ivy men with income tax problems will be able to go to a designated income tax officer in their unit and have the problems solved.

All company and detachment size units will have such an appointed officer. Classes will be given by the Staff Judge Advocate Section for all unit tax officers.

If the problem cannot be resolved at the unit level, the individual concerned will be referred to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

From The Desk of
the
Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Short Range Patrols

THE US ARMY IN VIETNAM is faced with the continuous problem of finding the enemy. This is a particularly difficult problem in the 4th Division AO with the triple canopy jungle and rugged terrain which characterize the Highlands. Search and destroy operations in the Highlands resulted normally in all search and no destroy. The enemy easily kept himself informed of the location of our forces and avoided our troops that were plodding through the jungles. The result was the enemy was found only when he wanted to be and we were forced on many occasions to fight on his terms.

Because of the need to find a better way of fighting the enemy in the Highlands, the Short Range Patrol (SRP) concept was initiated. This concept reverses the old pattern of the enemy lying in wait for us when we move and instead detects him when he is most vulnerable. Now the enemy must take into consideration that when he moves he can be struck by accurate artillery and air fire directed by our unseen forces. An area saturated with four man SRPs, each with the capability to adjust artillery and mortars or call for air support, gives us complete control of the battlefield. One SRP with proper fire support can destroy a battalion.

SINCE BEGINNING this concept we have experienced many successes and a few failures. The failures serve only to point out that certain fundamentals must be followed if we are to achieve maximum results and avoid needless casualties. The division published a regulation recently that provides the basic guidance which should be followed on SRP operations. I want to reiterate some of those points and add some rules that we learned the hard way. Unless we profit from these mistakes to improve our SRP operations, we are assuming needless risks and casualties for nothing.

First, a SRP member must be aware at all times of the patrol's mission and how it is to be accomplished. The SRP is not an ambush patrol and will not engage the enemy with small arms except in self defense. The mission of the SRP is to detect and report the presence, size, and direction of movement of the enemy and to destroy the enemy with artillery, mortar, and/or air support.

SECOND, BEFORE LEAVING the patrol base a SRP must know the location of all other friendly elements in the area. This includes other SRPs, ARVN, or CIDG forces that may be operating where contact with the SRP could occur. Equipment must be checked prior to departure for completeness and to insure that unauthorized items, such as transistor radios, are left behind.

Third, SRP members must remember that moving to and from position is the most vulnerable period. Every precaution must be taken to avoid detection. The SRP must follow the most covered and concealed route avoiding trails, roads, and inhabited areas. The SRP should never move into position without first insuring the position is secure. The final movement into position should be at night or just before darkness.

FOURTH, GOOD NOISE and light discipline is essential from the time the SRP leaves the base area until its return. Careless handling of equipment and needless movement increase the risk of detection. Additionally, SRP members must not smoke. The enemy can detect the presence of Americans from the scent of tobacco smoke, face lotion, and soap. Also, three of the patrol members must be awake at all times to observe and listen.

Fifth, the SRP must know and report his exact location. The division has suffered needless casualties because SRPs reported they were in one location when they were actually located several hundred meters away or because SRPs did not go to the position they were assigned.

The SRP has the capability to permit the 4th Division to dominate the battlefield with a minimum of risk. The principals I have mentioned are basic and yet, if not followed, will result in unnecessary loss of life and failure of the mission. When our SRPs remain in position, maintain a vigilant attitude, are well versed in the techniques of calling for artillery and mortar fires, and observe proper patrolling techniques, we cannot fail to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy.

Quan Likes Cowboys

He Yearns For USA

DAK TO — Master Sergeant Charles R. Seaman of Morgantown, W.Va., intends to make a little Montagnard boy's dream of seeing real cowboys in the United States come true.

Sergeant Seaman, the NCOIC of the 1st Brigade communication section, and his wife Carolyn have applied for the adoption of Quan, an eight-year-old Montagnard boy who was found by the 1st Brigade Long Range Patrol (LRP) platoon almost six months ago.

His mother was killed during Tet and his father could not be found. Since that time, he has been living at Dak To with the 1st Brigade, commanded by Colonel Hale H. Knight of Alexandria, Va.

"It didn't take much to convince my wife," commented Sergeant Seaman. "We have a six-year-old daughter and had talked about adopting a boy back in the states. My daughter is all for it. She has Quan's room ready and waiting for him."

The administrative red tape involved in the adoption should take six months. Sergeant Sea-

man has enough time remaining in Vietnam to complete the processing.

The war situation in Vietnam, and the fact that Quan is a Montagnard, makes finding next-of-kin difficult. Before the adoption is finalized, the government will be sure that Quan has no relatives who could take care of him.

Sergeant Seaman and other 4th Division soldiers have contributed to Quan's education. In six months he has learned to speak English quite well (with a slight "G.I." accent), read a few simple words and count money.

Like most eight-year-old boys, Quan has an obsession about cowboys. Whenever there's a Western movie playing at brigade headquarters, his usual

9:00 p.m. bedtime is extended so he can share in the excitement. Quan's regular attire consists of jeans, cowboy shirt, hat and, of course, two six-shooters.

Quan walks with a limp due to an improperly healed hip, which he says was broken in a fall several years ago. Doctors have told Sergeant Seaman that surgery should be able to correct it.

It's a bit early to be predicting Quan's future profession, but he has shown a remarkable aptitude for art.

"We'll give him three or four months to adjust to life in the United States, then enroll him in school," says the Sergeant. "Right now all he talks about is going to America... and cowboys."

CSM Taylor Speaks Out



A Soldier's Loyalty

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE Dictionary defines loyalty as "faithfulness to engagements or obligations, faithful adherence to . . . a leader, cause, or the like" and notes that it usually implies "a sense of duty."

Loyalty is one of the intangible qualities that makes the Army operate. Without the loyalty of each individual soldier to both his superiors and his subordinates, no unit can accomplish its mission.

To a subordinate, loyalty means intelligent obedience. It means doing your level best to accomplish the task that has been assigned you. It means following his guidance in spite of possible disagreement. It means not undercutting him by talking unfavorably behind his back or going over his head to satisfy a whim.

THE RESPONSIBILITY for the success or failure of a unit at all levels falls to the leader. Therefore, he is the one whose decisions you must defer to and who deserves your unstinting loyalty.

To the soldier as a leader, as the man in charge, loyalty means doing everything possible to benefit the men in his charge as long as it does not detract from or interfere with the accomplishment of your unit's mission.

It means seeing that reward and punishment are given fairly and in a fair measure to all.

TO THE LEADER, it also means insuring that the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of his subordinates is up to par. It also means providing guidance on personal problems, and, at times, accepting the responsibility for the honest mistakes of his subordinates.

A totalitarian army of automation-like slaves can operate, however inefficiently, on iron discipline and fear. An army of free citizens such as ours cannot function without respect and loyalty.



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Commanding General Major General Donn Royce Pepke
Information Officer Major Donald D. David
STAFF

Officer-in-Charge 2LT Brien P. Levy
Editor SP4 Steve Wilson
News Editor SGT Joe Perdue
Editorial Assistant SP4 Russ London

Salvage Sweep Saves \$

CAMP ENARI — The unmistakable sound of forklift engines saturated the 4th Supply and Transportation Battalion salvage yard. Soldiers rummaged through heaps of equipment as if they were cleaning the family attic.

But unlike an attic clean up, this operation may save the government as much as two million dollars.

"The project is a self-generated effort to isolate items which can possibly be repaired and put to use," explained Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Vernon R. Porter of Italy, Tex.

The 4th S and T Battalion salvage yard has been a collection point for 4th Division equipment which use has worn to unserviceability.

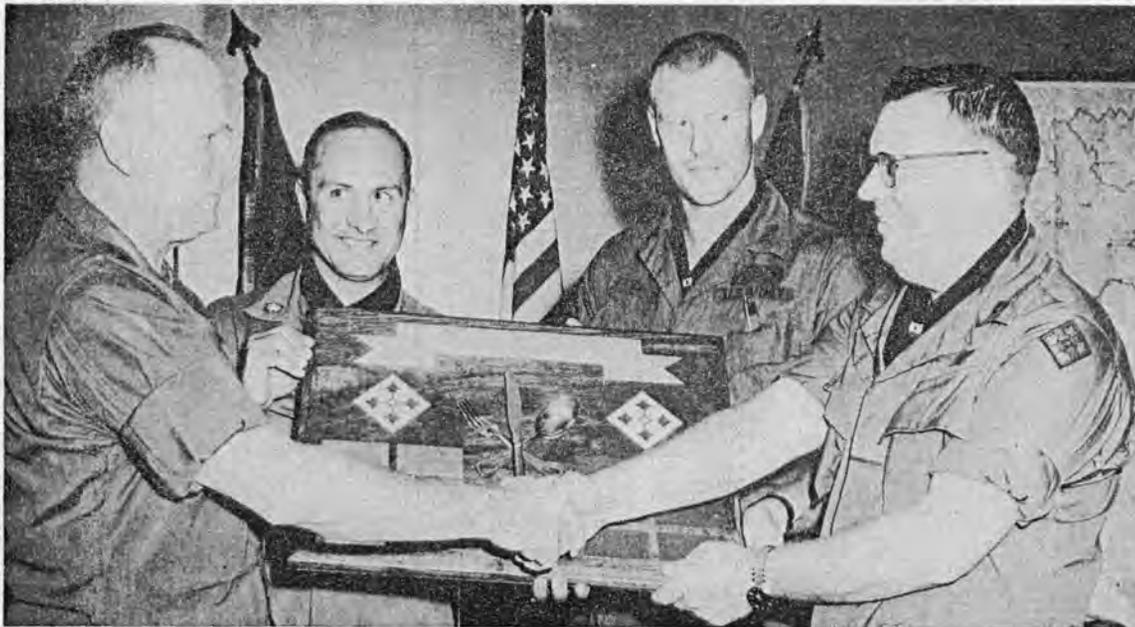
In the words of First Lieutenant Bernhard W. Erk of Cheshire, Conn., OIC of the salvage yard, "We decided to make a maximum effort to get these items back to depots where they might be restored or removed from the theatre."

Soldiers carefully screened piles of typewriters, protective masks and mess equipment for items which could be repaired. Repairables were crated for shipment; others were collected for disposal.

Luther M. Erle of Westchester, Pa., an electric command supply representative, surveyed rows of mobile radio-telephone terminals.

"There is probably \$800,000 worth of equipment here that can be salvaged for 20 per cent of what it would cost to replace. This effort should result in a one million dollar overall savings on electronic equipment alone," he said.

It might take weeks to strip the salvage yard back to barren earth. Nevertheless, a money-saving effort by 4th Division Ivymen is well underway.



BEST MESS—Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division commander, presents the Ivy Division's Best Mess Award to the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry's Mess Sergeant, Staff Sergeant

Edmond Taylor, as the battalion's deputy commander, Major Luciano Salamone, and Headquarters Company commander, First Lieutenant Bruce Wands, smile with pride. (USA Photo by 124th Sig. Bn.)

Regulars Win Best In Mess

CAMP ENARI—For the fourth time since July 1968, the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John L. Daniels, has received the monthly "Best Mess Award" presented by the 4th Infantry Division.

It was the first time the award has been presented by the Commanding General Donn R. Pepke, and according to the Headquarters Company Commander, First Lieutenant Bruce B. Wands, and the Mess Sergeant Edmond Taylor, "it won't be the last time."

Major Luciano C. Salamone, the battalion's deputy commander, gives due credit to his mess hall personnel who, by their management, training and supervision, have achieved outstanding results.

"Let us not forget the 'thankless' jobs of the food service and sanitation inspectors. This battalion thanks the inspectors whose efforts are devoted to attaining the high standards established by the 4th Infantry Division," the major added.

fire. After the battle, which raged on until the early morning hours, 69 packs were found, along with mortar tubes, communication equipment, machine guns and small arms left behind by an estimated NVA battalion.

The awards were presented by Colonel Stan L. McClellan of Ventura, Calif., commander of the 3rd Brigade.

Rescue Copter Crew Under Fire

'Panthers' Earn Cross Of Gallantry

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry was presented to four Highlanders for actions while serving with the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star was pre-

LTC Miller Takes Top Command Of Dragoons

CAMP ENARI — In ceremonies at Firebase Blackhawk, Lieutenant Colonel Richard A. Miller assumed command of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

He received the streamer-laden unit colors from Lieutenant Colonel Donald Moreau of Leavenworth, Kan., former

served with the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star was pre-

served with the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry. The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star was pre-

squadron commander. Honored guests included: General Creighton W. Abrams, commander, U.S. Forces Vietnam; Lieutenant General William R. Peers, IFFV commander; Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division commander; Major General Lu Lan, II Corps commander; Brigadier General James S. Timothy, senior II Corps advisor; Brigadier General Robert C. McAlister, assistant 4th Division commander; and Brigadier General Darrie H. Richards, commander, Qui Nhon Support Command.

Colonel Miller came to the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry from his position as 4th Division Support Command executive officer. He had held that position since Aug. 1.

Prior to this, his second tour in Vietnam, he served with the War Plans Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, Headquarters, Department of the Army, and received the Legion of Merit for his contributions to that operation.

Other assignments have included a tour with the Armor Branch of the Officer Placement Office and a year in Vietnam as Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Armor Command, during which, as a captain, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Vietnamese Armor Badge.

He has attended the University of Oklahoma and is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, class of 1953. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College in 1964.

Colonel Miller is from Lindsay, Okla. His wife Jane and four children, ranging in age from two to 11, are now living in Arlington, Va.

sented to the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel David P. Thoreson of Arlington, Va.; First Lieutenant Albert Mansky of Morristown, N.J., and Specialist 4 Francis Weitekamp of Farmersville, Ill.

The Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star was awarded to Specialist 4 Liston Smith of Anniston, Ala.

The action for which the men were cited began Oct. 27, 1968 when scout helicopter pilots noticed enemy equipment on the ground.

Dismount To Search Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon, led by Lieutenant Mansky moved its "tracks" into the area and dismounted to search

the terrain.

"I was moving around a corner in the trail when I ran into two NVA," Specialist Weitekamp said. "We were all surprised, but we managed to get off the first shots."

"Things began to pick-up quickly after that," Lieutenant Mansky said.

"I was in a 'track' when we began receiving heavy fire," the platoon leader continued. "I pointed my APC at them and literally ran over the enemy bunker."

Later in the battle, a scout helicopter was downed by enemy fire and Specialist Smith became part of a team that rescued the crew under hostile

Badeaux Club Deluge Sarge With Clothes

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—A very exclusive club has joined the list of organizations sending gifts to the children of Vietnam.

In order to be a member of this club, one must be named Badeaux and be from Gretna, La.

Air Force Sergeant Alvin "Rusty" Badeaux, a member of the Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) assigned to the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade, commanded by Colonel Gordon "Duke" Duquemin of Annandale, Va., wrote his family about the many needy children he had seen in Vietnam.

"I asked them to send me a few gifts for the children," Sergeant Badeaux said.

Apparently the Badeauxs have their own definition of "a few."

Upon receipt of the Sergeant's letter, his family went on a shopping spree.

A few weeks later, three large boxes packed with toys arrived for "the children of Kontum," care of Sergeant Alvin Badeaux.

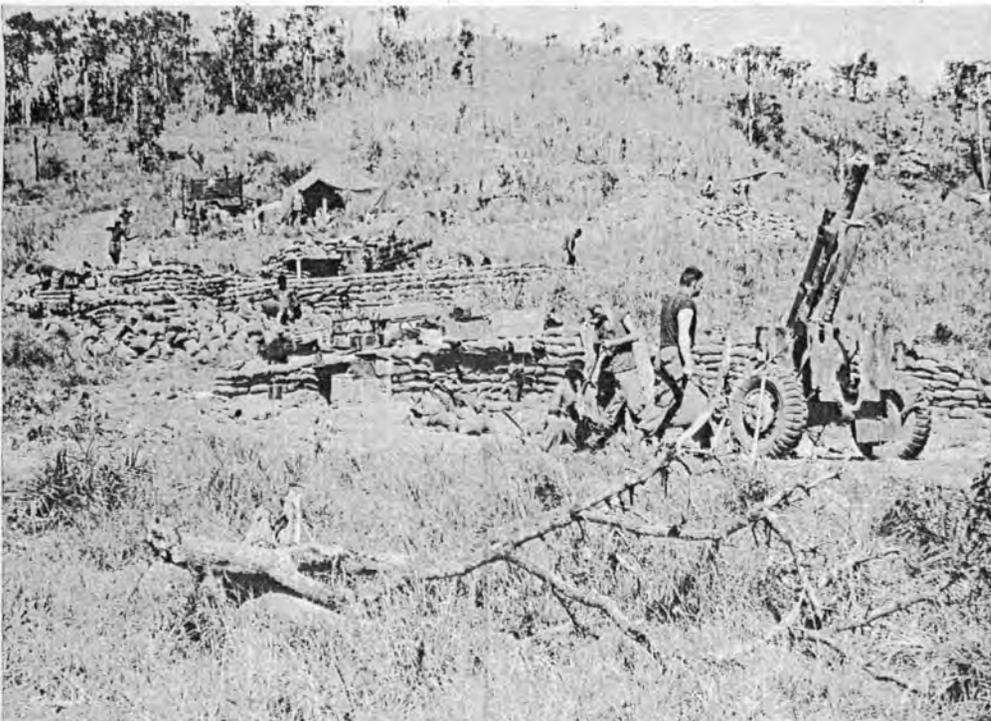
The toys were turned over to the 2nd Brigade Civil Affairs team, headed by Major Robert Brooks of Pittsburgh, Pa., for distribution.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL Richard A. Miller passes the colors to Sergeant Major Mike Balsozki after assuming command of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, in ceremonies at Firebase Blackhawk. Colonel Miller succeeds Lieutenant Colonel Donald Moreau.

(USA Photo by 1LT Kevin Saso)

On The Ivy



WAITING—This was one of the miniature firebases set up in VC Valley by the 4th Division's 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry. (USA Photo by SP4 Fred S. Grandenetti)

...In VC Valley



THESE IVYMEN, from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, found a few extra minutes for a break during action in VC Valley. The 4th Division unit moved into the area.



ON TARGET—As MIKE Strike Force troops look on, forward observer John F. Bruce (right) calls in artillery on a group of enemy soldiers in VC Valley. SFC Harry F. Elkins scans the area with binoculars for

results. The artillery support for the MIKE Force was from Battery B, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery. (USA Photo by SSG Frank Madison)



MORTAR ROUNDS uncovered by the 8th Infantry. (USA Photo)



CHIEF OF SMOKE—Sergeant Walker uses an aiming device on his guns after his unit, Battery B, 29th Artillery, moved with all the other units. (USA Photo)

Scene...



COMMAND SERGEANTS MAJOR R.M. Amons, CONARC, and James L. Taylor, 4th Infantry Division, are greeted by an Ivy commander as they visit the

division's firebases in the Central Highlands. Sergeant Major Amons (left) is currently touring Army installations in Vietnam.

(USA Photo by SP4 John Zweckel)



east of Pleiku in the mountains near Blackhawk base, to "chase out Charlie."
(USA Photo by SP4 Fred S. Grandenetti)

... At Camp Enari



ered in VC Valley by the 3rd
oto by SSG Frank Madison)



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tery B, 6th Battalion, 29th
ed forces into VC Valley.
to by SSG Frank Madison)



AN HONORED GUEST—Colonel Nguyen Ba Lien, commander of the 24th ARVN Special Tactical Zone, addresses 4th Division officers at Mess Number One. Major General Donn R. Pepke, Ivy commanding general, looks on.
(USA Photo by 124th Sig. Bn.)



A FRIEND—General James K. Woolnough, CONARC commander, meets a Vietnamese citizen during his visit to the 4th Division.
(USA Photo by PFC John Warwick)

Khaki-Clad Wanderer Too Noisy

CAMP ENARI — The clatter of bamboo, followed by an abrupt rustle of vines, and all was silent.

Quietly, Private First Class Marion Wiley of Atlanta, Ga., and his dog Blitz angled their way back to infantry elements of Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, commanded by Captain John Kelsey of Alexandria, Va.

"There's an NVA ahead in a khaki uniform, carrying a rifle," PFC Wiley reported breathlessly.

Word of a possible enemy ambush spread quickly among the troopers, tucked away behind stumps and clumps of trees for protection.

Wait Quietly

The fortunes of war travel in mysterious ways. Only minutes before the patrol seemed out of danger, working its way to within ear-shot distance of the cavalry's tanks and assault vehicles on the Plei Bon Valley floor.

In the distance, the low rumble of engines and sporadic banter of men preparing to receive the infantrymen rose above the tomb-like stillness of the jungle.

Over the radio, Captain Kelsey whispered instructions to his lead elements.

"Don't move, we'll see what we can do about getting gunships in."

On standby at Blackhawk Firebase were Cobra crews and their crafts, loaded with a deadly cargo.

Use Smoke

As the gunships gained on their position, the Ivymen enveloped the area with smoke.

To the right flank the man in khakis scrambled to avoid the inevitable.

In a flash, Cobra crews were upon him, spewing deadly venom and saturating the valley with thunder.

After several passes the thunder died away and the thrashing stopped.

The patrol regrouped. Wide-eyed, the soldiers carefully inched their way to the security of the valley floor to ponder the fate of the man in khakis.



A CHRISTMAS EVE reenlistment ceremony was held at Division Headquarters with Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division commander, administering the oath to the above enlisted men. Front row, left to right, PFC Edward E. De Witt, PFC Jack W. Daniels, SP4 Michael Miller, SP4 Pedro Ortiz and

PFC Dennis W. O'Connell. Back row, SP5 Larry Brown, PFC Frederick H. Baker, SP4 Dean M. Hill, PFC Danny D. Banister and PFC Russell C. Kennedy. Not present was PFC Ronald P. Statch. (USA Photo by PFC John Warwick)

General Pepke Lauds Reenlistees

Eleven Ivymen Reenlist Christmas Day

CAMP ENARI—Eleven men, representing 39 years' service, were reenlisted at division headquarters Christmas Day by Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division commander.

According to records available at the Division Reenlistment Office, this was the largest number of reenlistees to be sworn in at once.

An interesting fact about the reenlistment is that seven of the men were draftees (AUS) while the remaining four were First Term RAs.

Reenlisting for three years were: Privates First Class Frederick H. Baker of Houston, Tex.; Edward E. DeWitt of Galesburg, Ill.; and Russell C. Kennedy of Edge Hill, Pa., all from 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Also reenlisted for three

years, from 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, were Privates First Class Jack Daniels of Provo, Utah and Dennis W. O'Connell of Iselin, N.J.; from 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, Specialists 4 Michael T. Miller of Suitland, Md. and Pedro Ortiz of Baytown, Tex.

Also from 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, Privates First Class Danny D. Banister of Vernon, Tex. and Ronald P. Statch of Bell Gardens, Calif.

Reenlisting for six years were Specialist 5 Larry Brown of Columbus, Ohio, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry

and Specialist 4 Dean M. Hill of Blaine, Minn., assigned to 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry.

"This is the first reenlistment on Christmas Eve that I've ever been involved in," stated General Pepke. "I congratulate these men on their fine contribution to their country."

Hardship Tour Not So Bad With Pretty Nurse Wife Working Nearby

DAK TO — First Lieutenant Robert G. Holler of Greenville, S.C., the Ivy 1st Brigade assistant S-2, has found one way of making a "hardship tour" a little more comfortable—he

brought his wife with him.

Before coming to Vietnam, Lieutenant Holler was the executive officer of the Honor Guard Company at Ft. Myer, Va., the unit which supplies the honor guard for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C.

It was at Ft. Myer that he met his future wife, Carol Ann, a student at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing (WRAIN). She was graduated last June and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps.

When she learned her husband had received orders for Vietnam, she volunteered to come with him. They arrived in Viet-

nam the same day.

First Lieutenant Holler was assigned to the Ivy Division's 1st Brigade, commanded by Colonel Hale H. Knight of Alexandria, Va., and Second Lieutenant Holler was assigned to the 71st Evacuation Hospital at Pleiku, a 30-minute chopper ride away.

Lieutenant Holler (First), appearing slightly embarrassed by his good fortune, said, "I'm glad she's so close, but I'm not going to ask for any special favors." He did admit, however, that he spends most of his free time around Pleiku.

When the Lieutenants Holler said, "till death do us part," they meant it.

Doctors Volunteer Help To Pat Smith's Hospital

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Doctors from the 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade, commanded by Colonel Gordon "Duke" Duquemin of Annandale, Va., are donating a portion of their time to help a woman doctor from Seattle and the Montagnards of Kontum.

Captain Darrell Dean of Fort Worth, a physician with Company C, 4th Medical Battalion, commanded by Captain Carl Benner of Marysville, Mich., is currently spending his afternoons at the Pat Smith Montagnard Hospital.

Here Captain Dean not only faces a seemingly endless line of outpatients, but must be ready to handle any emergencies that may arise.

In a single day, Captain Dean may treat 80 outpatients, set two broken bones, give a spinal tap and assist Doctor Smith in surgery.

Captain Dean is visiting the hospital every day for a month. Another doctor from Company C will then begin his 30-day "shift" with Doctor Smith and the Montagnards of Kontum.



DEFENSIVE WEAPON—This machine, which searches out enemy road mines, is now in operation by Company E, 4th Engineer Battalion. The big wheels on the front detonate the mine causing damage only to that part of the vehicle. And these are easily replaced.

(USA Photo by SP4 Larry Hogan)

Allies Keep Tabs On VC Lair

By SP5 Peter Call

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—The village of Plei O is one of four settlements tucked in the foothills southwest of Kontum. It is a prosperous but isolated community.

"This was the ideal type of village for the Viet Cong to set-up in," said Mr. Rudy Hall, advisor to the province police chief in Kontum.

"When the police received information that the VC had set up a local government there," Hall continued, "it was no surprise."

This infrastructure or shadow government, which at Plei O required the villagers to pay a rice tax to support VC working in the locality, became the target of the Police Field Force (PFF), a section of the National Police which specializes in breaking-up guerrilla activity.

Break VC Hold

The 4th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade, commanded by Colonel Gordon "Duke" Duquemin of Annandale, Va., joined the PFFs in the effort to break the VC hold on the village.

In the early morning darkness, Highlanders of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded

by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph T. Palastra Jr. of Salina, Kan., and the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, commanded by Colonel David P. Thoreson of Arlington, Va., moved in to cordon the villages.

"We remained there for the rest of the three-

'When the police received information that the VC had set up a local government there, it was no surprise.'

day operation," said Captain John F. Barrows of Terre Haute, Ind., commander of the Panthers' Charlie Company, "to make sure no one came into or left the village."

At first light, the PFFs arrived at the four locations by chopper and began to search the

village.

Didn't Miss A Hut

"The police divided the village into quarters," Mr. Hall pointed out. "This way they didn't miss a single hut."

"While the search was going on," the advisor continued, "we took a census of the village citizens. When we go back there again we can readily check the list for any 'new' additions to the village in the form of VC."

As the police made a visual check of the huts, a metal detector from the Red Warriors followed them closely, searching under wood-piles and huts for hidden weapons and mines.

At one location, the detector's strong signs sent the Warriors digging under a banana tree which turned up two metal cases filled with rice.

Each village was visited by a Vietnamese Civil Affairs team which gave food, medicine and entertainment in the form of a folksinger of Montagnard songs.

Found in the four villages were military clothing, hidden rice and 10 suspects detained by the police.

LRP Team Kills NVA Prowlers

DAK TO — The 1st Brigade Long Range Patrol (LRP) team had set up its night location on a small hill 10 kilometers south of the 1st Brigade, commanded by Colonel Hale H. Knight of Alexandria, Va., when they heard chopping sounds 300 meters to their east.

Team leader Sergeant Michael B. Foster of Nashville, Tenn., radioed the information as the Ivymen continued to direct their attention toward the chopping.

Suddenly, assistant team leader Specialist 4 Rich Maxey of Cazenovia, Wis., spotted three NVA 50 meters from their position in the opposite direction from the chopping.

"With three of them on one side of us and the chopping close on the other side, we didn't know if we were surrounded or not," said Sergeant Foster.

The team received instructions to fire if the three NVA came too close, then move to the LZ for extraction.

When the trio of NVA got within 10 meters of their location they fired a Claymore, which had been set up earlier, killing the three NVA.

The team quickly moved out in the direction of the designated LZ. About 50 meters from it, Sergeant Foster saw movement in the brush to his right. "I was running with a grenade in my hand, so I just tossed it in the general direction of the movement," he said.

The LRP team didn't wait around to check results...they had an urgent appointment with an anxious chopper.



GIRL TALK—Four small girls from the village of Plei Chi Teh discuss the contents of a gift bag presented to them by the citizens of Spokane, Wash. Fourth Division soldiers from the 4th Military Intelligence Detachment visited the village to deliver hundreds of presents on behalf of the people of Spokane. (USA Photo by SP4 Robert Frechette)

Gen. Abrams Visits Son At New Post

CAMP ENARI — For almost two years, First Lieutenant John N. Abrams, son of General Creighton W. Abrams, commander of U.S. Forces, Vietnam, has served with the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard A. Miller.

Today, at the age of 22, Lieutenant Abrams is commanding the Cavalry's Troop C after holding command positions with Troops A and B.

In a change of command ceremony near Kontum attended by General Abrams and Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Division commander, the Lieutenant replaced Captain Colin L. McArthur of Uymbrook, Pa., as commander of Troop C.

The change of command was highlighted by Captain McArthur's comments to the troop and guests. "I leave on a note of sadness," he commented, "knowing that this is the best cavalry troop in Vietnam, but also knowing that Lieutenant Abrams will make the best even better."

Lieutenant Abrams' career with the 2nd Squadron began after he was graduated from Armor Officer Candidate School at Ft. Knox, Ky., and appointed as a platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, Troop B.

Deploying to Vietnam in Aug, 1967 with the squadron, Lieutenant Abrams and his platoon were involved in extensive combat action in the Battle for Dak To and during the Tet Offensive.

Jarai Tribe Tells Of Origin

By 1LT Kevin Saso

CAMP ENARI—The 4th Division is a guest in the Central Highlands of one of the largest Montagnard tribes in Vietnam.

Numbering approximately 150,000 the Jarai tribe is concentrated in Pleiku Province around the city of Pleiku.

It is generally accepted that

the Jarai are a Malayo-Polynesian people.

Recorded factual history is almost nonexistent as the tribe had no written language until the arrival of the French in the 1860's. The Jarai have kept alive the traditions that have existed for hundreds of years through folklore and legends.

The village elders recount the tales at the end of each day's work and at religious ceremonies and festive occasions. Stories are used to explain the tribe's customs, taboos, identities and origin.

The myth of ancient Jarai origin begins near Camp Enari, Dragon Mountain, which now holds a television station and support unit, also carries the title of the cultural center of the Jarai civilization.

The myth of origin tells of a flood which covered the earth. In order to survive, a man and his wife got into a huge drum and floated for many days. When the water receded, the man and woman landed on Cu Hodrung, or Dragon Mountain.

The Jarai storytellers further named the two-pronged mountain south of Pleiku the "belly button of the world." The man and woman can be credited as being the "Adam and Eve" of the Jarai as the tribe has remained in the highlands since that time.

Engineers Repair Bridge

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—As allied tanks and personnel carriers roared across the old Kontum bridge, which spans the Dak Bla River, the structure creaked with age. It needed repair.

The call went out to Company C, commanded by Captain Richard Klunder of Lynchburg, Va., to resurface the span.

Realizing the importance of having the bridge in passable condition, the engineers quickly went to work.

Because of the bridge's heavy use, wise planning had to be utilized by Captain Klunder to keep the constant flow of traffic

moving. "We worked on half of the bridge at a time, stripping the old planks and laying in the new," said Specialist 4 Willie Lee Ball of Warren, Ohio.

Fourth Division convoys carrying sand continued their daily trips as if nothing had happened to slow them down.

With the bridge repairs now complete, the only job left is for the daily convoys to continue supplying the Highlanders, while Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, commanded by Captain James A. Ritter of Royal Oak, Mich., maintains security.

49 Graduate From Course

CAMP ENARI — Forty-nine Vietnamese soldiers were graduated from the 4th Division's Training Detachment after receiving training in the use of the M16 rifle, the M60 machine gun and the PRC-25 radio.

The training was given by the detachment, commanded by Captain Richard Beal of Dallas, in anticipation of the equipment being issued to Vietnamese forces.

Honor graduate, Staff Sergeant Vi Thieu Vinh of Ban Me Thuot, and distinguished gradu-

ate Staff Sergeant Nguyen Thanh Danh of Kontum, were both members of the Regional Forces.

At ceremonies following the two-week course, Colonel Herbert J. McChrystal, 4th Division Chief of Staff, of Alexandria, Va., told the graduates that the Ivy Division was honored to train the Vietnamese soldiers in the use of the equipment.

He said the training should allow the soldiers to better aid their government in its efforts to achieve peace and security.

Routine Mission Turns Into Hairy Experience

CAMP ENARI — What began as a routine surveillance mission on abandoned Firebase 28 near Dak To turned into a most harrowing experience for four men from the 4th Division's Company E, 58th Infantry, commanded by Captain Reuben H. Siverling of Derby, Kansas.

Following two days of uneventful watching, at about 8:00 p.m. Christmas, two hours after the end of the Christmas truce, Private First Class Ora O. Bartrum of Cambridge, Md., spotted lights 200 meters north of their position.

Suddenly, enemy movement began closing in on three sides.

Sergeant Richard A. Davis of Gulf Breeze, Fla. quickly coordinated with Sergeant Paul T. March of Charleston, S.C. and Sergeant Thomas J. Burkhardt of Pittsburgh, and began to call artillery.

Adjust Artillery

By 8:30 the enemy was again closing. The men moved into a bunker and began to adjust rounds on the force which was now within 20 meters of their position.

The men halted the big guns at 11:00 p.m. The sounds of the wounded following the enemy's retreat.

In the morning, blood trails were found leading northeast, east and west.

The four men were presented with impact awards. For intrepid courage and the skill they displayed in the face of the enemy, they were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device for valor by Major General Donn R. Pepke, division commander.



FOR VALOR—Major General Donn R. Pepke, division commanding general poses with Long Range Patrol Team (LRP) members after they were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device. From left to right, PFC Ora O. Bartrum, SGT Paul T. March, SGT Thomas J. Burkhardt and SGT Paul T. March. (USA Photo by PFC John Warwick)

Ivy Forces Put 115 Foe Out Of Action...

(Continued From Page 1) Highway 14 between Kontum and Dak To.

In a series of skirmishes along Highway 509, 30 kilometers west of Pleiku, a scout platoon of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, killed one VC.

The largest number killed during the week was reported Dec. 23 when a CSF company, north of Ben Het, observed 20 NVA soldiers. Ivy artillery and mortars were called in on the position, killing eight.

Sixty-seven enemy soldiers were detained by the allies in two separate actions, Dec. 27.

At approximately 10:30 in the morning, Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, received ground fire south of the divi-

sion's base camp. The cavmen returned fire and killed one enemy soldier. Later in the afternoon the troop's areo-rifle platoon was inserted to sweep the area. The mission netted 15 enemy detainees.

59 More Detained

The largest number of detainees, 59, were recorded later in the afternoon. A cordon and search mission involving the National Police and Companies B, C, and D and a recon platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, was conducted at the village of Quang Nheiu, 14 kilometers north of Ban Me Thuot. The search yielded 24 Hoi Chanh.

Also in the Ban Me Thuot area, the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, conducted a cordon and search of the Mewal village. The search yielded rice contained in 30, 55-gallon drums.

Two other incidents in the 12,000 square mile tactical zone, resulted in enemy kills. A recon patrol made contact with an estimated squad-size enemy force 25 kilometers southeast of Camp Enari. After a brief exchange of small arms fire, one

NVA was wounded, but died while being evacuated.

In the other incident, west of Dak To, one NVA was killed in a brief encounter with a LRP team. A sweep of the area

was conducted by 1st Squadron 10th Cavalry and 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Friendly casualties were termed as light throughout the week.



NICE CATCH — Robbie Gelfand, who probably could hook just about anything she wanted to, caught more than she bargained for on this visit to Matheson Hammock County Park in Coral Gables, Fla.

Recalls Tour...

(Continued From Page 1) pressed by their ability to handle it."

The general looks forward to reunion with wife, Martha, and family, who have been living in Monterey, Calif., and who will join him in the Washington, D.C. area. "But," he added, "I will miss the responsiveness of this division. When we do something, the results are immediately obvious. It has been a very satisfying way to work."

Arms Cache...

(Continued From Page 1) sized unit.

More than 170 rocket and mortar rounds were found along with 166 Chicom grenades and small arms ammunition. In addition, more than 250 bunkers were destroyed as well as 219 huts, during the early days of the action.

Once again Charlie is on the run, but now there will be one less place to hide.

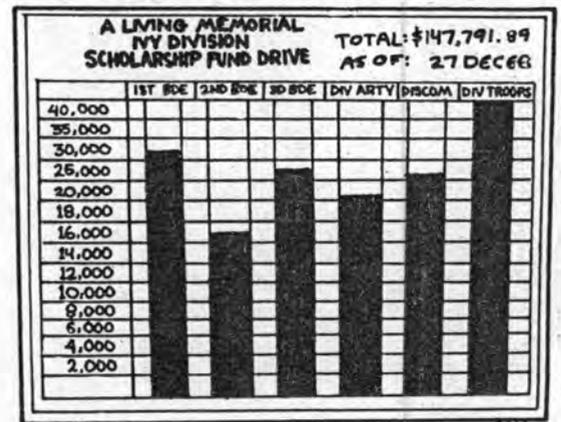
VC Blackboard

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS —Evidence of a Viet Cong training school was found by a 2nd Brigade civil affairs officer during a cordon and search of a Montagnard village southeast of Kontum.

Major Robert Brooks of Pittsburgh, Pa. discovered the school.

A thicket of bamboo verified his thoughts.

"Each tree was carved with drawings of helicopters, soldiers and small arms," he pointed out.



Fund Almost Tops Till

CAMP ENARI—Reaching the initial goal of the 4th Division's Scholarship Fund is no longer a factor, but rather how far over the goal we can go.

With only a few days to go in 1968, the grand total stood at \$147,791.89.

The division's perennial leader in the fund drive, the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard X. Larkin, is still setting the pace with \$15,055.45.

Heading up the units in hot pursuit is the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard A. Miller, with \$10,238.20 contributed to date.

Lieutenant Colonel William Rolya's 124th Signal Battalion is a strong third with total donations of \$9,167.65.

Congratulations to these units and to all Ivy men for a tremendous display of holiday spirit and generosity.