

IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH

CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM



Vol. 3, No. 14

April 6, 1969

Hospital Uncovered By Famous Fourth

OASIS—NVA bunker complexes are often described as ingenious. The one found recently by the Famous Fourth Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry proved to be no exception.

Sweeping a stream bed in the Chu Prong mountains, 11 miles north of Pleiku, elements of Charlie Company passed what appeared to be a rock filled ravine. Two NVA graves and two AK47s were found in the area. Suspicions aroused, the soldiers returned to the ravine the next day.

There, in the crevices and caves formed by the rocks, they discovered the remains of an NVA battalion-sized aid station. "We knew immediately that this was some kind of medical facility," commented Captain Guy R. Marbury of Republic, Pa., Charlie Company commander.

"There were empty plasma and penicillin bottles and many used bandages scattered throughout the complex. The NVA seemingly left the area about three weeks previously, after the area was hit with heavy air strikes. They left in a hurry, not bothering to completely bury their dead."

Sleeping Positions

The complex began at the bottom of the ravine where several sleeping positions were hidden in the dark recesses of the rocks. Inside the cave bamboo had been cut into strips and woven together to form sleeping platforms. Further up the ravine was a log and dirt covered bunker forming an underground room ten feet by ten feet. In the back a small fireplace had been built. According to Captain Marbury, this was probably their mess hall.

Nearer the top of the ravine

was a large opening formed by the boulders. Inside, an operating table and several sleeping positions had been constructed. Several natural tunnels branched off from this room spiraling down further between the rocks. At each level sleeping positions had been built. At the bottom was a small underground stream which could be

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General Vien

FIGHTING A HOT, DIRTY, insect-infested war is hard work, and the rewards and satisfactions often seem to be nonexistent. To the soldier in the field, progress is moving from one hill to another, crossing the day's third blue line or chasing enemy soldiers from a bunker complex.

Minds are occupied with outsmarting and outfighting a determined enemy on the individual, squad, platoon and company level. There is no time to worry about the overall picture. That is the job of the major commanders.

Major commanders do consider the overall picture and yet, as indicated in a letter written in praise of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, they also recognize the efforts of the individuals who do the fighting.

IN HIS LETTER to General Creighton W. Abrams, USARV Commanding General, General Vien said in part, "As operation MacArthur, Cochise Green, Walker, Bolling and McLain have come to an end with most encouraging results scored by the operating troops of the 4th Infantry Division, I should like to ask you to extend to all officers and men taking part in these highly successful operations the expression of my heartfelt appreciation.

"In these operations," he continued, "the

valiant American fighters accounted for 8,659 NVA soldiers killed, 6,941 detained and 155 returnees. They also captured 276 crew-served weapons and 2,258 small arms.

"These remarkable results, it goes without saying, were obtained through the courage and fighting spirit of the men and the outstanding leadership of the officers."

In forwarding General Vien's letter, General Abrams asked that his "personal commendation for exemplary display of teamwork, dedicated service and mission accomplishment" be conveyed.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES A. Corcoran, IFFV Commander, added his praise when he wrote, "The operations were, without exception, conducted with a degree of professionalism which commanded success. You may take just pride in these achievements."

Fourth Division commander, Major General Donn R. Pepke, commented on the praise given his men, adding, "I am sure that all members of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division will share my pride in the recognition afforded to our past and present accomplishments. I have no doubt that the Division's traditional fighting spirit will be passed from our presently assigned officers and men to those who will follow them."

Fourth Division soldiers, down to the last rifleman, can be rightfully proud of their accomplishments.

Ordeal Has Happy Ending

BY CPT DAVID R. FABIAN
CAMP ENARI — For ten days and nights, Sergeant John R. Jones, a squad leader with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, was a man alone.

Separated from his unit, the twenty-year-old infantryman from Pike Road, Alabama, mustered all his cunning and courage to evade a main-body enemy force. Wounded and without a weapon, he successfully outwitted the enemy and overcame the ominous, hostile jungle environment. Without a moment's

respite he faced up to the extraordinary demands which the ironic circumstances of war had imposed upon him.

Harrowing Ordeal

The harrowing ordeal began on March 4 when Sergeant Jones was called upon to lead a twenty-six man patrol toward a hilltop facing opposite the ridgeline where his company had spent the night.

The afternoon before, his unit exchanged heavy fire with the crest of the hill. Contact broke

by evening, and throughout the night lethal US artillery fire sliced through the thick jungle canopy and onto the enemy positions.

Now his patrol was moving stealthily along the vine-entangled jungle floor to assess the situation.

"We thought that after the artillery prep fires, the hilltop might be cleared of NVA," Sergeant Jones recounted.

"We had moved about seventy-five meters up the hill when we were taken under heavy fire. Five of us covered the withdrawal of the others.

"As the enemy fire increased, I rolled behind a nearby tree. It was during the exchange that my weapon was destroyed by enemy fire. The NVA blasted it to pieces as they raked the trail with automatic weapons fire," said Sergeant Jones.

Sergeant Jones shouted for the four other members of his patrol to employ fire and maneuver so the five might leapfrog their way back to the perimeter.

"It took time, but the maneuver was successful," Sergeant Jones continued. "All five of us got back safely. Along the way I picked up a machine gun and fired up all the available ammo into the enemy positions before I was forced to throw the gun down and catch up with the others."

Enemy Threw Grenades

As the company began to pull back and call in artillery fires, the enemy soldiers who had been in pursuit of Sergeant Jones and the four others began lobbing grenades inside the perimeter. Dazed temporarily by a wound in his head, Sergeant Jones fell behind the company.

"They must have been about 100 meters ahead of me when I rolled down the side of the hill. I

knew I had become separated from my unit, but my only thought was to get away from the NVA, so I just headed over toward another ridge that ran parallel to our night location. I had one hand grenade with me. The NVA were still firing, so when I got over the ridge I hid in the hollow of an old rotted tree."

For the remainder of the day Jones observed the ridgeline. Another American unit might be inserted to reinforce the contact, so he wanted to be ready to attract their attention.

At dusk the sergeant inventoried his resources — one grenade, one pocket knife, one Red Cross metal mirror, and a plastic battery bag which he later decided to use as a canteen.

Didn't Give Up

U.S. Forces did not return that day or the next, but Sergeant Jones did not abandon hope. During the first five days he roved the ridgeline, never allowing himself to get further than a kilometer away from the point of contact.

At night he would ease down the stream at the base of the ridge and fill the battery bag with fresh water.

"I practically lived on water alone for those first five days," said the sergeant. "Later I tried eating leaves, but my better judgment warned that I might become sick so I decided I had better quit. The jungle animals were a temptation, too. I saw many squirrel-like animals but couldn't catch them. I thought that when I really became desperate I could use my boot laces for a bow string. The arrows would be easy to make."

The patience of the young sergeant looked as though it had paid off during the third day.

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"...And Flashed His Distress Signal Skyward Toward The Sound Of The Chopper."

From The Desk of
the
Commanding General



M. G. PEPKE

Helicopter Utilization

HELICOPTERS ARE ONE of the 4th Infantry Division's most valuable assets. Every one of you who has been at a Fire Support Base realizes the critical importance of aerial lines of communications. Each round of ammunition, each drop of water, all rations, mail and soda or beer must be delivered to most Fire Support Bases by helicopter.

Medevacs, personnel going on R&R or returning to CONUS, and even your replacement either arrives or departs via helicopter.

Your life itself often depends upon the slicks, gunships, hooks, and cranes which are seen constantly flying around the Division AO. However, the critical air asset is not available in unlimited quantities. Therefore, each soldier should make every effort to use these helicopters safely and sparingly.

SAFETY

1. Remember that the rotor blades of a helicopter are deadly weapons. Whenever you approach or depart a helicopter always crouch to protect your head against a main rotor blade strike. Likewise you should never venture into the area of the tail rotor. Always approach or depart a helicopter from the front or side—Never from the rear.

2. Overloading a helicopter can cause a crash. Know the allowable cargo load of each type of helicopter and never exceed it. Often locations of the PZ/LZ or particular weather conditions will vary the weight of the allowable cargo load. Thus, the pilot may authorize either an increase or decrease in the weight to be carried.

3. Police of the PZ/LZs is a constant safety problem. Dust, which can blind the pilot and cause a crash can be easily prevented by penneprime application. Flying debris, which can be sucked into an engine intake and cause a crash, can be easily prevented by constant police of the PZ/LZ.

4. Proper PZ/LZ construction is necessary for safe flying conditions. A constant problem in this area is caused by PZ/LZs which are too small and which result in blade strikes. These blade strikes cause accidents which could injure you or your buddies.

5. Safety then, is not only important to you as far as your life is concerned, but it also affects the number of aircraft which are available to support your aerial line of communications.

The number of aircraft available to you depends upon the tactical situation. However, the number of flying hours per aircraft is limited due to the high number of maintenance hours per flying hour for helicopters. Therefore, it is important that maximum use be obtained from each helicopter.

AIRCRAFT USE

1. Efficient aircraft utilization begins with proper planning and coordination. Each man involved with an airlift must insure that proper call signs and frequencies are known to both ground and aviation personnel. Just one man with an improper frequency or call sign may cause undue delay to a lift. This undue delay may in turn result in someone not receiving necessary supplies. Therefore it is incumbent upon each and every soldier in this division to insure that all helicopters are efficiently used.

2. Loads/personnel should be prepared for rapid on and off loading. Remember that the crewchief will tell you when to load and debark the aircraft. Load preparation will assist in getting maximum utilization per aircraft.

3. Conservation of supplies and equipment, in accordance with the tactical situation, will reduce the amount of tonnage carried to each Fire Support Base. It is easy to see how each soldier can help get more benefits from the helicopter assets available to this Division. Therefore, it is incumbent upon each and every one of you to do your part, no matter how small, to use helicopters safely and efficiently.



(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: Camp Enari 151 or 154.

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Career Corner

Your Future Security

What will be your cash value at the end of 20 years? Ten-thirty thousand dollars? Or maybe by that time you will have inherited a fortune?

Most of us are not that lucky. We find that if provisions are made for future security we must provide it for ourselves. A sure way of securing the future is through military service. An Army Career not only provides us with an interesting vocation, but also assures us that when we retire from the service we will have a substantial monthly income.

THE AVERAGE MAN would have to save many thousand dollars to realize the same annual income we will receive in Army retirement pay after only 20 years of service.

Let's take Mr. Average Man who serves his 20 years of service and retires as an E7 at age 39. His monthly retirement check will be \$248.55 per month or \$2,982.60 per year. With an expected life span of 70 years he will collect this amount for 31 years for a total of \$92,460.60. This is a lot of money for only 20 years service.

Retirement benefits do not stop with just the monthly check. Retired personnel are entitled to many other benefits which include the use of commissary stores, post exchange, clothing sales stores, laundry and dry cleaning plants, military theatres, Army special

service libraries, Officer and NCO open mess and medical facilities. All of these are real dollar stretchers.

ALL OF US DREAM of the day we can do some traveling. For the retired Army man this is very possible. Retired Army personnel are authorized to travel on a space available basis to most areas of the world where American troops are stationed.

Travel is performed on Military Sea Transport ships or Military Air Transport. Dependents of eligible retired members are also authorized this travel if accompanied by the retired member. The cost is very small, \$1.75 for retired enlisted persons and for each dependent accompanying the member.

Space available travel is also authorized on unscheduled military aircraft flying within the continental limits of the United States for retired persons. This travel is not authorized to dependents.

THE SINGLE MAN without dependents who retires for length of service or one who is retired before completing 20 years service due to disability is provided with the opportunity to reside at the United States Soldier Home. There is nothing military about the home, it is run only for the comfort of the members.

Residents of the home receive quarters, rations, medical and dental care, clothing, laundry and dry cleaning service without charge. They retain their full retired pay or pension with no deductions made for any service received at the home.

Where, except in the military, can you find a retirement program to compare with all of this?

If you are interested in security for the future, contact your Army career counselor. He has all the facts. Let him help you with all of your career decisions.

CSM Taylor Speaks Out



Emergency Data

ONE OF THE LEAST thought of documents in a soldier's 201 File is one of the most important—the DA Form 41 Record of Emergency Data.

The form is particularly important while a soldier is serving in Vietnam. So important is the form that the Personnel Services Division (PSD) requires that all incoming soldiers review the form as part of their in-processing.

The form, when properly completed, gives the names and addresses of the soldier's next of kin (NOK). It also gives information as to how the soldier desires his cash entitlements distributed in case of his death. After it is filled in, the form must be signed by the soldier.

In effect the form is a will. The only things that it doesn't take care of is your personal property and your Service Group Life Insurance (SGLI) settlements.

One of the most widespread errors in the maintenance of the form is that soldiers fail to change their beneficiaries or change the address of their NOK when the need arises.

A case in point—Private Goode Riche was single when he entered the service and his DA Form 41 listed his parents as beneficiaries to an equal share of his cash entitlements in case of his death. He later married, but neglected to change his DA Form 41 accordingly.

Unfortunately, PVT Riche was killed on active duty before he changed his DA Form 41 and his parents were notified as being his NOK and received the unpaid cash entitlements in accordance with the Record of Emergency Data Form. His wife received nothing.

ANOTHER CASE OCCURRED where the DA Form 41 was not up to date in that the NOK's address was not correct. It took over three days to locate the NOK in order for officials to make the notification and ascertain the disposition of the soldier's remains.

The form should be audited once each year to make sure that the information is current and that no changes are needed. However, it is your responsibility to make sure that the information on the form is changed when the need arises.

Whenever your marital status changes, the DA Form 41 should be changed immediately to reflect the necessary information. The form should also be changed when your NOK change their place of residence. In the case of married personnel, whenever additions to the family occur that would affect the settlement of your cash entitlements, the form should be changed.

The Division Composite Personnel Team visits each unit periodically to bring personnel records up to date and answer any queries concerning personnel matters. Whenever the team visits your unit, make it a point to review the most important document in your 201 File—the DA Form 41, Record of Emergency Data.

'Old 56' Has Warm Heart

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) Number 56's massive engine still growls when it clatters into Montagnard villages near Kontum, but the citizens have all agreed it has a "heart of gold."

Unlike the APCs in the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, Number 56 carries within its steel walls the tools to heal and Panther medics skilled in their use.

"Number 56 is actually a mobile dispensary," said First Lieutenant Alan J. Spillum of Tacoma, Wash., the unit's civil affairs officer.

"We send this APC out with our companies to treat the Montagnards in the many villages we are near."

The tracked vehicle carries, instead of the usual load of ammunition and Highlander infantrymen, four large metal boxes containing medical supplies designed to treat diseases common to the villagers.

"Medical treatment for these people has to be handled differently than for the American soldier," said Captain James E. Schuster of Milwaukee, Wis.

"The Montagnards have different immunities toward our drugs, so I made up special kits which takes this into consideration."

Number 56, loaded with the kits, later roared into the village of Plei Op, but the smiles of the people seemed to mute its throaty exhaust.

The rough idle smoothed as the back was opened forming a convenient platform for the Highlander medics to carry out their mission.

"You know," smiled Sergeant Michael Vinson of Kansas City, Mo., the vehicle's commander, "I think old '56' likes this sort of work."

"She hasn't given us a bit of trouble since she started carrying medicine."

Chaplain's Message

By Chaplain (CPT) Virgil G. Iverson

He is to be pitied who sincerely walks the pathway of life in error. Yes, it is possible to be sincere yet wrong.

Embarrassment is not the correct word to use when a leader of a patrol or squad discovers that he had made an error regarding the choice of his present location in comparison to the directed concordance of his company Commander. On an occasion he will become dogmatic that he is where he is supposed to be on the map.

However, after the shooting of a "light bulb" he becomes readily aware of his dire plight. There is no doubt regarding his sincerity. He was 100% with the program. But because of a slight miscalculation either in direction or distance he ended up being some place other than where he thought he was.

Men throughout the ages have been confronted with the same problem but in a moral sense. King Solomon, proclaimed by his contemporaries and even present day scholars to be one of the wisest men that ever graced the earth, once said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

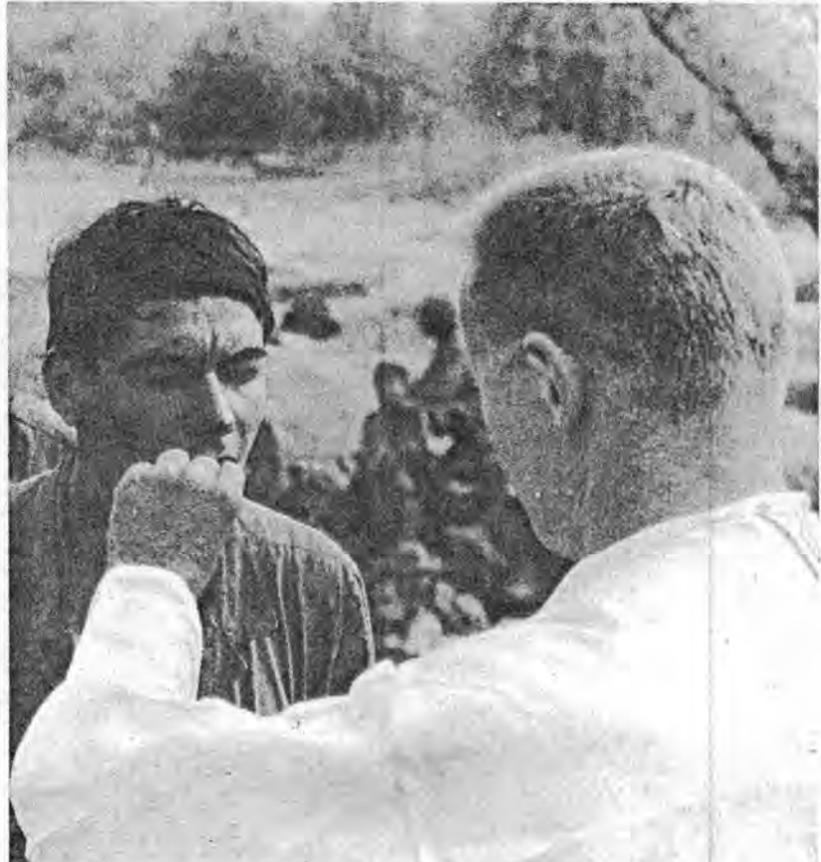
To underline the seriousness of our responsibilities to choose not only a way, but the right way, a man described as "greater than Solomon," namely Jesus, helps us by his advice given in the Sermon on the Mount.

The significant statement Jesus makes toward pseudo sincerity is this, "Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." This is the broad way. It is the attractive way. It is the easy way. It may be a sincere way. No problems are envisioned except for one little thing. It always leads to destruction.

The majority cannot always be counted upon as right in every instance. Sociologists tell us that presently we are strongly influenced by the "herd concept." A man who differs from the herd in morals and ethics can look forward to estrangement and criticism.

The domineering feature of this diligent attempt to sidestep the truth is seen when the means is allowed to dictate the ends. It would seem the wisest choice to first determine the goals of one's existence. Then get there the best way possible. Even notice the "light bulbs."

Nothing can betray God's tender and sympathetic desire for our adherence to His way than when He says to his people "as I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked: but the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways: for why will ye die, O house of Israel." Jesus concludes by suggesting the ultimate solution to man's dilemma. "I am the way, the truth and the life."



Holy Communion

A Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldier from Alpha Troop, 2nd Battalion, 1st Cavalry receives the Host during a Mass said by Chaplain (Major) Kevin Devine, Third Brigade (USA Photo By John S. Ryan)

Cavmen Eye APC's Featured Equipment

CAMP ENARI — Normally, few heads turn when a 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry track rumbles along Highway 19.

A few Montagnards wave from the roadside, but most others — the engineers working the bridges and the 5-ton drivers and gun truck crews conveying supplies — pay little attention.

But then, normally there isn't a mini-skirted feminine form with flowing blonde hair and penetrating blue eyes perched prettily atop the track to attract the eye of passersby.

So when three lovely girls — Jill Townsend, Pam Moffitt and Susan Howard — extended their Famous Fighting 4th Division USO handshake tour along the Blackhawk's sector of Highway 19, reactions ranged from utter disbelief to sheer joy.

At each bridge and strong-point the tracks pulled off the road and the girls, to the delight of everyone along the way, scrambled from the vehicles into the midst of shutter-snapping, thigh-ogling soldiers. The girls' tremendously outgoing personalities made even the shyest feel as if he were talking to the girl next door. And the men loved it.

As the tracks vibrated from one stop to another, an endless flow of convoy trucks passed from both directions. The percentage (would you believe 100) of drivers who noticed the uncommonly colorful girls on the commonly colorless Cav tracks spoke well for the drivers' traffic observation.

Horns tooted, assistant drivers craned to catch a fleeting glance of blonde hair, round eyes, and feminine legs, and drivers cursed the necessity to get eyes back on the road.

The entire morning was spent along Highway 19, and nearly every Cavalryman along the roadway had a chance to chat with the starlets. Lunch at Blackhawk let the girls see the men at basecamp — or, more appropriately, let those at basecamp see the girls!

All too soon, it was time to leave for An Khe and a visit with the Cav's Delta Troop. Three charming girls had seen some of the finest Cavalrymen in the Army. Hundreds of Cavmen had witnessed a marvelous, though temporary, change in the equipment carried on an APC.

Fighting Fourth Battle Briefs

CAMP ENARI—The Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division continued to keep at least one aggressive step ahead of enemy-intended strategy once again this week (March 15-22), thwarting each major offensive threat by deploying infantry units as effective blocking forces and employing deadly accurate artillery counter fires and devastating air strikes on enemy locations.

Outguessed and outfought throughout the Fourth's wide-ranging area of operations, the NVA suffered 122 battle deaths in scattered actions.

Early in the week elements of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry continued to engage enemy units in an area adjacent to Highway 14 in northern Pleiku Province. The most significant action occurred on March 16, when Company B exchanged heavy small arms fire with an NVA company 16 kilometers north of Pleiku City, killing seven NVA soldiers.

Continuing to deny the NVA its vital rice caches, Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry penetrated a heavily jungled area 30 kilometers southwest of Pleiku, turning up over a ton of rice on the afternoon of March 18. The rice, found stored in four separate locations, was evacuated to Plei Djereung, where it was distributed to the civilian population.

By mid-week the enemy began what military experts have referred to as the third phase of the Spring offensive. During the early morning hours of March 21, the enemy launched indirect fire and ground attacks against forward fire bases and larger military strongholds in Kontum and Pleiku Provinces.

Attacks by indirect fire were characteristically inaccurate, however. Elements of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, for example, reported receiving 108 rounds of mixed 75mm recoilless rifle and 82mm mortar fire near Landing Zone Cider, 42 kilometers west of Kontum. Yet not one American casualty was reported and no equipment was damaged.

NVA gunners also fired over 200 rounds of mortar and artillery fire toward the Ben Het CIDG Camp, but again their efforts were futile. Not one round impacted inside the perimeter.

Larger installations in Pleiku Province were also taken under indirect fire on the morning of March 21. At 0534 hours nine 122mm rockets whistled into Camp Enari, damaging five helicopters but inflicting no casualties.

At Camp Holloway in nearby Pleiku City three Chinooks were slightly damaged by 25 rounds of 82mm mortar fire.

Alert artillery batteries throughout the Division's area of operations immediately reacted to each threat. Suspected enemy locations were pounded for the next two days as enemy troops were denied a single victory in the Central Highlands.

Top Highlander

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — For his outstanding knowledge in his selected military field, devotion to duty and exceptional military conduct, Private First Class Wayne Richards was selected as the 2nd Brigade Soldier of the Month.

The 22-year-old Carmel, N.Y. native is an assistant gunner with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry's Mortar Platoon.

First selected as his company's honored soldier, he then

went on to take the battalion honors and finally to the brigade finals, where he proved to be too much competition for his fellow soldiers.

As a reward for his outstanding performances, PFC Richards was given a three-day in-country R & R, plus a \$25 Savings Bond.

Prior to entering the Army, PFC Richards was a student at Temple University in Philadelphia and also worked as a teacher with mentally disturbed children.

Red Warriors Blast NVA

By SGT Ronald Schulthies

A COMPANY OF NVA regulars picked on a Famous Fighting 4th Division platoon which appeared to be an easy target. Nothing could have been farther from the truth, for they soon had a tough, tenacious, and thoroughly aroused "tiger by the tail."

The small patrol base of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, was perched atop a rugged mountain in the dense jungle west of Kontum. Incoming rounds from what were later determined to be 105mm howitzers had bombarded the patrol base and other friendly positions in the area.

The 3rd platoon, led by 1st Lieutenant Alan Nathan of Minot, N.D., was sent to locate the enemy artillery emplacements. Just after they left the patrol base, the platoon discovered a battalion-sized bunker complex less than three days old.

Cautiously proceeding to their objective, the platoon found a second, larger and fresher bunker complex. This complex contained over 300 bunkers, some of which were connected by wire communications. As the platoon came into the area, Sergeant First Class Joseph Krupa of Grass Flat, Pa., alertly spotted some comms wire running up the ridgeline.

As the point element approached the top of the hill, an NVA soldier suddenly appeared silhouetted against the sky.

Private First Class Randall Barbaglia of Morgan Hill, Calif., and Specialist 4 Donald Ricker of Middle Village, N.Y. opened fire, killing the NVA regular and a second soldier who followed him.

IMEDIATELY, HEAVY AUTOMATIC weapons fire erupted from the top of the hill. At the same time, the left flank exploded with enemy fire. Then the chilling sound of a machine gun joined the cracking of AK47s, as heavy enemy fire hit the rear.

Specialist 4 Robert Powers of Hays, Kan., spotted four NVA moving around to the rear. He blasted them with his M60 machine gun, killing two.

Specialist 4 Robert Good of Hickory Grove, S.C., joined the action. "I saw two NVA, one with a black hat with a feather in it, and the other wore a black shirt and shorts. They were both moving through the underbrush and behind trees."

Two bursts of M16 fire left the owner of the feathered hat and his friend sprawled in the bushes. Just to the left, a third NVA advanced through the brush. Specialist Good's third burst of fire killed him.

Eighty-one mm mortar fire was called in on the tightening circle of NVA.

The 3rd platoon of Delta Company, led by First Lieutenant Wil-

liam Keene of Knoxville, Ky., charged to the aid of the embattled men of Bravo Company.

As Lieutenant Keene's platoon approached the contact area, they found comms wire leading to an enemy forward observer position. No sooner was the wire discovered than the platoon found themselves on the edge of an enemy bunker complex. Two NVA sitting on a bunker were immediately fired upon and killed.

The initial gunfire brought two more NVA assaulting down the hill from the forward observer position, their AK47s blazing.

Sergeant Dennis Schultz of Morristown, Minn., met their charge with a stream of fire which killed them both.

Meanwhile, accurate mortar and artillery fire enabled Lieutenant Nathan and his platoon to move back down the hill so that supporting fire could be directed onto the hilltop. As they moved downhill, they came under intense machine gun and sniper fire.

"They just stood up there and kept pumping out the rounds while all that big stuff came in close," said 1st Lieutenant John Rose of Chicago, Ill., the Mortar Platoon leader.

A DIRECT HIT FROM the mortars knocked out the enemy machine gun as the Red Warriors assaulted and swept through the enemy positions.

In the morning, the remainder of Bravo Company, rushed to reinforce the 3rd platoon.

Specialist 4 Johnny Armstrong of Ore City, Tex., killed two NVA with his M79. "Another NVA darted between two trees and fired two AK rounds through my pack. I grabbed an M16 and killed him too," said Specialist Armstrong.

At this point, the Red Warriors were running low on ammunition, but reinforcements were only 100 meters away.

The 2nd Platoon came under heavy sniper and automatic weapons fire as they drew closer to the 3rd platoon. They maneuvered to the high ground as 2nd Lieutenant Kenneth Scurr of Grass Valley, Calif., the platoon leader called up his machine guns.

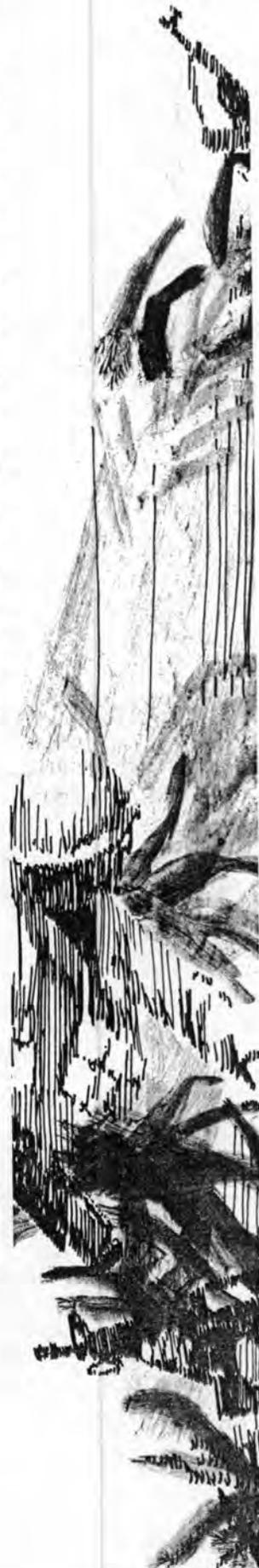
"I don't know what my platoon sergeant (Sergeant First Class John Cribbs of Johnsonville, S.C.) told those gunners but they came running up like they were at a track meet," said Lieutenant Scurr.

With the machine guns spraying the flanks and the riflemen alternately putting down a withering base of fire and then moving, the Red Warriors stormed over the enemy positions.

When the smoke of battle cleared, at least 41 NVA had fallen to the men of Bravo Company. Delta Company accounted for five NVA dead. Recovered from the contact area were three AK47s, one SKS, six rucksacks, and numerous pieces of clothing, sandals, and other equipment.



...One With A Black Hat With A Feather In It And The Other Wore A Black Shirt And Shorts



...An NVA Soldier Silhouetted Against The

Artistry By
SP4 Lou
Orsan And
SP4 Ted
Phillips

Famous Fourth's Third Brigade Locks On NVA 24th Regiment

By 1ST LT Jim Hughes

"Now, first of the foeman of Boh Da Thone
Was Captain O'Neil of the Black Tyrone,
And his was a company, seventy strong,
Who hustled that dissolute Chief along.
—They had hunted the Boh from the hills to the plain—
He doubled back and broke for the hills again:
They had crippled his power for rapine and raid,
They had routed him out of his pet stockade—"

From: The Ballad of Boh Da Thone
By: Rudyard Kipling 1888

Boh Da Thone, a romantic creation of poet/author Rudyard Kipling, may not be as well known as his North Vietnamese counterparts, but his problems were much the same.

Boh operated as a bandit in the jungles of Burma during the Burma Wars, 1883-1885. His "foeman" was a fictitious captain in the Queens Service called "Crook" O'Neil. (From Maloon to Tsaleer the captain and his company of 70 men, "—the sun-dried boys of the Black Tyrone—", hunted the elusive Boh.)

Their untiring pursuit brought them ever closer, both physically and mentally, to their enemy. The longer they chased him the more determined they became.

The tactics employed by Captain O'Neil and his men are probably older than the Burma Wars. In the tactics of warfare, however, time-tested methods are often the best. With this in mind Famous Fighting Fourth Division troops of the 3rd Brigade, have taken a page from Captain O'Neil and brought it up to date. They call it the "lock-on concept."

In the lock-on concept a brigade unit zeroes in on an enemy unit by using all its intelligence gathering powers. When enough data on the enemy organization has been collected, the friendly unit will mobilize all of its available means and capabilities to pursue and finally destroy its adversary.

According to Colonel Richard L. Gruenther, 3rd Brigade commander from Arlington, Va., "the foremost of foes facing the brigade in the Central Highlands is the 24th NVA Regiment." In November, 1965 the 24th entered South Vietnam. Since that time intelligence has continually been gathered in order to piece together a picture of this unit, its capabilities and mission.

Much has been learned from experience. The 24th, a part of the B3 front in Cambodia, has long been known as a tenacious defensive unit. From base camps dug in to the steep mountain slopes surrounding the central plains, the 24th has mounted attacks by fire against friendly mili-

tary installations and civilian population centers alike. Their forays have also included the interdiction of supply routes, notably between Pleiku and Kontum.

Third Brigade units and their Vietnamese allies have been progressively denying the 24th its base camp areas, first in the Chu Pa and most recently in the Chu Prong near Kontum. In both areas accumulated intelligence has indicated the presence of troop concentrations and fortified positions.

Friendly units moved into each of these areas and established base camps. From these fire-bases, search and destroy operations were conducted flushing out the enemy. Air strikes and artillery were utilized to destroy his sanctuaries, and in each operation large weapons caches were uncovered.

In the ballad Kipling wrote:

"And, sooth, if pursuit in possession ends,
The Boh and his trackers were best of friends—"

It would be misleading to say that the men of the 3rd Brigade are "best of friends" with their enemy. But you could say they are very familiar with their adversaries in the 24th NVA Regiment.

The men of Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry battled with the 24th for eight days in the rugged forest of Chu Pa mountains, killing over 60 of the enemy. During this period Bravo Company was in almost constant contact, with the NVA as close as 25 meters from their positions. During the nights they could hear the enemy officers giving orders to their men.

At this writing, another 3rd Brigade unit, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, is facing this same enemy in the rugged Chu Prong Mountains southeast of Kontum. The men of the "Cacti Blue", from the Battalion commander to the private soldier, can speak with great authority on the 24th. Each day brings more captured records resulting in more information on the 24th.

They can tell you, for instance, the name, rank, serial number, date entered South Vietnam and weapon of each and every member of the K4 Battalion, 24th Regiment. They can even tell you his home of record.

Having "locked-on" to the 24th Regiment in this manner the men of the 3rd Brigade have been able to keep their foe continually on the defensive. In this manner they have reduced his effectiveness and his ability to continue aggression against the South.

In Kipling's poem the "princely pest", Boh Da Thone, is hunted to a rather inglorious demise. Should the lock-on concept continue to prove as successful as it has recently, the NVA can hope for little better at the hands of the Allied Forces.



appeared On The Hill



Morning haze and the density of the jungle help to form a murky looking silhouette of a Cacti Blue soldier as he watches for the enemy in the Chu Prong Mountains. The enemy—the

24th NVA Regiment—is no stranger to this man or anyone else in the Famous Fourth's 3rd Brigade.

(USA Photo By SP4 John Ryan)

King And Queen, 4th's Trump Ace

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS—When the king and queen of battle combine their talents the enemy suffers the sad consequences.

So it has been in the continuing fighting on the Chu Prong Mountain ranges as the king, Artillery, joined with the queen, Infantry, to form a one-two punch which resulted in 46 enemy deaths.

Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, fired 8,138 rounds of artillery from LZ Valentine during the period of March 1-18 in support of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry.

Battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel James E. Price of Matewan, Va., had praise for both artillery support and the

performance of his ground troops.

"The two are forming a good combination," said Colonel Price. "The artillery has been doing some good firing and keeping the enemy down."

Colonel Price explained that the basic plan of the operation was for the artillery to assist the infantry units after initial contact had been made.

The ground units make contact, then back off, as fire support shells the enemy. Then the infantry can move in for a climactic sweep.

The strategy being employed by the 3rd Brigade forces follows the "lock-on" concept advocated by brigade commander Colonel Richard L. Gruenther of Arlington, Va. Artillery plays an important part in the tactical concept as friendly forces utilize all of their military and intelligence gathering powers to "lock on" the enemy, suspected to be the 24th NVA Regiment in Chu Prong.

In the most heated contact during the current stage of the operations, the 35th's Company B accounted for 11 NVA deaths in a lengthy battle which took place March 16-17.

Bravo Company encountered the estimated NVA company while on a search and clear mission. Eight enemy were killed during a six-hour battle in which artillery, gunships and air-strikes were used to force the NVA out of their mountain bunkers. Three enemy were killed of the following morning when a sweep was made of the area.

Adding to the enemy's miseries has been the uncovering of weapons caches by the Cacti Blue.

Both Charlie and Bravo Companies found enemy weapons after an earlier large cache find by the battalion's Reconnaissance Platoon.

Company C discovered two AK47 rifles, a B40 rocket launcher and seven B40 rounds in the area northwest of Pleiku. Company B found two AK47s and a B40 rocket launcher.

Reg Pays Lifesaver Dividend

Highlander Heights—Regulations, regulations, regulations; just part of the red tape that seems to make life harder for the soldier.

Ask any troop how he feels about Army regs and he won't hesitate to bite off your ear. Although they gripe, most soldiers realize regulations are necessary and, in the end, make their life in the Army more efficient and safe.

SAVES A LIFE

Just what is a regulation? Let's look at it! Webster defines it this way, "a rule or order, as for conduct, prescribed by authority." And that is precisely the way it happens, an order for the conduct of soldiers prescribed by the Famous Fighting 4th Division which in this case saved the life of one of its men, exactly what a regulation is designed to do.

Private First Class Tom Graham of Pavilion, N.Y. from the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, owes his life to a 4th Division regulation.

With what seems to be almost more than parental concern, regulations have a definite purpose taken from the long and tried experience of the Army's heritage.

In Firefight

Sporting a steel pot because "they made me wear it," PFC Graham was involved in a firefight near Polei Kleng, 14 miles northeast of Kontum City. When the action subsided, the 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company rifleman noticed that he had been struck by an enemy small arms round just above the left ear.

"The story of my life, at least my life over here, has been exemplified by strange happenings," the 4th Division soldier laughed. "I guess you could say I have been accident prone."

Prior to the incident, PFC Graham had been hit with shrapnel and battered by a wayward engineer stake in separate accidents since entering country in November.

This time the bullet entered the steel pot on the left side, and on an angled trajectory passed through the rear of the helmet.



Well Hidden

The enemy took special care to insure that this rice cache would not be found. But to soldiers like those of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, who specialize in uncovering these hidden storage bins, it seems the enemy was not deceptive enough. In all, Charlie Troop's Second Platoon has accounted for 32,000 pounds of rice found in the area near Blackhawk. (USA Photo By SP4 John Uhlari)

'Rice Platoon' Harasses NVA

FIREBASE BLACKHAWK — When the 2nd Platoon of Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, reported locating a new rice cache, soldiers back at Blackhawk paused momentarily, then shrugged their shoulders as if to say, "they must be at it again."

"There was a time," said First Lieutenant Roderic Allen, of Coffeyville, Kan., the platoon leader, "when we went out day after day and came back empty-handed. That situation has since changed."

Success, however, has not come easily.

At first light the caymen move their vehicles down Highway 19, toward suspected areas of enemy supply points.

"Before entering these areas

the platoon is broken down into smaller recon-sized elements in order to cover a greater amount of territory," explained Platoon Sergeant Lester Turner of Hudson, Mass.

When the terrain impedes tank and lighter armored assault vehicle travel, the cavalry's organic infantry squad swings into action.

The dismounted infantrymen give special priority to well-used trails and markings, rice paddy embankments, and signs of fresh digging, checking them thoroughly before pushing on.

From dawn to dusk the caymen wage what they call the "war on enemy rice."

"It's not unusual for us to cover twenty to thirty miles daily," commented Sergeant Turner, "if

we fail to find anything it's a good bet there is 'ti-ti' rice in the area.

"Ti-ti" rice is hardly characteristic of the platoon's effort for they alone have accounted for fourteen separate cache finds, totaling in excess of 32,000 pounds.

End For 24 NVA

POLEI KLENG — Gunships from A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry added 10 NVA to their rapidly growing total of enemy kills during a mission with the Famous Fighting 4th Divisions 1st Brigade, 20 kilometers west of Polei Kleng.

Alpha Troop was conducting a bomb damage assessment in an area 4 kilometers northeast of LZ Swinger when one of the troop's scout Light Observation Helicopters (LOH), piloted by First Lieutenant Mark Holbrook of Sheboygan, Wis., reported spotting 10 NVA on a well hidden road.

Cobra gunships circling overhead went in for the kill. All 10 NVA were confirmed dead.

Later in the day, Cav ships and an Air Force Forward Air Control (FAC) plane directed F100 air strikes on suspected enemy locations a short distance from where the 10 NVA were killed earlier.

The air strike resulted in an additional 14 NVA killed, six bunkers and a 12.7 anti-aircraft gun destroyed.

Psyops Leaflet Impressive

CAMP ENARI — Recently, an NVA soldier rallied to the Government of Vietnam (GVN) solely because for the first time since he had been fighting in South Vietnam he had found a psyops leaflet which he felt realistically depicted the futility of his plight.

Upon rallying, he admitted that more than 50 of his unit suffered from malaria during their infiltration south. He added that seldom did the men in his unit heed the warnings of the psyops leaflets concerning massive airstrikes and fire power. Instead, he and his comrades feared the deadly anopheles mosquito.

NVA units throughout South Vietnam, he reported, were

wanting in their supply of malaria control tablets. The disease has been rapidly taking its toll within the NVA ranks.

Finds Leaflet

Following a lengthy bout with a high fever that sapped his body of strength for weeks, the enemy soldier happened on a leaflet picturing an NVA soldier supporting his weary and diseased body against a tree along a jungle trail.

He read the accompanying message which urged him to Chieu Hoi. "Malaria and other diseases will follow you like shadows. Your leaders cannot save you from disease, but GVN can give you the . . . medicine you need."

Convinced the promise would be made good, he decided to

Chieu Hoi at the earliest possible moment.

The leaflet was one of the 150,000 prepared and dropped recently by the Famous Fourth Division's G5 Psyops section, headed by Captain Gary Olsen, of Niles, Ill.

Fear Disease

"The NVA's powerful fear of the disease," explained Captain Olsen, "had not been exploited previously in the Central Highlands. We had long suspected that malaria was rampant among the NVA, so we decided to develop this particular leaflet, hoping it would succeed in doing what other leaflets could not."

"We have finally succeeded in implanting the hope of relief from the dreaded disease in the mind of the enemy."

LT X; Reconnaissance Mission

By CPT David R. Fabian

Lieutenant X had been extensively trained as a recon specialist in North Vietnam prior to his infiltration south. After serving four months in South Vietnam with the 320th Regiment Recon Company, as a Master Sergeant, he received a battlefield commission and became the executive officer of the 19th Recon Company, 320th Regiment, 1st NVA Battalion. He participated in the battles of Chu Do, Chu Ben, and Hill 800 in Kontum Province in 1968. In late summer his unit was moved further south toward Ban Me Thuot. While on a recon mission, he was found wounded by an alert 4th Division LRP team.

PART V

“WHEN WE COMPLETE our reconnaissance mission, we return to our unit as soon as possible. We never rely on civilians or others to relay our information. After the attack we normally take two or three weeks off to rest, treat the wounded, and conduct “lessons learned” meetings concerning the significance of our recon in terms of success or failure of the attack. . . .

“When you do a good job in the NVA you are rewarded by being promoted and/or given a certificate of commendation. I was extremely happy when promoted; I knew my leaders recognized my good performance. Recently in South Vietnam, the NVA has started to award the Medal of Victory to our soldiers. However, neither I nor my men had earned them.

“As frequently as possible, we are taught about American perimeters. As part of the study, we employ sand tables. On recons we just crawl slowly through

the wire, cutting the bottom strands.

“If we are detected while inside the camp and must make a hasty withdrawal, we use wooden planks or ladders to go over the top of the wire. In training we have a man lie on the wire so that we may run over him, but we never do this in combat operations.

“We have one doctor and one medical specialist working in each regimental dispensary. There are also two medics assigned per company. . . . The doctors in the NVA are very good, very professional. They provide good medical care for our casualties. Those who are seriously wounded are sent back to North Vietnam. I might add that during the time that I was in North Vietnam, I never saw a wounded soldier. When they go north the government keeps them in medical centers because they don't want the people to see them.

“ALTHOUGH WE TAKE the malaria pill, most of us are still afflicted by the sickness. I believe all 70 men in my unit had contacted malaria at one time or another, and it was in various degrees of seriousness. We also take B1 vitamins daily. I am not at all certain how much good these tablets do. Curiously, three of my men contacted paralysis, feeling absolutely no pain throughout the body. They were evacuated to a hospital complex and I never saw them afterward.

“The only women in the NVA are the nurses who work in hospital complexes. They do not accompany the units into combat. Very seldom did we have sexual contact with them while in the NVA. However, sometimes along the infiltration routes we met women at the communication and liaison stations in North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. . . . The women seemed to

like us very much. We were nice to them, giving them gifts as well as NVA money.

“The Political Officer always told us that if captured we would be tortured and killed. When I was wounded and left behind by my comrades I expected to be killed. Of course now I know differently. After I received medical aid, an ARVN major showed me a South Vietnamese brochure on treatment of prisoners, and it was then that I realized I would not be mistreated or killed.

“I WILL NEVER FORGET the day I was left behind wounded. We had finished our recon of the Ban Me Thuot area and were returning to the base camp area when my unit of eight men became surrounded. Artillery was fired on us and I received a serious wound in the stomach and another wound in the left thigh. I was angered that my men were leaving me, but I knew they had to do it lest they be wounded or captured. I gave my friend my pistol, machine gun, watch, ring and map. I kept only my compass.

“I placed two grenades under me. . . . I was going to use the grenades on my enemies, and if possible, kill them if they indicated that they would mistreat me. Leaving the grenades with the wounded is not our policy—I just thought I might be able to kill some of you.

“Instead of being mistreated, though, I was given medical treatment as soon as I was found. I could have later killed a medic, US captain, and two other men because I was never searched. After the medical treatment my fears vanished and I surrendered the two grenades. . . .

NEXT WEEK: THE CONCLUSION



Listening

A member of one of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's mine-sweeping teams practices his art of clearing a road so vehicles can keep rolling. (USA Photo By SP4 John S. Ryan)

Walking Point Important Job, Calls For Complete Alertness

OASIS — Some soldiers refer to him as the eyes and ears of a patrol. Others think of him as the infantryman's best friend.

Regardless of what descriptive phrases are used, it has been proven, the pointman is an intricate part of any infantry mission. His performance, more than anyone else's in certain cases, can dictate the degree of any success.

“The pointman is one of the main men of the element and he shouldn't forget it,” said Sergeant Larry W. Nobles of Phenix City, Ala., who has seen seven months of combat experience with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry.

Sergeant Nobles and Specialist 4 Lynn Bard of Greenville, Mich., of the Cacti Blue's Company B, are two Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers who have been pointmen on numerous occasions and as such have some definite opinions about walking point.

“A pointman must have combat experience, this isn't a job for someone new in country,” commented Specialist Bard.

Always Alert Asked what the qualities of a

good pointman should be, Sergeant Nobles replied: “He must always be alert and ready for anything.”

“A pointman must always look for obstacles,” adds Specialist Bard, “especially booby traps and enemy bunkers.”

The 3rd Brigade soldier also believes a soldier should be in good physical condition, level-headed, and a man who cannot be easily excited.

The pointman is confronted with numerous obstacles, both physical and mental. The physical obstacles are dependent upon and vary with changes in the terrain.

Look For Unusual The mental obstacles, however, are always present.

What should a pointman look for? Sergeant Nobles and Specialist Bard both agree he has “to watch out for anything out of the ordinary. It could signify trouble.”

“It is a dangerous job and one in which you have to overcome nervousness. In essence the men are depending on you,” theorized Sergeant Nobles.

Specialist Bard admits he has “never really thought” about

the responsibilities he had when walking point. “I was just glad it was over when the time came.”

Perhaps Sergeant Nobles best summarized the duties of a pointman when he said: “It is something you have to have experienced in order to be able to fully understand it.”

NVA Out Of Hiding

OASIS — Utilizing concentrated air and artillery strikes Buffalo Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, have succeeded in driving an estimated battalion sized enemy force from a well concealed bunker complex.

The enemy, occupying a complex of approximately 250 bunkers of various sizes, had been using the area as a base for their operations in the vicinity of Duc Co in the past weeks.

The bunkers, located about nine kilometers west of Duc Co, were discovered by the Aero Rifle Platoon (ARP) of D Troop. During intensive sweep operations, the Famous Fighting Fourth soldiers uncovered a three-room bunker that was used as an operations center and a surrounding mess area.

Also discovered were a makeshift aid station and two observation posts (OP). The OPs, located high in the branches of towering mahogany trees, offered a commanding view of Duc Co.

Joining forces with the 2nd Platoon of C Troop, the ARP continued its sweep of the area uncovering many one and two-man bunkers which were estimated to have been used within the last 24-48 hours.

The sweep of the area also uncovered three NVA bodies buried in shallow graves near a river.

Our Montagnard Neighbors

Jarai Concentrated In Pleiku Province

By ILT Kevin Saso

CAMP ENARI—To the Western mind, the country of South Vietnam is a montage of mystery. Our eyes see strange peoples, our ears hear an undistinguishable language and we find our habits and customs contradicted.

These visible complexities are matched by the historical background, cultural norms and religious beliefs found within the man who inhabits this country.

The Famous Fourth operates in an area that is populated by seven Montagnard tribes, and although each is named, the people vary with each village and hamlet regardless of tribe.

The Jarai, numbering approximately 150,000 persons, form one of the largest tribal groups in South Vietnam. The people are divided into subgroups and spread throughout a large section of the Central Highlands, with a majority concentrated around the city of Pleiku.

Recorded history of the tribe is incomplete as their written language was not developed until the French arrived in the area. Most of their history and customs are kept alive through tribal folklore.

Due to the mountainous terrain inhabited by the Jarai, they experienced little outside aggression. For the most part, the villagers remained in their certain regions, moving only when the land would yield no more rice—which is the staple of their economy and diet.

The tribal history shows that the Jarai did raid other areas and carried a reputation for being fierce warriors. The villagers maintained a tight control over their land and held a distrust for outsiders.

Their independence and resentment of strangers led to a struggle to resist French influence. A schism arose in the tribe when some of the Jarai allied themselves with the French while others joined the Viet Minh forces. This split caused a breakdown of unity within the tribe and forced the peaceful villagers to flee to Cambodia in order to avoid the fighting.

The late 1950's saw the return of many tribesmen to their villages and traditional way of life as the Government of South Vietnam exercised more control over the Central Highlands. This stability and security aided the Jarai in rebuilding their tribal unity.

Today, the Jarai tribesmen have proved to be a determined ally in the struggle to bring peace to their land.

Cacti Blue Soldiers Use Cave As Hideout, Return Unscathed

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS — Three Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers found themselves in a mountain cave with Quirt, a scout dog, "an M16, an M79 and a lot of prayers."

Separated from the rest of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, the men were trapped in a cave as friendly airstrikes pounded enemy bunker complexes in the Chu Prong Mountain area around them.

Pleasant Surprise

Five hours later, Specialist 4 Randy Harritan of Wilmington, N.C., Private First Class Ken Eldridge of Stanton, Mich., and Private First Class Michael Boyle of Overland Park, Kan., provided Company B with a

pleasant surprise as they found their way back to their company's location.

The Cacti Blue troops were elated. Not only had their fellow infantrymen returned safely, but eight NVA had been killed in the fighting.

Three more enemy were killed the following morning as Company B raised its enemy dead to 11 in what started as a search and clear mission of the densely vegetated area.

Harrowing Experience

The harrowing experience for the three soldiers and scout dog began when PFC Eldridge, walking point for the company's Second Platoon, was fired at by an NVA soldier who had darted out from behind a tree.

"I dove behind a nearby tree and lost my M16 and steel pot in

the process," said PFC Eldridge. "Apparently they thought I was dead so three of them came into the open to get my weapon," he continued.

Specialist Harritan, a dog handler who was directly behind the pointman, killed the three NVA with fire from his M16.

In the ensuing firefight, the three infantrymen became separated from their company when they sought cover in a cave.

Couldn't Find Them

Company B proceeded to send a patrol to look for the missing men. Sergeant Larry Nenne of Toluca, Ill., said he called out the names of the men, but received no answer.

"We were afraid to yell because we might give away our position," said PFC Boyle.

"We could see NVA running past the cave," explained PFC Eldridge.

First Lieutenant William Burdick of East Lyme, Conn., Company B commander, said he thought there was "no hope" for the missing soldiers and the scout dog when Sergeant Nenne returned with his negative report.

"I then called in the artillery, gunships and airstrikes to help us against the well entrenched enemy force," explained Lieutenant Burdick.

Shook Up

What were the missing soldiers thinking about when the airstrikes were going on? "It shook us up a little. There we were with an M16, an M79 and a lot of prayers," commented PFC Boyle.



Reflections

Captain Garrett Cowser from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, tired, dirty and hot pauses for a moment to relax after leading his men on missions in the Chu Pa Mountains. (USA Photo By 124TH Sig Bn)

NVA Pays For Shots

POLEI KLENG — While flying a visual reconnaissance mission over a suspected NVA rocket launching position, Captains Germain Gersbach and Clifton Potter of the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery operations section, spotted enemy 122 rockets being fired at the Polei Kleng CIDG camp.

Hovering over the area, the Fourth Division artillery officers observed the near simultaneous flashes of two rockets being fired.

Quickly calling the First Brigade's command post, the men warned, "Two more rounds on their way!" as the enemy weapons sounded again.

Rapid employment of Fourth Division artillery silenced the NVA rocket launchers. After observing a secondary explosion, the artillery captains winged their way to their outpost at Polei Kleng.

Hospital Found...

(Continued From Page 1)

heard gurgling throughout the cave. In all, the one complex could accommodate 12 to 15 patients.

At the top of the ravine were more sleeping positions and a large open pit-like crevice. "This might have been a morgue," commented Specialist 4 Warren Jarrard of Orlando, Fla., Charlie Company's medic. "There was only one entrance and we found several shrouds inside. It was also set apart from the rest of the complex."

Doctor's Area

Specialist Jarrard noted that the sleeping positions at the top of the ravine probably belonged to the doctor and his staff.

The most unique aspect of the sanctuary was the total naturalness of the surroundings. The NVA had taken great pains not to disturb the area, making maximum utilization of the cover and concealment provided by the rock formations.

Engineers from Delta Company, 4th Engineer Battalion were called in to clear the area and to seal off the caves. They also marked the complex by painting the rocks with bright paint, thereby marking the location and hopefully discouraging the enemy from deciding to return.



SGT Jones Survives Ordeal...

(Continued From Page 1)

Overhead, he heard the drone of American gunships. He decided to chance a dash into a nearby clearing to signal the pilot with his mirror. Once in the clearing he jumped down beside a log, lay on his back, and flashed his distress signal skyward toward the sound of the chopper.

Watchful Sniper

"A sniper must have spotted the signal," said Sergeant Jones, "because within a minute I was being fired at. I took off into a heavy woodline."

Each night, Sergeant Jones carefully prepared his hideaway. He would always select a different location. Since US artillery was pounding the enemy hilltop, he invariably sought a resting place near heavy rocks and boulders which would afford him ample protection from shrapnel. He brushed aside leaves on the ground lest he roll over at night and give away his position.

"One night — I think it was the fourth — I woke to very loud voices which seemed to be closing in on my position. I prepared to evade. Then I discovered it was a Chieu Hoi broadcast plane flying overhead. I was quite relieved."

On the fifth day Sergeant Jones heard voices from the opposite ridge. Shouts of 'fire in the hole' carried over to his hideaway, so he knew US Forces were back to blow a landing zone (LZ) and probably make a sweep in search of his body. By the time he traversed to the parallel ridge, the soldiers had gone. Artillery again rained over the area.

Decided To Move

It was on the morning of the

sixth day that Sergeant Jones decided to move toward the sound of the nearest US heavy gun which had continued to shell the enemy hilltop.

"I traveled from first light to dusk. One night I tried to travel by moonlight but it was far too risky. There were too many steep dropoffs and the terrain was too irregular."

By the seventh day Sergeant Jones had diagnosed his head wound as light. He was certain it was healing. His confidence grew, and he began navigating by terrain. Still, he knew caution would be the key to his successful return, so he moved slowly but deliberately.

All went well until the dawn of the eighth day when an episode with a tiger nearly forced him to give away his position. He awoke in the uneasy presence of the huge cat who stood stonelike approximately 15 meters from his location.

"Once I had an experience with one of these cats when I was leading a short range patrol, so this time I was really scared. I reached for my grenade, but I figured the explosion might give away my position. I jumped up, and surprisingly enough, the big cat turned tail and ran. I immediately used my pocket knife to implement a five-foot spear to defend myself against any other wild animals."

The terrain near Landing Zone Mary Lou, 25 kilometers due west of Polei Kleng began to flatten out and the boom of the gun resounded louder and louder. Exhausted and dirty, Sergeant Jones came upon a stream bank and heard American voices. Peering carefully

through the overgrowth he noticed several Americans on the opposite bank providing security while their fellow soldiers were bathing in the water.

"I had been through too much to be shot now, so the first word out of my mouth was 'friendly.' They directed me to a shallow spot and I crossed over with their help. When I told them how long I had been in the jungle humping without a weapon they didn't believe me."

Sergeant Jones was then escorted to the landing zone, where a First Sergeant with a company from the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, immediately notified Sergeant Jones' unit that he was alive.

The sergeant was given a thorough check-up by a medic.

"Aside from losing twenty-five pounds, I was told that I was in good condition. I was fed and given new clothing, but I didn't dress right then, I wanted to swim in the stream!"

"A dust-off took me to the 71st Evac for another physical. Later I was able to contact my parents by phone. They couldn't believe I had made my way back. In fact, near the end of our conversation my dad decided to put me to a final test. He asked, 'What color is our barn, Son?'"

"Charcoal brown, Dad, charcoal brown."

"Thank God, Son."

Today Sergeant John R. Jones of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division is back to tell his story. Truly, it is a manifestation of an infantryman's confidence in himself and his will to survive. There is no doubt in Sergeant Jones' mind that he will see that charcoal brown colored barn again.

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