



Men from the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, find a rice cache hidden in the Dak Pyunh and Dak Truille River system. This was a small portion of the 61,000 pounds of rice that units of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division have collected in the Le Trung District of the Central Highlands. (USA Photo By SP4 John Uhlar)

IVY LEAF



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April 13, 1969

Division's Medics Give Prompt Help

By SP4 Michael O. Jones
HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — It was still early, and the men of Company C, 4th Medical Battalion were having a fairly light day.

A Montagnard boy who had broken his leg in an early-morning accident was resting easily while waiting to be transferred to the 71st Evacuation Hospital.

A Slick, with some men who had been injured, was expected to arrive soon.

Suddenly a call from the communications bunker broke the atmosphere. "A LOH is bringing in one ambulatory and one litter patient."

The reaction was immediate. Men ran toward the helipad to bring the wounded up the hill into which the aid station is built.

The Slick came in just as the Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) landed and soon the treatment room was full of activity.

"The work we do here is mostly geared toward treatment that will take care of injuries requiring immediate attention," Captain Seymour Leiner of Brooklyn, N.Y. said.

"We transfer those who require further treatment to 71st Evacuation Hospital after preliminary care is administered here."

The aid station is at Landing Zone Mary Lou, the base camp of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 2nd Brigade.

It's the first step on the road to recovery for anyone injured (Continued on Back Page)

Allies In 'No Man's Land'

By SP4 John Uhlar
FIREBASE BLACKHAWK — The area is a vast, sparsely settled by nomadic Montagnard tribes, the area is dominated by mile upon mile of rice paddies interspersed

throughout the rocky terrain. A cryptic network of tributaries feeding the Dak Pyunh and Dak Truille river systems has made this area a sanctuary from allied intrusion.

Allies Move
This week, the low rumble of Famous Fighting Fourth Division tanks and armored assault vehicles from Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry; Delta Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry; and Popular Force units from Le Trung District signaled the ominous tones of allied encroachment into No Man's Land.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard A. Miller of Linsay, Okla., 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry commander, pinpointed from the air suspected areas of enemy encampments and food supply depots.

Nearing their target areas, the armored column, which had begun scratching the surface two days before, now was stripping bare what had been a major supply and training facility for Communist personnel.

At least a score of hastily evacuated basecamps, more than 100 bunkers and numerous food supply points were uncovered.

The task force found platoon size sleeping quarters used within the past two days. They also uncovered a huge quantity of rice and bananas concealed in trees, in thickets, and below ground.

Contact was brief but furious. Small enemy units assigned to impede the Famous Fighting Fourth's progress remained behind to salvage what supplies they could and to mine American avenues of approach.

To date, 61,000 pounds of rice, 150 pounds of corn, 100 pounds of bananas, 250 pounds of medical cotton, in addition to assorted military clothing and a small amount of ammo, have been seized.

No Man's Land, which had once afforded Communist units the unparalleled freedom in the Central Highlands, has been successfully penetrated by the Allied Force No. 4.

dom in the Central Highlands, has been successfully penetrated by the Allied Force No. 4.

Win in-C... R And R any... to face Thu then mo... to notice up

One Too Many For The NVA

POLEI KLENG — Charlie fired his 105mm at Landing Zone (LZ) 20 for five days; then he fired once too often and was spotted by a sharp-eyed Forward Air Control (FAC) pilot.

The 1st Brigade's 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry had been receiving 105mm fire at their command post (CP) on LZ 20 for five days, but nobody had been spotted by the source.

Captain John P. Hawley of McKeesport, Pa., who is assigned to Direct Air Support Center Alpha, was flying a normal observation pattern approximately 10 kilometers from LZ 20 he caught sight of two puffs of smoke about 200 meters apart. Immediately he radioed LZ 20 and asked if they had just received two rounds of incoming — the reply was "Roger that!" The source had been discovered.

Alpha Battery, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery, sprung into action. The coordinates Captain Hawley provided were soon bracketed and the order, "fire for effect," was given.

The area where the smoke had been seen was saturated with 105mm fire from Alpha Battery's position 10 kilometers away from the devastating 175mm (Continued on Back Page)

Name 4th Division's Soldiers

What's in a name? It could be a three-day R&R in Vung Tau for you.

The 4th Infantry Division is searching for a name to replace the terms "Ivymen" and "Ivy Division." The person who suggests the name which is finally chosen by a panel of judges will be awarded an in-country R&R.

The name "Ivymen" has served proudly, just as have the men who have borne that name. But it is time for a change. Men who fight as loyally and victoriously as the men of the Famous Fighting Fourth should bear a name more indicative of their battle prowess.

A contest has been organized to encourage suggestions. All officers and enlisted men of the 4th Division are eligible. Suggested names

must be received by the Division PIO not later than April 21, 1969, along with the name, rank and unit of the originator. All suggestions will be considered by a panel of officers and enlisted men and the most suitable name will be adopted. The 4th Division patch will remain the same.

You can use the entry blank below to submit your suggestion. Or, jot down your idea, together with your name and unit, on a piece of paper and give it to your unit PIO, IVY LEAF stringer or headquarters for relay to the Division PIO. Suggestions will also be taken by phone at Camp Enari 154.

Don't waste any time. Your suggestion could mean a new name for the Division and a three-day R&R for you.

WIN A 3DAY R-R IN VUNG TAU!



NAME THE 4TH DIVISION!! MY SUGGESTION FOR A NAME TO REPLACE

"Ivy" NAME _____ COMPANY _____ UNIT _____

SEND ENTRY TO 4TH DIV. PIO THROUGH YOUR PIO, UNIT STRINGER, OR LINE HEADQUARTERS, OR CAMP ENARI 154.

ALL 4TH DIVISION PERSONNEL OF ALL RANKS ARE ELIGIBLE. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS 21 APRIL

From The Desk of
the
Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Marijuana Control

THE USE OF MARIJUANA, barbiturates, stimulants and narcotics throughout the Republic of South Vietnam has reached extremely dangerous proportions. Hence, I want to make the following points clear to each man in this Division.

In regard to marijuana, there are some dangerous misconceptions. Claims have been made that it has no harmful side effects and that it can be stopped at will. This is not so. The Council on Mental Health and the Committee on Drug Dependence of the American Medical Association have recently stated in no uncertain terms that marijuana is a dangerous drug and a public health concern.

The marijuana available in Vietnam is potent and does produce moderately severe intoxication. It also produces changes in behavior that may be harmful to the user as well as those around him. Numerous incidents involving weapons, grenades, and vehicle accidents can be traced to marijuana and other drugs.

Here in Vietnam your life and those of your buddies depend on alertness and quick reaction. Marijuana robs soldiers of this type of response.

IT IS TRUE THAT there is no physical addiction to marijuana, but there is a very strong psychological dependence on the drug which has the same consequence. More important, the use of opium and heroin is increasing at an alarming rate and is always associated with the previous use of marijuana.

Once one becomes psychologically dependent, the need for the drug increases, and so does the amount of money needed to obtain the drug.

This places people in a position where they have to obtain money by illegal means such as theft or selling information or other goods. Users are also often singled out for blackmail. The penalties for being convicted of carrying or using marijuana are strict in the military and even more so in civilian life.

The short-lived kick from marijuana and other drugs is not worth your life, either on the battlefield or in your future at home. Psychological dependence on drugs here will be carried home, and instead of building a future for yourself, you will be a social outcast without family, friends, or job.

So why even try it? It is not worth it. For those who have tried it and want to stop each day... the move today!

CSM Taylor Speaks Out



Power Of Attorney

BEFORE SERVICEMEN EXECUTE a power of attorney, they should stop a second and think what the power of attorney means.

Power of attorney is that authority you give someone to act in any legal act for you in your absence.

Powers of attorney are of two types—general and special. A general power of attorney, not limited as to duration, is generally regarded as continuing until the power is revoked by the death of the principal or by an act of the principal. Therefore, it is advisable to insert a termination clause in all powers, usually for the period of an overseas tour.

The general power of attorney gives a person the authority to act in your absence on any legal act — buying a car, selling your home or taking money from your account.

On the other hand, a special power of attorney is limited to the specific act described in the instrument. Examples would be receipt or indorsement of treasury checks, shipment of household goods or real estate transactions.

General powers of attorney are very dangerous instruments in the hands of persons inexperienced in business matters, persons of unstable temperament, or in the hands of a wife when the marriage has reached the breaking point.

ANOTHER POINT TO TAKE into consideration are state laws regarding powers of attorney. Some states require that the power be recorded. If so, when the power is revoked, that also must be recorded or you are still liable for any debts incurred by the person holding the power.

Power of attorney can be revoked by a written notice to the person holding the power or it can be revoked orally. This notice is in effect when it has been received by the holder and is witnessed by a third party.

It is recommended that power of attorney be issued only when there is either an immediate need or there appears to be a need for this instrument. In addition, under no circumstances should an unrestricted general power of attorney be used or reproduced unless it contains a specific terminal date or other provisions for revocation.

Chaplain's Message

WHILE IN "THE NAM" or back in "The World," how often have you heard someone interject these words into a conversation: "It doesn't matter what you believe, just as long as you believe." No doubt you have heard this philosophy vocalized more than once.

Maybe you have uttered similar words yourself. When you sit down and think about it, how does this philosophy strike your sense of logic? Are beliefs so trivial, so unimportant that it doesn't make any difference what you believe?

Two centuries ago when a man became ill and had to be confined to bed it was common practice to "let" his blood. According to the belief of that day, once his bad blood had been drained off he would be restored to health.

To the consternation of many, however, after a series of blood lettings were inflicted on the sick man, he, as a rule, took a turn for the worse rather than for the better. An amazingly high percentage never recovered from the ordeal. They simply expired.

THE NEXT TIME YOU become ill, do you want someone to drain your blood into a cup? Evidently beliefs do matter in the field of medicine.

In sociology, psychology, astronomy, physics, and almost any other field of human endeavor, what you believe, in the final analysis, is deemed to be of vital importance too.

When it comes to religion, however, the value of beliefs is negated by popular opinion. This is where the refrain, "It doesn't matter what you believe, just as long as you believe," strikes with all its fury. Can it be that religion is so far removed from all other areas of life?

SUPPOSE TWO MEN believe in God and their thoughts on who God is are diametrically opposed. One man believes in a distant, remote, absentee God who has not the faintest interest in this twirling little speck of dust on which we live. The other

man believes in a personal God of love who takes an active interest in us by becoming one of us; by living with us, eating our bread, bleeding our blood, and dying our death.

He triumphs over death and promises to stick with us through thick and thin in time and all eternity. Can you honestly say that the respective beliefs of these two men will have no effect on their lives as they encounter the daily stresses and strains of life?

Is it possible that even religious beliefs matter?

MARS Installed At Highlander Heights

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — A newly constructed Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS) hookup for the 2nd Brigade is closing the gap between the infantry soldier and home.

Telephone calls, relayed by radio, are now being sent to friends, wives, and parents anywhere in the United States.

The major problem was gathering the electronic equipment but within 60 days the Collins Radio Equipment especially designed for MARS stations was acquired from USARV in Saigon.

Three days later a special MARS team consisting of 1st Lieutenant Owen F. Pharr of Jacksonville, Fla., Staff Sergeant William Doherty of Westchester, Pa., Specialists 4 Dennis Spiegelman of Hollywood, Calif., and Edward Nestor of

New Orleans, came up to the Highlander Brigade and went to work setting up the system.

The first attempt to contact "the world" was successful. Now Highlanders and other units serving with the 2nd Brigade can place a call home by merely submitting their name and waiting for the MARS personnel to connect them with their party.

The MARS station should be able to make over 300 calls a month, almost 10 times more than when the station was first installed.

In addition to phone calls, the station has MARS-grams which are messages of 25 words or less and are free of charge.

"The primary mission of the MARS program is to back up military security in case of radio failure. The secondary mission and the one that gets the greatest use is providing a call home for the fighting Ivymen," stated Lieutenant Pharr.

The cost for making a MARS call is charged to the receiving party and the charge begins from the point where the MARS station makes contact in the states to the party. The price of a call may vary from 10 cents to the maximum rate for three minutes and calls are limited to one call per month per person.

If an emergency arises a five minute call can be made, with the help of the Red Cross.

"Our aim is to be able to bring in a few men from a unit each day so they can say hello and let their folks know they are well," said Sergeant Doherty.

Epidemic Ends With Doc's Helping Hand

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — A spreading epidemic of bubonic plague was quickly brought under control by the alert efforts of Captain James Shuster of Milwaukee, Wis., a surgeon from the Famous Fighting Fourth's 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry.

The Montagnard village of Prei Kong Brech, located seven miles east of Camp Enari, received Captain Shuster's life-saving serum after it was reported that eight villagers had died within a two-day span. Fifteen others were in critical condition with painful, inflamed lymph gland, a primary symptom of the plague.

Serum Given — Once antibiotics, streptomycin and tetracycline, were administered by the Panther surgeon and his med, Specialist 5 John Smith of Hnon, N.Y., further deaths were averted and the painful sufferings alleviated.

In this case, as in most others, the plague was transmitted by fleas. Montagnards cook with a wooden fire, and store food in their huts. While eating, scraps of food and other particles fall in and between the matting of wooden floors. Rats are dug beneath the floors for food, and the warmth from both the fires and the bodies of people attract the fleas to carry. Fleas spread bubonic bacteria and their contact with the Montagnards usually ends the plague epidemic.

"Most of the villagers were a little skeptical about needles and shots," Captain Shuster explained. "We had to convince them that the injections were essential to life itself."

Many lives were saved because of the rapid implementation of the program.

Near Death — "We had one elderly man lingering near death with plague when we arrived," the captain recounted. "His vision was failing, he was unable to walk and he generally appeared to be hopeless in respect to a full recovery."

"He is up and around now, however, and seems to be enjoying normal health. This came as a real pleasant surprise to us."

The immunizations were administered within two weeks to more than 1,500 villagers; a tribute goes to the Panther's medical team and to the entire battalion effort for both the power of persuasion as well as its efficiency.



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Golden Dragons' Scout

Thu Died Death Of Hero



"... and made hand signals toward . . . enemy's 82mm mortars." (Artistry By SP4 Carson Waterman)

CAMP ENAR—During the six months that Nguyen Thu had served with the Famous Fighting Fourth Division as a Kit Carson scout, he had garnered a fine reputation as an outstanding professional soldier.

The men of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, knew they could depend upon his cunning and courage as he moved them through the heavy jungle undergrowth of the Central Highlands. More than once he had sensed the presence of an enemy element which might have posed a deadly threat to the Golden Dragons, and more than once he had succeeded in warning the Americans of impending danger.

Thu was familiar with all the indicators of enemy

movement and could recognize all Viet Cong and NVA trail markings. Less than a year ago, the thirty-two-year-old Thu had been a platoon leader with a hard-core Viet Cong unit operating in the Bong Son area. He served with the unit for nearly four years.

Left Behind

A veteran of numerous firefights initiated against ARVN units, Thu was finally wounded in action and left by the communist sympathizers to shift for himself in the jungle. He decided to Chieu Hoi and later volunteered for the Kit Carson Scout program. After completing the rigorous training he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, where he had served since August 3, 1968.

Two weeks ago Nguyen Thu was killed in action during heavy contact with an estimated NVA company. His actions before his death were instrumental in saving many American lives.

Alpha Company, commanded by Captain Ronald W. Allan of Toledo, Ohio, was on a reconnaissance in force mission four kilometers southwest of Polei Kleng, when the lead platoon of the company came face to face with the point element of an NVA company near the top of a ridge line.

Moved To Point

Thu, whose usual position was with the company's headquarters element, that day had been moving with the point platoon. As initial fires were exchanged and

both forces began pulling back, Thu skirted the ridge line and quickly evaluated the enemy strategy.

Within minutes he raced back to Captain Allan, who was located near the middle of the column formation, to report the enemy positions.

But Thu was far too excited by what he saw to speak coherently, so he had to resort to sign language. He held the palm of his hand before Captain Allan and drew a horseshoe shape with the number "100" at the top, indicating to Allan that the NVA had pulled back down the ridge and had prepared a horseshoe-type perimeter composed of at least 100 men.

Allan reacted immediately, ordering his company into a hasty perimeter defensive position, and began to call in artillery and air strikes on the opposite side of the ridge.

Tubes Silenced

Meanwhile Thu raced back to the top of the ridge and made hand gestures toward the direction of the enemy's 82mm mortars whose rounds were raining down on Alpha Company. Eventually the tubes were silenced and the NVA broke contact, leaving 10 of their dead behind.

Thu then moved over the ridge and began to police up NVA weapons, packs, and equipment. As he moved forward to check an NVA body for documents, he was killed by a sniper's bullet.

Nguyen Thu had proved his courage and his devotion to his American friends for the last time. Last week his body was returned to Bong Son, where he was given a hero's burial.

Daily Walk Keeps Highway 14 Free Of Enemy Road Mines

By **SP4 Michael O. Jones**
Highlander Heights — As the fog lifts each morning near Kontum City, a group of men is already on its delicate trip to Dak To.

It's their responsibility, each day, to make sure that Highway 14 is free of mines and may be traveled safely by civilians and friendly military units.

They are members of Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry. Staff Sergeant Augustine Petermann of Salt Lake City, Utah, is a platoon sergeant with the unit, and he has been sweeping the Central Highlands for mines ever since he joined the Famous Fighting Fourth Division two years ago when the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry came in-country.

"We get up early each morning and get ready to take that long walk. It's about 40 kilometers from here to Dak To, and someone has to be walking all the time.

"The platoons split the job so that we all walk just about one-fourth of the way.

"We have electric devices to aid us in detecting mines, but the most effective weapon by far is still an alert soldier.

"You learn some of the enemy's tricks after a while, and you become aware of some of the things that you need to look for.

"A mine was spotted not long ago by one of our men who noticed there was a slight covering of dust on some pebbles in the road, and not on others.

"The gravel had been placed in a hole in the road the day before. Evidently an enemy soldier saw the ready-made hole, and slipped a mine into it.

"Since December 20, 160 mines have been discovered on the highway, so we have to be even more careful than usual now that the enemy has stepped up his activity.

"One of our biggest assets on the road is our Kit Carson scout. He can tell within two hours when a footprint was made. If it was made in the early morning we can be fairly sure a mine is in the area.

According to Captain Daniel Deeter, troop commander, Sergeant Petermann is one of the best mine-sweepers he's ever worked with.

"It takes patience, skill and courage to do this kind of job. Especially when a man does it day after day.

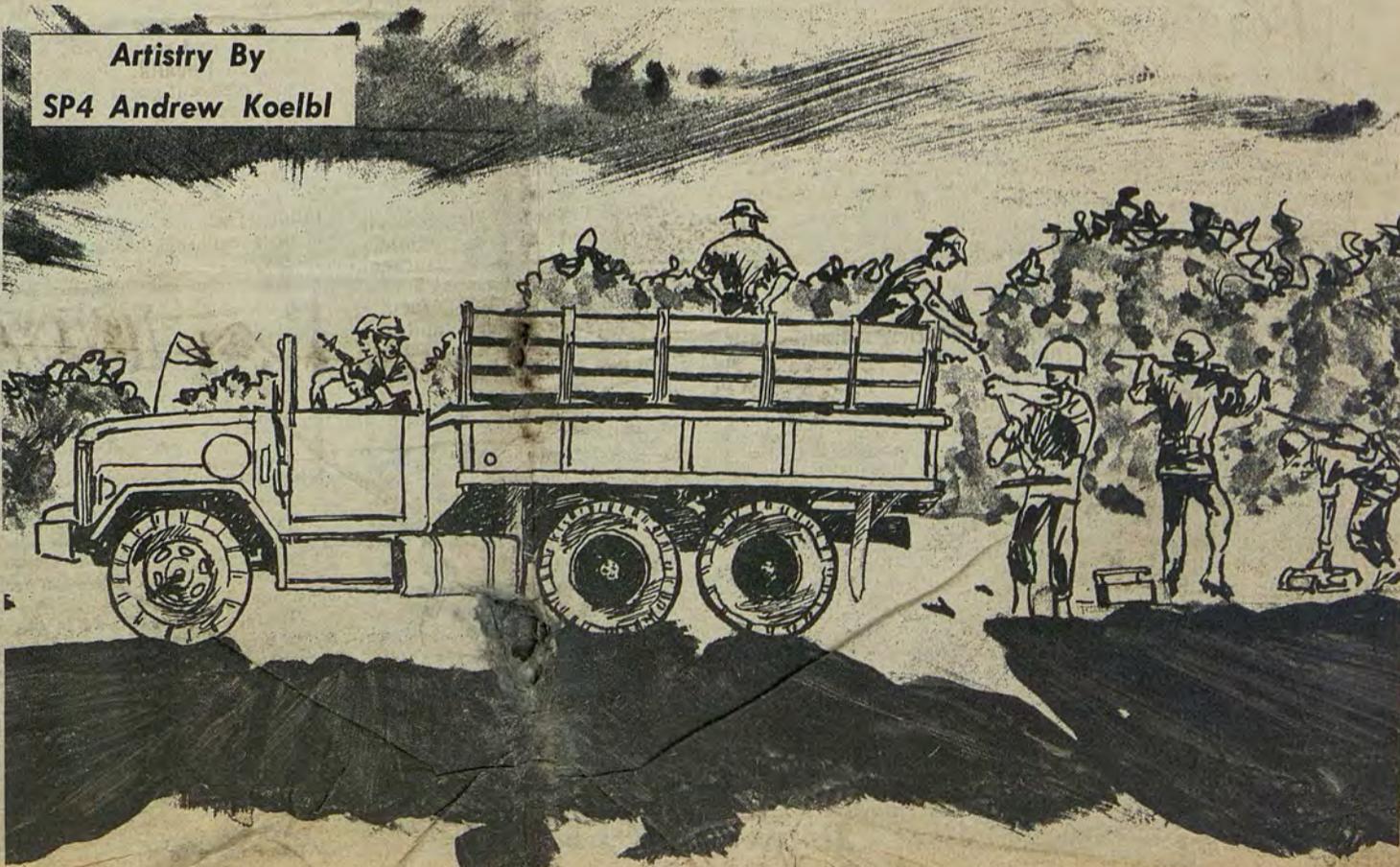
"We get hit with a degree of regularity. Nothing real big, but snipers sometimes hang around waiting for us.

"We have armored vehicles with us so that we're able to handle whatever contact we encounter. If the contact is heavy we call in gunships.

"The first few days you're out on that road before the sun is very high it is a little eerie," Captain Deeter explained.

Sergeant Petermann said, "the walk is the same each day, and you get used to it, but it surely never gets boring."

Artistry By
SP4 Andrew Koelbl



"Since December 20, 160 Mines Have Been Discovered On The Highway..."

Blackhawks Pause To Mark 136th Anniversary

Tough Assignment Now As Always For Cavalry

By SFC Ben Casey

FIREBASE BLACKHAWK — One of the oldest tactical units in the United States Army paused briefly from its task of guarding Highway 19E to observe its 136th Anniversary.

The unit, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, was organized in 1833 and has been active since that time except for a brief period between World War II and the Korean conflict.

During the brief ceremony at their Blackhawk headquarters, 17 men were presented medals for valor and meritorious service by the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's Commanding General, Major General Donn R. Pepke.

And while the Division band played the familiar Cav song, "The Yellow Rose of Texas," General Pepke, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Richard A. Miller, squadron commander, inspected the contingent of troops formed for the ceremony.

In recounting the glorious history of the 1st Cavalry, Colonel Miller noted that "our mission here in the Central Highlands is much like that of the 1st Cavalry of yesteryear."

During the early development years of the United States, the 1st Cavalry was organized primarily for protecting the Western Frontier from Indian attacks on settlers. Its duties ranged from escorting wagon trains across the plains to guarding forts and towns in the turbulent west.

Today, 136 years later, the men of the 1st Cavalry are performing the same job—guarding the vital supply route between Pleiku and Qui Nhon and providing escort for the many units utilizing the roads and highways between Qui Nhon and the Cambodian border.

The Vietnam conflict is not the first for

the Cav. It has been involved in more campaigns than any other unit in the U.S. Army, having over 70 campaign streamers on its regimental colors.

The Blackhawks have earned streamers for the Mexican War, the Civil War, Indian War and World War II. Several of the streamers from the earlier wars are inscribed with the same dates, but with different battlesites, indicating that the unit had troops operating in several areas during a single conflict.

In 1933, the 1st Cavalry marked another first in their long history. Having been the first horse unit organized, the unit became the first U.S. Army unit to become fully mechanized. It has served with three of the four armored divisions active today.

THE MEN OF the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, have kept the Cav tradition and heritage intact. Since arriving in Vietnam August 9, 1967, the unit has bolstered the Famous Fighting Fourth's ability in securing the Central Highlands, especially the vital supply routes.

Anyone travelling to Blackhawk headquarters along Highway 19E will note the armored might of the 1st Cavalry guarding the bridges and roadway against any enemy attack. Troops of the unit are also instrumental in ridding the highway of attempted mine planting by the enemy.

Colonel Miller noted in closing, "Even though our mounts are different, the tactics are the same as in the early days. In those days it was the settlers who were being attacked by the Indians. Today, we guard beleaguered villages and roadways from attacks by the Viet Cong."

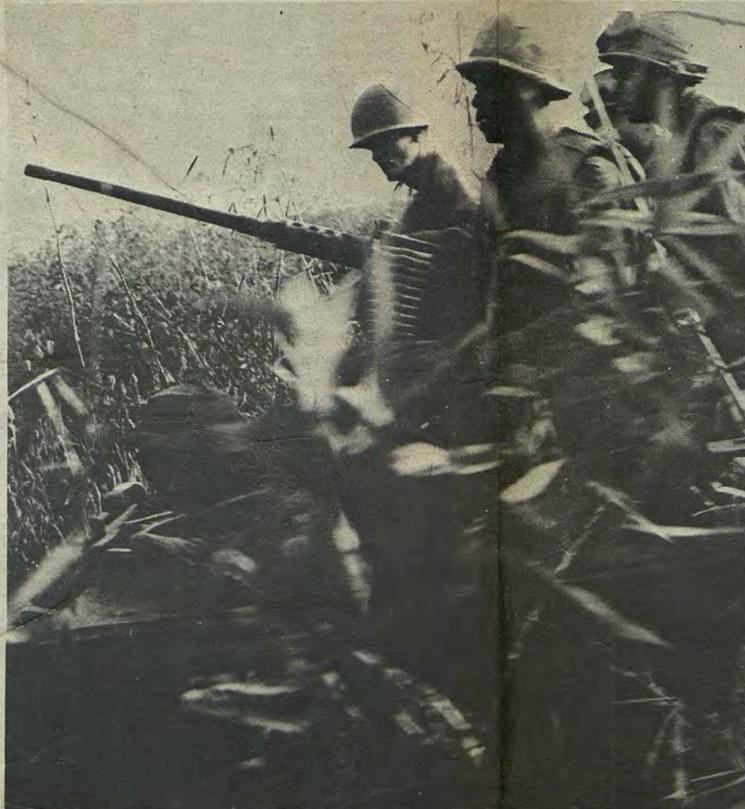
He also concluded, "In wishing us a happy birthday, we should do it in the same tradition of those who preceded us. We have a great heritage."



Here, A Blackhawk APC Heads Into The Fast Moving Dak Pyunh River.



Tanks And APCs Leave Blackhawk Headed For Highway 19E.



All Hands Are Alert When The Cav Makes A Sweep.



Cavmen Await The Short Ceremony At Firebase Blackhawk Honoring Their 136 Years.



One Of The Cav's Big Tanks Is Moved Into Position Along Highway 19E.

Photography By SP5 Robert G. Frechette, SP4 John Uhlar And PFC John D. Warwick

Kill Eight Enemy

Bisons' Choppers Deadly

By SP4 David Himmel
OASIS — The swift-reacting pilots from the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, repelled an attack on a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp and netted eight enemy dead in the bargain.

While conducting a sweep operation southwest of Plei Mrong the camp became pinned down

by a barrage of B40 and automatic weapons fire from an estimated NVA platoon firing from bunkers. They needed support fast.

"We were performing a visual near Plei D'jereng when the call came over the radio explaining the situation," recalled Major William C. Schweitzer, Delta Troop commanding officer, who was flying lead for the VR.

Arriving over the contact area the Light Observation Helicopters (LOH) marked the enemy position, which gave the Cobras, flying cover above them, targets at which to expend their lethal ordnance.

When the firing died down the LOHs went back in to assess the damage and discovered the enemy had fled, leaving behind two dead.

Scouting the area by air, the shamrock pilots spotted 15 more NVA a short distance away. Fire was exchanged, bringing the total NVA killed to eight.

"We are in the air during the majority of the daylight hours," said Major Schweitzer. "It is our job to lead support as fast as possible to any of the squadron's ground elements whenever and wherever it is needed."

This is a fact of life for the men of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry. It is a lesson that Charlie has had to learn the hard way.

Division Spelunkers Keeping In Practice

OASIS — The men of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, are slowly becoming geologists in their pursuit of the NVA.

The Cacti Blue have been sweeping the rugged slopes of the Chu Prong Mountains 11 miles south of Kontum in an effort to deny the 24th NVA Regiment a previously impregnable sanctuary.

Accumulating intelligence reports had long indicated that the unique cave and rock formations of the Chu Prong held an enemy base camp.

Intelligence soon became knowledge when the Cacti Blue swept through a rock-filled ravine containing what was believed to have been an NVA battalion-sized aid station. Concentrating their sweep in the area of the find, the elements of the battalion were alerted for any similar rock formations.

Find Fortress

Two days later, their efforts were rewarded when the Reconnaissance Platoon crested a hill and walked down into a ravine filled with boulders up to 20 feet in diameter. Climbing down into the numerous holes and crevices the Recon Platoon discovered a fortress 200 meters long capable of holding an NVA Battalion.

The complex contained many rooms ranging in size from two-man sleeping positions to an amphitheater, capable of seating a company-sized force. One portion of the network had three levels of rooms. Water was provided by an underground stream that ran the length of the ravine. Bamboo poles and ladders had been constructed to provide escape routes and easy access from one level to another.

"In certain corridors we could stand up, while in others we had to stoop to get through," stated Recon Platoon Sergeant James F. Tibbit of Leesville, La., "Some of the entrances were so narrow only the smallest men in our platoon could get through."

Recently Used

No enemy resistance was met

Help From Little Girl

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — A little Montagnard girl who was always on Highway 14 near her village of Dien Binh to meet the daily mine sweeping team waved a little more emphatically one day and the team stopped to see what she was anxious about.

The men from Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry stopped to investigate and discovered two VC wooden type mines placed in the road.

Starr Sergeant Augustin Petermann of Salt Lake City, Utah, a member of the troop, said "We waved to her every day; I guess that kind of friendship pays off."

during the search of the complex. Artillery preparation fires in the area had apparently forewarned the NVA of an impending sweep, and they had fled.

"Bomb strikes might have shaken them up a good deal," said Sergeant Tibbit, "But the only thing that could dig them out of those caves would be an infantry unit on the ground."

The pursuit of the NVA continues in the Chu Prong mountain area as the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry and other elements of the 3rd Brigade remain locked on the enemy.

General's Aide

Specialist 4 David K. Meyercord of Dallas, Tex., was selected as the Commanding General's enlisted aide for the week.

Specialist Meyercord is a team leader with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry. Prior to entering the Army he was a student at Dartmouth College, majoring in History. He plans to go to law school upon completing his service commitment.

Quirte Surprises Colonel, Not Cacti Blue

OASIS — The astonished colonel looked with amazement as he was introduced to the combat hero, a massive German shepherd.

Colonel Richard L. Gruenther, commander of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 3rd Brigade, had requested a meet-

ing with Quirte, the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, 'soldier' who had killed three NVA to save the lives of two of his fellow infantrymen in a firefight in the Chu Prong Mountain range southeast of Kontum.

While the Cacti Blue's Company B was engaged in contact,

Colonel Gruenther's helicopter was hovering over the battle area and the 3rd Brigade commander was interested by the radio reports from the ground which were praising Quirte's actions.

So when Colonel Gruenther visited Landing Zone (LZ) Va-

lentine, the battalion firebase, he asked Lieutenant Colonel James E. Price, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry commander, to arrange for him to meet Quirte.

That's when Colonel Gruenther was treated to his surprise. He was directed to a bunker and there was Quirte—a German shepherd. "Naturally, I was a bit surprised," commented a smiling Colonel.

It was then explained to Colonel Gruenther that Quirte's handler, Specialist 4 Randy Harritan of Wilmington, N. C., was the soldier responsible for the heroic deeds.

Actually, the colonel's bewilderment was quite understandable. Unknown to anyone else, the name Quirte and that of his handler have become synonymous to Bravo Company.

Specialist Harritan and Quirte were part of a Company B patrol which had come under enemy fire. When the NVA fire pinned down the first two members of the patrol, Specialist Harritan opened fire with his M16 and killed three NVA, aiding the other two soldiers, one of whom had lost his weapon while evading the enemy fire.

The three soldiers and Quirte then were separated from the company and spent five hours in a cave as friendly airstrikes pounded enemy bunker complexes.

Colonel Gruenther was pleased to meet Specialist Harritan for more than one reason. "I not only wanted to congratulate the soldier for a job well done, but I wanted to make sure the German shepherd hadn't killed three enemy with an M16. That would have really been a story," laughed the colonel.



Pause That Refreshes

Nothing tastes better than water especially on a hot day in the Central Highlands. This Cacti Green soldier from the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, dips his canteen into a cool mountain stream and waits patiently for it to fill so that he can add purification tablets and take a drink.

(USA Photo By SP4 John Ryan)



"Quirte And Friends Were Separated From The Company And Spent Five Hours In a Cave As Friendly Airstrikes Pounded Enemy Bunker Complexes."

Lt X Tells Personal Thoughts

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 VI

I DON'T KNOW HOW you could convince other NVA soldiers that ARVNs do not kill or torture prisoners. One way might be to let some NVA captured by ARVN return to their units. However, I think that if I were released and went back to rejoin my unit I would be watched very closely at all times. . . .

"The only soldiers who enjoy being in the NVA are the young hot-blooded ones. Most of us are merely draftees who do not enjoy the struggle. We do grow accustomed to some of the hardships. We don't care about not getting paid, for example, because there would be nowhere to spend the money. Very frequently we are faced with food and equipment shortages, which definitely affects troop morale.

"The North Vietnamese soldier is superior to the ARVN, but the ARVN can rely on artillery support. The American soldier is strong and more intelligent than the NVA soldier, but he is not familiar with the terrain of the countryside, which is a marked disadvantage. The US soldier is also very noisy when navigating the terrain.

"I do not know if we are trying to force Communism on South Vietnam or not. I don't think this war can be won by military might. The military activities are merely in support of the political struggle. Yes, I have heard of the peace talks over radio Hanoi, but I have no opinion regarding them. I think the only answer is a North Vietnam and a South Vietnam. There are just too many differences on each side. Once divided the country should be controlled by an International Commission at the DMZ. The UN cannot control it since they would over-simplify the problem as Communism versus the Free World.

I WAS STILL IN North Vietnam when last year's Tet offensive started. According to radio reports, the NVA had achieved great victories. After my infiltration I saw that it was quite the opposite. . . . The people in North Vietnam are like the deaf and the blind — they are not aware of what is actually going on, they believe only in what the communists tell them.

"Our leaders are speaking erroneously, they are lying to us. Yet if we refuse to fight our families will be harassed by the government. I would suggest that you

exploit this type of propaganda. Nothing of the truth is broadcast to the North Vietnamese people or the NVA soldiers so the fact that our families are being harassed cannot affect the morale of our troops. . . .

"I have heard of the Chieu Hoi program but I do not know exactly what it is. I also heard a little about it from one of the airplanes, but I and my men paid little attention to it since the voice sounded so insincere. I have also seen lots of the psyops leaflets but they seemed to make little impression on the NVA soldiers.

IF THE AMERICANS WERE to let the South Vietnamese put the ideas into poetry the leaflets would be much more successful. The Vietnamese are a very poetic people. I and all the men in my unit knew the lines to one of the poems used by the South Vietnamese. The best way to tell of good will is through poetry, and we thought of these lines very often:

Since I have been away from you while following my comrades into Laos and then in Central Vietnam along mountain trails, being sunburned by the sun near the coastal area, I have suffered all kinds of hardships. The age of youth is similar to a blossom of a flower. Due to the cost of peace we do not fear difficulties. During six months of day movement and night rest I have worn my boot soles and shirt collars. . . . Oh, wise Mother, I remember our home. In the evening our house is covered by the shadow of the sweet melon vine and I am sorry that my hand has committed a crime.

Enemy Attack Doesn't Stop Lady Physician

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — For a longer time than historians dare estimate, Montagnards have lived in a primitive culture that tolerated disease as a normal part of life.

Their attempts to ease suffer-

ing and cure sickness were hampered by their lack of medical knowledge. Little that was constructive was accomplished in their treating of disease.

"I came to Vietnam to treat the sick and the poor, and the

Montagnards were certainly the sickest and the poorest in Kontum Province," said Dr. Pat Smith.

Ten years ago as a young and progressive female doctor from Seattle, Wash. Dr. Smith de-

cidated to dedicate her medical knowledge to the needy of Vietnam.

"It seemed obvious to me that the Montagnards needed the most help," Dr. Smith recalled.

She established the Kontum City Catholic Mission in 1959 and began her treatment of the sick. From the beginning she was confronted with problems. She was forced to travel to each village to treat her new patients. The Montagnards, at first, not certain they could trust the light-skinned Westerner, soon, after a few experiences with the new doctor, believed, trusted and respected her.

New Facility

From the young doctor's lonely travels between hamlets there has now evolved a 140-patient hospital and a busy out-patient clinic.

Originally, Dr. Smith had planned to stay in Vietnam for two years.

"I had hardly scratched the surface in two years," she recalled. "And I was so depressed about the amount of disease which confronted the Montagnard people; I felt I must stay and do whatever I could."

Constructing a hospital four kilometers outside of Kontum City, Dr. Smith started her rigorous new career of treating Montagnards — a task which not only meant giving up the conveniences of home, but one which also demanded a 24-hour working day — seven days a week.

The hospital was untouched by NVA or VC for six years — then came the 1968 TET offensive. There were no limits to the enemy's violence during that period, and Dr. Smith's hospital was partially destroyed, patients killed and a German nurse captured.

"At about three that morning I was awakened by the sound of fire from the enemy around the hospital and American helicopters in the air above. I wasn't too worried for it had happened many times before and it would usually end in a few minutes.

"All fell silent again and I thought it was over — then I heard one of the patients scream. I was about to go check and the explosions started. The enemy was throwing satchel charges into the hospital.

"Finally, I heard our dogs bark at the far corner of the property and I figured they had gone. I left my room to check damages. I found that they had killed my lab assistant with a satchel charge and destroyed the lab.

"Also they had selected four patients, three women and a small boy, and had shot them in front of the hospital. Luckily they were only wounded and we were able to save them. I also noticed my German nurse Sonata was missing and according to the Montagnards, she had been taken prisoner.

"The next morning we packed our equipment and moved to Kontum City, where the Catholic Diocese gave us an abandoned school to set-up another hospital, the hospital we are presently using."

Through the years, Dr. Smith has mastered the Montagnard dialect, Bahnar, which has allowed her and a handful of assistants to train numerous Vietnamese and Montagnards as nurses and aides.

"They started as maids, cleaners and carpenters and we've trained them in the medical field to become competent and valuable assistants," Dr. Smith explained.

Needs Supplies

At the present time the hospital receives supplies from various sources. According to Dr. Smith, most of the supplies are procured through contributions, "we'll accept anything from anybody."

The 2nd Brigade Highlanders provide whatever medical supplies they have in excess.

Another source of aid from the Highlanders is Captain Hyman Miller of Brooklyn, N.Y., a 2nd Brigade surgeon. According to Dr. Smith, Dr. Miller does most of the surgery.

"I help whenever I can get a few hours off my normal duties," said Dr. Miller. "Dr. Smith is doing an outstanding job and has kept up on all the medical developments back in the States.

"I thank the 2nd Brigade for its MEDCAPs," Dr. Smith concluded. "Without them I would still have to visit the distant villages, and I just don't have the time. As it is now, American soldiers help by treating villagers away from the city."



Pretty And Efficient

Miss Cathy Morris, a registered nurse from New York, prepares a syringe with serum for a patient's injection in Dr. Pat Smith's hospital outside Kontum City. The 22-year-old nurse has been working with the Montagnards in Kontum Province for the last 6 months. The Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 2nd Brigade provides medical supplies and assistance whenever they are available to help Dr. Smith's work in the Central Highlands.

(USA Photo by SP5 Mike Cobb)

Kill 4 NVA

Change Mission

By PFC Thomas W. Baker

CAMP ENARI — It was mid-morning when Charlie Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, under the operational control of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division, was momentarily sidetracked from its primary mission.

The Ruthless Riders were initially slated to perform a routine bomb damage assessment mission over an area 38 kilometers north-west of Kontum.

The temporary diversion, however, paid off in a handsome dividend for the air troop as they chalked up four quick kills.

As the command and control ship from Charlie Troop, commanded by Major Jerry G. Ledford of Kingsport, Tenn., winged toward a suspected enemy 105mm artillery emplacement which had been pounded earlier by air strikes and Fourth Division artillery fire. Chief Warrant Officer Robert Mitchells of Xenia, Ohio, spotted seven NVA soldiers moving through the open terrain.

"On the first pass," said CWO Mitchells, "I noticed they were

armed with AK47s and dressed in short pants and khaki shirts."

Mr. Mitchells then made a circular swoop over the clearing while Major Ledford double-checked to insure that friendly troops were not in the area.

On the second pass only two NVA were spotted. They were lurking behind trees at the edge of the clearing and did not fire on the aircraft.

Ledford directed another quick visual recon of the area and then decided to call in Cobra gunships and air strikes.

Four Cobras, piloted by 1st Lieutenant Royal Latshaw and Warrant Officers John Everhart, Charles McMills and Richard Schuler, made several passes over the area, raking the tree line with rockets and minigun fire.

Major Ledford continued to direct the Cobra strikes. Mr. Mitchells finally noticed an NVA body.

"I see one NVA near the edge of the clearing," CWO Mitchells reported.

"You're looking real good, Cobras; make one more pass," coaxed Major Ledford.

Another pass followed, and four NVA bodies were spotted.

Specialist 4 Arthur Rielly of Bellerose, N.Y., then noticed what appeared to be cave entrances near the point of contact. He pointed them out to Major Ledford, who called in Sky-raidiers to drop their payload on the area.

The Cav Troop then went on to perform their primary mission. For good measure they spotted not only the destroyed 105mm artillery piece, but some vehicle tracks which had been made within the past 48 hours.

Attack Is Fruitless

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — When the NVA shattered the morning quiet on Landing Zone (LZ) Incoming; west of Kontum, with accurate mortar fire, they received both a little more and a little less than they bargained for.

A 2nd Brigade Ranger team on a nearby hill watched and counted 40 deadly accurate mortar hits on the LZ. The Famous Fighting Fourth team called in devastating artillery fire on the NVA position.

Instant artillery on their heads was more than they expected.

They would also have been surprised to discover that the hill was not occupied. Their attack was futile. Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, had pulled out just hours before the mortar barrage.

Medics Give Immediate Aid...

(Continued From Page 1)
in the Highlander's area of operation.

"We treat civilians, ARVN soldiers, our own troops and enemy soldiers who are wounded," Captain Leiner reported.

"Our duties and capabilities are quite diverse. We take care of sick call here. We have laboratory, x-ray, and dental facilities as well.

"Our facilities are used by other hospitals in the area and we often consult with other doctors when they request our professional opinion," Captain Leiner said.

Major surgery is seldom performed by the doctors at the aid

station, but if it's necessary to save a life the doctors operate without hesitation.

One Too Many...

(Continued From Page 1)
fire from the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp at Ben Het, 23 kilometers away.

The CIDER FAC reported two secondary explosions below. Shortly a check fire was called and the 1st Brigade's Hummingbird 3, piloted by Warrant Officer Homer Bentley of Atlanta, Ga., dropped down to take a closer look. He reported numerous bunkers and one 105mm gun destroyed.

CIDER then notified Mr. Bentley that he could see people running on the opposite side of the hill. Mr. Bentley swung over to that side and immediately received small arms fire.

More artillery was called in and over the radio came the CIDER FAC's cheerful report, "Got another secondary."

One 105mm was confirmed destroyed... and all is now quiet on LZ 20.



Letter From Home

Not blessed with all the comforts of home, this Famous Fourth Division soldier from the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, nevertheless relaxes with the most important thing in his life—a letter from home. Although a portion of his thoughts are probably a million miles away, this Radio Telephone Operator (RTO) keeps in constant contact with the operations of his unit. (USA Photo By SP4 John Ryan)

Experience Is Best Teacher For Third Brigade Infantrymen

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS — If a combat soldier in the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 3rd Brigade tells you he is also a "school teacher," believe him. In a way, he is.

As part of a recently instituted program, battalions within the 3rd Brigade are questioning the "teachers," soldiers returning from the field, in hopes that

their experiences will further educate the "students," fellow infantrymen preparing for combat missions.

The returning soldiers are quizzed about difficulties and successes in their recently completed mission and their answers are compiled into after-action reports. The reports are then made available to companies ready to head for the field.

Should Help

"This program should turn out to be quite profitable," said Colonel Richard L. Gruenther, 3rd Brigade commander. "We hope it will better prepare the individual soldier for anything he might encounter in combat."

After-action reports, according to Captain David H. Dodd, who is responsible for putting the reports together at the brigade level, are broken down into six categories, ranging from leadership to tactics.

Other "school" topics include communications, weapons, Kit Carson scouts and fire support.

There are no hooky players within the companies. From the company commander down to the private first class, all returning troops are questioned. Their answers come in the form of advice, giving the "do's and don'ts" of warfare.

Responding to leadership is important in combat, say the "teachers." As one Specialist 4, a team leader, said: "You have to make sure the people under you do as you tell them. They have to move when told because their support is vitally necessary." A company commander added: "Experienced NCOs are a must."

Keep Communications

A corporal, who serves as a radio telephone operator (RTO), feels "the most important and key requirement for an RTO is being able to keep communications. If you find yourself in

a situation such as an enemy contact, the outcome could be in your hands."

Concerning the subject of weapons, a rifleman and an M60 gunner both emphasized that a soldier "must keep the ammunition where it is easy to get."

A platoon leader had praise for the Vietnamese Kit Carson scouts for American units. "Use the advice of a Kit Carson scout. He knows what is going on."

Fire support can be of valuable assistance to an infantry company and many of the infantrymen stress there should be as much artillery support as possible. One soldier said the 81mm mortar is the "most effective support."

Most Important

Questions concerning tactics conclude the combat veterans' schooling and, judging by the answers, this subject is the most important.

One platoon leader offers the following advice: "Stay on high ground when possible. Do not move on trails. When moving into an area make sure it is secure."

Other troops emphasized that all bunker complexes should be checked thoroughly, a steady rate of fire should come right after the initial contact, and everyone should keep well spread out.

One thing is certain. The 3rd Brigade soldiers figure to broaden their "education" in the coming weeks from the lessons taught by their "teachers."

