

Dragoons Stand Fast As 52 Sappers Die

LANDING ZONE PENNY—An NVA sapper attack launched against Landing Zone (LZ) Penny, 15 kilometers southwest of Kontum City, was turned into a rout during the early morning hours by the Dragoons of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

After the thwarted attack, Bravo Company Commander, Captain Edward W. Griffith of Jacksonville, Ark., and Lieutenant Colonel W.J. Mickel of Kansas City, Mo., counted 52 NVA bodies strewn about the contact area.

NVA troops fired over thirty mortar rounds into the perimeter shortly after midnight and a suicidal sapper probe was launched beginning at 3 a.m., as NVA soldiers, clad in khaki shirts and shorts with sandals tied around their waists, assaulted the perimeter from three directions.

The attackers were met with a withering volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire as they reached the wire.

Eight NVA soldiers managed to breach the wire and fire B40 rounds into the battalion command post. Despite several direct hits, the occupants of the command post continued their

operations during the three and one half hour assault.

Two of the heroic defenders of the perimeter were Specialist 4 Harry Gray, who was personally credited with killing nine NVA soldiers when they tried to overrun his bunker, and Specialist 4 Michael Hetterscheid of Stayton, Ore., who drove off 8 NVA soldiers who attempted to penetrate the wire near his position. Three of the bodies lay within meters of Specialist Hetterscheid's bunker.

"It was the determination and courage of the troops—of men like Specialists Gray and Hetterscheid—that saved the morning," commented Captain Griffith after the attackers had been beaten off. "They just held tight in their bunkers and pushed the NVA back."

Colonel Mickel, who was present with the defenders throughout the battle, added, "Every NVA kill here is the result of extremely close-in small arms fire. Captain Griffith's men refused to flinch."

Littering the contact area were 13 AK47s, eight rocket propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, a Chinese radio, numerous B40 rounds,

satchel charges and several documents and overlays. Two of the 52 killed were tentatively identified as officers.



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Treatment Given To 10,000

**By PFC Dan Weaver
HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS** — Five medical Civic Action teams from the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, achieved a first in the Fourth Division's Pacification Program by rendering medical assistance to 10,000 Montagnards during the month of April.

The 10 thousandth patient, according to the 2nd Brigade Civil Affairs Office, came from the village of Plei Konang, five miles west of Kontum City. The figure was attained when the battalion surgeon, Captain James Shuster of Milwaukee, treated a child suffering from first degree burns.

The Civic Action teams rumbled into villages from Dak To to Kontum City in Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs), offering treatment for burns, malaria, malnutrition and various skin infections.

The APCs carried medics, Montagnard interpreters and special medical kits designed by Captain Shuster, which contained 37 items ranging from antibiotics and local anesthesia to vitamin capsules.

"The kits were a big factor in our effort," said the battalion civil affairs officer, 1st Lieutenant Alan Spillum of Tacoma, Wash. "Our total also resulted from three months of preparation." (Continued on Back Page)



Captain William D. Black of Knoxville, Tenn., working with the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor MEDCAPS, treats a child from a small village near An Khe.

(USA Photo By 1LT David Hooks)

Red Warriors Catch NVA Unit Napping

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — In the past the dense jungles of the Central Highlands have provided a cloak for NVA activities.

With increasing frequency, the troops of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division are intruding on this past refuge of the enemy.

The Red Warriors of Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, caught a platoon of NVA soldiers relaxing under the shade of the triple canopied jungle west of Kontum and turned the supposed sanctuary into an NVA graveyard.

The Red Warriors were sweeping suspected enemy staging areas when they discovered a series of large bunker complexes.

Sergeant Eugene Murphy of White, S.C., detected someone running near their right flank.

The men of Charlie Company dropped their rucksacks, secured the flanks and the point element carefully moved forward.

Soon, Specialist 4 Gary Wilson of Taylor, Mich., spotted an NVA observation post (OP). "There were two of them lying just off to the side of a trail. They were talking and smoking, not paying attention to their job."

Silently and quickly reinforce-

ments joined the point element, suddenly the two unsuspecting enemy looked up into a wall of M16s, tried to run, and were killed.

Immediately, the right flank exploded with small arms fire.

An NVA regular peered around a tree and was killed by (Continued on Back Page)

Panthers Give Enemy Double Barreled Trouble

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—Grenadiers from the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry have doubled their firepower with the acquisition of the experimental XM203, a combination M16 rifle and M79 grenade launcher.

"The best feature of the weapon is that a grenadier can fire a high explosive round, then spray a contact area with rifle fire," said Specialist 4 Lyle Atkinson of Harrisonville, Mo. "I've tested the weapon and I can see where it will be a valuable addition to a squad."

The mechanized battalion received 85 of the 500 XM203s which have been distributed for testing purposes to five units in Vietnam.

"This battalion will evaluate the effectiveness of the weapon in a report to the Department of the Army, which will help determine the future of the XM203," explained Captain Wiley Jones of Ft. Benning, Ga., head of the XM203 demonstration and dissemination program.

The Army is awaiting results from participating battalions before having the weapon mass produced.

Armor Extracts Ranger Team

CAMP RADCLIFF — A 1st Brigade Ranger team was inserted routinely five miles south of An Khe, but their hurried ex-

traction by tanks was far from routine.

After moving through the vine-tangled terrain along the Song Ba River, the team spotted three Viet Cong (VC) lurching on fish they had caught.

Private First Class Charles E. Moore of Hazard, Ky., fired on the group with his M16, killing one. As he crawled forward to retrieve the carbine left behind by the two fleeing VC, "the whole place seemed to explode. There was AK47 and carbine fire everywhere."

"It seemed as if there were two rows of VC, one about 100 meters behind the other, situated between us and the secondary road we were trying to reach," explained PFC Moore.

Team leader, Staff Sergeant John Givson of Hurricane, W. Va., said, "I don't know how we did it, but there was an opening approximately 50 meters wide in the first line."

"When we saw the line of VC firing at us from ahead and could hear the fire coming from behind, we knew there was no going back. That opening we had gone through would be

closed, so we kept moving forward," Specialist 4 Leonard Brice of Washington, D.C., remembered.

"As we moved through that second line of VC, we were no more than five meters from them. They were firing and we were firing. I'm not sure if we got any more of them, but it's a miracle we weren't hit," said PFC Moore.

"By the time we were clear of the VC, we began evasion tactics. We were low on ammunition, but we had gunships covering our tracks, so we were in a lot better shape than before."

A call went out to the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor to send tanks to a location on the road where the Rangers would meet them.

"A light observation helicopter (LOH) flew overhead, and directed us to where the tanks were waiting. With all the firing going on around us, we never slowed down till we got to the tanks," recalled PFC Moore.

After the sweep, the team was brought back to Camp Radcliff by what may be the first tank element ever to extract a Ranger team.

From The Desk of

 the
 Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Danger Ahead

Within the next few weeks the monsoon season will arrive in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. This seasonal change will be accompanied by rain, wind and fog which result in extremely hazardous driving conditions.

Roads and highways throughout the AO will be extremely slippery with mud, oil slicks, rain-filled holes and ruts. The paved roads will be especially dangerous due to the mud and oil that forms over the pavement producing a slick, silt-like coating. The smoothness of the road will lure the inexperienced driver to go faster than commensurate with safe driving practices.

Last year, unfortunately, too many drivers found out the hard way that they could not control their vehicles on these mud and silt covered roads. Maneuvering out of unforeseen situations is virtually impossible. Road surfaces will continue to deteriorate during the monsoon season as rains continue to soften the road beds and by the constant use of heavily laden vehicles.

These hazardous road conditions serve to amplify the necessity for equipment that is in safe mechanical condition. A driver who attempts to travel during the monsoon in a vehicle with faulty brakes, with steering difficulties, or with lights that do not work, has materially reduced his chances of reaching his destination.

The singular most important deterrent to accidents during the rainy season, as at any other time, remains the safe driver. There are numerous precautions which can and should be taken by the unit commander and all supervisory personnel to prepare their vehicles and operators for the monsoon season. Tire chains can be requisitioned and used to assist in controlling the vehicle. Equipment to be used on the road should be inspected periodically to insure all safety devices are functional.

DISCRETION SHOULD BE USED by commanders and immediate supervisors in selecting drivers to transport heavy and/or oversize cargo over a long distance.

Classes should be given to drivers on the importance of defensive driving during this period. Particular emphasis should be placed on such common errors as following too close, traveling faster than road conditions will safely permit, attempting to pass in convoy and overloading vehicles.

Classes in steering out of a skid, the proper way to apply brakes under slippery conditions and other special driving techniques would also assist the drivers in coping with the adverse weather conditions.

The onset of the monsoon season will bring with it an increase in the hazardous road conditions that already exist. However, through proper vehicle maintenance, and a vigorous driver training program, continuously applied, losses of equipment and the more tragic loss of personnel through accidents can be kept to an absolute minimum.

Perhaps the most important point of all is to emphasize the need to all drivers to slow down during the monsoon. Excess speed is a major problem during the dry season. During the monsoon, speed can be equated to disaster.

Vietnam Experience Valuable

By Chaplain (CPT) Jackson H. Day

Marking time—a year in limbo—that's what many of us feel about our Vietnam experience. Reading in our newspapers of things happening among the black, the poor, and the young, we feel we have been caught in an Asian backwater while the main stream of events passes us by. The lack of understanding which many of our civilian peers display about our presence here does not help our sense of isolation and irrelevance.

Yet—may I suggest a closer look can give a different picture? If you're black, your year here isn't wasted. You will have met all kinds of people and exposed, for yourself and for others, the phoniness of the myth that color makes any difference to your worth as a man.

After the experience here you can return not only with a firmer refusal to put up with the un-American racial nonsense our land has been plagued with for so long—but with a year's prac-

tical experience in living and working with persons of every conceivable color and background found in America. You can return with the sense of pride and dignity which comes from having faced great odds and overcome great difficulties and which our current crisis so sorely needs.

If you are poor, your year here hasn't been wasted either. You may have learned specific skills here which you can use as a civilian. You have earned valuable Veterans' benefits which can give you a head start in getting the education, the jobs, and the housing to help you take your place in the mainstream of American life.

And, by meeting the challenges of working with others to complete difficult tasks, you will have had the chance to become the kind of person employers gladly train and hire.

If you are young, and most of us are, the experiences here will tend to have given you a maturity that you might not have gotten in several years of stateside living.

Without even considering the contributions you are making now to your nation's security and the freedom of a young Asian nation, be assured that upon rejoining the main stream of American life, your experiences here can make you a part of the answer, not of the problem.

Beyond The Call

SILVER STAR

- Adams, Frank S., MAJ
- Booth, John P. III, MAJ
- Flanagan, John J. III, 2LT
- Fried, David E., MAJ
- Guilhaus, Howard H., CPT
- Harris, Bruce A., CPT
- Herrick, Vaughn D., CSM
- Kessler, Kenneth C., CPT
- Knight, Hale H., COL
- Lander, Robert B., LTC
- Larkin, Richard X., LTC
- Luce, Robert L., SP5
- Maurer, William W., LTC
- McCall, William R., CPT
- Pitt, Joe L., SGM
- Ranger, Michael B., 1LT
- Shields, George W. Jr, CPT
- Williams, Virgil H., COL
- White, Dana C., SGT
- Zuniga, Domingo Jr, SP4

SOLDIER'S MEDAL

- Best, Robert, SP4
- Hicks, William WO
- Rayborn, John E., SP4
- Rebel, Gary D., SP4
- Schroeder, Robert A., SP4
- Stafford, John W., PFC
- Thornburg, John H., SGT
- Tucker, Robert L., SP4

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

- Austin, Ronald W., SP5
- Barbalock, Joel A., WO
- Blacker, Blair K., CPT
- Erkie, Norman R., WO
- Gillespie, John W., LTC
- Grafmiller, John E., CWO
- Hamrick, James M., WO
- Herrick, Vaughn D., CSM
- Hickey, Pennell J., LTC
- Hovis, Steven J., 1LT
- King, Robert D., CPT
- Kirchner, William M., SP4
- Knight, Hale H., COL
- Larkin, Larry L., WO
- Laudenslager, Charles W., CPT
- Maine, John R., WO
- Martin, Francis S. II, WO
- Miller, Michael W., 1LT
- Morel, John B., CWO
- Mullenix, Michael M., WO
- Owens, James H., WO
- Peduzzi, Lawrence P., CPT
- Record, Ernest C., WO
- Santmyer, Larry G., WO
- Sheehan, Albert J., MAJ
- Stanley, Gary P., 1LT
- Tilby, Jay L., MAJ
- Weber, Michael R., WO

Wood, Stephen R., 1LT

BRONZE STAR FOR HEROISM

- Ayers, Hester L., SP4
- Benyshek, Steven K., SP4
- Bernitt, Michael, PFC
- Blalock, Larry C., SP4
- Bond, Lamar Jr, SP4
- Boss, Dwight D., PFC
- Brown, Terry L., SP4
- Burt, Charles M., SP5
- Carpenter, Eugene H., MAJ
- Carter, Clyde, SGT
- Carter, Donald R., SP4
- Cole, Reginald, PFC
- Collard, John T., SP4
- Conners, James F., SP4
- Cooper, Edward T., PFC
- Craddock, Kenneth R., SP4
- Crockett, Alden W., SP4
- Davis, Morray C., SGT
- Davison, John G., SP4
- Deter, Daniel E., CPT
- Fritchen, John W., PFC
- Frobose, Richard 1LT
- Gallucci, Thomas A., SP4
- Gersbach, Germain H., CPT
- Gervald, Charles F., SP4
- Gillenwater, Michael L., SGT
- Goodrum, Charles, 1SG
- Goodwin, Douglas E., 1LT
- Hart, Jerry, PFC
- Hibbard, Robert L., PFC
- Hodge, Harold H., PFC
- Holland, Stephen F., SP4
- Honeyman, Fredrick R., SGT
- Hixson, Dennis K., 1LT
- Johnson, Gale R., SGM
- Jones, Lewer A., SSGT
- Jones, Malvin E., SP4
- Johnson, Robert W., PFC
- Kochan, Mike, PFC
- Knight, Hale H., COL
- Kurtz, Peter E., SGT
- Lagasse, Alan J., SP4
- Langston, David, PFC
- Lew, Vincent G., SP4
- Little, Pat SSGT
- Lockamy, Ellis R., SSGT
- Madison, Frank H., SSGT
- Matheny, George, SP4
- Mariella, Michael K., 1LT
- McGrain, Leon D., SP4
- McJenkin, Larry J., SGT
- Messett, Craig R., SGT
- Mikulenka, Dennis L., SP4
- Moore, Henry B., SGT
- Moore, Thomas L. III, MAJ
- Morrow, Mitchell, PFC
- Morrow, Thomas F., PFC

First Brigade Soldiers

Making Good Use Of MARS

CAMP RADCLIFF — Men of the 1st Brigade are making good use of the MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) facility that has become available to them since their move here.

According to Sergeant David Smith of Columbia, S. C., a total of 531 calls were made to 'the world' in the month of April. Now that the 1st Brigade has made Camp Radcliff its base, a total of 237 calls were made in the first week of May, with a total of 1,000 calls expected for the month.

While the 1st Brigade was at Firebase McNerney and Dak To, MARS facilities were available to troops one night each week, and while the Brigade's base

was Polei Kleng there was no readily available MARS facility.

Personnel from the 586th Signal Company, who operated the station, indicate that they are more than happy to accommodate the increase in callers.

Sergeant Smith said that the best times for contact with the United States are between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. each day.

Members of the 1st Brigade can call An Khe 2342 or 2479 for information about making a MARS call.



STEADFAST and LOYAL

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Fete Marks End of Red Terror

OASIS — The band played, the villagers cheered and the district chief praised the performance of the returning soldiers.

It was more than just a victory celebration, however. The true significance of the day's ac-

tivities, culminated by the festivities, was that an American military unit, the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, and a Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) unit had teamed up to stop terrorism.

Villages in the Phu Nhon Dis-

trict, 20 miles south of Pleiku, had been harassed by enemy terrorism; until the Reconnaissance Platoon arrived in the area.

The Famous Fighting Fourth Division platoon wasted no time as it began a cordon sweep of the villages outlying Phu Nhon.

"Our mission was to cordon the villages, so the Popular Forces could go in to question the villagers," said 1st Lieutenant James L. Vaughn of Tallahoma, Tenn., the platoon leader.

The objective of the sweep was to locate Viet Cong infrastructures within the villages.

The Golden Dragons had been situated outside the village of Plei Brell, a target of recent enemy terrorism, when they spotted six Viet Cong sitting on a ridge overlooking the village.

"We began to move toward their position in a wedge formation," explained Sergeant Mario G. Trevino of Mercedes, Tex. "Our quiet movement surprised them."

The startled VC snapped off a few shots and took off at a dead run.

"Our machine gunner (Specialist 4 Merle Urban of Augusta, Kan.) killed one of them," said Sergeant Trevino.

A burst of fire from Sergeant Trevino's M16 downed another VC as the enemy soldiers continued to run in different directions.

The joint American-Vietnamese effort dealt the VC another blow later in the day when two tons of enemy rice were discovered in camouflaged huts near the village.

Upon arriving back at Phu Nhon District Headquarters, the soldiers received a hero's welcome.

"The district chief had the PFs, Sergeant Trevino, Specialist Urban and me march inside the district compound," said Lieutenant Vaughn.

As a band made up of other PF troops played, they waved and cheered.

The district chief praised the soldiers in several speeches before presenting each one with a Montagnard bracelet. The traditional rice wine ceremony followed.

The enemy death toll of two was not the important aspect of the day's operation. More important was the fact that the villagers had regained faith in the protection given them against VC terrorism, and the efficiency in which the American and Vietnamese unit operated as one.



FRIENDSHIP—A Montagnard woman places a bracelet of friendship on the wrist of a Famous Fourth Division soldier from the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry. The reed straw in the Golden Dragons' hands is used to drink rice wine from a jug. It was part of the festivities enjoyed by American and Vietnamese Popular Forces as they celebrated successful operations together. (USA Photo By SP4 John Zwickel)

Career Corner

Counselor Can Help You

WHEN AN AUTOMOBILE starts to give us trouble most of us consult a mechanic; if the roof of a house begins to leak, we call a roofing expert; during times of illness we would visit a qualified doctor. In brief, it all comes down to the fact that when we are in need of some specialized service we call on the man who is best qualified to do the work for us.

In keeping with this, it stands to reason that when we need professional advice and assistance in our career development we turn to the man who is best qualified to help us. In high school he was known as your guidance counselor. In the Army he is known as your career counselor.

YOUR ARMY CAREER COUNSELOR is a carefully selected individual who must meet rigid prerequisites before he is even considered for this assignment. His military experience has been varied and extensive, he has been overseas and has attended military technical schools.

It would be well worth

our while to become better acquainted with the counselor who serves your unit. A little assistance from him now can mean thousands of dollars in increased earnings for you in the future.

In the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division full time career counselors are assigned as follows: two career counselors are assigned to each infantry brigade and Division Artillery. One is always at base camp headquarters and the other is usually in the field. If you wish to see a career counselor, he is never further back than your trains area and will come directly to your unit.

DISCOM NOW HAS two career counselors and they are beginning to work in the same manner. Our separate battalions, the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, the 124th Signal and the 4th Aviation have only one counselor assigned at the present time. His office is located at 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Headquarters.

In any case, if for some reason your counselor is not immediately available,

when in the field you can contact any counselor. When at base camp, come directly to the Division Reenlistment Office.

Don't wait, see your Career Counselor today!

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — A North Vietnamese soldier, who had been sent into the Central Highlands to boost the sagging morale of NVA regulars, rallied to the Government of Vietnam's cause when he learned that NVA units attempting to infiltrate through the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's area of operations had neither enough food or ammunition to accomplish their mission.

Realizing that his job was fruitless under such ironic circumstances, he left his weapon behind and headed for the nearest American unit in the area.

On a Sunday morning the NVA officer, arms raised above his head, advanced toward the perimeter of Landing Zone Joyce, 12 miles south of Kontum City, and uttered what might be considered the most important two words of his life — "Chieu Hoi."

With rifles trained on the NVA soldier, members of Charlie

Company, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized) 8th Infantry immediately allowed the Hoi Chanh to pass into their perimeter.

Minutes later, the NVA morale officer was at Highlander Heights, where he disclosed much valuable information concerning his former unit to South Vietnamese officials and American advisors.

According to Lieutenant Colonel William De Camp of Columbus, Ga., the NVA officer was clad in clean fatigues and was evidently quite confident that he had taken the right step in rallying via the Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Program. He was the third NVA officer to rally in the last two weeks in the Fourth Division's area of operations.

Later in the day when a small patrol from the 2nd Mechanized Battalion, 8th Infantry was sent to retrieve the Hoi Chanh's weapon, they discovered a shallow grave containing the bodies of five NVA soldiers.

Morale Job Tough, NVA Comes Over



OLD GLORY—Waving proudly in the breeze of Vietnam's Central Highlands Old Glory shines as a reminder to 4th Division troops, surrounded by the starkness of firebases, of the beauty back in the United States. (USA Photo By SGT Peter Call)

NVA Ignore Warning, 4 Die



"When He Peeked Out, He Was Staring Into The Barrels Of Quite A Few Weapons."

By SGT Peter Call

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Six NVA soldiers, hiding in a village 14 miles southwest of Kontum, initiated contact with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry; only two of them lived to regret it.

The Dragoons, operating under the control of the Famous Fighting Fourth's 2nd Brigade, had moved the villagers to the outskirts of the hamlet prior to a joint US Army-Vietnamese National Police cordon and search when the contact was made.

"We started to receive fire when I began to broadcast a PSYOPS message," said Staff Sergeant Darrell Rhodes of Decatur, Ill.

"I guess they didn't like the program," he laughed, "because two grenades destroyed the speakers."

Captain Edward Griffen of Albuquerque, N.M., the Bravo Company commander, ordered his men to return the fire at the enemy locations.

"I threw a grenade into a bunker," said Specialist 4 Michael Farrell of Eau Gallie, Fla., "and an NVA dashed from it and ran into a hut."

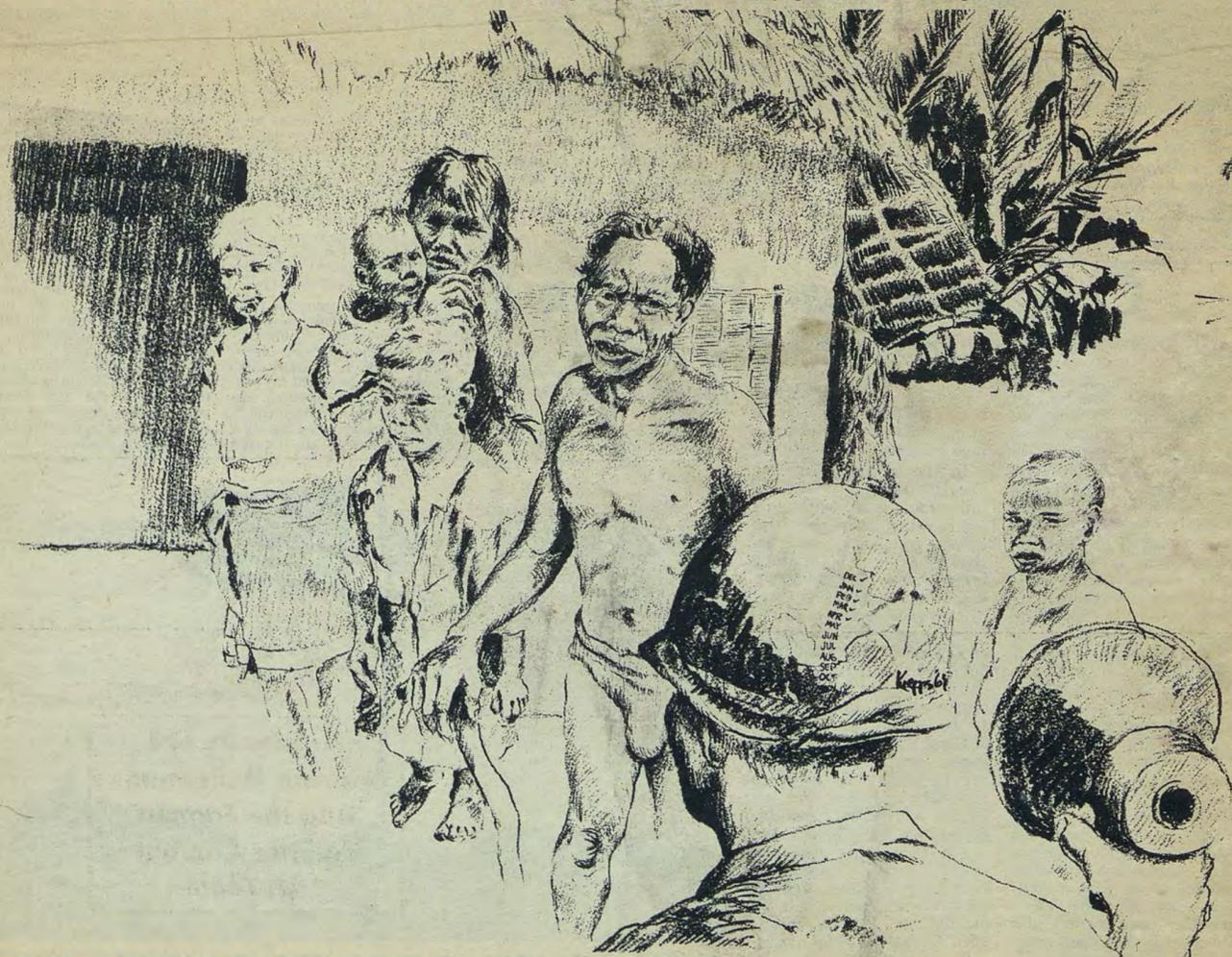
"We surrounded the hut and when he peeked out he was staring into the barrels of quite a few weapons." "He decided to surrender," the Dragoon radio operator added.

Another enemy soldier, who was stunned by a grenade, was also detained after the day long battle.

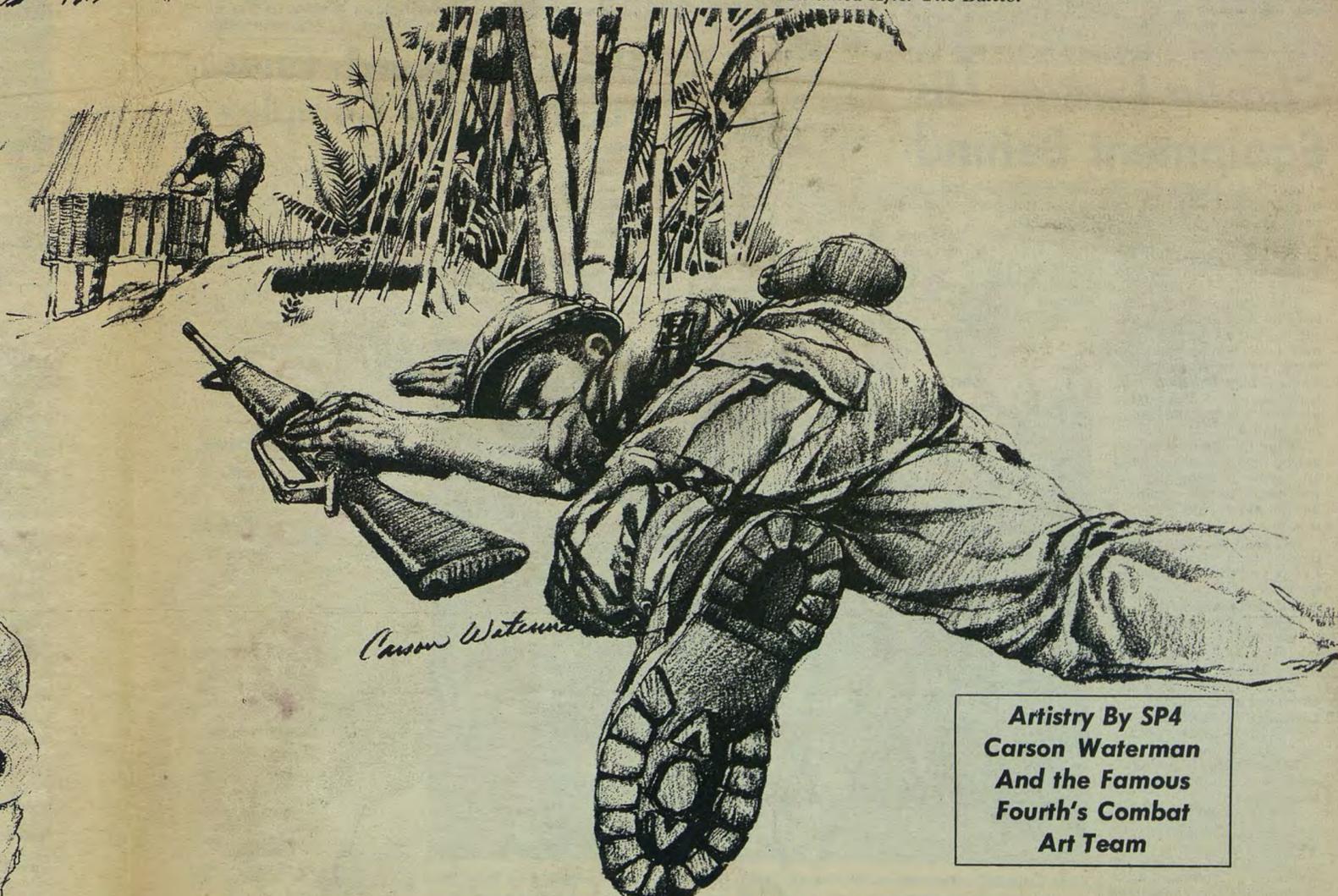
The fighting, which also resulted in four enemy killed and the capture of a rocket launcher and small arms, produced two VC suspects who were detained by the Vietnamese National Police.



"Another Enemy Soldier, Stunned By A Grenade, Was Detained After The Battle."



"We Moved The Villagers To The Outskirts Of The Hamlet Prior To A Joint Cordon And Search."



"I Threw A Grenade Into A Bunker And An NVA Dashed From It And Ran Into A Hut."

Artistry By SP4
Carson Waterman
And the Famous
Fourth's Combat
Art Team

Cacti Green Hunts Bases

OASIS — In the largest combat assault (CA) of the year, the Famous Fighting Fourth's 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry flew 500 men and support equipment 12 miles south of The Oasis for an operation that has led to the discovery of enemy caches and huts.

Four companies and a command element were lifted by 15 Hueys and five Chinooks from the fixed-wing air field at the Oasis.

The airlift was completed within an hour; the command element was situated at Plei Mei and each company was assigned an area of operation to search for enemy caches as they worked their way back to their firebase.

During the first day of operations Bravo Company found and destroyed two well camouflaged huts, each capable of sleeping nine men.

"The only consistently effective method of finding well hidden hootches," stated 1st Lieutenant John Kelly, the 3rd Platoon leader, "is to search the thickest vegetation and keep away from used trails."

On the second day of the operation, Bravo Company found two rice caches. Over 6,700 pounds

of rice were in holes that had been concealed by two feet of overhead camouflage.

During the entire operation, companies reported a large number of the enemy's anti-personnel devices (booby traps) which had decayed or were no longer functioning. One such booby trap consisted of a whip like piece of bamboo which,

when functioning, projected an arrow along a well worn trail.

In order to find hidden enemy supplies, the Fighting Gypsies probed swamps with bamboo poles and searched stream banks for tunnels and caves.

Once the operation is complete, the enemy will be minus a necessity, food, and a luxury, for Charlie, sleeping huts.

Cav Tops NVA At Ravine Hideaways

FIREBASE BLACKHAWK—A long network of deep ravines 22 miles southeast of Pleiku erupted with the roar of battle as Famous Fighting Fourth Division cavalymen from Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry made contact with NVA regulars deeply entrenched in defensive fighting positions.

Contact was initiated as small groups of cavalymen descended the ravine's steep sides to recon a dried river bed.

"We were going nicely," recalled Specialist 4 Earl Justice of Elk City, Md., "when an NVA, with a silly smile on his face, jumped up right in front of me. I cut loose with my grenade launcher and he fell back,

then action exploded like a powder keg."

Behind the cavalymen a small squad of enemy soldiers unsuccessfully tried to cut off withdrawal routes. Ninety millimeter tank rounds and 81mm mortar fire, directed by platoon Sergeant Richard Erickson of Applegate, Calif., zeroed in on the unfriendly element while Specialist Justice and his team fought their way back up the steep slopes.

For several minutes all was quiet. Then the cavalymen returned to the ravine.

Again the Blackhawks were greeted with heavy AK47 fire, but this time helicopter gunships and Air Force F-4 Phantoms were on station.

From the Command and Control helicopter, Alpha Troop commander Captain Robert Whitton of Owensboro, Ky., directed the air strikes as Army and Air Force aviators expended their deadly payloads.

The thunder of air firepower subsided and a subsequent sweep of the area turned up six NVA bodies, 1 AK47 and field gear.

taining web gear and a steel helmet, had been stored underground.

In the short time since their arrival in the area, the Golden Dragons have forced the VC to part with rice and weapons that won't be easily replaced.

Charlie Leaves His Equipment Behind

OASIS — Fleeing enemy forces haven't had time to pack, so the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry has converted its operations south of Pleiku into a massive police call.

The Golden Dragons have applied so much pressure to Viet Cong (VC) elements operating around Phu Nhon, 20 miles south of Pleiku, that the enemy has been forced to leave large amounts of rice and weapons behind.

Bravo Company spent an entire day collecting what an enemy unit on the run will leave behind when it has to move from an area in a hurry.

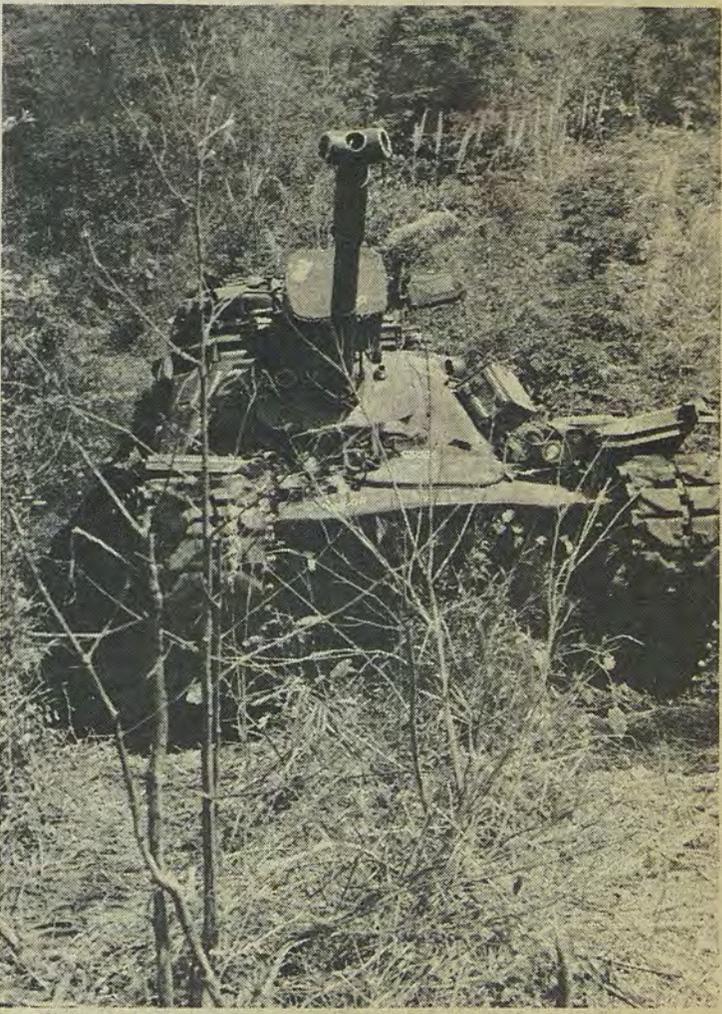
Included in Bravo Company's day's work was the discovery of 18 enemy bunkers, a tunnel complex and 200 pounds of rice.

Delta Company rounded up an assortment of enemy weapons after a brief contact with two VC.

There were unknown enemy casualties resulting from the exchange of fire, but Delta Company policed up weapons ranging from automatic rifles to a French carbine in a sweep of the area.

A 400 pound rice cache was later discovered by Delta Company.

The following day the battalion's Reconnaissance Platoon and the Vietnamese National Police discovered three tons of enemy rice. The rice, plus a bag con-



CLEAN SWEEP—A tank from the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, sweeps an area around its base camp at An Khe. The battalion moved when the Famous Fighting Fourth's 1st Brigade moved to Camp Radcliff. (USA Photo By SP5 Mike Cobb)

Ridgeline Search Finds Hidden NVA Complex

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — An underground city was discovered along steep ridgelines 15 miles west of Kontum by Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, while on a search and destroy mission north of Landing Zone (LZ) Swinger.

The Red Warriors commanded by Captain Richard Wandke of Barceville, Calif., came across the enemy complex, consisting of some 30 bunkers while

searching the steep ridgelines. "The complex was well constructed," explained Captain Wandke, "it seems that the enemy had brought in an engineering team for the sole purpose of building them."

The bunker complex was used as a medical center and contained medical supplies, an operating room and a kitchen.

"After clearing the bunkers of supplies and traps, we decided to make our command post (CP) there. Then we sent out a team to investigate the surrounding ridges," continued Captain Wandke.

Two platoons began combing the dense ridges for any more signs of bunkers or traces of enemy forces in the area.

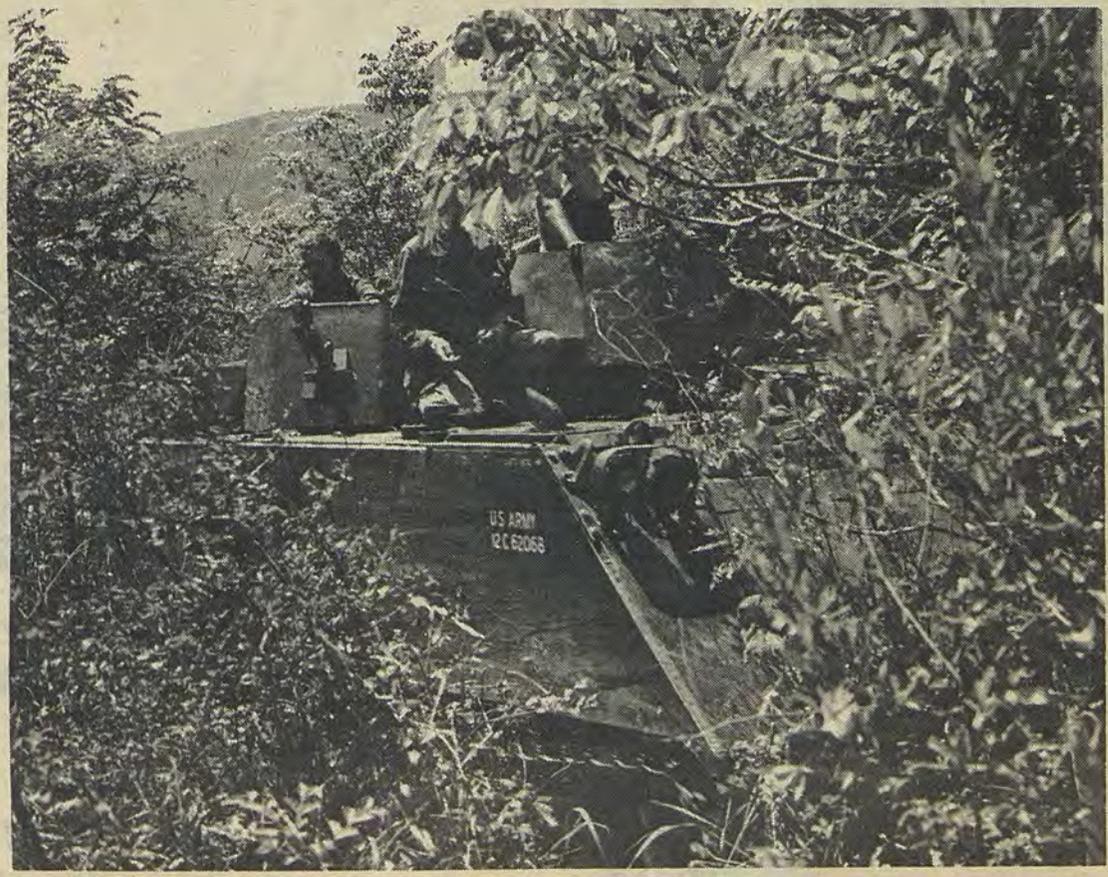
The CP was soon informed that the second platoon had found another complex approximately 200 meters from the first.

The 40 bunker complex was the storage house for 93 60mm mortars, 84 B41 and B42 rockets with launchers, seven 75mm recoilless rounds, seven 82mm mortar rounds, 1400 rounds of machine gun ammunition, 36 rifle grenades, three Russian made carbines, SKS rockets, CHICOM grenades and clothing. Ten grave sites were also found.

Private First Class Dave Tustin of Burgettstown, Pa., found an NVA flag while Specialist 4 Donald Vanbeek, of Cooperville, Mich., discovered an officer's diary that disclosed day by day accounts of enemy movement. Within the complex, the Red Warriors found a briefing room and sleeping quarters.

Near the end of the third day at the location of the first bunkers complex, Charlie Company had finished destroying 70 emplacements and were ready to move down the ridgeline and into a gorge that was the site of yet another bunker complex.

The third complex was made up of at least 40 bunkers, bringing the total find to over 150.



HEAVY GOING—An Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) seems to be engulfed by the undergrowth of the Central Highlands. What looks like heavy going to us is a daily occurrence for soldiers in mechanized units with the Famous Fighting Fourth as they continually sweep sectors in the Division's area of operation. (USA Photo By SP5 Mike Cobb)

How A Band



Slick is now recuperating, although there has been talk of a court martial. (Artistry By SP4 Carson R. Waterman)

Most Uncooperative

LZ MARY LOU—"Slick was the most uncooperative patient I have ever treated," laughed Captain Stephen Robinson of Griffin, Ga., shortly after completion of an operation.

Slick is a small black dog who was wounded when he wandered beyond the bunker line at Landing Zone (LZ) Mary Lou. The pup tripped a flare which initiated a barrage of grenades and M16 fire from the alert sentries and Slick was hit above the right shoulder.

Upon discovering that it was the dog, the sentries rushed him to the aid station where he underwent his first operation.

Two days later Slick reopened the injury and, at that time, the aid station couldn't take care of the pup, so Captain Robinson, the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry surgeon and his staff performed the second operation.

"It took five of us to hold the howling little devil down," said Specialist 6 Gregory Grover, the staff medic from Garfield Heights, Ohio. "We used a local anesthetic, which calmed him somewhat, but not nearly enough."

Medical knowledge overcame, however, Slick was finally subdued, and the second operation was successful. Thanks to Captain Robinson and his staff, Slick is now recuperating, although there has been talk of a court martial for desertion of post.

Marvelous Marvin

'Yard Youth Earns Respect

AN KHE — For a new arrival assigned to Delta Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, a trip to the aid station can be novel indeed.

Once inside the spotless medical facility the new soldier is apt to find Captain Jeff Yoast of Payton City, W. Va., working on some recent paper work while his senior aid man, Specialist 5 John Scareth of Madison, Wis., takes an inventory of stock in the adjoining room.

"So you need a cholera shot. MARVIN!" summons Captain Yoast.

Marvin, a Montagnard youth with tailored jungle fatigues and a Famous Fourth Infantry Division patch, appears.

"This fellow needs a cholera

shot. Marv, fix him up."

"You won't feel a thing," Captain Yoast assures the new man.

In a matter of seconds the sticky business of a needle is over and the soldier, somewhat baffled by the strange sequence of events, leaves, thankful that Marvin, whoever he is, had measured up to the Captain's promise.

For months now, Marvin, or Marvelous Marv, as the cavalrymen affectionately call him, has been administering painless shots and patching up minor cuts and abrasions under the fatherly eye of Captain Yoast.

Marvelous Marv joined the air cavalrymen at their base in An Khe through the coordinated efforts of Mr. Dave Harper from New Zealand's Red Cross team

and the Troop D commander, Major Jay Tilby of Killeen, Tex.

Upon his arrival Marvin was given board not far from the aid station.

"He didn't know too much English," recalled Captain Yoast, "but for some reason he could always be found with my medics, so I decided to teach him some elementary medical techniques."

Marvin proved to be an honor student. Shortly after his training started he began treating minor nicks and scratches, then giving inoculations to keep medical records up to date.

"Now he's learning how to suture," said Captain Yoast. "Each evening we stitch together two blocks of balsa wood. I have little doubt that shortly he will be able to do the job as well as anyone."

At what point Marvin's medical education will end is uncertain.

One thing is sure. At the Delta Troop's aid station, the new recruits as well as the old ones will agree that the needle just doesn't look so lethal anymore and those pesky little cuts and scratches seem to mend much faster with Marvelous Marv around.

New Zealanders Helping Develop Better Vietnam

CAMP RADCLIFF — "They're reliable, cooperative, dedicated, and the best civil affairs team in the An Tuc district," stated Major Presley Kendall of Carlisle, Ky.

The 1st Brigade's S-5 was describing the New Zealand Red Cross team which is the only New Zealand Red Cross unit in Vietnam. They have been working in the An Khe area for over one and a half years and at the present time are aiding over 7,500 refugees and villagers in the An Tuc district.

The New Zealanders, whose jeep can be identified by a large Kiwi, the national symbol, painted on the side, are supported by their own government and by civil affairs teams from the 1st Brigade. They share the largest area of operations with the 1st Brigade's 6th Battalions, 29th Artillery which also contributes to the support of the team's civil affairs work.

Mission Different

The mission of the New Zealand Red Cross is quite different than that of the teams from the United States.

"We're more like your Peace Corps," said Mister Graham Eskrigge, a team member. "Chaplains handle the things for our troops that the Red Cross does for yours. We work only with the civilian population."

The New Zealanders work

to provide food, medical aid, tools, school supplies and vocational training classes. They also dig wells and improve sanitation.

"It's a lot of work," stated Major Kendall, "for just five people."

Provides Supplies

The American civil affairs teams aid the New Zealanders by providing needed supplies and transportation. Future plans include a joint effort to build a school and a dispensary.

The New Zealand team members were selected because each possesses a needed skill. The team includes a nurse, an agriculturist, a sanitation expert, an education specialist and a team administrator.

Miss Mandy Harrison, the team nurse who works mainly with the Montagnards, travels to every village each day giving first aid to the sick and injured. Miss Harrison also intends to start a preventive medicine and mass immunization program.

A program to provide 1,500 children with milk each day has already been established in many schools and

some villages.

Team leader Peter Wilson, the agriculturist, visits the villages and teaches modern methods of farming, and irrigation to people that are using methods that are centuries old.

Vocational training classes instruct the people in such skills as sewing and carpentry.

Holds Classes

The team's sanitation specialist holds classes on personal hygiene and supervises the digging of wells. Recently several Montagnard villagers were taught how to build showers and now the people are experiencing showers for the first time in their lives.

The New Zealanders face the major task of feeding the hundreds of refugees who have relocated in the area. When 500 refugees found themselves almost out of food, the problem was solved when the 1st Brigade redistributed captured enemy rice.

"They're doing an excellent job," stated Major Kendall, "and we intend to give them all the support we can."



THAT CERTAIN SMILE of Lan Huong brightens the day for members of the Judge Advocate General's staff at Camp Enari. The pretty interpreter studied at Regina Pascis, a French-run school in Saigon.

(USA Photo By LTC Darrell L. Peck)

Record For Brigade

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — With the arrival of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry at Highlander Heights, the 2nd Brigade has established another first in the history of the Famous Fighting Fourth.

Since command of the High-

landers was assumed by Colonel Gordon Duquemin of Annandale, Va., in December, the 2nd Brigade has had every organic combat unit in the Division under operational control.

"As far as I know," Colonel Duquemin said, "it is the only time this has ever happened."

Gargantuan Task For Quartermaster

By SP5 Mike Cobb

CAMP RADCLIFF—In direct support of the 1st Brigade and all other allied forces in the An Khe and Pleiku areas, the 647th Quartermaster Company performs a gargantuan 300,000 foot task.

The small but highly motivated company of men supplies and distributes all mogas, diesel and JP4 fuel to the allies in these areas. This task is accomplished through the use of 60 miles of six-inch pipe that runs along Highway 19 and connects Pleiku and An Khe.

"Even though there is the ever-present threat of Charlie sabotaging the pipeline," noted 1st Lieutenant Robert Thompson of Lumberton, N.C., the company's executive officer, "the fact that we can pump 14,700 gallons per hour makes our effort worthwhile and rewarding.

"Since the 4th Infantry Division has come to An Khe, the efforts to sabotage have been cut impressively," continued Lieutenant Thompson. "I guess these tanks and Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) have made the enemy think twice. We have even recently set a new record of 92 hours of constant pumping without stopping for repairs."

The speed of the pipeline is further demonstrated as compared to the previous method of trucking the fuel. Tanker trucks were limited to a 5,000 gallon capacity. The tankers had to fill each tank at An Khe and make the 60-mile drive to Pleiku to unload the fuel—a process taking close to two hours.

Presently the fuel is shipped to Qui Nhon where it is deposited into a tank farm similar to those in An Khe and Pleiku. From there it is pumped through a 57-mile pipeline to the An Khe farm.

Here the men of the 647th Quartermaster Company start the flow of fuel to its destination in Pleiku. Four booster stations are located along Highway 19 and huge generators aid in pumping the fuel.

A 16-man crew led by Staff Sergeant Kenneth V. Grimes of Port Huron, Mich., holds com-

New Mark By Medics

(Continued From Page 1)

tion during which we advised the teams within our respective companies as to the most expedient methods of solving the medical problems they encountered."

The battalion had one civil affairs team from each of its organic companies and a team comprised of S-5 personnel. A unit under operational control (OPCON), Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, contributed one team.

"We try to include civil affairs work in each company's daily mission," said Lieutenant Colonel William deCamp of Columbus, Ga., the battalion commander. "This happened to be the month when everything went smoothly for our people."

The 10,000 figure nearly triples the mark of 3,500 MEDCAPS recorded during March.

plete responsibility for maintenance of the line. These men travel the highway throughout the day checking for breaks or possible enemy sabotage attempts.

The unit is divided into four-man teams and given 15 miles of pipeline per team to check and repair, daily, if necessary.

To aid the teams and help protect the vital line, the 1st Brigade provides road security along the highway—making it nearly impossible for the enemy to reach the pipe.

"Most of the damages come when Charlie stands back and fires his AK47 at the line," said Sergeant Grimes. "However, because of the special alloy used, the enemy must use armor penetrating shells to puncture the pipe—thus making it even more difficult to spring a leak."

If a break is made, it takes the crew only ten minutes to cap a small leak and only 15 minutes to remove the broken section and replace an entire new twenty-foot pipe.

Realizing the importance of the pipeline, "friendlies" take extra precautions when operating near it.

Youngsters Show Way To Munitions

CAMP RADCLIFF—In three separate instances three Vietnamese and two Montagnard boys were well rewarded by the 1st Brigade for their discovery of possible enemy booby traps.

The first instance occurred as the Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) of Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry rumbled along Highway 19. The APCs were forced to come to a sudden halt as two Vietnamese boys ran directly in front of the on-coming vehicles.

The boys began yelling at the startled cavalymen and according to an interpreter, the boys related how, while playing along the highway, they discovered what they thought to be an enemy mine.

They led the cavalymen to the mine, which turned out to be a plastic container containing six bomblets approximately three meters from the road. It is believed the NVA were going to use the ordnance to construct a land mine.

Two Montagnard boys, in the second instance, reported information concerning an enemy sabotage attempt.

These boys also stopped elements of Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, who were moving along Highway 19 and reported that they had been playing in the immediate area the previous day around sundown. They had noticed two men planting something near the pipeline; a sweep of the area was conducted and a satchel charge was uncovered approximately three meters from the vital line.

The final instance took place



HOLD IT TIGHT—Two men from the 647th Quartermaster Company tighten a link in the six-inch pipe which runs along Highway 19 and pumps all the fuel from An Khe to Pleiku.

(USA Photo By SP5 Michael Cobb)

PFC Jackson Alert

Bullets Stop Enemy Resupply

By PFC Jerald Krepps

CAMP RADCLIFF—While on a platoon-size sweep 10 kilometers northeast of the 1st Brigade's headquarters at An Khe, Sergeant First Class Clayton Hoffman of Sacramento, Calif.,

a platoon leader from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, and his men surprised four NVA on a trail and killed one.

"I spotted them coming down the trail approximately 150 meters to our front," said Private First Class George Jackson of Long Beach, Calif., who was walking point for the element.

"I froze in my tracks, simultaneously alerting the others behind me. They were probably on a resupply mission because three were carrying coconuts and one was carrying a carbine."

"The thick undergrowth wouldn't allow us to flank the trail and get beside them, so we kept low until they were 60 to 70 meters from us," said Sergeant Hoffman.

As the NVA soldiers started to turn off the trail and head in another direction, Sergeant Hoffman raised his head and shouted at them.

"The startled NVA turned

fire, but we opened up first," recalled PFC Jackson, who killed one enemy soldier.

"The others ran for the dense brush," said Private First Class Herbert Bates of Atlanta, "but I continued to fire my M79 at them."

Destroy Complex

CAMP RADCLIFF—An O1 Birddog reconnaissance plane, a 105mm artillery battery and Huey gunships combined efforts to eliminate two enemy soldiers, destroy six huts, four bunkers and cause four secondary explosions 10 miles northwest of An Khe.

First Lieutenant Earl Koeman of Burns, Ore., from the 203rd Reconnaissance Airplane Company, was flying his O1 Birddog down a valley the enemy has frequently used to infiltrate sapper teams along Highway 19.

"I saw two soldiers in khaki uniforms run into an old bunker system. I radioed the coordinates to Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery at Landing Zone (LZ) Schuler, and within 10 minutes they pumped 24 rounds into the complex," related Lieutenant Koeman. "The bunkers were completely destroyed and the area around them flattened."

Lieutenant Koeman then put in a call for gunships from the 238th Aviation (Aerial Weapons) to work over the area.

Warrant Officer James L. Wilkinson of Riverside, Calif., from the 238th, spotted two huts on the edge of the jungle, approximately 600 meters north of the bunker complex.

"I figured there may have been more huts deeper in the jungle, so we expended rockets and 40mm grenades into the general area," said Mr. Wilkinson.

His hunch paid off as there were four secondary explosions and six huts destroyed.

Red Warriors Kill 7...

(Continued From Page 1)

Sergeant Lloyd Morgan of Huntington Beach, Calif.

A second NVA Regular was wounded as the Red Warriors poured a deadly stream of fire from the right flank. The wounded enemy soldier stumbled down the ridgeline and fell in a heap at the bottom of the hill.

Specialist 4 Walter Helms of Westminster, Calif., carefully approached the fallen enemy. "He appeared to be dead but his rifle was pointed up hill at Sergeant David Heines of Marion, Iowa. As I approached him, he sat up and started to fire his weapon."

The Red Warrior reacted instantly and killed the enemy soldier with automatic M16 fire.

At the same time, artillery and mortar blocking fire brought two NVA Regulars running directly into the Red Warrior positions.

One of the enemy wore a bush hat, brown pants and no shirt.

Specialist Wilson again opened fire, killed one enemy soldier and sent the other running back into the artillery and mortar barrage.

Meanwhile, the 3rd Platoon had forced two snipers to seek temporary refuge in bunkers.

It was a deadly mistake for the two NVA Regulars. The Red Warriors yelled at the two enemy soldiers to Chieu Hoi but their reply came from their weapons.

Specialist 4 John McCarthy of Philadelphia maneuvered to the bunkers that the enemy soldiers were in and silenced them with hand grenades.

The enemy's over confidence depleted their ranks by seven soldiers, two SKS rifles, three bolt action rifles, one AK47 and one light machine gun.

An ammunition cache contained 28 60mm mortar rounds, 14 82mm mortar rounds, 49 B40 rockets, three CHICOM grenades, 100 SKS rounds, 243 AK47 rounds, 160 12.7mm rounds and 40 82mm mortar fuses.