



WADING POOL - Men from the 4th Division's 2nd Battalion (Mech), 8th Infantry, cross a welcome stream during an operation east of Pleiku. (USA Photo by SP4 Jim Carlson)

Tough Recondo School Trains Ranger Leaders

By SP4 Charles Zewe

NHA TRANG - Tucked unobtrusively on the western edges of this old resort city is a tough, Green Beret-run training school where Army reconnaissance specialists come to learn their trade.

Known as the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Recondo School, the five-year-old facility trains several hundred long range reconnaissance patrol experts annually, including 4th Division rangers, in the combat "art" of intelligence gathering. It is the only "pure" recondo school of its kind in the world.

"You've got to be smart, tough and confident to get through this course," said Sergeant First Class Alvin Auger, school operations sergeant.

Monthly, three rangers of the 4th Division's Company K (Rangers), 75th Infantry, are sent to Nha Trang for the 21-day school after completing a pre-recondo course taught at the

company's Camp Radcliff headquarters.

The course itself consists of 306 hours of intense and at times exhausting training in just about everything a recon ranger needs to know in the field, running from map reading and patrolling techniques to artillery adjustment and photography. A daily training program featuring a four-mile run with a 35 pound rucksack is probably the most strenuous part of the course.

"Because Nha Trang has a reputation as a resort city," said Sergeant Auger, "many people come to this school with the idea that it's going to be a pushover course, but they soon discover differently. After about three days of PT and classwork, we find the same ones who thought they were coming here for a vacation mumbling to themselves."

The recondo school was begun in September, 1966 by General William C. Westmoreland, then commander

of U.S. Forces in Vietnam, to meet a need for small intelligence teams able to locate and destroy guerrilla bands. They called themselves "recondos," combining three well-known Army terms; reconnaissance, commando and doughboy.

Since the school's inception only 2,803 of the 4,659 men enrolled in the course have been graduated, attesting to the training's toughness.

Course work is divided into three phases: a classroom phase in which map reading, communication and a dozen other topics are reviewed; a

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THE IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FIGHTING FOURTH

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VC Trio Detained

Enemy Cell Broken Up

By SP4 Jim Carlson

LZ OASIS - A platoon of mechanized infantrymen detained three suspected VC, breaking up a five-man Viet Cong (VC) guerrilla team operating 15 miles southwest of Pleiku.

Troops from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, detained the three individuals, one carrying a clip of 15 AK47 rounds, after observers in a helicopter spotted five men fleeing from a Montagnard village and hiding in spider holes.

The detainees later admitted to working in a five-man team or cell with Viet Cong local forces.

Fourth Aviation Battalion helicopters carried the first platoon of Company B into the area.

Private Stephen Ruisard of DeMotte, Ind., said he pointed his rifle into some bushes next to the narrow stream. "Two men stood up, hands behind their

heads," he said. "They were hiding in the stream."

Farther down the gully Private First Class Charles Cable of Gastonia, N.C., stopped the other man and Private First Class Larry Evans of Los Angeles spotted another man escaping.

They evacuated the three individuals to the Vietnamese District Headquarters at Thanh An for interrogation and the Panther Battalion's Captain John Porter of Falls Church, Va., reported some of the resulting information gained from one of the detainees.

"He admitted to being part of a five man guerrilla team with the main mission of co-ordinating the villagers with the VC in the area," he said.

The team often acted as a security force, providing an early warning system for VC forces when they visited the village, the captain added.

Sniper Comes Close

CAMP RADCLIFF -- Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, had just finished taking a chow break while conducting a sweep operation north of Landing Zone (LZ) Challenge when two snipers opened up with AK47 fire.

Private First Class Rudy Wissema of Los Angeles, was packing up his rucksack when the enemy fire began.

"As I hit the ground, I felt a slight tingle," he explained, "but thought nothing of it."

After the brief contact, PFC Wissema unbuttoned his fatigue shirt and saw that the tingle was caused by a graze wound from the enemy fire. He also noticed that his identification chain was missing. A quick search of the immediate area by one of his buddies produced the broken chain.

Having been MEDEVACed to 17th Field Hospital for treatment, PFC Wissema had two pieces of what seemed to be shrapnel removed from the wound. A closer examination of the "shrapnel" revealed that it was, in fact, two links from his chain.



WORD FROM HOME - Troops in Vietnam value very few things higher than mail. This soldier from Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, proves to be no exception as he carefully reads a letter from home during a break in an operation five miles north of Camp Radcliff. (USA Photo by SP4 Chuck Colgan)

The Commander's Easter Message

The following is an Easter message from Major General Glenn D. Walker, Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division:

As we approach the season of Easter, Christians the world over rejoice together in the hope and joy brought by this Holy Season. The example of Faith and Sacrifice which characterized the life of Jesus Christ and culminated in his death is an example to each of us. We too, as soldiers, are called upon to make daily sacrifices in the line of duty, and we too must have faith that our efforts to make a better world are not in vain. As Christ sought to bring freedom to each man, we also join in seeking to insure the freedom of our comrades here in South Vietnam. We each take hope in this season and rejoice together in the promise of Easter.

I wish to extend to all members of the Christian Faith of this Command, and to their loved ones, my hope that this season might be one of joy, and that peace might soon come to our troubled world.

Easter Greetings From USARV And MACV

The following is a message from Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Vietnam:

Easter, with its dynamic message of resurrection, has brought joy to Christian believers for nearly 2000 years. Symbolic of hope to mankind, the resurrection of Jesus Christ brought order out of spiritual chaos and gave assurance to man of his immortality. The eternal words, "Because I live, you shall live also," lifted man from the depths of despair and filled him with eternal hope.

Hope, coupled with faith and love, has become the hallmark of Christians everywhere. Reflected in scores of ways, these attributes manifest our great heritage as Americans committed to the highest morals and ideals. They are revealed through your daily sacrifices.

As you celebrate this holy season far from home and loved ones, you may take pride in the hope and faith you are infusing in the Vietnamese people. Our common efforts are giving rise to renewed faith and optimism, and our perseverance will enable them to achieve their God-given right to freedom and dignity.

The following is a message from General Creighton W. Abrams, Commanding General, Military Assistance Command Vietnam:

As Holy Week and Easter Sunday approach, we are reminded once again of the ancient Christian message of hope in adversity, endurance in persecution, the triumph of good over evil and of life over death. During these times of tension and strife in a changing world, we should draw courage from the message of Easter that will help us to face our tasks with renewed assurance and energy.

I extend to all members of the Christian faith in the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam, and their families at home, my best wishes for a happy and spiritually rewarding Easter season.

Knowing That Someone Cares Keeps Us Going

By Chaplain (MAJ) John D. Ford

During these days of combat we expect, and receive, the best possible support from elements of an operation. Hot chow is shipped to the forward troops as often as possible. Ammunition moves from a seemingly unending supply. Package and letter mail is broken down to units in the most remote areas. Class "A" Pay Agents find themselves searching for the final soldier on the roster. Clothes, communication devices, artillery fire power, air support; on and on goes the list of combat support. We are most fortunate troops! Admitted, there are some limitations under which we function. However,

jobs are completed and missions are accomplished.

While there are those at home who voice their objections to our being here, we can never forget the source of some of the most powerful support a man can have in combat, the knowledge that someone at home sincerely cares. This is best illustrated by the following words written by a young wife "For her husband in 'Nam."

"Before Heaven closes its golden gates behind us, whether it be fifty years from now or one, whether we are together, or whether we go on alone - let me say this to you:

When you were sent to me my life began its journey. Without you, as I think now, all those rainy days would have just been wet days and all those sunny days would have been so very, very dim.

The child I hold so tightly to my breast could never smile that smile, or show so much of God in his eyes.

I guess you might say that I was lost until you came - and then finally I found that road of paradise as if it had been pointed out by His own hand. Yes, I found that road and together we hurried down it.

I am never afraid that we will

lose each other along that path - no, I am only afraid of having to travel on alone for awhile.

But even so, of one thing I am certain, when we reach the end of the winding route, no matter which one of us is first - we shall always be there waiting for each other.

And so, my most precious, until that day comes, let us try to catch every glance of roadside beauty; let us try to take each step carefully and surely, so that we shall not fall.

We shall use our trust as our compass, our love as our shelter, and our God as our constant home.

If I pause, please urge me on; if I stumble, please help me back; and if the road becomes dark with storm, please be my guiding light.

I shall be all that I can to you, so my dearest - I believe you're going my way."

Courage, hope, peace of mind and many more virtues of the same sort are constructed from the knowledge of such devotion as this. Isn't it within the potential boundaries of each of us to possess such strong support? We can reap the blessings of a virtuous life, or suffer the defeat of our own infidelity. We are free to choose!

Uncle Sam Needs You For Med Dept.

"Uncle Sam wants you." This old, often used statement that was and is printed on military

career posters is in fact changing to read, "Uncle Sam needs you in the Army Medical Department."

One of the most critical problems in the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) today is the shortage of personnel who are trained and utilized in various highly skilled military occupational specialties.

Recently, Lieutenant General Hal B. Jennings, Jr., the Surgeon General of the Army, indicated his concern for the need of such men. General Jennings wrote, "I urgently request that you give maximum effort to the encouragement of qualified personnel to submit applications for service school training. Properly supported request for waivers will be approved in deserving cases to the maximum degree possible to include the prerequisite for experience at the time the applications are received. Success in this effort is imperative and deserves the wholehearted cooperation of everyone concerned."

Recently three of the AMEDD enlisted MOSs have been placed in the highest priority category for input of personnel for training.

First, it means that if you have certain qualifications and desire training in the various medical MOSs, you are assured to receive training and to move into the field if successfully trained. With this training you will be awarded the appropriate MOS and will qualify for various sums of specialty pay.

Secondly, many ask the question, "What benefits will I derive from my present job in the military when I return to civilian life?" With a medical specialty MOS, you will find an array of offers open to join hospital staffs, clinics, etc.

The benefits stated above are your "real" benefits. Most of us have another desire, a desire to do something we enjoy as our life's work. One of the criteria of this is indicated by our usefulness to our fellow man. As a member of the Army Medical Team, you will directly help your fellow soldier in that your skill may save or prolong his life or the life of his dependents and loved ones.



CONTACT - If this is your repair method, prepare to be shocked by the consequences. Make sure electricity is shut off before making repairs.



THE IVY LEAF

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The Judge Says:

By LTC Bruce E. Stevenson

You have been ordered to report for active duty with the armed services, but you still owe money on a car, your home and perhaps on a personal loan. At the time these debts were incurred you were earning considerably more than military service pay and making payments now is difficult and in some cases impossible. Is there any debt assistance available to you?

Congress has realized that many people are in this situation upon entering military service and has passed the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act. As the name suggests, the Act affords relief in CIVIL matters only, and does not cover criminal matters.

The Civil Relief Act generally applies only to persons who are on active duty in the military service. This includes all branches of the military service and the benefits of this Act are available during the period of military service and for short periods after separation.

The protection of the Act applies to all lawsuits in any court of the United States, from the lowest court in the land to the Supreme Court of the United States. However, the Act generally applies only to those debts incurred BEFORE entrance on active duty and only if the loss of income due to military service is the cause of the difficulty.

A court suit is commenced when a person, usually called the plaintiff, files a complaint or a civil action. The defendant is then served with a copy of the complaint and a court date is set. A default judgment may be entered against the defendant if he fails to answer the complaint.

However, a default judgment generally may not be entered against a serviceman unless certain procedures are complied with. Before a court can properly enter a default judgment, the plaintiff must file a statement under oath that the defendant is in the military service. In this event the court may appoint an attorney to represent the serviceman. An attorney so appointed has no power to waive any of the serviceman's rights. Further, in the event the court enters a default judgment, the court can require the plaintiff to provide a security deposit. This deposit will protect the serviceman in the event the judgment is later set aside. That is, the security will be used, if necessary, to pay the serviceman for any damages he may have suffered as a result of the judgment. If the plaintiff files a false statement that a serviceman is not in military service, he has committed a crime and can be fined and imprisoned.

If a default judgment is granted the serviceman may still have some protection. The court may be requested to reopen the case and set aside the default judgment if it can be shown: 1) that action is taken within 90 days after discharge, 2) that the serviceman was harmed or prejudiced by reason of military service in presenting his case, and 3) that there exists a valid, legal defense to the suit.

It is important to remember that the provisions of the Act may be waived if the serviceman signs a document to this effect. So be sure that no legal documents are signed without advice from your Legal Assistance Officer.

From Teaspoons To Tanks

First Log Keeps Fourth Supplied

By SP4 Charles Zewe

QUI NHON -- What is probably one of the most sophisticated logistics support systems in Army history, based in this Vietnamese port town, keeps 4th Division troops supplied with virtually everything they need from teaspoons to tanks.

Spread throughout the lush, green Long My and Phu Tai valleys near Qui Nhon and along the sandy coastal flatlands of the city itself, the Army's 1st Logistics Command maintains scores of cavernous warehouses, stocking tons of supply items for allied forces in II Corps.

Virtually everything American fighting men need to keep on the go can be found somewhere in Qui Nhon, whether it's pencils, peanut butter, ammunition or avacadoes. One can also find items which are admitted luxuries in a combat zone such as below-zero freezers with stores of 11 different kinds of steak, fresh lobster and shrimp.

"Our depot here is the product of one of the most refined and sophisticated supply systems in Army history," said Colonel W. J. Whelan, U.S. Army Support Command depot commander.

Qui Nhon is one of four major supply centers in Vietnam. Others are located at Da Nang, Cam Ranh Bay and Long Binh.

In addition to keeping 4th Division troops supplied, "Logmen" at Qui Nhon are responsible for supporting the 173rd Airborne Brigade, portions of the Americal Division, the Republic of Korea's Tiger Division, the 22nd Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Infantry Division, signal Corps support groups, Engineer battalions and 5th Special Forces Group advisors stationed in the Central Highlands.

"The scope of the task our men handle is a mammoth one, but due to the wealth of air and land transportation resources available to us and the use of computerized stock control systems, we have been able to make ourselves on-the-job trained experts at logistics," said Colonel Whelan, who is a former commanding officer of the 4th Division's 704th Maintenance Battalion.

Daily, long truck convoys snake down Highway 19 toward Pleiku and An Khe from Qui Nhon carrying the equivalent of a giant supermarket's goods to division distribution points. A limited amount of highly perishable fruits and vegetables are airlifted to the division via Air Force transports. Once the items reach the distribution points, 4th Supply and Transportation Battalion personnel and 704th Maintenance Battalion men take

over and handle moving the supplies to individual units.

The relatively short process of getting a crate of oranges or any supply item from its storage place in Qui Nhon to a forward firebase near An Khe begins on the decks where ocean-going freighters are off-loaded by Vietnamese longshoremen. The cargoes are inventoried and then broken up into classes and stored in one of several supply depots. Meanwhile, the type and quantity of supplies taken off the ships is punched out on computer data cards and programmed into the "Log" command's computer center at Long My.

"Computers are one of the refinements of our logistics system today," said Colonel Whelan, "which enable us to keep accurate records on depot stocks and allow us to tell at an instant how much of a given item is on hand."

The Long My computer is also electronically tied in with the Logistics Command's main computer center at Long Binh, which keeps track of all supply items in Vietnam.

Added to the normal list of supply items, members of the 240th Quartermaster Battalion supply division units with fuel products such as MOGAS, aviation fuel, diesel and lubricating oil.

Logistics elements at Qui Nhon don't handle medical supplies or cryptographic materials.

Once requests for supply items enter the depot, it is usually a quick process of loading the materials aboard trucks or on board aircraft for movement to the units requesting them.

"Today's soldier in Vietnam is without a doubt much better supplied than were his predecessors in World War II and Korea," said Colonel Whelan.

"Of course we have our problems, but they are purely operational in nature and they are usually quickly resolved. We could run a near-perfect operation if individual unit commanders could foresee their supply needs as much as 30 days in advance, giving us time to get the items, but that would be an almost utopian situation, one which we're not likely to achieve in a combat zone," he added.

As troop redeployments from Vietnam continue, portions of the Qui Nhon depots are being turned over to the Vietnamese workers who have been trained in the various phases of its operation by members of the support command. More than 1,200 Vietnamese nationals are already at work in the depots and they have taken over partial responsibility for the unloading of ships at the docks.

Dragons Have Proud Heritage

By PFC Stephen Heck

CAMP RADCLIFF -- "Golden Dragons, sir." The officers and men of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, express a proud heritage when they exchange salutes with these words. As with most infantry units, the Golden Dragons have a long and illustrious history which includes being the originator of its unique motto.

The 14th Infantry was first organized in 1861 as a volunteer regiment from Connecticut and became part of the newly organized Army of the Potomac. The unit participated in some of the bloodiest campaigns of the Civil War, playing a decisive part in the battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863 and in the final campaign against General Lee which ended at Appomattox Court House.

When the Union armies passed in review in Washington at the end of the Civil War, the commander of the Army of the Potomac, General Meade, attested to the worth of the 14th Infantry when he was asked where the regiment should march in the review: "Take the right of the line. The 14th has always been to the front in battle and deserves the honor."

The Golden Dragons were instrumental in the settlement of the West following the Civil War, fighting in Arizona in 1866 and in Wyoming in 1874. The 14th Infantry also participated in the campaign against the Sioux under Sitting Bull in 1876, which ended so disastrously for the 7th Cavalry under Colonel Custer.

The growth of the United States into a world power at the end of the 19th century called the Golden Dragons to duty once again. In 1900 they became part of the American Force that was sent to Peking to quell the Boxer Rebellion. After leading a successful assault on the fortress

in Peking, the 14th Infantry was allowed to lead the entry into the city in recognition of its achievement. A Golden Dragon, considered by the Chinese to be a symbol of power, was adopted by the unit for their part in the action.

Starvation Produces Rallier

CAMP RADCLIFF -- A starving North Vietnamese Army soldier recently decided to call it quits when he entered the night location of Company A, of the 4th Division's 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Sergeant Richard O. Davis of Lombard, Ill., said, "I was sitting on our fighting position facing an open trail when I spotted this guy walking towards our position. After I fired one shot he started screaming Chieu Hoi and put his hands over his head."

The very next words the rallier said were "do an," the Vietnamese word meaning food. "We gave him some C-rations and a few cigarettes but he insisted on more food," commented one of the Dragons. The NVA soldier also cupped his hands, as if holding a very small portion of rice as he said "ti-ti."

The enemy soldier was carrying a rucksack and wearing black pajamas and sandals. He was treated for a skin infection and evacuated to Camp Radcliff.

Specialist 4 Donald Koster of Rock Island, Ill. said, "I've never seen anyone so hungry and scared."



CHECKS IN -- A Radio-Telephone operator with Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mech), 8th Infantry, checks with headquarters from his jungle location. (USA Photo by SP4 Jim Carlson)

Ivyman Inundated With Mail As Children Send Their Love

By PFC Joel Stafford

CAMP RADCLIFF -- A soldier stationed in Vietnam learns to live with loneliness as an ordinary part of his life, and mail, the one "magic" connection with home and loved ones, often comes in scarce quantities.

Private First Class James J. Sullivan, Company A, 124th Signal Battalion has found this problem doesn't exist, thanks to the "big" hearts of some thirty school children from home.

These children, fourth graders at Our Lady Of Mercy Convent, Hicksville, Long Island, N.Y., have made the 4th Division soldier their center of attention in attempts to keep him in mail.

Under the supervision of Sister Grace Ann Mullaney, their instructor, the deluge of mail has been approaching fifteen letters daily.

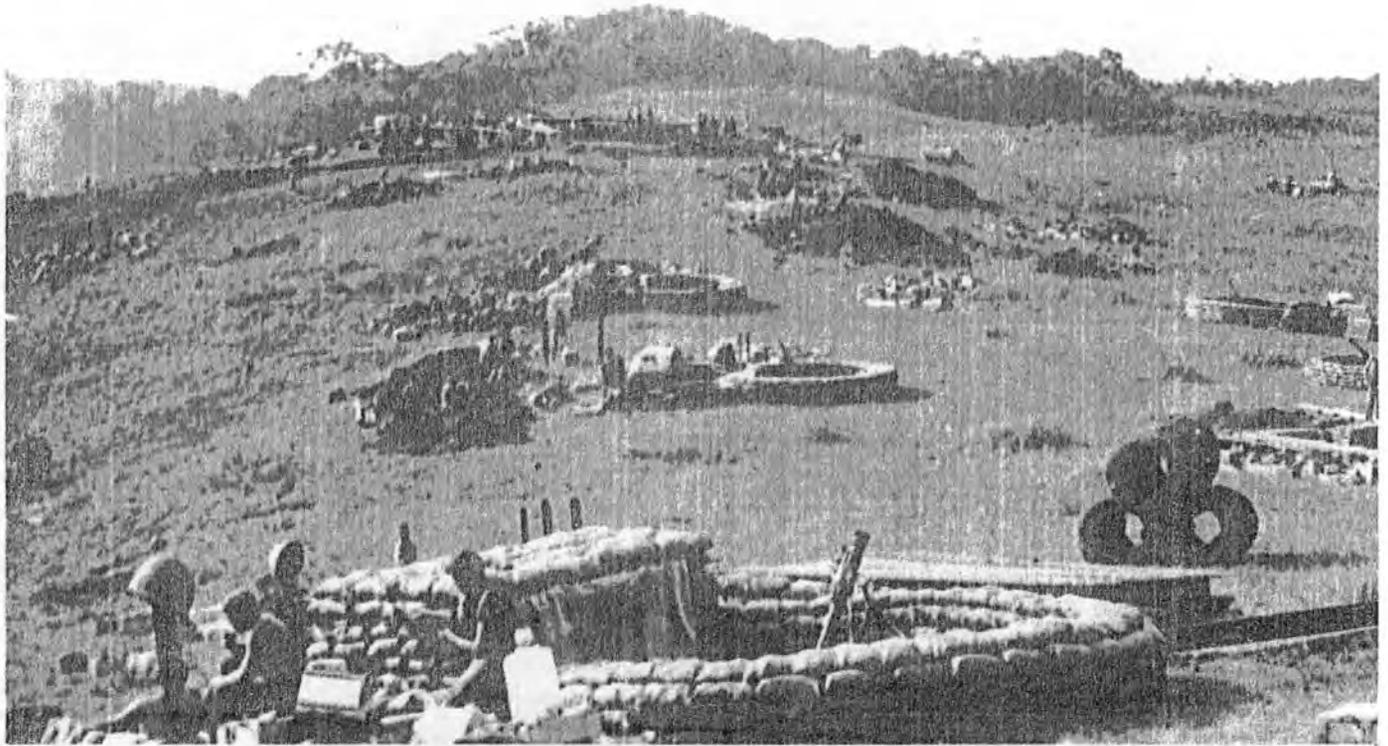
"They are really amazing, their concern is so genuine," comments PFC Sullivan, a native

of Brooklyn, N.Y. "You would be surprised at their knowledge of world affairs and Vietnam in particular."

Most of the children seem to understand two things in particular about Army life: the early "wake-up" in the mornings, and the notorious "Kitchen Police."

"It is hard sometimes, but I try to personally reply to all of them. It's the least I can do to express my appreciation," said PFC Sullivan.

And A Firebase Is Born



QUICK WORK -- A formerly empty hill is transposed into a working center as support weapons are emplaced.

Story & Photos By SP4 Robert Jones



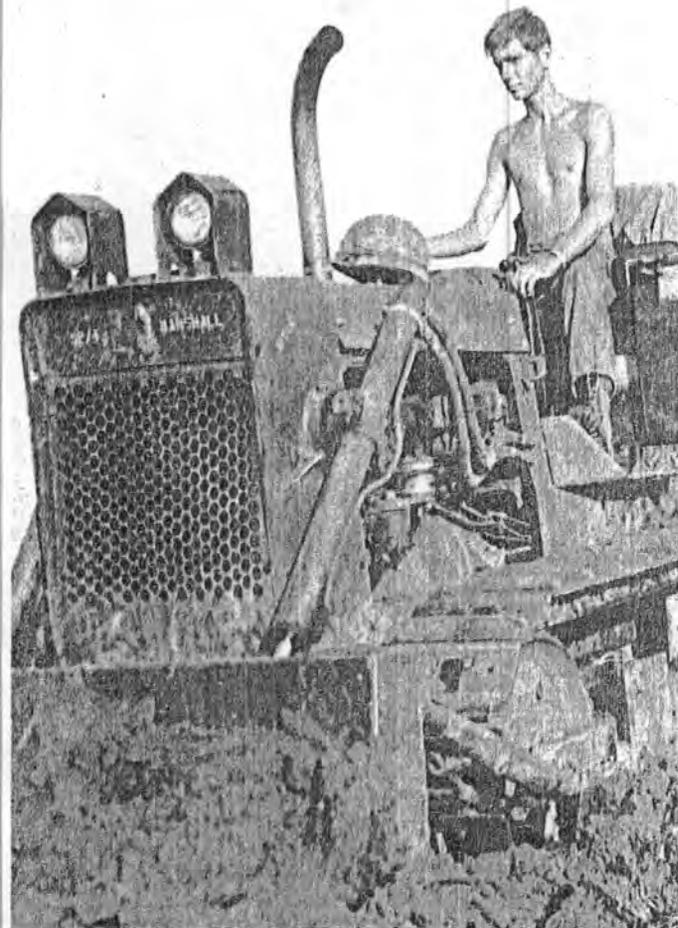
HIGHLAND ARCHITECTURE -- Firebase Hooper took shape quickly as is exemplified by this large underground bunker.

Cacti B Home I

CAMP RADCLIFF -- High on the crest of the wooded mountains 37 miles north of An Khe lies a pair of grassy knolls. The mountains are precipitous. There are no roads, no villages. It is the essence of isolation. Yet, it has become the new home of the 4th Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry.

In a massive helicopter assault, the Cacti Blue airlifted onto the two barren hills to establish a new firebase, Landing Zone (LZ) Hooper. Company B was first assaulted onto the site to secure a tentative perimeter. The rest of the day the sky was filled with sortie after sortie as helicopters ferried in the remainder of the battalion and Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery.

The Sky Cranes and Chinooks made repeated



MECHANIZED HELP - A "mini-dozer" saves manhours at the 4th Division's Firebase Hooper in the Central Highlands by digging the larger bunker holes.



RAW MATERIALS - A "Skycrane" begins landing a sling of building elements at the 4th Division's Firebase Hooper.

Blue Carving in The Boonies

trips bringing ammunition, building materials, food, water, men and thousands of sandbags. Then the work began--the back-breaking work. A "mini-dozer" dug the holes for the larger bunkers. On the bunker line, the troops used pick and shovel. Sandbags were filled in a continuous stream. The two placid knolls became a beehive of activity.

The glaring sun drenched the soldiers in their own sweat. "Hooks" and "Cranes" whipped the loosened dirt into the air--into the pores of the skin, the hair and the eyes. Take a break--a cool soda and a cigarette. Then fill more sandbags. C-rations for lunch. Labor through the sultry afternoon. Hot meal for dinner. Sleep in the dew-dampened grass. Rise early to fill more sandbags.

Slowly progress is made. Slow only to those doing the work, because scores of coordinated projects bring the firebase into reality in only a matter of days. Actually it isn't even days, because the base is functional almost from the moment of its inception. The artillery and mortar sections continually give support fire. The .50 caliber machine guns stand ready on the bunker line. The Tactical Operations Center (TOC) controls troop movements and operations in the area. It functions before it is built; it is built while it is functioning.

Everybody is underground, or behind thick walls. Essentially the firebase is complete. There is still work to be done, but there is always work to be done. Landing Zone Hooper stands ready.



EGGS BENEDICT - Chicagoan Sergeant Steve Palace of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, cooks bacon and eggs in a wash basin while two other RTO's await the feast.

AFVN Sought

TV Channel Hard To Get

CAMP RADCLIFF -- Most Army troops serving in Vietnam would probably agree that television is a great way to pass the time, and members of the 4th Engineer Battalion of the 4th Division are no different. But it requires more than rabbit ears for good reception of AFVN's Channel 11 at Camp Radcliff.

In their quest for entertainment, the engineers have come up with a number of versions of the standard television antenna. "All it requires," recommends Platoon Sergeant Tommy Dake of Fort Worth, Tex., "are some coat hanger wires, or something similar, and a little imagination."

Sergeant First Class Paul D. Wilkinson of Washington, Kan., suggested that the irreparable fan that has been gathering dust in the corner is perfect. "The fan guard makes a fine antenna," he said.

But Sergeant First Class James E. Campbell, Jr., the mess sergeant of Company B, sees it differently. "You can purchase one in An Khe for about 1,000 piasters," he said. SFC Campbell of Elizabethtown, Ky., runs two TV sets in his mess hall for the company's personnel while he prepares his meals.

After all, the engineer soldier must have something to do with his evenings when he's not busy attending a movie, watching a floor show, or catching up on a best seller.

If you are interested in building an antenna for your television, here's the recommended antenna for Channel 11:

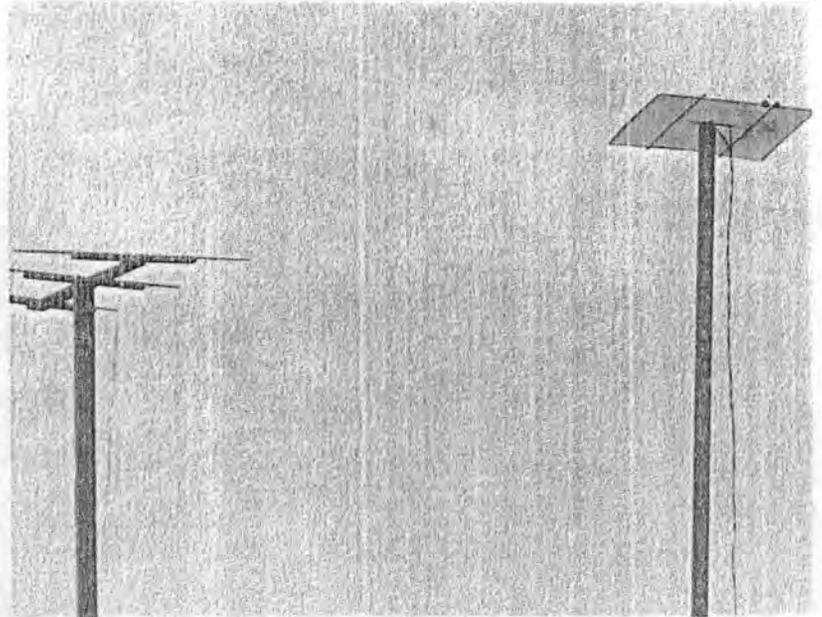
Use any copper, steel or aluminum wire, including coat hangers, which are long enough and sturdy enough to support itself in normal local winds.

Use lamp cord or telephone field wire for the lead-in wire.

The higher the antenna, the better the reception.

Cut three pieces of wire: the first 29 inches long (reflector element), the second 54 inches long (driver element which is looped so that it becomes 27 inches long) and the third 26 1/2 inches long (director element).

Fasten on a two inch by four inch or similar board, making sure the spacing is correct. Solder the lead-in wire to the open ends of the drive element and tie the wire with string so that the open ended portion of the drive element will retain its rigidity and maintain the same spacing throughout its length. Slowly rotate the antenna until the best picture is obtained. Reception is sometimes improved by adding an open stub to the lead-in wire at the receiver's antenna connectors. Take a three foot piece of lead-in wire and connect it along with the line leading to the antenna. Strip small sections from the stub until the best picture is obtained.



COME IN, PLEASE - These two antennae are just samples of the wide variety used to tune in on that hard-to-get AFVN.

Strength Of Vietnam's Army Not Limited To First Division

The 1st Division, largest of all Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) divisions, is not the only Vietnamese unit to serve with distinction.

Another of the elite units of the ARVN forces is the Marines who trace their history back to the French Marine Commando Companies used in river assaults. Originally part of the Navy, the 9,500 Marines are now a part of

the strategic defense of Saigon's Capital Military District.

The Airborne Division, also part of the strategic reserve, has seen action in the Demilitarized Zone, in Saigon during the 1968 Tet offensive, at the embattled Citadel of Hue and in nearly every major struggle of the war.

Other famed units include Colonel Tran Ba Di's tough Ninth Division in the Delta and the Second Division at Quang Ngai. And there are the Rangers. The 42nd Ranger Battalion, for instance, has received unit citations for bravery from two U.S. presidents.

Organized in 1960 as a primary reaction force, the Rangers have been involved in almost every major battle. As the Viet Cong threat grew in intensity from 1957 on, the need developed for counter-insurgency troops who could meet the guerrilla in his own jungle.

The Luc Luong Dac Biet (LLDB) was modeled on the U.S. Special Forces and adopted their distinctive green berets. The LLDB commands the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) companies - 45,000 specially trained warriors, most of them from minority group tribesmen.

The Vietnamese troops which inflicted the most casualties on the enemy in proportion to their size are the "Ruff Puffs," the laudatory title given to the 391,000 militiamen of the Regional Forces (RF) and the Popular Forces (PF).

The RF operate in 123-man companies under the province chiefs, while the PFs are organized into 35-man platoons for local village and hamlet security. The RF now does much the same work as company-size units from the regular ARVN divisions. The PF, better armed as a result of a \$200 million militia modernization program, still maintains static defense posts but also sends out roving patrols to meet the enemy.

In Vietnam the police are in

the front rank in initial reaction forces. Usually the police are the first to be informed of a Viet Cong Raid and the first to rush to the scene. The Police Special Branch is the core of Operation Phung Hoang, a nationwide pooling of intelligence data to rout out the Viet Cong leadership.

Viet Cong who have turned their backs on Communism and rallied to the government's side under the Chieu Hoi program are engaged in a number of military activities.

Of the more than 104,000 who have defected since the program started, 4,000 are in Armed Propaganda Teams. These teams go back into contested areas and spread the word to their former Viet Cong comrades about how life in the government-controlled areas compares with life under VC rule.

Important military forces who have received more than their share of Viet Cong attacks are the 46,000 Revolutionary Development and the 7,000 Truong Son members, the men (and a few women) in black pajamas who help villagers recreate local democratic government in newly pacified areas and provide hamlet defense until the people can be trained and armed to protect their own communities.

The program to build hamlet-level civilian home protection units did not begin to snowball until after the communists' Tet offensive. In most cases the draft was not necessary, for young boys and older men were quick to volunteer in order to have a voice in their local unit's organization. And in many units the teen-age girls and women, who are not subject to the draft, volunteered in such numbers that they constitute the majority of the members of their People's Civil Self-Defense Force (PCSDF).

Because of these consolidated defense efforts, the people of South Vietnam can take pride in their greatly increased means for self-determination.

Old Bell Brings Familiar Ring To New Chapel

By SP4 E. Anthony D'Elia

CAMP RADCLIFF -- The finishing touch to the recently constructed 2nd Brigade Highlander Chapel was the raising of its new bell.

Actually it's not a new bell, but one that made the big move from Camp Enari to Camp Radcliff right along with the 4th Division.

The Highlander Bell was one of six bells purchased in Taiwan with a donation from the Easter 1968 Offering by the men of the division. Each of six chapels in Camp Enari were to get a bell and a commemorative plaque.

Made of a lightweight brass alloy, the Highlander Bell has a strong Oriental influence. It has a long body that tapers to a round top unlike American and European design.

"Up close it gives a 'clunking' sound, but from a distance it sounds pretty good," explained Division Chaplain Assistant Specialist 5 John Daane of Waupauin, Wis.

There is a mysterious hole in the bell that suggests some rough times, but no one seems to know how it got there.

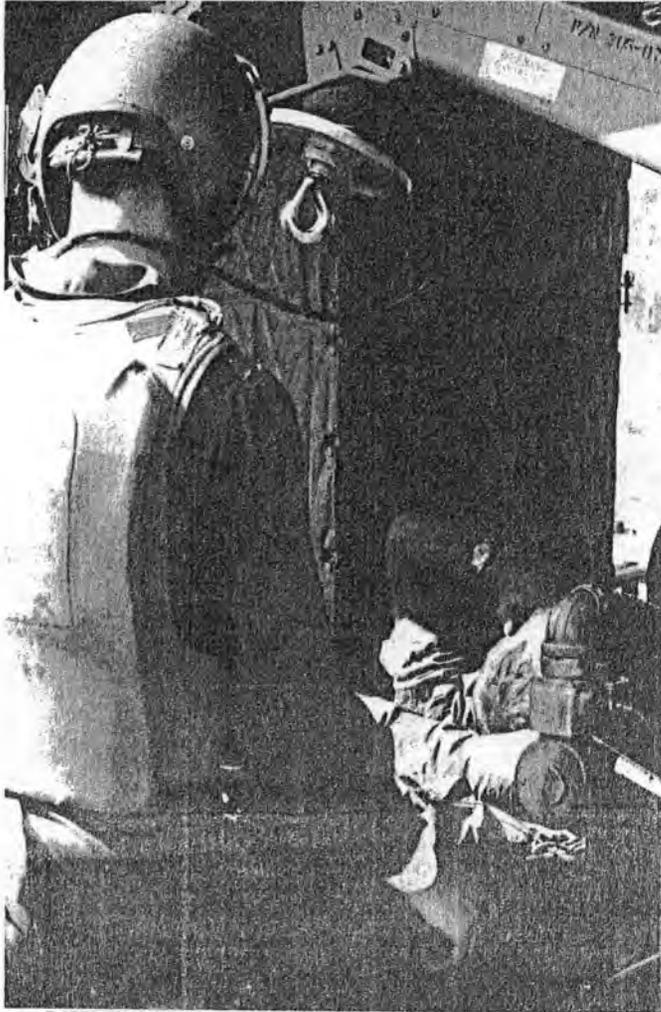
An inscription on the Highlander Bell tells for whom the bell tolls -- "Memorium 4th Infantry Division."



HIGHLANDER BELL - Specialist 4 Jerry Desson of Aransas Pass, Tex., a chaplain's assistant with the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade, polishes the Highlander Bell.

(USA Photo by SP4 Tony D'Elia)

MEDEVAC: Tough, Rewarding



RAPID TRANSFER - In a few, brief minutes this Ivyman will be in the Treatment Room at the 17th Evacuation Hospital under the care of skilled physicians.
(USA Photo by SP4 Beau Schachow)

By PFC Gerry Gingras
CAMP RADCLIFF - The initial crackle of a transmission suddenly interrupted the casual conversation in the radio shack. Members of the 498th Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) Company reacted swiftly to the "call-to."

Request, place, terrain and weather conditions were noted. Before another few minutes had elapsed, the pilot, crew chief and medic had already lifted skyward.

A thin wisp of yellow smoke indicated where the chopper would make its descent into the steep and rugged terrain. Touchdown. Several injured men are boarded and the crew medic goes to work immediately.

In a few more minutes they are in the Treatment Room under the care of skilled physicians. It's just that fast.

Warrant Officer Samuel Siverd of Meadville, Pa., a 498th MEDEVAC pilot, summed it all up by saying, "It's a real rewarding job. You get out there and bring them in. Flying dust-offs is sometimes a little hair-raising, but always rewarding. You know you've accomplished something important."

The MEDEVAC's flight crew is always on a 24 hour call. Warrant Officer Siverd noted that the mission frequency varies "from one or two missions a day, sometimes more." However, individual

crew members stay at Camp Radcliff's field site for a 10 day stretch and then rotate to a different base.

The 498th MEDEVAC Company covers an area stretching north from Tuy Hoa to the south of Duc Pho.

Speaking specifically about the An Khe area, the pilot noted: "The terrain is difficult, and many times there's no landing zone. So we use a jungle penetrator."

This weighted "seat" can fall from 100 to 150 feet through the densest growth. The injured man is then strapped in and hoisted.

Although most MEDEVAC pilots perfect the many skills required for an efficient dust-off by in-country experience, their prior training is rigorous and complete. After finishing Flight School, those chosen for dust-off pilots undergo specialized training in flight techniques and first aid.

Their aviation skill is complemented by only the best in equipment. "Our ships are the best in the country because we always have priority in equipment allocations," explained Mr. Siverd.

The ability of MEDEVAC crews, coupled with advanced medical facilities and the competence of the medical staff, certainly afford Ivy men every reason to view the possibility of illness or injury with optimism.



INSTANT AID - Touchdown. Injured men are boarded and the crew medic goes to work immediately.
(USA Photo by SP4 Beau Schachow)



COMING IN - As the MEDEVAC chopper comes in for a landing, an ambulance stands ready for the brief ride to the 17th Evacuation Hospital.
(USA Photo by SP4 Dan Wesley)

Supply Serves Crucial Function For Field Troops

By PFC Stephen Heck
CAMP RADCLIFF -- Of the many operations serving the men of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, TA-50 (the central issue of field gear) is one of the most important.

Primarily responsible for furnishing clean fatigues every week to the forward firebase and line companies of the Golden Dragons, the men of TA-50 take their responsibilities seriously.

Sergeant Douglas Keen of Fayetteville, N.C. who is in charge of the operation for the battalion feels that clean clothes every week for the men in the field keeps morale high. "It used to be that companies got clean fatigues every four weeks. You can definitely get tired of that," he commented.

If necessary, a company in the field can be sent clean fatigues within 45 minutes. This is not a small feat when one considers a typical company resupply would be 125 sets of fatigues and an equal amount of socks and underwear included.

Dirty fatigues from the field are sent to the quartermaster laundry at the rate of approximately 500 sets per week. Ripped or otherwise unserviceable fatigues are

destroyed. "An average set of fatigues lasts about four weeks in the field, and that's being generous," stated Specialist 4 William Simpson of Marshville, N.C.

Working in TA-50 presents many challenges, especially when it comes to the unexpected.

Recently, TA-50 resupplied Company A of the Golden Dragons with new fatigues still boxed from the factory, but when they were opened 125 rucksacks were inside. The last stand-down of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, presented an embarrassing situation.

"I had been here for just three days when the battalion came in and we had to get out clean fatigues," said Sergeant Keen. "I guess we did our job too well, since we gave out dirty clothes. We were quickly informed of our mistake," he added.

As far as the men of TA-50 are concerned, maintaining the morale of the men in the field is the most important job for the Army in the Central Highlands. The Golden Dragons help out in this task through the resupply of clean clothes to their men in the field. It's a hard job at times but always rewarding.



"Actually, I don't believe in just sitting around doing nothing. There's a lot to be accomplished, and if you have any free time in Vietnam, don't waste it daydreaming. Check with your education center and improve your mind. You'll be glad you did."

(Photo by Peter Gowland)



April 1 -- 4th Anniversary, 1st Logistical Command, Vietnam
April 1 -- 63rd Anniversary of the Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Ga.
April 4 -- 21st Anniversary of NATO
April 5 -- 146th Anniversary of the Air Defense School, Ft. Bliss, Tex.
April 16 -- 23rd Anniversary of the Army Medical Specialist Corps
April 18 -- 28th Anniversary of *European Stars and Stripes*
April 20-28 -- Passover
April 23 -- 62nd Anniversary of the Army Reserve
April 25 -- Staff Sergeant Kenneth Stumpf, Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, wins the Medal of Honor in Vietnam, 1967.



STRONG POINT - A soldier from Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mech), 8th Infantry, checks a Viet Cong strong point east of Pleiku. (USA Photo by SP4 Jim Carlson)

Nylon Snake Occupies HQ, Lieutenant Reacts Decisively

By PFC Joel Stafford
CAMP RADCLIFF -- Nighttime in Vietnam - a time to relax and reflect upon home.

Captain Cecil F. Davis, Adjutant, 124th Signal Battalion, was doing just that as

his thoughts drowsily danced some ten thousand miles away in Hopewell, Va.

A knock on the door—and a lieutenant stood framed against the doorway telling of a 10 foot snake that had decided to move into Battalion Headquarters.

Captain Davis got up and made his way outside.

"I think we'd better not fire a shot in the Battalion area," muttered Captain Davis in quick judgment, "I'll get a jeep and we'll run over it."

Locating a jeep in the middle of the night can be a problem. A few minutes later Captain Davis arrived with one at the spot where the vigilant lieutenant stood.

"It's moved from its original spot, but it's still here," he said. "I'll guide you in."

Captain Davis quickly put the vehicle in line with the snake and started forward. As he neared his target he suddenly stopped the jeep. The captain quietly got out of the jeep. He reached down and grasped it. A more docile snake could never be found. It dangled from the captain's hand.

"This is your snake," he observed. "I think it's what we call a harmless species of nylon rope."

In a desperate attempt to save face, the lieutenant said gracefully, "Better safe than sorry -- right, sir?"

"What time is it?" was the only reply.

"One o'clock, sir." Captain Davis, rubbing his forehead, turned and walked away.

Recondo . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
tactical phase in which class members are taken on a four-day field training exercise near Nha Trang for practice in immediate action drills and other classroom-taught subjects; and a third phase consisting of an actual five-day operation in suspected enemy operating areas west of Nha Trang.

The 65-member classes are divided into teams in which they work throughout the course. Attached to each team is a Special Forces cadreman, who observes team members and continually grades their performance. Anytime a cadreman feels a student lacks "proper motivation" or cannot perform as he should in the course, he can have the student dropped from the school.

"They sure make you earn your keep here," said Private First Class Jerry Hendrix, a 4th Division ranger from Dallas. "This school is plenty hard, but it's good training which will be highly valuable in the field."