

Oasis Defenders Kill 45 NVA

By 1LT Jim Hughes

OASIS — The night was typical of Vietnam, so dark you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. It was as quiet as it was dark. Only the drone of generators filled the void.

The Oasis, headquarters of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 3rd Brigade was at rest. Only the night people and the guards in the bunkers were awake.

At 2:00 a.m. the stillness was shattered and was not to return for the remainder of that night.

The first round impacted no one knows where. But those who heard it knew it was "incoming."

The alert was sounded and the scramble had begun. In the brigade headquarters company area a B40 rocket screamed wildly overhead and detonated harmlessly at the end of its aimless flight. To those who had the same experience before, it was like an announcement: "sappers!"

The bunker line went on 100 per cent alert and reaction forces assembled quietly.

The "incoming" intensified.

During the night, 364 rounds of incoming 60mm mortar, 82mm mortar, B40 rocket, 122mm rocket and 140mm rocket fire was directed at the Oasis.

Ground probes were made on three sides of the perimeter by an estimated NVA battalion working with a sapper company.

The brigade commander, Colonel Richard L. Gruenther, took personal command of the defensive operations. His request for immediate artillery support was met by Delta Battery, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery situated at the Rock Quarry only four miles away. High explosive 155mm Howitzers soon began pounding a ring around the perimeter.

As the ground probes were identified the bunker line responded, lacing red tracers like a stream into the night.

The enemy fire was also intense. At one point after numerous rocket hits, Bunker 9 disappeared in a cloud of dust.

Radio contact was lost and it was feared to have been knocked out.

The dust settled and once again the M60 machine gun began hammering away. The guards had been doing the right thing—keeping their heads down.

On the western side of the perimeter a sapper squad was spotted as they ran across the airstrip and prepared to fire a B41 rocket. The machine gun in Bunker 25 manned by the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, zeroed in on the first burst killing five NVA. A similar squad crossing the resupply pad met the same fate at the hands of a sharpshooting M79 grenadier.

In the vicinity of Bunker 22 the enemy made his only penetration and the men of the 366th Aviation Support Detachment drove them back in bitter close-quarters fighting.

Throughout the night, 40mm Dusters from Delta Battery, 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery, expended into the perimeter. Air Force C119 and CH117 gunships also joined the fight. Their deadly minigun fire raked the surrounding treelines and avenues of retreat resulting in four secondary explosions.

At approximately 5:00 a.m., contact ceased on the perimeter of the Oasis. The first light of dawn told the story. Forty-five NVA soldiers had died in an unsuccessful attempt to overrun the camp. Casualties and damage were light to defenders of the Oasis.



Vol. 1, No. 3

June 1, 1969

Enemy In Retreat, 57 Die

OASIS — Through the use of every weapon in their vast arsenal, units located at the (LZ) Oasis grouped a successful counterattack against an enemy force which had attacked the base one night earlier.

Gunship, artillery and Air Force firepower were utilized in a devastating reaction which accounted for 57 enemy deaths, after 45 North Vietnamese Army soldiers were killed in defense of the LZ.

The enemy force, estimated to be an NVA battalion working with a sapper company had attacked the headquarters of the 3rd Brigade at approximately 2 a.m.

Shortly after daylight the same morning, air scout teams from Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry began visual reconnaissance of an area southwest of the Oasis from which the enemy had made its most concentrated attack.

Throughout the morning,

122mm rocket fire was received at the Oasis from an area six kilometers west of the base. Subsequently, Delta Troop scouts concentrated their visual reconnaissance in that general area.

The first sighting of the retreating enemy came at 1:30 p.m. when a Delta Troop Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) spotted a bunker complex containing an estimated 40 NVA soldiers.

Airstrikes were called in and Major Roger D. Tarr of Colfax, N.D., 3rd Brigade Forward Air Controller (FAC) responded, directing Air Force F100 Fighters and Skyraiders into the enemy area.

Gunships expended on the confirmed enemy location and artillery was also employed to complete the coordinated display of massed firepower.

When the smoke cleared, 37 confirmed NVA killed in action could be counted by the Delta Troop scouts.

Later that same afternoon, Lieutenant Colonel R. D. Reinck of Fairfax, Va., commander of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, spotted an estimated NVA company while reconning an area less than a mile south of the bunker complex.

Shamrock gunships from the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry blasted the area of the sighting.

The guns of the "Mighty Ninth," 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, also responded to the contact from their location at the Oasis. Colonel Renick adjusted the fire as the deadly 105mm rounds hurtled into the enemy location.

Low line observation by Shamrock scouts revealed 20 NVA dead in the now battered area.

The enemy, unsuccessful in his attack on the Oasis had now gambled and lost in two days. His retreat damaged him even more than his attack.

Grabs Enemy's Weapon

Chases Intruder From Tent

OASIS — Knowing that death was staring him in the face, the situation seemed hopeless for Specialist 5 Carl Stevenson as rockets landed all around him, and unarmed, clad in his underwear and squatting at the front of his tent the Monroe, La. soldier lived his longest night.

Specialist Stevenson's nightmare began as he departed the Headquarters Troop operations center of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, shortly after one o'clock in the morning.

"I went back to my tent and wrote a few letters. But I couldn't get to sleep because I kept hearing sounds," related Specialist Stevenson.

"Then I heard a loud explosion, I realized it was incoming, and immediately ran to the TOC in my underwear to warn everyone.

Specialist Stevenson had started back to get his weapon and ammunition when a B40 rocket landed directly on top of his tent.

He squatted down when he heard the rocket hit and was just about to stand up when a dark figure entered through the rear of the tent.

Specialist Stevenson quickly identified the approaching figure as being a North Vietnamese Army soldier with an AK47 rifle. The perimeter of Landing Zone (LZ) Oasis, home of the Fourth

Division's Third Brigade, had been penetrated and Specialist Stevenson's problems had just taken a serious turn for the worse.

As the NVA intruder moved toward the front of the tent he began to speak in Vietnamese. "I think he thought I was Vietnamese because I was squatting," said Specialist Stevenson.

Waiting until the enemy soldier was within a few feet of

him, Specialist Stevenson sprung up and landed a punch to the NVA's chin. Before the enemy soldier could react, Specialist Stevenson swung the enemy soldier around and grabbed the AK47.

"He had the AK47 in a carrying position when I hit him, and as soon as I grabbed the rifle he raced out the back of the tent. I never saw him again," said Specialist Stevenson.



"As the NVA intruder moved toward the front of the tent he began to speak in Vietnamese. I think he thought I was Vietnamese because I was squatting," explained Specialist Stevenson. (Combat Art By SP4 Carson R. Waterman)



PINNED DOWN — What might seem like a rest is actually a soldier from the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry being pinned down by sniper fire during a sweep of the area around the Oasis. (USA Photo By SP5 John Ryan)

From The Desk of
 the
 Commanding General

 M G PEPKE

Career Corner

You Can Have Station Choice

Soldiers serving in overseas commands have two guaranteed methods for dictating the location of their next tour of duty. They can do this by exercising either the Overseas Area of Choice or CONUS Station or Area of Choice reenlistment option.

Under either option, you are not obligated to make any reenlistment commitment until you have received a location that is suitable to you.

Since most of you will probably be interested in returning

to the United States, let's first discuss how you can get back to the good old USA.

The CONUS Station or Area of Choice option guarantees a 12-month stabilized tour at the stateside station or area of your choice, providing that there is a requirement at the location for someone with your MOS and grade. You may not get your first choice but you can submit 3 choices and further requests until a suitable assignment is procured.

This stateside option is avail-

able to all men and women completing a tour in Vietnam and who are reenlisting for four, five or six years.

There is a time limitation to exercising this option. You must initiate your request not earlier than six months or later than one month prior to the completion of your overseas tour. There are two exceptions to this time limitation. Men and women with four or less years of service who complete their overseas tour and are being sent back to CONUS for separation from the Army may exercise the option upon arrival in the United States. And, men and women who are evacuated through hospital channels may elect the option upon availability for reassignment.

For those men and women who would prefer another overseas tour, we can guarantee that, too. There are currently five overseas areas in which you can request assignment under the Overseas Area of Choice reenlistment option. They include USAREUR, USARPAC, USARSO, USARAL, and USARV.

The overseas reenlistment option is available to men and women in grade E-6 and below who enlist for four, five or six years. For those of you who might request an assignment to a short-tour area, it will only be necessary to reenlist for three years.

The Overseas Area of Choice option guarantees that your initial duty assignment will be in the area of your choice, providing that there is a requirement in that area for someone with your primary MOS and grade.

If you are interested in this option, you must initiate action not earlier than four months or later than one month prior to your proposed reenlistment date.

As with the CONUS option, you may not get your first choice of assignment so you should be prepared to accept either of your three choices.

You are under no obligation to reenlist unless you are satisfied with the assignment.

In addition to the above two options, you are still eligible to collect your reenlistment bonus. And, first term reenlistees may also qualify for their Variable Reenlistment Bonus, which might mean a total of \$10,000 for reenlisting.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you these two areas of choice options or any of the other options for which you might be eligible.

See your Career Counselor today.

Pacification And You

PACIFICATION, THE PROGRAM of peace-making in South Vietnam, places a two-fold responsibility on you, the individual soldier.

You are fighting two enemies here; each equally deadly and vicious. One enemy is the VC and NVA who attempt to impose their will on the people of South Vietnam through aggression and terror. The other enemy is the fear, the insecurity, and the lack of opportunity which must be overcome if the Vietnamese people are to develop the desire and capability to stand against the aggression of their antagonists.

Every time you perform some act, however small, which helps to strengthen the belief of the Vietnamese in their government, you are striking a blow at the enemy. Every MEDCAP which attacks pain and fear is a blow at the enemy just as surely as an artillery barrage or an infantry combat assault.

When, as a result of the consideration and respect you show toward a Montagnard villager, that man turns his back on the VC; you have succeeded in taking one—five— or twenty men from the ranks of the enemy. One villager can influence countless others into becoming a united force against the enemy.

ON THE OTHER HAND, a thoughtless act on your part—public intoxication, discourtesy towards Vietnamese civilians, improper wearing of the uniform— can seriously hinder our pacification effort. Such acts lose the respect and confidence of the very people we are trying to help—the villager. Keep in mind that one thoughtless act by a soldier can often undo the good work of countless others.

In the shooting war, one enemy soldier killed is merely one lifeless body—a body that the enemy can replace with relative ease. But in the pacification war, if we can help end the fear, the insecurity, and lack of opportunity in the Republic of Vietnam—then we have made a permanent victory, one that the enemy cannot counter.

This is what we must achieve—at the individual level—if we are to ever attain our goal of a free Vietnam. We can achieve this goal if every man understands the importance of our pacification activities and acts accordingly.

Montagnard Security Growing

CAMP RADCLIFF — The Montagnard population around the 1st Brigade headquarters at An Khe is rapidly growing due to the immigration of more than 2,000 tribesmen from outlying areas.

The villagers were subjected to frequent raids by the Viet Cong (VC) who confiscated large quantities of their rice and impressed many of their young men into involuntary service.

"The VC came every week to take our rice, then forced our people to carry it to their camps. Many of our men never returned," said a village spokesman.

The resettlement hamlets in the An Khe area have been in existence for several years but the population has almost doubled since the first of the year.

Deputy District Advisor, Bruce Stores, a civilian employee with the United States Agency for International Development (US-AID) explained, "The largest influx came around March when more than 500 Montagnards came in. We

now have nearly 2,000 in 12 hamlets west of Camp Radcliff."

The security provided by allied forces around An Khe and the resettlement assistance supplied by the An Tuc District Refugee Service, which is supported by 1st Brigade civil affairs teams and the New Zealand Red Cross team, encouraged the villagers to come in for help.

The refugees are given new land by the Vietnamese government and supplied with food and temporary shelter until they can support themselves again.

Presently, sixteen tons of captured rice is finding its way back to many of the original owners. Alpha Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry captured the rice in the southwestern portion of the 1st Brigade's area of operation, and it is now being redistributed by the S-5 team from the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery to the refugees and to the An Tuc clinic in An Khe.

The resettlement project is very much a combined

effort and the New Zealand Red Cross Civil Affairs team is making a significant contribution to its success.

Their specialists advise the villages on the digging of wells, construction of irrigation ditches, uses of seed and fertilizers, and provide medical aid and instruction in handicrafts such as carpentry and sewing.

Among the refugees are many Montagnards who once worked closely with the Viet Cong in the An Tuc District. Forty-eight families were determined to have once been a part of a large VC supply system.

From these people it was learned the VC are having an extremely difficult time obtaining food.

With the security provided by 1st Brigade forces and with the assistance given by the Vietnamese government along with numerous civil affairs teams, the Montagnard people can lead a free and productive life denied them before by a demanding enemy.

Chaplain's Message The Leap Of Faith

By Chaplain (CPT)
Mark A. Golub

One of the most interesting and significant Biblical narratives is the well-known "Sacrifice of Abraham." Perhaps what makes it so meaningful is the human reaction to Divine forces beyond the control of man.

Mankind is forced to commit acts which go beyond the extent of its spiritual and ethical boundaries in order to demonstrate a supreme test of belief in the Almighty. Abraham, therefore, in his lonely role as a man of action in what appears to be a cruel universe, thereby becomes forced to make the most difficult of personal decisions.

He has to decide whether to obey God, showing belief in His ultimate goodness by slaughtering his own son, or to disobey, placing his personal preferences in a higher priority than that which he knows to be the will of God.

According to the Biblical narrative, Abraham puts aside his own human consideration and obeys God. This decision to choose God above all else is described by philosopher Soren Kierkegaard as a "leap of

faith," a successful jump across and over the credibility gap between what the material world tells us about life and how God's presence among men actually determines the course of our lives.

The concept of "leap of faith" would almost seem inappropriate in today's mechanized, computerized world. In an age when countries compete with one another to reach the moon first and when, for most people, material considerations seem to outweigh spiritual needs, such a leap would indeed be difficult to imagine, let alone accomplish. Indeed, the shortage of "Abrahams" is most appalling.

Strangely enough, it is precisely at this peak of materialism and scientific skepticism that Abraham's leap of faith is most needed. People deep down want desperately to believe. They want something beyond life as they know it to accept as "the real thing." The illusions of what we call "the good life" cannot suffice forever. We need God above all else.

Where does this leap of faith begin? Right here. At first, we leap across the problems immediately facing us. Soon we will graduate to a leap across the whole chasm of our fears, our indecision, our skepticism, our tendency for sin and materialistic ambition. These are the initial steps toward building a whole new generation of Abrahams.

These Abrahams will be men for whom the leap of faith becomes a mere confident stride forward in the pursuit of an ever-growing commitment to God, and ever-present system of individual belief, and an ever-abiding personal spirituality. May it be our will that one day these Abrahams—these men who aspire to a more meaningful religious existence—will include us all.



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SHARP EYES search for snipers as members of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry sweep 40 kilometers south of the Oasis during fighting in the Central Highlands.

(USA Photo By SP5 John Ryan)

Ranger's Cool Costs Nosy Enemy Soldier

By SP4 Michael O. Jones

CAMP RADCLIFF — On the fifth day of a 1st Brigade Ranger reconnaissance patrol, concealment was no longer possible. Team leader SP4 Charles E. Moore of Hazard, Ky. fired his M16 and killed one of the two enemy soldiers who had walked up to his team's location.

The team had been inserted into a landing zone (LZ) of knee-high elephant grass, and for four days had heard and observed enemy activity along an east to west trail 25 meters from their position.

"They weren't just on the trail," Specialist Moore explained. "They were all around us, often only 15 feet away, but there was thick overgrowth at the edge of our position, which kept us concealed."

The two enemy soldiers, one NVA, the other a Viet Cong, moved up to the team's position prior to

sunrise on the fifth day the Rangers occupied the area.

"Their weapons were at sling arms, so I know they didn't suspect that we were in the area. I fired three shots and the NVA soldier fell. The VC ran into the woodline approximately 40 yards from our position."

"Approximately 30 enemy soldiers, mixed NVA and VC came out of the woodline. They fired one shot in our direction, but I wouldn't let my team return fire. I figured they were just trying to get some return fire in order to fix our position."

Two gunships were called in, and they raked the woodline with their miniguns.

"As the gunships fired into the trees, we were reinforced by a platoon of infantrymen from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry."

The infantry platoon, and the Ranger team swept the contact area from seven that morning until four in the afternoon.

"We found booby traps along the sides of the trail, as well as punji stakes, but," Specialist Moore concluded, "I'll bet we left behind a number of enemy soldiers who were wondering just what hit them."

Alpha Troop Mission Success

Exhausted Blackhawk Platoon Returns

FIREBASE BLACKHAWK — Exhausted, on the verge of complete physical collapse, 12 Famous Fighting Fourth Division reconnaissance soldiers from Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, struggled back to their firebase overlooking the Dak Ayunh River Valley, 30 kilometers southeast of Pleiku.

Some stumbled as they entered camp, others had to be carried by their comrades, but to a man they had performed their mission, and had done it well.

Ordeal Begins

Their ordeal began late that morning after the team, led by 1st Lieutenant John Morales of Los Angeles, Calif., had successfully maneuvered down the rocky bluffs and through the steaming hot jungle to reach the valley floor.

"Our mission was to pinpoint enemy arms and locate hidden rice depots," Lieutenant Morales recalled, "and it required that each man be at the peak of alertness."

Shortly after the cavalrymen began their search, three caches totaling in excess of 20,000 pounds of milled rice were located within a two hundred meter radius.

"All that morning and into the afternoon my men shoveled rice into sand bags. By 5 o'clock the last sortie of lift ships arrived to take the few remaining bundles of rice back to Blackhawk. The next task was to join our unit," said Lieutenant Morales.

With time becoming a significant factor, the 12 cavalrymen, their spirits buoyed after such a lucrative find, pushed further south in search of a gentle sloping area leading up the mountain wall.

Took Cover

Suddenly the point man, Specialist 4 Frank Miglas of Sussex, N.J., and the lead element took cover beside a bamboo thicket. Before them were six neatly camouflaged bamboo structures. Livestock and sandal prints were abundant.

Simultaneously the recon team fanned out and while six members provided flank secur-

ity, the remaining element swept through the enemy base area. After a short period the search party returned with seven boxes of demolition charges, ten 75mm recoilless rifle rounds and an assortment of medical supplies and documents.

In the distance, the low muffled sounds of enemy soldiers inching their way through the jungle back to camp could be heard. Hurriedly, the cavalrymen formed two groups, one for hauling the captured munitions, another to provide rear cover.

Darkness descended upon the valley as the lead element, lugging boxes of enemy explosives and recoilless rounds, began their hasty march up the vertical mountain bluffs. To the rear,

a four man security squad remained behind to stave off any possible enemy charge.

Find Safety

Weary and footsore, the dogged cavalrymen stumbled the last few meters in total darkness to the safety of the plateau, where a welcoming party, tanks and armored personnel carriers, waited.

The following day, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry was airlifted into the Dak Ayunh River Valley. From detailed data supplied by the Alpha Troop Recon Team, the in-

fantrymen began their sweep, locating an additional 97 60mm and 37 82mm mortar rounds, 17 RPG's (Rocket Propelled Grenades), 12 hand grenades, plus over a thousand blasting caps, propellant, high power charges and CHICOM mines.

News of the sizeable weapons cache spread quickly among the Alpha Troop cavalrymen. To a special few, however, the real find had been within themselves. They had been through an ordeal that none of them soon would forget. An ordeal which led to success.

Red Warriors Engage Large Force, Leads To Destruction Of Complex

By SP4 Roger Selp

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — An alert Red Warrior reconnaissance patrol successfully engaged a larger NVA force and guided Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, into the area to complete the discovery and destruction of a 100 bunker complex twelve miles south of Kontum City.

Specialist 4 James Claiborne of Detroit led his patrol south from Landing Zone (LZ) Carmen. Late in the afternoon as they ascended a knoll Specialist Claiborne, walking point, spotted an NVA soldier with an AK47 20 meters to his front,

crouched near an open bunker.

"He must have heard us approaching because he was waiting for us," said Specialist Claiborne. "He opened fire knocking a grenade from my ruck strap as we dove for cover. God must have been with us because there was a large rock nearby which provided protection."

Private First Class Garry Barbee of Concord, N.C. immediately began to put high explosive M79 rounds on the enemy position as Privates First Class Samuel Church of Jacksonville, Fla. and Daniel Fean of Clementon, N.J., supported him with heavy fire with their M16s.

Specialist Claiborne called artillery on the enemy emplacements and instructed his men to toss hand grenades to discourage an enemy flanking movement. He counted approximately 10 NVA wearing green hats and fatigues.

The firefight continued for 30 minutes until the team broke contact to join reinforcements. With Specialist Claiborne serving as guide, Captain Philip Patrick of El Paso, Tex., commanding the 1st and 2nd Platoons of Bravo Company, conducted a thorough sweep of the battle area.

Chicom grenades, wooden flare casings, knives and rocket grenade cannisters littered the ground. Among the estimated 100 freshly constructed bunkers and well-worn trails were two kitchens, fireplaces and a cooking tub destroyed by schrapnel.

A medic's hootch contained drug packets, four used bandages and an empty bottle of iodine.

A pair of fatigue pants hanging in a tree and a letter to a family in Hanoi were also left behind by the fleeing NVA soldiers.

Soldier Of The Month

CAMP ENARI — Specialist 4 Donald J. Stotler of Baltimore, Md., was selected the Division Soldier of the Month for his outstanding military bearing and appearance, his knowledge of military subjects and the performance of his duties.

The soldier from Company K, 75th Infantry was awarded a \$25.00 savings bond from the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry for his winning performance on their board and a \$25.00 savings bond from the Division for his first place finish in the Fourth Division's competition.

Service Number Use Ending

On July 1, 1969, the familiar Military Service Number will become part of history. The Social Security Account Number will replace all service numbers for members of the active, retired and reserve components. Beginning on this date no additional service numbers will be issued. New personnel will use their Social Security Account Number only.

It was not until February 28, 1918 that the first service number was issued to an enlisted man. Master Sergeant Arthur B. Crean holds the unique distinction of receiving ASN1.

Officers did not receive numbers until June 1921. General Pershing, who was then Chief of Staff, received O-1.

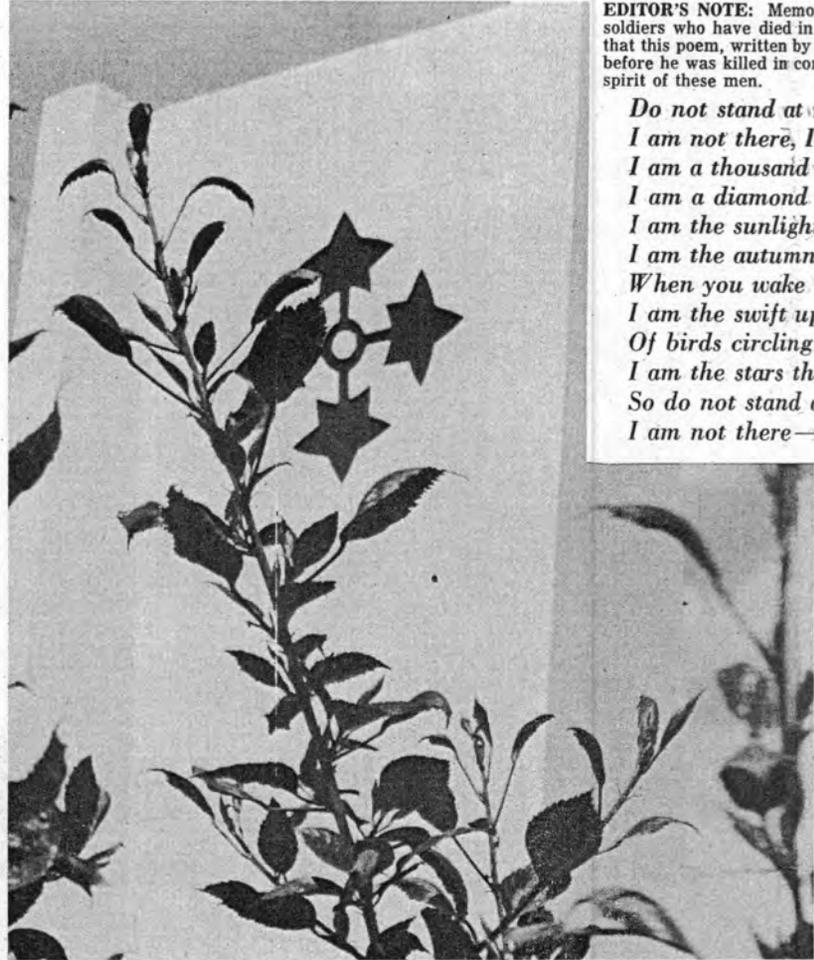
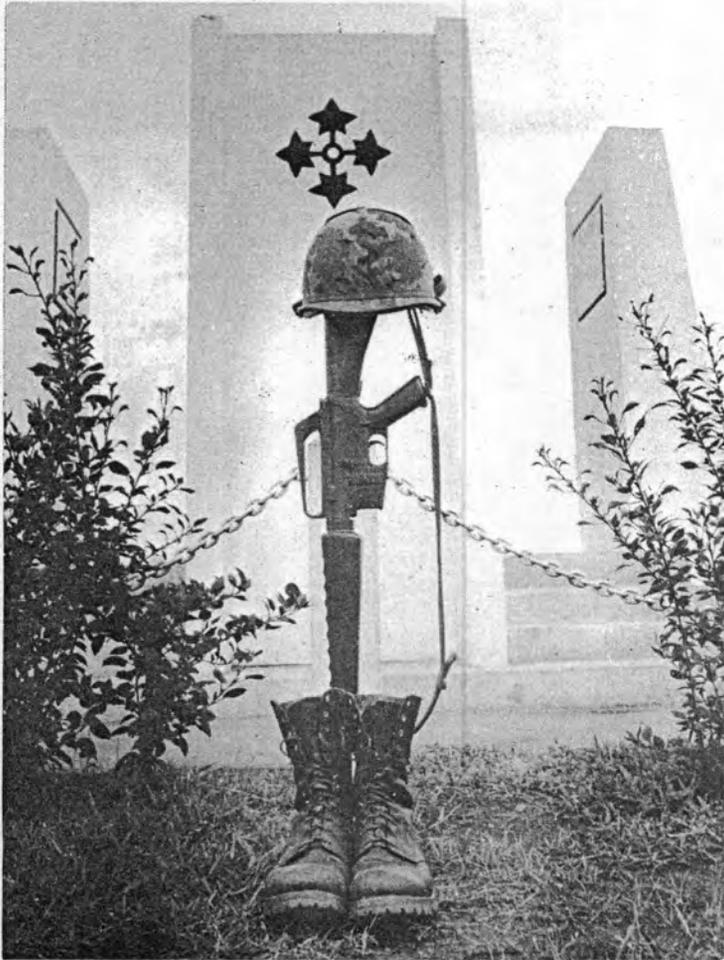
Of course there remains one

final distinction — the individuals who receive those last service numbers on June 30, 1969.

The Social Security Account Number has no prefix or suffix. It therefore will no longer indicate grade, sex, active or reserve component or method of entry.

Your Account Number will be your single identifier for use by the Federal Government.

Memorial Day; For Our Fallen Com



EDITOR'S NOTE: Memo
soldiers who have died in
that this poem, written by
before he was killed in co
spirit of these men.

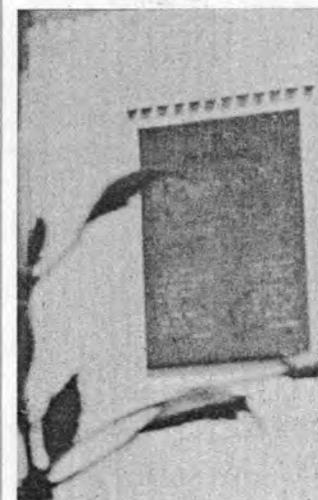
*Do not stand at
I am not there, I
I am a thousand
I am a diamond
I am the sunligh
I am the autumn
When you wake
I am the swift up
Of birds circling
I am the stars th
So do not stand
I am not there—*



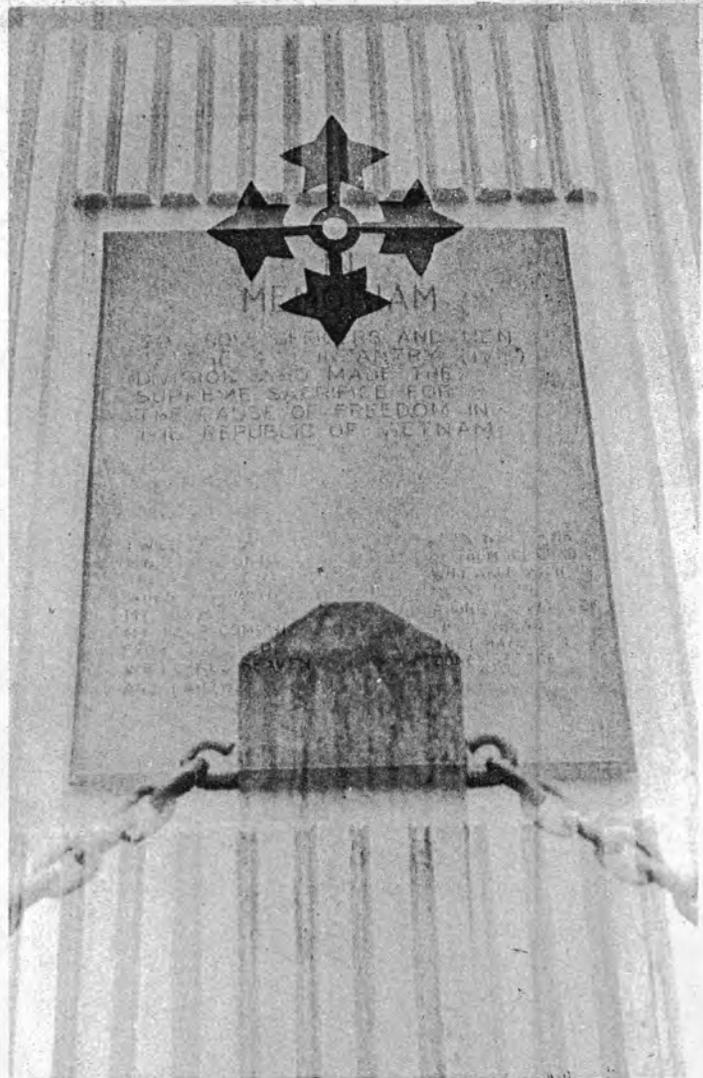
Mrades

Memorial Day honors those American soldiers in their nation's services. We feel honored by a Fourth Division soldier shortly after his return from combat, epitomizes the indomitable spirit of our nation.

At my grave and weep,
 I do not sleep.
 The winds that blow
 The glint on snow
 The light on ripened grain
 The sun in rain.
 The peace in the morning hush
 The uplifting rush
 The stars in flight,
 That shine at night.
 I stand at my grave and cry,
 "I did not die."



Photos By
 SP4 Art Reilly



Bunyan-Like Task For 4th Engineers

By SP4 Michael O. Jones

CAMP RADCLIFF—Bravo Company, 4th Engineers, has undertaken a job that would make Paul Bunyan wince.

The engineers are sawing down a thick forest of teak and mahogany from a 900-foot mountain, the area of which is estimated to be 2,000 acres.

The top of Hong Kong Mountain, at the northern perimeter of Camp Radcliff, is the location of three different signal companies; the 176th, 596th and the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 124th Signal.

Both radio relays and radar are directed from the mountain top in support of 1st Brigade activities.

Sniper fire from the mountain has been uncommon but not unheard of, and it was felt that to provide a more secure base camp, the mountain should be cleared of potential hiding places for the enemy.

The idea of burning the timber from the mountainside was discarded due to the fear that the flames might get out of control.

There is only one winding road to the top of the mountain and that, combined with its steep incline would have made effective fire control difficult.

The idea of using demolitions to blast away the trees was discarded when the cost of the necessary explosives was computed.

Sixty chain saws are available to the 4th Engineers and every morning it sounds as if 60 motor scooters are running through the dense forest that rises above the camp.

First Lieutenant Robert Drum of Ruthven, Iowa, Bravo Company's executive officer, said that half of the men who work on the project carry chain saws and the other half provide security by carrying M16s.

One of the men moving up the timber-strown base to the mountain's receding treeline paused for a moment and looked up.

"When they first told us that they were going to clear this mountain with chain saws I thought they were kidding.

"When I look into that jungle I don't see how it's possible, but now, when I look back, I see how far we've already gone and I guess we are going to be able to clear it."

Plans for disposing of the wood are not yet complete.



COOL, CLEAR WATER is the first thing a man wants after a day in the field. SP4 Harry Tarvin of Havana, Ill., soaks up a bit of that good liquid after searching for Charlie with the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's Alpha Troop, 1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry.

(USA Photo By SP5 John Ryan)

Psyops Is Important Military Tool

By LT Robert Janosko

CAMP RADCLIFF — Charlie may not always want to read a Chieu Hoi leaflet, but it's pretty hard for him to close his ears to a 250 watt loudspeaker's blaring

appeal.

The loudspeaker teams supporting the Famous Fourth Division's psychological operations (Psyops) in the Central Highlands are provided by Company

B, 8th Psyops Battalion in Pleiku.

Currently working with the 1st Brigade in the An Khe area is a three man team consisting of Sergeant Frank Conway, team leader from Wilmington, Del., Specialist 4 Larry Yeager of Albuquerque, N.M., and Sergeant Binh, the Vietnamese interpreter.

The loudspeakers are used to accomplish a variety of missions.

When Civic Action teams visit a village to perform MEDCAPS or distribute food, the speakers are often employed to announce their presence and give instructions to maintain order.

On cordon and search operations, the speakers are used to warn the villagers not to run and to explain the purpose of the search.

Usually the team will set up on a firebase and broadcast Chieu Hoi messages, one every 15 minutes, through the interpreter. On a clear night, if the loudspeaker is located on high ground, it can be heard up to 4 kilometers away. Across flat terrain, the loudspeakers range is about two kilometers.

The message itself varies according to the tactical situation, and makes use of all the intelligence information available about the enemy in that particu-

lar area.

Often the team will back-pack their equipment and "hump" with units in the field looking for the enemy. This requires carrying the 35 pound speaker unit, a 25 pound amplifier and all their regular field gear.

"It's hard to say what has the most effect on him," commented Sergeant Conway. When an enemy soldier becomes a Hoi Chanh it's due to a complete program — leaflets, broadcasts, the enemies living conditions at the time and his realization that preconceived ideas concerning conditions in the South are not true.

"A message we may have broadcast during a firefight may not hit home until he's sitting in a base camp several weeks later and a hundred miles away."

Sergeant Binh, the interpreter, feels the messages reminding the enemy soldiers of their wife and family are the most effective, although subjects such as malaria and bombing threats are also very persuasive.

Occasionally the team will employ a small portable tape recorder with taped Vietnamese folk songs and messages delivered by a female voice.

At times the team sees the effects of their labor very quickly. Recently a speaker unit was mounted on a jeep and spent a day driving up and down the road requesting villagers to report buried mines.

Shortly after returning to their night location, a villager came to report a mine he had seen buried. The next morning they found a 20 pound box of TNT buried along side the road, only a few feet from where a truck had struck a mine a few days before.

"It's possible to broadcast with the equipment on our backs, but we prefer to place the speaker some distance from us," commented Specialist Yeager.

"When we start talking, the loudspeaker makes too good a target. We just had one unit riddled with bullets. I guess they didn't like our message that day."

Boosts 'Yard Morale

Plei Do Villagers Repel VC

By SGT Michael Tousey

CAMP ENARI — The People's Self Defense Force of Plei Do repelled an attack by an estimated platoon size force of Viet Cong (VC) in an hour long firefight at the perimeter of their village.

A sweep of the area by the Montagnard villagers the following morning turned up two

blood stained shirts.

The enemy attacked the southeast corner of the village which faces a VC infiltration route into Pleiku. In addition to the Self Defense Force, artillery and gunships participated in the fight. The Viet Cong have regularly probed the village from the east, but had never attacked it before.

"I was really pleased that the Self Defense Force reacted so well their first time under fire," said 1st Lieutenant William A. Ruzin of Hopkins, Minn., the Civil Affairs team leader from the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry.

"Before we knew it they were in the trenches firing away at the enemy. None of the VC came near penetrating the perimeter.

"This contact has had a very positive effect on the morale of the Self Defense Force and the village. They know now that the village can defend itself."

The Cacti Blue Civil Affairs Team has been helping the villagers in Plei Do fortify the village and construct needed improvements.

The men from the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry who are sent out to Plei Do nightly for added security were not needed in defeating the attacking enemy force.

Specialist Shaw Stops Enemy Sapper Attack

OASIS—The dog nearby continued to bark excitedly so Specialist 4 John T. Shaw thought it was time to find out what was happening on the northern perimeter of the Oasis.

The headquarters of the 3rd Brigade had sustained an enemy attack three nights earlier, so Specialist Shaw's senses were finely keyed.

"The area had been well illuminated in the past hour, but I thought I had better set off a hand flare to see what was going on," said the Dallas, Tex., native.

Suddenly light from a trip flare attached to the barbed wire at the inner most edge of the perimeter cut through the pitch black night.

"When the trip flare went off I was able to see an NVA soldier crawling through a hole he had cut in the wire. Right behind him were four others.

"I immediately opened fire with my M79 grenade launcher. I fired three rounds, with the third round hitting right in the middle of the men lying on the ground.

"By the time I fired the third round I could see them all plainly. I'm almost sure I got one of them," said Specialist Shaw, a member of Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry.

As bunkers along the perimeter opened fire, the enemy sappers retreated from the area.

A search of the perimeter uncovered a B40 rocket booster, 10 satchel charges, two grenades and a Bangalore torpedo that the sappers had left behind.

The enemy intruders, wearing black shorts, straw hats and carrying AK47 rifles, had disarmed the trip flares in the outer strands of barbed wire by tying strips of bambo around them.

Chaplains Present Gift

KONTUM—Catholic chaplains from the Famous Fighting Fourth Division presented over \$1,000 to the Bishop of Kontum for use in two of his parishes. The money was donated by Division soldiers.

Chaplain (LTC) John Sullivan, Chaplain (MAJ) Kevin Devine, and Chaplain (CPT) John Lynch presented the money to Kontum Diocese Bishop Paul Sietz. Bishop Sietz, who is French, has been ministering to the Catholics of the Kontum area for 35 years.

Bishop Sietz in turn donated \$585 to Father Minh, a Vietnamese Catholic priest who, 12 years ago, organized the village of La Son for North Vietnamese refugees.

The village of La Son is less than a mile to the northwest of Camp Enari.

Father Christian Leonl, who was wounded by the Viet Cong during this year's post-TET offensive was given \$515 with which to aid the village of Kon Horing, a Montagnard village of 8,000, five miles south of Dak To on Highway 14.

In the ceremonies that took place at the Bishop's rectory, he thanked the generosity of the soldiers of the Fourth Division for their contributions toward a better life for the Vietnamese and Montagnards of the Kontum Diocese.

They'll Never Forget Bunker 22

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS—What happened in and around Bunker 22 during the night of the enemy attack on the Oasis will long be remembered by Specialist 4 Duane Schultz and 1st Lieutenant Gregory C. Dash.

The evening had begun quietly enough at the home of the Famous Fourth's 3rd Brigade.

Specialist Schultz of North Versailles, Pa., was pulling guard duty in Bunker 22 with two other soldiers from Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, and Lieutenant Dash of Washington, D.C., was playing cards in the mess hall of Company D, 4th Engineer Battalion.

Neither soldier realized that within the next several hours both would be involved in the most harrowing experiences they had ever encountered. The two men never met during the night, but their experiences both revolved around the ill-fated Bunker 22.

When the first incoming rounds began hitting the 3rd Brigade camp, Specialist Schultz jumped from his cot in the bunker, only to be pinned down by B40 rocket and AK47 fire.

The tremendous volume of enemy fire kept Specialist Schultz pinned to the floor with his face down.

Shortly after a B40 rocket hit the right corner of the bunker, Specialist Schultz saw a flashlight beaming into the bunker's interior and heard at least two men speaking in Vietnamese. The intruders were part of the enemy sappers who had penetrated the perimeter.

Suddenly, the besieged soldier heard someone calling in English, "Bunker 22 are you all right?"

"I answered him, but I can't remember what I said. When the enemy soldiers outside the bunker heard me they threw a grenade inside.

"The grenade landed approximately 12 inches from my feet. At first I thought I was hurt, but I guess it was just shock," explained Specialist Schultz.

Then the 3rd Brigade soldier made an important decision. Faced with insurmountable odds, he decided to stay on the ground and play dead. "They thought they had killed me with the grenade," explained Specialist Schultz.

As the North Vietnamese Army soldier walked into the bunker he shined a flashlight in the Specialist's face. Apparently convinced that Schultz was dead, the NVA soldier began searching the vest pockets of his flak jacket.

"I couldn't stop breathing entirely, although I tried, I prayed they wouldn't notice it."

When the NVA soldier left the

bunker he joined his two companions outside. Here Lieutenant Dash entered the actions.

As a reaction platoon leader, Lieutenant Dash was going from bunker to bunker, making sure the guards had sufficient ammunition and was approaching Bunker 22 when he saw the three NVA.

In a split second reaction, Lieutenant Dash pulled his .45 caliber pistol out of its holster at the startled intruders.

"I know I hit at least one. I just released the safety with my thumb and started to fire," explained the lieutenant who raced

across the road after firing.

The enemy soldiers, who were approximately eight feet from the lieutenant when he fired, were carrying AK47 rifles. A B40 rocket launcher was later found alongside the bunker.

When the night long battle had ceased, Specialist Schultz and Lieutenant Dash both had a lot to remember and be thankful for.

Although they don't know each other, both men now have a mutual acquaintance — Bunker 22.



For Homeless Children

A Ray Of Sunlight In Pleiku City

By SP4 David C. Drew and 2LT Brien P. Levy

PLEIKU — SITTING ON the side of a hill in Pleiku City, there is a spot of ground where the sun seems to shine a little brighter; it is the location of the Tu Tam (Good Heart) Orphanage and the home of 82 Vietnamese and Montagnard children.

The orphanage is the responsibility of two Catholic Sisters; two totally different personalities whose combined talents have organized and run an orphanage under difficult circumstances.

Sister Maria Jisele, a frail lady with a burning enthusiasm, provides the driving force behind the institution.

She started the project 13 years ago in a rented one room building in the center of Pleiku City. Today, with the help of the 52nd Aviation Battalion, other allied units and Vietnamese civic groups, the orphanage has grown into a complex of buildings outside the city.

Highlanders Squash Attack on Engineers

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—An NVA attack on the 584th Engineer complex five miles south of Kontum was repulsed by the devastating firepower of 2nd Brigade units.

A 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry sweep of the contact area, done by moonlight and artificial illumination, turned up four NVA killed, a Chicom compass, grenades and an RPG 7V with infra-red scope. The dead NVA wore khaki uniforms and sandals.

The engineers of the 584th met the enemy ground attack with a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire.

Within minutes, a light observation helicopter (LOH) was dispatched from Highlander Heights carrying 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery's 1st Lieutenant Dennis Young of Rialto, Calif., who adjusted artillery and mortar fire on the fleeing NVA.

Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, 5th Battalion, 16th artillery and the 4.2 mortar tracks of the mechanized infantry supported the engineers with accurate fire.

As the NVA fled, the area was illuminated by flares which permitted the Panthers' tracks, commanded by Captain Edward Strable of Chicago, to sweep through the area.

There were no US casualties in the action. The engineer complex, which houses an asphalt and rock crusher, was undamaged.

Dormitories for the 82 children, classrooms, offices and a place to worship, combined with two new, nearly completed buildings provide the children with living and working space.

Sister Paul Maria supplements the drive of Sister Jisele with a soft spoken, gentle guidance and sure-handed understanding that the children respect. She has been with the orphanage for two years.

Sister Jisele comes from Kontum, Sister Maria from the coastal area of Da Lac. Both have many years of experience and both have dedicated their lives to children who need and love them.

The Catholic orphanage educates the younger children at the kindergarten level, sends the older ones to local public schools and provides all the school supplies, food, clothing and housing for the children.

Beginning at age 14, the girls are taught to run a household and the boys are sent to local trade schools to develop skills. There are two boys currently attending painting classes in Pleiku. At age 18 all the boys are drafted into the Army.

THE CHILDREN RANGE IN AGE from four months to 17 years. Most of the children are of the younger ages and need the most attention. All of the children who have relatives in the area are allowed to spend a weekend away from the orphanage once a month.

Donated gifts provide recreation; an old swing attests to many hours of hard use, toys and drawing material occupy a lot of attention and donated musical instruments are used for special instruction.

The orphanage's religious emphasis is on Catholicism, but children of all religions are accepted and given the opportunity to worship as they please. Of the 82 children, 45 are Catholic, 5 are Missionary, and the remainder are Buddhist.

A family sometimes wishes to adopt a child, but it is quite infrequent and there are presently 30 children awaiting admittance to the crowded orphanage.

The US Army has provided the orphanage with a generator and each day two trucks of potable water are delivered. A Civil Affairs team shows the children movies on Sunday nights and units and individuals supply clothes and food when they are able to do so.

Visiting the orphanage is a rewarding experience for Famous Fighting Fourth Division troops as the children, like most kids, love soldiers and have a way of reminding them of the children that they themselves love.

Golden Dragons Try An Enemy Weapon

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS—The thick foliage of the Central Highlands, usually a deterrent to Famous Fighting Fourth Division troops, was now a disadvantage to the enemy—the tables were turned.

As the Viet Cong (VC) looked through the thick entanglement of leaves and brush separating their location from the nearby trail, they were unable to see Specialist 4 Edward Clark of Sacramento, Calif.

Specialist Clark, the pointman for a squad from the 1st Platoon of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, had his fellow infantrymen stop in their tracks when he heard talking on his right.

"When I first heard the talking I thought it was coming from the rear of our element. Then I realized it was Vietnam-

ese," said Specialist Clark, of the early evening incident 17 miles south of Pleiku.

"I spotted four to six VC sitting under a tree off the trail. One of them was looking right at me.

"But it was hard for him to figure out who I was because of the thick foliage," said Specialist Clark.

As the VC started back to the tree, where his companions were preparing supper, Specialist Clark and Specialist 4 Richard O'Connor of Hamburg, N.Y., decided it was time for the Golden Dragon squad to attack.

"As soon as we moved forward, they started to run," explained Specialist O'Connor.

Employing M16 fire and hand grenades from their position on the trail, the 3rd Brigade soldiers were able to account for three Viet Cong kills.

Enemy weapons and rice were found in a sweep of the area.

Natural entanglements of vegetation have long been utilized by the Viet Cong as they camouflage themselves. This time it was different.



RESUPPLY—One of the most important jobs in a war zone is resupply. Here, Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers from the 2nd Brigade load a helicopter with supplies for infantrymen in forward areas around Kontum. (USA Photo)

Soldiers Continue Studies

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Take an ambitious soldier on a mountaintop firebase, add the exams of the education testing center and you get a result which may equal a high school equivalency diploma or a year's credit of college work for Fourth Division soldiers.

This program, as explained by education director Mr. Roland Werners "is aimed at enabling every man in the Division no matter where he is, to take full advantage of the testing program and thereby continue his education."

"We realize the problems that men in forward areas have in getting back to the rear," Mr. Werners continues, "so we are expanding our program to take these tests to the men wherever they are."

The test, which includes the General Educational Development (GED) and the Comprehensive College Test (CCT), are administered by two member teams who stay at the firebase until all who desire testing have finished.

After passing the GED examination, which covers English, social studies, literature, natural science and mathematics, a soldier receives a military high school equivalency diploma certificate.

The CCT, which covers English comprehension, social studies, natural science, humanities and mathematics, if passed, can lead to one full year of college credit.

"This enables a man getting out of the service to enter college in his sophomore year," said 1st Lieutenant Richard L. Kautz of Richmond, Va., the military advisor to the educational testing program.

"If a person doesn't feel he's prepared to take the test," Lieutenant Kautz explained, "we set up correspondence courses to bring his standards up to test requirements."

"We gave over 1000 tests last month," Mr. Werners commented, "and we hope to exceed that number this month."

"The task of temporarily converting firebases into schools won't stop until all who desire testing have had a chance to complete the exams."

Radcliff Has Vast Facilities

CAMP RADCLIFF — "We try to provide something for everybody." That is the goal of Post Special Services Officer, Captain

Orville Alexander of Terre Haute, Ind.

The men of the 1st Brigade are now enjoying many of Camp Radcliff's

facilities that haven't been available to them in the areas the brigade has recently operated.

For the athletically inclined, there are handball courts, basketball courts, softball fields, a beach on the Song Ba river and a soon to be opened swimming pool.

Those liking a more academic environment can find it in the post library, which is one of the finest in Vietnam, boasting over 8,000 books.

The education center offers a second chance at that high school diploma by providing the General Educational Development High School Equivalency Test. For those seeking a college degree, correspondence courses offer a good start.

The chow-hounds should be pleased with Camp Radcliff's steak house sporting a menu ranging from chicken to seafood. A snack bar meets the needs of the light eater.

The MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) station allows soldiers to call home any day of the week, and the well-stocked Post Exchange is the second largest in Vietnam.

Although there is no service club on post, the American Red Cross' Happy Hooch and the USO club provide service club facilities and more. Besides the regular games, books and refreshments, they show movies, hold barbecues and holiday celebrations.

USO Director Rick Snyder has big plans for the club, including a souvenir shop, an air-conditioned library, music room and a free service to send recorded tapes home. Mr. Snyder is also hoping to have a direct telephone line to "the world" installed.

There is at least one hardship, however. Camp Radcliff residents face a transportation problem and getting to the widely scattered facilities is sometimes time consuming. The huge camp occupies 12 square miles. According to Captain Alexander, future plans will alleviate this problem with the centralization of all facilities.



A MACHINE GUNNER searches the Oasis' perimeter as he keeps his weapon ready after an enemy attack was beaten back the night before. (USA Photo By 1LT David Hooks)

Project Strip Takes It Off

CAMP ENARI — "Taking it off" is the name of the game for Project Strip—a program designed to remove serviceable excess for the Division by returning it to supply channels for redistribution.

In the six months since the program was initiated by the Division Support Command (DISCOM), over \$4,000,000 in serviceable excess has been shipped from the 4th Supply and Transport (S&T) Battalion.

DISCOM Commanding Officer, Colonel Joseph E. McCarthy of Marvath, Pa., reported that "in mid-February we reached the 3.5 million mark as a result of a large volume of engine repair parts processed through the DISCOM facility. Since that time, however, emphasis has been placed on smaller items such as clothing."

The result has been an additional \$500,000 in just three months time.