



EASY DOES IT — An infantryman from the Third Brigade provides assistance as a helicopter from the 4th Aviation Battalion, flying in support of the brigade, lands in a field of elephant grass in the Central Highlands. (USA Photo By 1LT Jim Hughes)



**THE STEADFAST
AND LOYAL
FAMOUS FIGHTING FOURTH**

Vol. 1, No. 19

September 21, 1969

Self Satisfying Assistance

Artillery Unit Helps Orphanage

By 1LT Kurt Browall

CAMP RADCLIFF—"I asked my interpreter, a sergeant in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), why the children were removing their hats and bowing as they passed me on the dirt path," said Sergeant John H. "Jock" Handley of Birmingham, Mich.

Trung Duc Hien replied, "These children show their respect in this manner because you are their teacher. Only wise elders and instructors are afforded this courtesy."

Sergeant Handley is a member of Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery, at Camp Radcliff, near An Khe.

The artillery unit, which provides base camp defense for men of the 4th Infantry Division at Camp Radcliff, is also providing much-needed support for more than 60 children who depend on the Phuoc Thien orphanage for their support.

"Until mid-July," says Sergeant Handley, "the orphanage was assisted by the 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery, which helped with its medical needs, then we moved in."

"One afternoon I was driving through the vicinity of the orphanage and saw a small sign. I decided to see what it led to. It led to Phuoc Thien orphanage and, ultimately, to our support of it," Sergeant Handley said.

"Phuoc Thien is a nondenominational children's home," said Sergeant Handley, "which accepts children between six and ten years old who have lost both parents, or for one reason or another receive no other support."

On the same day the 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery presented the orphanage a washing machine they also gave about 1,200 pounds of food.

Another project is already under way. Installation of electrical wiring to better utilize the generator.

The men also plan to construct a kitchen for the home. Once the kitchen is completed, an Army cook plans to go to the orphanage to teach principles of food preparation both to the staff and to children who are old enough to help with the cooking.

However, to make a kitchen functional, hot water is a necessity.

"At present, the orphanage has cold showers," Sergeant Handley said. "We're going to convert the facilities they now have into both hot and cold running water."

Phuoc Thien orphanage is like any other institution of its type; for support it draws on a number of sources, ranging from individuals to civic groups and church congregations.

"It's becoming a more viable unit," said Sergeant Handley. "Projects such as taking in laundry, growing crops and starting a pig farm anticipate the time when the orphanage will be entirely self supporting," he concluded.

Rangers Harass Enemy

By SP4 Al Erickson
HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Landing Zone (LZ) Bunker Hill, 15 miles west of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 2nd Brigade at Highlander Heights, was relatively quiet before a team of Second Brigade Rangers was inserted on the LZ's crest.

Their first night proved to be a taste of what was to come. Private First Class William Dennis of Dayton, Ohio, described it.

"Late in our first night we heard movement 200 meters across from us on a small hilltop that ran parallel to our LZ. We were connected to it by a ridge-line that ran down the side of our position then up to that hill. We called in artillery but we were not sure of the results."

The following morning was as quiet as their insertion, but the second night was more active than the first.

Specialist 4 Steve Smock of (Continued on Back Page)



WHAT NEXT? — The monsoon rains cause many a problem for 4th Division field troops and this soldier is no exception. With his Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) stuck in the mud he is faced with the problem of what to do next. (USA Photo By 4th Div IO)

Sergeant's Cool Clobbers Enemy

By PFC David Sumrall

OASIS — Thanks to the coolness and combat savvy of a sergeant with 36 months of experience in Vietnam, a harrowing game of hide and seek that might have ended in disaster for a short range patrol (SRP) from the 4th Division's Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, ended instead with four enemy killed in action.

Sergeant Kim Potaczela, a native of Brisbane, Australia, who is serving his fourth tour in Vietnam with the U.S. Army, was leading a SRP on a routine overnight mission 14 miles southeast of Camp Enari when the deadly game began.

Gunships Smash Enemy

The patrol was preparing a night location in an area of large boulders and light vegetation when they first sighted the enemy. "About 100 meters from our position we saw two figures in the moonlight," explained Sergeant Potaczela. "We laid low and observed them until we were sure they were enemy soldiers, then we called for mortar fire."

As the movement all around them came closer and closer, the men threw fragmentation grenades and took cover in dense brush.

From this position they reset their Claymores and called for artillery support. "It was a difficult situation, but we got the message through, and the mortars and artillery gave us tremendous support," said PFC Ernest Barrios of Gardena, Calif.

CAMP ENARI — The Ruthless Riders from Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, while flying in support of the 4th Infantry Division's 1st Brigade, killed seven NVA, southwest of Camp Radcliff, the brigade base camp.

While searching the area, 1st Lieutenant William H. Luken of Cincinnati, Ohio, and his observer, spotted a storage structure and fields showing recent use.

At this time, the aero-rifle platoon, led by Sergeant First Class Lowell E. Bowman of Crestline, Ohio, was inserted to recon the area. During their search, they uncovered three hootches and four bunkers.

While this was taking place, Warrant Officer James R. Muse of Marietta, Ga., who at that time was flying lead LOH, moved south and spotted five to six enemy soldiers, trying to take cover under the heavy foliage. Mr. Muse immediately opened fire with his minigun killing three.

The Cobra gunships led by 1st Lieutenant Donal W. Osborn of Joplin, Mo., rolled in and expended over the area killing four more NVA.

Moving to the south, the patrol forded a stream and again took cover. Once again they set their Claymores. Soon they heard the enemy. "From the noise I estimated the enemy force to be about squad size," said Sergeant Potaczela. "We let them approach until we could see two of them silhouetted against the sky. We detonated a Claymore just as they walked in front of it."

The SRP once again encountered the enemy. "We received heavy AK47 fire as we moved out," said Sergeant Potaczela, "and we returned fire with our M16s. That was the last we heard of them."

The next day a platoon patrol traced the SRP's movements and confirmed four enemy soldiers killed in action.

From The Desk of

 the
 Commanding General 
 M G PEPKE

Protect Yourself

Malaria continues to be one of the most serious health threats to soldiers of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division. Since the beginning of the year, nearly 1,000 cases have been called to my attention. What is most significant, however, is that nearly all cases might have been prevented if a few common sense rules had been followed.

We know and are constantly reminded that mosquitoes spread malaria as well as dengue fever and encephalitis. Knowledge of the diseases, however, is not enough. What we must do to combat these dreaded diseases is to practice sound personal preventive medicine.

Mosquito-borne diseases such as those I have already mentioned can and unfortunately do cause permanent injury to the brain, the kidneys, and other organs of the body, which in turn may lead to paralysis, insanity and moderately shortened life spans.

To protect yourselves from undue discomfort and perhaps permanent disability or death, I urge you to take a few minutes each day to practice the following means for the prevention of malaria.

A. The first protective measure is the conscientious use of malaria pills. In the Highlands you must make it a point to take both the weekly and daily tablets. The weekly "orange" anti-malaria pill will provide 99% protection against vivax malaria. Yet there is an additional strain of malaria—falciparum—which necessitates a second malaria pill. It is the daily white Dapson table which will protect you against this deadly malaria strain. Taken religiously, the combination of pills will keep approximately 95% of all 4th Division soldiers safe from both types of malaria during your tours. When you consider that malaria is rampant throughout Asia, you see that taking the pills on a regular basis puts the odds overwhelmingly in your favor.

B. It is equally important that you protect yourself for other mosquito-borne diseases such as Japanese Encephalitis (a brain fever which causes sleeping sickness and death) and filariasis (a disease which makes legs and other organs swell to enormous size). Some types of disease carrying mosquitoes make no sound; to make detection even more difficult, the bite of some cannot be felt and afterwards remains invisible. Once again, personal preventive measures can be taken quite easily. Remember to button up collars and roll down sleeves at dusk. Use your insect repellent freely on all exposed skin surfaces, reapplying liberally every two to four hours. Whenever possible, sleep under your mosquito net and spray the inclosed area with an aerosol bomb.

Remember, your loved ones are anxiously awaiting your return. Do everything in your power to return healthy. Take a few minutes each day to practice preventive medicine that will help you stay healthy—stay alert—stay alive.

Valor Awards

SILVER STAR

- Carroll, Francis W., 1LT
- Keane, James E., 1LT
- Mc Gunnigle, Paul E., 1LT
- Nathan, Alan, 1LT
- Pyle, William H., Jr., 1LT
- Page, Franklin J., 1SGT
- Tibbit, James F., SFC
- Crown, Edward, SSGT
- Redemann, Larry N., SGT
- Todd, Stephen C., SGT
- Davidson, Alfred C., SP4
- Garrett, John C., SP4
- Philips, James O., SP4
- Richardson, Udell, SP4
- Lancaster, Jimmy L., PFC

BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR

- Salciado, Oscar A., 1LT
- Bailey, Phillip W., SGT
- Berling, Williard J., SGT
- Bowes, Lyle F., SGT
- Greene, Dan Jr., SGT
- Bailey, Dillivan D., SP4
- Bevilacqua, Epifanio, SP4
- Cardenas, Richard, SP4
- Dart, Harold, SP4
- Forbes, Michael, SP4
- House, Andrew, SP4
- Kreichauf, Bernard, SP4
- Louiselle, Lloyd M., SP4
- Peek, Johnny G., SP4
- Powell, Stephen D., SP4
- Stanford, John, SP4

- Stewart, Larry J., SP4
 - Church, Samuel W., PFC
 - Dixon, Lloyd, PFC
 - Garrett, Richard D., PFC
 - Kaye, William F., PFC
 - O'Brian, Patrick T., PFC
 - Martin, Willie O., PFC
 - Ranker, Roger L., PFC
 - Smith, Fred D., PFC
 - Williams, Robert L., PFC
 - Wunschel, Rodney, PFC
- ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR

VALOR

- Keane, James E., 1LT
- Raney, Paul, PSGT
- Butler, William A., SGT
- Chavis, James P., SGT
- Gritzmacher, Gary L., SGT
- Clayton, Paul, SP4
- Dockery, Charles, SP4
- Ero, Roy L., SP4
- Gabler, Carlos, SP4
- Gordon, Issac B., Jr., SP4
- Goschen, Charles W., SP4
- Grinde, John D., SP4
- Kaeding, Gary E., SP4
- Mac Donald, Norman A., SP4
- Peterson, David L., SP4
- Rape, William W., SP4
- Watson, Earl R., SP4
- Bracken, Kenneth M., PFC
- Crane, James F., PFC
- Cunningham, William, PFC
- Kerr, Michael H., PFC

Chaplain's Message

It Don't Mean Nothin'

By Chaplain (CPT) Virgil G. Iverson

How many times lately have you heard the phrase, "It don't mean nothin'?" As you carefully examine it in its context, it will be noticed that it is used as a reaction toward certain dogmatic statements. These statements may be used to proclaim an authoritative opinion to which one may reply, "It don't mean nothin'." Also these statements may be uttered to express pride in attainment or good fortune. And, again, the wet blanket pounces on the exuberant spirit proclaiming, "Ah, it don't mean nothin'."

This thinking not only pervades our daily speech but it also finds its place in our music. Have you listened to some hard rock and some acid rock lately? We are hard put to find meaning in anything and this takes into account human relationships. We might even ask someone if he is engaged in a meaningful existence and we had better not be surprised if he says, with a doleful look in his eye and shrug of the shoulder, "Not really!"

Now as I see it, there are a lot of us who do care but do not want to become too singularly vocal about it.

We need to emphatically make that statement, not just because we delight in counteracting against a negative philosophy, but because it is the way we feel. Is there anything wrong with making an utterance that does not have negative undertones? It might even be the primer which will encourage others to think that possibly they also have and are having meaningful experiences. These experiences will be looked upon in future years with a great deal of respect and admiration. Many of them will be honored because of the contributions they gave in developing our character and moral depth. Have you ever read some of the interesting stories of the lives of great men whom God used to promote His

will among his people? I'm not going to recite the stories, but only to point them out, for I believe that these men could have been tempted to say while walking some pretty trivial yet scathing paths, "Aw, it don't mean nothin'". But as we have the advantage of looking at the total perspective of their lives, we see that even the trivia, the disconcerting, had gigantic influence later on in life. Their experience did mean something. Look at David and Goliath. Gideon needed assurance before he met the armies of Midian. It meant something. A nation was rescued. Because Joseph maintained his integrity in the house of Pharaoh, he went to jail. It don't mean nothin'.

Yes, it did, because it was through the associations in prison that his talents were recognized for saving his people in the land of Egypt.

Several evenings ago a friend dropped into my tent to say good-bye. He was going home. In the course of the conversation I asked him, "What did you think of your time spent here this year?" He was a platoon sergeant in a line company and I was interested in his reply. He

responded by saying, "Chaplain, I'm glad you asked me that question. When I was at the personnel center at Ft. Lewis before I came over here, I had a couple of days to do some good thinking. I even went to the Chapel there. I went to the front and knelt at the altar and asked God to be with me. At that time I marked the place, day, and time of day in my little New Testament. I left a blank space under that line to record the day and the time of day that I would come back to the same spot at that altar to thank God for being with me. And Chaplain, He has been with me here!"

Yes, I know that the Lord has been with this Staff Sergeant. Not only in preserving his life, but in helping him to help others. Too numerous to mention were the times under all conditions when this man would introduce to me new members of the platoon. He enthusiastically supported the religious services by personal attendance and encouraging others to do the same. I daresay that one who would ask this particular E-6 about Vietnam would definitely not get the reply, "It don't mean nothin'!"

CSM Talks

To His Men



CSM STRICKLAND

Weapons Safety

IT IS OFTEN SAID that an empty weapon is one that kills. Sounds ridiculous, but how often have you heard the excuse, "I didn't know the gun was loaded" or "I didn't know that the pin had been pulled on that grenade."

These denials usually follow an "accident" involving firearms.

These accidents usually take place while either performing maintenance on the weapons, carrying the weapons precariously over rough terrain, through brush, or climbing over obstacles and too often they are the result of childish horseplay.

Accidents such as these can be prevented if the individual takes the time to make sure the weapon is clear, and if it is necessary, to have the weapon loaded, the safety should be on. Further, the weapons should be pointed up and away from the individual's body and definitely should not be pointed in the direction of his comrades.

The best weapon against these "accidents" is knowledge. Know how these pieces of the Army's arsenal operate before attempting to use them.



STEADFAST and LOYAL

(Circulation 8,000)

STEADFAST AND LOYAL, an authorized weekly publication, is published by the INFORMATION OFFICE, 4th Admin Co., 4th Infantry Division, APO San Francisco 96262, for 4th Division forces and is printed in Tokyo by Pacific Stars and Stripes.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of Army. Mailing address: STEADFAST AND LOYAL, INFORMATION OFFICE, 4th Admin Co., 4th Infantry Division, APO U.S. Forces 96262. Telephone: Camp Enari 2318.

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Air Controllers Handle Tough Job

By SP5 Mike Johnson

CAMP RADCLIFF — The daily safety of more than 800 air operations in the First Brigade, 4th Infantry Division's area of operations is the mission assigned the air traffic controllers at Golf Course Tower. And it's a tough mission.

Nine traffic controllers working six-hour shifts staff the control tower 24 hours a day.

The prefabricated, air-conditioned 62-foot high structure commands a view of most of Camp Radcliff, near An Khe. The tower is the nerve center for helicopter and air reconnaissance missions in the An Khe area.

Golf Course Tower's personnel provide a source of weather information, barometric readings, wind direction, and landing and take-off instructions for the aircraft which are based permanently at Golf Course Field.

The tower also coordinates operations for the 119th Assault Helicopter Company, the 278th Helicopter Company, Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, and 2nd Platoon, 203rd Air Reconnaissance Company's Hawk eyes.

"It can get pretty hectic when everyone needs to take off or land at the same time," comments Specialist 5 Dennis Homrighausen, of Denver, Colo.

"Sometimes I hardly have time to put down the micro-

phone," adds Specialist 4 Charles Rainey, of Birmingham, Ala.

This type of job requires extensive training. Air controllers must complete an intensive 13-week course in meteorology, navigational aids, airport control, communications and a practical application of that training.

"Probably the hardest aspect of the job is learning to understand what the pilots are saying," explains Specialist Rainey, "because each tower's speaker system sounds a little bit different from any other."

To give the air controller a chance to familiarize himself with tower operations and voice communication, each traffic controller is given an additional one to two months on the job training at each new duty assignment.

Pilots who fly missions in support of the 4th Infantry Division rely on accurate and safe directions from the man they know only as "the voice" coming from Golf Course Tower.

Excellent training has made that voice responsible and dependable.



THE IRON MEN — The soldiers of the 4th Division's 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry do some quick reconnoitering before they and their Armored Personnel Carrier continues a trek through the dense jungles of Vietnam's Central Highlands.

(USA Photo By 4th Div IO)

Rats Provide Village Security

By PFC David Sumrall
OASIS — Since proving its worth on the North African desert during World War II, the jeep has been employed in many

military roles. With the initiation of a motorized scout force designed to protect villages in Phu Nhon District, still another use has been found for the versatile vehicle.

Dubbed the "Rat Patrol" after a popular television adventure series, the motorized scout force is a part of the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry. The new unit, the first of its kind in the Famous Fighting 4th Division, consists of jeeps, each manned by a crew of three — a driver, an observer and a machine gunner.

The Rat Patrol's principal responsibility is to provide security for the Montagnard villages near the Golden Dragons' headquarters at Landing Zone (LZ) St. George. "The Viet Cong in this area occasionally attack a village at night when they think that we can't help the people," explained Specialist 4 Russ Simpson, of Keene, N.H., a driver with the scouts.

"The Rat Patrol is designed to fight this kind of terrorism," continued Specialist Simpson. "We are in a constant state of readiness to retaliate if any of the nearby villages are attacked."

Besides being a reaction force, the motorized scouts have several other duties. One is provid-

ing security for mine sweeps and convoys. "This is the kind of work that we do on a routine basis everyday," said Specialist Simpson.

The motorized scouts have two types of reconnaissance missions. One is road reconnaissance. "This is our most usual type of recon mission," explained Specialist Simpson. "This is basically routine patrolling of the roads in this area in which we search for any enemy activity."

The Rat Patrol operates in the plateau area of Phu Nhon District. The generally level terrain and relatively light vegetation provide good conditions for the second type mission, overland jeep reconnaissance.

"This mission is the most interesting and exciting part of our job," said Specialist Simpson. "On cross country missions we usually scout stream crossings and the larger trails for signs of enemy activity."

Fitted with a built-up engine specially designed for their various missions, the jeeps have more speed and power than the average jeep. "An ordinary jeep can only do about 60 MPH," said Specialist Simpson. "Ours can cruise at over 70, but we don't know what their top speed is since our speedometers only register up to 60 MPH."

Uncovers Explosive

Police Call Cops Mine

By PFC Dan Weaver

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — This police call was something special to Specialist 4 John Fogarty. In fact, one might say he plunged into his work when a routine police call led to the discovery of a 20-pound enemy anti-tank mine.

The mine was discovered 14 miles south of Kontum City after Specialist Fogarty, of the 4th Division's 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, policed up discarded ammunition cans and found a plunger buried beneath the rubble. The plunger was unique; it was attached to a 20-pound explosive.

Following the discovery the 2nd Platoon, Company A soldier summoned his platoon leader, Second Lieutenant Phillip Price of Amarillo, Tex. The two men dug carefully down to the body of the homemade mine before deciding to conclude the police call and call in the experts.

Minutes later an Explosive Ordnance Detachment (EOD) team completed the excavation.

The mine was uncovered near a drainage ditch beyond the berm near Highway 14. Rain and run-off water from the road washed away its earthen cover, leaving the plunger exposed but partially camouflaged by the ammunition cans.

The mine would have gone undetected if Specialist Fogarty of Worcester, Mass., had neglected the police call.

"It's a good thing he found the mine," said Lieutenant Price. "It was located off the highway, but during a sweep beyond the berm it might have been possible to hit it with one of our Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs)." The platoon leader also expressed surprise that his unit had not struck the mine before it was discovered.

"We swept nearby areas many times," said Lieutenant Price.

This particular police call proved to be an important one for the 2nd Platoon, for it may have saved lives.

A police call is usually laborious drudgery, but it isn't always made without purpose.

Just ask Specialist Fogarty.



EARLY RISERS — The morning sun silhouettes the trees as the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry gets an early start on its daily operations for the 4th Division.

(USA Photo By PFC Jerald Krepps)

Sergeant Rides Herd On Convoy

By PFC Phillip Kenny

OASIS — Staff Sergeant Larry J. Powell of Edwardsville, Kan., has made the transition from bronco buster to "roadrunner" since coming to Vietnam.

An avid horseman, Sergeant Powell showed quarter horses in civilian life while a member of the Kansas National Guard's 69th Infantry Brigade.

The 69th was activated in May of 1968 and Sergeant Powell was sent to Vietnam where he was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry. Since his assignment, he has been in charge of convoy resupply between Camp Enari and Landing Zone St. George.

His duties in resupply and as battalion courier keep him riding the trail seven days a week as "shotgun" on this Vietnamese version of the Pony Express. Thus, he has earned the nickname of "roadrunner."

"The jostling ride over the rough roads of the Phu Nhon District keeps me in shape for bronc busting and handling horses," says Sergeant Powell of the arduous daily trek. Though the bad lands and the dangerous Viet Cong country is not unlike the bad lands of the old West, Sergeant Powell has guided his convoy safely every day since being assigned.

Dragoons Sweep Happy Valle



SEEKING THE ENEMY — PFC Roland Anderson of Thorp, Wisc., directs his M16 fire at suspected enemy positions. This type of activity was a daily occurrence for the Dragoons as they cleared the Valley.

Photos
By
SP4
Chuck
Colgan



KEEP ON PUSHING — SP4 Jim Rome of Newark, N.J. searches for possible enemy locations in the tall elephant grass of Happy Valley.



TREES — Two Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers scan the trees for enemy snipers as they sweep through Happy Valley. The Dragoons from the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry took nearly three weeks in clearing the valley.



CANTEEN—SP4 Gary Hugo of Detroit shows how he guards against being thirsty. The assortment of canteens can come in handy as the 4th Division soldier moves through the dense jungles of the Central Highlands.

ey



A DAY'S WORK — Dragons look for a night position to set up their perimeter and rest from a long day's activities. Picking the right location can be worth a little extra walk.

Clean NVA Sanctuary



ARMED TO THE HILT — PFC Joe Trankler of St. Louis carries a full load of ammunition during the operations of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry. PFC Trankler wants to be sure to have enough for his M60 machine gun.



HELPING HAND — Two Dragoons kneel and after spotting a sniper begin the process of flushing him out of the jungle. In their sweep of Happy Valley north of An Khe the Dragoons killed 14 NVA and captured 2 tons of rice.

Pointman: A Job For The Dogs

By SP4 Gary Clark

OASIS — Walking point is a lonely job and it's more than a comfort to have a man's best friend along.

"I feel a lot safer with the dog along," said Sergeant Cecil Shook of Statesville, S.C., 40th Dog Section leader. "After you work with your dog a little, you get to know what he will do and you have confidence in him."

Every time a member of the 40th Scout Platoon, which provides handlers and scout dogs for the 3rd Brigade, walks point, he has his dog with him, leading the way and providing silent early warning of the enemy's presence.

From their lead position, the scout dog team often gives warning against snipers or hidden enemy soldiers. Scout dog teams are also utilized at times on listening and observation posts at night.

A man and his dog stay out several days at a time. "During that time a man can pull 10 to 15 missions. He might go out on a sweep in the morning and a recon (reconnaissance) mission in the afternoon."

When a man and his dog return from a five-day tour in the field, another handler and his dog are sent out to replace the team coming in.

"After a dog works for so long he has to have time to rest or he won't work as well," Sergeant Shook said.

A handler and a dog generally stay at Landing Zone (LZ) Oasis for three days before going out again.

Before a handler and his dog go out on a mission, the dog is introduced to the members of the unit he will work with. In this way the dog becomes famil-

iar with the men in the American forces and will not confuse their scent with that of the enemy.

Since the handler devotes almost all of his attention to the action of his dog while on a patrol, one member of the line company acts as his bodyguard or "shotgun."

Training is rigorous for scout dog handlers. After Advanced Infantry Training, canine-handling candidates go to Scout Dog School at Ft. Benning, Ga., for approximately 13 weeks of training. The first two weeks are concerned with basic obedience, teaching the dog to heel and so forth. The remainder of the time is spent on basic scouting techniques, with the dogs and handlers staying out in the field. The handler lives in a pup tent most of the time.

Upon completion of Scout Dog School, most men are assigned a dog that is about a year old. The dogs are shipped to Vietnam ahead of their handlers. When the handler arrives in Long Binh, he is reunited with his dog and the man to become accustomed to the climate, and the training is a little more extensive than what they already have had.

Men in the field like having a dog on the point element. It's better to be warned that somebody is ahead by a dog that perks up his ears than by catching a bullet.

Sergeant Shook aptly summed up why it's good to have a four-legged friend along. "They help accomplish the mission and lower the chance of casualties."



MAN'S BEST FRIEND — Dog handlers in Vietnam, like SGT Cecil M. Shook of Statesville, N.C., rely on man's best friend to accompany them on missions in the Central Highlands. (USA Photo By SP4 Gary Clark)

Singer Returns To Nam

By PFC James Cosgrove

CAMP RADCLIFF — The men of the 1st Brigade's forward firebases recently took a break from the routine tasks of war.

The occasion was a visit to the 4th Division by noted soprano Miss Virginia Bodkin, who is currently making a concert tour of military installations and hospitals throughout Vietnam.

Miss Bodkin, who teaches music at North Texas State University, sang a collection of spirituals, folk songs and show tunes. Chaplain (Major) Allen Brown, Jr., escorted Miss Bodkin and her accompanist, Miss Cynthia Nelson, on their firebase tour and introduced them at each performance.

Although a forward firebase has little in common with a concert hall, Miss Bodkin's enthusiasm and charm easily bridged the gap as she received a warm reception from the men in the field.

The two ladies are on their second tour of Vietnam. They made a similar trip to the war zone in the summer of 1967.

Commenting on the changes which have taken place since her last, Miss Bodkin says, "Things are much more settled down here now. The flights from place to place are scheduled and transportation in general is much more highly organized."

Miss Bodkin, who is active in both the Dallas Symphony and the Fort Worth Opera Company, attributes her initial interest in coming to Vietnam to her students.

"As a teacher I was naturally interested in young people. Vietnam is one of the main things which concerns them today. In order to understand the effects of this experience on them, I wanted to come to Vietnam and see for myself what it is really like."

Miss Bodkin is glad she came. "It is really an inspiration to me to see how well the men here assume the responsibilities of their jobs. Their morale is very good."

Miss Bodkin will continue her tour until the middle of September when she will return to Dallas for the opening of the fall semester.

Early Morning Road Clearing

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — In the early hours of sunlight, the men of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry have already been at work for some time.

Their job is to make sure certain sections of Highway 14 are free of mines and safe for Famous Fighting 4th Division troops traveling between Camp Enari and the home of the Second Brigade, Highlander Heights.

The 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, whose primary mission is to provide security along the highway, conducts mine sweeps from the main convoy checkpoint to the gate of Highlander Heights daily. The importance of such a task is proven each day by the heavy traffic which travels Highway 14, the main thoroughway in Kontum Province.

Alpha Company, under the command of Captain John J. Kalen of Milford, Mass., is responsible for a ten-mile stretch of road. Working out of Landing Zone (LZ) Joyce, each platoon of Company A is assigned a predetermined section of the company's area of responsibility.

Two Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) head for their starting point. At the outset of the mission, teams of two assume positions on both sides of the highway.

On the dirt shoulder of the highway, both mine-sweepers move cautiously, examining the area while employing electrical mine detectors. Simultaneously both men investigate the road-sides visually for any signs which may pinpoint an enemy explosive.

Periodically the men switch roles, each spending an equal amount of time at one position. Minutes after Private First Class Larry Farmer of Gainesville, Ga., began his shift as mine sweeper, the detector responded positively.

Sergeant Curtis Fox of Wichita Falls, Texas, acting platoon leader, delicately brushed away the sand from an almost unnoticeable mound in the roadside. A live mortar round appeared as Private First Class George Kirkland, of Tampa, Fla., watching from atop the track remarked, "Usually when you find one that

means there are probably 'beaucoup' around."

Within minutes the operation is again in progress, the mortar having been disposed of carefully by Sergeant Curtis. The teams, now aware of the increased possibility of more mines being present in the area, become a little more deliberate in their movements.

Specialist 4 James White of Salisbury, N.C. manning the APCs 50 caliber machinegun recalls, "A month ago we uncovered one mine near a bridge site and then followed that one up with 30 discoveries."

New York Performer Finds Musical Appreciation In Nam

By PFC Richard Souto

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — The minimum may not be the same as the Copacabana, but then the canvas walls are somewhat less sophisticated. Nightly performances by Specialist 4 Dominick Pace of New Rochelle, N.Y., a former musician at many New York night spots, provide a great morale boost for the men of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry.

Specialist Pace, a resupply man for the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's Company B, was lead guitarist for the Rhythm Kings, a popular New York group, before he entered the Army. Traveling extensively to East Coast nightspots, the group specialized in rock, jazz and blues renditions.

His first contact with the guitar was at the age of 12 when he purchased a one string, two dollar instrument. Shortly thereafter, he began eight years of lessons and his musical career.

During the early years, he performed with a number of groups working at local high school

and college dances, weddings and small clubs. Each engagement increased his skill and growing reputation.

Offered a position with the Rhythm Kings, Specialist Pace accepted and his career skyrocketed. The ensemble became a familiar feature at such New York clubs as the Peppermint Lounge, Round Table, Metropole and Copacabana.

While not performing in the evenings, he played background music for vocalists in many New York recording studios. The Rhythm Kings had also begun to cut their own records.

With the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Specialist Pace manages the flow of supplies to assure that Bravo Company receives the essential supplies for a successful effort. Specialist Pace performs this task daily and during the evening hours he entertains the Regulars. "These performances help us to relax and enjoy our time," said Specialist 4 Rick Manahl of Waterloo, Iowa, an armorer for the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry.

New CA Assistance Dirt Cheap

By SP4 Al Erickson

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — A 2nd Brigade Civil Affairs Team (CA) of the Famous Fighting 4th Division has provided a new type of assistance to villages in the Kontum area. The aid comes in the form of dirt.

The CA team helped the surrounding villages refinish a road that led from the string of hamlets to the city of Kontum, five miles north of Highlander Heights. The vital road was partly washed away from heavy rain in the past weeks and was scarred by holes and large rocks.

"The villages," said Specialist 4 Joseph Cartwright, a member of the brigade CA team from Long Beach, Calif., "requested some material to help them fix the road. In recent weeks, we've given them truckloads of gravel and equipment to refinish the road and they have been doing the task of turning the road into a safer and more passable route."

The project is completed now, and the road is holding up well to the heavy traffic of the surrounding villages, thanks to the consideration and help of the 2nd Brigade Civil Affairs team.

R & R Information Center

Manila—Blend Of Old And New

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third installment on R & R sites that may be visited by Fourth Division soldiers. For the next four weeks *The Steadfast and Loyal* will introduce you to these interesting cities and countries so you may better understand the places you might want to visit.

By SP4 John Rowe

Question: Where can I find an R&R site which has all the luxuries of the other R&R locations, but lacks the constant hustle and bustle which the other sites seem to possess?

Answer: Manila, the 20th century city which offers an intriguing blend of the old and new.

The Philippines in general and Manila in particular offer the combat weary soldier a chance to rest and relax, with a touch of enjoyment always added. An R&R visit to Manila is five days of discovering what a wonderland of adventure is like.

Frequent beautiful and sunny weather is the rule

rather than the exception in Manila. Most of the excellent hotels in Manila offer special rates to personnel on R&R.

Civilian clothes are worn on R&R in the Philippines, with lightweight slacks and sportshirts able to suit almost every occasion. The Philippines has two currencies—the pesos and centavos. The rate of exchange fluctuates from 3.85 to 3.90 pesos per U.S. dollar.

Travelling through the Philippines is a journey through time. You have the city like atmosphere of Manila, featuring the night life, and the beautiful country landscape, with its provinces and primitive regions.

An inside look at the traditions of the Filipinos can be acquired by attending a fiesta. A joyous occasion, the traditional fiesta is a time for the people to celebrate a bountiful harvest and thank God and his saints.

Shopping in Manila is a delight for the lover of handicrafts as well as for the curio and souvenir hunter. Things to buy are buntal hats, jusi (cloth from raw silk), delicate pina (pineapple fabrics) cloths, bags and handkerchiefs, shell and coral jewellery and wood-ware.

For those who enjoy a good cigar Manila is a paradise. Philippine cigars are world famous and several brands are sold in Manila.

Manila, the gateway to the Philippines, is a bustling metropolis with a population of two million. It offers interesting opportunities for exploration, such as: Intramuros with its ruins of Fort Santiago, historic churches and convents; the Metropolitan Cathedral, several times rebuilt after being destroyed; the Rizal Park, Manila's colorful garden and memorial to Dr. Jose Rizal, the Philippine National Hero; the public markets, abundant with fresh fruits in season and native handicrafts; and beautiful Roxas Boulevard, along Manila Bay.

Manila by night is a virtual playground. Floor shows are the best, and American singers, bands and other entertainment groups frequently perform in the better night clubs.

Sports events are regularly scheduled at the Araneta Coliseum, the Rizal Memorial Stadium and the bigger college gymnasiums. Spectator sports like basketball, baseball, volleyball, tennis, boxing and swimming are very popular.

The exasperated GI is at a loss for words when his Manila R&R comes to an end. But as he boards the plane to take him back to Vietnam he can always remember the words of a late fellow soldier who said of the Philippines: "I shall return."

Games— A Common Language

By PFC Philip Kenny

OASIS — The Civil Affairs (S-5) team of the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry has scored a big hit with the Montagnard children with the introduction of some new games to their regular recreation program.

Old American favorites such as basketball and the backyard swing are the number one child pleasers in the villages of Plei Bong Chong, Plei Rongol Dognang and Plei Xo. The boys also enjoy tag, hopscotch and a sing-a-long featuring "Old MacDonald's Farm" and "Land of 1,000 Dances."

Basketball, however, has been the biggest success with the children. Although not usually a contact sport the games take on the resemblance of a football scrimmage at times due to the enthusiasm.

Physical roughness is one of the aspects of the game that the boys like, at times to the chagrin of their tutors. Picture, for example, the surprise of team leader Specialist 4 Gary Melchi, of Champaign, Ill., when a routine layup he was making was met by a knee-high tackler. No one gets hurt, however, and the contact is stimulating and fun for all.

Specialist 4 Roger Armstrong, of Rockford, Ill., says this of the project, "The kids catch on fast. They pick up the rules and in no time are dribbling and faking like old pros. Since they are very agile they develop the physical skills more quickly than the average boy back home. And yet, they are just like the kids back home when it comes to having fun."

The Montagnard boys are not the only ones learning. The boys reciprocate in kind for the American games by showing some of their pastimes to the soldiers.

The Montagnard children are eager to learn American ways and eager to teach the Americans their customs. The recreation program is one way to establish this rapport.



A HAPPY MAN — SP5 Thomas S. Marks of Jackson, Miss., a technician with the 4th Medical Battalion, is content after reenlisting for six years. Specialist Marks holds his \$9,414 reenlistment bonus after the ceremony at Camp Enari. (USA Photo By SP4 John Warwick)

Aloha Airlines Flies Multiple Missions

By SP4 Gary Clark

OASIS — "Aloha Airlines, Vietnam Branch."

That's how the shirt patch of a unique Army aviation unit in the Central Highlands reads. Supporting operations in the Third Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division, Aloha Airlines has racked up a distinguished record.

Aloha Airlines sounds like a commercial airline. When the 3rd Brigade was stationed in Hawaii as part of the 25th Infantry Division, its aviation section began using Aloha Airlines as its call sign. The name stuck. Ever since, they have been referred to as Aloha Airlines.

The 3rd Brigade Aviation Officer is trying to carry the theme one step further. "I've been trying to make this Aloha Control," said First Lieutenant Joseph May of Xenia, Ohio.

Lieutenant May coordinates all rotor-wing aircraft in the Third Brigade. The brigade employs Huey Slicks (UH-1s), Chinooks (CH47s), and Crane (CH54) helicopters.

Aloha Airlines itself has Light Observation Helicopters (LOHs) which are used to support the brigade staff on liaison-type missions, combined operations and for visual reconnaissance missions. LOHs transport the brigade and battalion commanders to firebases and out to the troops in the field. "What it amounts to is taxi service," Lieutenant May said. "And the Donut Dollies use our LOHs as their primary means of transportation."

The LOHs are also used on combat assaults. "We mark the

Landing Zones with smoke for the gunships and Slicks," Lieutenant May said. "Then we remain on station while the combat assault is going on."

In emergencies, Aloha performs many other missions. Inserting and extracting troops, mail delivery and flying convoy cover are among the jobs they've been called on for at one time or another.

A former Aloha pilot, Warrant Officer Elmer Vaughn of Phoenix, Ariz., won the Silver Star, the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Aloha pilot Warrant Officer Charles Meadows of Memphis, Tenn., has won the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. Warrant Officer Larry Larkin of Belmont, Va., has won both awards twice. Lieutenant May won the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal while flying for Aloha.

Regulars Find Enemy Campsite

By PFC Richard Souto

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Evidently, explosions from incoming artillery rounds convinced a platoon of enemy soldiers it was time to move on.

The enemy soldiers were sighted by members of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry while conducting a sweep through an area of suspected enemy activity 12 miles southwest of Kontum city. Captain Louis R. Sustersic of Cincinnati, Ohio, company commander of the Famous Fighting 4th Division unit, immediately called artillery in on the NVA soldiers, causing their retreat.

The Regulars found a deserted enemy campsite which contained 16 rucksacks the enemy had scattered about in their haste. The rucksacks contained 100 pounds of rice, 3000 AK47 rounds, 11 CHICOM grenades, one 60mm mortar round, one B40 round with two propelled charges, various medical supplies and personal property.

Cacti Green Cache In

By SP4 Gerald E. Ducharme

OASIS — Companies of the Famous Fighting 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry found two bunker complexes and one ton of rice in recent action seven miles north of the Oasis.

Company C uncovered a bunker complex which consisted of five structures with two to three feet of overhead cover. Connecting the bunkers, which were able to hold four to five men, were four freshly built tunnels.

One of the most interesting features of the complex was a bathing point that had a reinforced stairway leading to the enemy bunkers. It was estimated that the sight had been used within the past day due to numerous fresh footprints in the area.

On the following day, Company C again hit paydirt in the form of an enemy complex, this

one consisting of 50 positions, located only a few miles north of their first find.

The enemy structures, which could house three to four men, all had a foot of overhead cover, and were well camouflaged by thick underbrush and bamboo.

"It looked as though the complex was well used at one time, but the bunkers were now becoming dilapidated from the recent monsoons," said Private First Class William J. O'Meara, of Boston.

Company D of the Cacti Green, in an operation 14 miles west of LZ Oasis, discovered an enemy hut which contained a ton of rice.

Found near the enemy hut was a sleeping position, which was able to house 10 to 15 men. It was estimated to have been used within 24 hours of its discovery.

71st Evac Hospital Bolsters Defenses

By PFC Dan Weaver
HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — What can the medical corpsmen from the 71st Evacuation Hospital do to protect their patients from an enemy ground attack? Until recently the answer was not much. But thanks to the foresight of a commanding officer and the innovations of an experienced infantry platoon, hospital defense is now more than adequate.

The idea to strengthen the perimeter defense and reaction capability was conceived by Colonel Joseph Bellas, of Sha-

ron, Pa., commanding officer of the evacuation hospital. It was carried out by infantrymen from the 4th Division's 2nd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry.

"Before we could make effective improvements we needed professional advice," said Colonel Bellas. "We got it from an excellent and very cooperative group of soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry."

The platoon's primary objective centered on the prevention of enemy success in a ground attack against the hospital, which

is located on the outskirts of Pleiku City and aids men of the 4th Division and other units operating in the Central Highlands. This objective was accomplished through classroom discussion and field demonstration, directed by platoon leader Second Lieutenant Ron Ries of Atkinson, Nebr.

"The classes consisted of instruction in weaponry, bunker line improvements and sapper activities," remarked Lieutenant Ries. "The classes were led by platoon members who did an excellent job of presenting the

material."

Following sessions in the classroom and on the firing range, the medics toured their bunker line.

"We showed them where enemy sappers might breach the perimeter, and what preventative measures could be taken to repel them," said Lieutenant Ries. Suggestions included the addition of Claymore mines and trip flares in strategic positions, and the blocking of a large drainage ditch with strands of concertina wire.

The medics set additional trip

flares, mines and dug supplementary fighting positions between bunker towers before the Panthers completed their 10-day course of instruction.

"Our people will incorporate everything the platoon suggested as quickly as possible," remarked Colonel Bellas. "We have always offered our patients an outstanding medical facility," he said, "and now we can include sound security and strong defense to our services."

"We want the men in the field to know we can protect as well as heal," said Colonel Bellas.

Rangers Check Enemy

(Continued From Page 1)

Broadville, Ill., and PFC Dennis swept the area of the hill across from their location to assess the results of the artillery barrage. The hill's crest contained several enemy bunkers that had been hit by the accurate artillery.

Suddenly, Specialist Smock saw an NVA running from one bunker to another.

"Artillery," he said, "was called in once again as we took cover. We had no idea how many NVA were around us. After the artillery ceased, we checked out the bunkers. There were signs which made us figure that there was at least an enemy squad in the area."

The two Rangers blew the remaining bunkers and returned to Bunker Hill where, on their third night, they saw enemy movement on the same artillery scarred hill.

"We spotted movement to our southwest," explained Specialist Smock. "I could pick out one NVA and we could hear one of the enemy say, 'GI make bad mistake.'"

Suddenly Specialist Smock heard a thud to his right. "Everybody hit it!"

A satchel charge exploded in their position then five more went off in quick succession. Heavy small arms fire was exchanged and more artillery was called in, followed quickly by a gunship which raked the hillside. The enemy fled, leaving behind several unexploded satchel charges.

"We also found footprints on our southwest side," concluded PFC Dennis, "that ran into the valley below us."



SHE'S GOT ALL THE EQUIPMENT — Recreation is part of everyone's daily activity and some good healthy exercise keeps every 4th Division soldier sharp in both mind and body. Miss Sylvia Delprat, a 19-year-old Aussie, is going fishing. We have to wonder what she is going to use for bait?

Healthy Recreation

Sports Accent Daily Activity

By SP4 Gerald E. Ducharme
OASIS — Three hots and a cot. That's what an infantryman of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division expects when his company arrives on a forward landing zone (LZ) for a few days of relief from the field.

Now, when men of the 1st Bat-

alion, 35th Infantry arrive on the battalion's LZ Gypsy, planned recreation and education are also part of the day's activities.

Volleyball, basketball and horseshoe equipment has been set up at the Cacti Green's LZ and contests between platoons

are fast becoming a daily occurrence.

Classes on small weapons and explosives are also given during the day, mostly by a platoon sergeant or squad leader who can be certain that every man in his element knows how to safely handle weapons.

"Safety in the field cannot be stressed enough," commented Sergeant Kenneth Danford of Waco, Texas. "The only time we can talk about safety at length is when we are free to talk and all together, which is only when we are on an LZ."

Through the aid of Special Services at Camp Enari, movies are being flown to the LZ and shown nightly to the combat troops who are temporarily stationed at Gypsy, an event which is rather rare in forward field areas of the Central Highlands.

Enemy Equipment— Functional Simplicity

By PFC Philip Kenny

OASIS — A North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldier traveling down an infiltration route into South Vietnam must carry what will probably be his only equipment issue for many months.

With limited resupply his gear must be simple, and rugged, and when the jungle takes its toll in wear and tear, he must improvise to remain combat ready.

As a result a North Vietnamese Army soldier's equipment is lightweight and reflects complete simplicity of design.

Beginning with the uniform the well dressed NVA soldier wears either a green fatigue outfit or a tan khaki uniform and a pair of sandals made of tire tread. He carries a canvas rucksack, an AK47 or SKS rifle and web gear with a canteen.

Inside the rucksack he will pack such items as a hammock, an aluminum cooking kit, a poncho and ammunition. Additional equipment may include a protective mask, a comb, an oil flask for his weapon, and personal belongings.

The NVA soldier's cooking utensils consist of a small covered aluminum pot and one or two aluminum spoons. There is also a porcelain dish and chop sticks. His food consists mainly of rice which he takes from rice fields.

For a poncho, a thin sheet of plastic is used. The rucksack in which he carries all of this gear has no frame such as the American pack and is made entirely of canvas.

Even when it comes to ammunition the NVA travels light. He seldom carries more than two or three magazines of ammunition for his weapon which may explain his reluctance to stand and fight if taken by surprise.

After long periods of time fighting disease, terrain and climate, not to mention South Vietnamese, American and allied forces, much of an NVA soldier's equipment will be either lost or worn out. Since resupply is often impossible the NVA must make do with what is available.

For example, one NVA soldier who was killed recently by a 4th Division unit was found to be carrying a sand bag in place of a rucksack. Many NVA soldiers have donned the clothing of local citizens, having lost or worn out their own clothes. Pith helmets are standard issue and are often replaced with woven straw or bamboo hats.

Perhaps this rugged hand-to-mouth existence, contrasting with the comforts and equipment he sees in the South Vietnamese and American camps, accounts to a large degree for the success of the Chieu Hoi program.

The NVA, however, should not be underestimated. They have shown the capability to utilize what equipment they have effectively and should be respected for this ability.

Vietnamese Language Lesson

Understand Your Neighbors

ENGLISH

Halt. Don't be afraid.
One of you come closer for a talk.
Sit down.
Smoke if you wish.
Relax.

PRONUNCIATION

Duwng laai. Duwng sho.
Mok ngioy trawng sho kaak awng den hon de noy chwiang.
Ngoy suang.
Awng duak Ep huk thuak.
Awng duak ngee.

VIETNAMESE

Dung Lai. Dung so.
Mot nguoi trong so cac ong den gan hon de noi chuyen.
Ngoi xuong.
Ong duoc phep hut thuoc.
Ong duoc nghi.