

Famous Fourth's Third Brigade Locks On NVA 24th Regiment

By 1ST LT Jim Hughes

"Now, first of the foeman of Boh Da Thone
Was Captain O'Neil of the Black Tyrone,
And his was a company, seventy strong,
Who hustled that dissolute Chief along.
—They had hunted the Boh from the hills to the plain—
He doubled back and broke for the hills again:
They had crippled his power for rapine and raid,
They had routed him out of his pet stockade—"
From: The Ballad of Boh Da Thone
By: Rudyard Kipling 1888

Boh Da Thone, a romantic creation of poet/author Rudyard Kipling, may not be as well known as his North Vietnamese counterparts, but his problems were much the same.

Bob operated as a bandit in the jungles of Burma during the Burma Wars, 1883-1885. His "foeman" was a fictitious captain in the Queens Service called "Crook"

O'Neil. (From Maloon to Tsaleer the captain and his company of 70 men, "—the sun-dried boys of the Black Tyrone—", hunted the elusive Boh.)

Their untiring pursuit brought them ever closer, both physically and mentally, to their enemy. The longer they chased him the more determined they became.

The tactics employed by Captain O'Neil and his men are probably older than the Burma Wars. In the tactics of warfare, however, time-tested methods are often the best. With this in mind Famous Fighting Fourth Division troops of the 3rd Brigade, have taken a page from Captain O'Neil and brought it up to date. They call it the "lock-on concept."

In the lock-on concept a brigade unit zeroes in on an enemy unit by using all its intelligence gathering powers. When enough data on the enemy organization has been collected, the friendly unit will mobilize all of its available means and capabilities to pursue and finally destroy its adversary.

According to Colonel Richard L. Gruenther, 3rd Brigade commander from Arlington, Va.; "the foremost of foes facing the brigade in the Central Highlands is the 24th NVA Regiment." In November, 1965 the 24th entered South Vietnam. Since that time intelligence has continually been gathered in order to piece together a picture of this unit, its capabilities and mission.

Much has been learned from experience. The 24th, a part of the B3 front in Cambodia, has long been known as a tenacious defensive unit. From base camps dug in to the steep mountain slopes surrounding the central plains, the 24th has mounted attacks by fire against friendly military installations and civilian population centers alike. Their forays have also included the interdiction of supply routes, notably between Pleiku and Kontum.

Third Brigade units and their Vietnamese allies have been progressively denying the 24th its base camp areas, first in the Chu Pa and most recently in the Chu Prong near Kontum. In both areas accumulated intelligence has indicated the presence of troop concentrations and fortified positions.

Friendly units moved into each of 'these areas and established base camps. From these fire-bases, search and destroy operations were, conducted flushing out the enemy. Air strikes and artillery were utilized to destroy his sanctuaries, and in each operation large weapons caches were uncovered.

In the ballad Kipling wrote:

"And, sooth, if pursuit in possession ends,

The Boh and his trackers were best of friends—."

It would be misleading to say that the men of the 3rd Brigade are "best of friends" with their enemy. But you could say they are very familiar with their adversaries in the 24th NVA Regiment.

The men of Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry battled with the 24th for eight days in the rugged forest of Chu Pa mountains, killing over 60 of the enemy. During this period Bravo Company was in almost constant contact, with the NVA as close as 25 meters from their positions. During the nights they could hear the enemy officers giving orders to their men.

At this writing, another 3rd Brigade unit, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, is facing this same enemy in the rugged Chu Prong Mountains southeast of Kontum. The men of the "Cacti Blue", from the Battalion commander to the private soldier, can speak with great authority on the 24th. Each day brings more captured records resulting in more information on the 24th.

They can tell you, for instance, the name, rank, serial number, date entered South Vietnam and weapon of each and every member of the K4 Battalion, 24th Regiment. They can even tell you his home of record.

Having "locked-on" to the 24th Regiment in this manner the men of the 3rd Brigade have been able to keep their foe continually on the defensive. In this manner they have reduced his effectiveness and his ability to continue aggression against the South.

In Kipling's poem the "princely pest", Boh Da Thone, is hunted to a rather inglorious demise. Should the lock-on concept continue to prove as successful as it has recently, the NVA can hope for little better at the hands of the Allied Forces.

IVY LEAF

Walking Point Important Job, Calls For Complete Alertness

OASIS — Some soldiers refer to him as the eyes and ears of a patrol. Others think of him as the infantryman's best friend.

Regardless of what descriptive phrases are used, it has been proven, the pointman is an intricate part of any infantry mission. His performance, more than anyone else's in certain cases, can dictate the degree of any success.

"The pointman is one of the main men of the element and he shouldn't forget it," said Sergeant Larry W. Nobles, of Phoenix City, Ala., who has seen seven months of combat experience with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry.

Sergeant Nobles and Specialist 4 Lynn Bard of Greenville, Mich., of the Cacti Blue's Company B, are two Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers who have been pointmen on numerous occasions and as such have some definite opinions about walking point.

"A pointman must have combat experience, this isn't a job for someone new In country," commented Specialist Bard.

Always Alert

Asked what the qualities of a good pointman should be, Sergeant Nobles replied: "He must always be alert and ready for anything."

"A pointman must always look for obstacles," adds Specialist Bard, "especially booby traps and enemy bunkers."

The 3rd Brigade soldier also believes a soldier should be in good physical condition, levelheaded, and a man who cannot be easily excited.

The pointman is confronted with numerous obstacles, both physical and mental. The physical obstacles are dependent upon, and vary with, changes in the terrain.

Look For Unusual

The mental obstacles, however, are always present.

What should a pointman look for? Sergeant Nobles and Specialist Bard both agree he has "to watch out for anything out of the ordinary. It could signify trouble."

"It is a dangerous job and one In which you have to overcome nervousness. In essence the men are depending on you," theorized Sergeant Nobles.

Specialist Bard admits he has "never really thought" about the responsibilities he had when walking point. "I was just glad it was over when the time came."

Perhaps Sergeant Nobles best summarized the duties of a pointman when he said: "It is something you have to have experienced in order to be able to fully understand it.

IVY LEAF

March 1969

Cacti Blue Soldiers Use Cave

As Hideout, Return Unscathed

By **SP4 John Rowe**

OASIS — Three Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers found themselves in a mountain cave with Quirt, a scout dog, "an M16, an M79 and a lot of prayers."

Separated from the rest of Company. B, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, the men were trapped in a cave as friendly airstrikes pounded enemy bunker complexes in the Chu Prong Mountain area around them.

Pleasant Surprise

Five hours later, Specialist 4 Randy Harritan of Wilmington, NC., Private First Class Ken Eldridge of Stanton, Mich., and Private First Class Michael Boyle of Overland Park, Kan., provided Company B with a pleasant surprise as they found their way back to their company's location.

The Cacti Blue troops were elated. Not only had their fellow infantrymen returned safely, but eight NVA had been killed in the fighting.

Three more enemy were killed the following morning as Company. B raised its enemy dead to 11 in what started as a search and clear mission of the densely vegetated area.

Harrowing Experience

The harrowing experience for the three soldiers and scout dog began when PFC Eldridge, walking point for the company's Second Platoon, was fired at by an NVA soldier who had darted out from behind a tree.

"I dove behind a nearby tree and lost my M16 and steel pot in

the process," said PFC Eldridge. "Apparently they thought I was dead so three of them came into the open to get my weapon," he continued.

Specialist Harritan, a dog handler who was directly behind the pointman, killed the three NVA with fire from his M16.

In the ensuing firefight, the three infantrymen became separated from their company when they sought cover in a cave.

Couldn't Find Them

Company B proceeded to send a patrol to look for the missing men. Sergeant Larry Nenne of Toluca, ILL., said he called out the names of the men, but received no answer.

"We were afraid to yell because we might give away our position," said PFC Boyle.

"We could see NVA running past the cave," explained PFC Eldridge.

First Lieutenant William Burdick of East Lyme, Conn., Company B commander, said he thought there was "no hope" for the missing soldiers and the scout dog when Sergeant Nenne returned with his negative report.

"I then called in the artillery, gunships and airstrikes to help us against the well entrenched enemy force," explained Lieutenant Burdick.

Shook Up

What were the missing soldiers thinking about when the airstrikes were going on? "It shook us up a little. There we were with an M16, an M79 and a lot of prayers," commented PFC Boyle.

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King And Queen, 4th's Trump Ace

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS—When the king and queen of battle combine their talents the enemy suffers the sad consequences.

So it has been in the continuing fighting on the Chu Prong Mountain Ranges as the king, Artillery, joined with the queen, Infantry, to form a one-two punch which resulted in 46 enemy deaths.

Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, fired 8,138 rounds of artillery from LZ Valentine during the period of March 1-18 in support of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry.

Battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel James E. Price of Matewan, Va., had praise for both artillery support and the

performance of his ground troops.

"The two are forming a good combination," said Colonel Price. "The artillery has been doing some good firing and keeping the enemy down."

Colonel Price explained that the basic plan of the operation was for the artillery to assist the infantry units after initial contact had been made.

The ground units make contact, then back off, as fire support shells the enemy. Then the infantry can move in for a climactic sweep.

The strategy being employed by the 3rd Brigade forces follows the "lock-on" concept advocated by brigade commander Colonel Richard L. Gruenther of Arlington, Va. Artillery plays an important part in the tactical concept as friendly forces utilize all of their military and

Intelligence gathering powers to "lock on" the enemy, suspected to be the 24th NVA Regiment in Chu Prong.

In the most heated contact during the current stage of the operations, the 35th's Company B accounted for 11 NVA deaths in a lengthy battle which took place March 16-17.

Bravo Company encountered the estimated NVA company while on a search and clear mission. Eight enemy were killed during a six-hour battle in which artillery, gunships and air-strikes were used to force the NVA out of their mountain bunkers. Three enemy were killed on the following morning when a sweep was made of the area.

Adding to the enemy's miseries has been the uncovering of weapons caches by the Cacti Blue.

Both Charlie and Bravo Companies found enemy weapons after an earlier large cache find by the battalion's Reconnaissance Platoon.

Company C discovered two AK47 rifles, a B40 rocket launcher and seven B40 rounds in the area northwest of Pleiku. Company B found two AK47s and a B40 rocket launcher.

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Hospital Uncovered By Famous Fourth

OASIS—NVA bunker complexes are often described as ingenious.

The one found recently by the Famous Fourth Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry proved to be no exception.

Sweeping a stream bed in the Chu Prong Mountains, 11 miles north of Pleiku, elements of Charlie Company passed what appeared to be a rock filled ravine. Two NVA graves and two AK-47s were found in the area. Suspicions aroused, the soldiers returned to the ravine the next day.

There, in the crevices and caves formed by the rocks, they discovered the remains of an NVA battalion-sized aid station. "We knew immediately that this was some kind of medical facility," commented Captain Guy R. Marbury of Republic, Pa., Charlie Company commander.

"There were empty plasma and penicillin bottles and many used bandages scattered throughout the complex. The NVA seemingly left the area about three weeks previously, after the area was hit with heavy air strikes. They left in a hurry, not bothering to completely bury their dead."

Sleeping Positions

The complex began at the bottom of the ravine where several sleeping positions were hidden in the dark recesses of the rocks. Inside the cave bamboo had been cut into strips and woven together to form sleeping platforms. Further up the ravine was a log and dirt covered bunker forming an underground room ten feet by ten feet. In the back a small fireplace had been built. According to Captain Marbury, this was probably their mess hall.

Nearer the top of the ravine was a large opening formed by the boulders. Inside, an operating table and several sleeping positions had been constructed. Several natural tunnels branched off from this room spiraling down further between the rocks. At each level sleeping positions had been built. At the bottom was a small underground stream which could be heard gurgling throughout the cave. In all, the one complex could accommodate 12 to 15 patients.

At the top of the ravine were more sleeping positions and a large open pit-like crevice. "This might have been a morgue," commented Specialist 4 Warren Jarrard of Orlando, Fla., Charlie Company's medic. "There was only one entrance and we found several shrouds inside. It was also set apart from the rest of the complex."

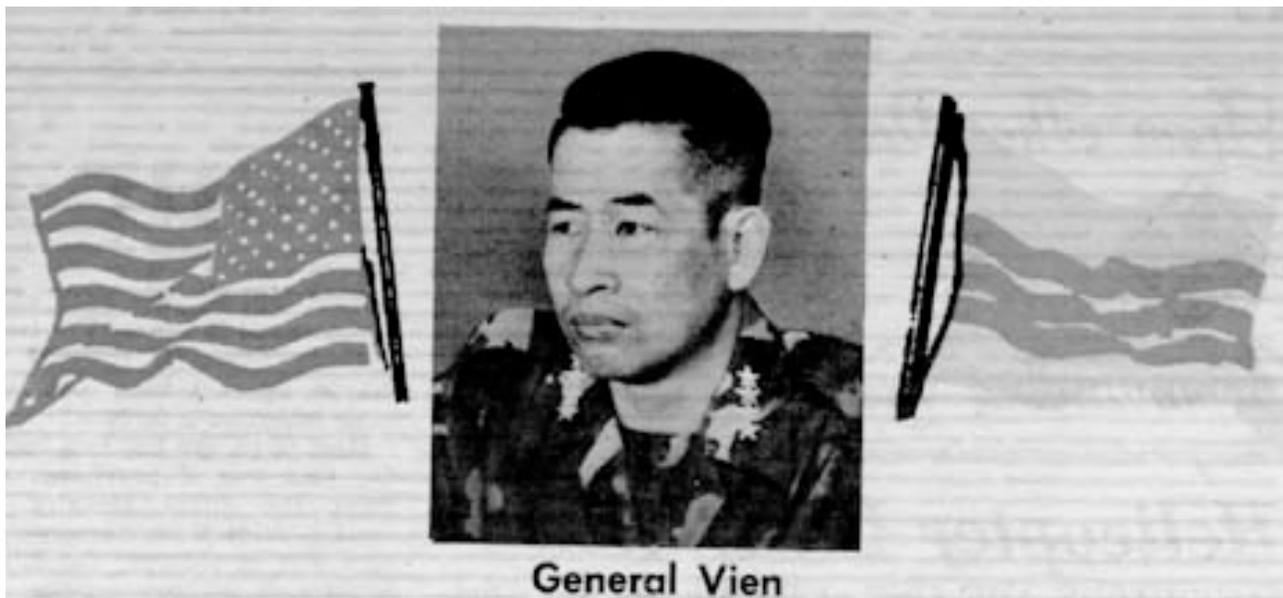
Doctor's Area

Specialist Jarrard noted that the sleeping positions at the top of the ravine probably belonged to the doctor and his staff.

The most unique aspect of the sanctuary was the total naturalness of the surroundings. The NVA had taken great pains not to disturb the area, making maximum utilization of the cover and concealment provided by the rock formations.

Engineers from Delta Company, 4th Engineer Battalion were called in to clear the area and to seal off the caves. They also marked the complex by painting the rocks with bright paint, thereby marking the location and hopefully discouraging the enemy from deciding to return.

IVY LEAF



FIGHTING A HOT, DIRTY, insect-infested war is hard work, and the rewards and satisfactions often seem to be nonexistent. To the soldier in the field, progress is moving from one hill to another, crossing the day's third blue line or chasing enemy soldiers from a bunker complex.

Minds are occupied with outsmarting and outfighting a determined enemy on the individual, squad, platoon and company level. There is no time to worry about the overall picture. That is the job of the major commanders.

Major Commanders do consider the overall picture and yet, as indicated in a letter written in praise of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division by General Cao Van Vien, Chief, Joint General Staff, Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, they also recognize the efforts of the individuals who do the fighting.

IN HIS LETTER to General Creighton W. Abrams, USARV Commanding General, General Vien said in part, "As operation MacArthur, Cochise Green, Walker, Bolling and McLain have come to an end with most encouraging results scored by the operating troops of the 4th Infantry Division, I should like to ask you to extend to all officers and men taking part in these highly successful operations the expression of my heartfelt appreciation.

"In these operations," he continued, "the valiant American fighters accounted for 8,689 NVA soldiers killed, 6,941 detained and 155 returnees. They also captured 276 crew-served weapons and 2,258 small arms.

"These remarkable results, it goes without saying, were obtained through the courage and fighting spirit of the men and the outstanding leadership of the officers."

In forwarding General Vien's letter, General Abrams asked that his "personal commendation for exemplary display of teamwork, dedicated service and mission accomplishment" be conveyed.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHARLES A. Corcoran, IFFV Commander, added his praise when he wrote, "The operations were, without exception, conducted with a degree of professionalism which commanded success. You may take just pride in these achievements."

Fourth Division commander, Major General Donn R. Pepke, commented on the praise given his men, adding, "I am sure that all members of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division will share my pride in the recognition afforded to our past and present accomplishments. I have no doubt that the Division's traditional fighting spirit will be passed from our presently assigned officers and men to those who will follow them."

Fourth Division soldiers, down to the last rifleman, can be rightfully proud of their accomplishments.

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Division Spelunkers Keeping In Practice

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

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

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

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

Find Fortress

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

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

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

Recently Used

No enemy resistance was met during the search of the complex. Artillery preparation fires in the area had apparently fore-warned the NVA of an impending sweep, and they had fled.

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

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

IVY LEAF

Quirte Surprises Colonel, Not cacti Blue

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

Colonel Richard L. Gruenther, commander of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 3rd Brigade, had requested a meeting with Quirte the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, 'soldier' who had killed three NVA to save the lives of two of his fellow infantrymen in a firefight in the Chu Prong Mountain range southeast of Kontum.

While the Cacti Blue's Company B was engaged in contact, Colonel Gruenther's helicopter was hovering over the battle area and the 3rd Brigade commander was interested by the

radio reports from the ground which were praising Quirte's actions.

So when Colonel Gruenther visited Landing Zone (LZ) Valentine, the battalion firebase, he asked Lieutenant Colonel James E. Price, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry commander, to arrange for him to meet Quirte.

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

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

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

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



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

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

IVY LEAF

20 April 1969

Cacti Blue Pitching

7 NVA Strikeout Victims

By SP4 Michael Tousey

OASIS — A ditch which provided protection from artillery turned into a deathtrap for seven NVA when they were caught there by the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, near the village of Plei Tower.

Private First Class Richard W. Tolbert of Seattle, Wash., on an observation post (OP) for the Recon Platoon, sighted the enemy and reported their location to Sergeant First Class James F. Tibbit of Leesville, La., acting platoon leader.

"Charlie Company had come by here earlier," said PFC Tolbert, "but this time I knew they were NVA. They had a different pack and did not act like our men. I think Charlie Company had scared them out."

While he prepared his men to pursue the enemy, Sergeant Tibbit utilized artillery. In a half hour the mortars expended 123 rounds and the 105s fired 91 rounds as the enemy tried to escape.

Rounds Come In

"It seemed as if we had a round coming in every five seconds," said Private First Class

David Peterson of Allendale, N.J., who serves as forward observer (FO) for the Recon Platoon. "The guns pinned them down until we could move up and engage them."

As the artillery was advanced in the direction of the enemy movement, Sergeant Tibbit moved his men behind it, in several separate squad-sized elements searching for the NVA.

Sergeant Tibbit, moving with the squad led by Specialist 4 Robert L. Carson of Barnesboro, Pa., spotted three or four of the enemy in a stream bed.

"We threw some frags in there and killed one," said Specialist Carson. "Two others there looked as if they had been killed by the artillery."

By this time the first squad had found the main enemy element hiding in the ditch. Moving along a trail about ten meters from the ditch, Specialist Dennis C. Johnson of Shelton, Conn., saw one of the enemy in the ditch and fired his M79 at him.

Sergeant Tibbit brought the rest of the platoon up to support the first squad, deploying them on both sides of the ditch.

Calls Cease Fire

"Sergeant Tibbit called a cease fire and yelled to the NVA to Chieu Hoi," said, Specialist 4 John S. Ryan of Chicago, a Signal Corps photographer attached to the Recon Platoon. "The only answer we received was a burst of automatic fire so we resumed the fighting.

"I hit the ground and tried to get as low as possible. The next thing I knew CHICOM grenades started popping up out of the ditch.

"One of them landed right beside me. Without thinking twice, I picked it up and threw it back. My surprise couldn't have been greater when I saw the same grenade come flying back up out of the ditch and land beside me again. This time I thought it would certainly explode.

"I rolled over several times and waited for the blast. Nothing happened. I went back, picked up the grenade and threw it back again. I don't know if it ever went off. But I think, if nothing else, that NVA soldier and I succeeded in nearly scaring each other to death."

"We had them, we were on both sides of them and they could not get out of the ditch without exposing themselves," said PFC Peterson. "We just saturated the trench with frags. They kept moving up and down the ditch trying to avoid the grenades."

The ditch with the NVA in it was as close as seven or eight feet to the Recon Platoon's position at places along the trail.

At one point Specialist 4 Tomothy (it's spelled that way in the article-Ed) V. Marrick of Auburn, Neb., went into the ditch and emptied his magazine, killing an enemy soldier.

A few minutes later Sergeant Tibbit ran up and jumped into the ditch to engage the enemy.

"Cook Off"

In addition to moving along the ditch to avoid the Americans' grenades, the enemy was catching many, of them and throwing them back. This was stopped by pulling the pins and "cooking them off" before throwing.

To prevent enemy evasion of the grenades by moving up and down the ditch, Sergeant Tibbit had all his men throw grenades at one time, covering the entire length of the ditch.

After an hour and fifteen minutes the fight ended with all seven of the enemy in the ditch dead, bringing the total for the day to ten dead NVA.

"Playing catch with a CHICOM really isn't my idea of athletic recreation," said Specialist Ryan. "now that it's over I'm a little perturbed. My buddies keep accusing me of 'playing ball' with the NVA."

Seven weapons were recovered after the fight, along with a large quantity of communication wire and miscellaneous equipment.

IVY LEAF

Cacti Blue's Role Big In Mountains

By SP4 Michael Tousey

OASIS-In a month long battle, the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, drove a NVA regiment from the Chu Prong mountains on the east side of Highway 14 about 23 kilometers north of Pleiku.

Intelligence reports indicated that the enemy regiment moved into the area in an effort to interdict vital Highway 14 which links the Famous Fighting Fourth Division headquarters and Pleiku with forward units in the Kontum area. The area was also being used to stage rocket and mortar attacks on the Pleiku area.

The operation began on March 1 with Bravo and Delta Companies moving into the mountains. The Chu Prong mountains, about 5,000

feet high and many with slopes approaching 45 degrees, were covered with double and triple canopy vegetation and thick stands of bamboo. This was perfect terrain for defensive operations by an entrenched enemy familiar with the area.

Contact was first made on March 2 by Delta Company. In the following weeks two or three firefights in one day by different elements of the battalion was not an unusual occurrence.

On the 7th, Alpha and Bravo Companies combined to defeat an unknown size enemy force which left 11 enemy bodies. In two separate fights, Delta and a Recon Platoon each accounted for one NVA kill. The Recon Platoon then ended the first week of the battle by finding an ammunition cache containing 300,000 AK47 rounds, almost enough ammo to supply two battalions with a basic load.

The Recon Platoon was again instrumental in an action which brought the battle to an end on the 29th. Ten NVA bodies were found after the fight.

The impressive statistics for the month are indicative of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry's aggressiveness in the Chu Prong Mountains. The Cacti Blue accounted for 65 enemy bodies.

The battalion captured 25 AK47 rifles. Also recovered were 111 60mm and 19 82mm mortar rounds with 126 ignition cartridges for 60mm mortars and 164 fuses for mortars.

In addition to the destruction of a battalion command post and battalion-size aid station, the month saw the Cacti Blue destroy eight tunnel and cave complexes and numerous bunkers, foxholes and fighting positions.

But most important, the NVA regiment's sanctuary and base of operations were damaged and complete use of the area was denied to the enemy. The attempt to cut Highway 14 never materialized and pressure was lessened in the Pleiku area.