

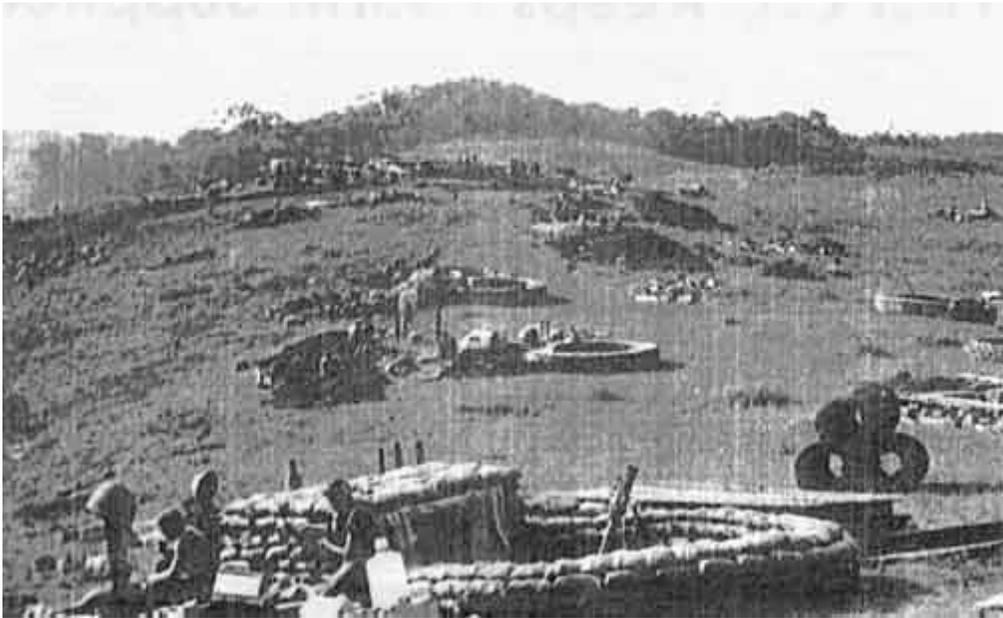
IVY LEAF

29 Mar 70 Ivy Leaf

And A Firebase Is Born

Cacti Blue Carving Home In The Boonies

Story and Photos by SP4 Robert Jones



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

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

In a massive helicopter assault, the Cacti Blue airlifted onto the two barren hills to establish a new firebase, Landing Zone (LZ) Hooper. Company B was first assaulted onto the site to secure a tentative perimeter. The rest of the day the sky was filled with sortie after sortie as helicopters ferried in the remainder of the battalion and Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. The sky Cranes and Chinooks made repeated trips bringing ammunition, building materials, food, water, men and thousands of sandbags. Then the work began--the back-breaking work. A "mini-dozer" dug the holes for the larger bunkers. On the bunker line, the troops used pick and shovel. Sandbags were filled in a continuous stream. The two placid knolls became a beehive of activity.

The glaring sun drenched the soldiers in their own sweat. "Hooks" and "Cranes" whipped the loosened dirt into the air – into the pores of the skin, the hair and the eyes. Take a break—a cool soda. a cigarette. Then fill more sandbags. C-Rations for lunch. Labor through the sultry afternoon. Hot meal for dinner. Sleep in the dew-dampened grass. Rise early to fill more sandbags. Slowly progress is made. Slow only to those doing the work, because scores of coordinated projects bring the firebase into reality in only a matter of days. Actually it isn't even days, because the base is functional almost from the moment of its inception.



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



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



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

The artillery and mortar sections continually give support fire. The .50 caliber machine guns stand ready on the bunker line. The Tactical Operations Center (TOC) controls troop movements and operations in the area. It functions before it is built - it is built while it is functioning.

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



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

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3 May 1970 Ivy Leaf

Enari Turned Over to ARVN Reg.

By CPT Gary McKillips

CAMP ENARI -- Vietnamization became more evident in the Central Highlands when, on April 15, the 4th Infantry Division officially turned over Camp Enari to the 47th ARVN Regiment.

In a brief, impressive ceremony at the former division base camp, Lieutenant General Lu Moang Lan, commanding General of the II Corps Tactical Zone and Lieutenant General Arthur S. Collins, I Field Force, Vietnam, Commander, signed the agreement making the transfer official.

Witnessing the ceremony, which also saw the Fourth Division receive the Civil Actions Medal First Class, with Oak Leaf from the Government of Vietnam, were several Vietnamese and American military leaders, including Major General Glenn D. Walker, 4th Division Commander.

After both American and Vietnamese National Anthems are played and the flag of the Republic of Vietnam replaced Old Glory over the former 4th Division headquarters, General Lu Lan commented on the story-making event.

"The Vietnamese colors flying on the mast at Camp Enari mark another episode in American - Vietnamese operation here in the Central Highlands." The II Corps Commander further stated, "The people of the Central Highlands will remember you (officers and men of the 4th Division) as heaven-sent benefactors who brought them security, prosperity and happiness, and no monument to your achievements will ever be as eloquent as the look of satisfaction in the present and hope in the future you have brought back to their faces, and as durable as the affection and love you won in their hearts."

General Walker, in his remarks, called the event one "of great significance to all of us." He expressed confidence in turning over the camp to the ARVNs by saying "The Republic of Vietnam has demonstrated its ability to provide security for the people of the Highland Provinces."

The transfer became official 4 p.m. April 15. At noon on the same day, the 47th Regiment assumed responsibility for the defense of Camp Enari. And by 6 p.m. that evening a small number of advisors were the only American troops left at the camp.



HISTORIC SITTING - Lieutenant General Lu Lan and General Collins sign the documents (Vietnamese and English) which effected the turnover of camp Enari (USA Photo II Corps IO)

The turn-over marked the end of almost four years in which Camp Enari, named after First Lieutenant Mark N. Enari, the first 4th Division soldier to be awarded the Silver Star posthumously, served as the center of division operations.

It was in late July, 1966 that the 4th Engineer Battalion arrived at the site, located 10 miles south of Pleiku City, and began to build what to this day is still considered one of the most functional base camps in all of the Republic of Vietnam.

IVY LEAF

3 May 70 Ivy Leaf - Regards March 1970 move

Division Moves Base Camp

By 2LT Robert Grenier

CAMP RADCLIFF - It is no easy task to move the nerve center of an entire division in the Republic of Vietnam. The 4th Infantry Division, however, has completed the transition with characteristic esprit and efficiency.

The mammoth move from Camp Enari east to Camp Radcliff was completed during the latter part of March of this year.

Ivymen considered Camp Enari a veritable city in the jungle. The former base camp provided all the men of the Division with efficient administrative services and extensive recreational facilities. The swimming pool was a spa for all.

The base camp was named in honor of First Lieutenant Mark Enari who was awarded the Division's first posthumous Silver Star in 1966.

Camp Radcliff, situated adjacent to An Khe, has already played host to two distinguished units. It was originally the home of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The camp was named after

Major Donald A. Radcliff, a member of the Cav's advance party in 1965. Major Radcliff was the Cav's first officer casualty during the Vietnam conflict.



QUIET QUONSETS - This was the scene at Camp Enari during the period of transition, after most of the staff sections had moved out.

Photos by SP5 Stephen DiBiase



LONLEY PARCEL - For a few brief shining moments the unit mail clerks at Camp Enari seemed to soak up a good tan.



TOWER STRIKE - It may look that way, but this was only a temporary sight at Camp Enari's Hensel Field during the latter stages of the move.

Camp Radcliff was subsequently the base camp of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, whose members made numerous improvements on the already semi-urban establishment.

Ivymen have already found Radcliff's facilities admirably rival those of Camp Enari. Of particular cultural interest is one of the largest unit libraries in South Vietnam.

An added convenience for all 4th Division troops will be the proximity of a large airfield which provides flights to all parts of the Republic of Vietnam.

It is indeed a tribute to the officers and men of the Famous Fighting Fourth that the intricate relocation was accomplished quickly and flawlessly.

4th Div's 3rd Bde Returns Home

CAMP ENARI — The much-traveled 3rd Bde. of the 4th Infantry Division has left Vietnam as part of the Phase III Redeployment.

The brigade arrived in Vietnam in January 1966, as part of the 25th Infantry Division. The "None Better" soldiers inherited an area of operations that was diverse and mysterious. Craggy mountain ranges stood beside triple-canopy jungles.

From May to August 1966, the brigade, working under the operational control of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), participated in one of the largest campaigns of the Vietnam conflict- Operation Paul Revere. When operations ended, more than 900 NVA regulars had been killed.

In addition to fighting the enemy, the 3rd Bde. engaged in civic action programs aimed at helping Vietnamese and Montagnard villagers establish self-help projects. During this period, the resettlement village of Edap Enang was built to eliminate a source of forced labor for NVA units.

The brigade's first Medal of Honor in Vietnam was awarded posthumously to Capt. Joseph X. Grant, a platoon leader with Co. A, 1st Bn., 14th Inf., in November 1966. A lieutenant at the time, Grant braved an enemy barrage to rescue an injured fellow platoon leader and received multiple wounds in the process.

The second brigade soldier to receive the Medal of Honor was Staff Sgt. Kenneth E. Stumpf. While serving with the 1st Bn., 35th Inf., during operations near Duc Pho, Stumpf rescued three of his wounded squad members and made a successful one-man assault on an NVA machine gun position.

(Not mentioned in this article were 1Lt Stephen Karopczyc, awarded posthumously, and 1Lt Ronald Ray, both having been awarded the Medal of Honor while serving with the 25th Inf. Div. - ED)

On August 1, 1967, the 3rd Bde., 25th Infantry Division, became a unit of the 4th Infantry Division and the 25th Division received the Ivy's 3rd Bde. in exchange.

At that time, the Tropic Lightning's 3rd Bde. was located some 200 miles from its division headquarters.

Brigade operations during Tet of 1968 succeeded in driving the entire 2nd NVA Division from the coastal plains and jungle near southern I Corps.

The 3rd Bde. was an integral element in the division's Operation MacArthur during 1968, aimed at clearing enemy units from the 9,000 square miles of Pleiku, Kontum and Darlac Provinces. More than 5,000 enemy fell before Ivy guns during Operation MacArthur, for which the 4th Division was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

By early March 1969, the brigade increased emphasis in support of the Government of Vietnam pacification program. The brigade helped villagers develop defenses against the enemy who had resorted to hit and run attacks against allied installations.

But the brigade did not sacrifice its combat operations while carrying out its pacification programs.

The 1st Bn. 8th Inf. arrived in Vietnam in early August 1966 as part of the 4th Division. Among the numerous valor awards presented to the battalion were four Medals of Honor. Three of the citations were presented posthumously to Platoon Sgt. Bruce Grandstaff, Pfc. Leslie Bellrichard and Staff Sgt. Frankie Molnar. The fourth individual cited was 1st Sgt. David McNerney.

The 1st Bn. 35th Inf.; 2nd Bn. 9th Arty.; and 1st Bn., 69th Armor, all came to the division from the 25th Infantry Division. All had come to Vietnam with the Tropic Lightning Division in early 1966.

While in Vietnam, the 1st Bn., 69th Armor, and the 1st Bn. 35th Inf.. were both awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for action between April and October of 1968.

On Jan. 15, 1968, the Medal of Honor was awarded to Spec. 5 Dwight Johnson of the 1st Bn., 69th Armor, for heroism in holding off the enemy with a variety of small arms after his tank had thrown a track.

By 1970, the brigade itself had seen more than 1,340 consecutive days without rest of complete stand-down. And now, they're receiving some well-deserved relaxation.

Redeploying to the United States as 3rd Bde. elements were: 1st Bn., 8th Inf.; 1st Bn., 35th Inf.; 2nd Bn., 9th Arty.; and the 1st Bn., 69th Armor.

The brigade was feted before departure at ceremonies at Pleiku Air Force Base. The colors were returned to Ft. Lewis, Wash, where the unit will be inactivated.



STANDING TALL - With flags flowing, members of the 3rd Brigade stand at attention under the command of Colonel Gilbert Procter during farewell ceremonies at Camp Enari (Ivy Leaf photo by Sp4 Tom Hodson)

IVY LEAF

3 May 1970 Ivy Leaf

Division Wins CA Award



CAMP ENARI — Elements of the 4th Infantry Division have numerous citations for valor but a very significant Vietnamese award was recently presented to the entire Ivy Division for distinction in the area of civil actions.

During ceremonies for the historic turnover of Camp Enari, the Division's former base camp, Lieutenant General Lu Moang Lan, II Corps Tactical Zone Commander, attached the streamer of the Civil Actions Medal, First Class, with Oak Leaf Cluster, on the 4th Division Colors.

The citation outlines the accomplishment of the Division's civil action projects during the period 1 October 1966 to 31 October 1969.

All personnel who were assigned or attached to the 4th Infantry Division during the period cited are authorized to wear the ribbon as a permanent part of their Class A uniform. Those that were not with the Division during that period may wear the ribbon only as long as they are assigned to the Division.

The dark green with light red striped ribbon with an oak leaf device and mounted in a gold colored frame, is worn over the right breast pocket to the wearer's left of the previously awarded Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with palm which, in turn, is worn to the wearer's left of any US unit awards.

The ribbons will be available for purchase in the PX in the near future.