

CHU PA MOUNTAIN SEIZED

Shutter Bug Hits Live Nest

By SSG Frank Madison as told to SP5 Bill Gibbons

OASIS — Quick thinking, courage, and decisive action on the part of three Ivy Division soldiers and supporting fire in two different contacts led to a large number of enemy killed and American lives saved.

Staff Sergeant Frank H. Madison of Fort Worth, a combat photographer with the 4th Infantry Division, was working on a mission with Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry when the point element came under heavy enemy automatic fire.

"I was the third man in line when we came under fire," Sergeant Madison said. "The first two men were injured by small arms fire and the three of us hit the dirt. But the enemy had sprung the ambush too early and those behind us were able to find cover. I and the first two men were pinned down in the open.

"Our men immediately returned fire and I was able to scramble behind a rock about eight meters away."

Sergeant Grady Wallis of Winnsboro, Tex., a squad leader with Delta Company, was already behind the rock.

Little Protection

"The rock didn't offer an awful lot of protection because the enemy was firing from high ground and could almost shoot down on top of us," Sergeant Madison went on.

As the Americans continued firing, Sergeant Madison raced out into the open and pulled one of the injured men behind the rock. Then he and Sergeant Wallis went out together to bring in the second wounded man.

Artillery was then called in on the entrenched enemy position and the NVA ambush was aborted.

Two days later, Sergeant Madison was again caught in the open during an enemy ambush.

"I tried to signal and let the guys know I was all right, but I

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Photos of Chu Pa Mountain by combat photographer, SSG Frank Madison, Pages 4 and 5. Don't miss this photographer's hair-raising story on Page 1

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Vol. 3, No. 9

CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

March 2, 1969



ALPHA AND CHARLIE Companies, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, captured these enemy weapons displayed at Landing Zone Emery near Chu Pa Mountain in the western Central Highlands. (USA Photo by SGT Ronald Schulhies)

Capture Documents, Arms

Braves Bag 12 Enemy Dead

By SP5 Peter Call

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — It was getting dark when Sergeant James Hagy led his 4th Division Patrol off their mountain firebase to set up an ambush for intruders to Company D, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry's area.

After chopping their way for 600 meters through the thick jungle, the Rockville, Md., native decided to check in with the command post.

"I was about halfway through my message when I heard a Short Range Patrol cut in," Sergeant Hagy said.

"They were receiving fire and calling in mortars, so the decision was made to change our mission.

"We joined up with the element in contact and were about to make a sweep of the area when darkness forced us to make a night location."

Sergeant Hagy placed his men a short distance from a trail and all remained alert.

"We didn't have to wait long," the Ivyman continued. "At 7:30 we observed three North Vietnamese soldiers walk by, dressed in fatigues and wearing helmets and sandals.

"We let them go by and, shortly after, we counted 48 more following them."

The patrol leader contacted the big guns sitting on the surrounding firebases and called for a fire mission.

"The last man stopped right in front of our position when the first smoke round came screaming in," the sergeant smiled. "He hit the ground real fast.

"I adjusted the fire along the trail and we observed the enemy

Service No. On Way Out Officials Say

CAMP ENARI—Those famous prefixes, US and RA, will soon be of no concern to members of the Famous 4th Infantry Division.

The service number will be done away with for members of all the armed forces as of July 1, say Pentagon officials. It will be replaced by the Social Security Account Number (SSAN).

As far as service numbers are concerned, there'll be no difference between officers, career soldiers, draftees, WACs or members of the Air Force.

Officials say there'll be no big rush to have identification cards and tags changed. The old ones will still be valid. Individuals entering the Army after July 1 won't be issued new numbers, but will begin using their civilian SSAN as their service number.

running all over the place, trying to get away from the artillery."

During the four-hour shelling, Sergeant Hagy effectively placed fire from five different batteries on the enemy, sometimes as close as 40 meters from his own position.

"The night was quiet when the shelling stopped," the sergeant explained, "but the NVA knew someone was calling in the artillery and they were waiting for us to make the first move."

The next morning, the remainder of the 1st Platoon, escorted by helicopters from the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, moved down to meet the patrol and sweep the area.

"We were about to link-up when the scout helicopters just ahead of us started to draw fire," First Lieutenant Jerry Baumann of Marble Falls, Tex., the 1st Platoon leader said.

The Cobras overhead rolled in and expended their ordnance on the location, pushing the enemy to the west — right into Sergeant Hagy's location.

"We saw them coming and we waited until they were right on top of us before I gave the order to fire," the Ivy sergeant explained.

For the action, which resulted in 12 enemy dead and the capture of documents, maps, overlays, small arms and field equipment, Sergeant James Hagy was awarded the Bronze Star with "V".

Ivy Units Slay 83 In Battle

By 1LT Jim Hughes

OASIS — Battling down the side of rugged Chu Pa mountain 14 miles north-east of Plei-Djereng, the 4th Division's 3rd Brigade has accounted for 83 NVA and VC killed in action.

Bearing the brunt of the battle during the six day sweep, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, commanded by Captain Garret T. Cowser of Amsterdam, N.Y., has accounted for 58 of the total NVA killed.

The difficult sweep operation began Feb. 8, after a five-hour air and artillery prep, during which time 52 tons of artillery and 29 tons of Air Force ordnance were expended on the side of Mount Chu Pa.

"Chu Pa mountain has been the base area of the 24th NVA Regiment," commented 3rd Brigade Commander, Colonel Richard L. Gruenther, "and they have been fighting since Jan. 3 to defend it."

Elements of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry occupied the 4,800 foot peak of Chu Pa while a screening force was set from south to west to north at the base of the mountain.

The sweep began from the summit to the north and west through the triple canopied teak and mahogany forest covering the steep slopes of Chu Pa.

See Photos—Pages 4, 5

Sporadic small arms fire and scattered NVA equipment found during the first day of the sweep provided evidence of a battalion-size NVA force defending the area.

Also on the first day, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, found 24 shallow graves containing 24 NVA killed by Division forces approximately one week before.

Sporadic action continued during the second and third days of the sweep. Literally gouging their way through the forest the elements of the two battalions found numerous bunkers and foxholes with evidence of recent use.

Speculation arose that the NVA, fighting doggedly from the well dug-in positions, were holding on to protect "something big" they had in the side of the mountain.

Hard Fighting
Bitter fighting marked the fourth day of the sweep as Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, encountered an NVA ambush late in the afternoon.

During the darkness following the ambush, the 105mm Howitzers of Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery poured 534 rounds into the side of the mountain in support of the embattled Bravo Company. Airstrikes and "Spooky" also were employed. When the smoke cleared, 43 NVA had been added to the Bravo Company tally.

Speculation as to the presence of an arms cache proved correct the fifth day as Alpha and Charlie Companies of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry uncovered two separate finds.

Included in the caches were (Continued on Back Page)

From The Desk of



the

Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Tactical Air Support

DURING THE BATTLE of Duc Lap, three of our soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry "Regulars" learned first hand the value of close tactical air support.

These three men found themselves surrounded by an estimated NVA company. Their situation was critical. The enemy had discovered their position, and their reverse slope location was such that artillery support was extremely difficult. Further, time was of the essence, as the enemy had them pinned down with small arms fire and was maneuvering an element to attack their position.

A forward air controller (FAC) who had monitored their report to the company commander offered assistance. In less than two minutes, he had two fighters on station.

THE THREE MEN marked their position, observed the strike of the FAC's rocket, and radioed a correction to the FAC. The FAC promptly guided the two fighters onto the desired target, and they expended their heavy ordnance within 50 meters of the beleaguered trio. The results were devastating and allowed the three men to break contact.

As they moved up the hill, they were pursued by a squad of NVA who engaged them with small arms fire. Again the men called the FAC, who told them that the fighters still had 20mm ordnance. The Ivymen identified their position and gave precise directions to the desired target. The fighters roared across the tree tops expending their 20mm ammunition not 20 meters from the men and directly into the pursuing enemy squad. That, coupled with a tear agent grenade, finished the job.

AS THE ELEMENT headed home, another flight of fighters arrived on station to complete the destruction of the NVA company.

The three "Regulars" are alive today, and an NVA company rendered ineffective as the direct result of thoroughly learned and correctly applied techniques on their part.

The three men used correct procedure that allowed them to ask for what they needed without wasting valuable time. Second, they knew how to mark their position and how to give clear, accurate directions to the FAC. Third, understanding the capabilities and limitations of the available ordnance, they were able to direct its emplacement to the best advantage.

Tactical air support is a wonderful asset that is as close to you as your radio. But you, and only you, can direct its effective employment. If you do not know how to direct tactical air support, learn before you depart on your next mission.

Dragoon Serves As Aide

CAMP ENARI—Specialist 4 Patrick Evans was selected by the Ivy 1st Brigade to serve as enlisted aide to Major General Donn R. Pepke, 4th Infantry Division commander. The 20-year-old Jacksonville, Ill., native was first chosen to represent the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, where he is a team leader with Bravo Company. After gaining this honor, Specialist Evans went on to be named by the brigade.



IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH



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CSM Taylor Speaks Out



E-7 Promotion System

SINCE DEPARTMENT of the Army has not announced the date for the E-7 centralized promotion system, the Commanding General still maintains the promotion authority for personnel being considered for promotion to grade E-7.

The Division E-7 promotion system works in accordance with the Army standards announced Aug. 1.

To appear before the E-7 board, personnel must first be recommended by their commander as the promotion vacancies are announced by the Personnel Services Division (PSD) of the Adjutant General Section (AG).

THE AG WILL notify personnel when the board will convene. Normally, the board convenes during the first five days of the month. After the board proceedings have been processed the promotion list is published, giving the relative standings of each individual who appeared before the board.

But, not all who appear before the board will be included on the list. The determining factors are: a projected vacancy in the individual's PMOS or a cancelled requisition item for that position received through channels. These are the key items in the promotion system.

In this respect, all commanders in the division should keep their personnel in the proper TOE position in order that the division vacancies can be readily determined.

ALSO, COMMANDERS have the responsibility to recognize and recommend those individuals who possess the necessary qualities for promotion to E-7 as early as possible. Individuals who are recommended by their commanders will appear before the board.

Promotions to E-7 in the Ivy Division are extremely good. If an individual is worthy of being recommended by his commander, appears before the board, and a projected position vacancy exists for his PMOS, there is a good chance that he will be promoted prior to leaving the Division.

Chaplain's Corner

Paul The Man

By Chaplain (Captain) Thomas Gunning

IN HIS FOURTEEN Epistles that are contained in the New Testament, Saint Paul usually appears as the dogmatic and moral theologian, the Apostle and Teacher, the announcer of God's "Good News." There are times, however, when he is presented as Paul the Man, Paul the fiery son of Tarsus, who fears no man and who is ready to land effective blows where they will do the most good for the cause of Christ. Such glimpses of Paul bring us back to the reality that he was indeed a flesh and blood creature whose physical composition was no stronger than ours.

Both in the First and Second Corinthians we find Paul the Man. In the First Corinthians he is the athlete in training, like the runner and boxer, bringing his body into subjection for the sake of winning the prize. (1 Cor. 9, 24-27) In the Second Corinthians, in answering the false charges that he was not a true Apostle, Paul gives us a more intimate glimpse of his human character, his enormous zeal and labors, than in all his other writings. For eighteen strenuous months Paul had lived and worked with the Corinthians, and now both his work and his person were suffering from false teachers who were out to destroy Paul's work of Evangelization. (2 Cor. 11, 16-33)

This letter might well be called Paul's "Apologia Pro Vita Sua," i.e. A defense of his life, his person, and his motives. While it goes much against his reserve and humility to speak of himself in this manner, he finds he must do it for the sake of his converts.

As we read this account of Paul's sufferings, his beatings and scourgings, his imprisonments and shipwrecks, constant dangers and threats from all sides, his evidently unbounded confidence in God should give us food for thought. When Paul describes his sleepless nights, his hunger and thirst, his constant fastings, his constant peril — when we see him lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall in order to escape arrest, we see a man like ourselves, facing greater obstacles than most of us will ever have to face; yet he overcame them and succeeded.

The point is that Paul had a life task, and while ours may not be as great in its results as Paul's, it is just as important as far as our own personal sanctification is concerned. Obstacles we too will face, but just as God foresaw all those that Paul faced, so will He provide for the ones we will have to face. From Paul the Man we learn courage and absolute trust in God. Our list of sufferings must look rather puny beside Paul's list. Yet, he was flesh and blood like us.

Our final thought is that God could easily have removed all of Paul's infirmities and at a word annihilated all his enemies. But where then would be Paul's victory, what would have earned him the title of Apostle and Saint? God can cure all your pains too. He can remove all obstacles that block your path. Where then will be your victory?

Capture Ammo, Mortars, Grenades

Red Warriors Rout Enemy From Bunkers

OASIS — The men of Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, have been making the mountains near Plei Djerang a rather unhappy home for the NVA.

Charlie Company was on a search and clear operation near Plei Djerang when it came under heavy sniper fire.

The 2nd Platoon, with Private First Class Terry Crumley of Cleveland, Tenn., as point man, began to climb a hill.

Private First Class Crumley spotted an NVA soldier in a bunker.

"He just stuck his head out of the bunker and smiled at me. I opened up on him and jumped behind a tree," PFC Crumley said.

The Red Warriors then began receiving

fire from AK47s and B40 rockets.

Private First Class Epifanio Velazquez of New York, and Specialist 4 Dennis McNally of Superior, Wis., spotted an NVA soldier firing at them from a tree and brought him to the ground with a burst from their M60 machine gun.

Soon the sounds of artillery explosions were echoing through the mountains. Helicopter gunships were also buzzing over the area and when it was their turn, they sent rockets, grenades and bursts of minigun fire onto the enemy.

Then the NVA fire ceased and Charlie Company moved around the obstacle to their original objective.

Three days later the same area was prepped by 260 rounds of 81mm mortar fire. "It was a rather unusual prep in type and number of rounds expended by that type weapon," said Lieutenant Colonel Robert Carter of Morganton, N.C. "The mortars were utilized due to the close proximity of friendly troops and their relation to the artillery gun line."

After the mortar fire, air strikes utilizing bombs, 20mm cannons, and tear agent cleared the area.

Company A then moved into the area. An initial search revealed the bodies of four NVA soldiers killed by artillery and small arms fire.

Also found were 200 60mm mortar

rounds, 5000 rounds of AK47 ammunition, 10 Chicom grenades, three 82mm mortar rounds, two gas masks, one B40 rocket, and one B41 rocket.

The area also contained three bunker complexes each, containing 50 bunkers, and classroom facility with training aids. Numerous empty sacks of rice and miscellaneous equipment were found by the men of Alpha Company.

"This entire area is full of bunker complexes and everytime we find and destroy them, along with the ammunition and food caches, we are limiting the enemy's ability to do battle," said Captain Raymond E. Schumacher, Alpha Company commander.

Silhouette Gives Away Lone Enemy

OASIS — Field troops go through some rather harrowing experiences while in Vietnam, but most not as soon as Private First Class Kenneth Osborne of York, S.C.

PFC Osborne had just reported to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, when he was given an orientation and briefing on enemy activity in the area.

The Red Warriors of Bravo Company were clearing two saddle-shaped hills for their fire support base. With the help of Delta Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, the Infantrymen were blasting trees and rocks from the lower hill.

Late that afternoon all the equipment and men moved to the upper hill in preparation for the next day's work.

"I guess the NVA thought that since we were blasting on the lower hill, we didn't have a perimeter on the upper hill," said PFC Osborne.

Leaves Crackle

Night fell and PFC Osborne was pulling his turn on guard when the odd sound of a lizard alerted him. At the same time, leaves began to crackle and a silhouette appeared down the hillside.

The young Red Warrior tried to alert his sleeping buddies, but there wasn't enough time as the silhouette kept coming closer.

"Finally, I saw the man's face, and he began to raise his weapon to his shoulder when I opened fire with my M16," said PFC Osborne.

The light of morning revealed the body of one NVA soldier with his AK47, three extra magazines and 60 extra rounds of ammunition.

After one day in the field, the new Red Warrior had "earned" his Combat Infantryman Badge.



GENERAL Ralph E. Haines Jr., USARPAC Commander, talks with tank driver Private First Class John Murphy during a visit to Firebase Blackhawk, home of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry. Lieutenant Colonel Richard Miller (left), squadron commander, and Captain Robert Whitton, Troop A commander, accompany General Haines.

(USA Photo by PFC John D. Warwick)

Golden Dragons Find Graves

Enemy Dead Climbs To 109

CAMP ENARI — Famous 4th Division soldiers continued to mete out heavy punishment on the enemy during the week (Feb. 8-14), as confirmed kills throughout the wide-ranging area of operations numbered 109.

The high enemy kill rate reflected the intensified efforts on the part of Ivymen to ferret out the deeply-entrenched foe as well as to deny him access to his previously stockpiled arsenals

north of Plei Djerang atop Chu Pa, a Montagnard phrase meaning "Big Mountain."

On Feb. 8, Company C, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, navigating through the heavy growth of teak and mahogany trees on the steep slopes of Chu Pa, 28 kilometers northeast of Plei Djerang, located a mass grave containing the bodies of 24 NVA soldiers killed by Division Forces during action several days before.

Arms Cache

Nearby, the unit also uncovered an arms cache of four B40 rockets, two NVA rucksacks, and miscellaneous small arms ammunition and grenades. The cache, however, was merely a prelude to two larger finds made four days later when two companies of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry unearthed substantial caches along the slopes of the battle-scarred mountain.

Alpha Company found 13,500 rounds of AK47 ammo, 11,000 rounds of SKS ammo, seven cases of 12.7mm ammo, and 138 60mm mortar rounds, while Company C found two 122mm rockets, 23 75mm recoilless rifle

rounds, 148 assorted mortar rounds, over 11,000 rounds of small arms ammo, 40 rifle grenades, 20 mines and 60 pounds of explosives.

Later in the week, action once again raged on Chu Pa, as Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, severely thrashed an estimated NVA company which initiated an ambush against the Americans on the evening of Feb. 12.

The Golden Dragons countered with a withering volume of small arms fire and directed air strikes and artillery as NVA kills totaled 43. The heroic unit battled throughout the night, suffering light casualties.

In other activity this week, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, discovered a labyrinth of 50 underground bunkers, each about 4' x 10' x 10', a large kitchen complex which was estimated to be capable of quartering an NVA company, and a small aid room littered with piles of used bandages. The NVA sanctuary, found 18 kilometers northwest of Pleiku on Feb. 11, was completely destroyed.

Cacti Blue Seize Tax Collector

BAN ME THUOT — Detention of one Viet Cong suspect after contact with the enemy gave the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, a valuable look at Viet Cong activities in the area north of here.

On a sweep, Charlie Company received automatic weapons fire and engaged three individuals.

The enemy broke contact and the 2nd Platoon recovered two M2 carbines, three packs, documents and 45 pounds of rice.

At the same time, the 3rd Platoon, maneuvering into position to block the enemy retreat, sighted one individual who was engaged and detained. The detainee, who was carrying a number of documents and notebooks, stated he had been traveling with 10 other men when the contact occurred.

According to Captain John P. Fox of Fall River, Mass., battalion S-2, the suspect was a Viet Cong rice and tax collector.

"While most of the information was not of immediate tactical value, it did turn out to be interesting," said Captain Fox. "It should help the Province authorities in combating the Viet Cong."

Commissions

CAMP ENARI — Qualified 4th Division warrant officers and enlisted personnel in grades E5 through E9 can apply for direct appointment as commissioned officers in the infantry.

Due to the continuing requirement for qualified company grade infantry officers, the Army is encouraging personnel who meet the qualifications to apply for commissions.

Details for applying are contained in AR 135-100 and DA Circular 601-24. Applicants must have completed six months honorable active duty as a warrant officer or enlisted man in grades E5-E9 in any component of the Armed Forces.

Completion of the Army pre-commission extension course is not required, but is desirable for personnel without wartime service. Applicants must not have reached their 28th birthday at date of appointment. Waiver of maximum age limitations can be considered in certain cases.

'Braves' Allow Enemy No Delight

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—Since the Famous 4th Division's arrival in the Central Highlands more than two years ago, the enemy has been denied their favorite infiltration routes, their food and weapons stores, while setting up base camp areas has been nearly impossible.

And now even entertainment is being taken away from the enemy.

While on a reconnaissance patrol, soldiers from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, working in the mountains west of Kontum, stumbled upon a concealed village.

Although the enemy had fled, the Ivymen found partially completed huts, various equipment, a number of cages and an inexpensive dismantled record player with a stack of 45 RPM phonograph records.

In his haste to flee the approaching troops, the enemy abandoned not only his temporary quarters, but what apparently served as his entertainment—the record player.



IVY MEN TAKE CH



*Photos
By Combat
Photographer
SSG
Frank Madison*

CLEARING AN LZ on Chu Pa Mountain was nearly impossible. But this 4th Division soldier from Company D, 4th Engineers went to work on the tangled jungle growth to make room for ivy choppers bringing in supplies to elements of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry.

A MOMENT TO TALK—Platoon leader Sergeant Murray Davis (left) talks with his men between contacts on Chu Pa Mountain 14 miles northeast of Plei Djereng. The platoon was an element of the 4th



WATER for a beleaguered element of Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry was brought in by this Light Observation Helicopter on the jungled slopes of Chu Pa Mountain

near Plei Djereng. The landing zone had been cleared by ivy men from Company D, 4th Engineer Battalion.



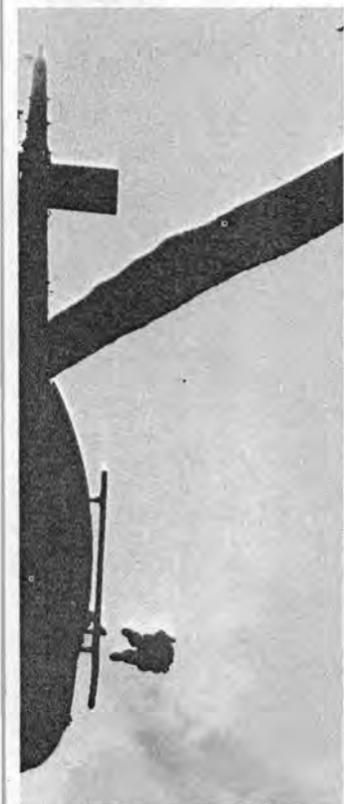
ALWAYS A WAY—The helicopter could engulf an element of the 1st Battalion. But neither the vegetation nor enemy sn chopper from removing a wounded ivy

U PA MOUNTAIN



PLANNING STRATEGY—Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Lander and Captain Garret T. Cowser inspect the scene of initial contact for the captain's company on Chu Pa Mountain. Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry killed 53 enemy soldiers during a four-day period on the jungled mountain. Colonel Lander is the Golden Dragons' commander.

vision's Company D, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry which was searching the enemy-infested jungles on the mountain.



land in the dense jungle which 14th Infantry on Chu Pa Mountain. arms fire could keep the MedEvac



MOVING IN—A Sikorski Flying Crane helps the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry set up its Landing Zone Emery near Chu Pa Mountain as the Red Warriors moved in searching for the enemy. (USA Photo by 1LT Jim Hughes)

Shattered Watch Prompts Bombs, Destroying Forts

By SP5 Peter Call

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—A shattered wrist watch started two days of action west of Kontum that saw Air Force fighters and Army helicopters team up to inflict heavy damage to an estimated battalion-size staging area in one location and gun emplacements in another.

The first action started when two scout helicopters from Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry spotted four North Vietnamese soldiers while conducting a visual reconnaissance and brought them under fire.

Suddenly, one of the scout pilots, Warrant Officer Paul Redhead of Chicago, felt a tug at his arm and saw that his watch had been shattered by a bullet which continued through the plexiglass canopy.

Cobra gunships overhead rolled in and pounded the area with rockets and miniguns, but still received heavy fire from the well-fortified area.

Major Weston Smith of Bowling Green, Ohio, one of the 2nd Brigade's Forward Air Controllers (FACs) monitored the action and rushed to the scene.

Air Strike Called

"I knew our jets would be less vulnerable to the concentrated fire because of their high speed so I called for an immediate air strike," Major Smith explained.

The Highlander FAC put in fighters until his rapidly-diminishing supply of fuel and rockets forced him to be replaced by Captain Bradley Van Sant of Davis, Calif.

"The 'Cav' proved to be a tremendous help by giving us accurate bomb damage assessments after each set of fighters had made their runs and locating new targets," said Major Le Roi Butler of Lansing, Mich., who joined the action later with Captain Thomas A. Landron of Puerto Rico.

Together, Air Force and Army pilots received credit for 8 enemy kills and destroying or damaging 15 two-man bunkers, five sampans and trench and machine gun positions.

Two days later, the Ruthless Riders, conducting a similar mission near the Cambodian border, received fire from enemy .50 caliber anti-aircraft guns.

Major Smith and Captain David Loveless of Westport, Conn., joined the action in the twin-engine spotter planes and directed Skyraiders and Super Sabres to destroy three of the well-fortified positions.

"During both operations, we put our bombs right on target thanks to the daring of those low flying scout pilots," said Major Butler, the Highlander Air Liaison Officer.



COMBAT ARTIST PFC CARSON WATERMAN DEPICTS LIFE OF A DOOR GUNNER.

Door Gunner Knows His Job

By SP4 Michael O. Jones

CAMP ENARI — His hands jerk, but he holds the machine gun steady as it spits its lethal ordnance across a creek and into the treeline surrounding the landing zone (LZ).

A squad of aero-riflemen jumps off the chopper and heads into the dense jungle.

He drops a smoke grenade to mark the LZ for the following choppers and watches the infantrymen disappear into the thicket as his UH1H makes a tight turn and begins its climb.

"Going into a 'hot' LZ is exciting, but going in 'hot' for an extraction is even more exciting," Specialist 5 Gary Muloch says. "When we do that we know the enemy's going to be shooting back."

Specialist Muloch is a crew chief and door gunner for the Shamrocks — the helicopters of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

He's at home behind his M60 machine gun, or straddling the top of his Slick, working on the rotor.

One of the aero-riflemen said, "We kid with the gunners, but they know their jobs. If we need a quick extraction they come in and get us out."

"We fly cover for visual reconnaissance quite a bit," Specialist Muloch said, "but we feel that putting our men in and bringing them back is our primary concern."

The atmosphere tenses during a reconnaissance mission when

the Light Observation Helicopters (LOH), flying far below, spot fresh trails leading to a bunker complex.

The two covering Cobras slash across the sky under the Slick and slam their rockets into the bunker complex.

Back at LZ Lennetta, the gunners and crew chiefs check their aircraft again. Maintenance is checked every time the ships land.

"If a LOH goes down on one of

"Going into a hot LZ is exciting, but going in hot for an extraction is even more exciting..."

these reconnaissance missions, it's our job to go down and get it."

After a sunrise-to-sunset day, Shamrock 50 sets down.

Specialist Muloch climbs out of the gunner's area and opens the doors for the pilots. He takes his helmet off, runs his hand through his hair and stretches.

"Well, that was a pretty average day — insertion, extraction and visual reconnaissance. No contact today, but that doesn't happen every day of course."

"I was hoping we'd get in a little earlier today. There's a

show at the club, but I've got to flush the engine now. I suppose I'll make it in time for part of the show though.

"If you feel like going up again, just come by at seven. We're here every morning."

New Bunkers Add Perimeter Strength

CAMP ENARI — The protective ring around Camp Enari is being improved by the construction of new bunkers on the perimeter.

The officer in charge of the project, 1st Lieutenant Linnis Gibbons of Houston, Tex., said his men of Company A, 4th Engineers, will be able to build one new bunker every three to four days.

There will be five different 15-man teams working on five different sites at all times, and the completion of the entire project is scheduled for May 1.

"The bunkers are waterproof, rat proof, and are more secure than the existing bunkers" Lieutenant Gibbons stated.

"From the outside, the bunkers look like small tin buildings with wooden supports. Actually the walls are earth-filled facades. There are two rooms, one a firing area, and the other a sleeping area with two beds."

"Troops have been coming around as we build them, and they all seem pleased with the comfort and safety the new bunkers provide."



BREATH OF SPRING—Lovely Eileen Wesson of Universal-International Studios is a welcome reminder that March will bring the first day of spring. When you're tired of looking at the calendar, Eileen can be seen in the picture, "Have You Heard the One About the Traveling Saleslady."

SRP Patrol Blazes Path To LZ

Story Sketched
By Combat Artist
SP4 Louis Orsan



'WE CALLED UP SPECIALIST 4 RON ALTEPETER WITH HIS MACHINE GUN AND HE REALLY CLEARED OUT THE AREA.'

By SGT Ronald Schulthies

OASIS—The rugged mountains north of Plei Djerang echoed with staccato bursts of gunfire as elements of the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, engaged an NVA Platoon in a fierce firefight.

The Short Range Patrol (SRP) from Bravo Company left the Red Warriors' fire support base on what promised to be an action-packed patrol. The Red Warriors had made repeated contact with the enemy in the area.

The SRPs had just departed when they received a radio transmission from another patrol reporting suspected enemy movement in the area. The patrol crossed the stream they were approaching and set up on the high ground on the other side to listen for the enemy.

It didn't take long for the action to start.

Private First Class Charles Harris of North Birmingham, Ala., was providing rear security when five NVA soldiers burst through the underbrush.

Immediately, PFC Harris opened fire with his M79, killing one NVA soldier and scattering the other four.

The entire patrol opened fire on the enemy and received heavy fire in re-

turn. The enemy had fallen straight back and was directing intense fire on the Red Warriors.

One enemy soldier had maneuvered to a position where he had the Red Warriors pinned down. Specialist 4 Terry Rohde of Madras, Ore., lobbed a hand grenade only inches from the NVA soldier, silencing him.

Just as the enemy fire to the front died down, eight more NVA opened up from the left flank of the Ivymen.

"They were firing AK47s, B40 rockets, and machine guns at us. We were calling in artillery, but every time a round came in, the NVA would fire everything they had, including B40s and throwing hand grenades so that we couldn't adjust the artillery," said Specialist 4 Richard D. Smith of Prineville, Ore.

As the firefight raged, the Red Warriors radioed for help.

MEANWHILE, the patrol was running low on ammunition trying to keep the NVA away. Then, to make matters worse, heavy fire from 20 more NVA erupted from the right flank.

The NVA on the left were expending a heavy volume of fire trying to keep the small patrol pinned down. While they were doing this, the enemy on the right

flank was forming a semi-circle around the SRP members.

When the NVA had formed their semi-circle, they began to get on line to assault the Ivy soldiers.

Just as the enemy started to assault, more movement was detected to the patrol's right rear. Specialist Smith thought it might be the rest of the 2nd Platoon on the way with help.

"I radioed the 2nd Platoon to identify themselves if they were moving up on our position from that direction or else I was going to blast away at whatever was in that area.

"They said it wasn't them, so I fired on the element to the rear," Specialist Smith said.

The NVA regulars on the right were just beginning to assault when, in Hollywood-movie-style, the 2nd Platoon came to the rescue.

Private First Class Jim Wilson of Portland, Maine, was the 2nd Platoon point man and the first of the help to arrive on the battle scene.

'WHEN I came out of the brush to the firefight, I saw a dead NVA soldier and another NVA who immediately fired at me. I dived behind a log, landed flat on my back and watched the splinters from the log and the dirt all around me

flying up. I got a pretty good look at those green and white tracers flying over my head," said PFC Wilson.

The platoon moved in and set up their machine guns and sprayed the area with fire. The enemy fire died down.

The Red Warriors then headed for another area to secure an LZ, but as they approached the clearing, heavy automatic weapons fire erupted again.

"Those B40s were really screaming in on us," said Specialist 4 Woodrow Parrish of Bowdon, Ga.

"We called up Specialist 4 Ronald Altepeter of Albuquerque, N.M., with his machine gun and he really cleared out the area," said Specialist Smith.

That night, gunships were called in along with Spooky to work over the area.

The next day, the 3rd Platoon swept the area, finding several packs, helmets and miscellaneous equipment along with the body of one NVA soldier.

Four Red Warriors were awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" for their part in the action.

Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk, assistant, division commander, made the presentation at the Red Warriors' Fire-base Emery, to Specialists Rohde, Smith, Parrish and Harold Dart of Baton Rouge, La.

'Regular' Meets Pilots Who Saved His Life

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — A wish to meet the Air Force fighter pilots who saved his life came true for Specialist 4 Terry W. McKinney of Gary, Ind., when he was called from a firebase near Dak To to meet them. The Highlander from the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, presented Air Force Majors William C. Duffack of Omaha, Neb., and John L. Bassler of Santa Monica, Calif., an AK47 as an expression of gratitude for getting his patrol out of a hot spot. The action occurred some months ago when the Ivy 2nd Brigade was engaging North Vietnamese forces near the Duc Lap Civilian Irregular Defense Group Camp (CIDG) in Darlac Province.

Check Out Canyon

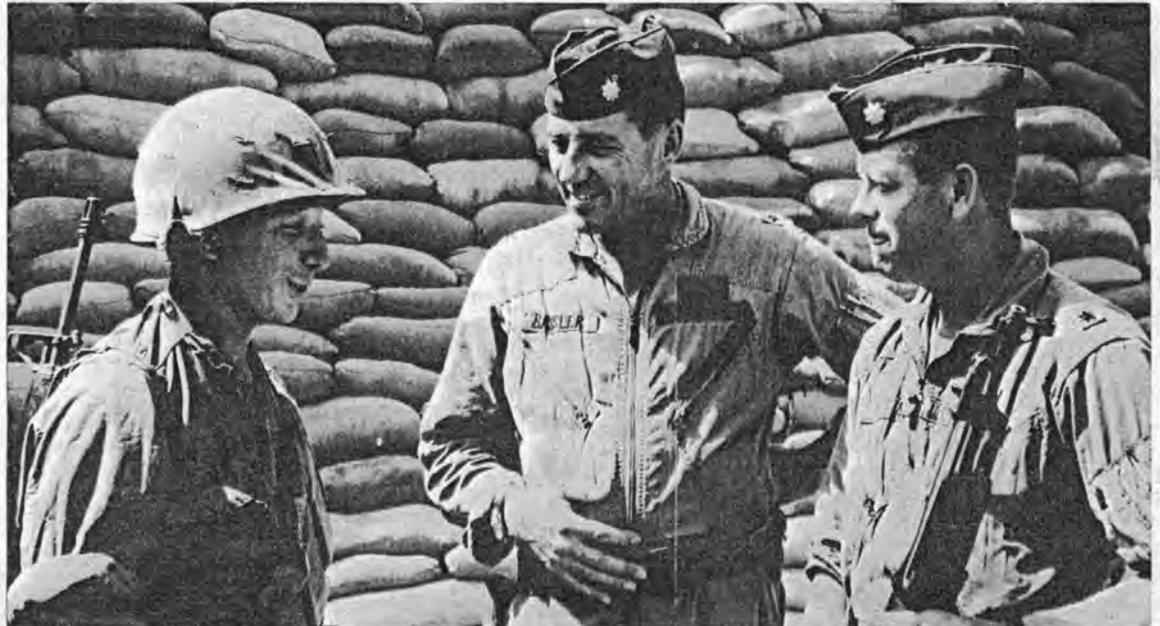
The rifle was picked up in a sweep after the contact. Charlie Company had sent a Short Range Patrol (SRP) from their firebase at Duc Lap to check out a box canyon. When the team moved about half way into the canyon, they stopped to inspect the area for signs of the enemy. NVA reportedly were using the trail as an infiltration route. The SRP team began hearing movement soon after they stopped. Forming a hasty perimeter, the team prepared for what might be an unsuspecting NVA soldier. But the sounds grew louder. They turned out to be the sounds of a larger enemy force on the patrol's flanks. The patrol was being surrounded by an estimated company size unit, but they were still undetected in their hiding place. Out of the noise of the approaching enemy came another sound, this one of an airplane from an Air Force Forward Air Control O2 (FAC) flying overhead. A whispering call went out for help to Captain Jerome McChristian of Odessa, Tex., one of the 2nd Brigade FACs.

Almost immediately, two F100s were on the scene heavily laden with bombs and 20mm cannons. By this time the enemy was closing in and was only about 50 meters from the beleaguered SRPs. Fast-working Captain McChristian fired a marking round on the enemy position and told the team to get down and stay down. Screaming down from the clear blue Central Highlands sky

the pilots unloaded their arsenal on the enemy. "Debris and shrapnel were falling all around us and it was comforting even if we were being shaken off the ground," said Specialist McKinney. As soon as the fighters unloaded their bombs the team made a break for a nearby ridge while the fighters pinned down the NVA with their 20mm cannons on strafing runs.

"When the team was heading up the ridge we suddenly lost radio contact with them," said Lieutenant Colonel John Daniels of Alexandria, Va., the Regulars battalion commander. "Everyone in the command post thought it was all over for the team when that happened, but when friendly smoke was seen coming from the ridge, our worries eased somewhat." Specialist McKinney remembers the moment. The receiver

on the radio had become separated, causing the silence, and because the team was moving so fast they could not stop to fix it. Once the smoke was spotted the SRPs were pulled out. A sweep of the area the following day uncovered an AK47. Wishing to thank the pilots for their support, Specialist McKinney presented the enemy weapon to the Air Force majors in a small ceremony at battalion headquarters near Dak To.



THANK YOU—Specialist 4 Terry W. McKinney of the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, talks with Air Force Majors John L. Bassler (center) and William C. Duffack at the 2nd Brigade base camp near Kontum. Specialist McKinney presented the two pilots with a captured AK47 in appreciation of their air support during a Short Range Patrol. (USA Photo by SP4 Norman Pazderski)

News Shutterbug Runs Into Live Nest...

(Continued From Page 1) couldn't risk a lot of noticeable movement. I wasn't more than

20 meters from the enemy position and I could hear them talking. Just as I heard them reloading their machine gun, an M79 round hit near their position forcing them to take cover. That's when I made my move."

Makes Wild Dive

Sergeant Madison jumped up, ran about three steps, and dived through the air, somersaulting to the bottom of the hill.

"It put me a little closer to their position," he said, "but under cover and at a hard angle for them to fire at me."

Behind the rock with Sergeant Madison was First Lieutenant Gilbert L. Atha of Anderson, Ind., the company's forward observer, his radio operator and a medic.

With everyone now under cover, Lieutenant Atha began calling in artillery fire. While he was on the radio a single enemy soldier circled around the four Americans and charged down the hill firing his AK47. Lieutenant Atha turned on the NVA, killing him with a single shot from his M16.

Walks Artillery

By "walking" the artillery fire to within 15 meters of his own position, Lieutenant Atha was able to negate the effectiveness of the enemy force. He was responsible for directing fire on two machine gun positions which were destroyed, one by a direct hit.

During the evening, Lieutenant Atha continued to call in accurate fire, sometimes handling four different fire missions at once. More than 300 rounds of artillery were fired that night in support of Bravo Company.

Knowing they could not stay in their position indefinitely, Lieutenant Atha led the men to the regrouped company location under cover of darkness. With their hands on each others shoulders or belts, the four Americans crawled 75 meters through heavy brush and treacherous rocks to the high ground and safety.

The actions resulted in 58 enemy killed.

| A LIVING MEMORIAL | | TOTAL: \$184,477.60 |
|------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| IVY DIVISION | | AS OF 14 FEB 69 |
| SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE | | |
| 1ST | 2ND | 3RD |
| 40,000 | | |
| 35,000 | | |
| 30,000 | | |
| 25,000 | | |
| 20,000 | | |
| 15,000 | | |
| 10,000 | | |
| 5,000 | | |
| 2,000 | | |

Fund Nears \$200,000

CAMP ENARI—The 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry continued its surge for the top position as the Scholarship Fund reached \$184,477.60.

The "Blackhawks," commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard A. Miller, pushed their total to \$13,116.40 with a February contribution of \$1,143.60. That total, however, still lands them in second place behind the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, which has \$16,460.95. The cavmen have slowly been chipping away at that lead in past weeks.

The 124th Signal Battalion just barely held onto third place with \$10,926.95, edging out the 704th Maintenance Battalion, whose total reached \$10,430.80.

Special mention also goes to the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, whose \$1,196.85 February turn-in was the highest of the month.

The \$200,000 mark looks like a sure bet for March if the top donors continue to jockey for the first three positions.

Continue to support a most worthwhile cause. Give to the 4th Infantry Division Scholarship Fund.

83 Slain...

(Continued From Page 1)

two 122mm rockets, 23,500 AK47 rounds, 11,100 rounds of SKS ammo, 23 75mm recoilless rifle rounds, 1,535 rounds of 12.7 ammo, seven B40 rockets, 40 rifle grenades, 20 mines, 60 pounds of explosives and one box of blasting caps.

Throughout the fifth and sixth days of the sweep, Bravo Company continued to call in artillery and mortar strikes on the beleaguered NVA.

"They (Bravo Company) have taken the brunt of the battle," commented Colonel Gruenther, "but they are in a good position and are doing an outstanding job. Their leadership is strong and their morale is high."

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