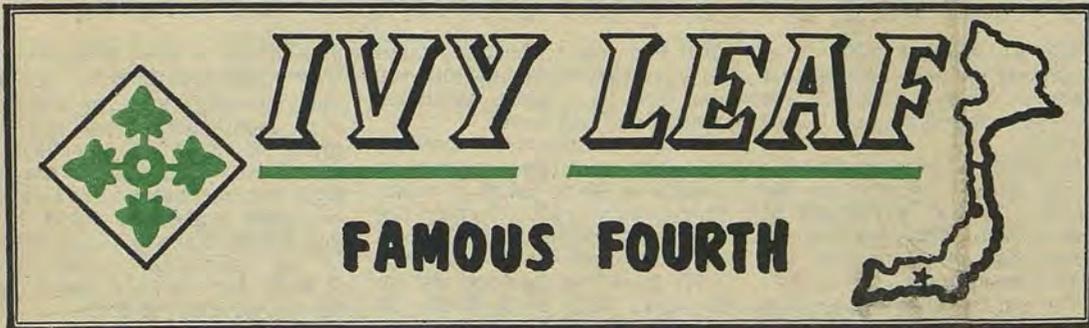


# TANK CREWS STOP ENEMY

## NVA Tracks Meet Sudden Destruction



Vol. 3, No. 12

CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

March 23, 1969



### End Of The Line

Ivymen from the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, working near the CIDG Camp at Ben Het, wait to inspect the remains of a communist PT76 amphibious tank.

(USA Photo By SP4 Eric Langlois)

## Plei Trap Yields 30 Dead

**By SGT Fred S. Grandinetti**  
CAMP ENARI — A fortified North Vietnamese base camp 8 1/2 miles east of the Cambodian border was destroyed and 30 enemy were killed during a combat assault by Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry.

"Our original mission was to secure Hill 729 (LZ Swinger), an old abandoned firebase. Then, an artillery battery was to be brought in to provide fire support for our sister companies on a search and cordon mission in the Plei Trap Valley," said Major Donald W. Androsky of Williamsport, Md.

The Plei Trap Valley, located 15 miles southwest of Kontum, has been used as a major supply and infiltration route by the North Vietnamese. Bravo, Charlie and Delta Companies were to sweep the valley in the hope of uncovering enemy supply bases and to interdict and destroy all supply routes currently in use by the NVA in the area.

Artillery and gunship preparatory fires were called in on Hill 729. The combat assault was well under way.

The North Vietnamese "popped smoke" for the first bird as it approached the southern end of the hill. Heavy CHICOM and smaller anti-personnel mines had been laid on the southern part of the hill to destroy the first ships and troops to land there.

A 51mm anti-aircraft gun was manned and ready to fire on the unsuspecting birds. Well entrenched enemy troops had set up several ambushes. The enemy was prepared, but not for the unexpected.

Their hopes were thwarted when a suspicious chopper pilot

decided to land his bird on the northern end of the hill bypassing the awaiting ambush. As the bird neared the ground, the Ivymen jumped from the ship and scrambled for cover. There was no evidence of enemy activity or fire. The word was passed, "it

(Continued on Back Page)

### Capture Ammunition Truck

## Ruthless Riders Pound NVA

**POLEI KLENG**—Operating 50 kilometers west, northwest of Kontum City, Alpha Troop, 7th Battalion, 17th Cavalry, with the help of Air Force F100 Super Sabres successfully hit an enemy supply route.

The action resulted in six NVA killed and the capture of a truck loaded with 60 CHICOM 105mm rounds.

Troop A, working with the Famous 4th Division's 1st Brigade, had been flying an air reconnaissance mission over suspected enemy positions and infiltration routes when one of their ships spotted something suspicious.

The Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) made a low sweeping pass over the area and sighted what appeared to be two trucks in the dense bamboo along a well-concealed road. A

second pass brought automatic weapons fire from an estimated 10 hidden positions.

An air observer, Sergeant Robert Evander of Minneapolis, Minn., saw one NVA immediately. He recalled, "I was looking out one side and as we passed over the area I noticed one of them moving through a clearing, so I let go with my M16 and he went down."

Major Dick Marshall, Alpha Troop commander, directed the scout ships to mark the enemy position with smoke. The troop's Cobras quickly blasted the enemy targets with relentless rocket fire.

Following the Cobras, the scout ships checked the area again. They found that the enemy was still determined to fight back. As they swooped down, the jungle thicket came alive with heavy fire. Minutes after a call for an Air Force

By SP5 Peter Call

**HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS**—Three tank crews from Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor stationed on the west hill of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp at Ben Het had been listening to the vehicles below for 30 minutes.

The clanking of tracks and the growl of heavy engines made Staff Sergeant Jerry Jones of Pineville, Ky., uneasy.

"It took me a little while to remember where I heard those sounds before," the tank commander said, "and then it suddenly hit me.

### Remembers Korea

"It was in Korea when my unit was fighting communist tanks."

Suddenly, a mine planted in the fog-covered road exploded giving the Ivy Armor a glimpse of the enemy — a tank — only 1200 yards from their position.

The communist track, like a wounded animal, swung its gun on the 1st Platoon armor and began firing.

"We all knew that we were the only ones between those tanks and Ben Het," said Specialist 4 Frank Hembree of Topton, N.C., the gunner who first opened up with the tank's 90mm gun.

"I only had his muzzle flashes to sight on but I couldn't wait for a better target because his shells were landing real close to us."

### On Target

The second round Specialist Hembree fired found its mark and the NVA vehicle turned into a fireball.

The rounds kept coming in, one hitting the tank next to Sergeant Jones and damaging its sighting mechanism.

"We had to get more firepower," Sergeant Jones said, "because we knew there were more tanks on the road."

Running from bunker to bunker to dodge the incoming fire, the tank commander made his way to the backside of the hill and directed the remaining tank to join the fight.

"When we moved into position

we spotted a second tank on the road behind the one that was burning," said Staff Sergeant Mike Steward of Tacoma, Wash. "The NVA in that track were using the fire to cover their muzzle flashes."

The gunner, Specialist 4 Eddie Davis of Akron, Ohio, took a sight off one of the flashes and fired.

"I wasn't sure of the target but I didn't have much time," Specialist Davis explained.

"I was sure glad to see it explode a second later."

The duel ended when eight of the 10 tanks and several armored personnel carriers turned back and raced for the border, harassed by Air Force fighters and artillery from nearby firebases.

## Fighters Light Up Hill Top

**CAMP ENARI** — "The hill lit up like a neon sign," said Air Force Forward Air Controller (FAC) Major Le Roi H. Butler of Lansing, Mich.

"I counted at least six .50 caliber machine guns and two 37mm cannons that dotted the sky with airbursts," the Highlander air liaison officer continued, "when I began to put my fighters in."

Bobbing and weaving his O2 spotter plane to avoid the steady stream of fire, the major fired his smoke rockets to mark the targets.

### Met Heavy Fire

"During the first run, each fighter was met by a steady stream of fire as it went in," the FAC said, "but after the second pass the enemy lost his enthusiasm."

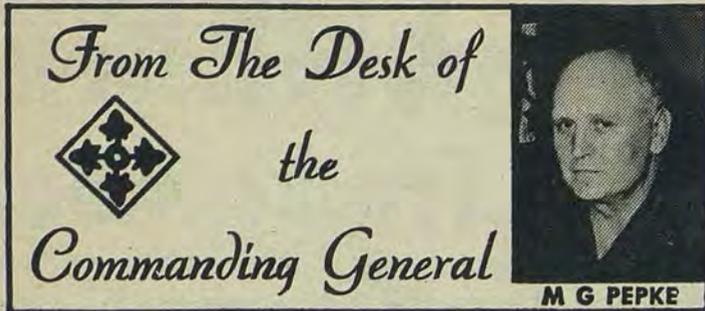
Friendly troops in the area from the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade confirmed two .50 caliber and one 37mm position destroyed before darkness forced the planes to stop the attack.

### Three More Sets

"It was two days before we found the machine guns again," the major continued, "this time farther south."

"They were dug in again and I knew it would take more than the two fighters I had with me to knock them out so I called for three more sets."

The action northwest of Kontum resulted in the destruction of four enemy gun positions and two heavy fortifications capable of housing 40 men.



## Your War Trophies

**T**HERE ARE NUMEROUS members of the 4th Infantry Division who will undoubtedly take a souvenir with them when they depart the Republic of Vietnam. Some soldiers will take a Montagnard knife, others will take items of NVA equipment, or possibly even a captured weapon. Most of these items will be shown to friends or loved ones in the United States while you reminisce about the year you spent in Vietnam fighting for your country.

The question has often been asked, "What can I take home as a war trophy?" Let me begin by stating some of the items that you cannot take home. You cannot take an automatic weapon of any type, nor can you take an explosive device or any part of an explosive device, e.g., a mortar round, CHICOM Grenade, or B-40 Rocket.

**ASK YOURSELF** this question, "After spending a year in Vietnam, would I want someone sitting in the plane going home with me if he had a satchel charge on a grenade in his handbag?" Likewise would you want the object of your thoughtlessness to suddenly explode after you arrive home when a member of your family was likely to be killed or injured? We both know the answer again is "No."

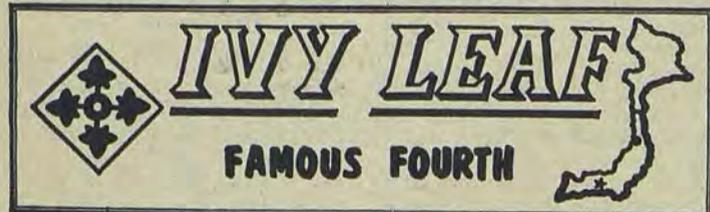
Several soldiers have asked whether they are authorized to take a CHICOM or Soviet SKS Rifle home as a was trophy. The answer again is "No." MACV presently has a requirement to collect a specific number of SKS Rifles for training centers in the States.

There are several weapons and items of captured enemy equipment that you can take home as a war trophy. You can take almost any type of foreign made pistol, or a 1903 US Springfield Rifle, and almost all CHICOM, French, German and Soviet bolt action rifles.

**YOU MAY ALSO** take home as war trophies, an NVA/VC uniform or articles of enemy field equipment e.g., canteen, pack, belts, etc. If there is a doubt whether or not you may keep a piece of captured enemy equipment or a weapon as a war trophy, contact your battalion or brigade S2; or if you are at Camp Enari, call the Office of the Division G2 for an answer to your question.

The following are important things to remember pertaining to war trophies; (1) insure that you are authorized to possess and retain the war trophy that you have in your possession, or it will be confiscated upon your departure from RVN; and (2) do not attempt to mail or carry with you on the plane, explosive devices or any part thereof, or any other items which would tend to endanger the lives of you and your fellow passengers or the lives of your family at home.

A mid-air disaster or accident at home brought on by your thoughtlessness only serves to tragically end for you and many others, what should be a happy ending to the completion of a successful tour in Vietnam.



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## Career Corner

# Opportunities Offered

**WE ALL KNOW** there is an important job to be done in Vietnam, a job that requires men who are dedicated and experienced.

In addition to performing a much needed service to our country, a tour in Vietnam offers opportunities that can benefit you from financial and career standpoints.

For example, have you ever given any thought as to how much additional money you make and can save in Vietnam?

First, all pay and allowances, including Reenlistment Bonuses, for enlisted men are tax free.

Just add your withholding taxes to your take-home pay and you can see how much additional money you will have.

That's just a start. Depending on your rank, you receive an additional \$8 to \$22.50 a month foreign-duty pay. Hostile fire pay adds another \$65 a month to your paycheck all tax free.

We have free postage and up to seven days R & R for 12 months of service over here. The Army flies you, free of charge, to such R & R locations as Hong Kong, Bangkok, Tokyo, Singapore, Australia and Hawaii. One three day R & R with-

in Vietnam is also authorized.

**IF YOU DECIDE** to extend your tour of duty in Vietnam for a six month period, you will be given 30 days of non-chargeable leave, including free round trip transportation to almost any point in the free world that you select. You are also entitled to an additional seven day R & R for each six month extension of duty in RVN.

Near the end of your Vietnam tour, you may, regardless of pay grade, reenlist for the CONUS Station-of-Choice option. This assures a one-year stabilized tour at the stateside station of choice. This option is open to every one in Vietnam regardless of grade.

The Overseas Area-of-Choice option is another reenlistment opportunity open to you. It is available to men in grade E-5 or below with less than seven years active federal service. It is also offered to those in grade E-6 who have less than four years service for pay purposes.

## Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain (LTC) John Sullivan

Pornography is defined as obscene literature or art and is derived from a Greek word meaning "prostitute." Obscene is defined as offensive or abhorrent to prevailing concepts of morality or decency.

Most knowledge comes from reading. Books therefore are essential tools of learning. Our knowledge evolves from the kind of books we read. If the books we read are "bad" books, then our knowledge will be "bad" —likewise, good follows good.

J. Edgar Hoover has indicated that jails cannot be built quickly enough to detain or rehabilitate the increased number of criminals and lays pornographic literature as a basis for the increased criminal activity. An inspector on the Chicago police force says that 98 percent of sex crimes have a distinct relation to the reading habits of the offenders. Sex is a natural instinct which needs little stimulation.

Pornographic literature is a diabolical invention which overstimulates a God-given instinct and which is primarily promoted to line the pockets of irresponsible publishers and writers who care little about destroying the character of the reader. There is an innate curiosity about sex, so the market for such materials is extensive, a veritable gold mine for purveyors of perversion. The profits from sex books by far exceeds any remuneration from literature designed to promote morality, good family life and responsible citizenship.

The psalmist pointedly describes purveyors of filth: "Cynical advocates of evil, lofty advocates of force, they think their mouth is heaven and their tongue can dictate on earth. This is why my people turn to them and say, asking, 'How will God find out? Does the Most High know everything? Look at them: these are wicked, well off and still getting richer.'"

Much like dope, one can become "hooked" on such literature, looking for bigger and greater kicks. But unlike dope which gives the individual victim kicks from one experience to the next fix, pernicious books are passed on and on and on, inflicting untold harm on many avid readers. A mind prostituted by salacious literature prompts action in line with the contents.

We are cautioned by St. Matthew: "The lamp of the body is the eye. It follows that if your eye is diseased, your whole body will be in darkness. If then, the light inside you is darkness, what darkness that will be!"

Remember there are many worthwhile books in our libraries and the Bible offers excellent reading with a divine promise of present and future rewards.

## CSM Taylor Speaks Out



### Army Complaint System

**E**ACH MEMBER of the U.S. Army has the right to register complaints orally or in writing with an Inspector General (IG). But, too often soldiers misuse this right by presenting grievances that should have been settled by the unit commander.

The unit commander is charged with the responsibility of seeing to the welfare, training, and employment of all personnel in his command. He should be concerned with insuring that his unit accomplishes all assigned missions, and should recognize that his unit's mission can only be accomplished through dedicated and devoted service of every individual in that unit.

**THEREFORE HE KNOWS** that personnel with problems or grievances cannot contribute their full share to the unit effort. This is the reason why problems should be taken up with the unit commander first.

If, after consulting the unit commander, a satisfactory solution to your problem has not been provided, then the next step is the IG. The IG will accept the complaint, inquire into the matter and provide you, orally or in writing, with an appropriate reply.

Even though soldiers should discuss their problems or grievances with their unit commanders first, they will not be required to submit to an interview by anyone prior to registering a complaint with an IG.

Also, he should have no fear of disciplinary action being taken against him for presenting a complaint to the IG, unless he makes statements which are proved to be knowingly untruthful.

The major misuse of the Army Complaint System is servicemen who write directly to members of Congress or the President. And, in some instances, the press. Actions of this nature result in a serious drain on the time and effort of persons charged with the tremendous burden of directing the government of the country.

**IN ADDITION** it triples the work load of the IG and unit commanders. For eventually, such complaints end up on the unit commander's desk for resolution and the end result is the same as it would have been had the matter been presented to the commander or the IG to start with.

Under our democratic system of government you have the undeniable right and privilege to communicate directly with any member of our government. However, you will find that your problems can normally be solved more quickly and easily and with a great deal more efficiency if presented first to your unit commander and then to the IG if you are not satisfied with the actions of your unit commander.

Finally, the unit commander holds an open door session at least once weekly. At this time personnel have the opportunity to see him on any matter they may desire. Avail yourself of this opportunity if you have a problem.

# Ivy Captures Vehicles—Stops Enemy Troops

Ivymen dealt enemy forces several demolishing blows throughout the Famous 4th Division's area of operations this week (March 1-7), killing 169 enemy soldiers, confiscating several tons of enemy munitions, and, in an event unprecedented in the Vietnamese war, capturing several Soviet-made vehicles.

The Ben Het CIDG camp, which has been shelled almost daily since the enemy launched its post-Tet offensive in the Central Highlands on February 23, received an estimated 300 rounds of incoming 85mm artillery fire on March 3-4.

When the enemy lifted its prep fires, an estimated battalion attempted to infiltrate the wire on the western perimeter shortly after midnight, March 4. Simultaneously, friendly

aircraft reported ten enemy tanks and six trucks closing on the camp.

The Famous 4th's Company C, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor levelled its main tank guns and throttled the enemy threat by demolishing the lead tank. Air Force fighters were credited with knocking out a second tank.

Both vehicles, identified as Soviet PT-76 amphibious tanks, were recovered the following day by 4th Division personnel. Previously, no American unit in Vietnam had been credited with the capture of enemy tanks.

Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, secured a Soviet 1½ ton truck along a major infiltration route in the Plei Trap Valley, 30 kilometers west of Polie Kleng on March 2.

The vehicle, decorated with Vietnamese

omens of good luck, was apparently being used to cart bulky supplies over the rugged terrain. Its cargo area carried 26 cases of CHICOM 105mm high explosive artillery rounds, 1200 pounds of rice, and assorted pieces of smaller equipment.

Late in the week, a ground element consisting of three companies of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry reported heavy contact in the same vicinity.

The enemy fiercely defended what was suspected to be a major staging area along the fringe of the infiltration route. The battle raged over a two day period as U.S. forces directed deadly air and artillery fire on enemy positions.

The battle proved costly to the enemy. A sweep of the area has thus far yielded 139 NVA bodies, three machine guns, 24 shoulder weapons and 25 60mm mortar rounds.

## Courtesy Of Rangers

### A Rough Night For Charlie

By 1LT Robert Janosko

**FIREBASE MCNERNEY** — An elusive 1st Brigade Ranger team, a prompt Spooky gunship and a daring Black Jack extraction ship combined forces to give Charlie a rough night and decrease his number by at least two.

The Rangers had been in their night position only a few minutes when they heard movement nearby. They waited as the sounds came closer and conversation became audible.

Recalled team leader Sergeant James McLaughlin of Skowhegan, Maine, "We decided we could move to a better position to make contact, so we went back up the trail about 600 meters. Fifteen minutes later we spotted a flashlight approximately 200 meters out coming towards us. A minute later three more lights were switched on.

The Ivymen waited 10 minutes until the lights came within 50 meters, then started to move out toward their LZ, one by one. When the enemy was approximately 30 meters away, Specialist 4 Steve Sullivan of Carolton, Ky., blew the Claymore they had set up a few minutes before.

A hail of small arms fire followed them back to the LZ, located on a deserted firebase. The team quickly found cover in several deserted foxholes.

Sergeant McLaughlin started to call for gunships again, when the team's radio came alive and word was received that Spooky was overhead and waiting to go to work.

Then out of the brush in front of the team's position came one NVA, apparently trying to get as close to them as possible to avoid Spooky's miniguns. But he could not avoid Sergeant McLaughlin's M16. Five minutes later another enemy soldier attempted the same thing and was halted by the Ranger's Montagnard companion, Pay.

Movement was heard on all

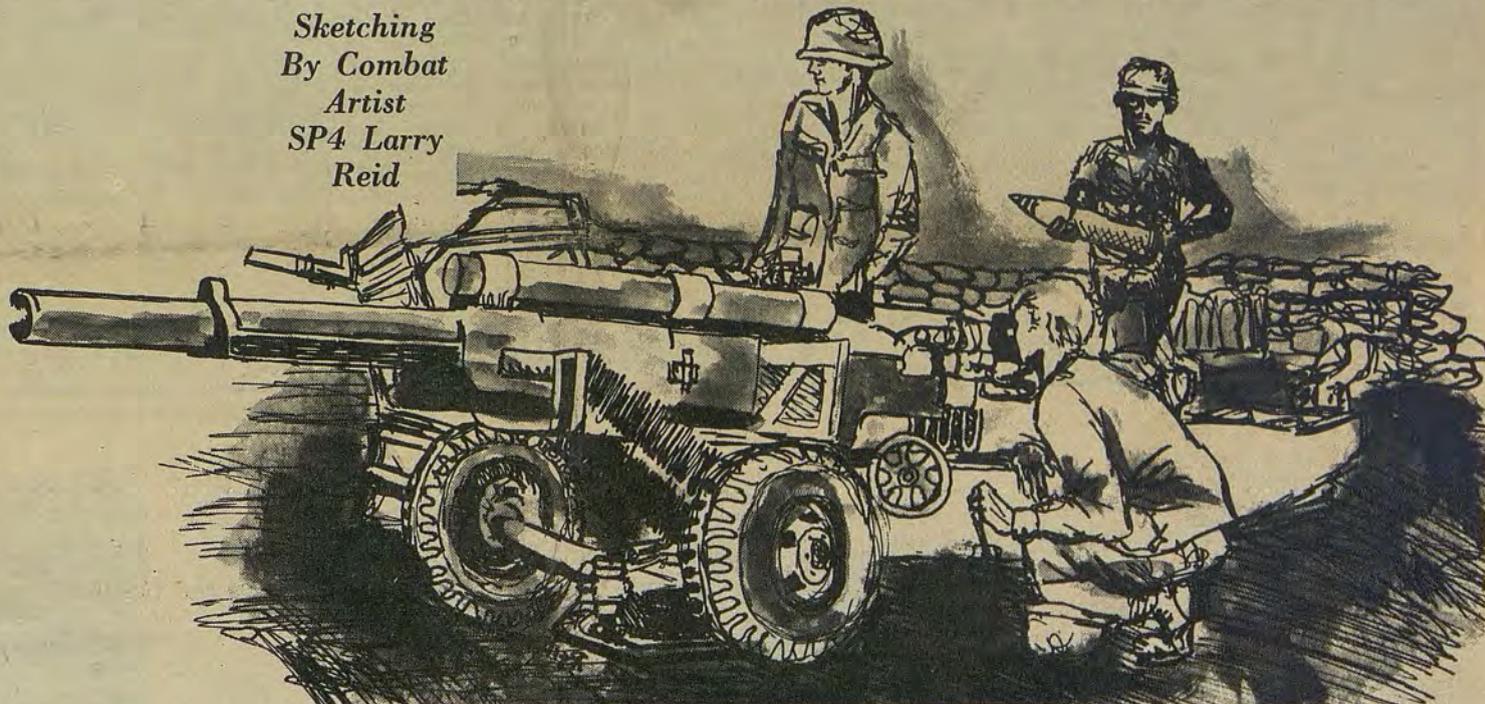
sides of their position as the NVA force, estimated to be 12 to 15 men, moved in closer. The team attempted to slow their progress with a barrage of grenades.

Suddenly over the radio came the welcome news that a Black Jack extraction ship was on the way.

Over the firebase, the chopper followed the team's strobe light beam down to the ground, less than two feet from their foxholes.

"All we had to do was climb out of the holes and into that beautiful bird," said Specialist 4 Jim Conners of Long Island, N.Y.

Sketching By Combat Artist SP4 Larry Reid



## Flying Deuce And A Half

**HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS** — A certain 2½ ton truck travels hundreds of miles over rugged mountain terrain everyday, but it never shows the mileage on its instruments.

The truck, working out of the Camp Enari Post Exchange (PX) spends most of its time flying through the air slung below a Chinook helicopter, and visits Ivy firebases with items for infantrymen who don't get a chance to utilize PX facilities.

Upon arrival at any firebase, the four-man crew boards the truck and displays merchandise ranging from cameras, film, and watches to shaving gear and other essential items, usually not available in forward areas.

Staff Sergeant John Hammett of Phoenix City, Ala., operator of the flying PX explained, "Our mission is to let the guys who are out in the field pick up something they normally wouldn't be able to get until they come into base camp."

## 'Fire Mission!' 9th Arty Is Ready

**OASIS**—"Fire Mission!" The alert broke the stillness of the night with the impact of an incoming round.

Ivymen of the Famous Fourth's "Mighty Ninth," 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, came boiling out of their bunkers and began swarming the howitzers. Dust covers flew from muzzles and sights and wheels spun in a blur of men and motion as the tubes reared back and swung in unison to the east.

A battery fire mission in the middle of the night always produces a sense of urgency, but with this one you could almost taste it.

Moments earlier Sergeant Richard Scheier, section chief on gun number three, the hot gun, had seen a flash of light in the direction of Pleiku City.

**FROM LZ LILLIE**, Pleiku appeared as a string of lights in the distance. The LZ, high above the central plain, offered a commanding view of the surrounding highlands. The 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry had occupied the fire bases only a few days before in anticipation of an offensive against sprawling Pleiku.

Only two days before an attack set up by the Fighting Gypsies had taken a company size NVA force by surprise during the night.

The enemy was moving down a trail, every third man carrying a cylindrical object similar to a mortar tube.

During the contact six NVA were killed and one was detained. Four 122mm rocket war heads were found along with several rocket casings.

From that time on the men on LZ Lillie had been alert for any signs of a rocket attack.

Sergeant Scheier knew immediately that the flashes he saw were proof of their expectations. Without hesitation he alerted the battery fire direction control center (FDC), who in turn alerted the counter battery radar. In a matter of minutes the exact location of the suspected enemy rockets had been pinpointed.

"WE COULD SEE the long orange trail of the rockets as they went toward Pleiku," commented Charlie Battery Commander, Captain John C. Rose. "The radar had spotted the fourth round as it left the pad. We fired our first volley and got a large orange fireball that hung over the impact area.

Radar confirmed the secondary explosion with scope sightings of shrapnel after the initial shell burst.

"I had a ringside seat," commented Captain Rose. "I grabbed my binoculars and continued the fire mission, playing the role of forward observer as well as battery commander."

In all, approximately 200 rounds were poured into the area of the suspected launch location.

### General's Aide

Sergeant Thomas L. Fulmer of Quincy, Ill., was selected as enlisted aide for the week to 4th Division commander, Major General Donn R. Pepke.

Sergeant Fulmer was named aide as a result of being chosen battalion soldier of the month for the 4th Engineers.

Sergeant Fulmer was a student prior to entering the Army. He arrived in Vietnam after serving as a drill instructor at Ft. Polk, La.

# Highlanders Assist Montagnard Consolidation

By SP5 Peter Call

**THE DANGERS** are different, the times have changed, but the Vietnamese wilderness in the Central Highlands is being conquered much like the American frontier 150 years ago.

The American forts of Dodge, Laramie and Santa Fe provided security and a base to push out further into the frontier. So do the 2nd Brigade-sponsored consolidated villages of Plei Chi Teh, Plei Kong Brech and Plei Brel Dor.

The area where these three villages now stand once contained many small hamlets where Montagnards lived in traditional ways characterized by close-knit units and a general suspicion of strangers.

Their remote and widely scattered hamlets however, made them prey to Viet Cong taxes and terrorism.

Civil affairs officers from the Ivy Division had pondered this problem for a time. A program of consolidation, bringing hamlets together, seemed to offer the best hope.

Captain Robert R. Dobson of Greenwich, Conn., the present head of the 2nd Brigade villages talked about some of the problems involved.

"Our basic problem simply was that these people had never worked together. They had developed an idea

that the village was the important political structure, and often you would find two villages geographically close to each other, but with no economic or social ties.

**THANKS TO THE Viet Cong**, however, most of the village chiefs were willing to try anything. When we proposed the consolidation program, they accepted the idea."

Plei Chi Teh, the first frontier outpost, became a reality and its immediate success hopefully promised that more consolidations would follow.

Security was the foundation on which these villages were built, so it became the first problem to solve.

First Lieutenant Thomas Keenan of Collegeville, Pa., team leader for Plei Chi Teh, explained the concept of "self-defense" as practiced in these villages.

"Sure, we could have a platoon of Vietnamese soldiers protect this village, but from the start we wanted to give the people a feeling that this was their village."

The Vietnamese government selected a group of men from each of the eight hamlets comprising the consolidated Plei Chi Teh and trained them in the use of modern weapons.

"This gave the village its own home guard, and it finally became secure with the completion of an elaborate system of barricades—also built by the people."

Once security was established, an eight man civil af-

fairs team made the center of the village their home. They started programs of medical help, which included the training of Montagnard nurses, the organization of schools and agricultural instruction.

**SERGEANT JAMES DILLARD** of North Hollywood, S. Calif., is one of the permanent members of Plei Chi Teh and describes the progress.

"We never tell these people to do anything because they are a proud race. We suggest to them that this might be a better way of doing things and then we do it. When we first brought in a new strain of rice that promised a better yield in less time, we didn't force it on them. When our rice came in, they could see the difference and began using it."

The frontier was pushed back further with the funding of Plei Kong Brech a few miles away. Again a civil affairs team set up the previously tested program and the village began to prosper immediately.

"We made mistakes at Plei Chi Teh, but we learned as the Montagnards were learning and, as a result, the consolidation of Plei Kong Brech went smoothly," said Captain Dobson.

The program has just recently pushed forward one more step with the establishment of Plei Brel Dor, again bringing peace and a hope for a better life to a section of the Vietnam frontier.



THE MOVE BEGINS WITH HOUSEHOLD GOODS BEING CLEARED FROM THE HUTS



ARRIVAL AT THE NEW VILLAGE AND THE CARGO IS UNLOADED AND READY FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Photography By SGT Ron Johnston And SP4 Greg Miller



THE HUTS ARE DISMANTLED PIECE BY PIECE AND LOADED ON IVY TRUCKS



EVERYONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP WHEN "MOVING DAY" ARRIVES



HUTS ARE TIED TO TRUCK BEDS FOR A BUMPY RIDE TO THE NEW VILLAGE

# Rangers Searching, Surprise NVA Point

**HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS**—While investigating a hidden road west of Kontum, a team of Rangers from the 2nd Brigade surprised the point element of an estimated NVA company, killing one NVA and capturing documents, equipment and an AK47.

The road was discovered after a close call with three NVA shortly after insertion.

"We decided to move from our first night location because we found an artillery round nearby," said Specialist 4 Ray McFarr of Cheektawaga, N.Y., the Ranger team leader.

"We hadn't gone very far before we spotted three enemy carrying their rifles at sling arms," Specialist McFarr continued, "and when we fired at them they took off running."

**THE RANGERS** spent the night on alert and the following morning searched the area.

"We found tracks in a nearby stream bed," explained Sergeant Raymond Barrio of New York City, "and by following them, we discovered a well hidden road."

"The bamboo forming the canopy which hid the road from the air," the sergeant continued, "was freshly cut and the road itself was marked with trail signs and was wide enough for a three-quarter ton truck."

After seeing signs of recent use, the Ivy Rangers set up claymore mines and then watched from a ravine running along the road.

"**WE DIDN'T HAVE** to wait long," said Private First Class Robert Plaskett of New Washington, Ind.

"Late in the afternoon we saw a North Vietnamese soldier wearing shorts and carrying a pack walking down the road with his AK47 at port arms."

"We didn't want to spring the trap right away," explained Sergeant Peter Curtz of Menomonee Falls, Wis., "because we figured there were more behind him."

Suddenly the enemy stopped, made a right turn and began walking toward the Rangers' position.

"He was getting too close," Sergeant Curtz continued. "I dropped him with my M16 at the same instant we tripped the claymores."

"We could still hear a large number of NVA in the area, and we decided to backtrack toward the river."

**CLIMBING** on a table-like rock in the middle of the river, the Rangers called in artillery to cover their retreat. Shortly they were picked up by a Black Jack helicopter from the 4th Aviation Battalion.

Two days later Sergeant Curtz received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" and Sergeant Barrio, Specialist McFarr and Private First Class Plaskett received the Army Commendation Medal with "V" from Major General Donn R. Pepke, Division commander.

## With Ivy Aid

# Villagers Repel VC

**HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS** — Viet Cong efforts to spread propaganda and take rice, clothing, and other badly needed supplies from the once defenseless Montagnard village of Plei Brel Dor was a tragic mistake for Charlie.

Thirty to forty VC were turned away from the now consolidated village, southeast of Pleiku, when the villagers decided they had had enough of the enemy's threats and terroristic actions and fought back.

A 2nd Brigade civil affairs team made up of members from the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry has helped the Montagnards in many ways, but one more was added when the VC attacked the village.

"Late in the evening we received word that our village was likely to be attacked," said Sergeant Olan Connell of Nashville, Ga.

"We alerted all the people on the two-mile perimeter and made sure every home guard had a weapon and plenty of ammo."

## Lively Affair In Highlands

**HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS** — The music was fresh, hip, and as one of the many weary soldiers on hand put it, "Cool, really cool."

The sound was that of "The Lively Affair," a group which blended rock and rhythm and blues for the men of the 2nd Brigade during a visit to Highlander Heights.

During the 90-minute USO-sponsored show, the five-member band beat out the popular songs of today while mini-skirted Miss Jeannie Falkner sang to the delighted Ivymen.

"They all have a job to do and we would like to make it more pleasant for them," stated Miss Falkner after the performance.

Specialist 4 Norman Kanutsen of West Orange, N.J., said, "It's a pleasure to have such shows come here, and it gives the guys a chance to really enjoy themselves."



## Gift From Dragoons

Tents and soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry are silhouetted against the Central Highlands night as a 4.2 mortar streaks from Bravo Company's perimeter. The Famous 4th Division soldiers were working near Kontum. (USA Photo By SP4 Orlyn Hamel)

# Silence Proves Golden

**OASIS** — Silence is golden, especially in a combat area. Just ask one of the

3rd Brigade's Ranger teams.

Noise discipline enabled the Ivy soldiers to detect an approaching NVA patrol and subsequently kill three of the enemy.

Just as the Rangers were in the process of breaking camp on the third morning of a reconnaissance mission, Sergeant Dan Busby of Bremerton, Wash., heard voices. He alerted the other members of the team by whispering, "VC, VC."

Approximately 10 meters to the left of the brush area which the Rangers had used as their base camp, the team saw two NVA soldiers approaching.

"We waited until they were about five meters away and then opened fire," said Private First Class Robert Bellamy of Grand Rapids, Mich.

The team's initial M16 fire dropped the two enemy soldiers and helped the Ivymen spot an undetermined amount of NVA on a trail further to the left.

"We saw at least eight," said PFC Bellamy.

An exchange of fire with the enemy patrol resulted in another NVA death. "They didn't know exactly where we were," said Sergeant Busby, "they were shooting about four feet over our heads."

The Rangers then began retreating from the contact aided by fire from approaching gunships. The NVA patrol followed the team for about 300 meters, but in vain.

"We began to run as fast as we could across the open area," said Specialist 4 Ronald Went of Detroit, the team leader.

Specialist Went felt the NVA patrol was definitely trying to find their location. Sergeant Busby echoed Specialist Went's belief by adding, "During the first two days of the mission, we heard constant rifle fire. In fact, the first two NVA soldiers were looking for possible footprints when we saw them. They knew we were there someplace."

The team stayed in the area for more than four hours after the contact.

Their search of the surroundings found trails stretching for 300 meters, a parachute with rice wrapped inside, spoons and AK47 rounds.

## Shamrock Pilot Kills 3

**CAMP ENARI**—"There were two or three M60 machine guns firing at me from the well-fortified bunkers and my ship sustained 22 hits," recalled Captain Robert D. King of Colorado Springs, Colo.

His encounter with the enemy was in the area of Chu Pa Mountain which has been the scene of heavy combat activities for the division in recent weeks.

Captain King, the pilot with the Shamrocks of D Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, was performing a visual reconnaissance mission in his Light Observation Helicopter. Flying along the Se San River west of Chu Pa, he observed several large bunker complexes.

"I was going in to blow one of the bunkers and was hovering at about 20 feet when an M60 machine gun opened up on me from below," recalled Captain King.

Discovering his aircraft still capable of flying, Captain King called in gunships, observed their hits and again flew over the target to re-mark it. He was then forced to return to Plei Djereng.

Undaunted, he returned to the action and directed artillery fire on the bunker complex. As he flew over the bunkers to assess the damage done by the artillery, his new plane was again taken under fire.

This time the enemy made the fatal mistake of revealing themselves; Captain King took them under fire and was credited with three NVA kills.



Webster says a leopard often lies in ambush for its prey, but this one, disguised as Margaret Laverdy, comes right out in the open and waits!

## No More Rice Wine

**FIREBASE BLACKHAWK**—After a week of intensive sweep missions south of Highway 19, Cavalrymen from C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry hit Charlie where it hurts the most—in the stomach. In five separate finds the Ivymen uncovered 22,000 pounds of milled rice.

"We found enough rice," said Staff Sergeant John McLaughlin of Bangor, Maine, "to feed several enemy companies for at least three or four months."

The rice, carefully concealed in camouflaged tunnels, under bamboo thickets and along rice paddy dikes, was gathered and transported to Trung District, where it would be rationed to the Vietnamese people.

"It looks like this harvest season Charlie is just going to have to get use to hunger pains and a little less rice wine," concluded Sergeant McLaughlin.

# Lieutenant X And The Road South

By Cpt David R. Fabian

Lieutenant X had been extensively trained as a recon specialist in North Vietnam prior to his infiltration south. After serving four months in South Vietnam with the 20th Regiment Recon Company, as a Master Sergeant, he received a battlefield commission and became the executive officer of the 19th Recon Company, 320th Regiment, 1st NVA Battalion. He participated in the battles of Chu Do, Chu Ben, and Hill 800 in Kontum Province in 1968. In late summer his unit was moved further south toward Ban Me Thuot. While on a recon mission, he was found wounded by an alert 4th Division LRP team.

### PART III

I cannot give you specific examples of how a man is disciplined when he fails to carry out an order because I can honestly say that I have never seen this happen. The discipline is very good. While there were several fights between the soldiers, they were instigated because of petty frictions. Cadre merely separated soldiers in these cases.

I must admit that in our Army the soldiers complain frequently about their hard times. Frequently I have overheard them talk back to cadre. Yet there is not much that the cadre can do except ignore such comments because most of the men have malaria and such comments are always attributed to their state of feverishness.

"I always make it a point to observe my own men closely and issue orders only to those men I am certain can and will comply. During an operation, if there was ever any doubt in my mind as to whether or not an order would be fol-

lowed, I would not order anyone else to comply. I would do it myself.

"On February 6, 1968 we departed Hoa Binh Province, traveling via Route 12 by truck to Nghe An Province. From there we moved through Ha Tinh and Quang Binh Provinces in North Vietnam into Laos. I was able to learn very little about Laos since I never had much chance to meet the people. Mainly we moved on what was classified as a military road which wound through jungles and forests.

"Nor did I come to know the Cambodian people. In theory and practice the country is neutral. I am not aware of why we use the country. I can only compare our movement there with the movement in a chess game. The NVA has made the right move and uses Cambodia. I suppose the South Vietnamese could also exploit the Cambodian countryside if they knew how to.

"My only acquaintances with the South Vietnamese were made as I talked with South Vietnamese laborers who were controlled by NVA forces. Otherwise, during my infiltration I never passed through villages or hamlets.

"We arrived in Kontum Province on February 28, 1968. Dismounting from trucks northwest of the tri-border area, we moved on foot the remainder of the way. To get into the Kontum area we moved through Laos and we infiltrated into Polie Kleng by moving parallel to Route 14, staying about seven kilometers from the highway.

"During the first week of March we received the general plan of attack and were issued our specific mission. The ultimate mission was to liberate Kontum City. Elements of the B3 Front were to

secure Highway 14 from the northeast of Kontum and the 320th Regiment was to secure Chu Do and Polie Kleng, thus securing Highway 14 from the west. When these units were positioned, armor and additional infantry units were to move from the Cambodian-Laotian border south to Highway 14 and attack Kontum City. Chu Do was to be an intermediate objective of my unit and Polie Kleng the ultimate objective.

"On March 8 my unit received the order to recon Polie Kleng. For this mission eighteen of my men were selected, together with the regimental commander, two battalion commanders, and all company commanders and platoon leaders. We moved by day and rested by night, arriving on March 18 at a position which was but a two hour distance from Polie Kleng. We established an observation post and prepared defensive positions to return to during the night.

The entire recon party was organized into three groups. One group had as its mission the recon of the Polie Kleng airstrip, the second was to determine the best northern approach to Polie Kleng.

The recon was to last ten days. My group was successful in penetrating the city, where we were able to measure the distances between fences, foxholes, and other fortified positions with string. We later withdrew using the same route, and all three groups reassembled at the observation point on April 11. The main body of the regiment was then ordered to move from the assembly area near the Laotian-Cambodian border to our location in preparation for the attack. The regiment arrived on April 17, 1968.

"On the same day we received infor-

mation from division level that American forces had moved into Chu Do. My unit was to accomplish a hasty recon, so we departed immediately. The regimental commander and all officers temporarily remained behind, but designated another meeting place named Chu Barat, which was two hours from Chu Do, where we were to report upon completion of the recon.

Following dry and shallow creek beds, it took us approximately seven hours to get to Chu Do. Along the way we were subjected to artillery fire. Since there was only one wire fence around Chu Do, we were able to move in close to locate and plot enemy positions. Upon determining that there was one understrength battalion located there, we returned to Chu Barat.

"The attack was launched on the night of April 23. During the attack all recon personnel remained at Chu Barat. Although I can't be certain, I believe three battalions attacked. Two companies were kept in reserve. The infantry battalions were discovered prematurely while moving into Chu Do. American artillery was fired on our forces from Polie Kleng.

"Meanwhile our own artillery support was not accurate. We were unsuccessful in the attack, and we suffered many casualties. I heard that we had 260 men killed, 50 missing, and a large number of wounded. After the attack the regiment withdrew and took three days to bury the dead. It was then that we moved from Kontum Province into the Dak Dam area of Cambodia and prepared for operations against Ban Me Thuot.

NEXT WEEK: LIFE IN THE NVA

# Cacti Green Kills Six In Late Night Contact

BY SP4 CRAIG MACGOWAN

OASIS — "I lived ten lifetimes in about five minutes" was the way Private First Class Joe C. Crowley of Upton, Mass., described the late-night contact with a company-sized NVA Rocket Transportation group by the Famous 4th's Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry.

The action near Firebase Lily netted the "Fighting Gypsies" one detainee, six enemy dead, four 122mm rocket warheads and other miscellaneous enemy equipment including rucksacks and an AK47.

"We were going to move to the west from our night location when a helicopter flew over and received some ground fire," explained 3rd Platoon Leader, First Lieutenant John C. Kelly of Bayside, N.Y.

"That evening, instead of closing on the rest of the company, we were to set up three individual platoon-sized look-outs.

"I set up furthest away from a village to the east on a trail running into the village."

That set the stage for the triangular-shaped contact by Bravo Company, with the 3rd

Platoon facing the trail.

Private First Class Joe Crowley, the man who initiated the action, was concealed in a bamboo thicket.

"I was on guard. I looked down at my watch — 11 p.m. I looked back up and there they were — NVA passing by my position about six feet away, moving in column down the trail.

"At first I thought it was only a squad, but after a few minutes I had counted 40... then 62.

"I lived ten lifetimes in about five minutes."

When he was certain all the

enemy had passed, PFC Crowley sprung the trap by throwing hand grenades at the tail of the enemy column.

Further up the line Sergeant Stanley Synstenlien of Ashby, Mass., was alerted by the noise of the passing enemy. They were heavily loaded, carrying rucksacks, small arms — mostly AK47s slung over their shoulders.

"You could hear the water sloshing in their canteens," recalled the Ivy sergeant.

"They were carrying 122mm rocket warheads and every third

man was carrying a rocket booster or an 82mm mortar tube."

Sergeant Synstenlien started throwing grenades at the same time as PFC Crowley.

At the end of the Ivy unit was Private First Class Charles L. Neal of Montgomery, La., who detonated two claymore mines at the passing column.

As he squeezed the detonators at precisely the right moment, the NVA scattered into the dense bamboo near the trailside and the night was to be a long one for Bravo Company.

"There was a lot of movement around us most of the night," said Lieutenant Kelly—"they were trying to recover their people and the equipment they had dropped.

"When they started coming back about a half hour after the initial contact, we engaged them with M79 grenade launchers."

Again, at about 3 a.m. approximately ten NVA came back out of the bushes and were engaged, this time by small arms fire.

"I think it really shook them up when the 2nd Squad opened up," stated Lieutenant Kelly. "They thought they had something small, came up to see what it was, and found they were up against something pretty big."

At daybreak the next morning the Ivymen were in for another surprise: Four enemy 122mm rocket warheads were discovered near the sight.

A total of six enemy were killed in the action, in addition to the detainee who later revealed significant information about the NVA Rocket Transportation Company.

"It didn't matter to me if they were an infantry company or a rocket company. They were out to get us," recalled PFC Crowley. "But we just played it cool all night and did a good job."



"I LOOKED BACK UP AND THERE THEY WERE—NVA PASSING BY MY POSITION . . ."

action scene, was in

Royce  
Laford

# APO's Job To Bring Your Mail

**CAMP ENARI** — It's well known that neither rain, snow, nor dark of night is supposed to stop civilian the mailman from delivering his load. The 4th Division's main post office has the same duty to perform with many more obstacles, and still gets the mail to the soldier for whom it's intended.

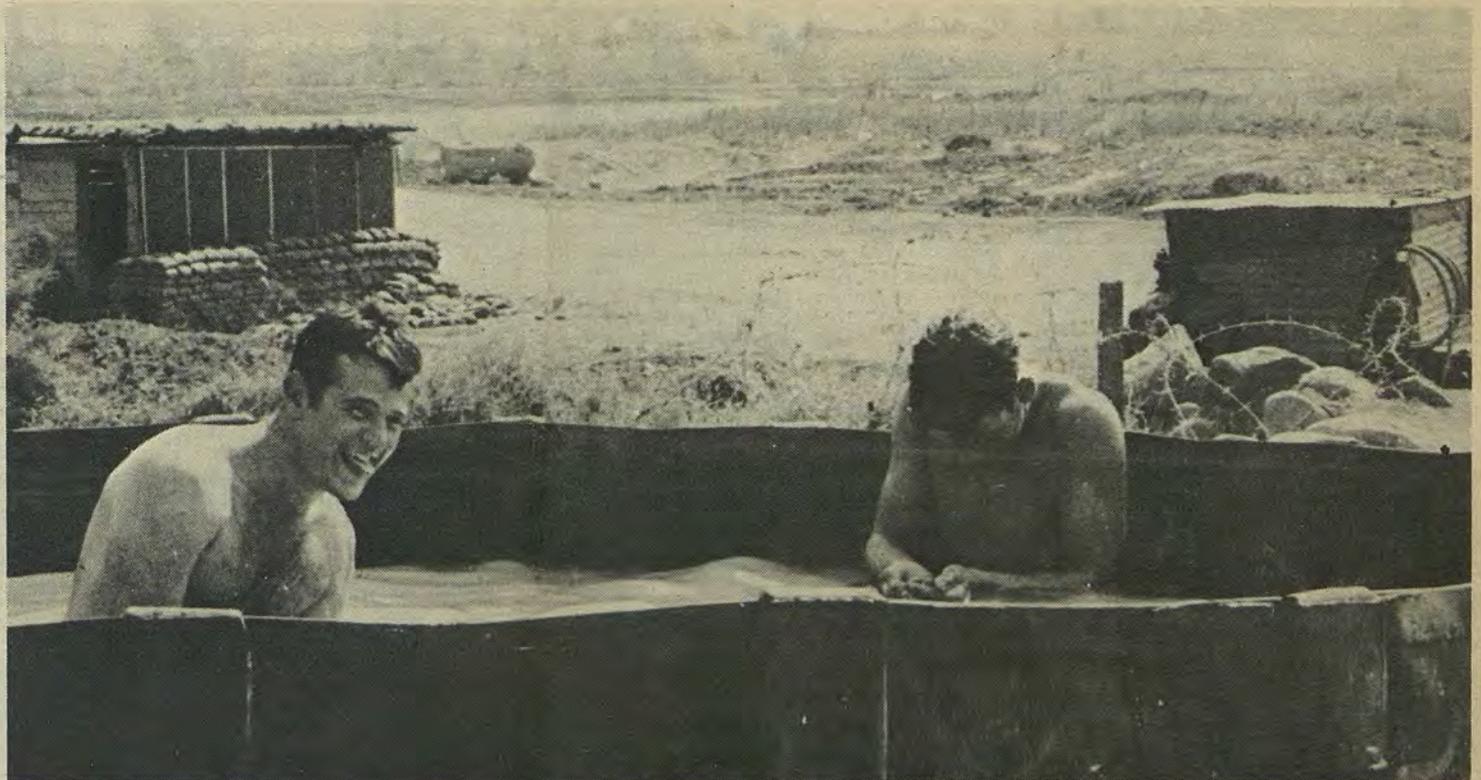
The APO at the time the mail is brought in looks like a scene from "a roller derby without skates." But within the apparent chaos is an order that brings you your mail. The hurried quality is just that. The men need to get all the mail sorted and out of the APO before the next big batch arrives.

Every detail that can speed the processing is considered. A van is left at the Pleiku Airbase, and clerks begin sorting mail as soon as it arrives.

The van saves about four hours each day. The mail used to sit at the airbase until someone could get down to pick it up. Now Ivy postal personnel can start working on it at night, and it's already sorted by the time the truck can get it in the morning.

"Some of the mail that comes in here is sorted as to brigade," explained Captain Gerald F. Meyer, division postal officer. That's a big help to us. Sorting begins in either Washington or the San Francisco APO. We have a liaison man in Cam Rahn Bay, and he makes sure that the mail destined for our APO doesn't stay down there longer than necessary.

"With all that help, there's still plenty of sorting to do once the mail gets in here. We break it down as far as is feasible. Then the unit mail clerks come in and they get it to the individual. The mail destined for the forward areas takes usually a day longer than the service we can give a man here at Camp Enari.



## Old Swimmin' Hole

These soldiers from the 243rd Support Group put "yankee ingenuity" to work to try and make Firebase McNerney a little like those sunny beaches back home. Just like the "old swimmin' hole" the converted 300-gallon container provides some recreation for 4th Division soldiers. (USA Photo By SP4 Mike Cobb)

# Braves Smash Enemy Base Camp...

(Continued From Page 1)

was a cold LZ." The second bird came in and again the Braves jumped off and ran for cover, taking up positions in partially collapsed bunkers and old fighting trenches.

As the second bird flew from the hill, the NVA opened up. Automatic and small arms fire from numerous enemy bunkers kept the Ivymen pinned down and unable to move. The enemy fire was as close as ten feet, but the Alpha Company soldiers began to move.

"Specialist Glenn Meyran moved up to my left, gave me cover fire, and I charged a bunker. When I got as close as I could, I tossed a grenade into the window," said Specialist Kenneth A. Hinchman of Rolling Hills, Calif.

The enemy soldier inside, however, threw the grenade out where it exploded harmlessly. Specialist Hinchman again returned to the bunker and threw in a second grenade.

An explosion rocked the enemy position. Specialist Hinchman moved to the side of the fortification to check it out. Just then, Specialist Meyran of Malverne, N.Y., let loose with his M16, killing an enemy soldier who

was emerging from the smoking bunker.

"At first we thought there was only one NVA in there. Specialist Hinchman got two with his grenade, and I got the other one with my M16," remarked Specialist Meyran.

Enemy fire continued to rake the hill. Nevertheless, a third bird was able to drop more Ivymen into the battle area.

At this point, Major Androsky relayed a message to the soldiers on the ground.

"We were told to move forward in small groups and to try to eliminate the enemy bunkers closest to the LZ. He wanted those bunkers knocked out, so that reinforcements could land and help us," said Private First Class Robert J. Fuller of Swanton, Ohio.

The assault was supported by two scout ships from Alpha Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Scout Platoon.

"There really wasn't much we could do. We came in low, and stayed low. We kept fire on the enemy bunkers. We tried to pin them down so that the guys on the ground could move into better fighting position," said First Lieutenant Mark Holdbrook of Sheboygan, Wis.

M60 fire from the scout ship flown by Warrant Officer Mike

Turner of Casa Grande, Ariz., was credited with three enemy kills.

As the Ivymen moved from their fighting positions, the scout ships flew directly above them, again supporting them with cover fire. The birds hovered 8 to 10 feet above the ground. One by one the enemy bunkers were being knocked out.

As Sergeant Edward E. Chambers of Marlette, Mich., moved toward the southern portion of the landing zone, he received sniper fire. Moving closer and to within range of the enemy position, he threw a grenade which exploded killing the NVA.

Private First Class Robert J. Fuller of Swanton, Ohio, provided the advancing Braves with protective fire from his M60 machine gun keeping the enemy pinned down and unable to return fire.

Specialist 4 William L. Holder of Montpellier, Va., and Private First Class Harlon R. Smallwood of Gainesville, Ga., placed effective machine gun fire on the 51mm anti-aircraft gun, killing its two-man crew.

Sporadic fighting continued as the bunkers surrounding the landing zone were cleared of enemy resistance. Retreating NVA were killed by the circling gunships as they attempted to move off the hill.

## Highlanders' Rangers End NVA Smiles

**HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS** — A Ranger team from the 2nd Brigade wiped the smiles off three North Vietnamese Army soldiers when they caught them off guard in the Highlands west of Polei Kleng.

The team had just stopped near a stream to check for a possible infiltration route when they heard the snap of a twig indicating they weren't the only ones in the area.

Taking cover in a clump of overgrowth between two trails the team managed to stay undiscovered.

As the lead NVA soldier reached the fork the Rangers could see there were two other men about five meters behind him.

The point man, wearing fatigues and web gear, walked out of sight behind a thicket of bamboo ten meters from the team. The Rangers thought the NVA had spotted them and would come back.

"Our fears were soon answered as one of them appeared right on our side," said Specialist 4 Noble Taylor of Pearsall, Texas.

"When he suddenly made a move in the other direction I opened fire and hit him," continued Specialist Taylor.

The other two NVA took off running before the Rangers could turn their fire on them.

"We grabbed the web gear and an AK47 which had been dropped about 10 feet from us," said Specialist 4 Stephen Lockhard of Philadelphia, "and took off for a landing zone."

A LIVING MEMORIAL IVY DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE		TOTAL: \$192,751.03 AS OF: 8 MAR 69				
	1ST BDE	2ND BDE	3RD BDE	DIVARTY	DISCOM	INTROPS
\$0,000						
\$5,000						
\$10,000						
\$15,000						
\$20,000						
\$25,000						
\$30,000						
\$35,000						
\$40,000						
\$45,000						
\$50,000						

## Have You Given?

**CAMP ENARI**—With the top three contenders yet to turn in their February payday contributions, the 4th Infantry Division's Scholarship Fund has made a big push toward that \$200,000 mark. The grand total now stands at \$192,751.03.

Again standing alone as "king of the hill" is the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, with a total of \$16,460.95. The Braves have never been headed since the inception of the fund.

The 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry remains a strong second with contributions totaling \$13,116.40. If the Cavmen continue to gain ground on the leaders, as they have in recent months, the fund could see a new leader shortly.

Third place still belongs to the 124th Signal Battalion with \$10,926.95, ahead of the 704th Maintenance Battalion and their \$10,430.80.

The Scholarship Fund has been a tremendous success, but your continued generosity is needed. Your contribution will help insure that all children of fallen Ivymen receive this most worthwhile gift—a \$1,500 college scholarship. Support the 4th Division Scholarship Fund, and "take care of your own."

## Mail The IVY LEAF Home

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAGE

3rd Class 4 cents

Air Mail 10 cents

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

Fold paper three times and secure edges with staple or tape before mailing. Does not meet requirements for "free" mail.