

3rd Brigade, ARVN Rangers Continue Junction City



I V Y L E A F

FAMOUS FOURTH

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WELCOME TO DRAGON MOUNTAIN

Former U.S. Vice President Richard M. Nixon is officially welcomed to the 4th Infantry Division's Dragon Mountain base camp by Brigadier General Charles W. Ryder Jr., left, assistant 4th Division commander. The 1960 Republican presidential nominee received briefings Sunday at Dragon Mountain and at the forward command posts of the Ivy's 1st and 2nd Brigades. Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander, center, escorted Mr. Nixon during the visit. (USA Photo by SSgt. Bill Whitis)

IN HONOR OF AVIATOR

Hensel Army Airfield Dedicated

Dragon Mountain — The 4th Infantry Division's Hensel Army Airfield at the Dragon Mountain base camp was dedicated in a recent ceremony.

The newly completed airfield is named in honor of Warrant Officer Ernest V. Hensel Jr., who was the first Army aviator from the 4th Division killed in Vietnam.

WO Hensel, flying a reconnaissance mission February 17 west of Plei Djereng, was hovering his helicopter low over the jungle canopy to reconnoiter a heavy bomb strike near the Cambodian border.

Methodically and minutely

he searched the bomb craters and surrounding jungle for evidence of destructive effects of the bombs on enemy concentrations and positions.

The mission commander, flying near WO Hensel, called the pilot over to his location to photograph what appeared to be anti-aircraft positions for evidence and analysis.

As WO Hensel began this task, several enemy machine guns located in the area opened up on the chopper. In an effort to maneuver toward cover, the aircraft crashed, killing the aviator.

Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander, remarked at the dedication on the valor and

courage of WO Hensel and then posthumously awarded him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Ivy Aerial Observer Spots 'Illegally' Parked Elephants

Pleiku — First Lieutenant Ronald J. Pollom (Royal Oak, Mich.), an aerial observer from 4th Division Artillery, reported finding an "elephant park" approximately 35 miles southeast of Pleiku last week.

The lieutenant, riding in a fixed-wing observation plane from the 216th Reconnaissance Company during Operation Francis Marion, spotted a man riding an elephant.

The man, upon seeing the airplane, jumped off the

Zone C Operation Enters Third Phase

Saigon — The third phase of Operation Junction City has begun in War Zone C.

A multi-battalion force of the 4th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade and a Army of the Republic of Vietnam Ranger Battalion are now conducting search and destroy missions in the long-time Viet Cong stronghold.

Other units that participated in the first 53 days of Junction City, the largest operation of the war, have returned to their base camps for rest, maintenance and preparation for operations during the rainy season.

Junction City has already deprived the Viet Cong of nearly 3,000 fighting men—2,712 killed, 34 captured, and 139 Hoi Chanh.

During the operation, Ivy men of the 3rd Brigade personally accounted for 631 enemy dead in a single battle. The four-hour clash against the 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment March 21 was the biggest blow dealt the enemy in Junction City.

Friendly troops destroyed or captured—591 weapons, destroyed 190 VC base camps of various sizes and captured large amounts of ammunition and over 800 tons of rice.

Seventh Air Force pilots flew 4,001 direct support sorties in support of the operation and the Army's 1st Aviation Brigade helicopter crews flew 71,485 armed helicopter suppressive fire sorties.

During the first 53 days, U.S. losses were 259 killed and 1,517 wounded.

Junction City was under the operational control of II Field Force Vietnam and Lieutenant General Bruce Palmer Jr., II Field Force commander, has expressed his commendation and admiration in a message to com-

manders of the units that did the fighting.

The units, besides the Ivy's 3rd Brigade, included elements of the 1st, 9th and 25th Infantry Divisions; 173rd Airborne Brigade; 196th Light Infantry Brigade; 12th Aviation Group; 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; 23rd and 54th Artillery Groups; and 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor.

Elements of the 3rd Brigade were the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery; and 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry.

General Palmer, in a letter to Lieutenant General Le Nguyen Khanh, III ARVN Corps commander, praised the important contribution Vietnamese Marine and Ranger Battalions played in the operation.

IN FRANCIS MARION

Ivy men, CIDG Tangle With Enemy Company

Saigon — Two companies of friendly forces made contact with an estimated enemy company Monday morning during Operation Francis Marion.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry of the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade and a Civilian Irregular Defense Group company clashed with the enemy between 8:40 and 10:35 a.m. in an area 34 kilometers southwest of Pleiku City. Air strikes supported the friendly troops.

The action resulted in 12 enemy killed and five U.S. infantrymen killed and 15 wounded.

A search of the battlefield Tuesday located an estimated battalion-size bunker complex. The area contained one SKS rifle, one AK-47 rifle, three rounds of 82mm ammunition, 2,000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, one bag of documents, demolition material, 500 pounds of rice, 30 sets of individual web gear and five medical aid bags.

The fire base of Battery A, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery, located 25 kilometers west of Kontum City in Kontum Province, took eight to 10 rounds of 81mm mortar fire last Friday.

Eleven Americans were wounded in the attack which occurred between 2:45 and 3:15 a.m.

Lieutenant Will Always Remember Infantry Platoon That He Raised

By PFC Richard Newman
Tuy Hoa — An infantry platoon walks the hills of Vietnam always on the alert for the enemy.

The men walk from sunrise to sunset looking, knowing that if they make contact they will kill the enemy and perhaps take casualties in their own ranks. They carry four canteens of water which never seem to hold enough to replace their sweat of the day.

First Lieutenant C. Lee Lockett (Abitene, Tex.), platoon leader of the 1st Platoon, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, first met the men of his platoon in December 1965. He trained them since they first put on Army uniforms at Ft. Lewis, Wash., and walked them through the terrain of Vietnam.

He's a leader whose casual manner makes his men think of him more as a big brother when a task is to be done. Having received a commission in the military police upon graduating from Prairie View A&M in Prairie View, Tex., he began his military career in the infantry.

On March 30 he was released from his infantry position to revert to his basic branch. When he leaves his platoon he will leave an important 15 months of his life behind him.

The 1st Platoon still has 35 of its original members. Most are men who Platoon Sergeant Robert Folt (New Boston, Ohio) first picked up at an Army reception center when they were wearing civilian clothes.

During the platoon's six months in Vietnam, it has killed 76 enemy soldiers while taking only one casualty

in its own ranks. It's a record which makes Lieutenant Lockett particularly proud of the men he trained as infantrymen.

When men live and work together for such a long time, they may well tire of each other. In Vietnam, the cultural shock of living and working under conditions so different from their native environment always tends to cement the relationships of infantrymen facing a common danger.

The platoon leader who leaves his men after 15 months departs with many memories... memories of the men with whom he was so close, yet never closer than his position as an officer could allow.

There will be 35 men who shared the hell of Vietnam with Lieutenant Lockett who he can never forget.

Sergeant Folt, who always knows exactly what to do. Specialist 4 Raymond LeMoyné (Woonsocket, R.I.), his radio operator, who carries the extra weight of his 25-pound radio without ever falling behind or complaining. Specialist LeMoyné jokes about the weight of his radio all the time as the infantry soldier always jokes about the things he finds annoying.

Sergeant James S. Palmer (Detroit) and Sergeant Louis M. Zerilli (Stubeville, Ohio) are two of his squad leaders who started training with everyone else but progressed just a little faster. Lieutenant Lockett won't forget their natural leadership ability and traits which made them stay in positions where others didn't stay long.

Specialist 4 Donald Collier (Chillicothe, Ohio) is a rifle team leader who has killed

20 Viet Cong. The aggressiveness displayed by Specialist Collier since that first day of basic training is something the lieutenant will never forget.

Every platoon has a comedian, a man who somehow manages to be the key to the platoon's morale. Specialist 4 Paul J. Peterson (Detroit) served Lieutenant Lockett's platoon in that role.

On one typically scorching Vietnamese day, the Ivy men were climbing a sheer cliff by hanging on to the vines along its side. Specialist Peterson slipped and cut a finger as he attempted to regain his grip.

When he finally reached the top, a medic began to work on the soldier's finger. He told the lieutenant, "I lost half my blood but I won't drop behind if those big guys can keep on going."

The 1st Platoon grew up in the Army together. Except for Lieutenant Lockett and a few senior noncommissioned officers, the men have been together since their first day in the Army. The tension of war always throws men together and leaves them with memories of experiences and people they can never forget.

This 1st Platoon is like many platoons in the 4th Infantry Division which grew up together. As Lieutenant Lockett leaves his platoon, as other infantrymen leave the sides of the men they faced the enemy with, they know that men who fight together will always stay together in spirit.



Moving

By Chaplain (Capt.) Walter K. Sauer

"Get ready to move" is a familiar phrase which the soldier hears often in Vietnam. Though it is a familiar phrase, it is an unpopular phrase. Many of us have picked up and moved so often that we don't want to move again for a long time.

Moving is not as difficult as it seems. With all the modern equipment we have, the task is much easier. A few days after we have arrived at our new location and have completed our defensive position, we have forgotten about the difficulty of the move.

When we move, we throw away many excessive items. Wash racks, tables, and clothes closets have been built out of ammunition boxes. It is easier to build new ones than it is to move them. Thus, they are discarded and burned.

With all of this preparation we find that moving is much easier than we had anticipated. The Bible instructs us as Christians, "to lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us." In essence we are to take the same action in the Christian life that we take in preparation for making a move.

It is not as difficult to be a Christian as we might think. The secret is to depend more on God and less on self. Our load will be much lighter if we discard the habits which are unbecoming of a Christian.

If we set aside the unnecessary items, our lives will be

much more meaningful and effective and will bring honor and glory to God.

A distinct effort and a disciplined life is necessary to run this Christian race.

Memorial Service Conducted For 3/12th Chaplain

Le Thanh — A memorial service was held recently for Chaplain (Captain) James J. L. Johnson (San Francisco) of Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade who was killed in a plane crash last month.

Chaplain (Major) Paschal M. Jackson (Tacoma, Wash.), 1st Brigade chaplain, conducted the service.

Chaplain Johnson, who has been recommended for a posthumous Bronze Star, was returning from a religious retreat in Seoul when the plane he was riding crashed and burned, killing 25 persons.

He joined the division last April at Ft. Lewis, Wash., and arrived overseas with the 1st Brigade in October and was serving as chaplain of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry.

Chaplain Johnson is survived by his wife, Joyce, and a one-year-old daughter, Irena.

Lt. Col. Holloman Takes Command Of 4th Aviation

Dragon Mountain — Lieutenant Colonel Robert A. Holloman (Springfield, Va.) assumed command of the 4th Aviation Battalion from Lieutenant Colonel William D. McDowell in a recent ceremony at the 4th Division base camp.

Colonel Holloman joins the Ivy Division after serving as S-1 for the 1st Aviation Brigade.

Colonel McDowell, who was presented a Bronze Star for meritorious service by Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander, has been reassigned to the J-3 office of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam in Saigon.



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Ivy Men Receive 19 Packages From 'Operation Friendship'

Dau Tieng — After two solid months in the jungle of War Zone C, the men of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 4th Division were greeted by 19 packages of "goodies" sent to them through "Operation Friendship."

The project was started last November. Mrs. Kenneth Rounsley, a Long Beach, Calif., housewife, wanted to do something for the men in Vietnam.

Realizing that alone she could not accomplish much, she called many of her friends

and within a week, 61 packages of cookies and candy were on the way to a Marine unit in Vietnam.

Since that time, some 64 other packages have been sent to troops throughout the combat zone.

In the letter which accompanied the packages sent to the 3rd Brigade, Mrs. Rounsley said, "The number of packages is small but I'm determined to have this project grow, and I know it will. The packages that have been sent convey heart-felt gratitude for what you men are doing..."

Old Home Guards Now Serving With Ivy's 3rd Brigade

By Sp4 Gary M. Silva

Dau Tieng— About four weeks ago a number of Ivy-men from the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division were standing guard over President Kennedy's grave, others were riding coal-black horses in solemn military funerals.

Some stood at the site of the Unknown Soldier in the serenity of Arlington National Cemetery nestled on the ground of Robert E. Lee's mansion in Virginia.

These men were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry, the Old Home Guards.

Called the "Buff Sticks" because of their flawless spit and polish appearance, the Old Guard accompanied President Johnson to his private airplane when he departed for his recent trip to South East Asia.

The men are all hand picked and must be over 5 feet, 10 inches tall, but not more than 6 feet, 3 inches in height.

Each "Buff Stick" must not weigh more than 200 pounds, must be a high school graduate, have obtained a general aptitude test score of 110 or better and be mature, mentally alert and spotless in his appearance.

Private First Class Larry D. Daley (Memphis) was an Old Guard, and now he's an infantryman with the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry.

Private First Class Gary M. Brixen (Ossee, Wis.) was also an Old Guard and is now with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, the infantry unit which took the blunt of a recent human wave attack by the rugged 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment.

Private First Class William

1/8th Fire Team Leader Serves As Enlisted Aide

Dragon Mountain— Corporal Jeffrey C. Barker (Columbus, Ohio) is serving as this week's enlisted aide for Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander.

Corporal Barker, a fire team leader from Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, is the eighth soldier to be selected for the honor.

D. Walker (Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.) was once a "Buff Stick" and is now a clerk in the 3rd Brigade's S-5 section.

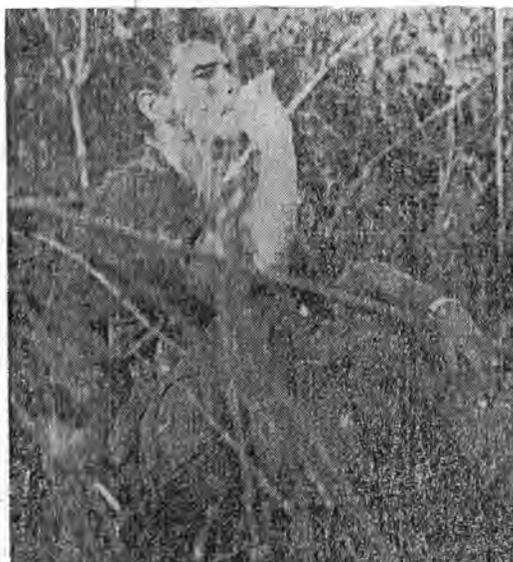
"The 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry is the oldest infantry unit in the United States," PFC Walker said. "It has 39 battle streamers just from the Indian War to World War I."

Working mostly in the Washington, D.C. area, the Old Home Guards is the only unit authorized horses. They supply caissons with animals for all dignitaries arriving at the nation's capitol.

"The size of the parade was determined by the importance of the visitor," PFC Walker said.

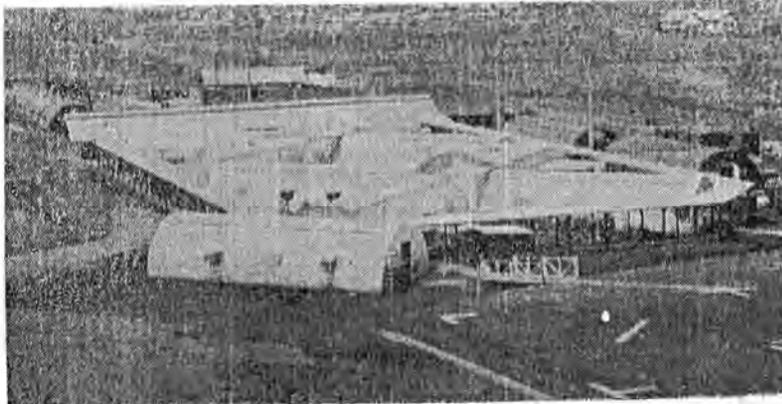
The unit is also a combat ready battalion—a full company was levied by the Department of the Army and now the men are scattered through Vietnam.

Other Old Guards now with the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division are Private First Class Russell J. Enlow (Oak Lawn, Ill.), Specialist 4 George Owens (Nebraska), Private First Class Morgan Dudley Jr. (Kansas City, Mo.), Private First Class Edward Ford (Washington D.C.), Private First Class Robert E. Tyler (Alexandria, Va.), and Private First Class Alvin D. Fisch (Wayne, N.J.).



ONE LAST PUFF

Specialist 4 Rich Elam (Los Angeles) enjoys a cigarette during a break in the jungle. His unit, the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, is hunting Charlie in Operation Francis Marion being conducted by the Ivy Division. (USA Photo by Sp4 Rich Obermayer)



A LIFESAVER—The sprawling complex of the 18th Surgical Hospital near Pleiku houses some of the most modern equipment and highly trained personnel in the Republic of Vietnam. The hospital has proven a life-saving stop for many troops wounded in combat operations in the Central Highlands. (USA Photo by Sp4 Mick Harsell)

IN SUPPORT OF IVYMEN

Pleiku's 18th Surgical Hospital One Of Best, Busiest In Vietnam

By PFC Bob Boudreaux

Pleiku— Of all the morale factors in this "funny kind of war," the most important is probably the knowledge that if a soldier is wounded he is minutes away from the best medical treatment.

The 18th Surgical Hospital at Pleiku, the only hospital in the Central Highlands, has proven itself one of the best if not the busiest in Vietnam.

Its staff of 33 officers and 86 enlisted men handles an average of 660 patients a month and in five months, according to Captain Oscar R. Valerio (San Juan, P.R.), a surgeon, "has done more

work than any other hospital in Vietnam."

The medical complex has provided aid for many units, including the 4th Division; 25th Division; 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division; and Special Forces.

"We were alerted for overseas duty at Ft. Gordon, Ga., in January 1966," said Lieutenant Colonel Mark Cenac, hospital director, "and by June 25 we were operating in the Central Highlands. Arriving at the beginning of the monsoons did present a few problems, but these were mechanical and were quickly remedied."

The hospital staff works around the clock, tending recuperating patients and remaining prepared for the emergency call of the Army's medevac "dust-off" choppers.

Once a call is received, the surgical teams standby ready to save the lives of wounded troops.

"From the time the 'dust-off' chopper touches our pad," commented Colonel Cenac, "until actual surgery, takes a maximum of 15 minutes."

The hospital's operational area comprising three surgical wards and medical holding wards is limited. Therefore, convalescing patients are evacuated to other medical facilities at Qui Nhon or Cam Ranh Bay for further treatment.

Sergeant Robert H. McCarron (Alliance, Ohio), 4th Division liaison official and my guide through the recovery and convalescent ward, elaborated from the patients point of view.

"When a man arrives here on a 'dust-off,' he has usually been evacuated from the darkness of the highland

jungle. Suddenly he is brought into a room of bright lights and hurrying people. The abrupt change, coupled with the wound, can be traumatic. But, the confidence of knowing that he is in good hands can probably never be expressed."

The Ivy sergeant is responsible for aiding the hospital staff in the convalescent stage of the operation. "I make sure that the patient gets such materials as mail, books, and other reading material, plus anything else that can speed his recovery."

"It works both ways," said Colonel Cenac. "We can't express the gratification of seeing our patients recuperate. They are a heck of a group of young men."

Five Cavalymen Instruct Vietnamese Mortar Squad

Phu Nhon—Five members of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry recently instructed a Vietnamese mortar squad in the basic fundamentals of firing the 4.2-inch mortar.

The cavalymen-turned-instructors—all from the mortar squad of the 1st Platoon, Troop B—were Sergeant Leonard R. Kennedy, squad leader; Specialist 4 Daniel G. Prado, gunner; Private First Class Larry J. Keyser, assistant gunner; Private First Class Thomas W. Moody, ammo bearer; and Specialist 4 John F. McElmeel, armored personnel carrier driver.

To Appear

Dragon Mountain— Dale Robertson, star of the television series "Tales of Wells Fargo," will appear in a variety show April 27 at 2 p.m. at the 4th Division's Ivy Bowl at Dragon Mountain.

'Braves' Help Liberate Phu Yen Province

By PFC Richard Newman

Tuy Hoa— There are no simple missions in Vietnam, only those which do not seem complex.

The field soldier rarely gets the chance to see the multiple phases of planning which move the fighting man around the countryside as though he were a pawn in a chess game. That's why some missions do not "seem" complex.

The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry was the last element of the 4th Division's 1st Brigade to remain in Phu Yen Province conducting a search and destroy mission known as Operation Adams.

The operation rarely got the publicity of heavy battle because there was rarely any contact with large enemy forces. Yet, the 3/12th worked throughout the mission with the spirit and flare reflected in the battalion's motto "Braves Always First."

"The overall mission of the U.S. Forces in Vietnam is to help build a free nation. A democratic nation requires strong willed, free citizens at its foundation. American soldiers working with Vietnamese soldiers at their side is one way to build confidence in the Vietnamese soldiers themselves and the Vietnamese in their fighting men," explained Lieutenant Colonel David M. Peters, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry commander.

In 1966 the Viet Cong controlled practically all of

Phu Yen Province with a well-entrenched government of their own. Operation Adams was aimed at keeping the VC running while the Vietnamese were able to rout the Communist infrastructure.

Since late October, the "Braves" worked side by side with Vietnamese forces on more than 20 operations. They worked with a Vietnamese intelligence platoon, counter-terrorist teams, three Civilian Irregular Defense Group companies, six regional forces companies, five Army of the Republic of Vietnam companies and an entire battalion of the 47th ARVN Regiment in integrated or joint operations.

As the men fought the dust, rain, cold, insects and heat of Vietnam, they were keeping the enemy on the run. They were supporting 29 Revolutionary Development teams in Phu Yen Province.

As the teams carried out the Government of Vietnam's plan to build a nation, the "Braves" helped liberate the people from the VC at the grass roots by taking a military offensive while also establishing and maintaining security.

Ten tons of rice will feed an enemy regiment of about 3,000 people for one month. The "Braves" captured more than 60 tons of VC rice...a regiment's supply for six months.

They provided security for

rice fields in Tuy An District so the district's refugees could come in and harvest the rice before it fell into enemy hands. Rice Bowl I and II, as the missions were called, kept more than 125 tons of rice from the enemy and saved the Government of Vietnam the cost of supporting the refugees who harvested the rice for themselves.

When two battalions of the 1st Brigade, 4th Division left the province, the 3/12th inherited the responsibility of Phu Yen Province and Operation Adams as the major unit of Task Force Ivy.

During Operation Adams the "Braves" had more than 300 minor contacts with the enemy.

During Task Force Ivy's conduction of Operation Adams, the "Braves" had to rely on their helicopters' support more than ever. They had an entire province to protect with swift - reaction Eagle flights.

The "Braves" probably will never remember that their tactical operations post moved eight times during Operation Adams. They'll never remember the names of the scout dogs that went out with their patrols.

They'll always remember the fighting they did up and down the hills of Phu Yen. They'll always remember the monsoon...when their greatest pleasure was simply a pair of dry socks.



RICE GUARD—A lone "Brave" from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry watches over one of the many rice fields guarded by Ivymen during the rice harvest protection phases of Operation Adams. The infantrymen secured the fields while refugees in Tuy An District came in and picked the grains. (USA Photo by PFC Richard Newman)



HUNGRY?—Specialist 5 Tommy Taylor (Fort Worth, Tex.) dishes out spaghetti to hungry Vietnamese villagers. Earlier in the day Company B, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry surrounded the village and evacuated it of all occupants for questioning as part of Operation Adams. (USA Photo by Sp4 Ronald Sato, 124th Signal Bn)



PLANNING—Lieutenant Colonel David M. Peters, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry commander, confers with a district chief about joint operations in Phu Yen Province. (USA Photo by Sp4 Ronald Sato, 124th Signal Bn)



LOOK WHAT I FOUND

Emerging from a Viet Cong weapons cache, Sergeant Honesto F. Misola, a member of the Ivy Division's 3rd Brigade, brings out two VC rifles. (USA Photo by Lt. Ralph F. Campbell)

VC Leads 2/12th Troops To Rice Storage Area

Dau Tieng — Charlie lost 40 tons of rice and one and a half tons of beans to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry by accidentally leading a company into the storage area.

Company A, 2/12th was conducting sweeping operations about seven miles from its permanent base camp at Dau Tieng, when the Ivy-men flushed out a frightened Viet Cong who began to flee down a trail.

He led his pursuers to a well-built base camp and in the ensuing fire fight was killed.

In the base camp, Company A found several permanent buildings including a large assembly building with a tin roof and benches in a classroom arrangement. Searchers uncovered eight bicycles and captured one weapon.

The following morning, a lone VC was sighted by part of the Reconnaissance Platoon running away from the base camp. The enemy soldier took cover and was killed in a

brief exchange of fire.

Upon investigation of the area, searchers found a raised platform containing about 80 100-pound sacks of polished rice, carefully camouflaged and covered with a waterproof sheet of plastic.

An all-day search netted 15 more similar caches, containing 80 to 90 more sacks, and a stack of a ton and a half of beans.

The rice was evacuated by helicopter and armored personnel carriers the next day.

Task Force Farina Improves Road To Cambodian Border

Le Thanh — Task Force Farina recently completed the mission of improving a road to the Cambodian border.

The job involved widening the existing road, which was overgrown with vegetation and filled with craters created by artillery rounds, and making it passable for all types of traffic.

The task force, named after Major Richard D. Farina (Hartford, Conn.), its commander, was composed of Company A, 4th Engineer Battalion; Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry; 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor; and the Mortar Platoon from the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

While no contact was made during the three-day operation, there was considerable evidence that the enemy was operating in the area.

One engineer truck was lost to a mine and a bulldozer damaged by another. Several other mines and trip grenades were detected and destroyed.

As the infantry, tanks and engineers moved forward they were supported by the mortars which would advance as necessary.

Early on the last morning of the operation, the enemy pulled a new trick when he used a gas-type agent to harass the mortar position which was located at a

Civilian Irregular Defense Group outpost.

The security for the task force was provided by Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, commanded by Captain James Powers (Dubuque, Iowa), and the 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, commanded by First Lieutenant William R. Nicholas (Berkley, Mich.).

Company A, 4th Engineer Battalion, commanded by Captain John Knutzen (Federal Way, Wash.), used

three bulldozers to construct the "super highway."

The bulldozers, driven by Specialist 5 Richard Phelps (Montgomery, Ala.), Specialist 4 Russus Wilkins (Poplar, Mont.), and Private First Class Semon Agalotis (Waukena, Ore.), worked from first light to late in the evening in order to complete the road in three days.

The engineers were able to move forward as rapidly as the mine sweep team could clear the area.

'Duster' Platoon Joins 6/29th At Jackson's Hole

By Capt. Roderick Hargo

Le Thanh — "The Arsenal at Jackson's Hole" may resemble the title of a Grade "B" western; however, it refers to the weapons available to the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery at its new location in support of the 1st Brigade, 4th Division.

The newest unit to join the 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery is the 2nd Platoon, Battery D, 4th Battalion (Automatic Weapons), 60th Artillery.

This "duster" unit has eight twin-40mm guns mounted on full-track chassis. Each 49,500-pound track is capable of firing 240 five-pound projectiles a minute. The platoon, commanded

by Second Lieutenant Harold E. Hein (Somerville, Mass.), came to Vietnam from Ft. Bliss, Tex., in March.

Platoon Sergeant Charles E. Hennen (Dunbar, Pa.) has been with the platoon since it started training for Vietnam at Ft. Bliss in September 1966. He took the platoon through basic and advance unit training cycles.

At Jackson's Hole the "dusters" are providing perimeter security and close-in ground support for the infantry.

Attached to the platoon are two M55 Quad-50's mounted on 2½-ton trucks. Each truck has four .50-caliber machine guns mounted on a rotary turret which enables it to traverse 360 degrees. The four-man crew on each truck can fire from 450 to 555 rounds per minute per barrel, or about 2,200 rounds per minute.

The "dusters" and Quad-50's with their intense firepower represent a portion of the fire support available to the 1st Brigade. Located throughout the area of operations are eight other firing batteries, ranging the spectrum of the artillery inventory — 105mm's, 155mm's and 8-inch howitzers and 175mm guns.

Theoretically, if all the weapons engaged one target at the same time, the brigade could put almost two tons of steel on the target.

Small wonder that Lieutenant Colonel Elritt N. Nettles, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery commander, can lay claim to controlling the "Arsenal at Jackson's Hole."

New 1/12th Chaplain

Kontum — Chaplain (Captain) Huel E. May (Robbinsville, N.C.) is now serving as chaplain for the 4th Division's 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.



A LITTLE HELP

A radio-telephone operator for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry appreciates a little help in getting him and his 60-pound load off the ground. Company C was on a village search during Operation Pershing in Binh Dinh Province. (USA Photo by Lt. Peter J. Wascher)



1/35th Platoon Leader Receives Silver Star

Bong Son — Lieutenant Ronald G. Davis (Norfolk, Va.), a platoon leader in Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, has been awarded the Silver Star.

Lieutenant Davis was cited for his actions when his reconnaissance patrol from Company A ran into a Viet

Cong force armed with automatic weapons February 14.

With several of his men wounded in the initial contact, Lieutenant Davis immediately maneuvered forward until he positioned himself in front of the fallen soldiers.

While exposed to enemy automatic weapons fire, he delivered a base of fire that kept the enemy pinned down long enough to allow the wounded to be evacuated.

When almost out of ammunition, he maneuvered his way back for more ammo, stopping only to fire back at the enemy and keep them off balance. Again he advanced forward and was able to drag more wounded troops to safety.



WALKING ALONG — A member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry smirks as he thinks private thoughts during another hard day of patrolling. (USA Photo by Sp4 John Rolfe)

Lt. Col. Bender Bids Farewell To Men Of 3/22nd

Dau Tieng — The guidon had been passed and Lieutenant Colonel John A. Bender, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry commander, moved to the microphone to say good-bye to the men he had been with since their basic training at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

"Men," he said slowly, "you're the best there is and the best there's going to be. You've done an outstanding job."

The battalion, supported by the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery, had only days earlier repelled a human wave attack by the 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment.

Succeeding Colonel Bender was Lieutenant Colonel James E. Hillmar, former 3rd Brigade executive officer.

Colonel Bender is now serving as 3rd Brigade executive officer.



AIRFIELD SIGN UNVEILED

Three members of the 4th Division unveil sign at Hensel Army Airfield during ceremonies dedicating the field to Warrant Officer Ernest V. Hensel Jr., the division's first aviator killed in Vietnam. Uncovering the sign are, from left, Lieutenant Colonel William D. McDowell, former 4th Aviation Battalion commander; Lieutenant Colonel Robert A. Holloman, 4th Aviation commander; and Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander. (USA Photo by SSgt Bill Whitis)

1/69TH'S AMAZING VEHICLE

Tank Nears 8,000-Mile Mark

By Lt. Paul Armstrong Dragon Mountain — Would you believe, 7,138 miles on the original power pack and still going strong? Maybe even 8,000 miles by the time you read this article.

The "amazing tank" arrived in Vietnam in February 1966 with the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor.

Captain William A. Fitzgerald (Long Island, N.Y.), Company B commander, is the proud tank commander of B6 and has nothing but praise for the crew and his company maintenance section.

Bravo 6 has never been touched by mechanics above battalion level and only then for quarterly service.

The accepted maximum life of a tank engine in Viet-

nam is 3000 miles and B6 is about to triple that. It has its fourth set of tracks on now.

The crew that the continuing success of B6 can be attributed to includes Sergeant

Glenn A. Grubb (Everett, Pa.), Private First Class David L. Keith (Baltimore), Private First Class Fred J. Hackett (Hillsborough, Calif.), and Private First Class Nicholas L. Rostanzo (Cornwall, N.Y.).

Division Boxers To Enter USARV Tourney In Saigon

Dragon Mountain — Members of the 4th Division boxing team will travel to Saigon April 28 to participate in the U.S. Army Vietnam Invitational Boxing Smoker.

Ivy team members include Private First Class Donald R. Wells (Alexandria, La.) and Private First Class Rufus H. Reddick (Cleveland), both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Band, Support Command; Staff Sergeant Albert Coney (Detroit), Battery C, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery;

Sergeant Robert L. Sampson (Richmond, Calif.), Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry; and Private First Class Robert D. Turner, (Huntington, W. Va.), Headquarters Company, 1/22nd.

First Lieutenant Dennis Abreu (Vallejo, Calif.), division sports officer and team coach, encourages anyone in the division who has had boxing experience to try out for the squad. Lieutenant Abreu can be contacted at the division's special services office for further information.



GETTING READY

Howitzer shells are stacked by these 4th Division artillerymen in preparation for their next fire mission. The artillerymen are operating from the forward fire base of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry west of Pleiku. (USA Photo by Sp4 Rich Obermaier)

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