

From The Desk of

the
Commanding General



R&R Policy

EVERY SOLDIER and Department of the Army civilian serving with 4th Division is given the opportunity to take an out-of-country R&R. This program was established to give persons serving in the Republic of Vietnam a welcome vacation in the midst of their tour of duty.

Our Division receives quotas for each of the R&R locations. It is my wish that everyone be able to visit the spot of his choice. It is not always possible, however, to go where you would like on the date of your choice. When the quotas for one place are filled a person must do one of three things; choose another location, have his name placed on stand-by for the location of his choice, or wait another month. Of course, should there be no vacancy then, an individual on stand-by may have his name placed on the following month's list. I think it is only fair to all that the man with the most time in country be given preference when quotas are filled.

Those of you desiring to meet your wife or family in Hawaii are finding that the demand is greater than the number of quotas, therefore it may be necessary to wait longer than the ideal six months before you have sufficient priority. It appears, however, that these difficulties haven't discouraged too many in the past.

As many of you know, you are given the opportunity of taking a second R&R by extending your Vietnam tour for 90 days or more. Priority for booking is determined from the date of your last R&R, or if none has been taken, from the date you entered Vietnam.

There is also the in-country R&R program. This program was created for the enlisted man and junior officer living under the adversity of combat conditions. I have recently directed that all in-country R&R quotas received in this division will be reserved exclusively for Ivymen experiencing the rigors of combat.

Accordingly, since March 15 all in-country R&R quotas have been allocated solely to combat units, with the specific provision that they be used by personnel performing duty in forward areas of the combat units concerned, not in their base areas. I wish to achieve maximum benefit from our allocations for Vung Tau, and I feel this can best be accomplished by sending only those who are most in need of a rest.

This in no way implies that support personnel and their efforts are not appreciated. I fully recognize their job to be vital to the entire operation. However, our combat soldiers serving in forward areas seldom enjoy the comforts of duty in division or brigade base camps and should be given every chance to enjoy this respite from combat.

These R&R programs have been afforded to Americans serving in Vietnam by our government as a token of thanks for what is being done here. None are any more deserving than the soldiers and civilians serving in or with the 4th Infantry Division. I intend that every provision will be made to insure that they receive this opportunity to relax.

Charles P. Stone

IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH



(Circulation 8,000)

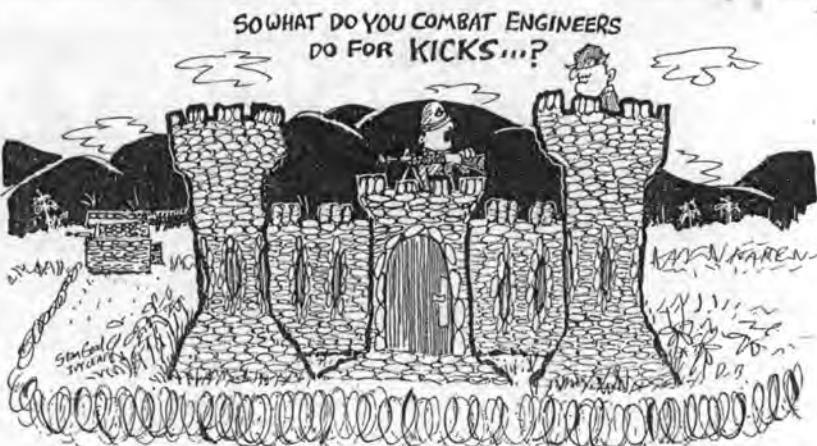
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In Scattered Contacts

US/ARVN Units Kill Over 100 Foe

Ivy and Vietnamese soldiers killed over 60 enemy troops as fighting dwindled to light and

scattered contacts in the Central Highlands.

Cobra gunships of 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile) cut loose on a 12-bunker enemy position 25 miles northwest of Ban Me Thuot. Three enemy soldiers were killed in the action before the 4th Division gunships were forced to leave for refueling.

The Caeti Blue of 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry found three enemy bodies about two miles northwest of the Due Lap Special Forces Camp, in an area which had been the scene of heavy fighting for nearly a month.

The Ivymen found four more enemy bodies later near the same area. Also found were: three SKS rifles, a 60mm mortar, and assorted ammunition.

A Plei Mrong Camp Strike Force (CSF) reported killing seven NVA about four miles

northwest of their base camp. And another NVA soldier was killed by the Plei Me CSF northwest of their camp and his AK47 captured. A sweep of the contact area later revealed nine more bodies and several documents.

Two more NVA bodies were found by the Ivymen of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry about six miles northwest of Plei Mrong. The enemy soldiers had been killed in a fight a day before by the Plei Mrong CSF.

Camp Enari, 4th Division's base camp in the Central Highlands received several probes on their perimeter this week. Perimeter guards responded to the small arms and mortar and artillery fire.

In other action, the 3rd ARVN Cavalry reported killing 25 NVA troops along Highway 14, seven miles north of Plei Ku. The enemy soldiers fled 10 minutes after the fighting broke out, but the cavalrymen caught up with them several hours later.

Scholar Fund Contributions

CAMP ENARI — Donations to the 4th Division Scholar Fund were near the \$60,000 mark after last payday's donations.

Led by the 1st Brigade with contributions totaling \$12,991.32, the Division's total contributions had risen to \$57,578.61 by September 18.

The initial goal is \$150,000 for scholarships which will be given to the eldest child of each Ivymen killed in action—and awarded the Purple Heart.

The 3rd Battalion, 12th Infan-

try, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Jamie R. Hendrix of Meder, Ga., leads all units in contributions with \$7,424.

The 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Donald W. Moreau, is second with \$3,022.

The 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery, 704th Maintenance Battalion, 124th Signal Battalion and 4th Engineer Battalion have each contributed over \$2,000.

The payday collections will be made each month until the 4th Division leaves Vietnam.

Keep the Lamp Burning With Your Contributions!



IVY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PSYOPS Teams Combat NVA With Paper

By SP4 Jeffrey Tarter

DAK TO — Somewhere in the jungles of the Central Highlands an NVA corporal saw a scrap of paper on the ground, stooped to pick it up, and thought over what it promised him.

Later, an airplane overhead broadcasts the voice of one of his comrades, who invited the NVA to lay down their arms and switch sides.

The decision was agonizingly difficult. The offers might be a trap. The penalty for desperation was serious.

But Corporal Le Hung finally bid his rifle and walked into a firebase of the 1st Brigade at Dak Seang.

The information he brought with him about the NVA's strength and intentions provided

the 4th Division with vital clues about their elusive enemy.

For the men who fight a little-known paper war of leaflets and loudspeakers, it was another victory.

According to Captain Gary A. Olsen of Niles, Ill., assistant civil affairs officer, nearly every day in the 4th Division's area of operations several million leaflets are dropped on NVA-occupied areas — 10,000 for every thousand square meters of land.

The 1st Brigade, he adds, drops roughly twice as many leaflets as the other brigades.

In addition, a roving Psychological Operations team visits firebases when enemy troops are thought to be nearby, and broadcasts messages to them

over portable loud speakers. The messages of the leaflets range from dire threats of death from B52 bombers to descriptions of the good life under the South Vietnamese government.

"Binh Minh," an illustrated newspaper, reports straight news about world events, the progress of the war, the peace talks — and NVA casualties.

Appeals from members of units operating around Dak To are frequently used to persuade members of these same units to rally to the South Vietnamese side.

"This," Captain Olsen says, "probably goes over biggest with the NVA."

Deficiencies of NVA training and tactics are the targets of other leaflets.

"You were betrayed," declares a message addressed to the survivors of an attack on Kontum during Tet. "The (NVA) soldiers were left exposed and those that could not withdraw died in Kontum."

One of the grimdest appeals simply says: "If you cannot rally to the Government of South Vietnam, please fill out this card and carry it on your body at all times. We will make every effort to notify your family of your death and place of burial through the International Red Cross."

One measure of the paper war's effectiveness, Captain Olsen points out, is the NVA's efforts to keep their men from picking up and reading American propaganda.

But the NVA cadre are un-

able to watch their men all the time, and could not keep them from hearing the loudspeakers broadcasting from planes and firebases.

The mass of paper scattered over the NVA has proven to be one of the cheapest ways to thin the enemy's ranks, according to U.S. Army sources. While it takes thousands of dollars worth of conventional arms and equipment to kill an NVA, the average cost of a "returnee" under the Chieu Hoi program is only \$369.

And there are no American lives lost fighting this war. In fact, because many of the NVA and VC who come over join ARVN units or work as Kit Carson scouts, most of these paper victories actually add to Allied strength.

PMO Declares War On Black Marketing

CAMP ENARI — Lieutenant Colonel Donald M. Russell of Phoenix, Ariz., 4th Division Provost Marshal, is conducting his own war on crime.

The target is Pleiku's black market. And initial indications are that he is going to win.

Since September 1st, Division Military Police have been conducting a thorough search of all vehicles passing Camp Enari's north gate on the way to Pleiku.

"We have just about sealed off the supply for black market sales," Colonel Russell said. "The biggest problem the MPs have had is the recovery of stolen goods. It is almost impossible to catch a barracks thief, but since we began this search program we have not had one report of theft at Camp Enari."

"People know," he continued, "if they steal something from the barracks, they will not be able to get it off post and into the black market."

At the checkpoint, MPs stop approximately 15 drivers an hour for an inspection of their operator's permit, dispatch,

and vehicle. Nothing is overlooked. Seats, truck bed and battery boxes are all searched thoroughly.

Any excess of PX or supply goods must be listed on the driver's dispatch. If not, he can look forward to a visit with the Provost Marshal's Office.

If all documents and the vehicle are found to be in order, the driver is sent on his way again.

Also adding to the drop in black market activity are the "population control" units of the Military Police. These patrols consist of two men—one Ivy and one ARVN MP—who have jurisdiction to stop any vehicle, ARVN, U.S. military or Vietnamese civilian.

They conduct a complete search of the vehicle with emphasis on possession of American goods by Vietnamese nationals. In a given day, one of these units will confiscate an average of four cases of C-rations, several cartons of cigarettes and many other illegally obtained items.

The black marketer can not be stopped but his activity has been severely hampered by Colonel Russell, his staff and the Military Police.

The search program has proved to be a big weapon in the Provost Marshal's arsenal.



WITHDRAWAL TECHNIQUE—Soldiers of the 4th Division demonstrate the firing techniques for a tactical withdrawal during a training session of the Division's Long Range Patrol (LRP) School at Pleiku, Vietnam. (USA Photo By SP4 Larry White)

LRPs Train For Jungle

By SP4 Larry White

OASIS — The eyes and ears of infantry all over Vietnam are small bands of men known as Long Range Patrol (LRP) teams. Their job is to find the enemy's location, determine his strength, and return with the vital information.

One of the main jobs of a LRP mission is moving in the jungle unnoticed. If a LRP patrol is spotted, it is almost always outnumbered. The

men's lives are in their own hands. What they do or don't do is the difference between life or death.

"One important thing to remember about the LRPs," said First Lieutenant Douglas Flanagan of Brooklyn, N.Y., commander of the 3rd Brigade LRP team, "is that they are all volunteers. They show great patriotism as well as a sense of moral responsibility."

To become a member of a Long Range Patrol team, candidates must undergo numerous phases of training. One of many schools for such training is the 4th Division LRP school at Pleiku.

The school lasts for a week. The men undergo training on VC and NVA weapons, communication and forward air control procedures, and immediate action drills.

After completion of the 4th Division LRP school, the top five men are sent to the Recondo School at Nha Trang for advanced training in special techniques.

Training in Nha Trang is similar to, but more daring than the 4th Division school. The major difference is extraction methods, which consist, for the most part, of hanging from a chopper 1,500 feet in the air.

For Iyvmen attending the two week school at Nha Trang, the day begins at 4:30 a.m. with physical training (PT), including a two to six mile run. Following PT the men attend classes which include map reading, arm and hand signals,

and military symbols.

Another phase of the training is the confidence course. The candidates have to climb a rope ladder to the top of a 40-foot tower.

"The most interesting part of the training," said Private First Class Garry Schaad of Pendleton, Ore., "is how they teach you to do so much with so little. For instance, making an antenna out of bamboo. With that antenna you can pick up anyone within three miles."

One of the favorite classes is swimming and water infiltration techniques. The men are taught different swimming strokes and numerous methods of crossing rivers and streams without being seen by the enemy.

When a river is too rough or wide, the men are taught to build rafts out of straw, bamboo poles and a poncho.

Possibly the hardest aspect of training concerns methods of infiltration and exfiltration. The men are taught the quickest and safest ways of loading and unloading from a helicopters with a 30-pound pack on their backs.

The last few days of school are spent in the jungle. The men are sent on practice patrols and subjected to many different situations. They are tested on everything they have learned.

As the last day of training ends, the men wait to be sent back to their units. In a few days, most of them will be going into the jungles again, but this time it will be for real.

Gunships Bring Aid

Long Night, Short Battle Kills 5 NVA

DAK TO — A long range patrol (LRP) team from the 1st Brigade discovered an abandoned fire base can be a popular meeting site for the NVA.

The team was assigned the mission of observing enemy activity in the vicinity of the fire base, abandoned for some time. They set up their observation post adjacent to a path leading to the base.

As night approached, so did a recon patrol of North Vietnamese soldiers.

"All night we heard them," said Specialist 4 William Carr of Niagara Falls, N.Y. "They couldn't have been more than 20 feet from us at any one time. And, they were probing the area with rifle fire. That worried me most."

The LRP team survived the AK47 bullets, as well as detection by flashlight, and decided to form a small perimeter before

morning light gave their position away.

As the new day progressed, more NVA soldiers were heard moving into the area. Apparently the recon patrol was satisfied the fire base was deserted and would make an excellent campsite.

"We heard them making their way through the dense undergrowth," related Specialist Carr. "By the amount of noise they were making we knew they constituted a fairly large force and our small perimeter was worthless against them. Instead of engaging them, we moved back into the elephant grass and radioed for a lift ship to get us out."

"At one point," Specialist Carr continued, "they were no more than 40 meters from us. It was a matter of who got to us first, the lift ship or the NVA."

The Iyvmen didn't have long to wait.

A lift ship, along with gunships from Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, was at the scene quickly. After confirming the LRP team's position, the gunships let loose with rockets and miniguns, scattering the enemy soldiers.

While the gunships were keeping the NVA soldiers running for cover, a Huey slick moved in to rescue the LRP team.

"They certainly were an excited group of men when we arrived," said crew chief Dan Weary of Ft. Worth, Tex. "In his haste to scramble aboard, one of them went in one door and out the other. He was really moving. We almost left him hanging on the skids."

A sweep through the area the next day turned up five NVA bodies and a number of bloodstained trails leading from the site.

A Fear With Hope Touches Villagers

By 1LT Gary Martin

CAMP ENARI—Two faces of war are reflected in the people of Vietnam's Central Highlands.

Sometimes the enemy hits, ruthlessly destroying homes, taking what was never meant to be his. And the people of the land reflect the first face of war—fear.

But American soldiers with the 4th Division in the Central Highlands have seen war's second personality. They have seen it as the face of confidence, the spirit of rebuilding a nation and burning hope for the future. They have seen it as a battle—a battle the people are winning as they determine to help themselves.

The second face of war is reflected on the smiling face of a Montagnard girl as she tries on her first dress.

It can be seen in the radiant joy of another lass, a teddy bear in her arms.

It is the silent "thank you" a doctor sees every time his medicine stops a burning fever.

It can be seen in a farmer working his rice paddies, where yesterday his countrymen fought.

The second face of war is a tiny school house, where never a school has stood before; and a Vietnamese boy writing his name, who has never written before.

And the second face of war glows, far more brilliant than the first. The soldier knows he has done his job when he hears Mamasan say, "American, numbah one."



USA P
MONTAGNARD VILLAGERS AND CHILDREN CLIMB ABOARD FOR MARKET TRIP



USA P
SP4 TOM LOMONTO OF CAMMACK, N.Y., SWABS BOY'S HEAD TO PREVENT INFEC

Edap Enang—Today's Symbol Of Tomorrow

EDAP ENANG was established through a 4th Division civil affairs effort six months ago. Today it is one of the largest and most successful resettlement communities in South Vietnam.

Loosely translated, Edap Enang means "peace and security; border of love." It has proved to be just that to its 3,797 inhabitants. The Montagnards, whose primitive way of life has endured for countless centuries, are now attending school and living in well-constructed huts for the first time.

The Edap Enang project was first conceived in October 1966, but didn't actually get under way until April of the following year. The main reason for consolidating the small villages into one large community was to create a free fire zone in the Ia Drang Mountains, the Jarai villager's previous home.

The thickly-wooded mountain trails were a main source of resupply to North Vietnamese Army regulars infiltrating into South Vietnam from Cambodia.

Moving the Montagnards from the area made it possible to conduct air and artillery strikes against the advancing enemy. By combining the villages, all-around security could also be established for the refugee families.

Under the direction of Civil Affairs Team 9 and Mr. George Shepard of Chapel Hill, N.C., the District Senior Advisor for Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORD), the Montagnards were left to work at their own speed and make village improvements themselves.

This gave them a sense of pride in their accomplishments, whereas before everything was done for them. They were more willing to protect a structure they built

with their own hands than a structure built by a civil affairs team for them.

The civil affairs workers set their newly-acquired knowledge to work. The word spread that great improvements had been made in the community and the Montagnards came in vast numbers.

Satisfied with their new living conditions, they began settling down and establishing ties in the community.

"We have two indications they are planning on staying permanently," said First Lieutenant Edward Ruminski of Trenton, N.J., Team 9 Civil Affairs Officer. "One sign is the fact that the Montagnards have planted their first crop here and are excitedly awaiting its harvest next month. But even more important, they are now building cemeteries in Edap Enang. In the past they carried their dead back to the mountains for burial," he added.

As more and more Montagnards established permanent residence in Edap Enang, improvements continued to be made in the community.

They have built themselves a school which now has an enrollment of 324 students. They have established classes in personal hygiene at the school. Where candy was once the most popular item distributed during 3rd Brigade MEDCAPS, soap is now the item most in demand.

Other products currently under way include construction of a Catholic church for the community's 500 Catholics, and acquisition of sewing machines and a qualified seamstress to instruct the Jarai women, in addition to stocking fish ponds recently constructed on the outskirts of the settlement.

Civil Affairs Team 9 has played an instrumental role in Edap Enang's progress. In addition to Captain Chavez,

Lieutenant Ruminski, and Mr. Shepard, in their advisory capacities, Specialist 7 Mizer, and Mr. Shadings, Ga., has developed a livestock

SP4 Mizer is presently teaching milk cows. In the past the animals have been used for sacrifices and ceremonies.

Specialist 5 Jerry Crawford of New Jersey is the team medic and runs Edap Enang's medical clinic. As well as treating malaria, pellagra, and extracting teeth, SP5 Crawford is the Montagnard midwife assistant so far sets of twins.

But Edap Enang would not be there if it were not for the efforts of its Moi Lieutenant Ruminski has nothing but admiration for the people he has lived among the past year.

"These Montagnards are tireless, cooperative, and are trustworthy, not clannish. All 27 villages in the area have worked for everything they have, including shelter," he concluded.

"Strong ties have developed between the villages as a result of inter-village cooperation. They have worked for everything they have, including shelter," he concluded.

Thus a project that was once considered to be a bargain. It has been a long time since the Jarai tribesmen and their civil affairs team have been able to live in Edap Enang is now a thriving community.

The prosperity enjoyed by the Montagnards has prompted officials to begin planning to locate 10 miles from Edap Enang a new town named Plei Ring Gop and its every tribute to the Edap Enang project.



y PFC Craig MacGowan



A YOUNG GIRL SMILES HER "THANK YOU" AS SHE ACCEPTS STUFFED LAMB.

USA Photo by SP4 Ron Johnston

Special Services Opens 'Showmobile'

Story By PFC Mike Cob With Photos By SPC Ray Harp

CAMP ENARI—It may be classified as 8,500 pounds of entertainment additive —no it's not an elephant—it's the 4th Infantry Division's totally new "Showmobile".

Basically a 29-foot van, the Showmobile is presently equipped with various size stages capable of accommodating a 50-piece band. Additional staging is available which would boost its capabilities for presenting a 200-piece orchestra.

The completely mobile unit also carries its own lighting system, speakers and amplifiers, which are operational from batteries or any 110 volt outlet, making the unit field-ready.

The Showmobile may be towed on any smooth surface road. If proper road facilities are not available, the unit will be transported by flying crane to forward areas.

"It is a wonderful addition to the Special Services' inventory," said First Lieutenant David Wilson of Summit, N.J., spe-

cial services officer. "It will be a great help to the office in our efforts to provide live entertainment for Ivy men in the field."

The primary use of the device is to provide a mobile stage for all units in the 4th Infantry Division. It will be used in conjunction with USO Shows and concerts by the Division Band.

Since the Showmobile is equipped with musical and sound equipment, all Ivy units are urged to present their own shows.

According to Special Services members, the Showmobile may also be used as a review platform for a variety of ceremonies and official presentations.

"In most cases, the number of possible uses for the Showmobile will be limited—only by the imagination of the user," noted Lieutenant Wilson.

The Ivy Showmobile underwent its initial trial at Camp Enari. The 4th Division Band, conducted by Chief Warrant Officer Arthur V. Durham of San Antonio, Tex., offered entertainment by playing a number of college football songs.



COL HODGES "KICKS OFF" OPENING.



IVY "SHOWMOBILE" COMES ALIVE DURING ITS UNVEILING.



ADMIRAL AWARDS IVYMAN—First Lieutenant Daniel R. Zanini of Gustine, Calif., a platoon leader with 4th Division's Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, is awarded the Silver Star with first Oak Leaf Cluster by Admiral John S. McCain, commander of U.S. Forces in the Pacific. The award citation was read by Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Krug, 4th Division adjutant general, during a ceremony held at Camp Enari, 4th Division base camp, attended by Major General Charles P. Stone, Division Commander, left.

(USA Photo By SP4 Clifford Brown)

For Two Separate Battles

Ivy 1LT Receives Silver Star

CAMP ENARI — A 4th Division soldier was awarded the Silver Star with first Oak Leaf Cluster by Admiral John S. McCain, commander of U.S. Forces in the Pacific, in a ceremony at Camp Enari, 4th Division base camp.

First Lieutenant Daniel R. Zanini of Gustine, Calif., a platoon leader with Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, distinguished himself in two separate battles less than two weeks apart in the Central Highlands.

On May 17, 1968, a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) was on a road clearing mission near Ben Het when it was ambushed by a three-company North Vietnamese Army force.

"I had a recon team providing security for the group,"

recalled 1LT Zanini, "when the men radioed they were getting hit."

A reactionary force from his platoon was close to the contact area. He told them to get to the ambush site, while he alerted the rest of his platoon, and sped to meet the enemy.

"When we got there," he said, "the NVA were hitting from two points, north and south, with heavy fire. My recon team was almost out of ammo."

He resupplied the Iyvymen with ammunition, zig-zagging through a rush of enemy bullets. Then calling in artillery and air strikes, he assaulted the enemy with his armor, crushing them into retreat.

A few days later, on May 25, 1LT Zanini distinguished him-

self again in defeating the enemy in a battle which cost them 48 killed.

He was rushing to resupply the troop's 2nd Platoon which was already in contact with the enemy. Once resupplied, the 2nd platoon assaulted the enemy position. During the assault the platoon leader and platoon sergeant were wounded.

1LT Zanini moved his platoon in to cover the evacuation of the wounded. He dismounted his track and again raced between the tracks to extract the wounded.

He then remained under heavy enemy fire to prepare a disabled vehicle for extraction. Again the tide of the battle was turned as the Ivy cavalrymen assaulted the retreating enemy's position.

27 Cavmen Hold Off 200 NVA

Former VC Save American Soldiers

BAN ME THUOT—The paths of Chien Tran Van and Liea could have crossed several months ago; today, they are comrades-in-arms fighting the communist threat.

Liea, a Montagnard, had been commanding a hard-core Viet Cong company in the south. He came to South Vietnam with the firm belief he was fighting for a just cause, but quickly realized he was on the wrong side to be of benefit to his people. He rallied to the allied forces through the Chieu Hoi program.

Chien, a tall, slightly built Vietnamese, was a policeman in Saigon when he was captured by the Viet Cong, burned, and left for dead. When Chien was asked about his ordeal he smiled and said, "A long time ago the VC almost kill me. The Americans help me back. Now I am proud to help the Amer-

icans." The two men have proved their worth in battle on more than one occasion.

Recently, as members of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, aero-rifle platoon, they fought side by side to hold off an estimated 200 North Vietnamese regulars who were trying to encircle their position.

Chien and Liea had accompanied the platoon which had been sent in to insure the rescue of two pilots in a downed scout helicopter. The chopper had crashed near an NVA bunker and the pilot and gunner were still inside, too injured to move.

Staff Sergeant Wembell Morris of McMinnville, Tenn., Troop D commander, thought a much larger force of NVA was camouflaged in the terrain below his circling Cobra helicopter. He called for another unit to come in as support for the nearly trapped platoon. The

to be.

"When we first get off, everybody lay low," Chien recalled. "At first we don't see NVA and NVA doesn't see us. I run up to pilots and shout, 'I come to help you,' because I don't want them to think I'm NVA. We blow up bunkers with grenades just to make sure."

Helicopters came in and rescued the downed fliers. Meanwhile, Sergeant Morris was retrieving all maps and documents from the fallen chopper when word came that a mortar tube had been discovered.

Captain William Parker of McMinnville, Tenn., Troop D commander, thought a much larger force of NVA was camouflaged in the terrain below his circling Cobra helicopter. He called for another unit to come in as support for the nearly trapped platoon. The

Blackhawks Soar With 'Dollies'

By PFC John Uhlar

CAMP ENARI — "Welcome to Blackhawk, home of the 2/1 Cavalry," the high-flying red and white banner announced.

The troopers, sensing an increase in firebase activity, were noticeably anxious.

Such a festive occasion could be reserved only for VIP personnel, but who?

From the west came a chopper which settled down with a cushion-like landing. Four Red Cross, Doughnut Dollies, from Camp Enari, had come to spend the day with the men of the 4th Division's 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

"Shucks, we kind of knew it all the time," said one trooper casually, trying to maintain his cool.

After donning Army jungle fatigues, in place of the more traditional pinstriped blues, the girls were ready for the morning agenda.

After a briefing, given by Captain Curtis Fay of Caldwell, Kansas, a detailed sketch of the cavalrymen's mission along Highways 19 and 14 was explained.

Following the briefing, the girls were taken by Armored Personnel Carriers to the firing range where First Lieutenant William Rollins Jr. of Swampscott, Mass., gave what has to be the shortest AIT course on record — two hours.

Army Report

DAK TO — A potent new weapon has made sharp inroads into the rice supplies of the VC and NVA units in the Central Highlands.

The weapon: another Army report.

The report keeps track of the rice production and purchases of dozens of Montagnard villages here.

Whenever an unusually large amount of rice is planted — or bought — by a village, civil affairs officers check immediately.

It's a simple idea, but it makes the life of an enemy supply officer pretty rough.

The 1st Brigade's Assistant Civil Affairs Officer, Captain Gary A. Olsen of Niles, Ill., explained that the rice report takes into account the average amount of rice the average Montagnard family eats daily.

Bravely, the young ladies hung on, their hands covering their ears, as the cavalrymen demonstrated every weapon in the armor arsenal, explaining usage and technique as they fired.

After lunch, the guests were taken on a Sunday afternoon drive around the Blackhawk area of operation.

Later, the girls got to visit a Montagnard village, Plei Bong Hiat.

At first, the Montagnard tribesmen were a bit surprised; it's not every day they see the American male counterpart. Soon, their bewildered stares melted into smiles of friendship. Before long, the girls were mothering the village tiny tots.

Jugs of rice wine were brought out of storage by the village chief and, in the true spirit of amity, the young ladies and village dignitaries sipped the drink.

"In my eleven months in Vietnam, I don't think I have spent a more rewarding day," said Patricia Juwatt. "I hope in our own little way we've helped give Blackhawk territory a bit of that homey touch."

Small Tot Gives SGT A Monkey

OASIS — Sergeant Donald Smith of Miami is always giving children candy. A small Vietnamese boy didn't forget the act of kindness and returned the favor with a gift of his own — a small monkey.

Sergeant Smith is with the Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) attached to the 4th Division's 3rd Brigade. While at the village of Than-Ta-Nanh near the Oasis, the boy approached Sergeant Smith.

"I figured he was wanting some candy," said the sergeant, "but he wasn't. He began speaking English in a broken way."

"I remember you," said the boy. "You give me candy before. Now I give you something." The boy handed Sergeant Smith the monkey.

"I hated to take the pet," commented Sergeant Smith, "but when I looked at the boy he was tickled that I was accepting his gift." The boy smiled as he walked away.

Sergeant Smith brought the monkey back to the Oasis. He was only a small ball of fur, not more than twelve inches in height and weighing five pounds. Before long everyone was attached to the pet.

"We didn't like calling him a monkey," said Sergeant James Birmingham of Rollinsford, N.H., "so we named him Grunt."

"We have a hard time keeping him out of the TOC," said Sergeant Birmingham. "He likes being around a lot of people and putting on a show for them."

Grunt will eat almost anything people will. His favorite drink is coffee and he really likes C-rations.

"He's a great pet to have," said Sergeant Smith. "The Vietnamese boy gave a greater gift than I had known, but it wouldn't have mattered if he hadn't given me a gift. When I looked into those sparkling little eyes of his I had my reward — the friendship of a young Vietnamese boy."



VIET BASIC TRAINEES LEARN THE M16 FOR FUTURE USE.



ROPE-CLIMBING BECOMES AN AID TO FUTURE RAPPELLING.



OBSTACLE COURSE BECOMES EASIER AFTER A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

Basic Training Vietnam-Style

Story and Photos by SP4 Larry Hogan

THE HARSH SOUND of a whistle cuts through the early morning mist as the trainees scramble out of their barracks and fall into formation.

Similar scenes, complete with gravel voiced sergeants and wide-eyed recruits, are familiar sights to all servicemen.

However, this particular formation did not take place at Fort Lewis or Fort Polk, but at the Darlac Training Center, near Ban Me Thot.

The center, manned by a cadre of Vietnamese and Montagnard instructors under the guidance of a Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) advisory team from Ban Me Thot, is assigned the primary task of training Popular Forces (PF) recruits for Darlac Province. Properly trained these indigenous forces will aid ARVN and 4th Division units in defense of the Central Highlands.

Along with recruits, the camp also trains Popular Forces squad and platoon leaders. The preparation of Regional Forces (RF) trainees and annual PF refresher training is another phase of the camp's operation.

"The camp is designed to facilitate 500 men," explained Captain Peter Hillman of Lakeland, Fla., the center's advising officer.

Much of the program is patterned after American training principles.

The 12-week PF course, which encompasses subjects ranging from physical training to military courtesy, is broken down into a two-week basic military course, which is an introduction to military life, and a 10-week recruit course, which deals with actual tactical training.

An average day for a PF recruit begins shortly after sunrise.

Hand-to-hand combat or physical training usually starts off the day's training.

After a few choice selections from the "daily dozen" list of physical exercises, the men head for the classroom. Leaving their muddy boots at the door, the trainees march to their seats and stand at attention, waiting for the order to take their seats. The instructor snaps the order and the lesson begins.

Courses ranging from the care and cleaning of the M-1 carbine to lectures on the importance of fighting communism are offered in the classroom.

Leaving the classroom, the men head for the rifle range where they are taught the principles of good marksmanship.

Discipline also plays a major role in the training program. Trainees can often be seen dropping for push-ups throughout the camp.

"Although they don't have trained drill sergeants as we do, these trainees get just as strict training," commented Master Sergeant James W. Blackmon of Laessville, La., who along with Captain Hillman, forms the MACV advisory team.

After a hurried lunch, the men head for the tactical training area where they go through a mock combat operation complete with "VC ambush".

Then the men must face an hour of dismounted drill and a period of military courtesy before they are allowed to return to their barracks for the evening.

Back in the barracks, the men must clean their equipment and prepare themselves for the next day. Frequent inspections are another part of the PF training.

As it has been every morning since arriving at the camp, the next day's schedule is announced by the piercing sound of an instructor's whistle.

This new day may find the trainees running the obstacle course, learning first aid or crawling under live machine gun fire on the infiltration course, much as trainees do in America.

In spite of the many similarities between American and Popular Forces training, there are some definite differences.

For example, the trainees are both Montagnard and Vietnamese; therefore the classes must be given in two languages. When advisors act as instructors, the classes are given in three languages.

"In spite of our difficulties, the camp produces soldiers as good as any in the world," concluded First Lieutenant Bui Son Hai, the camp commandant.

LRPs' Mission Lasts For Ten Tough Days...

(Continued From Page 1)
cho," related SP4 Spraggins. "Water was no problem. It was raining all of the time."

On the fifth day the Ivymen were about to risk blowing the two trees when suddenly their radio came alive with new instructions. They were told to start walking six kilometers to the south, and to move as quickly as they could.

"As fast as we moved," PFC Overturf said, "it was a Godsend we didn't run into anything."

Their closest call came when PFC Overturf was crossing a shallow stream and a poisonous bamboo viper dropped into the water right behind him.

Move Again

By eight o'clock that night the team had forced its way through two or three kilometers of dangerous jungle. Night was falling.

"We called in and told them we were going to sit down but they said we had to move a thousand meters east," SP4 Thompson said.

The Ivymen pointed out that there wasn't enough light left to see where they were going.

Finally, their radio relay explained why the team had to keep moving at all costs; giant B52 bombers were due to dump thousands of tons of bombs just north of their location in a few hours.

"I was too tired to care," Specialist Thompson recalled. "They kept screaming at us over the radio to keep going."

"We moved 150 meters at the very most. We had to tie ropes to one another, it was so dark. They kept screaming at us over the radio to keep going further," he added.

B52s Overhead

The men moved down a steep hill, crossed a dry creek bed and started up another hill through thick brambles that tore their camouflaged uniforms to shreds.

Just before the B52s were due overhead, the LRP team called in and reported its position. They were out of danger.

Back at Dak To, the 1st Brigade's commander, Colonel Joseph E. Fix III of Alexandria, Va., gave final approval for the bombing strike.

The LRP team took cover between the roots of a five-foot-thick tree, pulled their ponchos over their heads. The hillside was so steep they nearly rolled off.

When the first bombs struck, the men started yelling to equalize the pressure on their eardrums.

"The whole sky turned red," said Specialist Thompson.

Ground Quakes

The ground under them heaved with the concussion of the distant bombs. "We could hear things flying over our heads," PFC Overturf said.

Two sorties of B52s unloaded their bombs — a third sortie, three hours later, passed further to the west.

"The next day," PFC Overturf

said, "we started moving out about 8:30 to Firebase 19. The pace we made was really fantastic — it was all uphill, and we were pretty weak."

Suddenly the Ivymen found they had stumbled onto a huge NVA bunker complex — 150 to 200 bunkers, enough for two companies of the enemy.

Bunkers Found

"I'd say the bunkers had been used in the last 12 to 24 hours," SP4 Spraggins said. "Some of them weren't even finished yet. We thought once we smelled rice — the whole team smelled it cooking, so we couldn't all be wrong."

"They had green trees planted in some of their foxholes so the Forward Air Controller couldn't see them," SP4 Thompson added.

But no NVA were in sight.

Along the way the men found an NVA shovel and a yellow NVA helmet. PFC Overturf put the helmet over his own hat.

They followed an NVA trail up the ridgeline to Firebase 19, almost blind with fatigue and hunger. "It got to be just one foot after another," said PFC Overturf. "We knew better than to stop."

"For some reason I looked up and saw a head," he added. It

was an American patrol aiming its rifles at the three men, ready to shoot.

Almost Killed

"Don't shoot," the infantrymen remembered shouting half-deliriously.

"All of a sudden I realized I had the NVA helmet on," said Specialist Overturf. "I tore it off and yelled 'I'm a LRP. I'm a LRP!'"

Relieved, the patrol pointed out the path to the firebase, high on a mountaintop.

"It was all I could do to walk," Specialist Thompson said. "We bumped into two trip flares and set them off right away."

When they finally staggered into the firebase, they found the infantry companies camped there weren't much better off. The same icy rains had soaked them and kept helicopters from resupplying the firebase.

By the next day the LRP team was rationing its food again.

With no sign of a break in the weather, the firebase had to be abandoned. After slithering down the hillside with the infantry, the LRP team spent another two days in the rain, waiting for helicopters to creep under the cloud cover.

Men began to pass-out around them from lack of sleep and the

weight of heavy loads of equipment.

Finally, the ten-day old storm broke — just long enough for the infantry companies to be whisked to safety at another firebase. Just as the clouds began closing in, the last helicopter picked up the LRP team and carried them to Dak To.

Back at Dak To, the exhausted men were told they had set a brigade record for the longest LRP mission.

Somehow, it didn't seem to matter.

Hoi Chanh Attempts To Help

OASIS—A Hoi Chanh has put 3rd Brigade units on the trail of four Viet Cong near the resettlement village of Edap Enang.

Major Ronald Fishman of Ayre, Mass., and Staff Sergeant Mario Ramos Leon of Maunabo, P.R., both with the 3rd Brigade's Civil Affairs (CA) team, were at the village discussing CA activities with the village leaders. Captain George Chaves of Roswell, N.M., told them about a Hoi Chanh who knew where four VC were hiding.

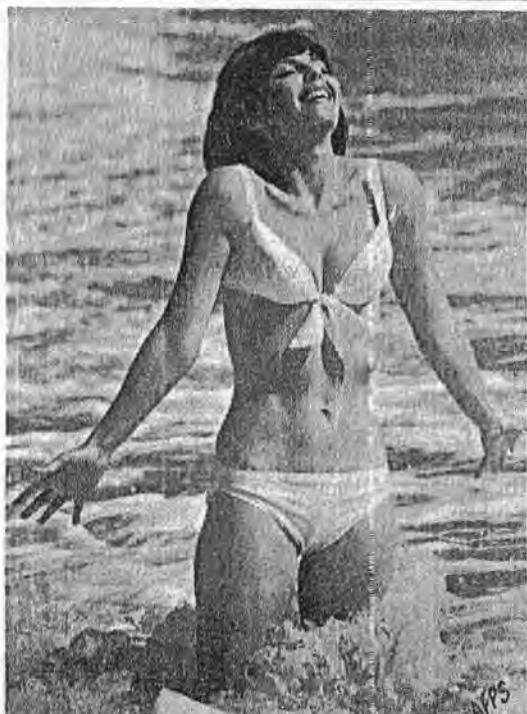
They immediately questioned the Hoi Chanh to find out the location of the other enemy soldiers. He told them he had surrendered to Le Trong Montagnard Popular Force (PF) unit, near Edap Enang, and that his comrades also wished to surrender.

The next day Major Fishman obtained a helicopter to fly a Psychological Operation mission in order to persuade the reluctant Viet Cong to give up.

Sergeant Ramos Leon flew in the chopper with the Hoi Chanh while he called to his friends over loud speakers, telling them to surrender. Their second pass over the area drew rifle fire from the VC. They flew over once more and received fire again.

At this point Sergeant Ramos Leon called in Cobra gunships. They worked the area over with mini-guns and rockets. Later a platoon from the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, swept the area.

The Ivymen found five one-man bunkers and numerous C-ration cans that had recently been opened.



SEA-WORTHY—Julie Parish enjoys a late season dip in the rolling surf. It's certain to be a good day with this bouncy miss on the scene.

Dragoons Receive Many Awards

CAMP ENARI — The Silver Star medal was one of many decorations awarded the members of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry during a ceremony at Camp Enari.

Private First Class Johnny Ragsdale, of Blair, S.C. was the Silver Star recipient. He was presented the award for gallantry in action by Lieutenant Colonel John Yarborough of Carmel, Calif., battalion command-

er. Private Ragsdale is from Company D.

The ceremony also included the presentation of the Bronze Star medal with "V" device by Major General Charles P. Stone, 4th Division Commander, to Major Melvin Geiger of Monroe, La., and Specialist 5 Lynn Wegne, of Port Angeles, Wash., both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Private First Class Thomas Hughes of Dixon, Calif., and

Specialist 4 Michael Bunker of Charlotte, N.C.

PFC Hughes comes from Company D and SP4 Bunker is with Company E.

The Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) with "V" device was awarded Private First Class John Tucker of Paducah, Ky., and the ARCOM with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster to Master Sergeant Raymond Neal Jenkins of Albany, Ky. Both men are members of Company C.

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