

**ON THEIR WAY**—A convoy continues on its way to the 1st Brigade base camp near Dak To after a brief stop for chow just outside Kontum. (USA Photo by 124th Signal)

# IVY LEAF

## FAMOUS FOURTH

Vol. 2, No. 53

CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

November 10, 1968

## President Awards Unit Citation To Heroic Panther Platoon

CAMP ENARI — The President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism to the 1st Platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor.

Lieutenant General William R. Peers, First Field Force commander, presented the coveted award to the Ivymen atop

Landing Zone (LZ) Uplift, near the coastal town of Bong Son. Also attending was Major General Charles P. Stone, 4th Division commander.

The "Black Panther" platoon was cited for its gallant part in the vigorous defense of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Cavalry position in Pleiku Province in August 1966.

The Presidential Unit Citation reads: "The 1st Platoon distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism and outstanding professionalism while serving under the operational control of the 9th Company, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Republic of Korea Army during the defense of Landing Zone Twenty-Seven Victor, Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam during the night of August 9-10, 1966.

"About one hour before midnight, the sounds of digging outside the defensive perimeter were reported to one of the tank commanders by a Korean officer. The tank commander illuminated the suspicious area with the tank searchlight and reconnoitered it with machine gun fire.

"This action triggered the first of a series of violent attacks made against the position by a North Vietnamese Army battalion and reinforced by mortars and rockets.

"During the next six hours, the foe made repeated assaults from different directions, only to be beaten back by the coordinated fire of the stalwart defenders. Battlefield illumination was augmented by the two

available tank searchlights until the latter were destroyed by enemy fire.

"Despite one-fourth of its members being wounded, the 1st Platoon greatly assisted the 9th Company in holding the position under the intense ground attacks. The tenacious defense and subsequent mopup of the battlefield virtually eliminated the enemy battalion as an effective fighting unit.

"The heavy losses inflicted upon the numerically superior enemy force attest to the physical courage, determination and skill of the defenders. The close coordination and mutual cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the United States forces resulted in a fighting team undaunted by the enemy onslaught.

"This action of the 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor is in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Army."

Immediately after the ceremony, the Black Panther Battalion moved out of LZ Uplift and returned to Camp Enari in the Central Highlands.

For the battle-weary tankers, the stand-down at Camp Enari meant a chance for long deferred maintenance, repair, and overhaul of finance and personnel records — and time out after a summer of hard fighting in the coastal lowlands.

Between July and October, the tankers saw action in three coastal campaigns. The most important of these, according to Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Stan R. Sheridan of Alexandria, Va., was the combined ARVN-American operation around Cam Trao Lake.

Elements from the 40th ARVN Regiment, the 3rd ARVN Cavalry, the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery, joined the tankers on a triple-prong sweep around the lake that lasted four days.

"It was our first major operation where we were completely crossed attached," said Colonel Sheridan. "U.S. officers commanded ARVN units. ARVN officers commanded U.S. units. It was on absolute success."

During an earlier campaign at the end of September, the tankers worked alongside the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, and the 41st ARVN Regiment on a sweep of the Soui-ca-Valley.

The attack against the valley, headquarters of the 18th NVA Regiment, cost the enemy more than 350 dead and netted a wealth of weapons — including one 12.7mm anti-aircraft gun.

Working with the 35th Land Clearing Team, the tankers also opened up stretches of Highway 506 that ran through hard-core Viet Cong territory.

### Kill 10 NVA In Bunkers

## Regulars Block Mortar Attack

By PFC William Sigfried

BAN ME THUOT—"Cold LZ" was the initial signal as Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry air-assaulted into a blocking position southwest of the Duc Lap Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camp.

With the arrival of the second lift, however, the situation changed drastically. The "Regulars," commanded by Captain Stanley Russell of Charleston, S.C., found themselves subjected to a withering barrage of mortar and automatic weapons fire.

Attempting to consolidate his company, Captain Russell found many of his elements scattered throughout the landing zone. But the Ivymen soon regained the initiative as Captain Russell quickly called in artillery and gunships.

"Every time someone popped smoke so we could evacuate the wounded, we'd get mortared," said Specialist 4 Orlando McDonald of Detroit. "But fortunately, we were behind some nice big trees."

"Our dust-off LZ was about 40 meters in front of the trees and you could hear those mortars coming," recalled Private First Class Fred Fox of Kent, Wash.

"I could see a sniper in a tree who was calling in mortar fire," added Specialist 5 Gary Sexton of Thomasville, N.C.

Gradually, Captain Russell regrouped his command, and although once almost separated from his men, skillfully managed to secure a perimeter.

"I thought we had had it," said Captain Russell. "Had the NVA been able to put automatic weapons on the ridge to our south, our situation would have been critical."

"On our way to the woodline I spotted two of the enemy," said Private First Class Gary Thompson of Osakis, Minn. "One of them opened up on us with an AK47, and sprayed above our heads. I was carrying a machine gun and opened up with a 100 round burst.

"I looked up and saw the other enemy soldier reaching for the AK47. I got him!" said PFC Thompson.

The evacuation of Alpha Company's wounded had to be carried out under a hail of enemy automatic weapons fire. Even so, Major William Haas of Greenville, Ill., brought his helicopter in to lift out the injured, while Private First Class Gordon Ellis of Wichita Falls, Tex., exposed himself to direct the medevacs in.

The company remained in a perimeter during that night with artillery and C47 "Spooky" aircraft firing continual support.

The next morning, a sweep revealed 10 NVA bodies and several automatic weapons. As Companies B and C of the "Regulars" linked up, an overall sweep netted a complex of 150 bunkers.

Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel John Daniels, praised Company A for turning what seemed to be a hopeless situation into an enemy defeat.

## 'Van Man' Amplifies PSYOPS Mission

By SP4 Bill Gibbons

DAK TO — If you were to see movies tonight showing the advantages of village consolidation, personal hygiene, or a few Walt Disney cartoons, it probably wouldn't rate more than two sentences in your next letter home.

But for those who have never seen a movie, these showings have all the excitement of a country fair, Mardi Gras, or even Christmas.

The movies are now being shown villagers around the Dak To area, headquarters of the 4th Division's 1st Brigade, through the facilities of an psy-

ops audio-visual equipped van with its own generator, screen, movie and slide projectors, and portable tape recorder.

It is operated by a two-man audio-visual (H-E) team under the direction of First Lieutenant Micheal J. Bean of Leavenworth, Kan. The purpose of the films are two-fold, to educate and to entertain, says Lieutenant Bean.

"Other than showing the advantages of consolidation and personal hygiene, there are films designed to give the villagers a better understanding of the American way of life, such as our Independence Day and a rodeo," the lieutenant added.

A total of 16 films have been completed so that several trips

are made to each village to show all the films. Arrangements for the visits are made through the assistant S-5, Captain Gary Olsen of Niles, Ill., who arranges for security of the H-E team.

To contend with the language barriers, the H-E team takes a Montagnard interpreter to each village it visits. The translator is shown the film series twice.

During the first viewing he gets a general idea of what's being said, and in the second viewing translates and records the sound track onto the portable tape recorder. The film and recording are played simultaneously for the villagers.

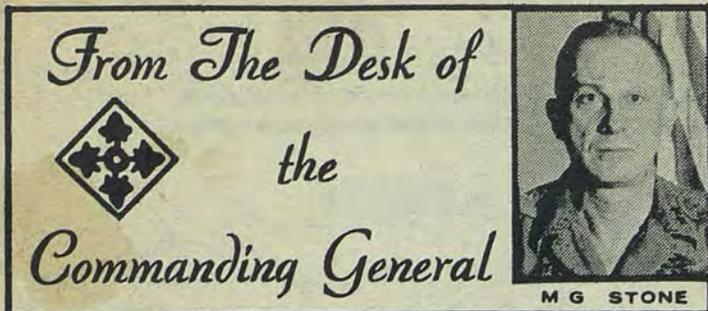
Translations are not necessary when the films are shown to Vietnamese groups as the

original sound tracks are in their language.

Each showing lasts between one and two hours.

Lieutenant Bean said the films are aimed at an age group between 12 and 40 years old. "Anyone younger than that will usually miss the point of the films, and those who are older are usually so set in their ways they just ignore it," he smiled. The H-E team usually counts on a 75 to 80 people turn out.

To date, more than a thousand villagers in the 1st Brigade area have seen one or more of the showings. The films are so popular that when the H-E team sets up in one village, there may be viewers from a nearby hamlet who have already seen the same film.



## Home Town News

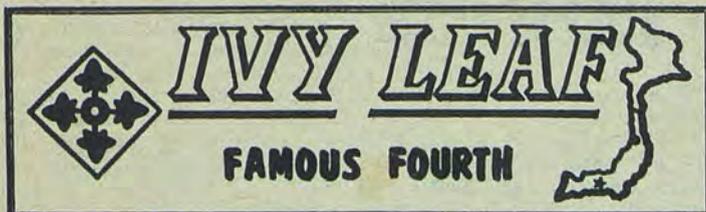
**E**ACH MONTH almost 3,000 Ivymen take a simple action which provides untold pleasure and comfort to their family and friends back home. This simple act is the filling out and signing of DA Form 1526 "Information for Home Town News Release." Once signed and sent to the Home Town News Center in Kansas City, the form becomes a news story—a story tells about Sergeant Charles Smith being assigned to Company B, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division, or informs the home folks that Jack Brown is now a 1st Lieutenant, or gives the news of Specialist Four Billy Butler earning the Bronze Star with V. These stories appear in the local paper and over the local radio and TV station—or more than one newspaper, radio or TV station if the town is a large one. If the soldier is married and his wife lives in a different town than his parents then it is used by the news media in that town also. If he went to college the story gets used by the alumni-magazine or if he worked for a company that has a news periodical about their employees then it also appears there.

Almost every week I receive letters from parents, wives or other relatives who have been delighted by seeing or hearing a story about the soldier they consider the most important one in Vietnam. It is difficult for those of us here to really appreciate the great thrill and the amount of comfort that our family and friends get from publicity which we may get at home. It provides them with a feeling of closeness with us and makes them proud to know that their neighbors and friends are also learning of our activities here. We all know that there are times when the people back home have a difficult time understanding this war. Getting news about soldiers whom they personally know and have an interest in somehow helps them overcome the doubts and fears which are so prevalent in the States.

There is a small number of men in this division who refuse publicity and I have no intention of attempting to impose upon this right. However, I believe many times this reluctance to allow the release of information for the home town is based on a lack of understanding of the program and its benefits which I have just discussed. At one time there was a rash of reports of wives and parents receiving crank calls after a story on a soldier in Vietnam had been run. Since the first of the year almost 12,000 home town news releases have gone out on the men of this division and I have yet to hear of a report of such a thing happening to any of our soldiers' wives or families. This does not mean that it might not have happened in a few cases; however, if it were widespread, I believe the other commanders and I would be well aware of it.

All of your commanders are well aware of the importance I place in this program. There is only one reason for my intense interest—the benefits that your family, and thus you, derive from the program.

*Charles P. Stone*



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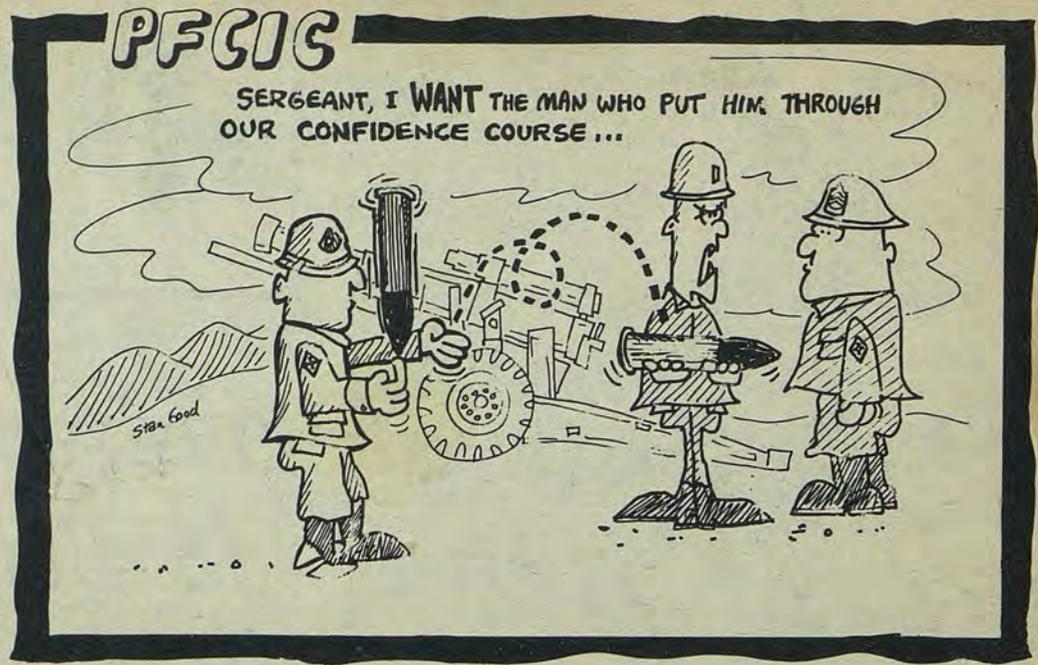
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## Weekly Combat Summary

# Ivymen Uncover Bunker Complex

**CAMP ENARI** — Ivymen uncovered a 200 bunker complex in the 4th Infantry Division's Central Highlands area of operations. The positions, 15 miles west of the Ivy 1st Brigade's base camp at Dak To, were found by a 1st Brigade patrol along the bottom of a jungled ridge.

The well-constructed fortifications were reinforced with logs, bamboo walls and floors. A kitchen and storage area, several rocket containers and web

gear were found in the complex.

On the same day an element of the 4th Division's 1st Squadron, 10th Armored Cavalry found a 600-pound rice cache 11 miles northeast of Ban Me Thuot. The rice was distributed to villagers in the area by 4th Division civic action teams.

On the 21st, sharp-eyed infantrymen from the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry were manning an outpost five kilometers west of Duc Lap when they spotted eight helmet-clad NVA. Ivy ar-

tillery blasted the area and a sweep revealed a complex of 20 bunkers and blood-spattered bushes.

On the evening of the 25th, the 4th Division's Firebase 29, located 12 miles west of Dak To near Ben Het, came under fire from enemy mortars and recoilless rifles. A total of 36, 82mm and 75mm rounds had landed on or near the position. The Ivymen raked suspected firing locations with mortar and artillery fire and one secondary explosion occurred at one of the positions.

Few of the hostile rounds landed inside the friendly perimeter and there were no casualties or damages.

On the same evening, one-half hour before midnight, friendly installations on Engineer Hill, three miles northeast of Pleiku, were hit by a heavy mortar attack. More than 60 rounds of 82mm fire came screaming into the position in 20 minutes. Counter mortar fire was employed with unknown results.

On the morning of the 26th, a lone Viet Cong met death in a cordon and search of Mewal Village in the plantation of the same name 20 miles northeast of Ban Me Thuot.

Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry was moving into the village at dawn when two VC tried to bolt. One SKS was captured. One enemy soldier was detained.

## Legends Stir Memories At Halloween-Like Celebration

**BAN ME THOUT** — Gaiety and laughter filled the children's faces when a civil affairs team passed out cookies and candy at the 39th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), Artillery Battalion's mid-autumn celebration.

The S-5 team, headed by Major Lance Willdermood of Mission, Kan., from the Ivy Division's 2nd Brigade, commanded by Colonel Herbert J. McChrystal of Arlington, Va., gathered candy and cookies for the children's holiday, even though war raged on in the Central Highlands.

The day is similar to the American Halloween. At night the children carry candle-light-ed paper lanterns through the streets.

As the night goes on, oldsters gaze at the moon to decide whether the next year will be a good one. Special cake is a delicacy to go with the holiday.

There are three legends on how the celebration had its beginning.

The first says that 2,600 years before Christ, China was ruled by the Chavs. Their king liked fighting and hunting but his wife didn't. A saint gave the king secret medicine so his wife would like what he did. She changed, but went to the moon.

It was the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar. Since the king missed his wife so much, he originated the custom at looking at the moon on that day.

The second legend has it that king Duong Minh Hoang of China had a beautiful wife. When she died she became a saint in heaven. The king often dreamed of going to the moon and finding her, but he never did.

Every year on the 15th day of the eighth month he organized a celebration to look for his wife on the moon.

The last legend says that under the domination of the Nguyen Mongols in China, every four homes had to feed a Mongol soldier and the family only had one knife to cut their meat.

At the time a monk named Chu Nguyen decided to start a revolution. His trick to get rid of the Mongols was to make round cakes of a poison mixture. The Mongols began dying on the 15th day of the eighth month.

A lantern was used to show that a Mongol soldier had died.

The revolution succeeded and the monk became king on that day. . . and the day became a national holiday.

## Div. Finance Office Replaces Old Money With New MPCs

**CAMP ENARI** — Working around the clock for three days, with little or no sleep, the 4th Division finance personnel made it possible for Ivymen to trade more than a million dollars worth of old-series Military Payment Certificates.

The switch to new MPC series was made October 21; Specialist 4 James Norman of Cleo Springs, Okla., worked continuously during October, visiting units, hopping rides, preparing the battalions for the conversion.

According to the Division's Finance Officer, Lieutenant Colonel John C. Childers Jr., the conversion was arranged long in advance. Crates of the new 661 series had been stocked in his vaults since February.

Tight coordination and security insured that even soldiers on remote jungle patrols had a

chance to trade old money for new — while black market traders were left with worthless paper.

The Finance Office reported a final total of approximately \$1,300,000 exchanged during the conversion. At press time it was 95 percent completed.

This figure, Colonel Childers pointed out, represents a third of the pay collected by Ivymen during the month.

"I was surprised at the amount of money turned in," he said. "It would indicate that many soldiers are drawing more money than they really need. If they had this extra money in the Division's savings program, it would be drawing good interest and be immediately available when wanted."

He also noted that a large share of the total came from unit funds, clubs and PX facilities.

The PX alone turned in \$117,642.

# Mines, Graves And Caches-- Tips From Villagers Pay Off

By SP4 John Trimble

OASIS — A small Montagnard girl walked slowly toward the soldiers who had come to help the sick in her village. When she began tugging at the medic's shirt, he looked down and smiled, "What can I do for you?"

The girl shook her head and pulled at the 4th Division soldier, while she motioned and pointed toward a row of stilted huts. He followed her to the back of the houses where she pointed to the rear of a hut.

The Ivymen investigated and found a large metal object.

The little girl had led him to a 40-pound charge which is used as a mine by the VC. Her efforts possibly saved several American lives.

The MEDCAP team of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard I. Wiles of Springfield, Va., turned the mine in to the 4th Division's 3rd Brigade, commanded by Colonel Stan L. McClellan of Ventura, Calif.

"When we got the mine, we went back to the village and paid the people for giving it to us," said First Lieutenant William Meddings of Madison, Wis., the 4th MI team leader at 3rd Brigade.

Under the 4th Division's volunteer informant program (VIP), anyone furnishing the MI team or any other American or allied soldier with pertinent information, is rewarded.

"Sometimes the information given us is no more than the location of a mass grave," said Chief Warrant Officer Robert K. Allen from King of Prussia, Pa. "That may not sound like much, but it enables us to find out how effective our artillery and air strikes are."

"One time, when we were at Duc Pho, we got the word from a local farmer that the VC had supplied two water pumps to a rice farmer," Mister Allen said. "Their purpose was to produce more rice in his paddies so they could take it for themselves. We found the two pumps. It took us a day to dig

them out of the mud and get them back to base camp."

While at Kontom, the MI team was successful in getting information from the local people.

"The locations of ten mines in the road from Kontom west to Polei Kleng were told us by people at various times," recalled Lieutenant Meddings.

"We had eight 82mm mortar rounds turned in. The location of an NVA supply route was revealed to us, and many other things. The last two weeks there, we averaged one informant a day."

In addition to running the informant program, the unit performs the initial interrogation of detainees and translation of documents for the 3rd Brigade.

The innocent civilian is released immediately after it is determined he is not assisting the enemy.

The civil defendants are those who do not necessarily carry a weapon or fight, but who aid the enemy in some way.

According to the MI team, who

the detainees are excellent sources of information. They often know enemy unit locations, strength and plans.

A fourth, and possibly the best source of information is the Hoi Chanh.

"Hoi Chanhs are always good sources of data because they want to tell you what they know," explained Mister Allen.

In the Warrant Officer's opinion the "most outstanding case" concerns an NVA who rallied to the 1st Brigade just before the Battle of Dak To.

"He told Division interrogators the location of four regiments of the 1st NVA Division. He probably saved untold number of lives," said Mister Allen.

A little girl turns in a mine today. An old man tells the location of an enemy regiment tomorrow.

For the men of the 3rd Brigade MI team, the war is a game of seeking the tip that may save the lives of many American soldiers, seeking the person who knows where and

## Enemy Lair Empty Now

# Ivymen Rout NVA From A Volcano

By SP4 Hans Lange

BAN ME THUOT—The volcano rises majestically, pointing its crown 880 meters into the Central Highland sky southwest of the hamlet of Duc Lap.

It sits strategically overlooking rolling hills and fertile valleys to the north and east, and more rugged terrain to the west and south.

Thousands of years ago it spewed hot, molten rock for miles in each direction. In May of this year it served as a launching site for North Vietnamese Army (NVA) mortars during the second offensive.

In late August, four enemy anti-aircraft guns were throwing hot lead at 4th Division helicopters flying to break the siege of the Duc Lap Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG).

The volcano has been a favor-

ite staging area for the NVA. Cambodia is only three kilometers to the west, easily accessible via dried stream beds and high-speed trails.

But change came dramatically when Ivy Division soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William C. Moore of Alexandria, Va.; the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Daniels of Alexandria, Va.; and from the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph T. Palastra Jr. of Salinas, Kan., moved into the area.

The NVA were methodically routed out of their lair and driven to seek sanctuary across the border. Attempts to infiltrate in large numbers have repeatedly been thwarted.

On the rim of the volcano, where the foe previously ruled,

## Dowser Finds Mine

Story and Photo by PFC John Uhlar

CAMP ENARI—The use of divining rods is paying off in the Central Highlands.

Call it dowsing or witching, the enemy is suffering from it.

For centuries, scientists have been hard-pressed to explain why metal divining rods always cross in the presence of a third metallic or plastic object, above or underground.

Although far from being an authority on the phenomena of the intersecting rods, Sergeant First Class Martin Sullivan of Daingerfield, Tex., Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, has long utilized this unexplainable occurrence to probe for buried treasures in Texas ghost towns.

While walking around the historic ruins with his "magical" rods held parallel, at shoulder height, Sergeant Sullivan has been able to pinpoint some fascinating relics, undetectable by the naked eye.

In Vietnam Sergeant Sullivan employs his treasure finding techniques in probing for prizes of the enemy—their mines.

"There is no question in my mind that my little devices are foolproof," said Sergeant Sullivan. "Now instead of sifting through the earth where we think



there might be explosives, we eliminate the guess work and go right to the source. Charlie will have difficulty hiding his mines from us in the future."

now sits a company of Ivymen—Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, commanded by Captain Richard B. Walker of Bloomington, Ind.

"Whoever has this high ground dominates the whole valley," said Colonel Herbert J. McChrystal of Arlington, Va., commander of the 2nd Brigade, while visiting Alpha Company's location.

"You can see how important this is to us," the colonel continued. "Down below, to the northwest, is Ban Sar Pa, a Popular Forces outpost. The

enemy could overrun it if no one were up here.

"On the other side of the crater, to the south and west, is what we call Coffin Corner. Our artillery has nailed a lot of lids on NVA graves down there."

Directly to the north of the volcano is Fire Support Base Pack Rat, home of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry. There, Lieutenant Colonel Palastra echoes Colonel McChrystal's words.

"We have what the NVA needs, the volcano. And believe me, we're going to keep it."

## LRPs Set Up Camp By Boisterous NVA

DAK TO — It seemed as if it would be just another ordinary mission. The 1st Brigade Long Range Patrol (LRP) team had scouted the area the entire day and found nothing.

As night fell they made camp in an abandoned NVA bunker complex. Team leader Specialist 4 George Douglas of Central Square, N.Y., radioed headquarters, gave them his team's position and prepared his men for a well-earned night's rest.

Shortly after breaking radio contact, Specialist Douglas heard the sound of men coming. Five NVA soldiers were moving towards the team.

Just when it appeared the LRP team would have to open fire, the enemy stopped and prepared to spend the night in the same bunker complex, a scant 25 meters away. Because of the nature of the LRP mission the NVA were not engaged.

Specialist Douglas and his team stood watch over their unwelcomed neighbors throughout the night. At daybreak the enemy soldiers broke camp and headed west as the LRP team followed close behind.

After traveling only 300

meters, the enemy soldiers stopped at another seemingly abandoned complex where they met 12 of their comrades.

The NVA soldiers were so confident of their safety they didn't bother to post guards and talked loudly among themselves.

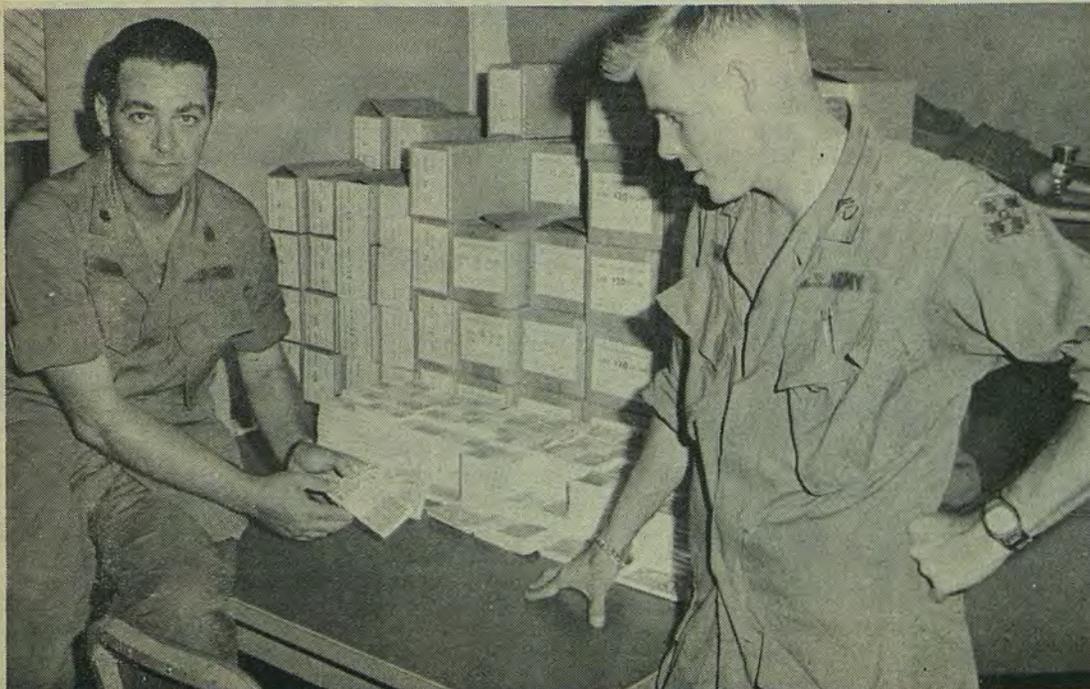
Specialist Douglas then regrouped his team and moved a safe distance away before calling in artillery fire on the unsuspecting enemy. Within minutes 25 artillery rounds poured in on the bunkers.

"I knew their artillery was close to the mark because I could hear them shouting as they scrambled for cover," said Specialist Douglas.

Shortly after the barrage, Specialist Douglas crept inside the bunker complex to assess the damage and determine enemy casualties.

Although he found no enemy bodies, there were blood spots, remains of a machine nest and several small arms.

After reporting his findings to 1st Brigade headquarters, Specialist Douglas and his team were extracted. Their well-deserved sleep was only moments away.



BIG SWITCH—Division Finance Officer, LTC John Childers, Jr., shows new series of MPC to SGT Floyd Braniger prior to exchanging old MPCs for a new series in record-breaking 24-hour period. (USA Photo by SP5 Frank Madison)

# Porta-Bridge Builds Combat Efficiency

Story By SP4 Joe Perdue; Pictures by CPT John Blanchard

CAMP ENARI—The enemy tactics of destroying bridges along 4th Division convoy routes in the Central Highlands has all but lost its effectiveness with employment of the Armored Vehicle Launcher Bridge (AVLB) by the 4th Engineer Battalion.

The battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Elvin Heiberg III, now has highly-mobile, temporary spans available for support of Ivy units and, so far, the giant steel bridges have been an even bigger headache to the NVA.

Before, enemy bomb squads would blow a bridge with the knowledge it would be a matter of days before Army engineers could repair and reopen the span to supply convoys. A prime target was Highway 14 between Pleiku and Dak To which is the lifeline to the 4th Division's 1st Brigade.

Now, all they can hope for is added work for the engineers. The convoys will continue moving that same day, crossing the gap created by the explosion, across the long, heavy bridge which can be put in place in a matter of minutes.

Company E, 4th Engineer Battalion, commanded by Captain John C. Blanchard of Sheboygan, Mich., is responsible for operation of the AVLBs. Although in use only a short time, the "creature" has already proven its worth in the rugged, jungle terrain of the Central Highlands.

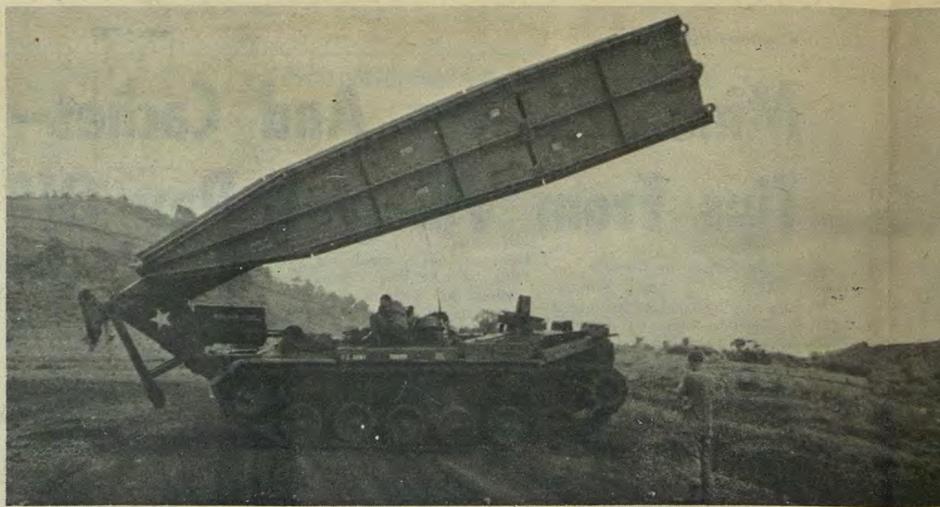
"One of our infantry units had just been attacked by an NVA company," Captain Blanchard explained. "Afterwards, the enemy moved through a deep gorge which they thought would be a perfect escape route, because under normal conditions, the armored personnel carriers (APCs) couldn't negotiate the terrain.

"Unfortunately for them," he continued, "the infantrymen had one of our AVLBs attached. The bridge was put in place and the APCs moved over the gorge."

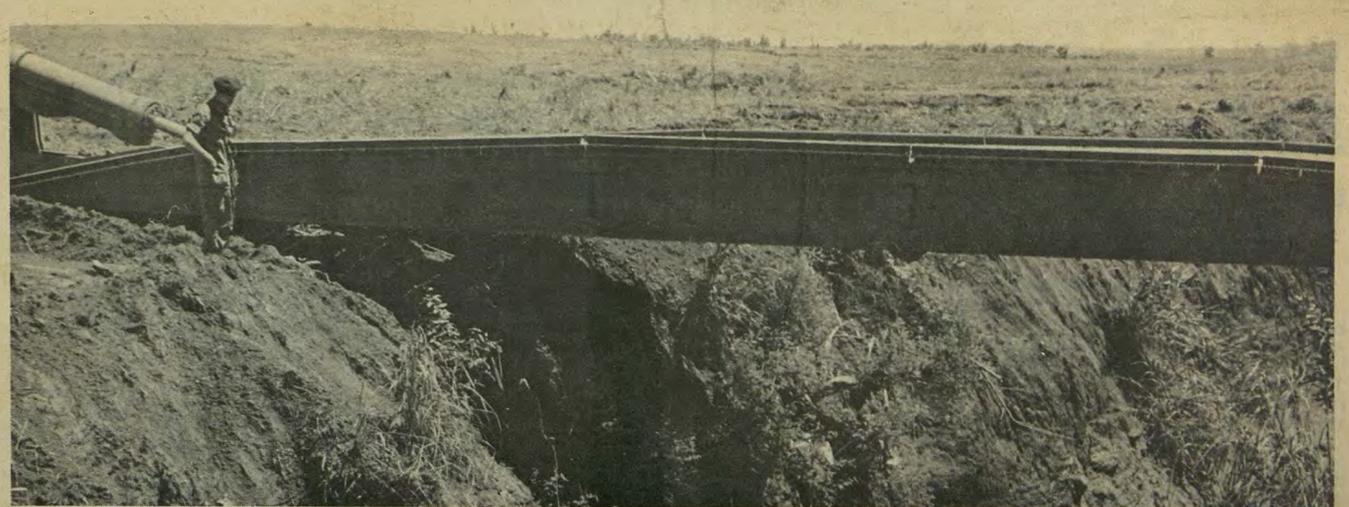
The mobility of the ingenious new vehicle is even more amazing when its size is considered.

The machine which transports the mammoth span is a modified M60 tank.

Yet, it takes less than five minutes for the AVLB to raise the bridge to a vertical position, towering in the air, unfold and lower it over the unpassable terrain, disconnect itself and drive across the bridge before picking it up from the other end, and moving on to the next trouble spot.

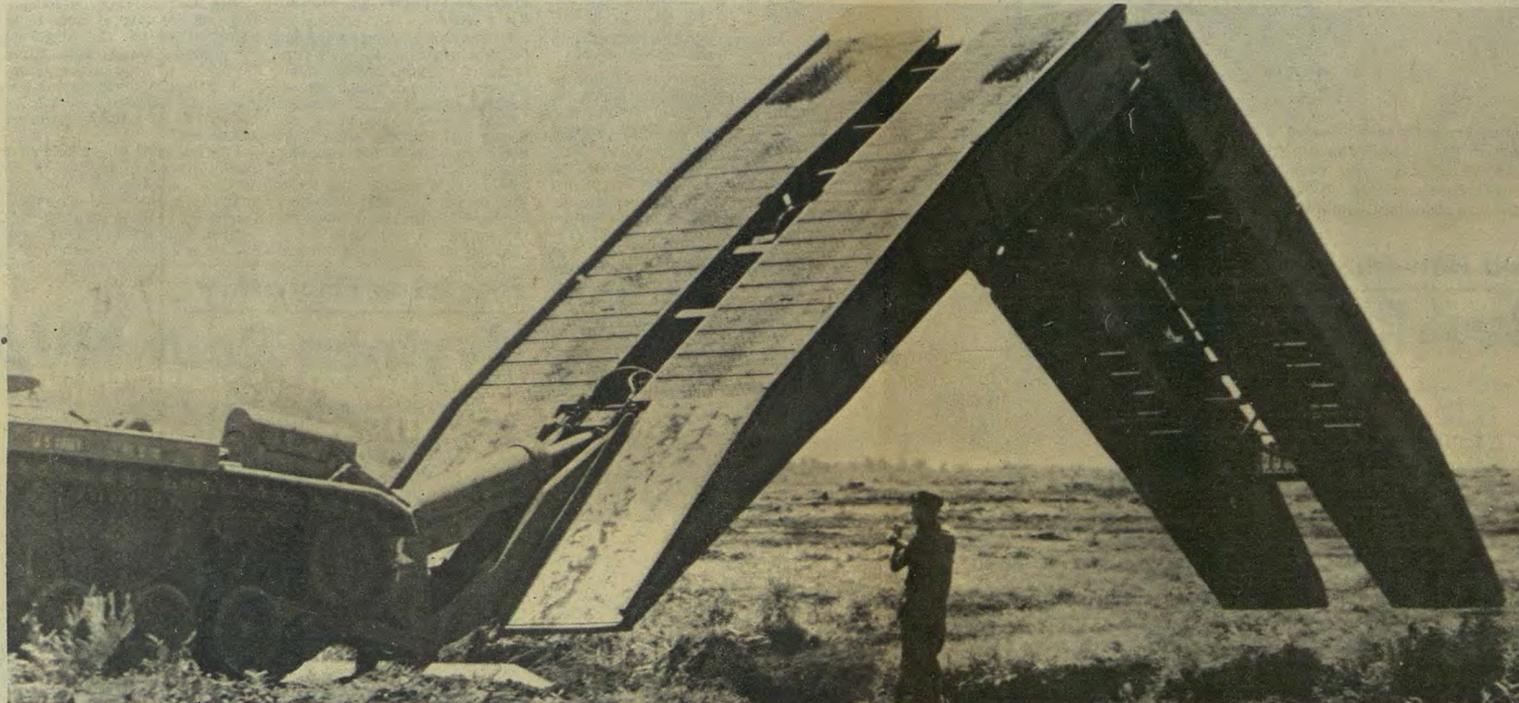


THE ARMORED VEHICLE LAUNCHER BRIDGE BEGINS TO OPEN.



THE LONG PORTABLE BRIDGE IS IN PLACE, LATER TO BE PICKED UP AND MOVED TO ANOTHER POSITION.

A new role for the engineers: to make instant bridges



THE HEAVY SPAN CROSSES A GORGE TO ALLOW IVY APCs ACCESS TO THE OTHER SIDE.



SIZZLING SENTA BERGER COOLS OFF FROM A HOT DAY ON A HOLLYWOOD SET.

## Sprawling, Consolidated Hamlet Fears Not

Story and Photo by SP4 Steve Wilson

CAMP ENARI—Little more than three months ago, five Montagnard villages southwest of here were plagued by Viet Cong terrorists. Even their chiefs had been abducted. Today, the villages no longer live in fear.

With the combined efforts of 4th Division civil affairs teams from the 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery, 124th Signal Battalion and Division Artillery Headquarters Battery; with security provided by the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry's Scout Platoon, the villages were consolidated into one sprawling hamlet.

"The tribespeople fell us they now sleep in peace," said First Lieutenant Charles Armstrong of Chattanooga, Tenn., the 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery's officer-in-charge.

After only three months, the hamlet of Plei Klan Ngol has blossomed into a regular show place for future consolidations.

With two barricades of barbed-wire,

machine gun bunkers and a 25-foot-tall observation tower, manned by the village's own popular forces trained soldiers, the natives are no longer harassed by the VC.

Many new buildings have sprung up since the village's conception. For example,



Employing their ancestor's craftsmanship, natives of Plei Klan Ngol carve wooden strips to reinforce basket.

the villagers built a school house for their children, complete with bamboo desks.

"The people have been extremely cooperative," said Lieutenant Armstrong. "We just told them we would like a school for their children, and within four days, we had one."

That school now boasts 55 students. "We knew we had to have protection for the 750 villagers," Lieutenant Armstrong continued. "So we ordered 20,000 sandbags and the Montagnards set to work. Each family has now its own bunker."

Still another added improvement is the cattle pen for each village. Before the consolidation, the water buffalo roamed at will. Now they have pens, increasing the sanitation of the hamlet.

"We have many more innovations to make," added Lieutenant Armstrong. "But we've come a long way in the last few months. Naturally, we're most proud of the villagers' willingness to help themselves."



SGT MIKE MURPHY, TANK COMMANDER, USES HAND SIGNALS FOR POSITIONING.

# Air Power Streaks In Via Liaison Office

By SP4 Mike Cobb

CAMP ENARI — Gargantuan F-100 Sabres streaked above the ruthless jungles of South Vietnam. Their destination—a stricken area in the Central Highlands.

This setting would not be possible if it were not for the 4th Infantry Division's Air Liaison Office (ALO), directed by Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. Messerli of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Working jointly with the 4th Division's G3 Section, the ALO maintains application of tactical air power and tactical air lifts in the 4th Division's area of operation.

## Barbecue Beefs Up Scholar Drive

CAMP ENARI — Noncommissioned officers assigned to the Division's G-5 section in cooperation with the Senior NCO Club, sponsored a barbecue to raise money for the Division Scholarship Fund.

According to Staff Sergeant Charles McKee, G-5, the barbecue was a "tremendous success," netting \$346.30.

Approximately 800 persons attended the affair held at the Division's Headquarters Company Senior NCO Club. Food for the cook-out was donated by the managers of Catecha Tea Plantation just west of here.

Members of the planning committee, along with Sergeant McKee, were Staff Sergeant Sidney Ritchie, club manager; Sergeant First Class John Cory, G-5; and Staff Sergeant George Cryder, mess steward of Division Headquarters Company.

Contributions to the Scholarship Fund now total \$90,726. Standings of the top ten units remains unchanged with 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, still perched atop the list with \$12,000. The unit is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard Larkin.

"We act as the central requesting agency for all air strikes in the 4th Division's area," said Colonel Messerli.

The ALO provides a Forward Air Control (FAC) unit for each of the divisions three forward brigades. "We use the brigade area as forward operating locations for our FAC aircraft," he said.

Each time a fighter is needed by Ivymen the ALO notifies the Direct Air Support Center (DASC), which has the aircraft airborne and in the area of distress within 10 to 20 minutes.

"We keep at least one FAC aircraft at the brigade and one hovering the brigade's area throughout the day," Colonel Messerli went on.

The aircraft in flight makes a visual reconnaissance of the brigade's area of responsibility, while the grounded plane coordinates all missions with the 4th Division.

"Every fighter strike in the 4th Division is directed by one of the FAC stations at one of the brigades, depending on the location," noted the colonel.

There are two types of missions which the FACs handle. First, the pre-planned mission, which cover all offensive attacks planned at least one day prior to the actual mission.

Also there is the immediate mission, covering all unplanned strikes made in the Ivy Division area.



UNITED STATES BOUND—Chief of Staff, Colonel Warren D. Hodges presents ARVN Liaison Officer, Second Lieutenant Nguyen Van Quynh the 4th Division Certificate of Achievement. 2LT Quynh soon leaves for Fort Benning, Ga., for chemical engineering courses. He has served with the 4th Division since October 1966. Since February 1968, he has assisted the Division Senior Liaison Officer, contributing significantly in creating closer Vietnamese-American relationships. (USA Photo)

## Aids In Montagnard Harvesting

# 'Magic Bus' Runs For Help

By SP4 Hans Lange

BAN ME THUOT — The "magic bus" slowly makes its way up and down the steep inclines near the hamlet of Duc Lap in the Central Highlands.

On its westward run it is usually empty. But on its east-bound trip there are often as many as 15 Montagnards refugees aboard . . . along with everything they can carry. And that's a load even the magic bus struggles under.

The bus really has no magic, nor is it a bus. It's a standard Army three-quarter ton truck which First Lieutenant Harry F. Bernard of Pittsburgh, civil affairs team officer of the 2nd Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 35th

Infantry, has turned into a shuttle vehicle for 2,500 Montagnard refugees temporarily housed in Duc Lap.

The refugees were forced to make their homes at Duc Lap when driven out of their villages near the Cambodian border by retreating North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers after the heavy fighting at the Duc Lap Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) Camp.

The "Cacti Blue" civil affairs team has been aiding them since they began arriving. Medical aid, food, even shelter has been provided. And now the truck.

Once the refugees were settled and assured of their safety, they began heading back to their destroyed villages every day to harvest crops.

It meant about a four-mile walk twice a day, once carrying only their tools, once with their baskets heavily-laden with food, plus anything else salvageable.

Lieutenant Bernard couldn't put the truck and his men at the disposal of the refugees all day. There was still other vital civil affairs work to be carried out. But he was able to use the truck for a few hours each afternoon when the Montagnards returned from their fields.

"At first they were skeptical," says driver Private Hardy D. Eason of Waterbury, Conn., "but they soon realized riding that distance was better than walking it, especially with the load they were carrying on their backs."

"We finally convinced them," says Private First Class William E. Carlson of Lander, Wyo., the interpreter for the Cacti Blue civil affairs team.

"These people are proud," he continued, "and change is something they do not really accept. Once they saw that we were helping them accomplish what they were doing, they accepted us and the truck. That's when they started calling it the magic bus."

"They have really grown accustomed to us," adds Private Eason. "You should see them rush up to us when we pull into

view. I don't know how they can carry so much stuff and still be able to run, even the women. When they get to the truck, Bill (PFC Carlson) and I give them a hand getting aboard and then we head to Duc Lap and their temporary homes."

The truck makes as many as 15 trips a day, shuttling about 200 Montagnards from their fields to the three main refugee centers in Duc Lap.

And it will continue until the refugees are able to rebuild their villages, which is the next project for the Cacti Blue civil affairs team.

## Ivy Scores 1st With Division Hometowners

CAMP ENARI—The 4th Infantry Division has captured top spot for the second quarter in a row in the Army hometown news program.

The Ivy Division, commanded by Major General Charles P. Stone, submitted 9,319 to lead all commands of the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

In addition to leading in regular hometown news stories, the Famous Fourth outclassed the 101st Airmobile Division for first place in the "hard news" category.

According to Major Donald D. David, Division Information Officer, "The success of the program is due to the personal interest of General Stone and his subordinate commanders. Without this tremendous support at all levels, we would not be able to continuously lead all units in Vietnam."

"In addition," Major David continued, "the clerks who complete the forms deserve a vote of thanks."

In a letter to the 4th Division from Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Bechdolt Jr., the commanding officer of the U.S. Army Hometown News Center, he stated that the total editorials from the units in the Republic of Vietnam was 43,985.

## LRPs Undergo New Training To Review Previous Skills

DAK TO — The 1st Brigade Long Range Patrol (LRP) Platoon completed a four-day, 32-hour block of instruction designed to review all phases of their operations.

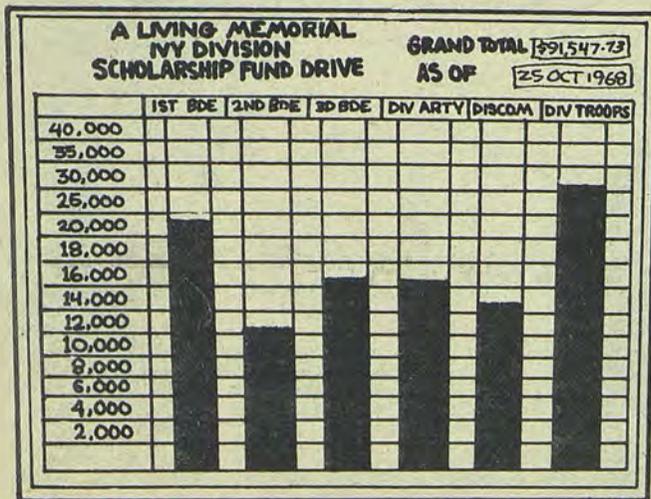
The comprehensive course covered artillery employment, tactical air support, communication procedures, reporting procedures, infiltration and exfiltration, ambush techniques, escape and evasion, demolition, patrolling and practical use of the McQuire rig, a line used to extract teams from the jungle while the helicopter hovers above.

First Lieutenant William J. Miller of Miami, Ohio, platoon leader; and Staff Sergeant James D. Pankey of Albuquerque, N.M., team leader, decided to hold the course because of new replacements.

To their knowledge it is the first refamiliarization course given to LRP members in the 4th Division.

Sergeant Pankey arranged to have representatives of cooperating units give the class of instruction in their own fields. Instructors were provided by the 1st Brigade, S2, S3, S4, the Air Force and the Brigade Surgeon.

All the LRP team members attended the four-day program. During this time members of the 4th Division LRP teams from Camp Enari took over reconnaissance activities in the 1st Brigade area of operation.



"Keeping Up,  
the Good Work"

# Education: Ivymen As Students And Teachers

Story By 4th Div PIO

**E**VEN WHILE in a combat zone, the soldier who hasn't completed his high school or college education has the opportunity to do so.

Group study courses and more than 6,000 correspondence courses from 45 universities in the States are offered through the 4th Division Army Education Center, said Ronald Reed of Texarkana, Tex.

The United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) test control officer went on to say that the General Educational Development (GED) testing program is administered at the Camp Enari education center as well as at the brigade firebases.

Five tests are required for a possible high school diploma which require about a day and a half, said Mr. Reed. The tests cover English, history, natural science, math and literature.

For those interested in obtaining an additional 30 college credit hours, tests are given in the same subjects with the exception of literature, which is replaced by humanities.

The college test, too, takes one and a half days. If an individual feels weak in a subject, he can review it before hand.

In September alone, the education center administered college tests to 30 division soldiers, and high school tests to an additional 120 men. Five tests were taken by men in the field.

Still another program is the end of course test. If a person feels he has a good background in a subject, he can take a test on it for extra college credit.

In addition to the 6,000 correspondence courses offered by 45 universities, USAFI offers courses in high school, college and technical fields.

Mr. Reed pointed out that under the GI Bill, cost of a correspondence course is only \$5 for enrollment fee. If successfully completed, any subsequent courses are free of charge.

Also offered at the educational center are group study classes. The classes are held twice a week, three hours each night for eight weeks. Current courses being taught are high school review math, Vietnamese language, criminology and remedial reading.

The soldier has a liberal pick of universities from which to take correspondence courses. For example, 14 universities throughout the nation offer journalism.

The soldier is allowed one year to complete USAFI correspondence courses and two years for those taken through universities. If he is released from active duty while enrolled in the course, he may still complete it as a civilian.

"We try to advise people," said Mr. Reed. "We counsel them on educational matters and benefits under the GI Bill."

The educational director also pointed out

that currently his office is in need of future classroom teachers at the center. Applications are available for anyone who would like to teach for USAFI.

The prerequisite for teaching is a college degree with a major or minor in the subject the individual is interested in presenting.

School catalogs representing all the military service schools from which extension courses are available may be obtained from the center.



(Sketch by SP4 William Stjorred)

## AN IVYMAN EXPLAINS "WINTER".

Still another facet of the center is the college entrance examination which must be taken before enrolling in a school. Applications for all college examinations for undergraduate study are available from the center, as well as graduate record examinations and law school admission tests.

For further information on educational benefits, contact the 4th Division Army Educational Center in Camp Enari.

## VINH-SON SCHOOL

The new English instructors at the Vinh-Son School at Ban Me Thuot clearly know what they're teaching.

These part-time teachers are "bao chi"—combat reporters for the Ivy Division's 2nd Brigade.

"A reporter's hours are irregular," explained Specialist 4 Larry Hogan of Portland, Ore. "When any of us in the information office have a bit of free time, we're going to drop by the school and give the kids a few lessons."

Sister Beatrice, the school's regular English teacher, added that many of her students already read English, but need to practice conversation.

Specialist Hogan's first class consisted of 50 giggling Vietnamese girls in flowing white "aou dais". "It was a bit unnerving," he later admitted.

While an occasional tank rumbled by in the street outside, Specialist Hogan listened while his class practiced new words and recited sentences from a textbook.

"When do you wear cotton clothes?" he would ask.

"We wear cotton clothes in the summer," a chorus of children answered.

Some things in the textbook stumped him. "How do you explain 'winter' to children raised in a tropical country?" he later wondered.

Sister Beatrice pointed out that English is the school's most popular language, after only two years as part of the curriculum.

Two hundred of the 1,200 students at the Vinh-Son School are now learning the language.

According to Sister Beatrice, many of the children will go on to study at the university level and perhaps become teachers. Many others are simply eager to work with Americans.

## CAVALRYMEN GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Taking advantage of the unique opportunity offered by the 4th Infantry Division's Education Center, 27 Ivymen from the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, vied for high school diplomas without leaving "Blackhawk" firebase.

Because so many soldiers miss out on Army education benefits, and because sending one person to the field is much easier than transporting 20 or so back to Camp Enari, the Educational Center has made the Army General Educational Development Test readily available to those soldiers serving in forward areas by taking its testing program to them.

Under field representative, Specialist 4 Merle Valotto of Falls Church, Va., the Army's high school equivalent examination is administered in mess halls, recreational areas, even briefing rooms.

"A high school diploma, either in the military or civilian sector is an absolute must these days," said Specialist Valotto. "The 4th Division's field testing program is but a part of the Army's policy to provide every possible educational opportunity to the individual soldier, during or after his service."

Realizing the need for an education by the individual soldier has been in part, responsible for success of the program. Other than the 27 cavalrymen from the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, more than 100 other 4th Division soldiers in firebases at Dak To, Bon Son and the Oasis are taking advantage of the education.



SP4 MERLE VALOTTO ADMINISTERS HIGH SCHOOL TESTS AT BLACKHAWK FIREBASE.

(USA Photo by PFC John Uhlar)

Braves The Battling For Cheer

# 'Doll' Goes Forward, Then Receives Ivy Thanks



**GOODBYE**—It was goodbye at Mess #1 when Kay Brownfield of Tulsa, Okla., was feted at a farewell dinner by the staff of the 4th Division. Miss Brownfield, unit director of the Red Cross Girls since March, was transferred to Cam Ranh Bay on October 15th. Looking on in the traditional cake-cutting ceremony is the division commander, Major General Charles P. Stone.

OASIS — Fourth Division infantrymen gathered around Red Cross workers Kay Brownfield of Tulsa, Okla., and Sue Pullian of Bristol, Tenn.

Each man patiently waited his turn as the girls passed out much-needed toilet accessories and reading matter. Suddenly the words "saddle up" echoed across the isolated firebase.

The men of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Pennell Hickey, slung their ponderous rucksacks with all their material possessions on their backs. Five minutes later the helicopters to transport the "Dragoons" arrived.

The infantrymen boarded the ships and continued their never-ending search for "Charlie," their hardships lessened by the gifts they received earlier from Cincinnati, Ohio, via "Operation Helpmate."

Operation Helpmate is a nationwide project sponsored by the American Red Cross. Each of the major infantry units in Vietnam have been adopted by a Red Cross Chapter in the United States.

The Cincinnati Chapter chose to support

the 4th Division operating in Vietnam's Central Highlands.

Since Operation Helpmate's beginning in April 1967, Cincinnatians have contributed more than 200,000 items for the men's recreational purposes. Musical instruments, athletic equipment, cameras, film, newspapers, magazines, model kits, stationery, toiletries and other articles are among them.

"Just last week we distributed 20,000 records to the men in the field," said Miss Brownfield.

"Every item is personally hand-carried to the men by our girls. I can't begin to describe how much the men appreciate the gifts and the thought that goes with them," Miss Brownfield continued.

The city's generosity has also been extended to the Red Cross volunteers. Each of the five girls working with the 4th Division received a package containing electric shavers, rattooth combs, compacts, and various other articles designed to further enhance their femininity.

"Our next project consists of the distribution of 6,200 mirrors arriving from Cincinnati in the near future. Mirrors are not easily come by in the field and they will undoubtedly be appreciated by the infantrymen."

From the fighting men of the 4th Division to their friends 13,000 miles away in Cincinnati, a heartfelt "thank you."

## Work Through The Night

# Bridge Cements US-ARVN Comradery

**By SP4 Larry Hogan**  
**BAN ME THUOT** — Two bridges, one of steel and one of friendship, were built near here when American and Vietnamese engineers joined forces. For most of the year, traffic had been able to simply wade across the tiny river 42 miles

east of here. However, the monsoon rains had washed away the drainage culverts and turned the tiny stream into a raging river. First Lieutenant Clifford Burnstein of Louisville, Ky., and Platoon Sergeant Randolph Jones of the Virgin Islands,

were flown into the 4th Division area of operation to supervise the construction of the permanent bridge.

Both Lieutenant Burnstein and Sergeant Jones are members of the 509th Engineer Panel Bridge Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Peter

Viglucchi of Yonkers, N.Y.

Men from the 23rd Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division and the 70th Engineer Brigade worked together on the project.

Material for the bridge was supplied by the 23rd ARVN Division Engineers.

"The ARVN officers and NCOs knew what they were doing," Lieutenant Burnstein said.

Huge sections of steel, weighing almost 600 pounds, were moved into place by use of manpower alone.

The work had barely begun when darkness set in.

The engineers continued working by lights from the truck's head lamps.

As the engineers worked, Vietnamese and American troops provided security for the construction site.

The morning sun brought not only welcome light, but an ARVN convoy eager to cross the new bridge.

Final adjustments were made. The engineers stepped back, and the convoy rumbled across.

"The bridge will last a long time," said one proud Ivyman.

# 1st Brigade Receives A New Commander

**DAK TO** — Colonel Hale H. Knight of Alexandria, Va., accepted command of the 1st Brigade from Colonel Joseph E. Fix III, also of Alexandria, during ceremonies held at brigade headquarters here.

The assignment is Colonel Knight's third tour of duty in Vietnam. In 1957-58 he was the senior advisor to the 12th ARVN Regiment at Baria, Vietnam. From August 1967 until April 1968, he served as the chief of operations division to the Studies and Observations Group in Saigon.

Colonel Knight received his commission through Infantry OCS at Fort Hood, Tex., in 1943. He then served as a guerilla unit commander in Burma during World War II with the Office of Strategic Services.

Other assignments include commander of the 2nd Battalion, 505th Infantry at Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1952 and 1953; and the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry in Japan during 1954 and

1955. He has also served in Trieste and French Guinea.

He received a B.S. degree from Colorado State University in 1943 and a M.A. in personnel administration from George Washington University. His military schools include the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Colonel Knight and his wife, Burkie, have seven children. Two, Gregory, 20, and Ronald, 19, are cadets at the United States Military Academy.

Among his awards and decorations are the Silver Star, the Bronze with First Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with "V" Device and the Army Commendation Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Colonel Fix, former brigade commander, received the Air Medal with "V" Device, Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster, at the change of command ceremonies. After a short leave, Colonel Fix will become the USARV G-1 at Long Binh.



**COLUMBIA CUTIE** — Blonde Janet Landgard brightens the scene in Columbia Pictures' "The Swimmer." You can see she's well-dressed for her part.

## Service Club Lists Schedule

**CAMP ENARI** — The Dragon Mountain Service Club has announced the following schedule of events for the week of Nov. 10 through the 17th.

Nov. 10—Coffee call—3 p.m., volley ball tourney, 4 p.m., bingo, 8 p.m.

Nov. 11—"The Operator's" Unit Party, 278th Signal—8 p.m.

Nov. 12—Country Western—8 p.m.

Nov. 13—Bid Whist and pi-

noie tournaments—7 p.m., division combo, 8 p.m.

Nov. 14—Show your slides night, bring you R & R slides—8 p.m.

Nov. 15—Golden Gate Hail and Farewell Party, refreshments, fun, and prizes—8 p.m.

Nov. 16—Ping Pong and Pool Tournaments—2 p.m., movie, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 17—Division Stage Band—2 p.m., coffee call, 3 p.m., bingo, 8 p.m.

## Bullet Test

**DAK TO**—"If your mission took your patrol into an area not on this sheet, what map sheet would you request?"

In an instant the back of the infantryman straightened. His hand went to the map legend. In a confident voice he read out the required identification numbers of the new map he would need.

To the members of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry E-5 board, it was just another question, but to the nervous Specialist 4 it was a major hurdle to become a sergeant.

"One of the main reasons for conducting an E-5 board," says Captain Thomas Booth of Pittston, Pa., adjutant, is to instill confidence in the future NCO and to get him thinking on a leadership level. Also the board gives us the chance to see and compare a man in the flesh not just on paper."

The "Bullet" battalion recently concluded E-5 panel sessions in their forward trains area in Dak To. Run on an experimental basis, the board seemed to produce the desired results.

"We feel the board was worth it," added Captain Booth, "however, next month we will interview men up only for promotion on the accelerated allocation list."

## Mail The IVY LEAF Home

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

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\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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POSTAGE

3rd Class 4 cents

Air Mail 10 cents

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