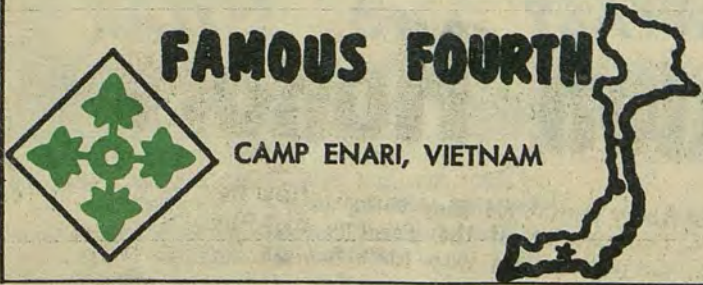


IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH

CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM



Vol. 3, No. 18

May 4, 1969

Regular Soldiers Kill 23

FIREBASE McNERNEY — As elements of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, operating with the 1st Brigade, swept through an enemy bunker complex, an attempted ambush by an estimated company-size NVA force backfired — leaving 23 North Vietnamese soldiers dead.

Planning a sweep up one side of a mountain west of Poley Kleng, Delta Company's 1st Platoon reconned the area by fire, then proceeded to move to their objective — the mountain's peak.

As the Regulars cautiously swept the area, contact was suddenly made as fire erupted in their front. The platoon's heavy return fire forced the enemy to retreat and the Americans regrouped.

Coordinating with Air Force Forward Air Controllers (FAC), Delta Company commander, Captain Alan Mitchell of Portland, Maine, directed an Air Force bombing strike. As the thunder of the bombs rolled away, another recon by fire was made by the 1st Platoon.

The platoon continued their treacherous climb up the mountain slope. Crossing a saddle in a ridge, the platoon uncovered a complicated bunker complex.

"We investigated the bunkers prior to continuing," reported Specialist 5 Richard Spence of Houston, Tex., the point element leader. "We found that the bunkers had recently been used; we also found 20 B40 rockets with charges and fuses and several AK47 magazines riddled with holes."

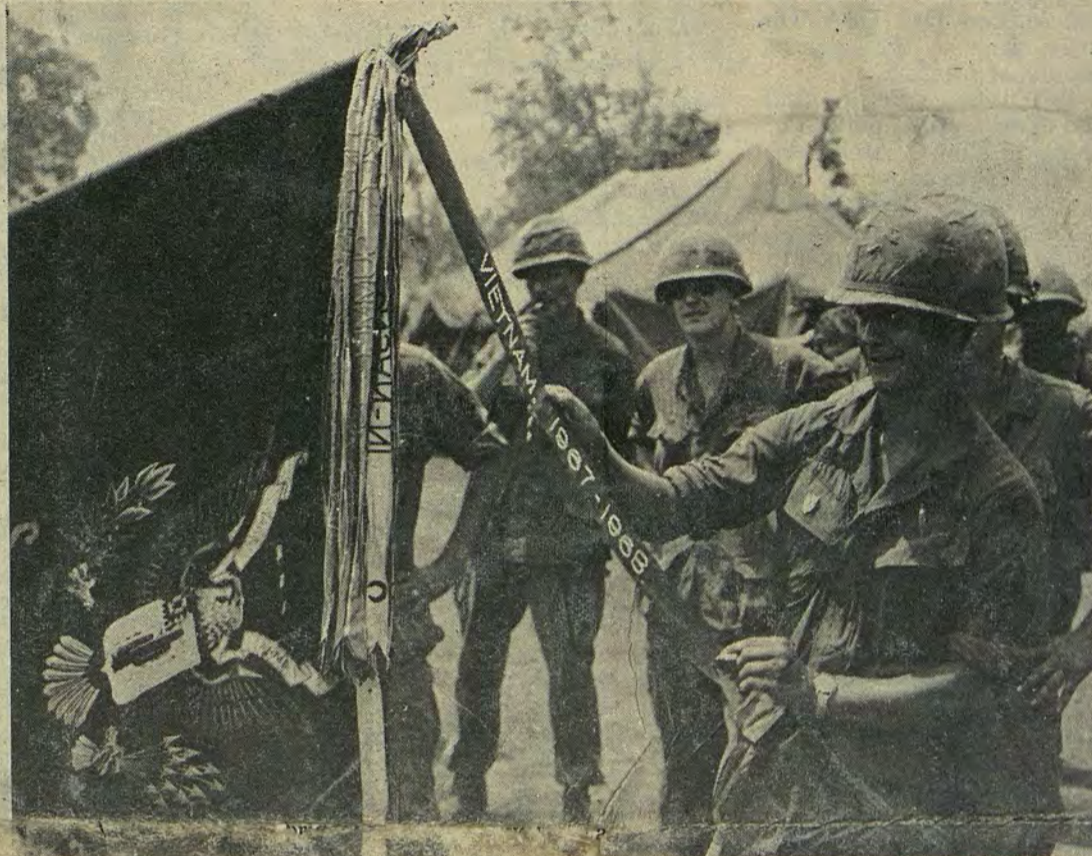
The NVA poured in heavy snare fire.

The point element to separate from the main body of the platoon. The enemy then hit with a human-wave attack.

Delta Company's 2nd Platoon was sent to reinforce. As they approached the area of contact, they, along with the separated point element, surprised the flank of the enemy's force with a volley of M16 fire, forcing a large number of enemy to flee and keeping others from any further fighting.

"There is little doubt that the enemy was waiting for us," noted Captain Mitchell, "but my men did a fantastic job in repelling the NVA."

A sweep of the area the next morning indicated that the enemy had fled — leaving behind ammunition, their complicated weave of tunnels and bunkers and 23 dead comrades.



WELL-EARNED— Staff Sergeant Dale F. Depoy of South Bend, Ind., looks with justified pride at the newest streamer earned by the Cacti Blue. (Photo By 1Lt Jim Hughes)

Aviation Troops Turn Tables, "Bite" 16 Foot Long Python

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS — Usually the weekly visit to the Montagnard village of Plei Bang Chon by the men of the 366th Aviation Support Detachment consists of handing out candy and tobacco to the villagers.

But most recently the trip by the 366th was doctored by a roadside spectator — a 16 foot, seven inch python. The sequence of events that followed led to a special dinner treat for the platoon.

The 366's weekly ritual began when a truck bound for the Montagnard village left the Oasis, home of the 3rd Brigade and the Aviation Support Detachment's location.

As the truck approached the village, Chief, the detachment's Montagnard scout, spotted the snake beside the road.

Specialists 4 John P. Habersham of Valdosta, Ga., and Bruce Wells of Anaheim, Calif., jumped from the truck. "I picked him up, thinking he was dead," said Specialist Wells.

"When I realized he wasn't, I sent Chief into the village to get a basket. We had a difficult time," continued Specialist Wells, "but once we got him into the basket he was pretty calm."

The snake catchers went on their way as if nothing had happened. "While we were giving

Cacti Blue Awarded Unit Citation Honors

OASIS — Becoming a tradition in the Army is not an easy thing to do. But, in the opinion of Major General Donn R. Pepke, commander of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division, the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry is well on its way toward that coveted reputation.

The Cacti Blue forces were hailed by General Pepke and the battalion was awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation in ceremonies at the Oasis, home of the 3rd Brigade.

"The Cacti Blue is almost a tradition in the Army. They have done great things for a number of years, and especially during the Vietnam campaign," said General Pepke after placing a battle streamer on the battalion colors.

The battalion was cited for actions during the period November 1, 1967 through April 30, 1968. During this time, the Cacti Blue was under the control of six different brigades in the coastal areas of Vietnam's II Corps area.

The unit was involved in numerous operations during this period and moved on eight occasions covering an area of approximately 600 miles.

The 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry accounted for 716 enemy deaths. In addition, the battalion conducted activities with four allied elements ranging from Popular Forces platoons to the Republic of Vietnam's Regular Army elements.

The victories resulting from these endeavors greatly stimulated self-confidence, morale and esprit de corps in the Vietnamese units. While establishing an outstanding combat reputation, the battalion materially contributed to the Free World effort in the Republic of Vietnam.

General Pepke also had words of praise for the Cacti Blue efforts in the recent Chu Prong Mountain fighting. The division commander outlined the battalion's achievements under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonels James Moore, Joseph S. Sulenski and James E. Price, the present commander.

"In the Chu Prong area your exploits again were outstanding. You killed many NVA troops, destroyed over 150 fortifications and the caches you discovered were sorely missed by the enemy," added General Pepke.

"All I can say is, I salute you and your leaders for your outstanding accomplishments in the past few months. Needless to say, I know that you will continue to write even a greater history in the coming months."

away candy a young boy saw the snake inside the basket. He must have jumped five feet. All the villagers then came over to take a look," laughed Specialist Wells.

After returning to the Oasis, plans were made to include the 68 pound snake on the menu. "We'll eat anything that doesn't eat us first," said Specialist Wells.


One person who certainly was


surprised when he sat down to the special dinner was Major Donald H. Shakan, commander of the 366th. It seems the snake catchers hadn't told their commander about the python.

"The major wasn't around when we returned, so we decided we wouldn't tell him. We wanted to see the expression on his face when he took the first bite," explained Specialist Wells.



CHOW TIME—Specialists 4 John P. Habersham of Valdosta, Ga., Joseph Szobonya of Detroit and Bruce Wells of Anaheim, Calif. stretch their dinner between them.

From The Desk of

the
Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Law Day

BY JOINT RESOLUTION of Congress and Proclamation of the President, 1 May 1969 was celebrated by Americans, at home and abroad, as Law Day USA. On this day each year, recognition is given to the concept that the rule of law is the cornerstone of freedom.

The Theme of Law Day, 1969, was: "Justice and Equality depend upon Law And You." In a period of social disorder and strained race relations, Americans everywhere should remember that true equality and justice depend not only on laws, but on the development in each one of us a greater respect for the individual. While laws can set forth minimum standards of outward behavior, achievement of the goals of justice and equality ultimately depends on the willingness of each citizen to accept his personal responsibility in the fulfillment of these ideals.

TO THOSE OF US in Vietnam, the theme Law Day 1969 had an added significance. As we serve here to preserve human freedom, justice and equality, we can daily demonstrate to the people of Vietnam our respect for the Rule of Law. For the rights of individuals, and our belief that a better society is possible only within the framework of law.

Thus, we should reaffirm our faith in the Rule of Law, and rededicate ourselves to the principle of equality and justice for all.

CSM Taylor Speaks Out



GED Tests

OF ALL THE initials in the Army, the most important for some soldiers is GED. It stands for General Educational Development, and the successful completion of the tests can open many doors that are now closed to non-high school graduates.

The battery of tests include English, social studies, natural sciences, literature and mathematics. If the tests are passed in a manner satisfactory to your home state, you will be issued the equivalent to a high school diploma.

Even in Vietnam the opportunity to complete the GED test is available. The Camp Enari Education Center offers two ways in which a Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldier may complete his GED.

FIRST, A SOLDIER, with the permission of his unit commander, may report in person to the center at 7:45 each morning except Sunday and take the tests.

For soldiers in a forward area not able to get to the center the field testing team will travel to a forward base camp and give the tests. The only requirement is that the unit commander must submit a Disposition Form requesting the test and giving the name, rank, social security account number, service number and DEROS of the men to be tested.

If a group of approximately 30 men can be assembled to take the test, the field testing team will arrange a date when the test can be administered.

The examination takes a total of a day-and-a-half to be completed. If military duties preclude a soldier from taking the battery of tests when they are normally scheduled the Education office will attempt to arrange a time for the man to be examined.

EDUCATION is the key to advancement. Not only in the military but in civilian endeavors also. While in the military, Famous Fourth soldiers have an opportunity to complete their high school education. In addition, the center also offers college level GED, correspondence courses, college tests and other educational opportunities.

Calling All Alphas


Plastic Bags Can Stop Dust

1. EVER WONDER how you can keep all that dust from clouding up the interior of your bunker? You know, the real fine dust that manages to work its way through the roof when the Redlegs are shooting or the choppers are coming in? Well,

Sergeant First Class James Chatman of Johnson City, Tenn., says that he licked the problem by lining the roof of his bunker with plastic bags — the kind mortar ammo comes in, and you find in an SP pack. With the monsoons coming, he added, you might want to use this means to

keep the water out too.

2. SPEAKING OF MONSOONS, Staff Sergeant Pat Francis of Napa, Calif., advises us that a radio operator can save himself a lot of problems if he covers the handset from his PRC 25 with the plastic bag that his battery comes in.



STEADFAST and LOYAL

SILVER STAR

Lieutenant Colonel John L. Daniels, HHC, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Carter Jr., HHC, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

Lieutenant Colonel Pennell J. Hickey, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Major Albert D. Sheehan, HHC, 1st Brigade.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Lieutenant Colonel Elvin R. Heiberg III, HHC, 4th Engineer Battalion.

Captain Blair K. Blacker, Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

Warrant Officer Homer L. Bentley, HHC, 1st Brigade.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

Captain Charles E. Poe, Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

First Lieutenant Witold J. Bielawski, Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

First Lieutenant Martin P. Carlson, Company A, 4th Engineer Battalion.

First Lieutenant Charles W. Harris, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

First Lieutenant John D. Pitney, HHC, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

First Lieutenant Michael G. White, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

Chief Warrant Officer Albert R. Trevino, Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

Platoon Sergeant Ernest E. Herring Jr., Company A, 4th Engineer Battalion.

Platoon Sergeant Crawford Hunter, Provisional Detachment, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor.

Staff Sergeant Willard W. Blalock, HHC, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor.

Staff Sergeant Terrence W. Mc Farland, Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry.

Staff Sergeant Henry P. Hankins, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Sergeant Gerald L. Argo, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

Sergeant Davis E. Burger, Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

AIR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

Captain Gary P. Stanley, Troop D, 1st Battalion, 10th Cavalry.

Chief Warrant Officer Jerry L. Higgins, Company A, 4th Aviation Battalion.

Warrant Officer David E. Frenz, Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

Specialist 4 Jack T. Nooney Jr., Company A, 4th Aviation Battalion.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR HEROISM

Captain Blair K. Blacker, Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

First Lieutenant James H. Jackson, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery.

First Lieutenant James A. Walsh, HHC, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

Warrant Officer Michael R. Weber, Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

Staff Sergeant Edward L. Parks, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Staff Sergeant James R. Peugh, Company E, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Sergeant Olan E. Connell, Company E, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

Sergeant Steven E. Hubbard, Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry.

Sergeant Domingo Trevino, Company A, 4th Engineer Battalion.

Career Corner

Special Reenlistments

In this issue of "Your Career Corner" we will answer a few of the questions most commonly asked about reenlistment leaves while serving in Vietnam.

QUESTION: May I receive a special reenlistment leave while serving in Vietnam?

ANSWER: Yes, PL 89-735 states in part that a member on active duty in a hostile fire zone and who, by reenlistment, extension of enlistment, or other voluntary action extends his tour of duty in that area for at least six months may be authorized special leave.

If you meet the basic requirements and agree to certain conditions, as outlined below, you may be granted a transportation free, non-chargeable 30-day special leave to almost anyplace in the free world you desire. However, this special 30-day reenlistment leave is not credited toward your tour in Vietnam.

As pertaining to reenlistment, only a member who reenlists for purpose of completing a normal tour in RVN, qualifies for special leave by virtue of the reenlistment; for example, members who do not have sufficient time prior to normal ETS to complete

the 12 month tour in RVN. These individuals may, if otherwise qualified, take a short discharge, reenlist and be eligible for special leave provided they agree in writing to serve in RVN for at least six months, exclusive of leave and travel time, beyond their original ETS.


Special leave in connection with reenlistment will begin not earlier than the day following reenlistment and not later than 30 days following reenlistment.

Contact your Career Counselor for all the facts on this Special Reenlistment Leave policy. He is the man with all the facts and an expert in his field. Ask the man who knows, your Career Counselor.

QUESTION: May I take a short discharge and reenlist for a door gunner assignment in a location

of my choice within Vietnam?

ANSWER: Yes, provided you are in the grade of E-4 or below, can pass a class II type flight physical and meet all the eligibility requirements for reenlistment, you may select the area of your choice. For example; Cam Ranh Bay, An Khe, Vung Tau, Long Binh or any other area where a need for Aviation units exists. You will be trained to perform the duties of door gunner and be cross trained as a Crew Chief and be awarded MOS 67A1F after a short period of training. When you are reassigned at DEROS and returned to CONUS, you will be working and performing duties in MOS 67A1F. A limited amount of spaces are open, so see your Career Counselor now and apply for this exciting field.



IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH



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Pathfinders Clear The Way For Combat Assault Troops

By SGT Peter Call
HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — ouflaged fatigues and wearing packs loaded with demolitions, Three men, dressed in cam- looked down from the slick at

Activity Slowed

Stop Enemy Effort

CAMP ENARI—NVA and Viet Cong casualties suffered during the post-Tet Offensive in the Central Highlands surpassed the 1000 mark on April 11, exactly forty-seven days after enemy units unleashed numerous indirect attacks by fire against large military installations and thickly settled urban areas throughout Kontum and Pleiku Provinces.

During the Spring Offensive local Viet Cong (VC) activities seemed to be short-lived. Famous Fighting Fourth Division troops accounted for a total of 52 bodies since February 23, the day on which the offensive was launched.

While local guerrilla units were especially active during the first two weeks, recent reports indicate a sharp decrease in the number of VC-initiated incidents.

Making Life

A Bit Easier

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Can you beat this for openers?

An American brewing firm recently forwarded 1,000 can openers to the men of the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry because of the "difficulty" the firm encountered with the P38 type can opener.

The gift resulted from a request submitted by Battalion Chaplain (Captain) R. W. Lovingood of Mill Valley, Calif., that a representative of the company attempt to open a can of beer with the P38, military type opener.

"You try and open a can with this thing," the Chaplain's letter had challenged.

"We can readily understand the problem the men have with the opener you forwarded," came the reply which was endorsed by the firm's Director of Export-Military Sales. "We are happy to forward a case (1,000) of openers which should adequately take care of the men in your battalion."

As the offensive waned into its seventh week, local forces were reportedly confining their activities to road mining, occasional sniping and kidnapping. One atrocity raid on a family of lepers isolated east of Firebase Oasis resulted in the purposeless slaying of four adult lepers and the wounding of one leper child.

Meanwhile, in the Plei Trap Valley area Fourth Division troops clashed frequently with hard-line NVA soldiers, denying them at every turn the much needed victory they have sought so long in the Highlands. The combined efforts of the Division's three aggressive brigades have so far netted an NVA body count of 950.

American forces ferreted out several hidden arsenals throughout the Division's area of operations, capturing 190 small arms and 34 crew served weapons. The Fourth Division's tally also includes 592 B40 rockets, 469 CHICOM grenades, 209 assorted mines, 391 mixed mortar rounds and over a quarter-of-a-million rounds of small arms ammunition.

In joint operations with the Air Force, the Division is also credited with the destruction of two Soviet PT76 tanks, nine enemy trucks and nine 105mm artillery pieces.

the triple canopy jungle 60 feet below.

"I see an opening," yelled Sergeant Jerry Lahmann of Tripoli, Iowa, to the chopper pilot who immediately hovered the craft above the area.

Two nylon ropes attached to the chopper were lowered and the three soldiers rappelled into the hostile environment.

Before the noise of the departing helicopter faded out, these men of the 52nd Pathfinder Detachment were busy attaching high explosives to trees and other natural obstacles, which, when detonated, would clear a perfect landing zone for a Famous Fighting 4th Division 2nd Brigade combat assault.

The mission of the Pathfinders, a unit founded in 1944 to guide allied paratroopers to landing zones in France and Germany, is still the same except that it has found an important place in the airmobile concept brought on by the helicopter.

"Our job is still to guide troops into landing zones, which we make in many cases," said First Lieutenant Vernon Klinger of Long Beach, Calif., the Pathfinder team leader.

"Actually, our mission has been expanded," the lieutenant continued, "because now we participate in air-ground rescue missions plus any job that might call for soldiers with our type of training."

"We have to be airborne qualified and must attend Pathfinders School at Fort Benning, Ga. to complete our training," explained Corporal George Murphy of Brooklyn, N.Y., a veteran of 19 months in Vietnam.

"When we are Pathfinder qualified, we are trained in demolitions, air traffic control, rappelling and the variety of the specialized techniques required to complete our missions."

"Sometimes it's a dangerous job, going in alone and being the last ones to leave during a combat assault," said Corporal Butch Bowles of Owosso, Mich., "but I like the excitement and I think most of us wouldn't want to be anything else."



"I see an opening," yelled Sergeant Lahmann. Two nylon ropes attached to the chopper were lowered and the three Pathfinders rappelled into the hostile environment.

Propaganda Center Found By Division

CAMP ENARI — A curious combination of the sophisticated and the makeshift was discovered recently by forces of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division as they overran what proved to be an abandoned Viet Cong (VC) propaganda and indoctrination training site.

The area, located approximately nine miles southeast of Camp Enari, was one of the first in Vietnam to be penetrated by American Forces.

Strewn about the shelves were newly printed Viet Cong propaganda pamphlets and papers. A further search uncovered a mimeograph machine and a portable, Italian-made typewriter plus several reams of bond paper.

Viet Cong possession of the typewriter was considered a rarity by Military Intelligence spokesmen, who pointed out that the keyboard included Vietnamese script as well as a complete

set of diacritical marks which are so necessary in the writing of the Vietnamese language.

There was evidence to suggest that the VC indoctrination cadre had been at work on makeshift signs and slogans when the F4 Phantoms interrupted their task. Several paper banners, completed and ready for distribution, were found nearby.

Stenciled in the familiar red, yellow and blue reminiscent of the National Liberation Front flag, the four-foot banners proclaimed VC loyalty to Communist leaders and urged support of the revolutionary mission of the local guerrillas.

Elements of Delta Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, turned over the propaganda materials to Military Intelligence personnel for further examination. The Ruthless Riders were also credited with seven Viet Cong killed and ten small arms captured during the operation.

Children Visit Oasis

OASIS — Soldiers at the 3rd Brigade's firebase have a greater insight into Vietnamese culture following a visit by 65 children from the village of Thanh Binh.

The children's visit to the base was arranged by Chaplain (Major) Kevin Devine, the Catholic chaplain for the 3rd Brigade. "We were expecting 40 children, but 65 came," said Father Devine, "and I hope they will all be able to come again soon."

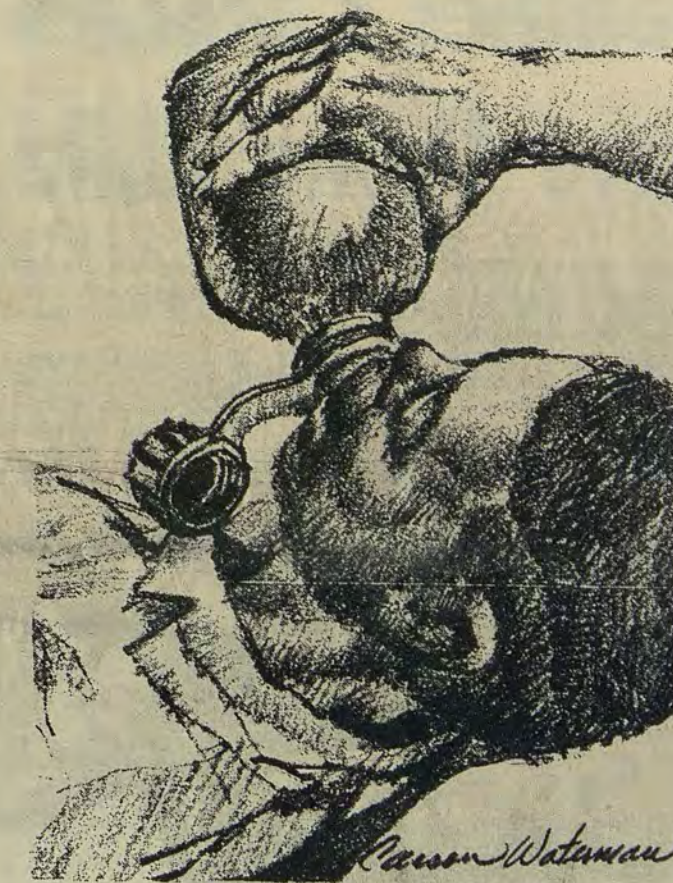
The children, half of whom are Montagnards from areas outlying Thanh Binh, were well-received by the 3rd Brigade troops. The group sang as a choir at Father Devine's Sunday Mass and also presented a program of Vietnamese dances for the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, who were taking part in a stand-down at the Oasis.

Father Devine thanked Father Thanh, pastor of Thanh Binh parish, and seminarian Hau, who accompanied the group, for their cooperation.

The 3rd Brigade prides itself as being "None Better," and the benefits derived by both the brigade troops and the Vietnamese children were just that.



"I HAVE YOUR TARGET"—Forward Air Controller (FAC) pilot, Major Ted Smith of Bowling Green, Ohio, marks the enemy for a pair of Skyraiders working in support of Famous Fighting Fourth Division ground elements. (Photo By 1LT Jay Kivowitz)



Only Death Ends 'Kinship Of Combat'

By CPT David R. Fabian

UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES it might be called "friendship." Out here, however, the relationship between two men often becomes more urgent, more demanding, and, indeed, more meaningful. Out here it's called the kinship of combat.

And while it's a durable bond between two men who face the mental and physical stress of jungle warfare, both men realize that paradoxically it's also a bond that can be severed at any moment by an enemy bullet.

Sergeant Randy Chrietberg and Specialist 4 James A. Franklin experienced the kinship of combat. For several months they worked together with mechanical precision as members of the "Tracers," an elite recon element assigned to the Famous Fighting Fourth's 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry.

THE FACT THAT they were of different races and religions didn't matter. What mattered was that both men knew and respected each other's abilities. Theirs was a professional and personal kinship of combat which ended several weeks ago when Specialist Franklin was killed in action.

"Frank could have quit several times during the mission," said Sergeant Chrietberg of Redwood City, Calif., "but he wouldn't let up. Actually, it was his will power that kept us both going that night. He saved my life, but lost his in the process."

The mission Sergeant Chrietberg referred to took place March 12. For nine hours the "Tracers," assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, had zig-zagged over treacherous terrain, assessing damage to enemy locations which had been pounded by B52 strikes the day before.

ACTING AS A POINT element, they had been enmeshed in a fierce contact with 12 NVA soldiers just before noon, killing seven while suffering no casualties themselves. And later, when Sergeant Chrietberg discovered that his team was located approximately midway between NVA snipers and Alpha Company, he directed four gunship runs which silenced the treetop snipers.

"When we noticed the snipers firing at the company, I informed the company commander that I had the enemy under surveillance and was instructed to call in the gunships.

"After the sniping stopped, I decided that we had better move back toward the company. When they were being fired upon they pulled back a bit. I had to pop smoke to draw the gunships in, so our own position had been compromised. There was about five hundred meters between us and the main body now, and it was getting pretty late in the afternoon."

THE TEAM TURNED BACK, intending to link up with the company at a night location site. Enroute, however, Specialist Franklin passed the word to Sergeant Chrietberg that he had happened upon a well-camouflaged bunker complex.

'As we stumbled through the dark Frank kept encouraging me. He would shift his weight by lying only partially against my back and shoulder.'

While the other team members provided security, Sergeant Chrietberg and Specialist Franklin moved cautiously through the complex. They had checked about six bunkers when, almost simultaneously, they came face to face with two NVA soldiers. Both men opened fire and the enemy soldiers slumped in their bunkers.

The two men continued the search. About forty meters beyond the bunkers Sergeant Chrietberg pointed to a spider hole at the base of a clump of bamboo. The sergeant had barely gotten a warning out to Specialist Franklin when heavy automatic weapons fire opened up on the team.

SERGEANT CHRIETBERG turned to give a vocal command to his security element but had lost visual contact with them. "Then I saw Frank double up and fall into an enemy foxhole nearby. I jumped for the hole as two B40 rounds exploded to my rear. I asked Frank if he was okay and he said, 'yes.' The fire was

'When I regained my vision I spotted Frank dragging himself up to the bunker where the grenades were tossed from.'

still coming in, so I radioed for help. We learned that the company was again pinned down by fire and that it was impossible to send help at this time."

The two men lobbed grenades and silenced the machine gun. Within seconds Franklin killed two more NVA soldiers who charged through the heavy bamboo thicket to assault the American position.

"We waited for about ten minutes and then crawled together toward the machine gun nest. There were three dead enemy clad in khaki uniforms and armed with CHICOM grenades. We looked for the other members of the team, but they were nowhere in sight, so we knew we'd have to get back to the company alone. Another radio check revealed Alpha Company was still receiving heavy fire."

From the enemy machine gun nest the two men decided to dash for cover, drawing immediate fire from their flank. Specialist Franklin was wounded in the right leg and pinned down by AK47 fire. Sergeant Chrietberg called for a Cobra gunship, which, after three passes, silenced the fire.

WITH DARKNESS APPROACHING the young Ser-

geant rolled down his sleeves and blackened his face with charred leaves. Although weak, Specialist Franklin was in good spirits and prepared to move out and rejoin the company.

"Frank decided that he would continue to hump his pack," recalled Sergeant Chrietberg. "Since we were in enemy territory he didn't want to leave anything behind for the NVA, especially his food and claymore mine."

They moved slowly and cautiously toward the sound of the contact, taking breaks every 50 meters or so. Finally Sergeant Chrietberg persuaded Specialist Franklin to remove his ruck during a rest break. The sergeant then carried the ruck, both rifles, the team radio and Specialist Franklin.

"AS WE STUMBLLED through the dark Frank kept encouraging me. He would shift his weight by lying only partially against my back and shoulder. We traveled about 75 meters and stopped. I knew we couldn't go on in this manner because we were making far much noise. It was then that Frank volunteered to crawl alongside me as I walked through the brush.

"We set out and within minutes an NVA soldier spotted my silhouette. He must have mistaken me for another NVA because he didn't shoot. He just whispered the words "Lai Day" ("Come Here"). Frank lay unnoticed on the ground. I lowered his rifle slowly to the ground. Then I leveled my own weapon and fired a round at the challenger."

Sergeant Chrietberg fell to his hands and knees after killing the enemy soldier and moved toward Specialist Franklin. Although the specialist was getting weaker, he and Sergeant Chrietberg managed to crawl away. Suddenly four grenades exploded in front of them. Sergeant Chrietberg was temporarily blinded by one of the explosions.

"When I regained my vision I spotted Frank dragging himself up to the bunker where the grenades were tossed from. He had one grenade himself.

"SUDDENLY THERE WAS a flash and then silence. There wasn't a sound from the bunker. Frank was lying very still. I moved up to him and saw that he was wounded again."

Sergeant Chrietberg tended both wounds as best he could. The two friends then lay together side by side for fifteen minutes. In the distance they could hear the exchange of small arms fire between Alpha Company and the NVA force.

"My thoughts raced. I knew that if we stayed there until daylight we would be discovered. The NVA bunker must have been a listening post and it was certain they'd be checking it in the morning. Frank couldn't move, so I promised that I'd go on and bring back help before it got light. I left a weapon and ammo for Frank and crawled toward Alpha Company's position."

Sergeant Chrietberg made good his promise. Just before daybreak the rescue party he led reached Specialist Franklin. But it was too late.

Under other circumstances it might be called "friendship." Out here it's called the kinship of combat.



Sketchings By
Combat Artist
SP4 Carson
Waterman

Panther's Medics Save Dying Child

By PFC Dan Weaver

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—"You can see every bone in the child's body!" exclaimed the MEDCAP team leader as he examined the starving 17-month-old Montagnard boy. "Call a dustoff, we have to get him to a hospital quick!"

Responding to the order, Specialist 4 Phil Raffety of Wyatt, Mo., radioed the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry Tactical Operations Center for a medical evacuation helicopter. The infant, near death due to severe malnutrition, needed expert medical treatment if he was to live.

The MEDCAP team leader, Sergeant Nick McClanahan of West Palm Beach, Fla., ushered the mother and her child inside an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC). Specialist 4 Rich Fortier of Crown Point, N.Y., jumped into the driver's hatch, and the Panther MEDCAP vehicle leaped into action.

"Take the child to the 299th Engineer Medical Aid Station," crackled the message over the radio. "You will be met by a helicopter at that location."

As the APC rumbled toward the medical station, located near Dak To, doubt clouded Sergeant McClanahan's mind. "I didn't think the boy would live, but we couldn't let him just waste away," the sergeant said. "We had to try to save him."

The team pulled into the aid station just as the helicopter touched down. Sergeant McClanahan transferred mother and child into the chopper, less than an hour after his team pulled out of the village of Dak Liang. The helicopter lifted off for the Catholic Hospital at Kon Horing, where medical aid awaited the weakened child.

Immediately after arriving at the hospital, the boy received

nourishment for the first time in weeks. Now, survival became a reality for the child who had hovered near death less than two hours before.

"The mother had been nursing the child, but she was incapable of supplying any nourishment," said Specialist 4 Roosevelt Flannigan of Baton Rouge, La. The MEDCAP team member added that "since she didn't realize her efforts at nursing weren't supplying the child nutrients, she couldn't determine the problem."

The MEDCAP team, part of the S-5 Civic Affairs program, travels throughout the Panther area of operation, extending medical aid to villagers from Dak To to the battalion's forward firebase located 10 miles northwest of Kontum City.

"This woman was just standing there, waiting to be recognized. All we needed was a look at the infant to diagnose the problem."

"It will take a while before he attains normal health again," Sergeant McClanahan noted, "but at least he will live. In time he'll become a healthy child, and that makes us feel pretty proud."



TO CHARLES, WITH LOVE—A Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldier from the 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry, operating out of Polei Kleng, carefully inserts another round to be delivered to the enemy. (Photo By 1LT Robert Janosko)

Highlander Dentist Administers Good Health, "Funny Feeling"

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — The leprosy village of Dak Tia, its streets lined with royal palms and modern buildings dressed with flower boxes re-

sembling painters' easels, is called Paradise by its 300 citizens.

The beauty of this hamlet, on the outskirts of Kontum, is seldom seen by outsiders except for men like Captain Granville Hays of Oklahoma City, Okla., who is a dentist serving with the fourth Division's 2nd Brigade.

Every third Saturday, the inhabitants of Dak Tia wait in the shade of the dispensary porch for the arrival of the man who "puts a funny feeling in my face."

"This funny feeling is a numbness of the jaw caused by a local anesthetic," Captain Hays smiled, as he recounted the Montagnard description of the anesthetic.

"I first became interested in the village," the Highlander dentist added, "when I learned from the brigade civil affairs officer, Captain Myers (Captain Richard Myers of Wichita, Kan.), that these people needed dental care."

"I contacted the hospital located at the village and we set up the visits."

After arriving at the village hospital, Doctor Hays and his

assistant, Specialist 4 Dudley Zollers of Fort Wayne, Ind., unpacked a mini-dental clinic, which conveniently fits into a suitcase-sized container, and they began to examine their patients.

With the help of several Catholic nuns acting as translators, the Montagnards explained their problems.

"I noticed that decay is rather rare with these people because they don't eat many sweets," the dentist noted, "but disease of the gums caused by deficiencies in their diets is common."

"Along with this problem is their custom of filing the teeth of people who reach adulthood which leads to infection and their eventual loss."

"I think the most interesting thing I've found while treating these people is the way they react to local anesthetic which I give them before extracting teeth," Doctor Hays continued.

"Sometimes they just sit back and laugh because of the numb feeling in their jaw. I've even had a few that wanted me to pull good teeth just so they could experience this feeling."

Enemy 'Out of Sight'

Armor Keeps Charlie Moving

By SP4 Al Erickson
HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — In the mere presence of an armor unit, the enemy somehow

manages to make himself even more difficult to find than usual.

This is frequently the case with the 1st Battalion, 69th Ar-

mor, assigned to the 2nd Brigade.

"An area remains quiet until our tanks and scout teams load up and move out," commented Captain Preston Holtry, the battalion's intelligence officer from Columbus, Ohio. "The enemy usually won't try to fight us because they know they are not effective against our tanks. However, once we leave other units in the area usually make contact. It seems our 90mm cannisters and .50 calibre machine guns make it rather difficult for the enemy to stay and fight."

The battalion's prize weapon is the M48A3 tank. An extremely mobile and effective machine, its 850 horsepower engine enables the tank to travel at high speeds for long distances and traverse mountainous terrain.

The battalion has hopped from one firebase to another during the early part of this year. They were the first to encounter the Soviet-made tanks near Ben Het where the battalion's immense firepower and shock effect turned the enemy's armor into heaps of disabled machinery.

All of the men in the maintenance section of the battalion agreed on the excellent quality of the 52 ton tank. As Specialist 5 Henry Lust of Kansas City, Kan., stated, "It's definitely a morale booster. It's out of sight."

That, perhaps, is the best way to describe an elusive enemy. Whenever an armor battalion moves into the area — they're out of sight.



DOCILE FIREPOWER—A .51 caliber anti-aircraft machine gun, captured during the heavy Plei Trap Valley fighting by the Fourth Division's 1st Brigade, sits harmlessly at the brigade headquarters. (Photo By 1LT Robert Janosko)

Arty Duels With NVA

POLEI KLENG — "After firing support for our ground elements," explained Specialist 4 David E. Bishop of Prairie Village, Kan., "we pointed our tubes toward an enemy artillery position. That's when I grabbed my flak vest and steel pot, I knew those guns were going to return our fire."

And they did.

Alpha Battery, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery fired on three enemy 105mm gun positions located near the Cambodian border, as part of their night firing position. The North Vietnamese guns fired back. Each time Alpha Battery would fire, the enemy guns would return fire, almost round for round.

The duel turned into a deadly game of "seek and hide." "At first," stated Specialist Bishop, a member of the Fire Direction Center, "we were having the guns, a section at a time, fire ten round volleys, but that took too long. So, we changed the command to five round volleys."

One section of Alpha Battery would run out of their bunkers, send five high explosive rounds toward the NVA artillery positions, then jump back into their bunkers waiting for five incoming enemy rounds.

The artillery battle lasted approximately 45 minutes. When the enemy stopped returning fire, Alpha Battery called it a day.

Action Slows In Division's AO

CAMP ENARI — Activity slackened throughout the Central Highlands during the past two weeks (April 6-17) as troops of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division were credited with 50 NVA kills.

Meanwhile there were several indicators in the divisional area of operations which suggested that the enemy has terminated the Spring Offensive and is now enroute to Cambodian sanctuaries, where it is expected that he will regroup and retrain.

One indication seems to be the heavy contact in the Central Plei Trap Valley area, where, for the past two weeks, two American infantry battalions have fought sharp battles with NVA soldiers moving westward. Another hint is the increased number of high speed westerly trails which have been observed by air cav troops operating in the upper Plei Trap.

And finally, there has been a marked decrease in the enemy's 105mm artillery shellings near the tri-border area; now only periodic 82mm mortar fire is being employed, apparently to cover the enemy withdrawal.

Shortly after midnight, April 7, local guerrillas fired approximately fifteen 60mm mortar rounds at the 8th Psyops Battalion radio station in Pleiku City. No casualties or damages were reported.

This was the only attack by indirect fire launched against an urban allied installation in Pleiku Province during the week. Earlier in the Spring Offensive, shellings of urban areas were much more frequent.

On April 8, elements of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Roderick O. Rencik of Fairfax, Va., turned up over 2,000 pounds of rice and miscellaneous NVA equipment, including grenades and small arms ammunition, during a day-long operation 16 kilometers east southeast of Plei Djereng. The rice was later evacuated to the village of Thanh An, where GVN officials will distribute it to the local civilian population.

During the remainder of the week the Bisons added at least four more tons of rice to their tally, destroyed numerous enemy structures and captured assorted enemy equipment during operations 20 kilometers west, southwest of Pleiku City.

Delta Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, confiscated 39,000

pounds of rice from 19 huts located 24 kilometers southeast of Camp Enari on April 9. Meanwhile, Ruthless Riders from the Squadron's Alpha Troop were credited with 18 NVA kills in scattered contacts between April 6-12.

Under the cover of darkness on the morning of April 11, a Viet Cong platoon terrorized a family of lepers dwelling four kilometers northeast of the Oasis. Three adults were killed and one child was wounded in the attack. Shortly afterward a VC platoon

entered the village of Plei Xo and kidnapped the village chieftain. The purposeless acts of terror were the first such incidents reported near the Oasis.

A short range patrol from Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, exchanged small arms

fire with a small enemy force 17 kilometers northwest of the Oasis on April 14. After the brief firefight, the NVA, clad in green fatigues and armed with AK47s fled to the west, leaving behind two dead.

On the same day, Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, flushed out 2 NVA soldiers from a thickly wooded area 20 kilometers east southeast of Pleiku City. The bodies were found near three empty rice storage huts.

The Fourth Division Base Camp received 13 rounds of 122mm rocket fire on April 15. Damage and casualties were reported as light. Artillery and gunships were expended on suspected enemy locations, and within an hour an aircraft from Charlie Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry detected and detained as a possible suspect an individual hiding in brush near one of the suspected enemy launching sites.

Two VC cadres turned themselves over to National Police accompanying elements of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry during a cordon and search of Plei Bring Kotu, 22 kilometers east, southeast of Camp Enari. The Hoi Chanh rallied on April 16 and were evacuated by National Police to Pleiku Sector that morning.

A friendly Montagnard pointed out the location of a mine along the north side of Highway 19 East. The incident occurred 40 kilometers east of Pleiku, where Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry had been on a minesweeping operation. The Blackhaws destroyed the pressure detonated twenty pound mine in place.



FLYING DUTCHMEN—Two Fourth Division 'Slicks' fly in formation as their combined engine exhaust sends out heat waves which give them an ethereal appearance.

(Photo By SP4 Art Reilly)

Youthful Montagnard

Phying Already A Legend

FIREBASE BLACKHAWK — The name Phying (pronounced "Sing") is almost legendary from Pleiku to the Mang Yang Pass.

Phying is a good looking, debonair, young Montagnard with a flair for motorcycles and fashionable clothes.

However, beneath this exterior there is a fine mind and a burning passion to help the al-

lied effort in Vietnam and his Montagnard people in the Blackhawk area of the Central Highlands.

For Phying, life might have been simply pastoral were it not for the circumstances and ideals for which his country and people fight for today, and for which he, at such a youthful age, so strongly believes in.

Born on Christmas Day, 1950, in the small Montagnard village of Plei Bon Hoyt, Phying recalls vividly three distinct periods of those important impressionable years: school, Viet Cong (VC) harassment and the arrival of American troops.

"My parents were wise, for they made me go to school. 'You are still a little boy,' they would say, 'maybe you can do better than just work in the rice fields.'"

So for seven long years Phying reluctantly commuted from his village to school in the Plei Bon Valley, a distance of more than 15 miles.

"While I was going to school," recalls Phying sadly, "I can remember Viet Cong soldiers coming to my village about once every two weeks, demanding rice and men. My people had little choice.

With the arrival of the Famous Fighting Fourth Infantry Division in Vietnam's Central Highlands, American armor units began to penetrate the mountainous terrain north of Highway 19.

The first unit to arrive was the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. The 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry followed.

"I can remember the first American soldiers like it was yesterday. We were in class learning arithmetic when in the distance we heard a loud noise growing closer. A tall man jumped out of the helicopter which had landed nearby. We were so scared we ran into the woods, but our teacher remained to talk with them."

After frequent American appearances in the area, plans were drawn up by S-5 teams, with the overwhelming approval of village chieftans from Plei Bon Hoyt, to move closer to Highway 19, eradicating the threat of VC tactics which were rapidly destroying hamlet kinship ties.

For six months Phying lived with the cavalrymen, filling sandbags and working in mess halls in order to remain in an English speaking environment.

Today Phying is a wealthy man by Montagnard standards and at the ripe old age of 19 the unofficial "wise elder" of the tribesmen inhabiting Highway 19.



Bisons To Foe, 'We Were Here'

By SP4 John Rowe

OASIS — Wherever the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry travels it likes to leave a lasting impression.

Therefore, when the 2nd Platoon of Charlie Troop recently came across a group of enemy bunkers and a trail which was believed to be a resupply route, the Buffalo Soldiers couldn't resist the temptation to let the enemy know they were around.

Second Lieutenant Allan Sheakley of Canoga Park, Calif., the platoon leader, explained that the platoon had found 12 bunkers, estimated to be four months old, and several artillery positions in the area 22 miles southwest of Pleiku.

The 10 foot wide resupply trail wound through a valley of dense vegetation. One soldier remarked that it could amply serve as a road for vehicle or bicycle traffic.

After Specialist 4 Stephen Noga of Three Rivers, Mass., and Private First Class Charles Wenger of Fairbury, Ill., went through the delicate procedure of setting the charges for explosives, the Buffalo Soldiers delivered their final punch.

A large sign, with red lettering on a white backboard, was placed on top of the fallen trees. Written in Vietnamese, the sign said: "Road closed courtesy of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry."

The enemy isn't going to forget the Buffalo Soldiers for quite some time.

Cacti Blue Takes A Break

OASIS — Company barbecues and a visit from movie starlets highlighted a stand-down for the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry at the Oasis.

A carnival atmosphere prevailed throughout the three-days of the Cacti Blue stand-down. Each company had a barbecue, the most popular feature of which was charcoal broiled steaks.

"The best part of all, though," according to Specialist 4 James Pickerill, of Lyons, Kan., a member of the Delta Company Mortar Platoon, "was the chance to forget war for a few days. No patrols, no guard duty. We just acted like it was peace time."

Although the primary purpose of the stand-down was to provide the Cacti Blue with a well-earned break after ten months in the field, the days also afforded an opportunity to solve numerous administrative difficulties.

The Division Composite Personnel Team handled finance and personnel records problems. Problems with equipment were taken to Maintenance Contact Teams. To the chagrin of some, all shot records were brought up to date.

A mobile PX visited the battalion area and was immediately busy selling cameras, film, radios, and tape recorders.

The new cameras and film were put to immediate use when the battalion was visited by Sharon Hillyer, Suzann Brent, and Sharon Mullikin, three very beautiful and friendly girls with a touring USO show.

Other activities crowded the calendar for the three days the Cacti Blue spent at the Oasis. Volleyball and football were popular but writing letters home filled most of the time. Many took full advantage of the privilege to sleep at any time of the day or night.

At the conclusion of the stand-down, the Cacti Blue executive officer, Major Dennis M. Duggan of Honolulu, pronounced the operation a success.

'Read You Fine Korea' Hotel Mike

CAMP ENARI — Two astonished radio operators from the 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery, operating in Kontum Province, recently answered a long distance call of distress.

Due to their efforts, an equally dumbfounded U.S. Army jeep driver, hopelessly bogged down in the mud of Spring thaw, received assistance from his headquarters . . . Seoul, Korea.

Specialist 5 Russell Devlin of Levittown, Pa., related that ". . . at 8:00 one morning we began monitoring a strange station on our frequency."

"In an attempt to determine the source of the unusual signal," interjected Specialist 4 Larry Brown of Richmond, Ind., "we found that the man, operating on our frequency, was stuck along a slick road about 20 miles outside Seoul, Korea."

Since the distressed jeep driver was having difficulty reaching his headquarters, but could easily beam his signal some 8,000 miles to the Central Highlands of South Vietnam, the artillery radio specialists decided to attempt relaying the call for help to the individual's Korean headquarters.

Reported Specialist Devlin, "We were able to pick up the station in Seoul and were told that they would send assistance immediately."

Subsequent radio transmissions between Vietnam and Korea revealed that the Korean station's radio was operating with only a short whip antenna, similar to the ones used by artillery radiomen.

Cav Troop Hits Food Placements

OASIS — Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, has become a painful thorn in the side of the enemy as it continues to collect rice and weapons caches.

Operating in an area 14 miles west of Pleiku, the Famous Fighting Fourth Division unit had a pair of productive days.

Weapons were on the collection agenda the first day. The cavalrymen were surprised when they found enemy ammunition piled on a wooden platform. The platform was situated in an open area of the dense jungle, and, much to the amazement of the Buffalo Soldiers, the platform was not camouflaged.

Included in their find were 800 .30 caliber rounds, 800 7.62 rounds, four 60mm mortars, 21 60mm boosters, 10 AK47 rounds, a B40 rocket and an SKS rifle. Shortly afterwards, Alpha Troop discovered 12 enemy bunkers.

Alpha Troop, commanded by Captain Jim D. Moody, drew a response from Charlie the next day. The Buffalo Soldiers found 6,700 pounds of rice in 16 huts, which, when discovered by the enemy, angered him so much he fired two 60mm mortar rounds at Alpha Troop's night location at 6:30 p.m., just about the time Charlie would have been sitting down to dinner.

Both rounds landed outside the perimeter, causing no damage or casualties.



DROP FIVE ZERO—A Famous Fighting Fourth Division forward observer climbs into a tree with his radio and calls accurate fire on the elusive enemy. (USA PHOTO)

Three Quick Hours

Ride With The Headhunter

By 1LT John A. Doran

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Like a camouflaged ghost out of another era, the single engined O1-D loops and rolls and circles across the Vietnamese sky.

The Bird-dog, as it is called, looks nothing like the flying machines it shares the skies with. It has no jet engines, carries no door gunners, and has no miniguns. Yet on the job for the Famous Fourth Division's 2nd Brigade, the Bird-Dog becomes the HEADHUNTER; and the heads he hunts belong to Charlie.

First Lieutenant Bernard Serafinawicz of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., is a HEADHUNTER pilot who belongs to the 219th Recon Airplane Company and flies wherever the 2nd Brigade operates. Let's go with him on a typical mission.

We're sitting tandem, just behind the pilot, right out of "Snoopy and the Red Baron." As the little plane taxis down the runway, the single wing seems to block vision in all directions except directly over our heads where there is a glass partition.

The engine drones steadily and the whole machine vibrates. Lieutenant Serafinawicz revs the engine all the way out and suddenly the aircraft lurches forward, pressing the body hard against the rear seat. As we gather speed, we begin to crane our neck to see what's going on. A HEADHUNTER pilot flies with only one other person, an aerial observer; today that's us.

Just as if the engine has been turned off, the vibration ceases. We're airborne. It's 9:30.

The plane levels off and we're speeding toward the foreboding mountains northwest of Kontum. Our mission today is typical of HEADHUNTER missions. Visual reconnaissance for trails, bunkers, and enemy weapons emplacements. But as we find out during the pilot's first few words to us, that's only part of the HEADHUNTER'S job.

Often a HEADHUNTER will assist a unit on the ground to confirm its location. From his aerial vantage point, he can adjust artillery, direct gunships, mark targets with smoke, and assist the Air Force Forward Air Controller (FAC).

We're cruising along at about 90 knots, enjoying the scenery, as Lieutenant Serafinawicz contacts the FAC, Air Force Captain Roy Engleke of Vacaville, Calif.

The FAC has called in jet fighters to cut a landing zone (LZ) for one of the 2nd Brigade's ground units. We circle to the south of the proposed LZ as the FAC circles to the north.

We spot the two fighters streaking out of the clouds to the east. On the billowing column of white smoke dropped by the FAC there suddenly appears a thick black cloud. Just as quickly, the fighters have come and gone.

We fly over the LZ (at this point there is one) just in time to observe two secondary explosions. Evidently Charlie had some plans for this hill too. The smoke clears and there sits a treeless patch of ground right in the middle of the dense greenery of the hill.

Bullets, Cavmen Fit VC Puzzle Together

FIREBASE BLACKHAWK — All the pieces seemed to fit together like a puzzle as cavalrymen from Charlie Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, and infantrymen from Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, broke for evening chow after conducting operations 35 miles south of Camp Enari.

That afternoon Charlie Troop's Dragoons had been sweeping the sloping banks of the Dak Trouille River just south of the infantrymen's position and had located several sand bags full of wild cotton.

Bisons Still Hurting NVA Rice Supply

OASIS — The 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, began April like the lion it was in March, devouring enemy rice caches.

After collecting 25,405 pounds of Charlie's rice in March, the Famous Fighting Fourth Division unit discovered nine and a half tons of the enemy's favorite food April 4 in an area 14 kilometers southwest of Pleiku.

Alertness and some keen eyesight by the Buffalo Soldiers led to the discovery of the rice caches, which had been hidden in huts and tunnel complexes, often several feet underground.

The most recent rice find was hidden in several well-camouflaged bamboo and log huts. Bravo troop uncovered eight and a half tons of rice, while Alpha Troop found another ton.

Approximately 2,500 pounds of rice was turned over to officials of the Tanh An District for distribution. The remainder of the rice will be distributed in the near future.

Next to each sack a group of crude weaving implements was strategically concealed.

Cavmen Began Descent

To the north of the cavmen, 1st Brigade infantrymen began their slow descent of Dak Trouille's 120 foot cliffs, clinging to vines and utilizing rappelling methods to reach the river bed below.

"After we made it to the bottom," said Alpha Company commander First Lieutenant Michael J. DeBoe of Warm Springs, Ga., "we began to notice fresh trails with Ho Chi Minh sandal prints all headed in one direction, so we fanned out and began to search."

The search was barely underway when the lead element uncovered 12 enemy sleeping and eating positions with overhead cover.

Not far away a small warehouse of fatigues and medical supplies was unearthed, including 20 bottles of penicillin, several boxes of Vitamin C tablets bandages, sulphuric acid and a .38 calibre pistol.

Puzzle Solved

By chow time all the pieces seemed to mesh neatly together.

The bags of cotton and looms were picked up by enemy units passing through the area toward the hospital complex and there woven for medicinal purposes to supplement the enemy's supplies already available.

Bunker Complex Uncovered

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — While sweeping an area west of Kontum that had been the scene of heavy fighting, soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, discovered a large, hidden bunker complex.

The Red Warriors' Delta Company counted over 200 bunkers of all sizes in the freshly deserted area.

"Two of these well-fortified positions served as mess halls," commented 1st Lieutenant Robert Stover of Columbus, Ga., as he pointed out the clay ovens and cooking utensils.

"We also found a couple of large tunnels," the Famous Fighting Fourth Division lieutenant continued, "and a large bunker that apparently served as a hospital."

The 2nd Platoon from Charlie Company, 4th Engineer Battalion flew in the next day to destroy the complex while the Red Warriors provided security for the demolitions experts.

"There were so many bunkers," said 1st Lieutenant George M. Snow of Philadelphia, "that it took four days and 450 pounds of plastic explosives to finish the job."

General's Aide

Specialist 4 Elmer Huth of Hensel, N.D., was selected as enlisted aide for the week to Major General Donn R. Pepke, Famous Fighting Fourth Division commander.

Specialist Huth is a platoon Radio Telephone Operator (RTO) for the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

"I wish I could stay here. This position is a real privilege and I've enjoyed it very much," the specialist commented on his job.