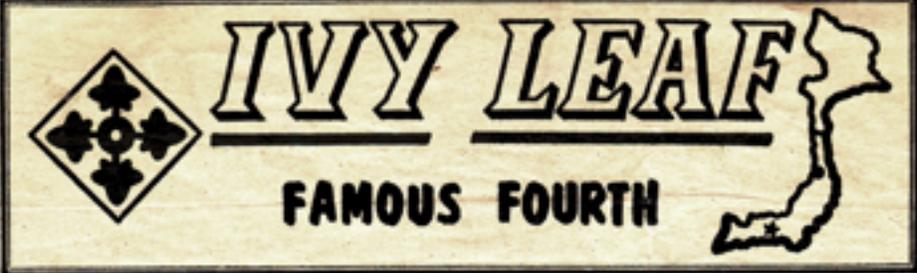


# 1968 - Ivy Leaf - Stars & Stripes

## Medical Cache Found



Vol. 2, No. 26                      CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM                      May 5, 1968

### Supplies Worth \$1.5 Million

## Ivymen Find Medical Facility

**By PFC Lew Grass**

BAN ME THUOT — Companies C and D of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry discovered a huge NVA medical treatment facility north of Ban Me Thuot last week, believed to be the largest found to date in the Central Highlands. Uncovered in the underground complex were medical supplies worth more than \$1.5 million, the majority of which included complex drugs normally used only in the treatment of severe battle casualties.

"We had gone only about 500 meters from our patrol base," explained Captain Lance Wildermood of Camden, N.J., Company D commander, "when the point man on our right file spotted some bunkers." The captain related that the bunker complex was wheel-shaped with a command bunker in the middle; there were about 120 smaller caverns around the perimeter. The medical bunker, near the center of the perimeter, appeared to be no different from the rest. "It had the same L-shape but it could have just been another storage bunker," he continued.

CPT Wildermood said he believed the area was a regimental aid station where the NVA could give immediate aid and then evacuate the more seriously wounded. "They carried a lot more supplies than a battalion normally does," he pointed out.

The huge medical cache was not organized, supporting the contention that the enemy was only beginning to ready the complex for future operations. Speculations also included the fact that the enemy left the supplies behind when the Ivy force moved in, hoping to return for them at a later date. (The Red Warriors had overrun an estimated NVA battalion three days earlier about 1000 meters from the site of the medical complex.)

Most of the supplies were stored in large metal cans. "We just started kicking around," explained Private First Class Clarence Jones of Vicksburg, Miss., "and things started popping up all over," recalling that he found two large cans buried in the roof of one of the bunkers.

Private First Class George Vance of Sacramento, Calif., found three more cans buried beneath a false floor. "Everyone in front of me had passed it by but it looked like a lot of dirt for such a shallow hole." After probing the bunker floor, he found the metal cans and dug them out.

The medical supplies taken from the area were primarily pain relievers, tranquilizers and antibiotics. "This area was intended for sophisticated operations involving sedatives," explained Specialist 5 Joe Pannell of Miles, Tex., a Red Warrior medic. The medics felt that the area was being readied for a step-up in enemy activity near Ban Me Thuot, the nature of the drugs indicating the area was well-equipped to treat the

Among the supplies found were 183 individual packs of cocaine, 125 ampules of morphine, three large cases of penicillin and 14 bottles of anti-malarial tablets. Sizeable quantities of vitamins were also found, in both tablet and injection form.

The estimated medical worth of the find was set at \$1.5 million. After the material was inventoried, it was sent on to Ivy medical technicians to be checked again.

Only a small amount of bandages, tape and surgical instruments had been left behind. Apparently, the NVA had been more concerned about grabbing their essential combat supplies than the more sophisticated medicine and drugs.

Most of the supplies were manufactured in Red China, Russia and France. Others were from Germany and Japan.



Article provided by Don Hiemstra, D Company 1967/68



# Ban Me Thuot Battle

Vol. 2, No. 24

CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

April 21, 1968

## Four-Hour Slugfest Sends NVA Running

By SP5 James Doyle

**BAN ME THUOT** — When a 4th Division company inadvertently pushed into the middle of a North Vietnamese Army battalion near this southern highlands city, it touched off a wicked four-hour battle that cost the foe 38 lives.

Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry was the point element in a tricompany sweep just north of Ban Me Thuot when the point man suddenly spotted several NVA soldiers moving along a trail at sling arms, and took them under fire.

According to one Ivyman, "the next minute sounded like the world was tearing apart."

The point platoon moved to set up a fast perimeter when enemy rifles cracked through the woodline with overpowering bursts of automatic weapons fire.

Half-crazed soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 33rd NVA Regi-

ment stormed from the woodline in vicious human waves. "They were grinning as they charged," recalled another Ivyman later.

As the point element battled to hang on, the rest of the company pulled into a tight perimeter to bounce back against the enemy charge.

"I believe they thought we were just a lone company and they could wipe us out in one quick thrust," remarked Captain Larry Cousins of Greenville, Ga., -Company A commander.

The enemy tried then to encircle the besieged company, but by this time, the other two Ivy companies had moved forward, blunting the NVA attack.

During the thick of the fighting, First Sergeant John Comeau of Ipswich, Mass., rushed forward to rescue three wounded Warriors. "I had one man on either side of me," he indicated, "and while the other held on to my leg, we made our way back to the perimeter."

Devastating artillery fire

quickly pounded within 25 meters of the perimeter while tactical air strikes seared the enemy position.

After four long hours the attack was broken, tapering into scattered fighting as the enemy attempted to evacuate its dead from the battlefield.

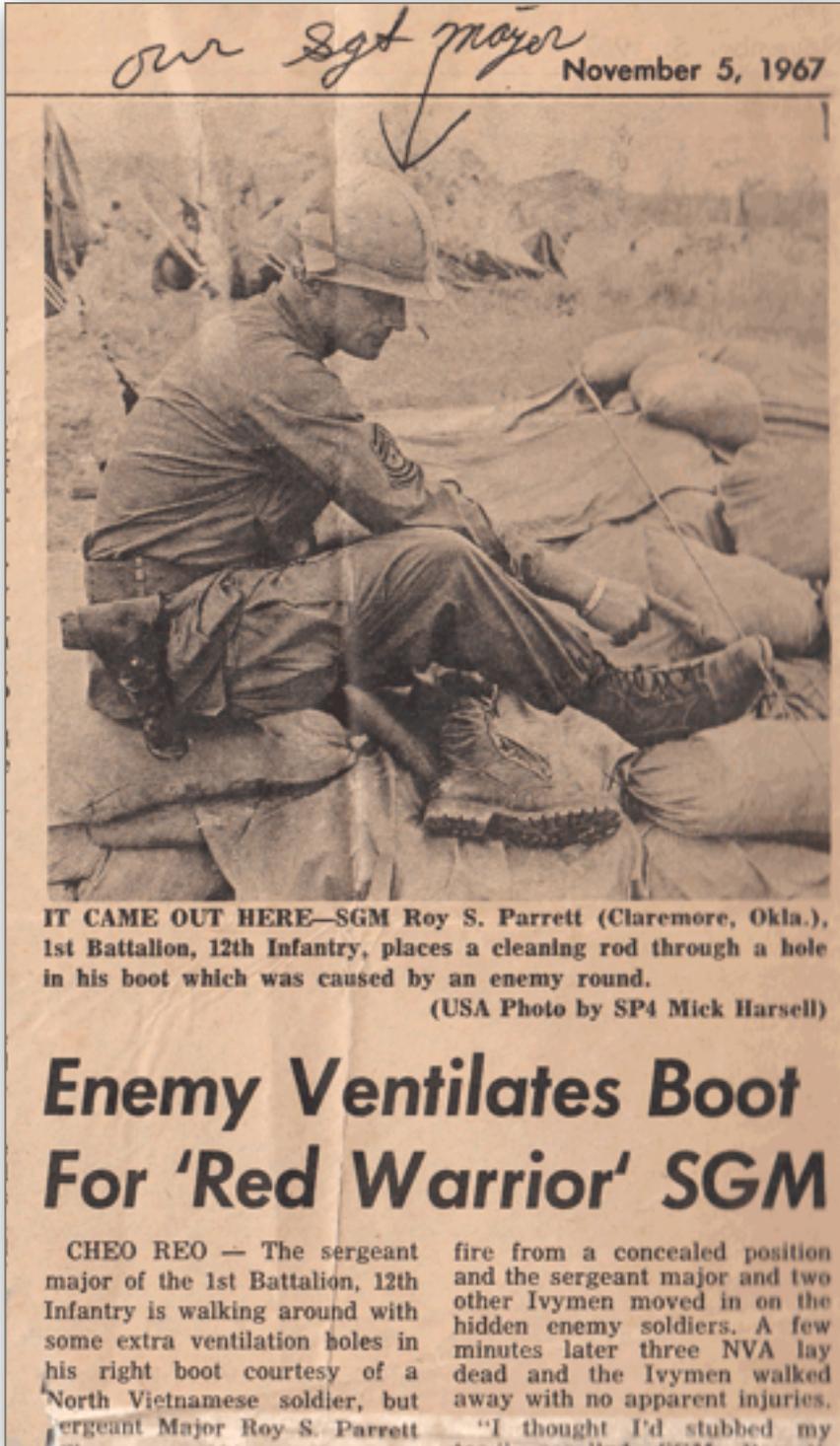
At one point in the battle, several of the enemy, disguised in American helmets, tried to push through the company perimeter but they were quickly spotted and killed.

"It was a real slugfest," related Major Lee Kleese of Little Rock, Ark. "We collected four light machine guns, a mortar and a sizeable amount of automatic weapons. In addition, we detained two and turned up 28 packs."

"The official body count was placed at 38 NVA dead," revealed CPT Cousins, "but I feel we killed almost 100 of them. As fast as we would knock them down, somebody was dragging the bodies off to the rear."

Article provided by Don Hiemstra, D Company 1967/68

# SGM Has Close Call



Don Hiemstra, 67/68, provided both articles. The first tells of SGM Parrett's close call with the enemy. A memorable experience for sure!

Similar stories of close calls often surface. . SP4 Jim Gustafson, C Company 1969, stopped a bullet in his watch band on June 5, 1969. PFC Kim Grice, Alpha Company 1968, was saved from injury when an enemy bullet lodged in the Gideon Bible he was carrying in his shirt pocket.

## Two Enemy Take Wrong Night Route

**BAN BLECH** — A narrow, winding trail led two North Vietnamese soldiers to their deaths near Ban Blech.

The 2nd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry set up a night ambush along a trail. For some reason, Private First Class Alton C. Wilson (Clinton, Wis.) was unable to go to sleep and his restlessness accounted for the kill of one of the enemy soldiers and the capture of an AK-47 rifle.

PFC Wilson spotted the two NVA when they tripped a flare on the trail.

"I opened up with my machine gun, but he kept coming toward me," said PFC Wilson.

The enemy fell not more than three feet from his foxhole after PFC Wilson finished him off with his 45-cal. pistol.

"I reached out and grabbed his weapon without even having to get out of my hole," commented the Red Warrior.

At the same time, Private First Class Donnie E. Uthe (Winston, Mo.) a squad leader, fired two claymore mines which killed the other enemy and yielded another weapon.

Article on the right features Alton Wilson, 2nd Platoon of Charlie Company. Alton served during the 1967/68 time period.

# Grunts...in more than one way



Articles provided by Don Hiemstra, D Company

## You gotta do what you gotta do

### Ivyman Plays Dead To Live

**BAN ME THUOT** — By playing dead, a quick-thinking 4th Division soldier escaped certain death during a recent firefight just north of this southern highlands city when a large North Vietnamese Army force overran the Ivy point squad.

“We had just started to receive heavy fire,” recalled Sergeant Bobby Lovings of Salisbury, N.C., a fire team leader with the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry’s Company A, “when all of a sudden the NVA broke from the woodline right in front of us.”

Before squad members could react, the enemy was on top of them.

“It was the first time I’d ever seen the enemy that close,” asserted SGT Lovings. “They were smiling as they charged us.”

With no place to recover, SGT Lovings feigned dead, lying on the ground, catching a fleeting glimpse of the NVA as they vaulted by.

“I just couldn’t think of anything else to do,” he admitted. “I didn’t have time for anything else.”

# OP Hill Defended by C Company

## Fight Off Enemy Company

# Eleven Warriors Defend Hill

By SP4 Lew Grass

KONTUM—Over on OP Hill, the men, whose turn it was to sleep, were jolted awake with the eye-opening words, "We're being surrounded."

It was 1:30 a.m. The men were members of an 11-man team from Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry. They were manning an observation post—a position known as OP Hill which consisted of four bunkers connected by a trench system—as part of the defense of Landing Zone Brillo Pad.

Moments after the men had been alerted, a trip flare went off. One of the men in the bunkers tossed a hand grenade. There was the sound of enemy soldiers trying to get out of the way of it, and then, to use the words of Second Lieutenant Robert Stewart of Philadelphia, "the whole world broke loose."

North Vietnamese Army soldiers launched a vicious attack.

Moments later a flame thrower appeared on the scene, which

spewed a ball of fire across the top of the hill.

Specialist 4 Michael Morgan of San Francisco, who had voluntarily spent five days on OP Hill, opened fire on the weapon's operator killing him. A few minutes later, a second operator sent a burst of fire into the perimeter and again SP4 Morgan opened fire, killing the second operator.

"He must have hit the flame-thrower the second time because we didn't see any more of it after that," said Private First Class Craig Marlow of Sedem, Minn.

Once the NVA soldiers had started to penetrate the observation post's perimeter, the 11-men decided to gather in one of their four bunkers.

"I don't think it took them (the NVA), but a split second to realize what we had done because they were in the other bunkers almost immediately," said SP4 Morgan.

A duel with hand grenades raged between the NVA force

and 4th Division soldiers.

PFC Marlow disappeared from the bunker and returned a few minutes later with his hands full of grenades which he had collected from fighting positions along the trenches.

(Continued on Page 2)

Jerry Keller, C Company 67/68 sent us this Ivy Leaf, August 1968 article from his collection. The exact date of the battle is not mentioned in the story.

## Warriors Defend Hill . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

"He came back asking if anyone needed any grenades," said SP4 Morgan.

At one point in the battle SP4 Morgan began to call in artillery and mortar fire on his position.

"He called one round right in on top of our bunker," said Private First Class Elmer Know of Hughson, Calif., the observation post's medic. "If it hadn't been for Morgan and his artillery, I don't know what would have happened up there."

As the artillery let up to readjust, PFC Marlow and SP4 Mor-

gan ran from their bunker to the enemy positions throwing hand grenades inside the bunkers.

The enemy tried another big push just before dawn, failed to overrun the U.S. post and retreated.

Later in the morning two Company C platoons went up the hill to spring the team from its embattled position.

"I kind of hated to leave after defending that little hill all night," SP4 Morgan told the reinforcements.

# Award List Published

This 1968 article posts the most recent awards, Three Red Warriors are highlighted. Provided by Red Warrior Jerry Keller.



## STEADFAST and LOYAL

**Silver Star**  
 SFC Jimmie L. Messer—Co C, 3d Bn, 12th Inf  
 SP4 Stuart Lee—HHC, 1st Bn, 35th Inf  
 1LT Raymond E. Henry Jr—Co E, 2d Bn, 35th Inf  
 SP4 James A. Walker—HHC, 1st Bde, 4th Inf Div  
 PFC Michael Fioretti—Co C, 2d Bn, 35th Inf

**Soldiers Medal**  
 LTC Jamie R. Henrix—HHC, 3d Bn, 12th Inf

**Bronze Star Medal For Heroism**  
 PFC Stanley J. Slominski—HHT, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav  
 SFC Oscar P. Torres—Co A, 3d Bn, 12th Inf  
 SGT Charles A. Robinson—Co E (LRP), 20th Inf (Abn)  
 SGT Mark A. Miller—Co E (LRP), 20th Inf (Abn)  
 1SG Benjamin L. Reynolds—Co B, 3d Bn, 12th Inf  
 PFC Thomas J. O'Connors—Co C, 2d Bn, 35th Inf  
 1LT William W. Wade II—Co B, 3d Bn, 12th Inf  
 PFC Wilhelm N. Gricenko—Co B, 3d Bn, 12th Inf  
 SP4 John Reyes—Co A, 1st Bn, 22d Inf  
 PFC Terry M. Lance—Co C, 1st Bn, 35th Inf  
 PFC Thomas E. Smith—Co C, 1st Bn, 14th Inf  
 SP4 Jeffery H. Hyde—Co C, 1st Bn, 14th Inf  
 PFC Clinton L. Martin Jr—Co E (LRP), 20th Inf (Abn)  
 2LT Joseph W. Llewellyn—Co C, 1st Bn, 35th Inf  
 SP4 Thomas H. Cooper—HHC, 3d Bn, 12th Inf  
 SSG James F. Mc Coy—HHC, 1st Bde, 4th Inf Div  
 SP4 Ronald E. Graham—Co E, 1st Bn, 14th Inf

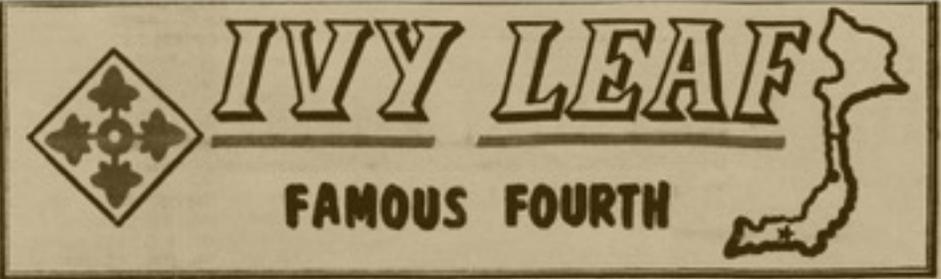
**Bronze Star Medal**  
 SMJ Warren A. Borland—HHC, 4th Inf Div  
 SMJ Norman S. Wells—HHC, 2d Bde, 4th Inf Div  
 1SG Robert R. Wingate—HHC, 4th Inf Div  
 MSG Charlie W. Kennedy—HHC, 4th Engr Bn  
PSG Willie J. Crosby—Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf  
PSG Edward L. Downs—Co A, 4th Engr Bn

PSG Ronald A. Garrett—Trp C, 2d Sqdn, 1st Cav  
 PSG Wonnie Harris—Co C, 3d Bn, 8th Inf  
PSG Freddie Phillips Jr—Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf  
PSG Walter M. Porowski—Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf  
 SFC Kenneth J. Butterfield—HHC, 2d Bn, 35th Inf  
 SFC Carl S. Culvahouse Jr—Hq & Co A, 704th Maint Bn  
 SFC Carl H. Dye—Co D, 4th Engr Bn  
 SFC Francis M. Predette—Hq & Svc Btry, 2d Bn, 9th Arty  
 SSG Lee A. Harvell—4th MP Co, 4th Inf Div  
 SSG Anthony Raszewski—Btry D, 5th Bn, 16th Arty  
 SSG Robert L. Trulove—HHC, 4th Engr Bn  
 SSG Larry A. West—4th Admin Co, 4th Inf Div  
 MAJ Charles W. Strang Jr—HHC, 4th Inf Div  
 SP5 Ed S. Burns—Co B, 4th Med Bn  
 SP5 Robert L. Dichiaro—Hq & Svc Btry, 2d Bn, 9th Arty  
 SP5 Anthony A. Lucca—4th MI Det, 4th Inf Div  
 SGT Samuel B. Mundie—4th MI Det, 4th Inf Div  
 CPT David L. Whaley—HHB, 4th Inf Div

**Air Medal For Heroism**  
 PFC Nicky L. Logan—Co B, 4th Avn Bn  
 PFC Thomas C. Dibble—Co B, 4th Avn Bn  
 WO3 Keith C. Wofford—Co B, 4th Avn Bn  
 WO1 David B. Norris—Co B, 4th Avn Bn  
 PFC Kenneth B. Pendley—Co B, 4th Avn Bn  
 WO1 Joseph D. Wyckoff—Co A, 4th Avn Bn  
 PFC William J. Brown—Co A, 4th Avn Bn  
 CPT Harry E. Brown—Trp D, 1st Sqdn, 10th Cav  
 1LT George R. Byrd—HHB, 4th Inf Div Arty

**Army Commendation Medal For Heroism**  
 PFC Joe D. Ebert—Co B, 1st Bn, 22d Inf  
 2LT Josephus L. Pratt—HHD, 4th Avn Bn  
 SP4 Robert D. Kelley—Co E, 1st Bn, 35th Inf

# NVA Equipment Failure



Vol. 2, No. 32      CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM      June 16, 1968

## Flamethrower Fizzles In Firebase Fight

KONTUM—It was an idiot's day as far as two North Vietnamese Army soldiers were concerned. And it cost them their lives.

The two troops had slowly made their way up a thickly vegetated mountainside until they were within 25 meters of a 4th Division bunker.

One of the NVA soldiers, who had a flamethrower strapped on his back, carefully aimed the lethal weapon at a bunker containing 11, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry soldiers and slowly squeezed the trigger and — whoosh.

“Man, that flame shot straight up in the air,” said Specialist 4 Michael Morgan of San Francisco. “Judging by the look on his face, there wasn't anyone more surprised than the guy who shot it.”

SP4 Morgan and the other men in the bunker quickly dropped to the ground, fearing another blast from the deadly weapon.

It never came. Charlie's flamethrower had jammed.

“That gave us the opportunity we were waiting for. I grabbed my rifle, sprang from the ground, and ran outside,” said SP4 Morgan.

This blew what little cool the NVA soldier had left. He quickly whirled around and fired the flamethrower in the same motion. The flame engulfed his North Vietnamese buddy who was busily searching a nearby bunker.

By this time SP4 Morgan figured the enemy soldier had more than enough chances. He shot the enemy down.



Once again Jerry Keller provides this Ivy Leaf article dated June 16, 1968.



**Send your articles to: [Jim Daniels](#)**