



ONE-STAR STAR

Air Force Reserve Brigadier General Jimmy Stewart, who portrayed the convict inventor of the Army's .30 caliber carbine, examines a "commando model" of the modern M-16. The Ivy Division's 1st Brigade Sergeant Major James C. Gilbert (Vista, Calif.) explains the workings of the weapon to the famous movie actor during his visit to a forward fire support base of the 4th Division in Operation Sam Houston. (USA Photo by SSgt. Bill Whitis)

IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH

VOL. I, No. 21 PLEIKU, VIETNAM MARCH 31, 1967

Free World Forces Kill Record Number Of Enemy In Seven Days

Saigon — Ground forces of the 4th Infantry Division were involved in no significant contact during the past week.

The division's three brigades continue to participate in operations — the 1st Brigade in Adams and Sam Houston, 2nd Brigade in Sam Houston, and 3rd Brigade in Junction City.

Casualty figures announced yesterday evening by the Military Assistance Command show that a total of 2,774 enemy were killed by Free World Forces during the

week of March 19-25.

The figure is a new high for a seven-day period in the conflict and tops the previous record of 2,709 set the previous week.

The kill ratio for the week ending March 25 was 5.7 to 1 in favor of friendly forces.

In Operation Sam Houston, being conducted in Pleiku and Kontum Provinces, Company A of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry was the target of approximately 65 rounds of enemy mortar fire last Friday.

All rounds in the 10-minute attack landed outside the company's position which was located 70 kilometers southwest of Kontum City in the northern part of the Sam Houston area.

There were no friendly casualties.

Enemy losses now stand at 136 dead and 46 weapons seized in the mortaring and contact in Sam Houston that occurred March 22 between Companies A and B of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry and an enemy company 58 kilo-

meters southwest of Pleiku City.

Last contact ended at 3:20 p.m. March 22 and a sweep of the area was made the following day.

Friendly casualties were 25 killed and 39 wounded.

Sam Houston, a search and destroy operation which began January 1, has accounted for 708 enemy killed, 192 detained and 222 weapons seized.

Adams, the oldest of the three operations involving the 4th Division, has resulted in 484 enemy dead, 2,042 detained and 156 weapons captured since it began October 26 in Phu Yen Province.

Junction City, the massive assault against the thousand-square-mile Viet Cong stronghold in the northern half of Tay Ninh Province, has netted a record 1,871 enemy dead since February 22.

Of the total, 631 were killed in a single battle March 22 by outmanned troops of the Ivy's 3rd Brigade.

Colonel Miller Named CO Of Task Force Ivy

Tuy Hoa — Colonel Judson F. Miller has assumed command of Task Force Ivy which is operating along the coast of Phu Yen Province.

The task force is continuing Operation Adams which was initiated last October by the 4th Division's 1st Brigade.

Colonel Miller, 4th Division chief of staff, took command of Adams on the 141st day of the operation. The colonel succeeds Lieutenant Colonel David M. Peters who was in the dual role of Task Force Ivy and 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry commander. Colonel Peters will continue as battalion commander.

Task Force Ivy is comprised of battalion-size elements of the Ivy's 1st Brigade and the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

'WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHT'

Arrival Of Tanks Bolsters Ivymen

By Sp4 George Swengros

Tay Ninh — "There were more automatic weapons than I could count shooting at us," said Major Clifford Roberts, S-3 for the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry.

He was speaking of the attack on the fire support base of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division during Operation Junction City which resulted in 631 Viet Cong dead.

"It was still dark when the VC mortars started coming in but we had prepared positions for just such an occurrence. It isn't unusual for Charlie to mortar an artillery unit but to follow a mortar attack with a daylight 'human wave' charge is," related Lieutenant Colonel John A. Bender, 3/22th commander.

"The actual attack took place about 6:30 a.m. The VC opened up with numerous automatic weapons and started to charge. They came out of the wood line and swept toward the 105's," said Specialist 4 William Blakey who was in the midst of the battle.

"They started to push back more and more positions and it looked as though they were going to put the guns out of action. We leveled our tubes to shoot at point blank range. My men never left the guns, even when the VC were just feet away," explained Captain John Cartland of Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery.

"Charlie pushed us back

into a tight perimeter. He was fighting for his life and he was fighting damned well too," said Captain Jerry Jeffrey, Battery C commander. "Then came the most beautiful sight in the world—APC's and tanks."

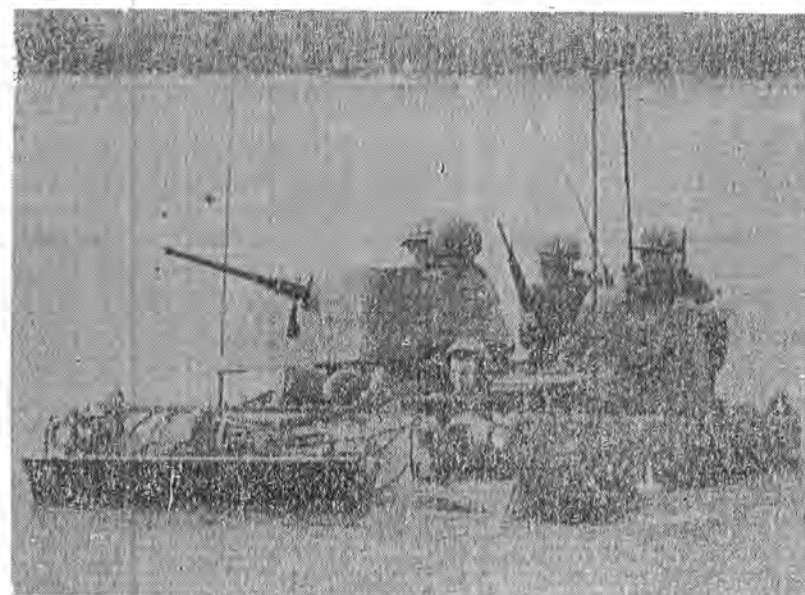
"The first thing I saw was two M-48 tanks and I wanted to kiss them," said

Captain George Shoemaker, 3/22th's Company A commander.

"All I thought was 'Thank God.' Charlie thought he had a snatch—he had a bad surprise," related Major Roberts.

Specialist 4 Bradford Bromley, a combat photo-

(Cont'd on P-2, Col. 5)



JUST LIKE A DUCK

Members of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry watch as their armored personnel carrier fords through water in Phu Yen Province. The soldiers are participating in Operation Adams being conducted by elements of the 4th Division's 1st Brigade. (USA Photo by Sp4 Ronald Sato)

Two 2/12th Soldiers Receive Bronze Stars

Dau Tieng— Two Bronze Star medals for heroism highlighted a recent awards ceremony at 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry headquarters.

Specialist 4 James E. Cradic, a medical corpsman attached to Company C, and Specialist 4 Richard W. Rowe, also of Company C, received awards for their courageous acts in the same search and destroy operation south of Tri Tam January 5.

On that day, Company C's 2nd Platoon, to which Specialist Cradic was attached, came under Viet Cong sniper fire. The platoon deployed and began maneuvering against the snipers.

As the Ivymen deployed, the fire intensified and they began to receive incoming band grenades. Initially the platoon received several

6/29th Commander Presents DFC To Artillery Observer

Plei Djereng— An artillery observer who ignored intense fire to prevent a friendly unit from being overrun was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross recently.

First Lieutenant Richard F. Mika (Gardner, Mass.) was flying as a radio relay near Plei Djereng during Operation Paul Reveré IV when a friendly unit came into heavy contact and requested artillery.

Lieutenant Mika made a low-level reconnaissance to determine the locations of the friendly and enemy forces and began drawing heavy automatic weapons fire. Ignoring the fire, he began adjusting fire on the enemy.

As the enemy attempted to envelop the unit, Lieutenant Mika flew low to adjust defensive concentrations to cover the withdrawal of the friendly unit.

He soon realized that the unit needed a landing zone for resupply and evacuation of its wounded. While adjusting artillery, he looked and found a suitable area for helicopters to land.

His fuel ran low and he was relieved on station by another aerial observer. Immediately after refueling he returned to the area of contact and adjusted concentrations for night defense.

His courage and determination under fire prevented the friendly forces from being overrun by a numerically superior force.

Lieutenant Colonel Elritt N. Nettles, 6th Battalion, 79th Artillery commander, presented the award.

Lieutenant Mika is now the executive officer of 6/29th's Battery C.

casualties because of the suddenness of the attack. Specialist Cradic moved to each wounded man and administered aid.

Specialist Cradic was seriously wounded during the fire fight but refused attention until his platoon received reinforcements. Even after help had arrived, he still refused to be evacuated until all others were lifted out.

During the same action, Specialist Rowe was acting as the forward observer, directing the supporting artillery fire. As the platoon deployed, two squad leaders were killed and the platoon sergeant was wounded.

Specialist Rowe took command of the remaining forces. With control regained, Specialist Rowe moved to an exposed area where he could better adjust artillery fire. Because of his actions, the platoon, when reinforced, was able to sweep over the enemy positions.



By: Capt. Terry C. Bonham, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate

Some points to remember when you are filing your income tax return are offered today.

If you reenlisted in a month during any part of which you were serving in Vietnam, the initial installment and all subsequent installments may be excluded from your gross income.

However, if you reenlisted in a month during no part of which you served in the combat zone, then neither the initial payment nor subsequent installments may be excluded even though payment is made in the combat zone.

If more than \$277.20 of Social Security tax was withheld from your salary or wages during 1966 because you worked for two or more employers, the excess can be claimed as a credit against your income by using Form 1040 and filling in Line 19

on Page 1 of the form.

You cannot add your wife's FICA tax to yours. Both must be computed separately.

If you had dividends from stock in American corporations, you may exclude the first \$100 of the taxable dividends. On a joint return, the exclusion applies to each spouse if the stock is jointly owned or community property.

You are not allowed an exclusion for interest received. Remember, that even though some mutual savings banks, savings and loan associations, and building and loan associations pay "dividends," this income must be reported as interest just as you report bank interest.

If you are divorced or legally separated from your wife, alimony or separate maintenance payments made by you are taxable to your wife and deductible by you on Form 1040. This is true if these payments are required by the terms of a decree of divorce or separation, are paid after the court decree and are paid periodically — a fixed pay to be made monthly (weekly, etc.) for an indefinite period of time.

Child support payments, that is payments which have been specifically designed as support for minor children, are not deductible by you and are not taxable to your wife.

For further information contact your unit tax officer.

Enlisted Quota For West Point Jumps To 170

Enlisted men now have a better chance to gain a college education and a commission from the United States Military Academy at West Point since the quota for enlisted appointments has more than tripled in the last year.

The expansion of the Cadet Corps has increased the quota to 170 per year.

An applicant must be a United States citizen between the ages of 17 and 22 who has never been married and who followed a college preparatory program in high school and graduated in the upper half of his class.

Candidates for the academy also must be of high moral character, good physical condition, possess the capacity for leadership required of officer personnel and possess a strong desire for a professional military career.

Regular Army applicants should fill out DD Form 207 and submit it in triplicate to their commanding officer. Information on how to apply for examination and where tests will be administered is available from unit education officers.

Additional information can be obtained from unit personnel officers or by consulting AR 350-55.

Arrival

(Cont'd from P-1, Col. 3)

grapher who was with the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry tracks, said "When the men saw us coming they started to jump for joy."

As the tracks moved in and the VC retreated into the wood line, Colonel Bender, who had fought beside his troops, was asked if there were any outstanding acts of bravery. "About 400" was his quick reply.



Fruitfulness

By Chaplain (Capt.) Orvis R. Hall

During the years of the ministry of Jesus, He often spoke in terms of simple illustrations and parables.

In the parable of the "Fig Tree," found in Luke 13:6-9, we find a simple but very important truth, fruitfulness of man.

For three years, Jesus found that this fig tree had borne no fruit. On His visit the third year, He instructed the gardener to cut it down, for it was only taking up valuable space in the garden.

Often, in evaluating ourselves for God's Kingdom, we find that we are much the same as the fig tree. We have promised to be faithful and fruitful, but have not fulfilled the promise. Could it be that the third season is approaching? Shall it remain as God has said, "Cut it down?"

Before we close our thoughts to the idea, let us look at the last half of the parable. The gardener said to Jesus, "Leave it alone, Sir, just this one more year, till I dig around it and put fertilizer in the soil; then perhaps it will bear fruit, but if not, you can cut it down."

We find that Jesus listened to the gardener's plea and

extended the fig tree's existence for another year.

The parable is intended to make us realize the necessity of serving God, and by His compassion we are granted the second chance when we fail. Let us not fail this year.

Girl Scout Troop Sends Cake, Letters To 1/8th

Plei Djereng— A box containing a cake and 15 letters was received recently by Specialist 5 Thomas MacDonald (Erie, Pa.), a medic in the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry.

The letters were written by members of Girl Scout Troop No. 457, all grade school students from Immaculate Conception Catholic School in East Augora, Pa.

The troop members had celebrated Girl Scout Month and were trying to earn their Service Badges. Their letters wished Specialist MacDonald and all the other soldiers of the battalion "good luck and a safe return to your loved ones."



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FUN AND GAMES—Give a man an inner tube on a hot day in a big swimming pool and he's bound to have a good time even if the pool's in Vietnam. (USA Photo by Sp4 Brad Bromley)

3rd Brigade Troops Enjoy Luxury Of Swimming Pool

By Sp4 Gary M. Silva
and
Sp4 George Swengros

Dau Tieng—The men of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division have something to look forward to when they return from extended operations or patrols.

It's not just a cold beer, a movie or post exchange facilities, it's a great big swimming pool complete with clean cold water.

Open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., the 81-foot-long, 31-foot-wide and 12-foot-deep pool is centrally located at the brigade's Dau Tieng base camp amid the shade of the

Second Graders Send Letters To 1/69th Armor

Dragon Mountain—The 1st Battalion, 69th Armor recently received an envelope filled with letters from a second grade class at Public School 21, Bronx, N.Y.

There were 16 letters that touched the soldiers' hearts. One particular letter from Peggy read:

"I like to write letters to you. I hope you can write me back. I hope I could meet you someday. I like to play school. I learn a lot about school. I hope you are learning a lot about the Army. I wish I was in the Army. I would save the country. I hope you are doing a lot of work."

The battalion answered the letters and sent the children mementos of Vietnam.

Sergeant First Class Juan Cortez drew up a scroll which made the class honorary members of the 1/69th Armor.

The scroll was signed by Lieutenant Colonel Clyde O. Clark, former battalion commander, and Sergeant Major Robert Killingbeck.

Michelin Rubber Plantation.

When the Ivymen arrived in War Zone C they found the pool, built in the 1930s by the French, in dire need of repairs. A hand grenade with the pin pulled and a large chunk of cement gone where another had exploded were found at the silt-covered bottom of the aqua-paradise.

Empty of water, full of debris, and a pipe system that was unusable, only made the men of 3rd Brigade more anxious to repair the defects and render the pool usable—after all, it does get pretty hot in Vietnam.

The structure soon began to take shape once again. Ten showers, located beneath the pool's sun deck, soon had water flowing with the help of a borrowed erdulator from the 588th Engineers, 79th Engineer Group.

After 80 gallons of paint and a lot of hard work and 275,000 gallons of water later—the pool was opened.

For the adventurer there is a four-meter diving tower. For the less game there is a spring board—constructed from a helicopter rotor wing—and for those who just want to relax there is a wading pool that tapers to four feet deep.

For those who wish to lounge there is the sun deck complete with stereo tape recordings.

For those who like to smoke there is a smoking area complete with chairs. For those who like to frolic, swimming masks, fins and snorkels are available for a nominal fee—enjoyment.

The men of the 3rd Brigade realize the importance of the pool for morale and good old relaxation so they don't take advantage of a good thing.

Specialist 5 Ray Croft, the

pool manager, is responsible for the maintenance and seeing that all safety standards are followed. The men abide by the rules and follow instructions given by two lifeguards—Specialist 4 Jim Fulton and Specialist 4 Richard Webster.

Non-swimmers too are able to use the pool facilities through daily swimming lessons given by the pool personnel.

Everyone at Dau Tieng has taken advantage of the refreshing dips and more than once the statement "after days in the jungle I know I can go swimming when I get back" has been made.

This may be a combat zone, but when the men are in that cool water the war never existed.

Wounded Soldier Insists On Performing His Duties

Plei Djereng—"When you know there's no LZ around for a 'dust-off' you just have to face facts and keep moving," is the explanation Specialist 4 Robert W. Brown (Hood River, Ore.) gave for the praise other members of his unit heaped on him.

Specialist Brown is described by his friends as a "quiet type guy." He suffered a shoulder wound while on patrol with Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry recently. "He didn't even cry out when he was hit," remarked a bunkermate.

The 4th Division unit was on a search and destroy mission and wasn't due to be resupplied for another day. Specialist Brown wouldn't as

REAL HOT SHOTS

1/12th Mortarmen Fire 240 Rounds In 30 Minutes

Plei Djereng—A mortar crew from the weapons platoon of the 4th Division's Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry has earned the reputation of being real hot shots with their 81mm mortar.

During a heavy fire fight with two reinforced companies of North Vietnamese, the 2nd Brigade company was pinned down. It was believed that the enemy was preparing to attack the besieged Americans from the rear. A heavy mortar barrage was called in to break up the massing enemy.

According to Staff Sergeant Fred L. Case (Farmersburg, Ind.), "one of the platoon sergeants whose men were facing the massing enemy wanted us to throw everything we could between them." For about 30 minutes, one tube was fired as fast as the rounds could be dropped in. "We figure

we put out about 240 rounds in a half hour."

Sergeant Case explained that the heat from the rounds being fired that fast caused the tube to get so hot that it glowed. "We poured about 24 canteens of water on it to cool it down while we were firing," he said.

One round failed to fire and lodged in the tube. The Ivymen had to use sandbags to hold the tube while they tilted it to let the dud slide out. "The sandbags began to smoulder while the tube was being handled," Sergeant Case recalled.

When asked about the condition of the overworked mortar, Sergeant James W. Ingram (Panama City, Fla.), squad leader in charge of the hot tube, replied, "I wouldn't want to fire a charge eight in it now."

LARGEST OF OPERATION

2/12th Troops Find 200-Ton Rice Cache

Dau Tieng—The largest single cache of Viet Cong rice discovered during Operation Junction City was found in a base camp near the Cambodian border in Tay Ninh Province.

Companies A and C of the 3rd Brigade's 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry uncovered 200 tons of rice stored in two huge bins measuring 12 feet by 40 feet and piled 10 feet high.

The battalion spent the

night in a nearby clearing, and in the morning conducted a search of the immediate area.

Air strikes and artillery from the previous day had thinned out expanses of the surrounding area and laid bare several hundred meters of trench work and a series of well dug-in bunkers.

The deserting occupants of the base camp left behind a variety of tools and personal items.

One of the larger dwellings had a second-level underground room which contained 10 five-gallon cans of printing type, sorted and wrapped in individual packets.

In the afternoon, the searchers discovered a larger portion of the same camp to the southwest of the clearing, linked to the first by well-traveled trails.

It was in this area, within sight of the river which separates Cambodia from Vietnam, that the stockpile of rice was found.

Again a clearing was near the huts. It was planted with punji stakes, including four punji man-traps with three-foot punji stakes in the bottom.

Using dozens of newly made, but unplanted punji stakes for kindling and four 55-gallon barrels of kerosene for fuel, the 2/12th soldiers burned the buildings.

much as listen to the idea of stopping the unit and cutting a landing zone for his evacuation.

The company came under intense enemy fire the following morning and the "quiet type guy" insisted on performing his duties as an 81mm mortar forward observer. Despite the day-old shoulder wound, Specialist Brown strapped the radio to his back and headed out, not to return until ordered to do so.

The 20-year-old specialist directed fire for three hours before his unit pulled back. Casualties were light, but evacuation choppers were called in. Specialist Brown had to be last out, claiming his wound had healed.

Platoon From 1/22nd's Company B Clashes With Well-Fortified NVA

By Sp5 George Beidler
Plei Djereng — "First I was chewing gum and then I was chewin' dirt," said Private First Class Jimmy Z. Thompson (Cainesville, Ga.). "They knocked it all over my face. I even got a black eye."

The platoon was moving up a hill providing right flank security for the remainder of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry's Company B. The terrain was average for Vietnam's Central Highlands, but vegetation under the thick jungle canopy was sparse so the going wasn't too rough.

Private First Class Raymond Daly (Brooklyn, N.Y.) was right flank point and first to spot an enemy bunker. "I tried to warn everyone, but before I could, a burst

of fire tore into my pack."

Specialist 4 Mike Rocha (San Leandro, Calif.), left flank point, received automatic weapons fire at the same time and PFC Thompson, center point, was busy "eating dirt."

"There were tracers whizzing over my head originating from only 30 meters in front of me and no place to hide," replied Specialist Rocha. "Boy, that was hell."

In an attempt to cover the three point men and gain fire superiority, Sergeant Arthur Baldwin (Roanoke, Va.) led his M-60 machine gun team, including Specialist 4 Paul Rios (Houston) and Private First Class Russell Reichard (Tippecanoe, Ind.), up the hill.

"We moved up one man

at a time," the 20-year-old sergeant related. "It was open ground and sniper fire hit all around us, but we made it to a log and set up."

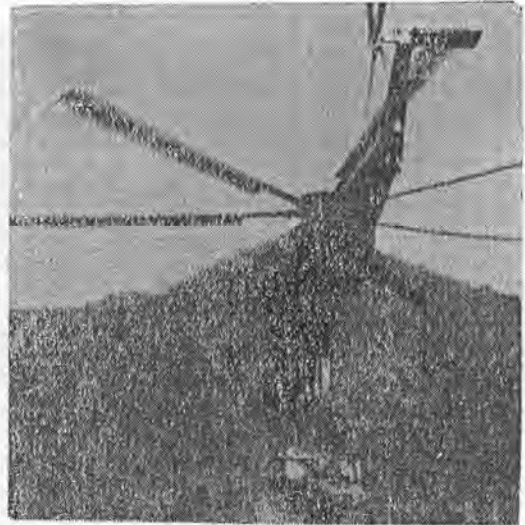
Staff Sergeant Robert S. Yoderis (Tacoma, Wash.), squad leader, advanced to direct his men through the encounter. "Fire was intense, but when I told them to maneuver there was no hesitation. These guys have guts."

Private First Class Jake Mau (Honolulu) was moving along a trail edge when a sniper opened up with an AK-47. "He must have thought I was an interpreter or something because he sure wanted to get me. I rolled into a ditch and returned fire after I figured I was okay. He was in a tree. I crawled under him later, but that was no worry."

Under the direction of First Lieutenant Stephen D. Cush (Manchester, Iowa), the platoon continued the fire fight for more than three hours. The North Vietnamese Army force defending the stronghold was numerically superior and had the advantage of heavily fortified camouflaged bunkers.

The unit was ordered to pull back while four 4th Division artillery batteries poured 105mm, 155mm, and eight-inch rounds into the NVA stronghold.

"They're just doin' their job," said Lieutenant Cush. "I mean for us it's just another day's work. This certainly won't be the last scrape we get into, that's for sure."



"FLYING DOZER"—A CH-54 "Flying Crane" gently lowers a lightweight bulldozer into a forward fire base of a 4th Division unit during Operation Sam Houston. The division's 4th Engineers acquired two dozers to help clear landing zones in the jungles west of Pleiku. (USA Photo by Capt. Thomas Bullock)

BAD NEWS FOR CHARLIE

2/12th Halts Publication Of Viet Cong Paper

By Lt. Larry Augsburger

Dau Tieng—Probably for several years, at least many months, the Viet Cong have been making headlines in the western part of War Zone C.

They were making the headlines and printing them in their own paper until elements operating with the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division decided to stop the presses, and then finally put the paper to bed permanently.

During Operation Gadsden in February the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry found 1000 reams of unprinted "news-type" paper stashed near the village of Lo Go on the Cambodian border in Tay Ninh Province.

Intelligence examination determined that it might possibly belong to the elusive National Liberation Front, a communist news agency and propaganda and indoctrination organization long thought to be operating somewhere in War Zone C.

During Operation Junction City, the 2/12th literally fell into a half ton of printing type. While searching a small hut near a large rice storage area, one of the men stepped on a trap door in the cellar, revealing another cellar.

Digging deeper, the searchers brought out 10 five-gallon cans filled with print-

ing type.

With paper and type now in their hands, all that was left to find was the press, and the newspaper could be put together.

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, operating 25 miles north of Tay Ninh, found the presses two weeks later in a bunker 15 feet underground.

In the same area, also in an underground bunker, the 11th Cav found a darkroom and film processing facilities.

With the exception of the managing editor, the newspaper is now in the hands of American military forces.



Infantrymen of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry sweep along the coast near Tuy Hoa looking for Charlie. The action took place while the unit was participating in Operation Adams. (USA Photo by Sp4 Ronald Sato)

'Flying Bulldozers' Ease Engineers' Job

By Lt. Harold Wolland

Pleiku—First it was a "Flying Crane," now it's "flying bulldozers." What will those 4th Division Engineers think of next?

Most military personnel have seen the CH-54 helicopter, commonly called the "Flying Crane."

But few of them have ever seen a bulldozer "flying" through the air. Thanks to the ingenuity of the 4th Engineer Battalion, this happened recently during Operation Sam Houston.

Operating in the jungles

west of Pleiku, the 4th Division has many fire support bases scattered throughout its area of operations. In line with their mission of providing direct support to the infantry, the men of the 4th Engineer Battalion have literally carved these bases out of thick, mountainous terrain.

Using demolitions, chain saws and muscle, the job requires much back-breaking work before adequate landing zones and fields of fire around the fire base can be cleared. Often, just as the work is finally completed, the tactical situation changes. The fire base is moved and the entire process starts again.

The 4th Engineers acquired two lightweight air-transportable bulldozers which could be lifted by the CH-54 helicopter.

With the help of a "Flying Crane" from the 1st Air Cavalry Division, two 16,000 pound bulldozers were airlifted into a fire support base to support the combat engineer platoon.

Captain John A. Knutson, Company A commander, 4th Engineers, reports that in one day the dozers more than doubled the clearing capacity of the engineer platoon working in the fire base. Thousands of pounds of explosives were saved. Trees and bamboo thickets were leveled in seconds.

A 50-meter-wide "no man's land" was quickly cleared around the fire base, discouraging any NVA attacks, and engineers were freed to construct more fortifications, barriers and warning devices,

New 1/69th CO

Dragon Mountain—Lieutenant Colonel Paul S. Williams Jr. (Fairfax, Va.) has succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Clyde O. Clark (Belgrade, Mont.) as commander of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor,

BEHIND EVERY BUSH

IVY'S 'GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM'

Civic Action Produces Phenomenal Results

By PFC Bob Boudreaux

Dragon Mountain — For centuries, the Montagnard inhabitants of the Central Highlands have coaxed a meager existence from the earth. There has been a savage struggle for survival against an environment that has changed little since the stone age.

Then without warning, their environment changed. The primitive domain, rich in agricultural value, was invaded by modern warfare and modern warriors. Completely bewildered and afraid, they clung tenaciously to their existing Neo-Stone Age concepts and refused to change.

This is the situation the 4th Division inherited when it began its civic action program in mid-November 1966, approximately three and a half months after the arrival of the Famous Fourth's advance elements. How does one introduce 20th century concepts to a society that had yet to realize the value of a bar of soap?

Hamlet Visitation

A program, named the "Hamlet Visitation Program," was instituted whereby 13 hamlets in the immediate vicinity of the Ivy base camp were brought under sponsorship of seven base camp support units. Each unit conducted weekly visits and was responsible for making known the important needs of its specific village.

Captain Donald M. Scher (Huntington, N. Y.), deputy G-5, elaborated on some of the problems encountered on

initial visits.

"Our first big handicap," he commented, "was communication. There are few books about the Montagnards and no one has conducted any extensive cultural research as of yet. Therefore, most of the knowledge that we now have concerning the traits of these people was gained first hand from intelligence and Vietnamese government sources.

A Response

"Once they found that we weren't here to steal their rice, cattle, or crops and only wanted to help them, we then began to achieve a response."

The objectives of the program were grouped under three major areas. Control was in the hands of the division G-5 working through the Vietnamese government. Actual operations were carried out by the subordinate units. Contrary to most opinion, the program is not carried out only by the 4th Division.

It acts only as an advisory and coordinating facility. All supplies, labor, and incentive come from the people and the government working together; the division supplies only the technical know-how.

The mechanics of the program are kept as simple as possible in order to make its application smoother and enhance its successfulness. As each unit visits a village, a sick call is held and a doctor accompanying the unit treats all minor ailments. Major cases are evacuated to better medical facilities for treatment.

Most of the cases are cured

with a simple bar of soap. Once gaining the confidence of the people, a crash program designed to improve their living conditions was begun.

Again the need to make the villagers aware of the benefits of a healthy environment produced problems.

It was much easier for them to throw waste on the ground for the animals to clean up than organize a special place for refuse. Through patient explanation and under the strict supervision of the GVN, the hamlet "beautification" flourished.

The next project to be undertaken was the building of spillways in each of the villages. Again the necessity of this new innovation had to be made prevalent. Here, the GVN and Ivymen met stiff resistance.

Without Mishap

A spillway was an entirely new concept and the Montagnards could not comprehend its value. But, the friendship and trust established in the beginning prevailed, and the first spillway was built without mishap. It rapidly became a status symbol among the villagers, and those without one soon found themselves looked down upon by neighboring villages.

Now, almost all of the villages have spillways working, or under construction. In each one of these, the supplies have come from the GVN and the labor from the village itself. This way a close tie between the people

and the Republic of Vietnam is achieved.

In January, Major General William R. Peers took command of the 4th Division and one of his first accomplishments was to extend the civic action program to include all the hamlets in the division's tactical area of responsibility, and to change the name of the program to the "Good Neighbor Program."

Revised Program

Under the revised program, headed by Lieutenant Colonel John O. Allyn (North Augusta, S.C.), G-5 officer, the visits by units to the hamlets were cut from seven to five days a week in order to break the pattern of regularity.

Each unit has a team of five to eight men that spends anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour in each village talking with the people, surveying the different projects being conducted by the villagers, and conducting sports activities with the adults and children. Once a week a medical civic action program is

conducted in each village.

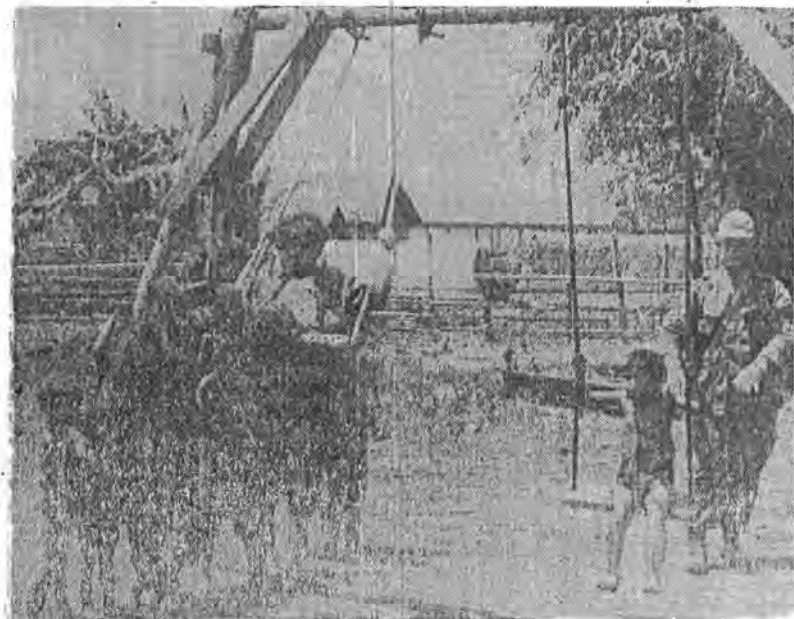
The original program was set up to include only the base camp rear support units, but under the new program it has been extended to include the Ivy Division's forward units and also its attached units.

Wide Scope

The scope of the program is wide. At present, it incorporates 41 villages in the Ivy Division's TAOR. Yet, its results are phenomenal.

It is estimated that the evolutionary cycle of the Montagnard, economically and culturally, has been propelled 300-500 years. It is a program of self-help designed to increase the Montagnard's awareness of his government and in turn increase the government's awareness of the Montagnard's problems.

By working with the district and province chiefs, who work closely with the people themselves, the Famous Fourth is creating a tight bond between a group of forgotten people and its country.



HIGHER, HIGHER— A swing set, erected through the 4th Division's "Good Neighbor Program," is popular with Montagnard children. (USA Photo by Sp5 Lawrence C. Stonier)



GOODIES—Staff Sergeant Joseph V. Virzi (Cleveland), 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery, distributes boxes of cough drops to eager Montagnard youngsters. (USA Photo by Sp4 James Rogers)



IN THE BOONIES

Men of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry break down rations after 4th Division choppers dropped the supplies in a forward fire base. (USA Photo by Sgt. Howard R. Blanco)

BY GEN. WESTMORELAND

3rd Bde Battle Called 'Major Victory Of War'

Suoi Da — General W. C. Westmoreland climbed on the hood of a jeep and stared at the men of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division who just hours before had killed 631 Viet Cong during an attack on the brigade's forward base camp in Operation Junction City.

"This battle," the four-star general said, as he squinted into the harsh sun, "is a

major victory of the Vietnam War."

He explained the main reason for the gigantic battle and the effect it had on Viet Cong morale.

"I was out of the country at the time (the general was visiting President Johnson on Guam) and the Viet Cong felt it was a good time to win a large victory and build up their morale. They wanted and 'needed a victory,' he said.

Every man in the forward camp was forced to fight—many in vicious hand-to-hand combat.

"It's rare," General Westmoreland said as he scanned the battlefield, "that an artilleryman has to fight like an infantryman, but you men (the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery) did an excellent job."

Men Of 169th Help Villagers Roundup Cattle

Plei Bong Hiot — The 1st Battalion, 69th Armor recently conducted a "cattle drive" for the Montagnards of the refugee village of Plei Bong Hiot.

The battalion's civil affairs section, headed by Captain Carl Cleavenger (Fort Smith, Ark.), had relocated the Montagnards who were driven from their old village by the Viet Cong.

During the exodus from VC control, the Montagnards left behind many of their belongings and animals, including a herd of water buffalo.

With members of the battalion providing security with two tanks and two armored personnel carriers, Montagnard men and boys were able to return to their old village and round up approximately 175 buffaloes that were in the area.

'MEN WERE MAGNIFICENT'

3/22nd Commander Cites Teamwork As Key To Success Of Fierce Battle

By Sp4 Gary M. Silva

Suoi Da — "It was a team show all the way — artillery, air and infantry all working together."

So describes the biggest battle of Operation Junction City by Lieutenant Colonel John A. Bender, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry—the unit that took the brunt of a suicidal "human wave" Viet Cong attack near Tay Ninh.

Colonel Bender, a West Point graduate with the class of 1949, was personally awarded the Silver Star by General W. C. Westmoreland after the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division unit repulsed an attack by the elite 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment, killing, at last report, 631 enemy soldiers.

It was Colonel Bender's second such award during his 24-year Army career.

"The team work was the one thing that turned the battle," the colonel said as he scanned the battle site. "They came in at us on three sides after hitting us with mortars."

The colonel, sitting bare-chested in the hot afternoon sun, said a number of mortar and rocket rounds fell into the fire support base when the VC had already started their "human wave" attacks. His hammock and poncho liner were filled with tiny shrapnel holes.

There wasn't a tree in the area that wasn't marred by bullets, fire or shrapnel. The four-hour battle was one of the most vicious the war has seen.

"This was the first big fight these men have engaged in and they were magnificent. No one shirked his duty."

Married and the father of four children, Colonel Bender

was constantly seen running from his bunker into the midst of rounds falling around him, directing his men into defensive positions, giving encouragement, keeping platoons and companies from falling back, and making sure

the Viet Cong did not succeed in overrunning the camp.

Relaxed with a cigarette in his hand, the colonel scanned the camp with a clear concise stare. "The men were magnificent," he said.

1/22nd Ivymen Uncover Weapons Cache In Hut

Plei Djereng—One of the largest weapons caches to be discovered by personnel of the 4th Division during recent months was found by men of the 2nd Brigade's Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry during a recent search and destroy mission west of Plei Djereng.

Under the direction of Captain Christopher Keuler, former Company A commander, the munitions were found concealed in a long Montagnard-style hut approximately 5,500 meters north of the unit's forward fire support base. Many of the cos-

moline-covered weapons were new and all were protected by waterproof wrapping.

Unusual items included in the cache were a U.S. manufactured .50 caliber machine gun, four linking machines for machine gun ammunition and a voltage regulator.

Also in the ordnance find were 10,000 rounds of 7.9mm ammunition, 46 rounds of 75mm ammunition, 24 rifle grenades, nine French light machine guns, one German heavy machine gun, three anti-aircraft mounts for .50 caliber weapons, and more than 500 pounds of documents and pamphlets.



BALANCING ACT

Specialist 4 Duane L. Garlock (Yakima, Wash.) tries to keep his balance as he crosses a footbridge while on a search and destroy mission during Operation Junction City. Specialist Garlock is a radio-telephone operator for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry of the Ivy's 3rd Brigade. (USA Photo by Lt. Larry Augsburg)

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