

1967 - Ivy Leaf - Stars & Stripes

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IVY LEAF

PFC Suzy Participates In Six Ivy Airmobile Assaults

CHEO REO — Among the combat hardened men at the forward firebase of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, walks a combat hardened female who leads a dog's life.

Private First Class Suzy, somewhat of a nomad with her affections, enjoys the company of so many men. She can often be found wandering in and out of the battalion command post attending the innumerable briefings given during the course of a day.

She enjoys all the benefits of a "ladies first" policy around the firebase and eats chow with the officers of the command post. But at other times during her frivolous moments she dines with the men manning the bunkers and big guns around the base.

Little Lost Bundle

The product of a fleeting wartime relationship, PFC Suzy was found wandering around the Ivy Division's Camp Enari one morning by Specialist 4 Lowell L. Cox (Euclid, Ohio), a mortarman with the "Red Warrior" battalion's 4.2-inch mortar platoon.

"It was love at first sight," sighed SP4 Cox. "There she was, a little lost bundle of brown fur looking up at me, so naturally I took her back to the command base with me. Everybody

around took to her right away and the next thing we knew, Suzy moved in and made herself right at home."

Shortly after PFC Suzy's arrival, the "Red Warriors" began a series of combat assaults into suspected enemy infested areas. Not to be outdone, PFC Suzy joined the action. To date she has participated in six airmobile assaults with the battalion.

Earned CIB

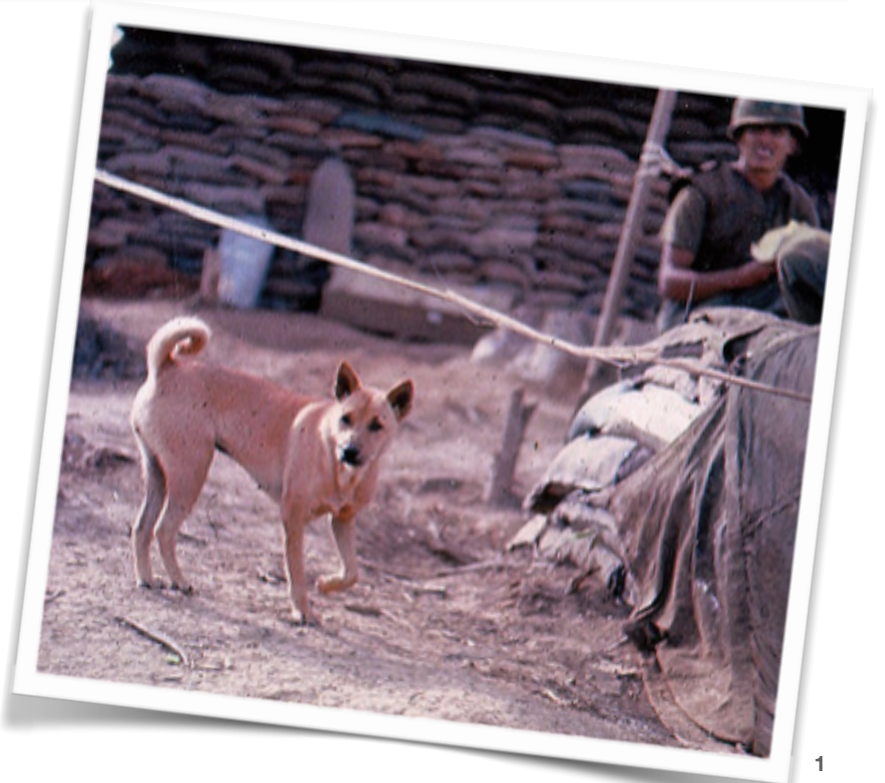
During a recent move, the Ivy unit came under a heavy North Vietnamese Army mortar barrage and PFC Suzy, completely undaunted by the incoming rounds ran, around the fire-

base barking at the scurrying Ivymen.

She earned her combat infantryman's badge during that incident, and, shortly thereafter, was promoted to private first class. Within a few months, if she continues her good behavior word is that she can look forward to another promotion.

As far as suitors go, the fair maiden has been approached by the dashing dachshund belonging to Major General William R. Peers, division commander, but turned him away without so much as a second glance.

"I guess," commented SP4 Cox, "she just doesn't like the long, lean type."



Article and photo provided by Don Hiemstra, D Company 1967/68

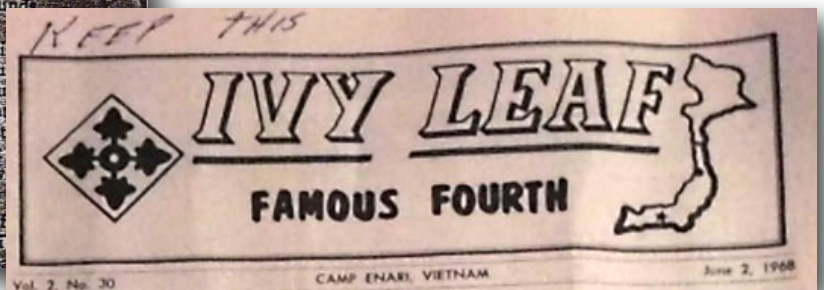
MORTARMEN - 1967



Kevin Watson of B Company 1966/67, sent us this old photo copy of a February 6, 1967 IVY LEAF article that he transcribed or us below.

Depicts some hot firing!

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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 firefight with two reinforced companies of North Vietnamese, the second Brigade Company was pinned down. It was believed the NVA were 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 (Famersburg, 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 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. Next a round failed to fire and lodged in the tube. The Ivymen had to sued sandbags to hold the tube while they tilted it to let the dud slide out. "The sandbags began do smolder while the tube was being handled" Sergeant Case recalled.

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

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