



IVY LEAF

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A CAREFUL WATCH

Waiting anxiously, two men from Company C, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, 4th Division, look across the river that separates Vietnam from Cambodia during a recent operation. (USA Photo by Sp4 Gary M. Silva)

FROM PREMIER KY

Ivymen Receive Vietnamese Awards

Plei Djereng—Twenty-five members of the 4th Infantry Division were decorated by Premier Nguyen Cao Ky of the Republic of Vietnam at the 2nd Brigade forward base camp last week.

Premier Ky, accompanied by his wife and other high ranking Vietnamese military leaders, was flown from II Corps headquarters in Pleiku to the 2nd Brigade area by helicopter. After the awards ceremony the premier and party visited the fire support base of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, and then returned to Pleiku.

Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander, received the National Order, 5th Class, Gallantry Cross with Palm and Lieutenant Colonel John C. Allyn, division G-5, was presented the Distinguished Service Cross, 1st Class (Civilian).

Also receiving Gallantry Crosses with Palm were Lieutenant Colonel Leonard A. Morley, Lieutenant Colonel James R. Lay, and Lieutenant Colonel Clyde O.

Clark, all of Headquarters Company.

Gallantry Crosses with Gold Stars were presented to Staff Sergeant Zoilo T. Domingo, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry; Staff Sergeant Clifford G. Shaver, Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry; Sergeant First Class Robert F. Wright, Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry; and Staff Sergeant Tu'utau Fanene, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Seventeen soldiers received Gallantry Crosses with Silver Star. They were First Sergeant Bruce A. Cable, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry; Staff Sergeant Edward K. Apo, Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry; Specialist 5 Terry D. Suire, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry; Staff Sergeant Edward S. Towe, and Sergeant Gerald W. Brown, both of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry; Lieutenant Arthur S. Remson, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery; Colonel Ernest P. Braucher,

937th Engineer Group; Lieutenant Frank M. Applin, Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery.

Also Warrant Officer Wayne D. Philney, Lieutenant Duncan B. Dowling, Chief Warrant Officer Loye

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16 YEARS LATER

I/22nd Sergeant Receives Another Enemy 'Greeting'

Plei Djereng—A close call with death was experienced on the night of February 14 by Sergeant Edmund L. Sheldon, weapons squad leader, and Private First Class Stephen A. DeVorss, radio repairman, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry.

The close call occurred when an enemy mortar round landed five feet from their tent. The tent was destroyed but Sergeant Sheldon and PFC DeVorss lived to tell their story because they had left their tent to answer a

Ivy Units Hit By Heavy Enemy Mortar Attacks

(MACV)—Units of the 4th Infantry Division were heavily mortared and Ivymen were engaged in heavy contact with an enemy force this week in Operation Sam Houston.

The Ivy Division's 2nd Brigade command post, 39 kilometers west of Pleiku City, took more than 450 rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire in three attacks Monday and Tuesday.

One 4th Division soldier was killed and 61 wounded in the attacks. The unit reported killing two enemy and capturing two weapons.

At 7 p.m. Monday the fire support base of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, received 20 rounds of 82mm mortar fire 69 kilometers southwest of Kontum City. Enemy small arms fire began when the mortaring ceased.

Artillery and flareships supported the unit with unknown results.

Two U.S. personnel were wounded in the attack.

Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, established heavy contact with an estimated reinforced enemy company at 10:35 a.m. Tuesday 68 kilometers southwest of Kontum City in Kontum Province.

The company was reinforced by another 2nd Brigade force at 1 p.m. and the reinforcements also established heavy contact. Artillery and tactical air supported the friendly force. The enemy broke contact at 7 p.m.

Interim reports on friendly casualties show nine killed, 30 wounded and seven missing in action. Enemy losses are unknown.

A 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry fire support base,

located 70 kilometers southwest of Kontum City in Kontum Province, received 60 rounds of enemy 82mm mortar fire the evening of March 9.

One U.S. soldier was wounded during the 10-minute attack.

Artillery fire was placed on the four enemy firing locations with unknown results.

Another 1/22nd unit came under enemy mortar fire March 12 and 13.

The unit's base, located approximately seven kilometers from the border west-northwest of Plei Djereng, received 52 rounds of 81 and 82mm mortar fire during three separate attacks March

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Watch Out For Little Green Men

Dragon Mountain—If you are in the vicinity of either the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, or 4th Replacement Detachment today, don't be alarmed if a pair of Irish leprechauns suddenly leap out of nowhere and shower you with shamrocks....it's St. Patrick's Day and anything can happen.

The two leprechauns would probably be none other than the Ivy Division's two "Famous" Irishmen, Major Thomas J. Shaughnessy (Milwaukee), lauded by author John Steinbeck as the Famous Fourth's bald-headed, jovial, Irish Patrick O'Shaughnessy, and Captain Michael F. Merrick (Dublin, Ireland).

Captain Merrick, as the more Irish "native" of the two, spoke briefly on the significance of the observance of St. Patrick's Day.

"Nobody knows when St. Patrick was born," said the infantry captain, but he died on March 17. His father was believed to have been a Roman centurion. Young Patrick attended a Catholic seminary and was later appointed by the Pope to journey to the north and convert the pagan Celts.

"He landed in Ireland about 432 A.D. and began a crusade that led to his being canonized as St. Patrick.

"So you see, continued the

(Cont'd Page 3, Col. 1)

Old Home Guards Now Serving With Ivy's 3rd Brigade

By Sp4 Gary M. Silva

Dai Tieng—About four weeks ago a number of Ivy-men from the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division were standing guard over President Kennedy's grave, others were riding coal-black horses in solemn military funerals.

Some stood at the site of the Unknown Soldier in the serenity of Arlington National Cemetery nestled on the ground of Robert E. Lee's mansion in Virginia.

These men were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry, the Old Home Guards.

Called the "Buff Sticks" because of their flawless split and polish appearance, the Old Guard accompanied President Johnson to his private airplane when he departed for his recent trip to South East Asia.

The men are all hand picked, and must be over 5 feet, 10 inches tall, but not more than 6 feet, 3 inches in height.

Each "Buff Stick" must not weigh more than 200 pounds, must be a high school graduate, have obtained a general aptitude test score of 110 or better and be mature, mentally alert and spotless in his appearance.

Private First Class Larry D. Daley (Memphis) was an Old Guard, and now he's an infantryman with the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry.

Private First Class Gary M. Brixen (Osceola, Wis.) was also an Old Guard and is now with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry, the infantry unit which took the blunt of a recent human wave attack by the rugged 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment.

Private First Class William

1/8th Fire Team Leader Serves As Enlisted Aide

Dragon Mountain—Corporal Jeffrey C. Barker (Columbus, Ohio) is serving as this week's enlisted aide for Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander.

Corporal Barker, a fire team leader from Company E, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, is the eighth soldier to be selected for the honor.

D. Walker (Grosse Point Farms, Mich.) was once a "Buff Stick" and is now a clerk in the 3rd Brigade's S-5 section.

The 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry is the oldest infantry unit in the United States," PFC Walker said. "It has 39 battle streamers just from the Indian War to World War I."

Working mostly in the Washington, D.C. area, the Old Home Guards is the only unit authorized horses. They supply caissons with animals for all dignitaries arriving at the nation's capitol.

"The size of the parade was determined by the importance of the visitor," PFC Walker said.

The unit is also a combat ready battalion—a full company was levied by the Department of the Army and now the men are scattered through Vietnam.

Other Old Guards now with the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division are Private First Class Russell J. Enlow (Oak Lawn, Ill.), Specialist 4 George Owens (Nebraska), Private First Class Morgan Dudley Jr. (Kansas City, Mo.), Private First Class Edward Ford (Washington D.C.), Private First Class Robert E. Tyler (Alexandria, Va.), and Private First Class Alvin D. Fisch (Wayne, N.J.).



ONE LAST PUFF

Specialist 4 Rich Elam (Los Angeles) enjoys a cigarette during a break in the jungle. His unit, the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, is hunting Charlie in Operation Francis Marion being conducted by the Ivy Division. (USA Photo by Sp4 Rich Obermaier)



A LIFESAVER — The sprawling complex of the 18th Surgical Hospital near Pleiku houses some of the most modern equipment and highly trained personnel in the Republic of Vietnam. The hospital has proven a life-saving stop for many troops wounded in combat operations in the Central Highlands. (USA Photo by Sp4 Mick Harsell)

IN SUPPORT OF IVY-MEN

Pleiku's 18th Surgical Hospital One Of Best, Busiest In Vietnam

By PFC Bob Boudreaux

Pleiku—Of all the morale factors in this "funny kind of war," the most important is probably the knowledge that if a soldier is wounded he is minutes away from the best medical treatment.

The 18th Surgical Hospital at Pleiku, the only hospital in the Central Highlands, has proven itself one of the best, if not the busiest in Vietnam.

Its staff of 33 officers and 86 enlisted men handles an average of 660 patients a month and in five months, according to Captain Oscar R. Valerio (San Juan, P.R.), a surgeon, "has done more

work than any other hospital in Vietnam."

The medical complex has provided aid for many units, including the 4th Division; 25th Division; 1st Brigade; 101st Airborne Division; and Special Forces.

"We were alerted for overseas duty at Ft. Gordon, Ga., in January 1966," said Lieutenant Colonel Mark Cenac, hospital director, "and by June 25 we were operating in the Central Highlands. Arriving at the beginning of the monsoons, but these were mechanical and were quickly remedied."

The hospital staff works around the clock, tending recuperating patients and remaining prepared for the emergency call of the Army's medevac "dust-off" choppers.

Once a call is received, the surgical teams standby ready to save the lives of wounded troops.

"From the time the 'dust-off' chopper touches our pad," commented Colonel Cenac, "until actual surgery, takes a maximum of 15 minutes."

The hospital's operational area comprising three surgical wards and medical holding wards is limited. Therefore, convalescing patients are evacuated to other medical facilities at Qui Nhon or Cam Ranh Bay for further treatment.

Sergeant Robert H. McCarron (Alliance, Ohio), 4th Division liaison official and my guide through the recovery and convalescent ward, elaborated from the patients point of view.

"When a man arrives here on a 'dust-off,' he has usually been evacuated from the darkness of the highland

jungle. Suddenly he is brought into a room of bright lights and hurrying people. The abrupt change, coupled with the wound, can be traumatic. But, the confidence of knowing that he is in good hands can probably never be expressed."

The Ivy sergeant is responsible for aiding the hospital staff in the convalescent stage of the operation. "I make sure that the patient gets such materials as mail, books, and other reading material, plus anything else that can speed his recovery."

"It works both ways," said Colonel Cenac. "We can't express the gratification of seeing our patients recuperate. They are a heck of a group of young men."

Five Cavalrymen Instruct Vietnamese Mortar Squad

Phu Nhon—Five members of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry recently instructed a Vietnamese mortar squad in the basic fundamentals of firing the 4.2-inch mortar.

The cavalrymen-turned-instructors—all from the mortar squad of the 1st Platoon, Troop B—were Sergeant Leonard R. Kennedy, squad leader; Specialist 4 Daniel G. Prado, gunner; Private First Class Larry J. Keyser, assistant gunner; Private First Class Thomas W. Moody, ammo bearer; and Specialist 4 John F. McElmeel, armored personnel carrier driver.

To Appear

Dragon Mountain—Dale Robertson, star of the television series "Tales of Wells Fargo," will appear in a variety show April 27 at 2 p.m. at the 4th Division's Ivy Bowl at Dragon Mountain.

THE WORLD

SOUTH VIET NAM

Gathering Intensity

The ground war in Viet Nam is intensifying, with mounting casualties on both sides. Aided by a sudden infusion of mortars and fresh weapons, and often impelled by a growing sense of desperation, the Viet Cong have turned more aggressive in the hope of scoring some badly needed victories. With the increase in the U.S. troop levels—which last week reached 427,000—more Americans are ranging through the countryside than ever before, spoiling for a fight. The war's vicious turn was reflected last week in two sets of statistics.

Saigon reported that in the week ending March 18, casualties for both Communist and U.S. troops reached new highs for the war. A weekly record of 2,675 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers were killed; there is no sure way to count Communist wounded, but they must have been proportionately large. The U.S. lost 211 dead, and suffered 1,874 wounded and seven missing or captured, bringing total U.S. casualties to more than 2,000 in one week for the first time. So far this year, American deaths are averaging 150 per week v. 96 a week during 1966.

Sad as those figures are, they are dwarfed by the enormous bloodletting that has been inflicted on the Communists. The Pentagon announced that since Jan. 1, Allied forces have killed some 19,500 of the enemy, a rate of 1,770 weekly as compared with last year's average of 1,100. Even so, the Communists keep coming. U.S. intelligence last week put Red fighting strength up by 4,000 men to a total of 286,000, an increase that just matched last week's U.S. increase of 4,000 new men. When last week's totals are released this week in Saigon, Communist dead are likely to reach another new high.

A Terrible Price

One of the war's biggest and bloodiest battles took place last week around an egg-shaped clearing at Suoi Tre, 55 miles northwest of Saigon in War Zone C. There, surrounded by a treeline of sparse woodland blighted by defoliants, U.S. helicopters flew in three batteries of 105-mm. howitzers and some 450 young U.S. draftees of the 4th division, led by Lieut. Colonel Jack Vessey, Lieut. Colonel Jack Bender and a sprinkling of toughened veterans. They were part of Junction City, the war's biggest operation, and at first they did not expect much heavy action. Junction City has been sweeping through Zone C, destroying bunkers and tunnels and capturing significant documents and equipment, but it had so far achieved few major encounters with the enemy.

It was immediately obvious that

something was different at Suoi Tre. When the helicopters first set down in the tiny, vulnerable clearing, Viet Cong scouts in nearby trees detonated heavy charges of explosives, blowing up three of the choppers. Still, the rest of the Americans came on and set up their perimeter around the howitzers, even though unusually large groups of Viet Cong were spotted moving in the area. Though they did not know it, the draftees had landed practically in the midst of 2,000 Viet Cong professionals spearheaded by the crack 272nd main force regiment. For two days the Viet Cong watched and waited, carefully counting the number of Suoi Tre's defenders, noting the departure of one battalion for another operation.

Lethal Stings. They attacked at 6:30 a.m., lobbing the first mortar shell onto the doorstep of one U.S. company command post. Seconds later another exploded just outside battalion headquarters. Then the earth erupted all through the U.S. positions, as some 650 mortar shells rained down. Under cover of the holocaust, the Viet Cong moved up machine guns and 75-mm. recoilless rifles. Even before the vertical death of the mortars had ceased falling, the horizontal death of patterned gunfire was strung man-high across the clearing. The battle quickly became one of pure firepower, as close to a classic infantryman's fire fight as Viet Nam has yet seen. Instead of trying to rush the G.I.s and overwhelm them in a sudden,

ragged, do-or-die charge, the Communist commander maneuvered his men cautiously, gradually squeezing the perimeter and trying to cut down the 4th's ^{4th's} ~~cannoneers~~ with machine guns and rockets while his infantrymen gave covering fire and grenade the Americans in their pits and bunkers.

Untried and outnumbered, the Americans worked together blazing away with everything they had. A "quad-fifty" of four 50-cal. machine guns mounted on a turret was fired without respite until its barrels burnt out. The big howitzers were cranked down to ground level, point-blank range. The gunners opened the breeches and took aim through the open barrels straight into the faces of the steadily advancing Viet Cong. The three batteries fired more than 2,200 shells, including dozens of awesome "beehives," a hitherto classified anti-personnel shell that spits 8,000 finned flechettes (steel darts), each an inch long, whose lethal stings turn an ordinary artillery piece into a monster shotgun.

On Their Knees. Even so, more than a third of the American perimeter caved in, yielding yard by yard to Viet Cong pressure. Young troopers took reckless chances to fetch more bullets and grenades. Using his master sergeant as a sort of artillery spotter, Specialist Four Samuel Townsend, 21, a draftee and former high-school athlete from Detroit, pitched grenades with deadly accuracy at an enemy now less than 30 yds. away. In some spots the fighting was even closer. Private First Class Edward Edwards, 20, clubbed down one surprised Viet Cong with his rifle butt. SP4 Richard Hazel, 21, sprinting for a rifle, literally ran into a Viet Cong. "I bumped into him," he said. "There were no fancy punches, I just knocked him down." An armed artilleryman finished him off.

U.S. jets flew 117 sorties over roiling Suoi Tre, bombing the attackers with explosives, napalm and anti-personnel bomblets. Two distant artillery batteries walked more than 2,000 shells through the enemy's ranks, some striking as close as 100 ft. to the shrunken U.S. perimeter. A big Chinook chopper swept through smoke and fire to drop slings of fresh ammunition. But the G.I.s were down to their last bullets, and in some bunkers to a single grenade. Eleven of the batteries' 18 how-

itzers lay silenced by enemy fire; artillermen loaded the remaining guns while kneeling amid burning shells. As the enemy fire poured in and the Viet Cong, scenting the kill, closed in for a final assault, everyone in Suoi Tre from gunners wielding pistols to cooks and bottle washers desperately resisted the onslaught.

*2ND BN 14
T-1 ACT*

2ND BN 14
T-1 ACT

Like the 10 O'Clock Show. Within a half hour after the battle began, an armored column only two miles away was dispatched to aid Suoi Tre's defenders. It was delayed by difficulty in crossing the steep-banked, muddy Suoi Samai River. Finally a crossing was filled in by a tank mounting a bulldozer blade. Just as the Americans at Suoi Tre were about to be overrun entirely, the delayed column of 80 armored personnel carriers and tanks rumbled through the trees. As they came, they crushed the massed Viet Cong beneath their treads and sprayed the enemy ranks with withering machine-gun fire. Hands popped from tank turrets and dropped grenades to blast off Viet Cong fighters who had swarmed over their steel shells. When the Viet Cong finally grasped what they were up against, they hastily retreated. "It was," exulted Bender, "just like the 10 o'clock riding to the rescue."

The Americans lost a comparatively moderate 31 dead in the battle, suffered another 109 wounded. But the fleeing Viet Cong paid a terrible price for coming so near to victory. They left 617 bodies on the field of Suoi Tre, having carried away as many other dead as they could. It was one of their worst single defeats of the war.

THAILAND

B-52s & Green Berets

More bad news for the Viet Cong came last week from nearby Thailand, which announced its readiness to base U.S. B-52s on Thai territory. Flying unseen and unheard at 40,000 ft. or more, the big B-52s have struck more terror into the enemy than almost any other weapon. But they have been limited until now by the necessity of hauling their 60,000-lb. bomb loads from Guam on a 5,200-mile, twelve-hour round trip. The Thai decision will place the bombers within a scant hour's distance of practically any Communist concentration in South Viet Nam, enabling each B-52 to make several sorties a day instead of one.

The Thai welcome to the B-52s is only the latest open admission of cooperation with the U.S. in fighting the Communists, reversing a long Thai reticence about publicizing their role in the war. The Thais already permit other U.S. fighter-bombers to fly from four bases in Thailand; they are readying a 2,400-man fighting force to join the Allies in Viet Nam later this year. Their increasing willingness to participate is a case of enlightened self-inter-



VIET CONG DEAD AT SUOI TRE
Too long among the beehives.

TIME, MARCH 31, 1967

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✓ AGENT ORANGE?

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