

'LOST' PLATOON

Survivors Play Dead While NVA Search Area

Saigon — Eight 4th Division soldiers who lived through a fierce battle when their 30-man platoon was cut off from its main force and overrun by an estimated North Vietnamese battalion have recalled their harrowing experience.

The men from the "lost" platoon of the 1st Brigade's Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry told how they laid face down in mud and grass playing dead, each thinking he was the only survivor, from late last Thursday afternoon until they were found Friday at 8:45 a.m.

During that time NVA searched them for identification, picked their pockets and took watches from their wrists.

Survivors reported being kicked onto their backs by NVA while being searched. One wounded man said an enemy soldier had sat on his back while looking through his pockets.

"I was lying on my stomach

each playing dead," explained a survivor. "One enemy soldier came over and sat on my back. He placed his hand under my shirt to see if I was breathing.

"I could hear my heart (Cont'd on P-4, Col. 1)

Ivymen, Enemy Battalions Clash In Pleiku Province

Saigon — Infantrymen of the 4th Division have been engaged in bitter fighting with North Vietnamese soldiers in Operation Francis Marion in the Central Highlands.

The action started last Thursday at 12:30 p.m. when a reinforced company from the 1st Brigade's 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry encountered a NVA battalion in heavy jungle 56 kilometers southwest of Pleiku City.

The major contact in the engagement ended at 7:15 p.m. with sporadic sniper

fire continuing during the night.

During the fighting one of the company's platoons was cut off from the main force while maneuvering to encircle a pocket of NVA troops and attempts to reinforce it failed.

Army gunships and transport helicopters loaded with reinforcements fruitlessly tried to shave the enemy back Thursday night in attempts to reach the unit.

Ground fire was reported as "very heavy" by chopper pilots. Two helicopters were

hit but not downed.

A second company of 4th Division infantrymen hell-bent to the scene to reinforce the embattled platoon had to chop through heavy elephant grass six to eight feet high.

At daybreak Friday two Ivy companies left their overnight perimeters to look for the "lost" platoon. In the sweep of the battle area the Ivymen found 22 infantrymen dead and seven wounded from the platoon.

They also found 119 NVA dead, three individual weapons and a B-40 grenade launcher.

Total U.S. casualties in the contact were 31 infantrymen killed and 24 wounded.

Saturday at 10:24 p.m. a multi-company force from the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry in night defensive positions on the forward slope of Chu Goungot Mountain 56 kilometers west-southwest of Pleiku took 175 rounds of enemy mortar and 45 rounds of B-40 rocket fire.

The enemy force, estimated as a battalion, tried to penetrate one company's perimeter but was repelled.

U.S. 7th Air Force pilots (Cont'd on P-4, Col. 1)



STILL ALERT

During a rest break, Specialist 4 Jay D. Mossey (Vernal, Utah), Platoon Sergeant Thomas L. Day (Mifflinburg, Pa.), and Sergeant Frank P. Marriot (South Bend, Wash.) of the 3rd Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry continue to watch the brush for the unpredictable enemy. The Ivymen are taking part in Operation Francis Marion in the Central Highlands. (USA Photo by Sp5 Jerry Craighead)

ENEMY OPENS FIRE

Ivy Soldier Killed During Standdown

Saigon — One 4th Division infantryman was killed and seven wounded and eight enemy killed during Tuesday's 24-hour Allied standdown in honor of Buddha's birthday.

Throughout the Republic of Vietnam U.S. Forces reported 71 truck incidents and 32 were considered significant. A total of 12 friendly forces and 51 enemy were killed and 57 friendly forces wounded in the period.

At the second bridge, heavy traffic was rerouted on a bypass and a 2½-ton truck detonated a mine on the temporary road, wounding two soldiers and destroying the truck.

The mine, a 105mm projectile, caused a crater 20-feet wide and five-feet deep, according to reports from the scene.

meters southwest of Pleiku City, came under fire from three North Vietnamese.

The patrol returned the fire. One infantryman and seven enemy were killed. One individual weapon was captured.

A 2nd Brigade patrol 40 kilometers southwest of Pleiku City was fired on by five NVA at 10:30 a.m. The patrol returned fire, killing one NVA. There were no U.S. casualties.

At 9:20 a.m., a 4th Division, 1st Brigade company, while on defensive patrol 53 kilo-

meters southwest of Pleiku City, fled southwest when the infantrymen returned fire.

One U.S. soldier was wounded and enemy casualties are unknown.

A 2nd Brigade company, located 10 kilometers southwest of Duc Co, took 60 to 80 rounds of 82mm mortar fire at 11:50 p.m.

Artillery and AC-47 Dragontails supported the 4th Division company. Six infantrymen were wounded.

Saigon — U.S. Air Force B-52 crews have made eight strikes in Pleiku Province in support of Operation Francis Marion during the past week.

They hit an enemy troop concentration 48 kilometers west-southwest of Pleiku City before dawn Wednesday.

Stratofortress crews of the Strategic Air Command struck three times Monday, all against enemy troop concentrations 50 kilometers west-southwest of Pleiku City.

They hit enemy fortifications and encampments located 34 kilometers west-southwest of Pleiku City early Sunday and troop concentrations 57 kilometers west-southwest of Pleiku City late that night.

The pilots of the eight-engine bombers struck twice at enemy troop concentrations Friday. In the afternoon they blasted a position 54 kilometers west-southwest of Pleiku City and then just after sundown the target was 10 kilometers west of Duc Co.



EDITORIAL

Praise From Gen. Westmoreland

Millions of words have been written and spoken in praise of the thousands of American fighting men engaged in the bitter struggle to safeguard the cause of freedom against communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam.

The most eloquent praise a fighting man can receive is that which comes from his commander because there is a kinship that exists between them based upon mutual respect and confidence strengthened by the ordeals of combat.

General W. C. Westmoreland, commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, had this to say about his American forces:

"Who are these men? They are mostly youngsters representing every State of the Union — from the farms, the cities, the factories and the campuses.

"They are the sound product of America's democratic society. They are the sum of our educational system, our medical science and our communications.

"Their excellent morale results from knowledge of their jobs, sound military policies, professional unit leadership and unprecedented material support.

"Their medical care is superb; their food is excellent and their mail is carefully handled. Shortages have been few and of short duration.

"As an individual, the fighting man I command is a tough, determined professional in battle one day, and the next day, a sensitive, compassionate friend helping the Vietnamese people. He is a fighter, a thinker, and a doer.

"He has seen — at first hand — Communist subversion and aggression at work; he has acquired a deeper appreciation of the importance of freedom. And from his ranks in the years ahead will come the confident, alert, intelligent citizens and leaders who will make this nation's future greater than its past.

"With fighting forces like these, a commander cannot help but look forward with confidence as he views the military situation." (AFNB)

IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH

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IVY LEAF

STEADFAST and LOYAL

Purple Heart

Private First Class Robert D. Oliver Jr. HHC, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf
Private First Class James M. Phillips HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Private First Class Larry H. Reed HHC, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Private First Class Douglas M. Thompson Co B, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf
Private First Class Homer L. Wiley Co B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Private Vincent V. Palestriani Jr. Co A, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf
Sergeant First Class Charles W. Turner Co B, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Robert J. Avery Btry C, 4th Bn, 42nd Arty
Staff Sergeant Charles R. Dunn Btry C, 4th Bn, 42nd Arty
Sergeant Clayton G. Lewis HHC, 4th Med Bn
Sergeant Roger L. Curtis Co C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Sergeant John D. Poole Btry A, 4th Bn, 42nd Arty
Sergeant Clayton E. White Co C, 124th Signal Bn
Corporal George W. Botosh Btry C, 6th Bn, 29th Arty
Corporal Hallard Dickey Jr. Btry C, 4th Bn, 42nd Arty
Specialist 4 Karl J. Anderson Co A, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Specialist 4 Kenneth C. Cook Co A, 1st Bn, 12th Inf
Specialist 4 David L. Gainey Trp B, 1st Sqd, 10th Cav
Specialist 4 Joseph H. Kilian Btry B, 6th Bn, 29th Arty
Specialist 4 Edwin E. Mowen Co A, 4th Eng Bn
Specialist 4 Bertram H. Redler Co C, 124th Sig Bn
Specialist 4 George V. Robert Btry D, 5th Bn, 16th Arty
Specialist 4 Floyd W. Williams HHC, 2nd Bde, 4th Div
Sergeant Thomas A. Devere HHC, 1st Bn, 35th Inf
First Lieutenant Marvin E. McGraw Sr. Co A, 1st Bn, 14th Inf
Chaplain (Captain) Walter Sauer HHC, and Bde, 4th Div
Private First Class William E. Bonham 33rd Infantry Platoon
Private First Class William R. Burke Btry D, 5th Bn, 16th Arty
Private First Class William D. Gibson Co B, 2nd Bn, 8th Inf
Private First Class Duane F. Kaminsky Co B, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Private First Class Phillip A. O'Donnell Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Private First Class James V. Showalter Btry C, 4th Bn, 42nd Arty
Private First Class Jack H. Shupe Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Private First Class Larry P. Sisler HHC, and Bde, 4th Div
Private First David A. Stempf Btry C, 4th Bn, 42nd Arty

Good Conduct Medal

Staff Sergeant Robert M. Holcomb 4th Admin Co
Specialist 5 Calvin D. Carlson Hqs & Svc Btry, 5/16th
Staff Sergeant Eugene C. Betchel Co B, 4th Avn Bn
Staff Sergeant James A. Benge Co B, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf
Sergeant Norris Rolar Co B, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf
Staff Sergeant Roberto Ramos-Doucet Co B, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf
Specialist 4 Jacob Johnson Co B, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf
Sergeant Donald E. Francois Co B, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf
Sergeant Earl J. Collins Co C, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Specialist 5 Walter E. Mathews 4th Military Police Co
Sergeant First Class Jack Stier Co C, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Staff Sergeant Robert L. Towers Co C, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Sergeant First Class Clarence Sipley 4th Admin Co
Private First Class Carlos Alvarez HHC, 3rd Bn, 8th Inf
Sergeant James M. Hankins Co C, 1st Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 4 Billy Romero Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Sergeant Bobbie Hill Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Audie Hill Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 4 Richard T. Stevens Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Sergeant Willie L. Goodall Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 4 Ronald Zuccaro Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Sergeant Harold J. Sanders Jr. Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Ernest L. Behm Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Dennis D. Duncan Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Gilbert Brantly Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Sergeant James C. Baker Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Ronald Wells Co B, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Curtis L. Boan Co C, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Sergeant Woodrow Bybee 4th Admin Co
Master Sergeant Frank Arnett HHC, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Sergeant John J. Wanger HHC, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Sergeant William J. Reilly HHC, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Staff Sergeant Eloy Guevara Co B, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Specialist 5 John H. Hyde HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Beatty C. David HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Lawrence Brown HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 5 Herman Livingston HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 5 John W. Hazelton HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 5 Edward Hawkins HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 5 Lloyd T. Hamilton HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 5 Jodie H. Francis HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 6 Walter Bucka HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant James Brown HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 4 Richard Bosco HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Eugene Dudeck HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Kenneth L. Sports Co B, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Specialist 5 Ozzie Freeman Co A, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Staff Sergeant Eurban Herbert HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Harvey Davis HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 6 Oral L. Halsell HHC, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Platoon Sergeant Carl O. Davis HHC, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Staff Sergeant Gary D. Bridges Co B, 1st Bn, 69th Armor
Staff Sergeant Robert Hall HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant James Duben HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Specialist 5 Kenneth J. Moore HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf
Staff Sergeant Theodore Bunda HHC, and Bn, 8th Inf

Chaplain's Corner

Tragedy Of Life

By Chaplain (Maj.)
Howard T. Lee

Most of us would like to live in a world where squares did not have to fit into round holes, where every bit of machinery would click into place and where an answer would be given to every question.

One would think that God would answer such abstract questions as: "Why should I suffer? Why is there evil in the world?"

These are the type of questions which Job asked of God when he fell into misfortune.

After having lost his wealth, his children, his health, keeping only his wife who turned against him, he asked God why he was born and why he suffered this agony.

In the Bible, instead of answering the questions, God begins to ask Job questions, about 20 or 25 of them, such as: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?"

And at the end of all God's questioning, Job is convinced that the questions of God are more satisfying than the answers of men.

The tragedy of life is not what people suffer, but how much they miss. Suffering with no framework is living in a universe where nothing clicks, where there are no answers to any questions.

The tragedy of any life is not what happens; it is rather how we react to what happens.

Why do you think you have tears, if it be not to wipe away the tears of others? What chance have those who have fallen by life's roadside, wounded and half-dead, of help or healing, except from you who also know wounds?

To feel lonely and solitary in a world that does not make sense, in a universe that does not click, is to forget that no one is lonely except a person who is self-centered, who cuts himself off from communion with his fellowman.

To us is given in some measure the power to strengthen the fidelity of a fellowman. This is the "how we react."

Thus daily there are opportunities to unite ourselves with God, to strengthen our faith and fidelity to God so that we may see as Job saw that life's questions are only answered in the plan of God.

New 3rd Bde Troops Receive Extensive Training

Story & Photos

by

Sp4 Gary M. Silva

Dau Tieng — The men ran, sweat running down their faces. The cadence was

fast, but the soldiers — many still with stateside starch creases in their fatigues — kept up.

They were the newest addition to the 3rd Brigade,

4th Division — replacements.

The replacement center, commanded by Captain Samuel E. Negrea Jr. (Sharon, Pa.), can accommodate 1,115 men at one time.

"Since October," Captain Negrea said, "we've processed 1,300 new men."

With a working staff of eight people, each new replacement is given almost five days of extensive training before he is turned over to his assigned unit.

Suoi Tre Hall, a new classroom named after the recent battle in which the 3rd Brigade helped kill 631 Viet Cong in four hours, can seat 75 students at one time. In the hall the men learn the finer points of Viet Cong fortifications, patrolling techniques, ambushes and booby traps.

The classroom is not the only training area for the men.

A special area surrounded by barbed wire is filled with American-made Viet Cong traps.

"At first some of the men laugh at the crude ways the

Viet Cong make their booby traps," the 31-year-old captain said, "but when they see the traps actually working the smiles disappear."

The enclosed area is strewn with lethal traps designed to kill, maim and inflict an assortment of agonizing wounds.

A pit, four-feet deep, has numerous deadly punji stakes embedded at the bottom. Normally such a pit would be camouflaged, but for obvious reasons the trap is clearly visible. The new men seldom come close to the edge.

A wicked mace, complete with long bamboo barbs, plunges to the ground. The weight of the weapon alone could break a man's neck — the bamboo stakes guarantee the effectiveness of killing a person. The replacement personnel stress the importance of watching for such weapons.

Complete with a 40-foot tunnel, the area is equipped with foot traps, swinging bamboo traps and minor obstacles designed mostly to inflict small wounds, but serious enough to put a man

in great pain and definitely out of action.

Most of the men arrive at the 3rd Brigade from the 90th Replacement Battalion at Long Binh or Cam Ranh Bay.

Each morning Sergeant First Class Derald L. Leuszler (Buffalo Grove, Ill.) awakens the new men for a full schedule of the Army's "Daily Dozen" and a mile run. The afternoon calls for another jaunt through the brigade's rubber plantation base camp.

According to Captain Negrea, the men have a rough time with the heat at first, but seem to enjoy the running.

The week concludes with the men relearning the techniques of firing the M-16 rifle, M-79 grenade launcher and the art of throwing hand grenades.

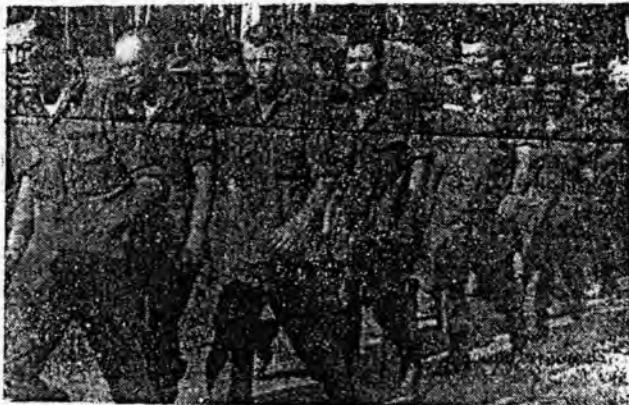
"I believe this training is helping the people because some have returned after going on patrols and said the training they received helped them a great deal," the captain said.



TELLING — A handler and his dog from the 44th Scout Dog Platoon show 3rd Brigade replacements the advantage of having such an animal along on operations.



INSTRUCTING — Captain Samuel Negrea Jr. (Sharon, Pa.) instructs a new replacement on the M-16 rifle on the fringe of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division base camp.



RUNNING — Two daily mile runs are instrumental in climatizing new replacements at the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division.



EXPLAINING — Staff Sergeant John S. Castleman (Inkster, Mich.) explains the firepower and models of different Viet Cong weapons captured by the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division.



SHOWING — Captain Samuel Negrea Jr. shows new replacements the working ability of a man-made trap of the Viet Cong during training class at the 3rd Brigade.



HEAD 'EM UP, MOVE 'EM OUT — Members of a reconnaissance platoon of the 4th Division's 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry use armored personnel carriers to round up a herd of water buffalo in the Central Highlands 17 miles southwest of Pleiku. The roundup was the final phase of Edap Enang, a program of resettling a group of Montagnards from their former homes in enemy-infested country to a safer area secured by Free World Forces near Pleiku.

WITH MECHANICAL HORSES

2/8th Rounds Up Cattle For Montagnards

Story & Photo
by
Capt. Ed Ciliberti

Oasis — "Duke" Duquemin, trailboss for the 2-Bar-4 spread, surveyed his drovers and gave the order — "Move 'em out!" — which kicked off the spring roundup of longhorns in the scrub southwest of Pleiku.

Watching the wranglers mount-up and begin circling the herd was "Big Jim" Adamson who's operated the 2-Bar-4 since January, spreading his brand in an ever-widening arc all the time.

"Damdest bunch of cowboys I've ever seen," "Big Jim" remarked to his trailboss as the green crew fumbled its way through the beginnings of the trail drive. And the men were indeed

green (no pun on the fatigue uniform intended) in the art of cattle driving.

Actually, the whole thing was an Army operation.

About the only similarity between the real thing and what the Ivy Division's 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry was doing was the "longhorns." Even that was questionable, for the cattle were really Montagnard water buffalo which have long horns.

The roundup fell to the 2nd Brigade unit after several Montagnard villages had been moved in the Edap Enang resettlement program. The "critters" were too many and too big to take along on the initial village movements.

The herding job fell to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry's

Recon Platoon under First Lieutenant Benjamin F. Maxham (Burbank, Calif.).

The "horses" used in the roundup were armored personnel carriers.

The APC's proved almost as agile as the horse in cutting the buffalo out of thick brush and keeping them together during the day-long drive to a pickup point for transport to the Edap Enang resettlement area.

When the drive began early one morning, Lieutenant Colonel Gordon J. Duquemin (Newport, R.I.), battalion commander, and Colonel James B. Adamson (Honolulu), 2nd Brigade commander, decided to play the scenario by ear.

The water buffalo, about 75 of them, were driven into a central area south of the brigade's Oasis base camp by OH-23 helicopters flown by Major Robert R. Chedester (Omaha, Neb.) and Captain Obe D. Coleman (Ozark, Ala.) of the brigade aviation section.

The plan was to move the buffalo onto a stake truck using infantrymen as drovers. However, the animals "spooked" and scattered.

It was then decided to build a loading pen near the battalion fire support base. The APC's would herd the buffalo to the loading point.

Working together in the second attempt, the choppers and APC's succeeded in reassembling the herd. Using a "C" formation (don't look in the FM, it's not there), the tracks began the slow five-mile drive to the loading pen.

A river was forded and a second group of buffalo was picked up without incident. The drive was going well as the platoon neared the pens 100 meters away.

Then the herd hit a bend in the road, surrounded on both sides by thick brush. The buffalo broke into the brush and the tracks were hard pressed to follow.

Infantrymen were dropped off as foot drovers, but the herd stampeded again, and about half escaped.

A half-hour later, the remnants of the great herd ambled into the loading pen, a funnel-affair of triple-strand concertina wire.

The first day's drive didn't bring home all the bacon, but by the second day, the Recon Platoon had rounded up most of the stragglers. By the end of the week, nearly 100 head of buffalo had been forwarded to the resettlement area.

Platoon Leader Completes 229 Days In Field

Oasis — First Lieutenant Edwin A. Williams III (Milledgeville, Ga.), reconnaissance platoon leader for the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, claims he holds the officer's record of the Ivy Division for the number of days spent in the field.

Now with a total of 229 consecutive days amidst the jungle of the Central Highlands, Lieutenant Williams arrived in Vietnam last August 6 with the battalion and stayed with it when it went to the field, participating first in Operations Paul Revere III and IV, Sam Houston, and now Francis Marion.

"I consider myself lucky to still be able to be here after nine months," explained the lieutenant. "Obviously I must be lucky because I haven't been wounded or seriously ill for any extended period of time."

Although there were several other officers who arrived at the same time, many have changed positions and are no longer in the field. Others have been evacuated with malaria.

Lieutenant Williams first served in the battalion as a weapons platoon leader before joining the recon platoon. Now operating independently under the battalion S-2, he and his men carry out reconnaissance patrols and ambush missions for the unit.

3/12th Soldier Honored As Top Ivyman Of Week

Camp Enari — Private First Class James D. Kauffman (Glenolden, Pa.) was honored last week as the 4th Infantry Division's top soldier of the week.

PFC Kauffman, a member of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, served for seven days as enlisted aide for Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander.

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Five Self-Propelled Howitzers Arrive At Fire Support Base

Le Thanh — Five 155mm self-propelled howitzers of Battery B, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery rumbled into the confines of a 4th Division forward fire support base recently, doubling the outpost's artillery firepower.

Under the direction of Captain Richard J. Galliers (Bryan, Ohio), the totally mechanized unit was established and prepared to fire within minutes after its arrival.

"Our fire missions disseminate from brigade or a battalion liaison officer," explained First Lieutenant Gavin M. Queck (Des Moines, Iowa), battery executive officer.

"It usually only takes two to three minutes to fire including the time it takes for the fire direction control people to process the data," the lieutenant continued.

"The greatest advantage of a 155mm self-propelled howitzer is mobility, plus greater range and accuracy. We carry our own ammo and our firepower is second to none," concluded Lieutenant Queck.

"With the mission of general support and reinforcing, the battery's personnel have fired more than 37,000 rounds since their arrival at the 4th Infantry Division's base camp October 7.