

# Medal Of Honor Awarded

**CAMP ENARI**—The Medal of Honor has been awarded to a platoon leader for his heroism while with the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry.

The posthumous honor was presented to the parents of First Lieutenant Stephen D. Karopczyc, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Karopczyc of Bethpage, N.Y., by Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor in a ceremony at the Pentagon.

The 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry is a post of the 4th Infantry Division, though it was with the 25th Infantry Division during the time of Lieutenant Karopczyc's heroic actions.

Lieutenant Karopczyc was leading his platoon against an enemy force when he was severely wounded. Even though wounded, he continued to direct his platoon during several hours of heavy

fighting. When a grenade was thrown near Lieutenant Karopczyc and two other wounded men, the officer left his protected position to cover the grenade with his helmet.

The grenade exploded, mortally wounding the Lieutenant, but his action prevented further injury to the other men. He succumbed to his multiple wounds two hours later.

Secretary Resor said, "Even in this honored company, Lieutenant Karopczyc stands out. Few can appreciate or comprehend the inner spirit which inspired him. We do not ever in our lifetime face such a test of demonstrating our complete and total devotion to our friends. Lieutenant Karopczyc faced this test and was not found wanting."



Vol. 3, No. 6

February 9, 1969

## 'Cacti Blue' Bags Huge Rice Store

By SP4 Michael Tousey

**BAN ME THUOT** — An abandoned Montagnard village northeast of here turned out to be a major enemy supply center and yielded 56 1/4 tons of rice to men of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry.

The second platoon of Delta Company, led by 1st Lieutenant Melvin J. Grevstad of Roosevelt, N.Y., cordoned off the village of Buon Trang, and search teams found the huge cache in bins and sacks throughout the village.

"We thought the village was occupied and just went over to check it out. The rice wasn't hidden or anything," said Captain Vaughn D. Brauer of Twin Falls, Idaho, company commander of Delta.

"The village chief was brought out. It seems the VC were giving the villagers a rough time so they abandoned the village about four months ago," continued Captain Brauer.

Ambushes were set out on approaches to the village the evening after the discovery of rice, but there was no contact with the enemy.

The following morning the rice was removed and turned over to the Darlac Province Chief to be distributed to the refugees in the area.

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Sulenski of Chicago stated that this rice was stored by the Viet Cong. "One village could not consume that much rice, and the villagers left before the rice harvest. This was a way station for the VC."

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Ivy Leaf

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