

"In the end, however, they got the short end of the deal," recalled PFC Joseph Cotton of Hamilton, Ohio.

From The Desk of
the
Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Equipment Use

THE UNITED STATES ARMY is the best equipped Army in the world. With its organic equipment, it possesses the capability of fighting anywhere on earth. This equipment, whether it be a module for a radio, a magazine for an M16, or an engine for a tank, is vital to your survival in combat.

Many of the items of equipment with which you work may not seem to be vital. They may, in fact, appear to be relatively unimportant until such time, in the heat of battle, when you find you desperately need the item and you don't have it.

WHY, IN SUCH a crucial moment, don't you have the equipment you need? It was carelessly lost or damaged and has not been replaced or perhaps even requested. Replacement equipment, regardless of its size, shape, or relative importance, does not materialize over night. Your people in the supply system cannot say the magic word and suddenly have the required replacement. Quite the contrary, these items must travel a long supply chain involving a great deal of time and effort.

HOW DO YOU, the individual soldier, fit into this picture? You are the key to supply economy! You are the man responsible for the equipment and the man using the equipment. The loss or damage of one item of equipment may seem very insignificant to you, but look at it on a much larger scale. Consider a situation where one man out of every squad in the Republic of Vietnam loses or damages one item of equipment per day. This would amount to approximately 62,000 items of equipment per day or 1,860,000 items per month that would have to be replaced unnecessarily. This is an enormous amount of material.

The resupply problem is colossal at best. This need not be magnified by careless and needless loss or damage to your equipment. Perform the required maintenance on your equipment and then give it that little extra. The equipment you save today might save your life tomorrow.

Army Offers Future Security

IF YOU ARE a first Term RA or AUS, you're at a point in your life where you're going to have to make some basic decisions about your future . . . and soon! The course of the rest of your life may be set by decisions you make between now and the time your tour ends.

It's not just a question of whether to reenlist or not. It's a question of choosing your life's work, of finding the job that fulfills your needs, aspirations and your plan for the future.

YOU HAVE TO decide if your present job will suffice or if

you're qualified for another job that seems to be more to your liking. You must determine whether or not you have leadership ability, and, if so, where that ability will be put to the best use.

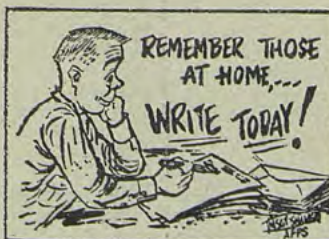
In short, you've got to take a long, honest look at yourself and at Army opportunities as compared to those civilian jobs offer.

TAKE A LOOK at your future . . . Army vs civilian. The most important things in life are provided for in an Army career. But what about civilian life?

Would you get guaranteed paychecks, extra cash for special assignments, allowance for living quarters, food, clothing, medical care, retirement equity, survivor benefits, legal counsel, education, job training, travel, recreation facilities, 30 days paid vacation each year plus passes, retirement and lifetime income after 20 or 30 years, generous bonus for continuing your present job, and many other opportunities.

WE WOULD SUGGEST that you see your Career Counselor on any questions you may have. He's there to help you and can give you all the information you need. After you've talked to him on what you want and what the Army has to offer, think it over and subject any tentative civilian employment you may have in mind to the same hardy study and analysis.

Then decide . . . not before. This is too important a decision to be made hastily. The choice is yours in today's action Army. Your Career Counselor is the man who can give you all the details on a military career.



Answers Available Chaplain's Message

By Chaplain (MAJ) Allan W. Brown Jr.

IN A RECENT issue of one of the local papers, there appeared a cartoon story of the lovable, very human and "us-like" character Peanuts. Linus and Lucy were leaning on a fence, staring into space and Lucy commenced a monologue conversation. She said: "I have a lot of questions about life, and I'm not getting any answers! I want some real honest-to-goodness answers . . . I don't want a lot of opinions . . . I want answers!"

How much we are like Lucy — wanting answers to the questions of life. We ask, we search, we strive, we look and the answers always seem to evade us, darting to and fro or, remaining just around the bend in the road ahead. The reason for this often eludes us. But it shouldn't! We are just looking in the wrong place.

WE CAN LOOK in two ways: behind or forward; behind, into ourselves and into our fellow man, or forward, beyond ourselves, beyond the frontiers of time and space. It is only when we look forward beyond the infinitesimally small spect of the universe known as "me" that sense is made out of all this confusion and chaos.

There have always been those who believed that they have turned to God when they have only turned to some good intention or noble desire rising out of some selfish aspiration. It is both understandable and recognized that God does speak to man through his nature. But no man returns home merely by deciding to purchase a ticket on the way. No dream of a better world equals the sweat required to make it better. The intention of a soldier to return home, even his greatest desire to be there, is

no substitute for "homecoming". How much goes into getting home again depends on how far away we are (and we are pretty far!), how much money we have, whether we are authorized or not, and whether we actually want to return. The world traveler and the soldier knows that he has to put his entire self into going home if he plans to arrive there with what he wants. Is the business of turning to God so different? Can it be made to be less?

THE PERSON who turns to God mentally may be all there mentally, but is this the major or real portion of man? If so, why not consider sending your heart to God in the hour of grief, sorrow, or turmoil? In this way a person could keep the rest of himself profitably employed in the regular routine of base camp, firebase, or R & R. Would not God look upon this as a

strange kind of homecoming?

What does an infantryman, artilleryman, engineer, or any other person put into his job when doing an honest one? What goes into your assigned mission when you are doing it honestly? Picture a dentist working on your teeth, or a squad leader leading his men, while mentally basking in the sun on some beach in Hawaii or Australia.

THE FIRST GREAT Commandment provides the true formula for turning to God and for looking beyond ourselves. Here is a formula provided by the Master for all His followers. When a person heeds other formulas, especially those of his own making, he may find getting to God a tough assignment. But here the "way is made straight and the rough places smooth" and the answers that we and Lucy so desire are found directly to our front.

CSM Taylor Speaks Out



Rest And Relaxation

THE ARMY HAS always afforded servicemen an opportunity to travel. His assignments take him to all corners of the Free World. While on these assignments, he may travel to neighboring countries on leave or, in some instances, a three-day pass.

Even while serving in Vietnam, the serviceman still has an opportunity to see other countries of the world through the Rest and Relaxation (R&R) Program.

Servicemen have an opportunity to travel to such exotic places as Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, Australia or Hawaii. One R & R is authorized for each 12-month tour and an additional R & R during an extension of the normal tour.

IN THE FAMOUS FOURTH Infantry Division, the Adjutant General exercises supervision of the R & R Program. Through the Special Services Office, each unit is allocated spaces for each R & R flight. Units are encouraged to take full advantage of the spaces allocated.

Space will not permit the complete mechanics of the program to be presented here. However, I will point out some of the things that **MUST** be accomplished prior to departing your unit and Camp Enari.

Division soldiers going on R & R must have an updated immunization record, ID tags and ID card. In addition, a medical certificate is required for Australia.

SUFFICIENT FUNDS are also necessary. As a minimum, five hundred dollars has been suggested. Also, uniforms must be neat and clean.

While on R&R soldiers must remember that they are still a member of the armed forces and that their conduct and appearance should reflect high military standards even while in civilian attire. A soldier's conduct also reflects on the United States.

Customs regulations should always be observed. The following items **WILL NOT** be carried on the flight: narcotics, explosives, fireworks, knives and products produced in Communist China, North Vietnam or North Korea. Obscene or pornographic articles are also prohibited on the flight.

MARRIED PERSONNEL have the opportunity to enjoy their R & R with their wives in Hawaii. Reduced fare travel from the West Coast of the United States to Honolulu and return is authorized. Arrangements should be made well in advance as it is the responsibility of the serviceman to inform his wife and furnish necessary copies of orders to qualify for the reduced rate. Also, the serviceman's wife must complete immunization requirements and have her dependent's ID card in her possession.

Complete details on the R & R Program can be obtained from your unit R & R clerk.

IVY LEAF

FAMOUS FOURTH

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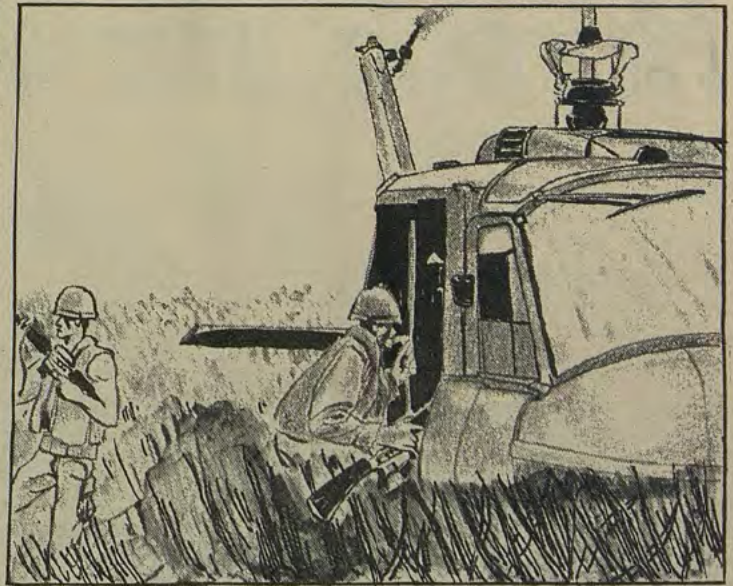
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Choppers Rescue Surrounded Companies



(Left) "The Gunship Pilot Kept Asking Whether We Could See Any NVA. He Said We Were Completely Surrounded" (Center) "...With Door Gunners Blazing Away On Their M60 Machine Guns, The Last Ship (Right) Swooped Into The Landing Zone. We Couldn't Get All Nine Men On The First Bird, So We Split Up..." (Artistry By SP4 Andrew Koelbl)

Deadly And Mobile

'Minibrute' Terror To NVA

By 1LT Robert Janosko

FIREBASE McNERNEY — The enemy in the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's Central Highlands area of operations is painfully learning not to tangle with the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry's "minibrutes."

The "minibrutes" are the small, agile light observation helicopters (LOH) that pack a deadly minigun and a sharpshooting air observer manning either an M16, CAR 15 or M60 machine gun.

Working in hunter-killer teams, consisting of two LOHs and two Cobra gunships, the scout ships skim the tree tops ferreting the enemy from his hidden positions.

Generally the scout ships will work sections of a specified area, calling in periodic reports to their Cobra teammates above.

When a target is spotted, the scout ship will first mark the position, then engage it.

If the target is a small group of enemy soldiers in the open the pilot will position the ship to give the observer a clear field of fire. If the scout is receiving heavy ground fire from a hidden position, the pilot will open up on the area with the minigun.

After the scouts have made several quick passes at the target, the Cobras will drop down and hit the area with rockets and more minigun fire.

When it appears the target has been eliminated, the scouts will check the area and report the results of the strike.

"Just the sound of the minigun has a tremendous psychological effect on the enemy," said Chief Warrant Officer Paul Redhead of Hinsdale, Ill., an ex-pilot of a scout. "We've learned from detainees that enemy soldiers have standing orders not to fire at the scouts until they positively know they have been spotted by them."

The scout's minigun fires at a selected rate of either 2000 or 4000 rounds per minute. Three-second bursts are regulated automatically and the trigger must be released then pressed again for another three-second burst. The ship carries 2,100 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition and 700 rounds of M60 or 40 magazines of CAR15 or M16 ammunition.

The nimble little helicopters, hovering at tree top level, must be tempting targets to a new enemy recruit, but the old veterans have learned you can get stung when you swat a hornet's nest.

By PFC Jerald A. Krepps

FIREBASE McNERNEY—More than 100 rounds of 60mm mortar and B40 rocket fire, along with the NVA version of Chieu Hoi pamphlets, rained down on the 1st Battalion 8th Infantry, during a day on Hill 467 near Polei Kleng.

The day had ended, but the Bullets from Bravo and Charlie Companies, comprising Task Force Alpha, weren't sleeping. Continuous heavy movement around the perimeter kept the men close to the fighting positions—alert and waiting.

"We were given the word," related Private First Class Edwin Gehringer of Kutztown, Pa., "to throw grenades and lob M79s into the area if we heard any movement at all."

As expected, the enemy forces attacked just after dark. Their thrust was strong enough to allow a few enemy soldiers to get through the wire, but no further.

Then, shortly before daybreak, the enemy made another assault. Again the Bullets were waiting, but this time with blinking flashlights, and aerial aid.

Snoopy, flying overhead, saturated the area beyond the perimeter of blinking lights with minigun fire. The NVA soon broke contact under the intense fire. A sweep the following day revealed five dead enemy close to the perimeter.

To complicate the early-morning battle, two platoons returning from an overnight operation found themselves outside the perimeter and facing the problem of having to infiltrate through the enemy.

"I don't know how we did it, but somehow we got through without making contact," said 1st Lieutenant James Keane of Chicago.

Finally the battalion was notified that they would be leaving the hill.

Ten evacuation ships came in at fifteen minute intervals without receiving any fire. Then, all at once, the enemy opened up on all sides of the hill.

Again and again, the ships of the 119th Assault Helicopter Company braved the intense fire and lifted the infantrymen from the hill.

"When we got down to where there were only nine men remaining things were beginning to get a little tight," recalled Sergeant Larry Hanson of Sioux City, N.D., Bravo Company Radio Telephone Operator (RTO), "I was a bit concerned when a Headhunter plane overhead told us he had spotted two large NVA forces moving into the area."

"The gunship pilot kept asking whether we could see any NVA," remarked Lieutenant Keane. "He said we were completely surrounded."

"It seemed like it took days to bring in the last two birds," remembered Sergeant Hanson. "We couldn't get all nine men on the first bird, so we split up and put five on and waited for the last ship."

With doorgunners' M60 machine guns blazing, the last ship swooped into the LZ. The four remaining men backed up to the helicopter, were helped aboard, and lifted safely away.

Honor Highlanders

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — On the basis of their superior performance at the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's NCO Combat Leadership Course, three men from the 2nd Brigade were rated first, second and third at a recent graduation ceremony.

The Honor Graduate, Specialist 4 Roger E. Shinn of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry was rated first in the class. Lieutenant James D. Osborne, Officer in Charge of the NCO Academy, said of the Red Warrior, "He is one of the most effective leaders to have come to the academy."

Specialist 4 Dillivan D. Bailey

of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, was the Distinguished Graduate of the cycle, and Specialist 4 Michael D. Bernitt of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry, nailed down the third spot to complete the Highlander sweep.

The rigorous fourteen-day course included general military subjects, map reading, patrolling and tactics, and two field problems.

Sergeant First Class Stephen P. Cronin, NCO in charge of the course, added, "Here at the Academy we evaluate and rate our students on the basis of performance, overall attitude, knowledge of military subjects, and potential for leadership."



CHARLIE'S DEMISE—A light observation helicopter mounted with a minigun and carrying an armed air observer hovers over the dense jungle of the Central Highlands waiting for the enemy to make a foolish move. (USA Photo by 1LT Robert Janosko)

Fourth Taking Enemy's Food, Supplies Hurting His Morale

A WEARY NVA soldier makes his way cautiously through the thick, rugged terrain of the Central Highlands. He's been cut off from his unit, his food supply is gone, and his weapon is malfunctioning.

Though discomfort and danger are now his companions he knows the location of a cache of weapons and rice.

He moves away from the stream bed he's been following, and travels a small way up a thickly jungled slope. He shoulders aside a boulder and finds—nothing.

Members of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division have beaten him to the cache; dejected, he slumps to the ground.

Captured or destroyed enemy supplies are a double-edged sword in warfare. Not only is the enemy denied the weapons to be used against friendly troops, but his morale can be shaken badly when he travels to the location of a cache and it turns out to be just another empty cave or pit.

The discovery of weapons and food caches continues daily. A recent count credited the Fourth Division with the capture of 688,999 pounds of rice, but the discoveries haven't stopped there.

At the time the rice total was figured, the enemy had lost 1,529 small arms to the Fourth Division, and since February of this year the NVA and VC have been denied the use of 20 tons of small arms ammunition.

Some of the finds have been spectacular, and others have been smaller, but they've all added to the lowering of the enemy's morale, and the lessening of his offensive punch.

Earlier this year the men of the Fourth Division captured one enemy tank, and destroyed another. One enemy truck was also seized and seven destroyed in action earlier this year.

Two 105mm howitzers, American-built, and apparently captured by the enemy during the French-Indochina war, were also captured by Division forces this year.

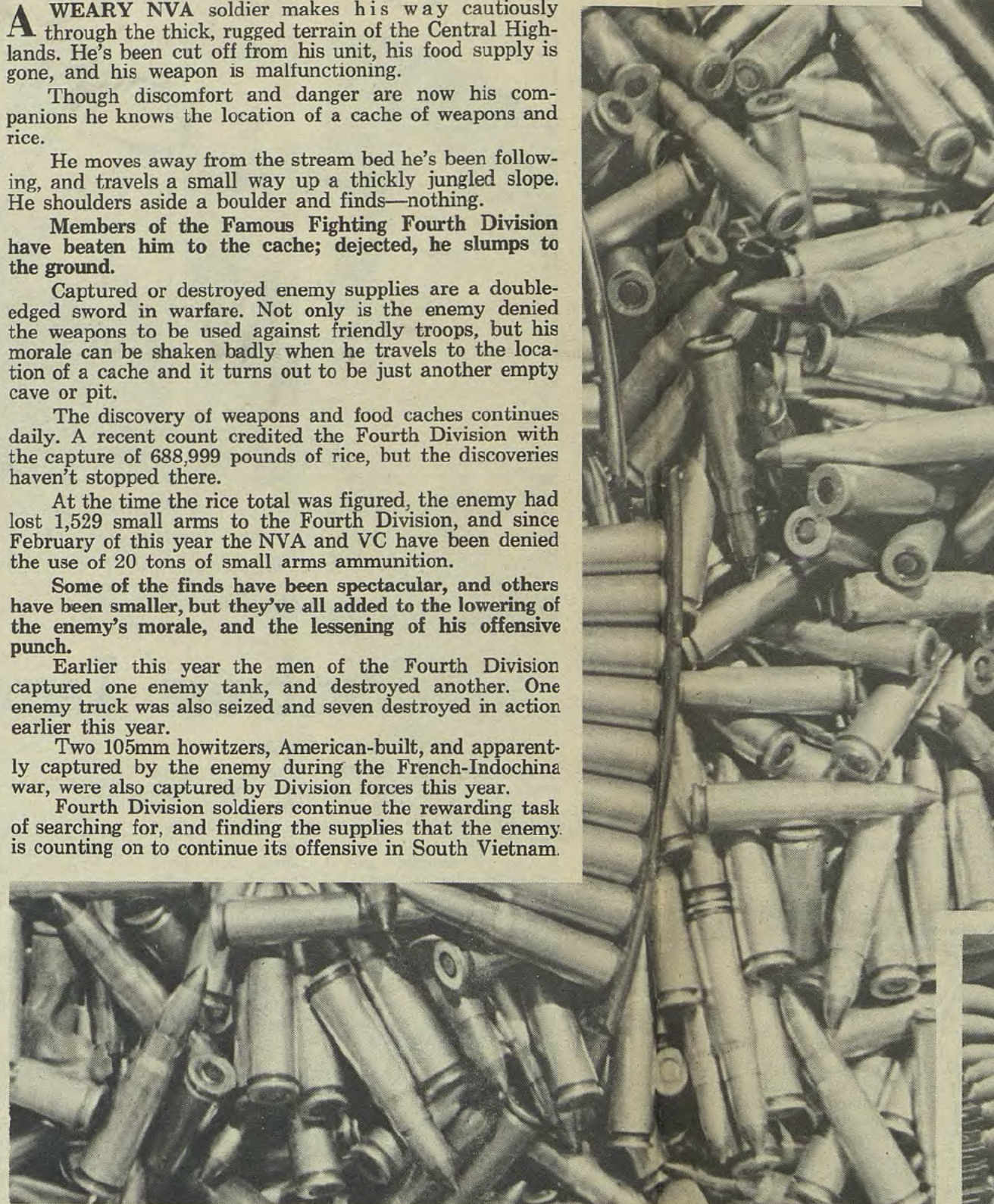
Fourth Division soldiers continue the rewarding task of searching for, and finding the supplies that the enemy is counting on to continue its offensive in South Vietnam.



FAMOUS FIGHTING FOURTH DIVISION TROOPS DISCOVER THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF RICE MONTHLY



A CAPTURED ENEMY TRUCK GETS A LIFT TO HEADQUARTERS



TONS OF AK47 AMMUNITION HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED BY THE FAMOUS FIGHTING FOURTH



AMERICAN SOLDIERS INSPECT THE RUINED HULL OF AN ENEMY TANK



JUST A FEW OF THE MANY HUNDREDS OF ENEMY WEAPONS THAT HAVE BEEN CAPTURED



ENEMY MORTAR AND ROCKET ROUNDS THAT WILL NEVER BE FIRED AT AMERICAN TROOPS

Braves Zap Reds In Close Contact

By SP5 Mike Cobb

FIREBASE McNERNEY — Precise coordination between the 1st Brigade's Delta and Bravo Companies, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, thwarted an enemy attempt to overrun their perimeter — the action left 27 NVA Regulars dead.

While securing their location, a Short Range Patrol (SRP) team from Delta Company heard an estimated company size enemy force to their front.

"We could only see about nine of them," recalled Private First Class Salvatore Giammona of Flushing, N.Y., the team leader, "and as soon as we saw them we hid and called the company."

Employing their company's 81mm mortars and blowing their claymore mines, the SRP team succeeded in killing four NVA. Continuous mortar fire was called on the contact point throughout the night to cope with the noisy enemy movement.

"The SRP team, coordinating with the CO (Captain Ronald Foss of Augusta, Ga., the company commander), did an excellent job with the accuracy of the mortar fire," praised 1st Lieutenant Richard Wiggins of Atlanta, Ga., the 2nd platoon leader.

Bravo Company's 3rd Platoon was in the immediate area of Delta Company's Landing Zone (LZ) D Handle, and following the first devastating mortar attack from Delta Company, the 3rd Platoon encountered an estimated NVA squad firing B40 rockets.

They again called in Delta Company's mortars and a sweep of the area following the mortar barrage produced 13 enemy bodies.

Shortly before dawn of the same day, Delta Company's perimeter received an intensive B40

and CHICOM grenade attack, followed by a concentrated enemy sapper attack from four sides.

"The bulk of the company was still resting when we heard the explosions," noted 1st Lieutenant Jerry Raumann of Marule Falls, Tex., the company's forward observer (FO), "but as soon as we saw them charging the barbed wire, we let loose with everything we had."

The enemy was repelled by the intense small arms fire, but the battle was not yet over. As the defeated enemy fled, the mortar men again went into action, this time lobbing mortars on the retreating enemy.

A sweep of the surrounding area found an additional 10 enemy dead. A B40 launcher with rocket, twenty-four 20 pound satchel charges and 20 CHICOM hand grenades were also recovered.

SP4 Cowan Named Aide

CAMP ENARI — Specialist 4 James A. Cowan, Jr. of Atlanta, Ga., was selected as enlisted aide to Major General Donn R. Pepke, commanding general of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division.

Specialist Cowan is a team leader with the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry.

"I'm glad I was chosen the enlisted aide. It has been an interesting week. It's good to be around all the activity and get an idea of how some of the decisions are made," Specialist Cowan said.

Prior to entering the Army, Specialist Cowan was a machine operator for Lockheed Aircraft. After finishing his military obligation, he plans to return to Lockheed.



SHOCKED BY A KISS—Private First Class Timothy DeGrace is unaware of the kiss he is receiving from Susan Brent and the hug by Sharon Mullikin—all his attention is on the camera. The girls are part of a USO Show currently touring Vietnam and it might be said that PFC DeGrace has been over here too long. (USA Photo By PFC John Warwick)

Rangers' Patience Costs NVA

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — What seemed to be a routine reconnaissance mission for a 2nd Brigade Ranger team suddenly became involved, netting the team four enemy killed and numerous pieces of equipment recovered.

On the morning of the fourth day of their mission, the team located a freshly used sleeping area.

Continuing through the area in search of more evidence of enemy activity the team found a heavily used trail. The well-camouflaged trail weaved itself through natural breaks in the

jungle.

Setting up about 20 feet off the trail, the team waited with Claymores for some unsuspecting NVA regulars.

"I was leaning against a tree when I spotted four NVA moving past our position toward Superstition Mountain, (Chu Mom Ray)," said Sergeant Larry Massoletti of Fort Worth, Tex., team leader.

"They were carrying heavy packs and AK47s at sling arms which seemed to indicate a point element, so we let them pass," explained Sergeant Massoletti.

When the lead force was about

300 meters away, the rangers called in artillery on the NVA with unknown results.

Later, the team leader again spotted a group of NVA moving up the trail and he alerted his men.

"Sergeant Massoletti snapped his fingers to attract my attention and then whispered 'NVA,'" said Specialist 4 Thomas P. Reed of Pacific, Mo. "I grabbed both detonators connected to my Claymores and waited."

When the enemy point man was even with the ranger team, he suddenly stopped and looked right into the eyes of Specialist Reed. The two stared at each other for what seemed a minute.

"He started to point and at the same time unsling his AK47, I decided it was time to blow my Claymores," recalled Specialist Reed.

Unobserved, Massoletti crawled out to where the two NVA had fallen. He moved beside a huge log, parted some of the bushes, and heard a round fly by his head.

"I had gone out along with Sergeant Massoletti and when he was shot at, I returned fire and killed the NVA," said Specialist 4 Robert (Cookie) Plaskett of New Washington, Ind.

The Ranger team, realizing it was outnumbered, decided to withdraw. As the team headed for the nearest clearing, a O-1 Birdog could be heard overhead.

"My aerial observer spotted Cobra gunships off in the distance. I notified the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, that a Ranger team was in contact and badly needed their help," explained 1st Lieutenant Bernard Serafinowicz.

The Ruthless Riders from Alpha Troop screamed in and began delivering their overpowering ordnance.

Reinforcements were on their way as the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry dispatched its air mobile platoon to bolster the Rangers.

"We were to lead the platoon from Bravo Company back to the contact sight," said Specialist Reed.

A sweep of the area indicated that the NVA had dragged off all but one of the casualties.

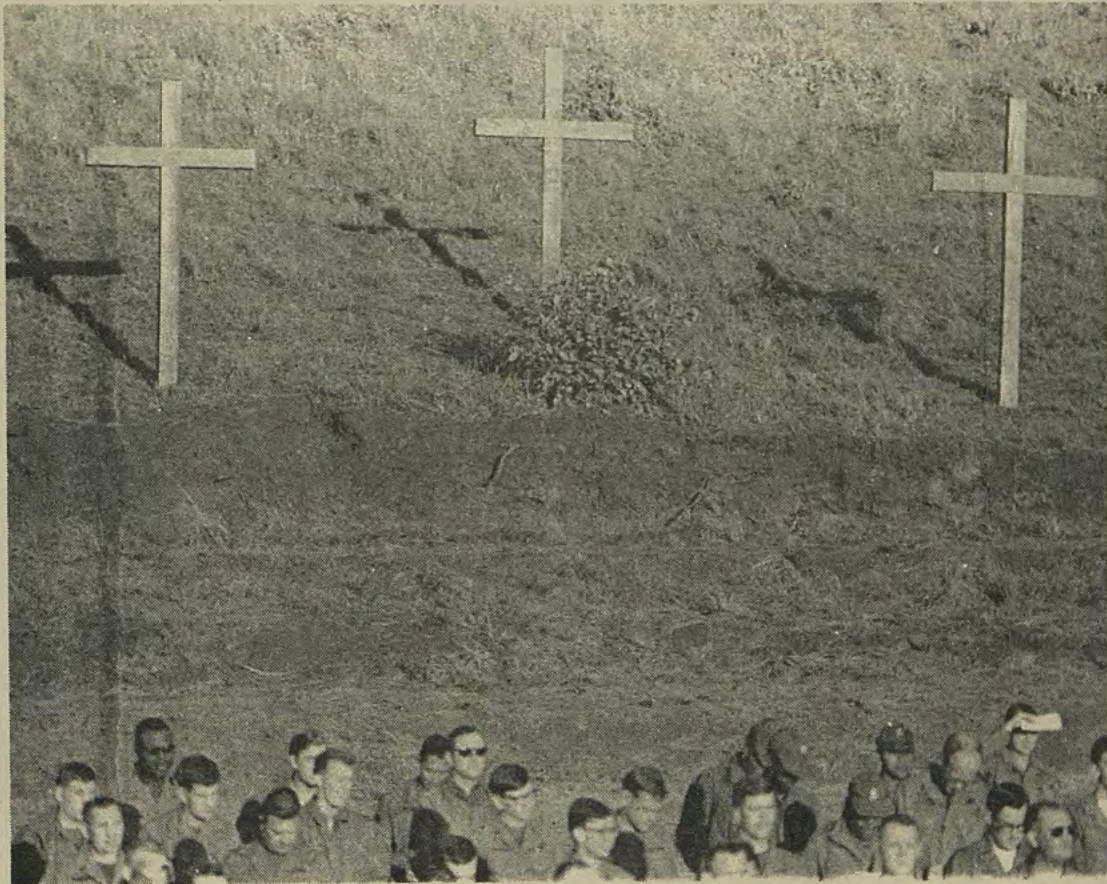


COMBAT ASSAULT — Soldiers from the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, advance through an area supported by heavy artillery in a combat

assault operation outside Polei Kleng.

(USA Photo by 1LT Robert Janosko)

Easter Brings Thoughts Of Peace



THE SHADOWS OF THE CROSSES LENGTHEN, THE MEN SING A HYMN OF PRAISE

Story By
Sp4 Michael O. Jones
Photos By
Sp4 Art Reilly



THREE CROSSES STAND ALONE ON A VIETNAM HILLSIDE

CAMP ENARI—For a third Easter Sunday in the Central Highlands, soldiers from the Famous Fighting Fourth Division paid tribute to the Prince of Peace in sunrise services at Camp Enari.

As the sun stretched shadows from three symbolic crosses, the 4th Division band and trumpets heralded the call to worship and to the opening message of Major General Donn R. Pepke, division commander.

"We are the peace, and peace is our profession," General Pepke told the worshipers.

In counterpoint to the crosses, symbols of Christ's burden on earth, three division soldiers stood, carrying rucksacks and weapons, the reality of the burden American soldiers must carry in their quest for a just and lasting peace in the long-embattled Republic of Vietnam.

The invocation was read by Chaplain (Major) Allen Brown of the 1st Brigade. Following the Invocation, the worshipers sang a hymn led by Chaplain (Captain) Clarence Brooks, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry.

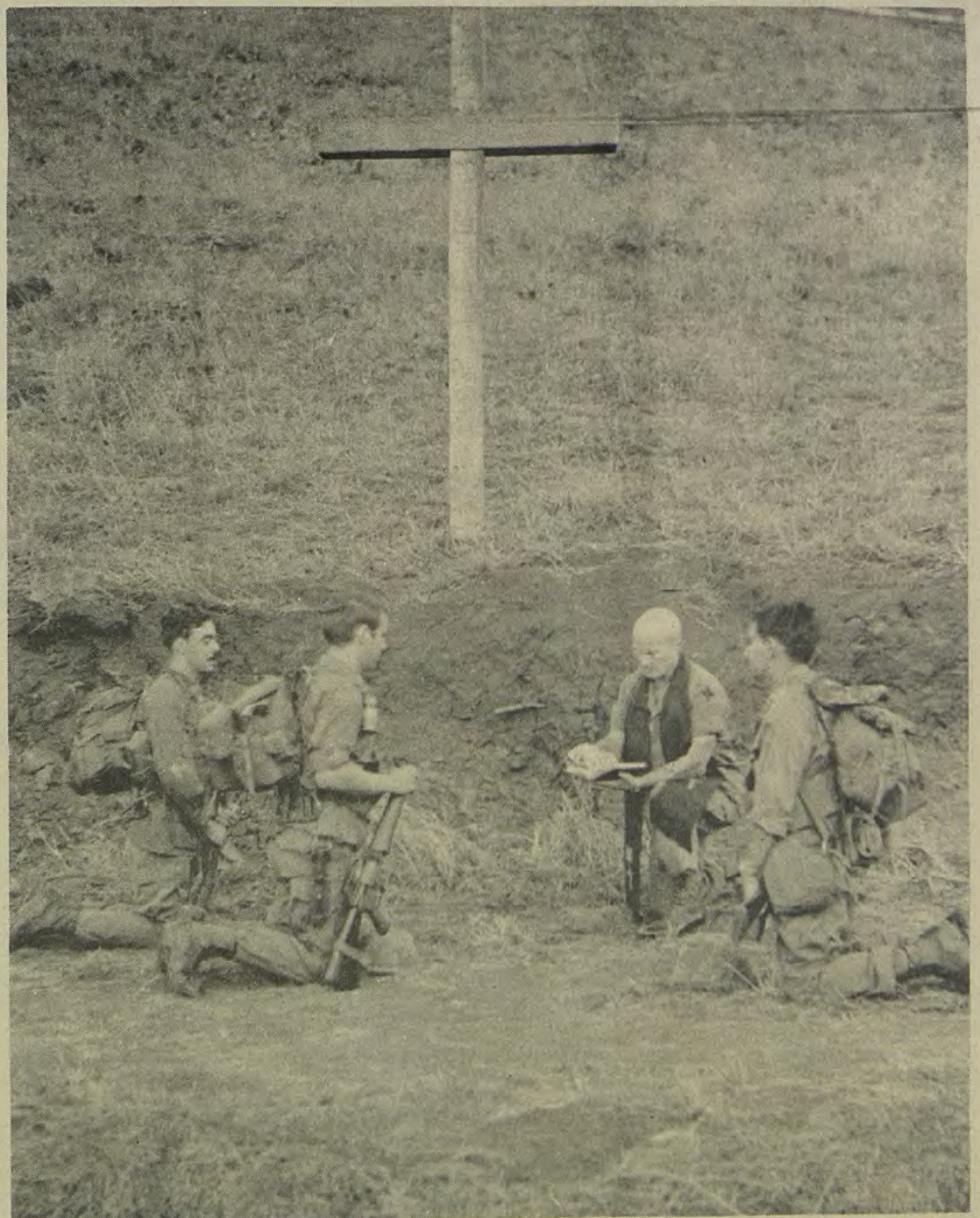
The responsive reading, led by Chaplain (Captain) Frank Osborn ended with the sentence, "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Following the Gloria Patri and an Easter prayer by Chaplain (Major) Edgar Shackelford, Division Artillery, and Announcements and the Offering from Chaplain (Major) Arthur Bell, Division Support Command, the gathering sang "The Hallelujah Chorus" by Handel.

The sermon, "Immortal Hope and Mortal Obligation," was given by Division Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Vaughn Leaming.

The service ended, following a hymn sung by the congregation, and the Benediction, by Chaplain Brown.

More than one thought turned to next Easter. Not just with the personal hope to share Easter with friends and loved ones, but with the hope that through our presence this Easter, the sun would rise over a peaceful Vietnam next year.



RUCKSACKS AND WEAPONS REFLECT THE BURDEN AMERICAN SOLDIERS CARRY

Cacti Blue's Role Big In Mountains

By SP4 Michael Tousey

OASIS — In a month-long battle, the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, drove a NVA regiment from the Chu Prong mountains on the east side of Highway 14 about 23 kilometers north of Pleiku.

Intelligence reports indicated that the enemy regiment moved into the area in an effort to interdict vital Highway 14 which links the Famous Fighting Fourth Division headquarters and Pleiku with forward units in the Kontum area. The area was also being used to stage rocket and mortar attacks on the Pleiku area.

The operation began on March 1 with Bravo and Delta Companies moving into the mountains. The Chu Prong mountains, about 5,000 feet high and many with slopes approaching 45 degrees, were covered with double and triple canopy vegetation and thick stands of bamboo. This was perfect terrain for defensive operations by an entrenched enemy familiar with the area.

Contact was first made on March 2 by Delta Company. In the following weeks two or three firefights in one day by different elements of the battalion was not an unusual occurrence.

On the 7th, Alpha and Bravo Companies combined to defeat an unknown size enemy force which left 11 enemy bodies. In two separate fights, Delta and a Recon Platoon each accounted for one NVA kill. The Recon Platoon then ended the first week of the battle by finding an ammunition cache containing

300,000 AK47 rounds, almost enough ammo to supply two battalions with a basic load.

The Recon Platoon was again instrumental in an action which brought the battle to an end on the 29th. Ten NVA bodies were found after the fight.

The impressive statistics for the month are indicative of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry's aggressiveness in the Chu Prong mountains. The Cacti Blue accounted for 65 enemy bodies.

The battalion captured 25 AK47 rifles. Also recovered were 111 60mm and 19 82mm mortar rounds with 126 ignition cartridges for 60mm mortars and 164 fuses for mortars.

In addition to the destruction of a battalion command post and battalion-size aid station, the month saw the Cacti Blue destroy eight tunnel and cave complexes and numerous bunkers, foxholes and fighting positions.

But most important, the NVA regiment's sanctuary and base of operations were damaged and complete use of the area was denied to the enemy. The attempt to cut Highway 14 never materialized and pressure was lessened in the Pleiku area.



"... Before I Saw Him, This NVA Had Let Go With A B40 Round. It Just Missed Me By A Few Feet, But I Got Him With A Round In The Chest." (Artistry By SP4 Larry Reid)

33 Enemy Killed...

(Continued From Page 1)
his M79 grenade launcher.

"I got two in a tree for the price of one round," said Specialist Eldridge. "Then I was told to move down the side of the ridge and check along a stream. Before I saw him, one NVA had let go with a B40 round. He missed me by just a few feet, but I hit him."

As Specialist Eldridge started to pull back he spotted three more NVA. He dropped behind cover and before they could locate his position, four M79 rounds knocked out three more enemy soldiers.

Again he started to move back

to his squad, but before he had gone 10 meters, three more NVA came into view.

"I fired my last round at them and luckily it got two. With no more ammo I was in a real hurry to get out of there," smiled Eldridge.

Gradually Alpha Company worked its way back to high ground, and once again artillery was called in. When the Braves swept the area, all that remained were the bodies of 33 NVA soldiers.

Find Charlie

Riders' Eyes Open

FIREBASE McNERNEY — Alpha Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry's sharp eyes and accurate fire decreased the local NVA leadership ranks by killing a first lieutenant, a sergeant major, a corporal and a private first class.

Operating with the Famous Fighting Fourth's 1st Brigade 10 kilometers southeast of Plei Kleng, Alpha Troop had been conducting an air recon mission when Major Richard Marshall of Columbia, S.C., troop commander, spotted what appeared to be soldier's packs along a trail.

The command and control ship quickly swung around and flew back over the area for another look, but the packs were gone.

Major Marshall called for the Troop's scouts (LOHs) and soon the nimble little helicopters were over the area.

As the first scout ship, piloted by Warrant Officer Bill F. Bates of Denver, made a pass over the trail it was greeted by a stream of AK47 fire. The ship's observer let loose with a burst from his M16 and downed two NVA.

Then the team's Cobra gunships moved in and riddled the area with rockets and minigun fire, killing one more NVA.

The ground fire silenced by the gunships enabled Alpha

Chu Mom Ray Used For Relay

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Chu Mom Ray, a mountain rising 5500 feet from the tangled jungle floor west of Kontum, is serving the Famous Fourth Division's 2nd Brigade as the tallest antenna in Vietnam.

Nicknamed "Superstition Mountain" by the French when it mysteriously swallowed a patrol during the Indo-China war, its summit is now the home of Highlanders whose mission is to operate and secure a radio relay station.

This retransmission site, manned by three soldiers from the Brigade's communications section and secured by the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry's Red Warriors, doubles the range of normal Fourth Division communications.

"We operate 24 hours a day," explained Specialist 4 Cliff Trittip of Albion, Ind., one of the communications experts. "And we feel we do a real important job."

"Because of the mountainous terrain," said Specialist 4 Cliff Trittip of Albion, Ind., "radio communication between two distant points becomes uncertain. This is where we come in."

"Since we are the highest point in the Kontum area," added Specialist 4 Robert Barret of Boston, the second member of the commo team, "we pick up messages that normally wouldn't be received and then retransmit them."

Specialist 4 Angel Battaglia of El Cajon, Calif., looked down at the valley and said, "We have one of the loneliest jobs in Vietnam, being as isolated as we are. However, it would be nothing compared to the feeling those guys down there would have if they couldn't have radio contact."

Bullets In Trap, Not For Long

POLEI KLENG — Returning from a platoon-sized operation, the 4th Platoon from the 1st Brigade's Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, spotted three enemy attempting to spring a trap from a bomb crater.

Specialist 4 David Hutchins of San Rafael, Calif., the pointman, alerted the platoon with a burst of M16 fire.

Immediately moving forward with his M60 machine gun, Sergeant Charles Austin of Mays Landing, N.J., laid down a base of fire which enabled the remainder of the platoon to flank the enemy.

To the platoon's left front, two other NVA were detected as they tried to throw grenades. Sergeant Roger L. Hoggard of Azle, Tex., replied with an M72 (LAW) at point blank range and silenced them both.

Dusk was rapidly approaching, and 1st Lieutenant Stephen D. McGoldrick of Savannah, Ga., had his platoon pull back and form a tight perimeter, then proceeded to call in illumination and mortar fire on the enemy position located only 300 meters away.

A Spooky gunship then arrived over the Bullets' position.

"We shot hand flares to mark our position," said Sergeant Russel Zieger of St. Louis, Mo. "We were glad to see him up there."

Quiet once again prevailed and Captain James W. DeRoos of Sacramento, Calif., Bravo Company commander, had the platoon resume its journey after a four hour delay which cost the enemy at least one confirmed dead.

A LIVING MEMORIAL 4TH DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE

TOTAL: \$214,735.43
AS OF: 12 APRIL '69

	1ST BDE	2ND BDE	3RD BDE	DIARTY	DISCOM	DIV.TROOP
60,000						
55,000						
50,000						
45,000						
40,000						
35,000						
30,000						
25,000						
20,000						

Blackhawks Climb

The "Blackhawks" of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry have made another giant stride toward the top spot in the Fourth Infantry Division Scholarship Fund.

Their grand total now stands at \$16,185.45. With an April donation of more than \$1,700, the Cavmen chopped a large slice off the lead still held by the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, which now has contributed \$16,460.95.

The total contributions from all units has reached \$214,735.

The fund now has a new unit in third place. The 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry broke into the top three this month with a grand total of \$13,388.92.

The continued generosity of Famous Fighting Fourth soldiers has been remarkable, as evidenced by the fact that the old goal of \$150,000 has been eclipsed by more than 40%. Thanks to your support the door of education has been opened to the eldest child of fallen Fourth Division soldiers.

Continue to support a most worthwhile cause. Give to the 4th Infantry Division Scholarship Fund.

FM Installed

(Continued From Page 1)

And all this was also accomplished at the cost of mixing yards of cement by hand and pouring it by the light of spotlights and even flashlights shining late into the night. Projects which some people said couldn't be done were accomplished through late hours, backache, and determination.

Other units, caught up in the fervor of this important deadline, offered time and material to help further the cause: units such as the 124th Signal Battalion and the 278th Signal Company.

Finally, the project was finished, and highlighted by the ribbon-cutting ceremonies. It's all a part of AFVN's continuing effort to provide more and better entertainment to the men in the Central Highlands.