

Bison Power Blasts Reds

By Sp4 John Rowe

OASIS—An awesome display of power, both on the ground and in the air, enabled the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, to rout a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) force 10 miles northwest of Pleiku City.

Sixty-one NVA soldiers were killed in a six hour battle in which the Buffalo Soldiers of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division expertly used their mechanized ground and gunship elements plus artillery and airstrike assistance provided them.

The enemy force, entrenched in bunker fortifications, were detected from the air.

Major William C. Schweitzer of Bakersfield, Calif., Delta Troop commander, spotted four packs lying on the ground and five NVA soldiers running from an area which was the scene of heavy fighting two days earlier.

A closer reconnaissance revealed another group of NVA in a nearby woodline. "When the scouts rolled in for another look they received automatic weapons fire. That's when I alerted the Cobra gunships and the ground elements," explained Major Schweitzer.

"It was quite apparent that whoever was in there was determined to stay and fight."

Alpha and Delta Troops' Aero Rifle Platoons (ARP) of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry bore the brunt of the ground activity. Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, was later inserted into the area.

Despite obstacles posed by the rugged terrain and the entrenched enemy force, the cavalry overwhelmed the enemy's defenses.

The area's landscape dictated the Cav's approach to the contact. The Buffalo Soldiers had to dismount into a swampy valley and

then make their way up the adjacent slope toward the enemy bunkers.

As soon as the cavalrymen began their move up the slope, the NVA troops began firing. The ferocity of the attack reached such proportions that Alpha Troop's Private First Class Mike Bingle of Roselle, N.J. recalls, "AK47 fire and B40 rockets coming out at us from three directions."

The stubborn enemy was then subjected to American air power.

Gunships from both Delta Troop and the 4th Aviation Battalion sprayed the area with their miniguns and saturated it with rockets.

Five airstrikes, controlled by Air Force Captain Michael E. Anderson of Minneapolis, Minn., 3rd Brigade Forward Air Controller (FAC), further pounded the enemy's strongholds.

Artillery support, provided by Bravo Battery, 6th Battery, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery from Landing Zone (LZ) Ruth, was utilized by the ground troops as they pushed forward.

The Cav's night location received sporadic enemy fire, but the following morning there was no enemy resistance.

The scarred battlefield was silent. Sixty-one NVA bodies were all that remained.



WAITING GAME — A Fourth Division soldier hits the ground as enemy AK47 and B40 rounds scream overhead. The 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry soldiers cleared the NVA from an area 10 miles northwest of Pleiku.

THE STEADFAST AND LOYAL FAMOUS FIGHTING FOURTH

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COURT'S IN SESSION—Specialist 4 Gerald White's facial expression emphasizes the message. The 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry soldier and his unit had just spent five days punishing the enemy.

(USA Photo By SP5 John Ryan)

Supplies Captured

Cav Zaps 95 Near Pleiku

By Sp4 John Rowe

OASIS—Losing a battle can be detrimental in more ways than one, as a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) force found out.

Besides having 95 soldiers killed in two separate days of fighting 10 miles northwest of Pleiku City, the enemy lost ammunition and bunker complexes which cannot be replaced.

In the interim day between the two battles, elements of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry hurt the enemy again.

Alpha Troop and the Aero Rifle Platoon (ARP) of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division unit were sweeping the area when they discovered enemy equipment at the bottom of a ravine.

Fifty two-man bunkers, with three feet of overhead cover, were located near a stream bed. A mess hall with three cooking sites and wooden furniture was also found.

Included in the complex were drying racks for clothes, a mortar position and commo wire.

The enemy had also devised a way in which they could cook their food without being spotted by allied forces.

Fumes from the cooking food were smothered in a tunnel, estimated to be 10 to 15 feet in length, which branched off from each of the cooking sites.

A further check of the triple canopy area revealed the ammunition cache, stored in bunkers, in holes around the bunkers and in a cave complex.

Specialist 4 Allen Struss of Huron, S.D., an ARP rifleman, started the ammunition hunt by discovering 23 82mm rounds in a bunker.

By the time the cavalrymen were finished, the list of captured ammunition included 7,000 rounds of AK47 ammo, 72 B41 rockets, 22 B40 rockets, 50 pounds of plastic explosives and 81 B41 propellant charges.

Destroy Enemy's Bunkers

By Sp4 Rene Lamarche

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS

A series of enemy bunker complexes was discovered and destroyed approximately 15 miles southwest of Kontum City through the effective teamwork of Army and Air Force personnel of the 2nd Brigade.

Units from the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry were sweeping suspected NVA controlled territory when they found a number of enemy bunkers.

An aerial survey was conducted by the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry and it reported a small group of enemy troops equipped with rucksacks seated on top of the bunkers. Supporting artillery batteries began to pound the area.

Moments later Air Force Captain Roy Engelke, a 2nd Brigade FAC (Forward Air Control), plotted the area in preparation for an air assault. "The setup consisted of about three to four adjoining locations comprising at least 80 to 100 bunkers," he remarked.

Captain Engelke, of Vacaville, Calif., alerted Pleiku Air Force Base. "Two squads of F100s and a SPAD squad answered my call and put their ordnance right on target."

Elements of the Cacti Blue and Red Warrior battalions searched the now desolated region finding the estimated 80 to 100 obliterated enemy bunkers. Though there were no signs of enemy troops, the Army and Air Force could rest assured that the NVA could not return to this hiding place.

From The Desk of

the
Commanding General



M G PEPKE

Road To Dak To

EACH DAY BETWEEN 0830 and 0930 hours a convoy of thirty to forty vehicles departs Pleiku destined for Dak To. The convoy carries the vital items needed to resupply US units operating in the highly volatile Dak To area. At present, there are elements of the 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry Regiment, the 299th Engineer Battalion, and the 52nd Artillery Group in the Dak To area, and it is to these units that the convoy brings its critical goods.

The convoy must traverse sixty-five miles of rolling asphalt or dirt roadway to Dak To, twisting and winding through hills and across valleys typical of the Central Highlands. Midway to Dak To the convoy passes through Kontum City where the convoy finds a great deal of external support from Kontum Airfield and Landing Zone (LZ) Mary Lou, home of the Fourth Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade.

The vehicles of many units travel in the convoy to Dak To. Those units which have elements at Dak To use the convoy as a means of traveling to and from the forward areas, taking with them replacement personnel and equipment.

The 124th Transportation Battalion, located in Pleiku, does the vast majority of the line-haul resupply to Dak To, utilizing its resources to bring ammunition, POL bulk and packaged products and refrigerated food stuffs to the units in the tri-border area.

Often they bring barrier and bunker construction material when the units cannot supply these items themselves.

The highway from Pleiku to Dak To is designated QL14 North, and to insure that the convoys are able to travel this main supply route with a minimum of interdiction by the enemy, the entire distance is secured by two battalion-sized units. Each of these units supervises a mine sweep of their sectors, from end to end, each morning. As the mine sweep is conducted, armored personnel carriers and tanks are posted at critical strong-points along both sides of the road.

In addition to these strong-points, the security units conduct sweeps throughout their areas of operation in an attempt to thwart the formation of sizeable enemy forces which could present significant threats to the security of 14N. It is a fine testimony to these units that there has not been an actual ambush of a convoy on QL14N since August 1968.

THE INTERNAL SECURITY of the Dak To convoy is under the control of the Fourth Infantry Division's Military Police Company. The Fourth MP's use V100 armored cars which are equipped with twin cupola mounted M60 machine guns and VRC46 radios.

The MPs who travel the road in convoy security are often called "Roadrunners" and they are responsible for the internal security and the traffic control on Highway 14N. All units which travel within the convoy are obligated to react to the directions of the MP officer acting as convoy commander.

The 124th Transportation Battalion includes among the vehicles they send in the convoys "gun trucks" which they have fabricated. These gun trucks are usually equipped with armor plating, a .50 calibre machine gun and two M60 machine guns. They are in radio communication with military police so that they are capable of reacting to the directions of the MPs in the event of ambush.

Between the MP's V100s and the gun trucks, the convoy maintains one security vehicle for every five cargo vehicles as a rule, and this formula has been found to be highly effective for convoy control as well as security.

The link to the external security and the internal security is the Fourth Infantry Division Transportation Office (DTO). The Fourth MPs maintain a liaison radio-telephone operator at the DTO's office who has constant radio contact with all elements on QL14N. This long-range communication capability is accomplished through a remote unit connected to a VRC46 radio which has the capability to communicate all the way to Dak To.

The DTO issues the convoy clearance to depart both Pleiku and Dak To; monitors the progress of the convoy through a system of check-points assigned by I Field Force Vietnam; coordinates air support, artillery support, dust-offs, and informs all parties with interest in the highway of such incidents as ambush, mortar fire or traffic accident.

The Dak To convoy has and is continuing to perform a major resupply service in the tri-border area. Through coordination with external security forces, internal security forces and the units which receive the supplies delivered by the convoy, a constant flow of necessary and vital cargo flows unhampered to Dak To.

Once there, the supplies are put to good use and are instrumental in denying the NVA and VC units operating near Dak To free access to the tri-border area.

Chaplain's Message

He Met God In Vietnam

By Chaplain (MAJ) Kevin A. Devine

Many a young soldier coming to Vietnam proudly boasted that he was a "Big City Boy." All his life had been spent surrounded by thousands and thousands of people. And the youngster somehow came to believe that because he lived in a big city with lights galore, sports arenas, big name celebrities and crowds upon crowds that somehow he was made big by all this.

In reality, however, he was in many ways made small. His world was a world limited to the subway as a child and to sports cars as a teenager. His eyes were blinded by psychedelic lights; his ears deafened by the blare of go-go music, his interests confined to the sports page and the TV Guide; his horizons limited to the boundaries of his city—beyond which lay an unknown land stretching in every direction but offering no appeal. He was satisfied at home.

However, the time came when he was forced to leave home and look into unknown country. With the Army he travelled further than he had ever expected. He found himself in the "Central Highlands of Vietnam".

To his surprise, his horizons opened far and wide. He found another culture, different from his own—yet, rich in its own human experiences. He found a people—not quite like the family next door and they had faults—but once he got beyond the mamma-san peddling Ba Mui Ba at 100 Ps a bottle and met the normal

villager, he found that they had many virtues; he came to realize that we are indeed one large human family. And, to his amazement, the young soldier even found his God.

Oh, he had always known his God. He had studied his catechism and he had gone to Church on Sundays. But, as the poet Wordsworth had complained: "the world was too much with him." Getting and spending he had laid waste his powers.

Then, away from the glare and noise and the hubbub of the city, in the early morning hours, as he stood guard and slowly watched the first pale streaks of dawn filling the sky and lighting up another day, he first began to realize, with St. Paul, that "in God we live and move and have our being."

In the moment of solitude and silence while on recon patrol, when all the world around him seemed hushed and calm and quite, yet charged with life and energy, he first felt, with Dr. Tom Dooley, that God is closest when we are off by ourselves, away from so-called modern civilization.

In the early hours of evening, when he stood in the open field beside his bunker and gazed, bewildered, almost benumbed, at the multitude and splendor of the stars, he was able for the first time to read the handwriting of his Creator in the heavens and he cried in amazement that God should be mindful of him.

Indeed, amidst the solitude and quiet of the Central Highlands of Vietnam, he had discovered his God.

Career Counselor

Soldier Students Build Skills

U.S. Army research studies have shown conclusively that today's young people are deeply concerned in furthering either their formal education or acquiring vocational skills.

Our population percentage of those involved in learning is at an all-time high and is expected to continue at that level. With the almost daily announcements of new techniques and technologies, the supply will never meet the demand for skilled individuals.

The popular image of the U.S. Army soldier as a rifleman or tank crewman is an accepted fact. But, is it a fact? In reality, 300 military schools, aided by a system of on-the-job training, provide instruction on equipment ranging from aircraft to complex weather machinery.

The military school system has received considerable critical acclaim. The technique of combining classroom lectures with practical work has been widely copied in public schools. The Army had one of the first educational systems to recognize the value of closed circuit television.

The soldier-student, for example, might hear a series of lessons interspersed with training films in the morning session and then spend the afternoon actually working with the equipment. This instructional technique has been especially valuable in teaching the intricacies of aircraft or electronic maintenance.

The Army requires nearly a million and a half people to fill several hundred occupational skills. In fact, no other business or organization offers such a wide range of jobs. Many are highly technical.

For example, crew members of a missile battery require hundreds of hours of training to prepare them to operate launching and guidance equipment. Automatic data processing is another field requiring a long, formal technical training period. The electronic and nuclear activities of the Army offer unique opportunities to a highly qualified few.

There are less technical fields too, such as baking and cooking, supply and maintenance, and administration. Added to these are the combat skills of the vigorous, well-conditioned, dedicated men who actively defend our nation at trouble spots around the world.

For the soldier not attending formal training, there is an equally valuable method of learning while doing what is called "on-the-job training." In this program, the soldier ac-

quires the skills under the guiding hand of a master technician.

For each journeyman worker, there are advanced training courses in his field of specialization. Often the issue of some advanced equipment to his unit will call for military or factory-sponsored training.

A prime motivation for the military student is the opportunity for advancement in grade and special proficiency pays as his skills mature. He's preparing today for tomorrow and his place in the elite group of trained artisans.

Though the Army seeks people interested in making a career of the service, it is acknowledged by private industry that the training received in the Army has a definite civilian use.

It's your future and your decision. Stay Army. See your career counselor; he is the man who knows.



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Cacti Blue LZ Attacked; 18 Enemy Killed



"An American Reconnaissance Team Saw Three Individuals Approaching The Company Perimeter. They Waited Until The Three Enemy Soldiers Were Within Eight Feet And Then Opened Up With Their M16s." (Artistry By SP4 Ted Phillips)

By SGT Michael Tousey

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry repelled a night attack killing eighteen enemy attackers ten miles south west of Kontum City near Landing Zone (LZ) Penny.

At 1:50 in the morning, an American reconnaissance team saw three individuals approaching the company perimeter. They waited until the three enemy soldiers were within eight feet

and then opened up with their M16s killing all three.

These three NVA soldiers, however, turned out to be only a probe for the main attack which began one hour later when Bravo Company was suddenly hit with incoming.

"They were firing B40s and recoilless rifles from 25 to 30 meters out," said Specialist 4 Vaughan Connors of Cincinnati. "We turned everything we had on, and called in artillery,

mortars and 'Snoopy' gunships. I guess that was too much for them and they took off."

During the 35 minute fight, Bravo Company received an estimated 75 to 100 incoming rounds, as well as small arms fire.

A sweep outside the perimeter in the morning turned up eighteen enemy bodies, one AK47 rifle with ammunition, seven CHICOM grenades, and one new B41 launcher with five B41 rounds.

4th Engineers, Regulars In War With Jungle

By PFC Richard Souto

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS—The combined effort of two 2nd Brigade units has removed an obstacle which previously has helped NVA infiltration into Polei Kleng and Kontum.

The mammoth job of clearing the rugged terrain northwest of Polei Kleng, required the technical skill of the 4th Engineers and the assistance of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, to be completed.

The basic purpose of this Famous Fighting Fourth Division project was to deny the enemy the cover and concealment of his frequently used avenues of approach.

The first clearing to the north of Polei Kleng, stripped a rectangular area of land two-and-one-half kilometers long and 300 meters wide. West of Polei Kleng, the second clearing bared an area 3 kilometers long and 250 meters wide.

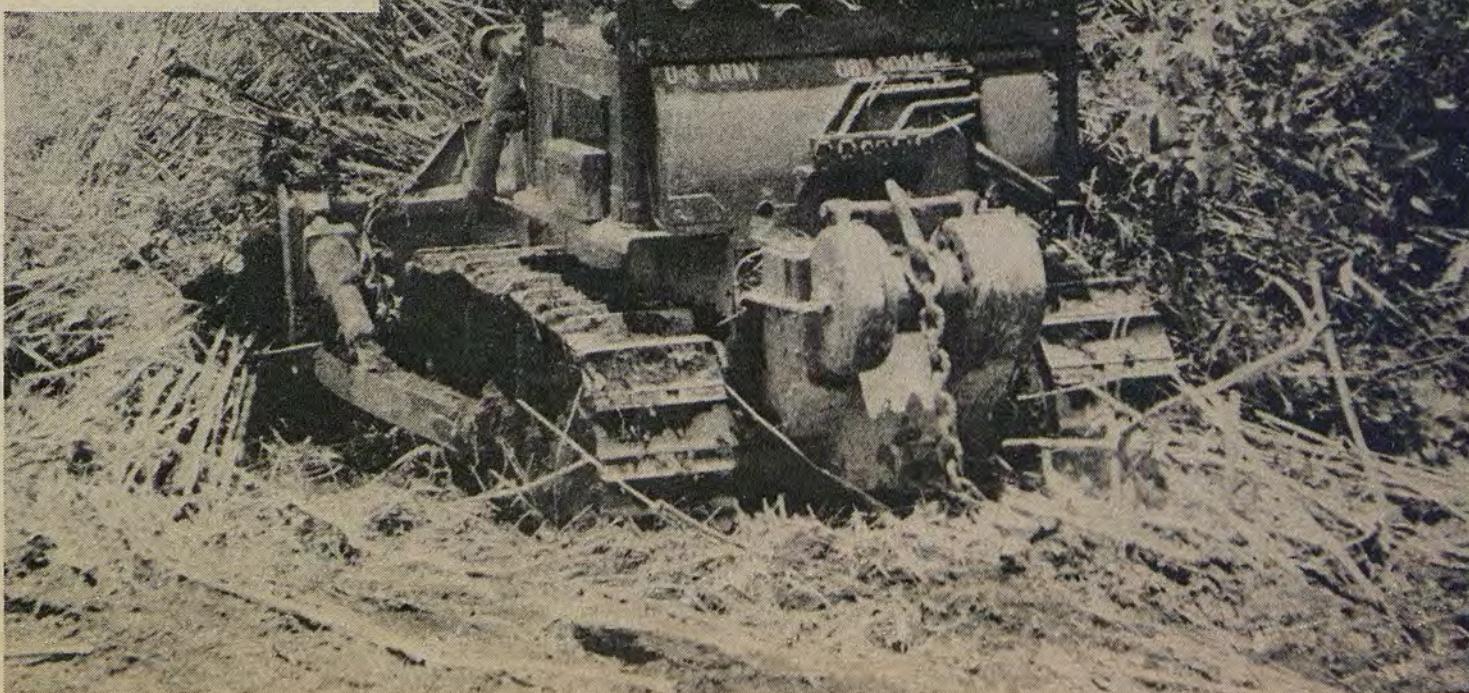
The powerful K6 land clearing plows, which eliminate the time-consuming and expensive procedure of setting hundreds of separate explosive charges to clear the area, were used extensively to remove the dense underbrush, trees, and other jungle vegetation that could offer possible concealment or refuge to an enemy force.

"The project will provide a clear area for aerial observation in an otherwise heavily wooded terrain," explained 1st Lieutenant Bruce Squires of San Diego, the engineer platoon leader.

"The plow is equipped with large saw-like teeth to cut the trees too large

to be pushed aside," said Specialist 5 Dave Latia of Philadelphia, Pa., one of the plow operators.

"In this way, the enemy's flow of men and supplies will be significantly disorganized and disrupted," concluded Captain Houston Smith of Hot Springs, Ark., Charlie Company commander.



Buffalo Soldiers Smash Enemy Stronghold



Grim And Determined, 1st Lieutenant James C. Jean Of Columbus, Ga., Stays In Constant Communication With His Unit As Fighting Rages 10 Miles Northwest Of Pleiku.

Combat Photos By
SP5 John Ryan



Cavmen Blow One Of The Many Bunkers Found During Search Missions. This One Had Three Feet Of Overhead Cover.



Buffalo Soldiers Help Each Other Cross A Stream During A Sweep Of Suspected NVA Staging Areas Around Pleiku. Teamwork Payed Off For The Bisons In The Very Successful Operation.



Smashed Limbs And Torn, Bullet Scarred Tree Trunks Bear Mute Testimony To The Fighting In Which The 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Inflicted So Many Casualties On The Enemy.



Light Observation Helicopters, Tanks And Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) From The Cav Unit Scan The Woodline Before Rolling Into The Thick Jungle Thicket To Ferret Charlie From His Stronghold. A Total Of 95 Enemy Soldiers Died In The Fighting Near Pleiku.

Recon's Reflexes Are VC Downfall

By PFC Gerald Ducharme

OASIS—The quick, well trained reflexes of an infantry reconnaissance platoon were the downfall of a Viet Cong (VC) squad of eight operating 10 miles west of Camp Enari.

The recon platoon from Echo Company of the Famous Fighting Fourth Division's 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, discovered eight VC dressed in both green fatigues and black pajamas and equipped with weapons and rucksacks. The enemy squad, emerging from a woodline 100 meters south of the Cacti Green platoon, was traveling southwest along a stream bank.

Without hesitation the recon element reacted before the surprised VC could respond. Small arms fire was employed, resulting in four enemy killed and the

detention of one VC suspect.

Captain James Scott of Coleman, Tex., battalion S-3, observed the conflict from a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) and commented, "It was the alertness of the platoon members that enabled us to engage the enemy squad without taking any injuries."

"Our recon element noticed that the eight enemy suspects were walking into an open area," continued Captain Scott, "and they readied themselves before small arms fire was exchanged."



RELAXED AT LAST—Two tired but happy Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers relax after action in the Central Highlands. Division troops have been sweeping the Highlands and hitting the enemy in his staging areas before he can do any damage.

(USA Photo By SP4 Eric Langlois)

In The Fighting First

Set Record For Valor Awards

CAMP RADCLIFF—First Brigade soldiers are proving themselves in the field and receiving recognition in the form of a record number of awards and decorations.

Early this year a valor awards section was set up for the brigade. The brigade felt that too often men who distinguished themselves in combat were not receiving the awards they had earned. Since then 800 men have received valor awards.

The four man awards team is working under the 1st Brigade's S-1 section and is headed by Specialist 4 Steven George of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Specialist George explained how his team operates. "When a unit makes contact their company notifies us of possible recommendations. We send either Specialist 4 Ken Taylor of Virginia Beach, Va., or PFC Marty Kolbus of East Chicago, Ind., out to the unit as soon after the conflict as possible to gather witness statements.

"The statements are brought back here and we fill out the necessary forms. It takes an average of two hours to process each award and we turn out approximately 15 a day.

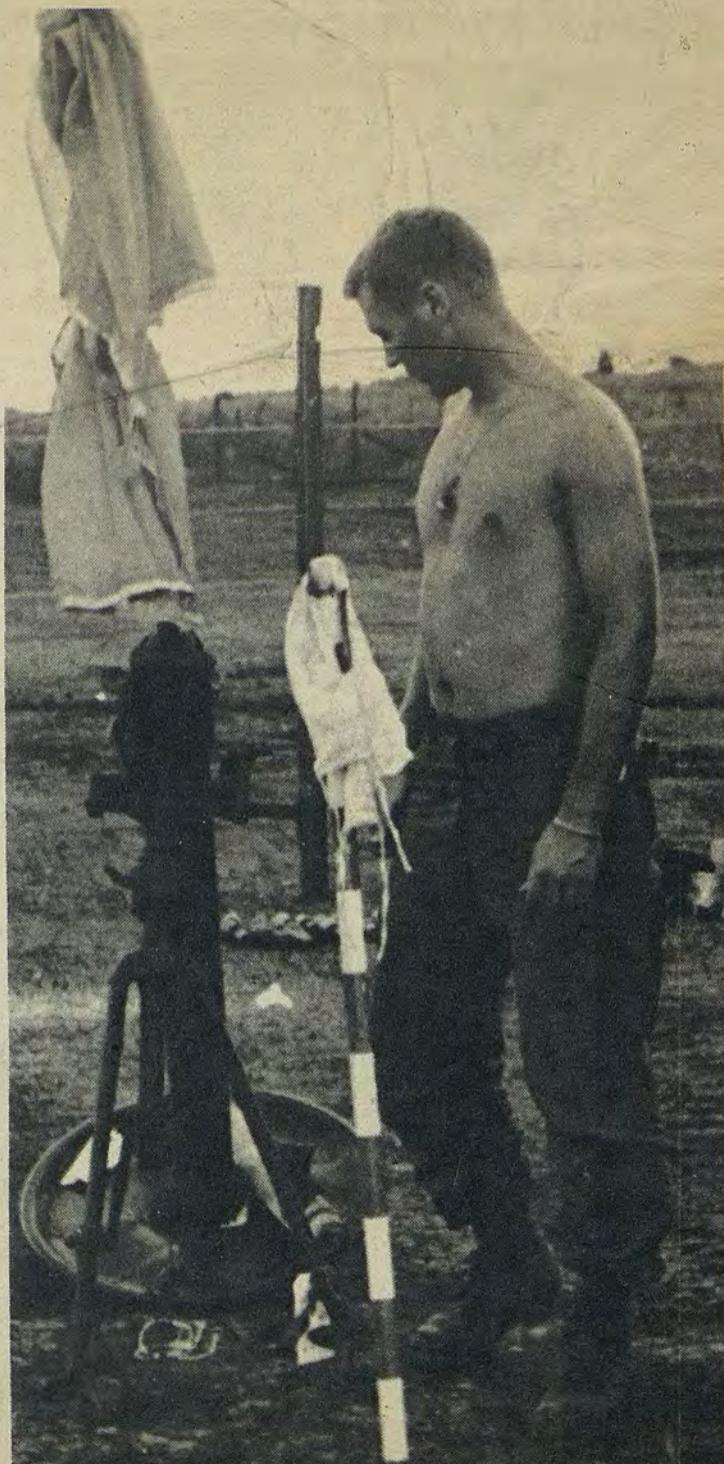
"After we're done here we forward the paperwork to Special-

ist 4 James Owens of Seattle, Wash., who is our co-ordinator at Camp Enari. He has each award signed by the company, battalion and brigade commanders. Then the recommendations are brought before a board which reviews each award and either approves or disapproves the recommendations.

The processing takes from six to nine weeks.

"It's not easy to get an award," said PFC Kolbus. "If a man receives one, he deserves it."

"We all came here as infantrymen and spent time in the field before getting our jobs with the awards team," said Specialist Taylor. "We know what the guys in the field are going through, and it's our responsibility to see that they are rewarded for the job they're doing."



DEADLY TUBE—A 3rd Brigade soldier inspects an enemy mortar tube captured in the mountains west of Pleiku. The Famous Fighting Fourth Division has made record hauls of NVA and VC equipment and munitions during the past six months.

(USA Photo By 1LT William Meddings)



MONKEY BUSINESS—While PFC Joe Parrish Jr. of Houston, Tex., takes a nap at Landing Zone (LZ) Denise, his pet monkey Chico begins a reconnaissance of the area. Chico, who travels with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, is up to a little monkey business as he has spotted another monkey on the tent.

(USA Photo By 1LT David Hooks)

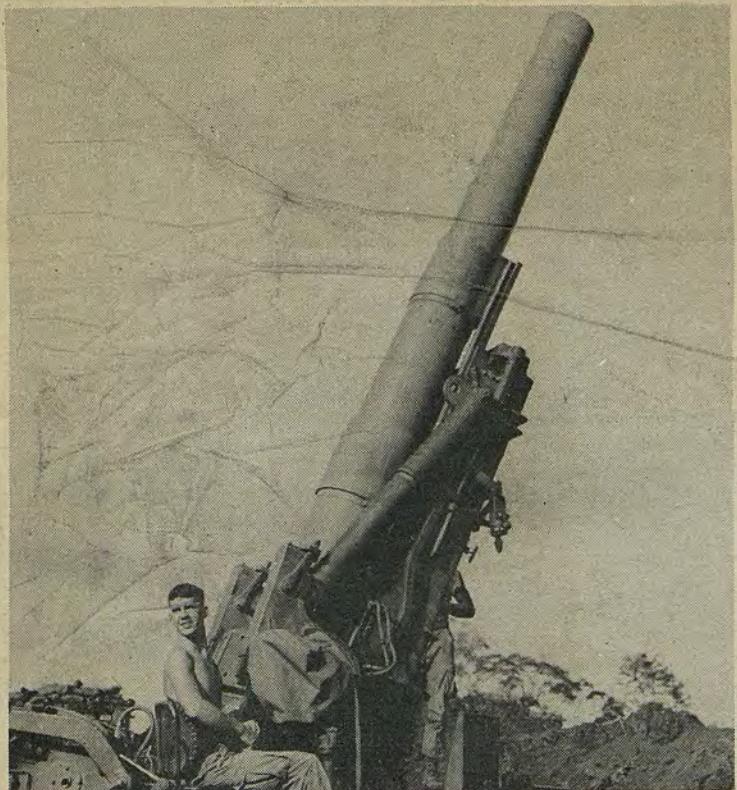
Redlegs, Combat Engineers Furnish Vital Support To 4th Division's Infantry Units



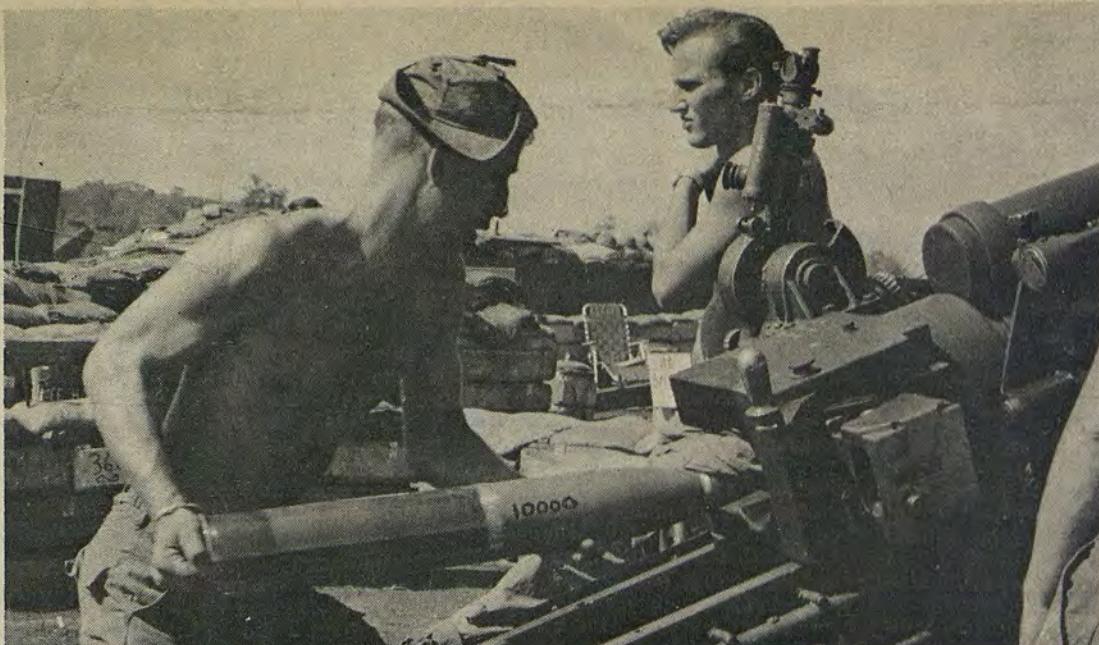
Monsoon Rains Bring Mud, But That Doesn't Slow The Redlegs



SP4 Dan Jennings, "Demo Man" With The 4th Engineers, Primes A Demolition Block For Destruction Of An NVA Bunker.



An Eight Inch Gun Awaits Infantry's Call



PFC Raymond Wesley, 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery, Rams A Shell Into His 105mm Howitzer.



Engineers Strain To Tighten A Cable Over The Dak Psi River As The First Step Toward Building A Bridge.

Photos By
**SP4 Larry
 White, SP5
 John Stidham,
 SP4 Ron
 Johnston And
 1LT Gary
 Martin**

Tracer Four Patrol Scatters Red Unit

By PFC Jerald A. Krepps

CAMP RADCLIFF—While on a mission to examine an area of previous contact 10 kilometers northeast of here, the Tracer Four Reconnaissance Team of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry surprised seven North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars, killed one and wounded another.

The team was making its way through dense bush on the third day of the mission when Specialist 4 Steve Windham of New Orleans, walking point for the element, noticed movement in an open area near a rice paddy and pond to his front.

The rear immediately took cover and silently watched as a lone NVA, clad in a green shirt and khaki pants with an AK47 slung over his shoulder, motioned for a comrade to assist him in looking over an area containing some used C-ration cans.

While Specialist 4 John Pisarski of Detroit, team leader, was contacting his base camp element, one of the enemy, apparently alerted by the presence of the C-ration cans, moved his rifle into firing position.

"Then one of them looked up and spotted us," recalled Specialist 4 Bo Runkle of Harrisburg, Pa. "As he prepared to fire, Specialist 4 Michael Ward of Paris, Tenn., and Specialist Windham opened fire, killing one and wounding the other."

Five more NVA came into view near a pond where they had been filling their canteens. Confused by the American fire, they fled the immediate area without firing a shot.

Specialist Pisarski called for artillery and gunships as the team moved back from the site to allow friendly supporting fire to saturate the area.

As the fire died down and gunships flew cover, the Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) of Sergeant First Class James Bahr of Bismarck, Minn., a platoon leader with the 1st Brigade, landed and recovered one AK47 and several magazines of ammunition; two CHICOM grenades; enemy web gear and a number of documents.



KEEPING CLEAN—There are no coin operated laundries and no mama-sans around to wash clothes for the infantryman in the field. So, he has to take care of that little chore himself. Here, two Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers wring out the dirty water after scrubbing their fatigues clean. The drying process is just as simple. All they have to do is spend a few minutes in the heat of the Central Highlands' sun and their fatigues will be as good as new . . . well, almost!

(USA Photo By PFC John Warwick)

11-Year-Old Interpreter

'Yard Youth Serves Panthers

By PFC Dan Weaver

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — If a temporary communication gap opens between the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry Civil Affairs (S-5) team

Uncover Enemy's Arsenal

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — The Reconnaissance Platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry discovered an enemy cache of AK47 rounds and other ammunition while moving to participate in a cordon and search of a village ten miles southwest of Kontum City.

Included in the find were 11,000 rounds of AK47 ammunition, six B41 rockets, 11 B40 rockets, 25 82mm mortar fuses and 16 82mm mortar boosters.

While approaching the village, the platoon discovered a bunker complex. The platoon leader, 1st Lieutenant Paul E. McGunnigle of La Verne, Calif., put Private First Class Victor Figueroa of Santurce, P.R., out as an OP while the bunker complex was being searched by the rest of the platoon.

Private First Class Figueroa noticed two unusual looking holes near his position and decided to check them out. Poking in one of them with a pole, he felt some plastic and called Lieutenant McGunnigle. Except for ten of the B40s, the whole cache was found in these two holes.

and its interpreters, a bridge of excellent English is often constructed by the words of an 11-year-old Montagnard boy.

Good Yood Freand, the boy's name, aptly describes what he has become to the battalion in general and to the S-5 team in particular.

"Good works as a medic in our MEDCAPS (Medical Civil Affairs Program). He always travels with us when we move from village to village," said Civil Affairs team leader Specialist 4 Bob Beale of Kansas City, Mo. "We first picked him up as a friend but now he's indispensable as our middle man between our interpreters and team members."

Found Good

Good was discovered by the battalion's Bravo Company approximately five months ago in the village of Ha Lan, six miles west of Kontum City. As the Panthers' armored personnel carriers (APCs) rumbled past Ha Lan, the men noticed Good waving to each vehicle as it rolled along.

"Our 3rd platoon became curious concerning the little guy, so they stopped and talked with him," said Specialist 4 Charles Wilbur of Los Angeles, a former Company B medic. "They were really surprised when they heard how well Good could speak English."

Company B added Good unofficially to its roster a few days later, marking the beginning of his "Army" career which now has progressed to his work with the battalion's S-5 team.

Home For Services

"We have the consent of Good's family in this endeavor," said Specialist Beale. "We take him home each weekend so that he can attend Catholic church services with his family."

Good's formal education consists of two years of study at a public school in Kontum. He owes his remarkable command of English, and an assortment of other habits such as movie-watching and his enormous soda consumption to the Mechanized Panthers.

Good is by far the best translator I've ever worked with," declared Specialist Beale. "He breaks down the indigenous languages and the Montagnard dialects and translates them into English word-for-word. You hear little discrepancies in his structure, but his words are formed very well."

Good Best

One example of Good's ability to get his point across came recently during one of the battalion's MEDCAP missions.

"A Montagnard man tried to tell us about the condition of his child whom we had treated for burns a couple of days before," explained Specialist Beale. "He went into a lengthy monologue which our regular interpreters were having difficulty translating. After a few minutes, I asked Good what the man and the interpreter were trying to say. Good answered, 'He says no sweat, his girl-san is fine'. With just one sentence Good managed to clear that conversation up."

When Good joined S-5 he expressed his thanks and his American friend's feelings in a note to Specialist Beale: "I want to thank very much all the Americans I work with and live. I work for S-5 and do a good job."



Miss Margaret Darnley



WHERE YOU BANK OR WORK