



PRaise FROM GEN. WESTMORELAND

General W. C. Westmoreland stands on a jeep to speak to the men of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division after their four-hour battle with the Viet Cong which resulted in 631 enemy dead. The general called the battle "a major victory of the Vietnam War." (USA Photo by Sp4 Brad Bromley)

1/12th's Uninvited Guests Display Poor Etiquette

By Sp5 Al Seagrove

Plei Djereng—The North Vietnamese who came to dinner at a 4th Division battalion fire support base were late and showed their displeasure.

"Red Warriors" of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry had just finished their evening meal when Charlie's first calling card arrived, an NVA 82mm mortar round. More followed.

"All the men had eaten," related Specialist 4 Gary A. Wildman (Warren, Mich.), cook for the battalion's Headquarters Company, "and we had just started breaking down the chow line when we heard three 'pops' in close."

The battalion had just arrived at its new location and was digging-in when the action started. A few completed bunkers dotted the area and were soon filled as the warning "in-coming" could be heard above the boom of bursting mortar rounds.

Unfinished bunkers were hastily shoved into deeper holes for protection from the deadly shrapnel flying through the air.

"It didn't take long for our artillery and mortars to open up," continued Specialist Wildman. "As our rounds started landing the enemy's

fire suddenly ceased."

The chow line and cooking utensils received the brunt of the attack with few injuries to troops.

"Charlie sure tried to raise a racket 'cause we had eaten without him," remarked Staff Sergeant Robert A. Gano (Kelso, Wash.), mess sergeant for Company C. "But in my books if a guest can't be on time, he shouldn't complain. It isn't etiquette."

"Dragoons" Use Grenades To Repel Enemy Soldiers

Plei Djereng—Sounds in the night recently spelled danger for the 4th Division's Company B, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, but hand grenades thrown from an outlying listening post drove away the North Vietnamese soldiers who were threatening the position of the "Dragoons."

Specialist 4 Charles Steinmetz (Newtown Square, Pa.) and Sergeant Theodore DeGroff (Santa Rosa, Calif.), fire team leaders, and their men of the 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon were occupying a listening post outside the company's perimeter deep in the jungle. About 9 p.m. the men began to hear movement near their position.

"Whenever a plane came

By Sp4 Gary M. Silva

Suoi Da—He was an artillery gunner turned infantryman—what more can a person say?

Sergeant James W. Evans (Buffalo) was working as a gunner for the 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery when the biggest battle of the Vietnam War started during Operation Junction City.

The forward base camp of the 3rd Brigade unit was hit in the morning hours by the tough 272nd Main Force Viet Cong Regiment with a full scale attack. Mortars

were falling everywhere and enemy soldiers began running towards the American bunkers in screaming "human waves." The Ivymen began to fight for their lives.

Sergeant Evans, a 26-year-old gunner from Battery A, was picked to work as a reactionary force to drive the advancing enemy back away from the hard hit perimeter.

His M-14 jammed and he had to work the bolt by hand as he fired into the never-ending ranks of Viet Cong.

Company B of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry was

forced to pull back, but Sergeant Evans grabbed a sandbag full of hand grenades, placed the bag in his teeth, put a grenade in each hand and started killing Viet Cong within five meters of his position.

After Company B had pulled back, Sergeant Evans found a new position with six Americans and began pouring small arms fire into the "human waves."

He ran forward again with the sandbag clenched between his teeth and started throwing more grenades. The artilleryman held at the new perimeter line until armored personnel carriers from the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry reinforced the Ivymen.

But Sergeant Evans wasn't through yet. He again drove forward behind the cover of the APC's and helped in knocking out small pockets of hiding VC.

By the battle's end he had helped eight Americans to an evacuation site after they were found wounded.

Sergeant Evans, an artilleryman turned infantryman for six hours.

Sergeants Major Present Weapons To General Peers

Plei Djereng—The sergeants major of the 4th Division's 2nd Brigade presented captured weapons to Major General William R. Peers, 4th Division commander, during a recent ceremony at the 2nd Brigade forward command post near Plei Djereng.

A brass plate attached to each weapon named the battle in which the weapon was captured.

Sergeant Major George R. Greene (Honolulu) from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry presented an SKS carbine from the officers and men of the "Panther" battalion.

For the "Red Warriors" of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, Sergeant Major Lee R. Patrick (Springfield, Ill.) presented a B-40 rocket launcher.

On behalf of the "Regulars" of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, Sergeant Major Clarence Arruda (Tacoma, Wash.) presented General Peers with an AK-47.

G-5 Team Quickly Solves Mystery Of Missing Hogs

Dragon Mountain—As a part of the 4th Division's "Good Neighbor Program," the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry recently inaugurated an agriculture and veterinary program that, after a dubious start, has gained amazingly productive results.

The cavalrymen began an inoculation program in an attempt to cut down on the amount of communicable disease prevalent in the villagers' cattle. Only in its primary stage, the project has already achieved remarkable results.

Future plans call for the inoculation of all the tribal livestock and extensive crossbreeding to improve the meat content. New crops are being imported to add to the Montagnard diet.

This would also lead to the villagers being able to pro-

duce enough not only for subsistence, but to the creation of an agrarian home market. Updated methods of cultivation are also being introduced to increase the productivity of the soil.

An amusing anecdote was brought to light by Captain Donald M. Scher, deputy G-5, concerning the problems encountered in the area of crossbreeding.

It seems that a number of Yorkshire hogs were imported to be bred with the razor-back hogs now raised by the Montagnards. The Yorkshire breed is a lean, meaty-type hog with an even layer of fat. But, it is not adaptable to the highland climate.

The hogs were left in one of the villages with explicit instructions to the chief as to their purpose and value.

A few days later, the civic action team returned to find a nary a Yorkshire. After a brief investigation, it was learned that the villagers could not overcome their curiosity to see what a Yorkshire tasted like.

It resulted in a village feast and the remaining hogs quickly met the fate of the first. More Yorkshires are being imported.

In the future, a veterinarian is expected from Saigon and new ideas of bringing the Montagnard out of his barter economy are being considered. The future of the Central Highland people and the stability of the government stands out brightly in face of the war.

A dedicated people are inspiring the largest tactical area in Vietnam to develop the potential which will be an unparalleled asset to the Republic of Vietnam.