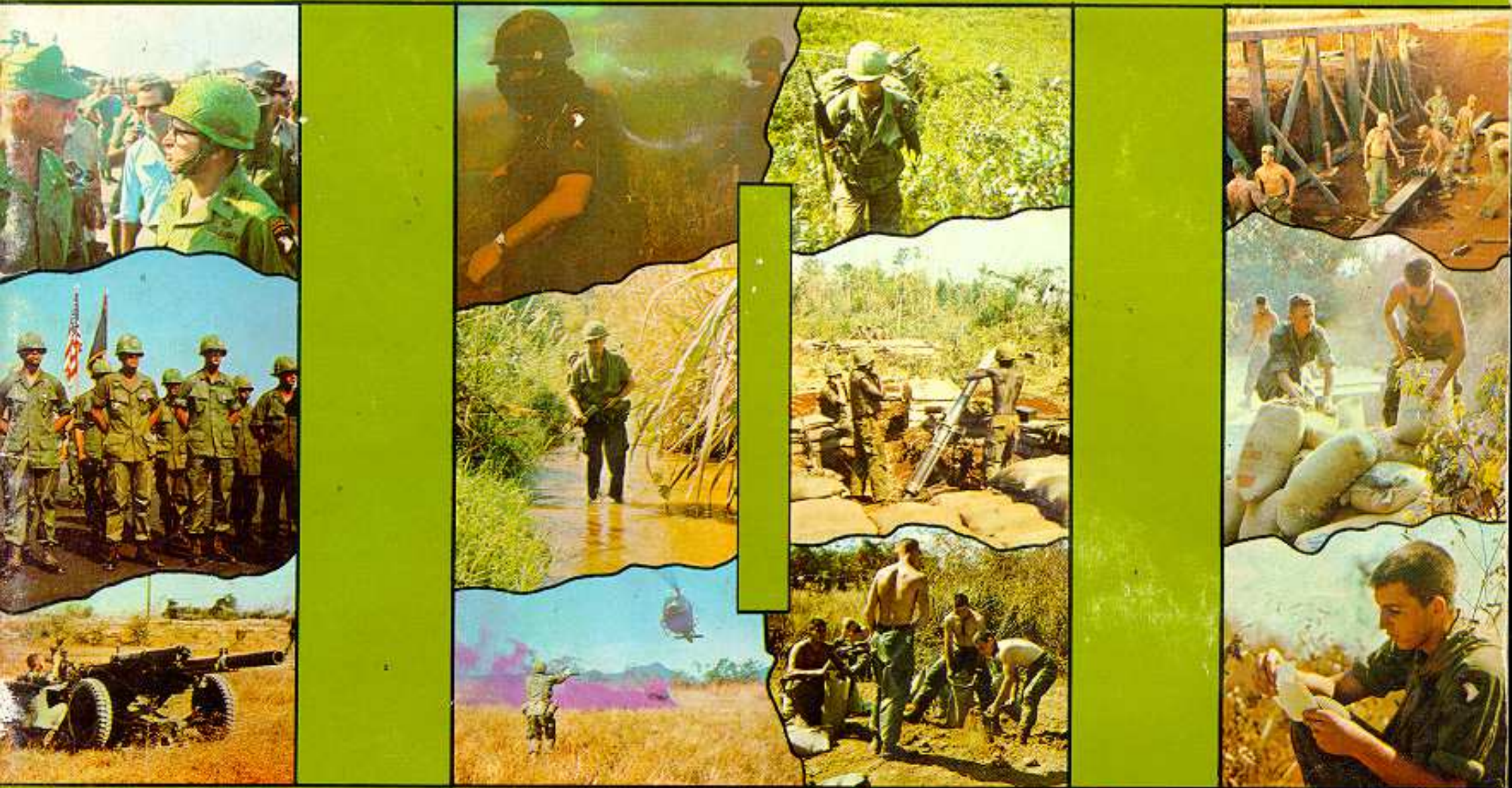


INFORMATION OFFICE
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO San Francisco 96383

JUNE 1968

VOL. 1 NO. 1

*Record Reference Copy
Jun 68*



rendezvous with destiny



A Publication of the 101st Airborne Division



HEADQUARTERS 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO San Francisco 96383

AVDG-CG

1 June 1968

Dear Screaming Eagles,

I want to congratulate you for the fine job you have done thus far during my command.

You defeated the enemy in areas of operation from Bao Loc to Cu Chi, from Bien Hoa to Song Be. You protected the cities of Saigon, Bien Hoa, Song Be, Phan Thiet, Hue and Quang Tri during and after the Communist Tet offensive.

There is a reason for your outstanding performance. It is because of the spirit of the airborne soldier, his self-confidence, bravery and esprit de corps.

As Screaming Eagles we brought an illustrious heritage to Vietnam. I am confident that we will continue to add glorious new chapters to this history.

All the way,

O M Barsanti
O. M. BARSANTI
Major General, USA
Commanding

Few soldiers in the U.S. Army are more highly decorated than Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti. He wears the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star with seven clusters, Air Medal and Purple Heart with four clusters, to name only a few. His career began in 1940, when he was commissioned an Infantry second lieutenant following completion of a B.A. in business administration at the University of Nevada. Three years later he was a 26-year-old battalion commander. In addition to earning an M.A. in international affairs from George Washington University, subsequent assignments saw him perform duties with the 9th Infantry Regiment in Korea, Berlin Command Chief of Staff, V Corps Chief of Staff and as Comptroller-Director of Programs, AMC, Washington, D.C.

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VOL. 1 NO. 1

JUNE 1968



A Publication of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam

Editor's Note

This magazine, to be issued quarterly, is designed as a chronicle of the 101st Airborne Division's achievements in Vietnam. Special effort was extended to make it interesting to the soldier and civilian alike.

Each issue will contain a running account of combat, plus human interest stories and features on supporting elements.

We hope you will keep the magazine as a record of your tour with the Division. An envelope is attached so you can readily mail it home. Cost of postage is 50¢ airmail, 30¢ regular.

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the first 30 days

**The story of
the 101st's
first month[©]
in Vietnam
as a division.**

The Air Force C-141 "Starlifter" had barely touched down at Bien Hoa Air Base before the rear ramp was lowered and the paratroopers deplaned. As buses carried them to the reception station, they saw their first glimpses of Vietnam, their home for the next year. The weather was hot and humid, the countryside flat and dusty.

This scene repeated itself hundreds of times as Screaming Eagles from the 101st Airborne Division minus one brigade arrived during 41 days in November and December, 1967.

It was the largest and longest military airlift ever from the United States to

*Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti and staff
arrive at Bien Hoa Air Base.*



Southeast Asia. Giant transports carried 10,356 combat troops and more than 5,118 tons of equipment during Operation Eagle Trust, as it was called.

"It (Eagle Trust) was a most beneficial arrangement which helped immeasurably in undertaking this deployment," said Col. Bill Tallon, Division chief of staff.

The airborne unit was organized for deployment at Fort Campbell, Ky., under the command of Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti. Brig. Gen. Frank B. Clay, assistant Division commander, headed the advance party during the move.

On Dec. 13, Barsanti arrived and reported to Gen. William C. Westmoreland in an elaborate ceremony which marked the Division's official presence in Vietnam.

"Get Charlie" soon emerged as the fresh paratroopers' daily cry, but their first month was to consist primarily of setting up base camps and training for combat.

Build Base Camps

The 326th Engineer Bn. (Abn) was the first full strength unit to arrive. After cleaning up their own area at Camp Raye, the combat engineers began tackling the problem of dust control around Division Headquarters at Bien Hoa.

They sprayed penneprime over miles of roads and landing pads. They also installed new power lines and water pipes, as well as a drainage system along the roads.

At the end of November the battalion's Co. C moved to Cu Chi to prepare a base camp for the 2nd Brigade. One of their main tasks was to construct new buildings in the area.

Co. B moved to Phuoc Vinh to prepare a base camp for the 3rd Brigade. Their biggest job was to clear mine fields left by the French, Viet Cong and previous American units.

The airborne infantrymen of the 3rd Brigade went to work immediately after their long convoy arrived at Phuoc Vinh. They reinforced existing facilities with many sandbags and hours of toil. Time passed quickly and before long the troopers began platoon and company-sized training.

The 1st Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. was the first to conduct heliborne assault training,

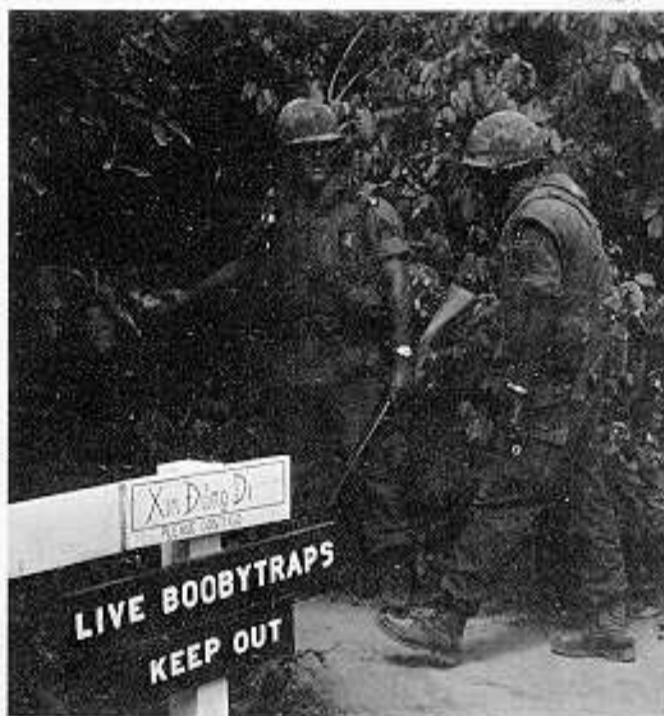
while the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. concentrated on the art of the ambush. The 3rd Bn. (Abn), 187th Inf. undertook road-clearing exercises.

Small unit leaders went on missions with the 1st Infantry Division to gain first-hand combat experience.

On Dec. 23, the long range reconnaissance platoon killed 14 Viet Cong as they discovered a battalion-sized enemy base camp near Phuoc Vinh. These were the first enemy casualties credited the the newly arrived airborne brigades.

At Cu Chi paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade had the opportunity to use the 25th Infantry Division's tunnel, mine

Sugar



Paratroopers at boobytrap course.

and booby trap course.

During six hours of instruction, members of the 1st and 2nd Battalions (Abn), 501st Inf. and the 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. learned to identify the myriad of enemy weapons, mines and booby traps.

At the end of the class they were led through one of four trails studded with simulated booby traps. They were also escorted through a Viet Cong-style tunnel complex.

Small unit leaders who lacked combat experience accompanied elements of the 25th Infantry Division on airmobile search and destroy missions.

On Dec. 21, a 4.2 projectile slid down a mortar tube and blasted over the perimeter to become the brigade's first official round fired at the enemy.

Artillery Set Up

The various elements of Division Artillery were no less busy. The 319th Artillery moved to Phoc Vinh to support

the 3rd Brigade. The 321st deployed to the 2nd Brigade at Cu Chi. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery situated themselves at Bien Hoa.

The artillerymen improved their positions by building bunkers, parapits and fire direction centers. Soon their howitzers were ready to fire.

Gun registrations began immediately, using radar and ground and air observers for direction. A heavy schedule of harassing and interdicting fire followed, giving quick practice to all members of the gun crews.

As infantry units began operations outside their base camps, the batteries started fulfilling their complete role as sources of fire support.

Pilots Gain Experience

In preparing for another kind of supporting role, the 101st Aviation Bn. (Abn) farmed its aviators out to units engaged in flight combat operations. Combat assaults, VIP flights, resupply missions, courier flights and command and control missions were conducted by the Screaming Eagle pilots.

The airlift of the battalion's helicopters to Vietnam was a unique process in itself. Three Hueys were loaded on each C-133 and transported the complete distance by air. The aircraft were assembled and test flown at Tan Son Nhut Air Base before joining the Division.

Meanwhile the 501st Signal Bn. (Abn) was deeply involved with setting up its own facilities in-country.

Their first installation was a very high frequency (VHF) radio system to link the base camps within the Division. As the rest of the paratroopers moved in, they set up a radio-wire system and a complete communications center. Telephones and lines were installed according to the needs of each office.

The signal battalion also opened a Military Affiliated Radio System (MARS) station so that Division personnel could telephone back to the States.

The various elements under Support Command faced the problem of in-country organization. Records and files had to be set up. Special equipment had to be installed.

The 426th Supply and Transportation Bn. (Abn) was organized, becoming operational upon arrival in Vietnam.

SEARCH DESTROY & DENY

By Capt. John N. Bornholdt

*A comprehensive summary of the
Screaming Eagles' achievements
in Vietnam.*

Late one evening in early January a platoon of paratroopers from the Division's 2nd Brigade knocked out a camouflaged enemy bunker north of Cu Chi and killed two Viet Cong machine-gunners. The event marked the end of formal in-country training and the start of combat operations for the 2nd and 3rd Brigades since their arrival in Vietnam.

Since that day, the Screaming Eagles have spent their time following one routine: finding Charlie, capturing or killing him, taking his rice and weapons, and keeping him running.

Drenched with sweat, coated with dust and often knee deep in swamps, the paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division killed nearly 3,000 enemy (body count) during their first two months of combat this year. The Screaming Eagles fought bravely in the jungles, cities, mountains and plains of Vietnam, living up to their primary mission: to be prepared to go anywhere, anytime and fight.

Early in January, paratroopers of the 3rd Brigade were assigned an area of operation (AO) surrounding their base camp at Phuoc Vinh by Maj. Gen. O.M. Barsanti, Division commander. The airborne infantrymen from the 2nd Brigade were given an AO near Cu Chi, their first base camp northwest of Saigon.

During a search and destroy mission 2nd Brigade paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. rooted the Viet Cong out of a battalion-sized



*From Saigon to Quang Tri the 101st
showed it was prepared to move
anywhere, anytime and fight.*



Smoke from supporting artillery billows outside the perimeter as 1st Brigade paratroopers fire on enemy positions. Berry

tunnel complex and destroyed an underground hospital, mess hall and sleeping area. Blocks of C4 explosives were placed under tables filled with hot food left by the enemy. The battalion's "tunnel rats" did the job.

The same day near Phuoc Vinh, 3rd Brigade Commander Col. Lawrence L. Mowery was watching a battle take place between his "phantom force" reconnaissance patrol and a reinforced Viet Cong platoon. When the need for additional ammunition arose, Mowery resupplied the unit using his own helicopter.

The paratroopers of the long range reconnaissance platoon (LRRP's) became the spearhead for the 3rd Brigade's uninfantry combat power, striking the

enemy almost daily in an attempt to trap a unit long enough to call in artillery, airstrikes or for a battalion to be heli-lifted into the AO to destroy Charlie.

Often was the case when the LRRP's quickly made contact with an enemy unit, but after supporting artillery and air strikes were lifted, the Viet Cong had fled the battlefield, apparently carrying away their dead.

While trying to escape an ambush set by paratroopers of the 3rd Bn. (Abn.), 187th Inf., the Viet Cong retreated across the Dong Nai River and established a base of fire on the opposite bank using rockets and AK-47's.

As one company commander braved the intense enemy fire to pull out one of his wounded men, other paratroopers violently attacked the enemy force with grenades and automatic weapons. Within minutes, which seemed like hours on the battlefield, the enemy retreated again, leaving their dead behind this time.

The 2nd Brigade paratroopers continued to search their AO. They managed to force the enemy from one base camp and then another, denying the Viet Cong use of 25,000 pounds of rice following one day's search. The Viet Cong were feeling the pinch and increased their activity.

Infantrymen from the 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. responded by sinking five

sampans loaded with ammunition and rice, killing four.

1st Brigade Returns to III Corps

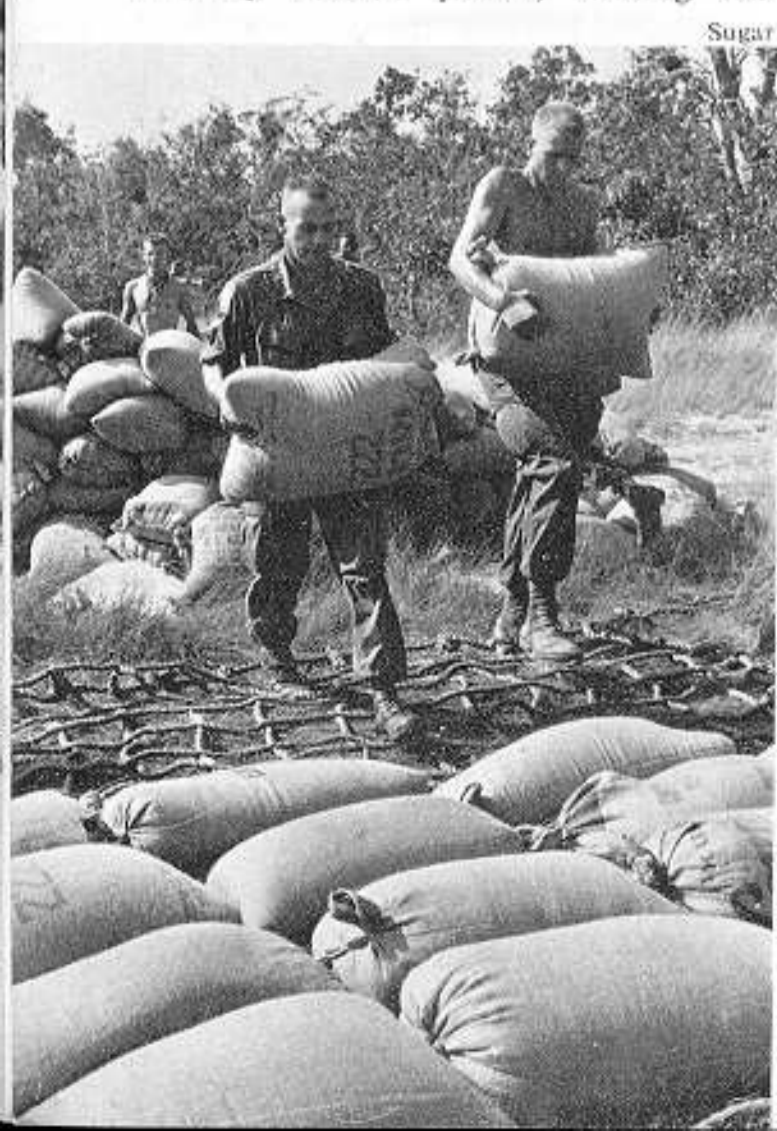
In mid-January plans were made by the Allied Forces High Command for the "Always First" brigade of the 101st Airborne Division to bring their two and a half years of combat experience in Vietnam back into III Corps tactical zone.

The 1st Brigade's 25th search and destroy operation was to be near Song Be, the capital of Phuoc Long Province, 75 miles north of Saigon. Within three weeks the 1st Brigade paratroopers were to rejoin other units of the Division at Song Be for Operation San Angelo.

Meanwhile the "Rakkasans" of the 3rd Brigade sprung a night ambush seven miles from their base camp and brought home a prize: a dead NVA battalion commander. Members of B.Co., 3rd Bn. (Abn), 187th Inf. caught the late Lt. Col. Lam Hiep and his body guard as they were talking, laughing, joking and completely unaware of the paratroopers' position.

The Screaming Eagles were learning to "steal the night from the enemy" by increasing patrols after dusk. The night ambush shortly became the classic way of preventing enemy deployments in all of the 101st Airborne Division's areas of operation.

Combat support elements of the Division's headquarters at Bien Hoa began to show their effectiveness. The "Black Angel" fire teams of B Co., 101st Aviation Bn. killed 14 Viet Cong during their



Infantrymen from the 3rd Brigade prepare captured rice for air evacuation.

first week in support of the airborne infantrymen in War Zone D. Fire support bases were established by the Division's artillery battalions near Bien Hoa, Cu Chi, Song Be and Phuoc Vinh.

Calling in daily artillery and air strikes were U.S. Air Force forward air controllers (FAC's) assigned to fly "bird dogs" and search the AO assigned to each brigade. The paratroopers on the ground quickly grew fond of the pilots who could bring in so much destruction within minutes. Many were jumpers themselves and were familiar with the airborne spirit applied to any mission.

Capture 42 Tons of Rice

Conducting search and destroy missions became routine to the 3rd Brigade paratroopers until a private first class from the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. walked into part of a large Viet Cong regimental supply base. His alert observation led to the capture of 42 tons of rice, plus quantities of salt, cooking equipment and medical supplies.

It took 36 hours to find all of the hidden enemy supplies and three days to ferry it back to Phuoc Vinh in Chinook helicopters. Most of the rice was redistributed to needy families in Phuoc Vinh village and nearby hamlets.

At the same time the 187th Infantry discovered an enemy hospital complex guarded by more 100 reinforced bunkers. The field hospital included operating rooms, laboratories and recuperation wards. Stores of food, NVA uniforms and medical supplies, some bearing Russian markings, were captured.

Forty miles northwest, at Song Be, 1st Brigade paratroopers killed 41 Viet Cong during the first few days of Operation San Angelo. They also found several dead NVA soldiers inside a complex of bunkers containing enemy weapons and a rice cache of six and a half tons.

2nd Brigade Moves to I Corps

After in-country training and a few weeks of search and destroy operations near Cu Chi, paratroopers of the 2nd Brigade were air-lifted to join the 1st

Loaded down with equipment, 1st Brigade paratrooper crosses a rickety ramp near Song Be.



Air Cavalry Division and launch Operation Jeb Stuart in northern I Corps tactical zone.

The brigade's new headquarters was first located close to the Hue-Phu Bai airfield, and later moved closer to its assigned AO, southwest of Quang Tri City.

The paratroopers and air cavalrymen teamed up to kill 830 enemy during the first 15 days of fighting in Thien and Quang Tri provinces.

Communist Tet Offensive

Early in the morning of Jan. 31 the sounds of fireworks during the Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration turned into that of automatic weapons and mortar fire as the Communists launched their unsurpassed Tet offensive throughout the country. Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division successfully repelled attacks aimed at overrunning the Bien Hoa military post, the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, the Song Be area of Operation San Angelo and the coastal city of Phan Thiet.

The Screaming Eagles killed over 300

enemy in two days of fighting in III Corps. Seventy-seven enemy weapons, ranging from pistols to Chinese Communist machine guns, were captured on the battlefields.

Elements of the 1st and 2nd Brigades, along with the entire 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. of the 3rd Brigade, scored lopsided victories near the Division headquarters.

The 2nd Brigade's C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. was on line with 506th Inf. troopers when one of its platoons was helilifted to the roof of the U.S. Embassy to secure it from guerrilla attacks. (See story page 19.)

The 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. of the 1st Brigade was moved to Bien Hoa from Song Be and immediately swept the surrounding countryside for Communist pockets of resistance.

Companies A and B of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf., with reconnaissance elements, began fighting immediately upon arrival at Bien Hoa as enemy forces neared the airfield and Division headquarters area. Within 36 hours the persistent paratroopers cleared the

Communist-held village of Dong Lach, killing more than 150 Viet Cong.

Companies C and D arrived the afternoon of Feb. 1, setting up a perimeter around the Bien Hoa installation as

A and B Companies were pulled in for a needed rest. During five days of heavy fighting near Bien Hoa, 101st Airborne Division paratroopers killed more than 200 Viet Cong, while losing 13 men in action.

Following the heavy combat, paratroopers from the 326th Engineer Battalion cleared the entire area of mines and booby traps.

Members of the Division civil affairs section started delivery of 13 tons of food to 2,000 Vietnamese refugees in Cong Thanh District northeast of Bien Hoa. The initial distribution included 20,000 pounds of rice captured by the paratroopers during previous sweeps. The civil affairs teams also distributed 2,900 pounds of flour, 100 gallons of cooking oil and 300 pounds of powdered milk.

During Operation San Angelo, paratroopers from the 1st Brigade and B

Smith



Third Brigade paratroopers cross waist-deep swamps near Phuoc Vinh.

Troop, 2nd Squadron (Abn), 17th Cavalry killed 23 more Viet Cong during the Tet attacks. The cavalrymen killed 11 VC in a night ambush position, and 12 more were killed when paratroopers set up blocking positions south of the provincial capital. The action increased the enemy body count to 70 in two and a half weeks of fighting near Song Be.

1st Brigade paratroopers from the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. repulsed a Communist offensive to overrun ARVN military posts and gain control of the coastal city of Phan Thiet during the first week in February. The Currahees stalked enemy forces in the northwestern sector of the city, killing 193.

By Feb. 15 the enemy dead rose to 301 at Phan Thiet as a second offensive failed. The paratroopers conducted daily search and destroy missions to root out the Viet Cong from entrenched positions and supply bases. They blocked all routes of withdrawal from the city and used artillery and air strikes to catch the enemy on the run, often in open rice paddies or when they were trying to cross the Ca Ty River.

During a lull in combat operations, battalion MEDCAP teams treated 297 patients and helped relocate more than 1,200 refugees near the city.

I Corps Combat

During the Tet attack on the provincial capital, Quang Tri, 2nd Brigade paratroopers joined with elements of the 1st Air Cavalry and 1st ARVN Divisions in a two-day pitched battle for control of the city. The combined forces killed 320 enemy.

The attack began the night of Jan. 30 when the 812th Regiment, 324th NVA Division launched a two-pronged attack, mortaring the cavalry and ARVN fire bases and simultaneously moving a large force into the city.

The following day, paratroopers and cavalrymen conducted airmobile assaults into blocking positions outside of Quang Tri while the ARVN infantrymen battled the enemy within the city. As the NVA were flushed out of Quang Tri, 2nd Brigade Screaming Eagles accounted for 94 enemy dead and 17 weapons captured.

On Feb. 5, paratroopers of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. swept an area six miles south of the city and discovered 150



Helicopters land near Bien Hoa during the Communist Tet offensive.

fresh enemy graves. Most of them were apparently killed by aerial rocket artillery. The battalion's Co. B made contact with an unknown-sized NVA force to the southwest of the city and killed 25 also.

During the second week in February, a reconnaissance platoon and Companies A and D of the 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. launched a road clearing operation along Highway 1 south of Quang Tri. Villagers along the way pinpointed an ambush site established by an NVA battalion.

Aerial reconnaissance was made by the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Bertram J. Bishop. He called for artillery and gunships to contain the enemy force while his airborne infantrymen moved into blocking positions.

As the NVA fled the bombardment, the Screaming Eagles ripped into the main body with withering small arms and automatic weapons fire. When the battle ended, 72 enemy bodies lay in front of the paratrooper positions. Their Communist-made mortars, machine guns and automatic rifles were scattered along the would-be escape route.

Early in the afternoon of Feb. 15, two companies from the 2nd Brigade's 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. encountered an NVA company four miles west of the

Infantryman employs a minesweeper on a road-clearing mission.

imperial city of Hue. The paratroopers met heavy fire from the NVA force fighting from trenches. Aerial rocket artillery and gunships were called in.

When contact was broken, the paratroopers and cavalrymen were credited with 26 enemy kills. Further north, elements of the 501st Infantry killed 18 NVA in scattered action.

San Angelo Continues

As a second Communist offensive erupted in Phuoc Long Province, 1st Brigade paratroopers and 2nd Squadron (Abn), 17th Cavalry troopers stopped an

Smith





Second Brigade paratrooper fires rocket launcher at sniper position.



Second Brigade tunnel rat comes up for air.

attempt to overrun the government military outposts surrounding Song Be. Airborne cavalymen killed 20 North Vietnamese regulars as they foiled the assault. Another five enemy were killed by Division artillery units. Earlier, 25 kills were scored by Co. A, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf.

Batteries from the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 319th Artillery increased their combat support in Binh Duong Province by pounding enemy bunkers with more than 100 tons of explosives near Phuoc Vinh.

Third Brigade reconnaissance teams located a complex of 72 enemy bunkers and the artillerymen blasted the target with 23 tons of high explosive rounds in two and a half hours.

Enemy contact grew heavy again at Song Be Feb. 17. The 17th Cavalry troopers, paratroopers from the 1st Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. and ARVN rangers teamed up to kill 234 enemy in three days of fighting.

Early in the afternoon of Feb. 19. the airborne cavalymen discovered enemy forces in spider holes west of the city. Employing gunships from Co. B, 101st Aviation Bn. (Abn), plus tactical air and artillery, the paratroopers routed the stubborn enemy force and killed 72. Fifteen of the enemy dead were credited to the aviation battalion's "Black Angels," who had killed ten more the previous day.

As night fell, the armor-infantry sweep continued to the north of Song Be. The force caught an NVA company trying to escape and killed 27. Sixty-six weapons were captured and 24 persons were detained for questioning.

Fourteen more enemy were killed by Screaming Eagles during sporadic contact Feb. 20.

Phan Thiet Protected

That same day paratroopers from the 3rd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. of the 1st Brigade mounted another attack on enemy positions inside Phan Thiet and encountered stiff resistance.

Co. A killed 11 Viet Cong when a platoon-sized enemy element tried to escape across the Ca Ty River. Paratroopers from B and C Companies accounted for 28 more enemy dead inside the city.

After two days of receiving heavy artillery and ground attacks, the Viet

Cong withdrew from Phan Thiet, leaving only delaying forces behind.

A paratrooper sweep of the northwest section of the city the next day resulted in 15 enemy killed, 33 bunkers destroyed and three crew-served and individual weapons captured. An additional 60 enemy were killed the following week in cleanup operations. The battalion's body count rose to 420 by the end of February.

Early in the morning of March 1, paratroopers from the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. sprung a night ambush on Viet Cong north of Bien Hoa, killing 21.

The ambush was set along the banks of the Dong Nai River following a search for enemy rocket launch sites. After spotting an estimated 150 Viet Cong, the ambush was triggered with claymore mines and automatic weapons fire.

The night ambush also proved effective in northern I Corps as 2nd Brigade paratroopers continued Operation Jeb Stuart. Airborne infantrymen from Co. C, 1st Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. killed nine NVA soldiers after setting up two ambush sites in adjoining valleys near Quang Tri.

The same company was responsible for protecting the bridge carrying Highway 1 traffic into the city. When a Viet Cong "sapper" squad tried to blow up the

bridge, the paratroopers ambushed the demolition team, killing four.

At the end of February, 2nd Brigade paratroopers from Co., A, 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. conducted another successful night ambush, letting 36 NVA try to ford a stream before cutting down 11 of them with machine-gun and M-16 fire.

During this period elements of Co. D, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf. engaged an NVA unit in heavy fighting north of Hue for seven hours. The fighting began when the company moved toward a hamlet in search of enemy mortar positions.

The paratroopers were engaged with heavy enemy fire, and for awhile they could not understand why it continued at such a rate. Then someone pointed out that the Communists had been tied to the upper branches of trees.

Following supporting artillery attacks and helicopter gunship runs, the airborne company regrouped and forced the enemy to withdraw. Twenty enemy soldiers were killed in the bitter fighting.

During the first two weeks in March, 2nd Brigade paratroopers accounted for 357 Communist deaths during search and destroy operations near Hue and Quang Tri.

Sixty-six of the kills were by paratroopers from the 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. as they fought a large North Viet-

namese regular force six miles northwest of the imperial city.

Meanwhile paratroopers of the 2nd Bn. (Anb), 501st Inf. killed 35 enemy in scattered contacts eight miles west of Hue's battered citadel.

The 2nd Brigade concluded its part in Jeb Stuart with a four-day battle which took 246 Communist lives in northern Quang Dien District.

The paratroopers attacked a gaint bunker complex housing an estimated NVA battalion near the villages of Ap Pho Lai and Ap Son Trung.

With two months of continual fighting as a division, the Screaming Eagles proved they could accomplish their assigned missions of finding and destroying the enemy and denying them the conquests they strongly desire in South Vietnam.

Individual heroics are too numerous to describe, but are well reflected in the totals of awards presented during the period: 37 Silver Stars, 90 Bronze Stars for valor, 18 Army Commendation Medals for valor, 745 Purple Hearts, 4,303 Combat Infantryman's Badges and 240 Combat Medic Badges.

By following the long traditions of airborne troopers, the Screaming Eagles proved they could get the job done, all the way!

Bailey



Clad in field jackets, infantrymen cross a stream in I Corps.

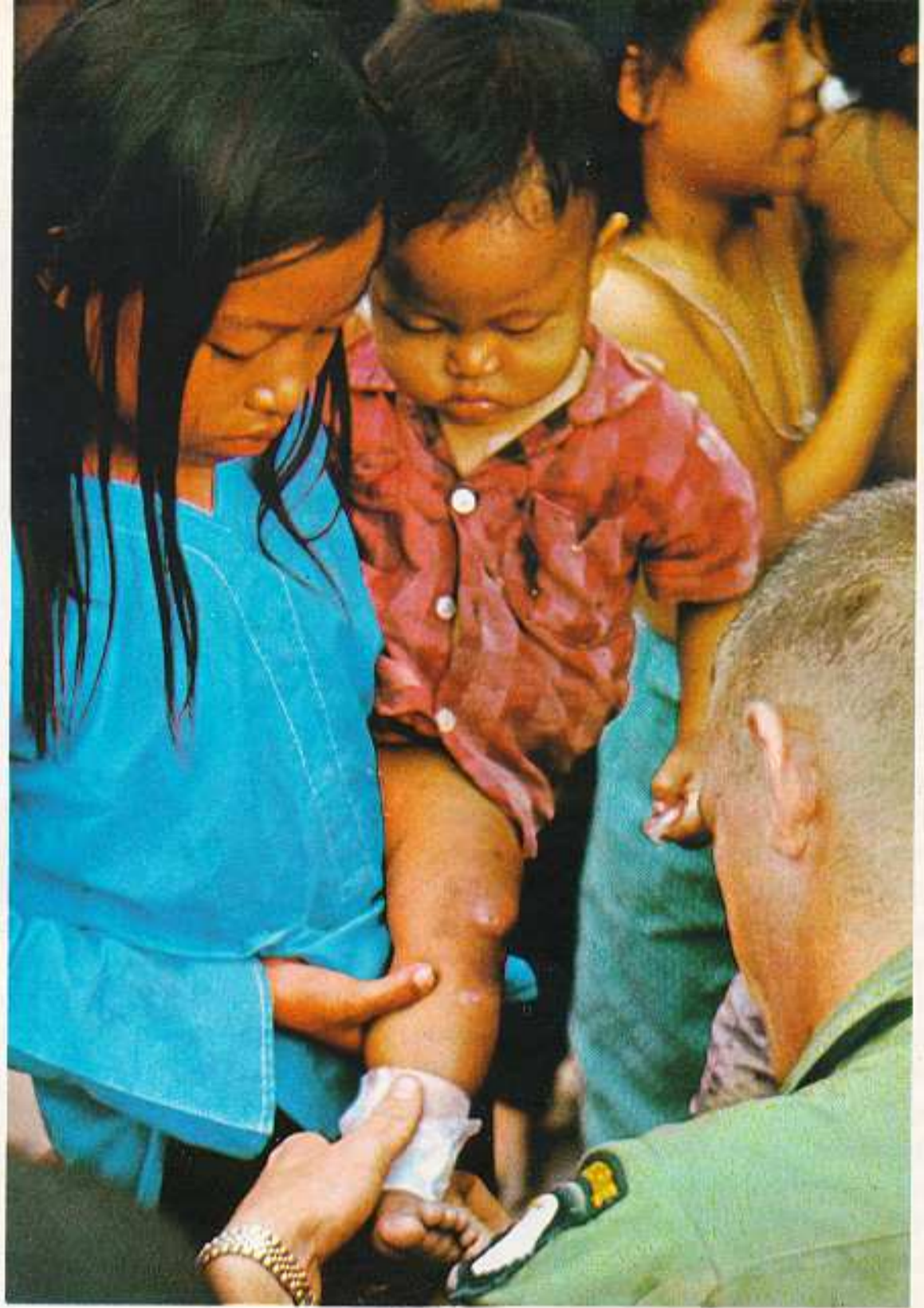
MEDCAP

Winning the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese is the other side of our effort in Vietnam. Of the Division's many civil affairs activities, the MEDCAP is one of the most successful.

Since arriving in Vietnam, Screaming Eagle medical teams have made over 80 visits to neighboring hamlets and villages, treating over 5,000 patients.

"We're showing the people that we back them with human aid and understanding as well as fire power," said Maj. Paul S. Moscovic, Division civil affairs officer.

The pictures on these pages illustrate his point.



Airborne physician wraps a child's injured ankle.



**Photos by
Spec. 4 Michael Sugar
& Spec. 4 Roger Downs**

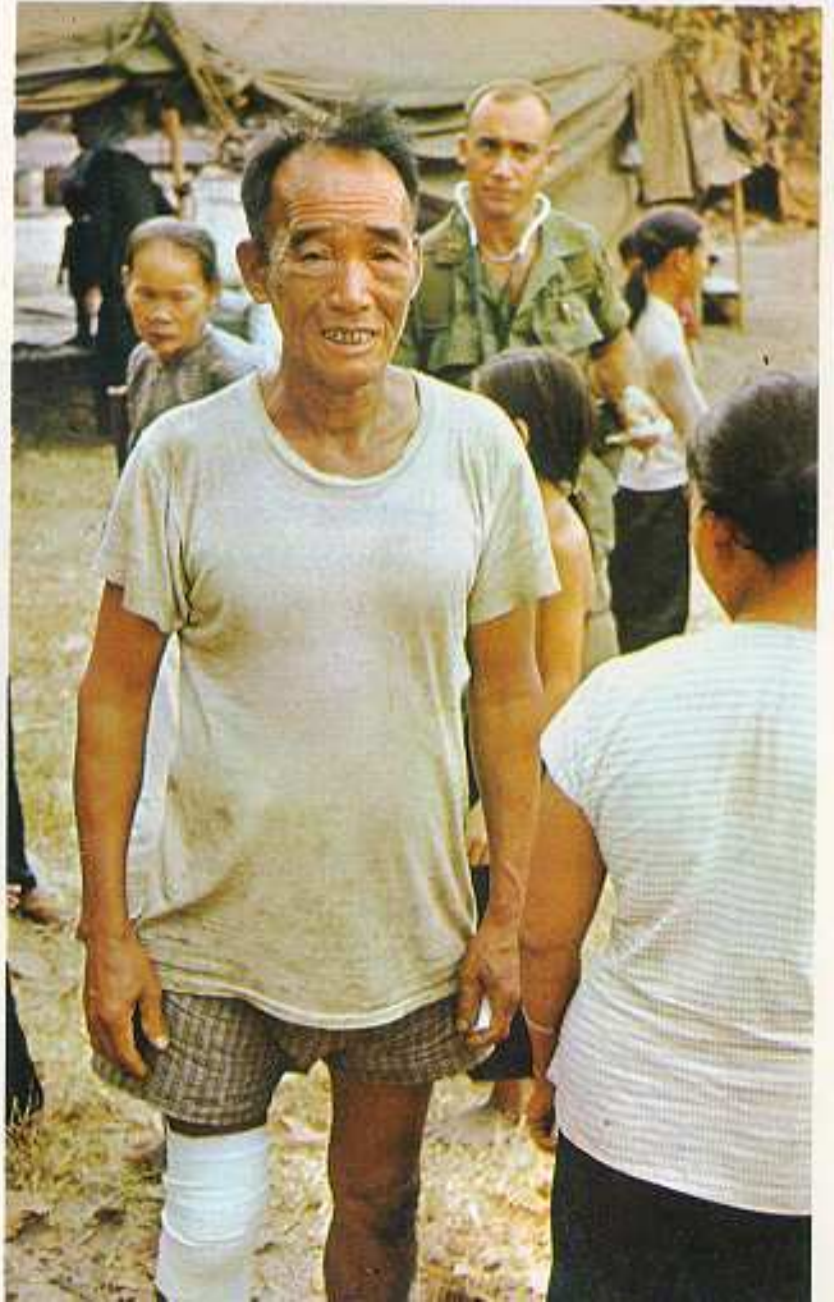
Villagers look on as paratrooper examines small girl.



Screaming Eagle doctor passes out vitamin pills to children.



Doctor checks elderly Vietnamese for respiratory ailment. (right) Villager smiles at camera after his leg was treated.



WREATHED RIFLES

In mid-January paratroopers from C Co., 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf. lined up to receive their Combat Infantryman's Badges. This account of their ceremony and the events leading up to it typifies the feeling of becoming a combat infantryman.

By Spec. 4 Jack Hurst

Tight-lipped after two days in a hostile jungle, 114 paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division stood in a hot, setting sun to receive proof of what they had become—combat infantrymen.

"That badge on your chest didn't come easy, and you should be proud of it," Lt. Col. David E. Grange, New York City, their battalion commander, told these members of Co. C, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf.

He had just gone down the ranks of tired faces—most of them those of young men who had grown up fast—and pinned the wreathed rifle on every chest he came to.

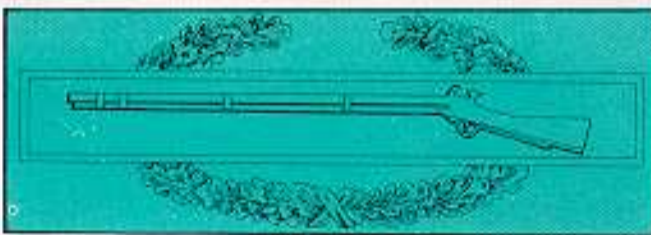
Elite Group

"You join a very elite group of American society," he told them all. "That rifle on your chest was carried by the Minutemen. It means you are the same thing they were: defenders of freedom."

"I'm honored to be your battalion commander," he concluded. "Currahee."

"Currahee, sir!" they responded in unison, repeating the old Cherokee Indian word meaning "to stand alone." It is the watchword of the 3rd Brigade's 506th Infantry battalions.

Eighteen hours earlier, at 11:30 p.m., Private First Class John McCarter, Oklahoma City, Okla., had awakened



Combat Infantryman's Badge

Spec. 4 Calvin Harris, Lynchburg, Va. McCarter had just spent two hours on guard, and now it was Harris' turn.

"I've been hearing things out there," McCarter told Harris.

Night Perimeter

Their company had been spread out in a double file to sleep, and every man was on the night defensive perimeter. McCarter's shallow foxhole faced in one

direction and those of Harris and Sgt. Edward Owens, Houston, Tex., faced in the opposite one. Owens was asleep.

The noises came closer in the darkness. "Hang on," McCarter told Harris. "I'm gonna halt 'em."

As he levered around into the chamber of his M-16, a half-dozen shots came out of the darkness and McCarter dived for his foxhole. In his haste he dived across it, instead of into it, and had to roll back.

Owens, lying in his trench, opened his eyes immediately.

Empties Magazine

"First thing I remember," he said, "was looking up and seeing everything busting up over us. They were tracers, and they were so close I couldn't even sit up."

McCarter rose up far enough to empty a magazine of rounds into the darkness in the direction of the incoming tracers.

"Then a whole line of Viet Cong started firing into our position," Harris



Airborne infantrymen stand proudly in formation wearing combat-torn fatigues and glistening new badges.

said. "A grenade hit right next to us, and we got down as it went off. I couldn't fire my weapon because the enemy rounds were coming at us from the side, and I would have had to shoot across Sgt. Owens' position."

"The incoming fire lasted about three minutes," Owens said. "When it stopped, the Viet Cong threw three more grenades at our line real fast, and that was the end of it."

VC Bunkers

The afternoon before the midnight fire-fight, the company had discovered a complex of 60 enemy bunkers.

Sgt. Anthony LaBarbera, 21, Niagara Falls, N.Y., had been walking the "point" position in front of the unit when they came upon it.

"At first, all I saw was a thicket up there, and we started around it," LaBarbera said. "The first sign of life I saw was somebody shooting at me."

A lone Viet Cong ran away after firing the shots, and the company ap-

proached the bunker complex.

For the next four hours, they combed the bunkers, finding documents, food, a cooking fire, a temporary medical aid station, claymore mines, ammunition and other items.

Finds Souvenir

"The walls were reinforced by dirt-filled bamboo shoots as big around as a man," said Spec. 4 J.B. Pease, 19, Tipton, Okla., one of the para troopers who searched the bunkers.

When they emerged from their long search underground, Sgt. LaBarbera had acquired a blue-and-silver fountain pen marked "Hanoi, Vietnam." Specialist Pease had a small cigarette lighter inscribed on both sides with the numbers "555."

Return to Base

The company of paratroopers had driven the Viet Cong away from the tunnels that afternoon, fought for a chance to sleep that night and cut a heli-

copter landing zone out of the jungle the next morning to evacuate their wounded and dead.

Covered with sweat and black grime after crossing a burned out area of jungle, they arrived back at their battalion headquarters—a fire support base camp—late in the afternoon.

An hour later, they were standing in formation to receive their Combat Infantryman's Badges. Some had put on clean, wrinkled jungle fatigues they had washed themselves. Others had no clean ones to put on.

"Here's the badge that says you're a combat infantryman," Col. Grange told Spec. 4 James Roberts, 20, Harvey Ill., as he went down the ranks.

"I know you already are one—but this will make it official," he added, pinning it on. "You wear it all the time on your fatigues while you're in Vietnam, except when you are in the field, so everyone you meet will know what you are."

"Thank you, sir," said Roberts, as he and the colonel shook hands.

A Proud Heritage

By Maj. Lamar F. Peyton

Staff Sgt. Earl Van Alstine, Illustrator

"The 101st Airborne Division has no history, but it has a rendezvous with destiny," said Maj. Gen. William C. Lee, Father of Airborne, when he assumed command two days after the Division's activation.

Gen. Lee was the first to recommend the formation of airborne units. His proposal became reality on Aug. 16, 1942, when the 101st was activated at Camp Claiborne, La.

By October the new unit was fully organized, and it moved to Fort Bragg, N.C., to merge with its parachute regiment, the 502nd Inf.

The Division's "Screaming Eagle" shoulder patch had been adopted while the 101st was an infantry division of the Army Reserve. It was modeled after Old Abe, an American eagle which was the Division's first mascot.

The jumpers and glidermen trained vigorously throughout the fall and winter of 1942. They were joined the following summer by the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, which had completed training at Camp Toccoa, Ga., in the shadow of Currahee Mountain.

After landing at Liverpool, England, on Sept. 15, 1943, the Division moved south for ten months of additional training. The 501st Regiment was attached that winter, rounding out the Division that was about to fight its way to glory in World War II.

The first rendezvous was the Normandy Invasion.

On the evening of June 4, 1944, the Screaming Eagles ate a steak and ice cream dinner while preparing for their first combat jump.

Gen. Eisenhower visited them the next day and wished them well.

On D-day, June 6, they jumped 6,600 strong, yelling "Bill Lee," in honor of their former commanding general, who had suffered a heart attack in England. Maj. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor had

assumed command in April.

Flight formations were broken as the aircraft maneuvered to avoid enemy flak.

By the time the command "Stand in the Door" was given, the planes were so dispersed that the drop came down in a



Maj. Gen. William C. Lee.

twenty-five-by-fifteen-mile rectangle. Mixed groups were forced to band together.

"I landed in a swamp," recalls Sfc. James S. McCoy, now the Division reenlistment NCO, who made the Normandy jump as a machine-gunner. "It wasn't until the next morning that I found a group of fellow paratroopers."

Despite chaos created by dispersion, the highly trained airborne soldiers of the 101st succeeded in capturing the important exits behind the beach as well as the locks on the Douve River north of Carentan.

The city itself was taken on June 12, following a bitter five-day battle.

"You hit the ground running toward the enemy," Gen. Taylor later told his troops. "You have beaten him on his

own ground, and you can beat him on any ground."

Of the 13,000 paratroopers and glidermen who participated in D-Day, 4,670 became casualties.

The Screaming Eagles gleaned numerous firsts from the Normandy Invasion.

The first American to land in occupied France was a 101st Airborne Division pathfinder, Capt. Frank L. Lillyman. The first bayonet assault was led by 101st Lt. Col. Robert G. Cole.

The first general officer killed in France was the assistant Division commander, Brig. Gen. Don C. Pratt.

The Division returned to England, replaced men and equipment and conducted training to overcome mistakes made in the Normandy jump.

The second rendezvous took place in Holland, where the 101st, 82nd and the British 1st Airborne Divisions made a daylight jump on Sept. 17.

This time the pilots held a tight formation and the 101st, according to reports, made the most successful jump ever accomplished in combat or training.

The paratroopers secured a vital supply route from Eindhoven to Arnheim for the British Second Army.

When the Screaming Eagles moved to Mourmelon Le Grand, France, 72 days later, their third rendezvous was imminent.

The Germans had been driven back nearly to their own border and their resistance was stiffening. Hitler's counter-attack against the Ardennes Front threatened to split the Allied forces.

Orders came to the 101st from VIII Corps on Dec. 18: "Hold Bastogne."

Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, Division artillery commander, was commanding the Division while Gen. Taylor was on leave.

He ordered the 501st Inf. to move east and clear the way to Longvilly. Enroute, the airborne infantrymen met a larger

*Screaming Eagle paratroopers
hit the drop zone in
a practice jump.*

German force.

The enemy mistook this to be a major offensive and stopped its advance, giving the rest of the Screaming Eagles extra time to organize positions at the French village of Bastogne.

Roads out of the town were jammed with vehicles from withdrawing units. A military policeman directing traffic at an intersection, when asked what the situation was, reportedly answered: "I don't know. Everyone else is leaving and the 101st is coming in."

The battle toughened as the Screaming Eagles were surrounded by eight enemy divisions. Trench foot and frozen limbs matched casualties from enemy bombardments, however.

"Artillery poured in on us like rain," recalls Brig. Gen. Richard J. Allen, recently an assistant Division commander, who was there as a battalion executive officer. "But by then we were experienced troops and knew a lot of tricks."

Ammunition, food and medical supplies ran low, but the battered paratroopers held the frozen ground. Artillerymen were limited to ten rounds a day as they watched the enemy swarm to their front, forming easy targets.

When the Germans gave Gen. McAuliffe the ultimatum of surrender or be annihilated, he gave his famous one-word reply: "Nuts."

The siege ended eight days later with the arrival of the Fourth Armored Division.

For its gallant defense the Division was presented the Distinguished Unit Citation by Gen. Eisenhower, in the name of the President. This was the first time an entire division had ever received this high award.

Ordered to the Ruhr in early April, then to southern Germany and finally back to France in August, the Division



was deactivated after the capitulation of Japan.

The Division's fortunes fluctuated after World War II. It was reactivated and deactivated, as a training unit, three times in 11 years.

In 1956 it finally regained its wings. It became the first Army division to be organized under the pentomic concept, a structure adopted by all infantry divisions in succeeding years.

It was called "pentomic" because the Division was organized on a five-sided basis designed to provide the decentralized flexibility required by fighting units on an atomic battlefield.

The next few years saw the Screaming Eagles train hard and travel far. In major exercises from Alaska to Iran, in civil disturbances at Little Rock and Ole Miss, the best trained unit in the U.S. Army showed its professional skill.

Early in 1964 the 101st Airborne Division was reorganized once more, this time as a ROAD (Reorganization Objective Army Division) division. This reorganization increased firepower, improved mobility, provided greater

flexibility and facilitated command and control measures.

Key features of the new structure are the three brigade headquarters and Support Command.

Ten infantry battalions, three artillery battalions, a battalion of engineers and a squadron of cavalry—all airborne—constitute the combat building blocks of this powerful organization. As in the former structure, the battalions retain the numerical designations and heritage of the famous airborne units of World War II and Korea.

The fourth rendezvous began in mid-1965, when the Division's 1st Brigade and supporting elements went to war again as one of the first American based units to fight in Vietnam.

The 1st Brigade fought in the proud tradition of the Screaming Eagles of the past.

The "Nomads of Vietnam" made 32 tactical deployments, traveling 2,500 miles to conduct 25 major operations. Tuy Hoa, An Khe, Qui Nhon, Cheo Reo, Song Nao, Dak To and Phan Thiet were places they knew well. Their record

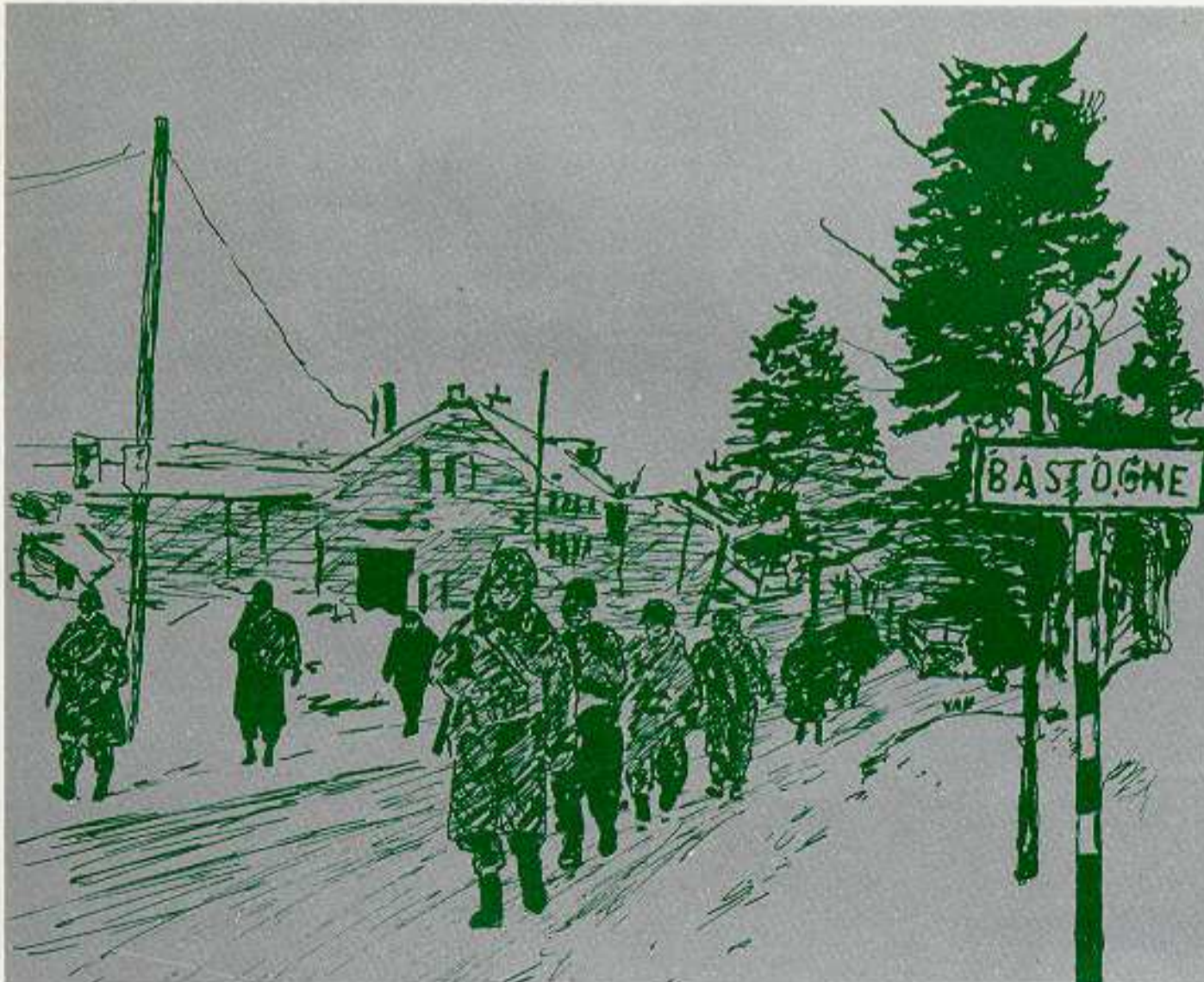
speaks for itself:

More than 6,000 enemy killed. Enough weapons captured to equip eight enemy battalions. More than 2,000 tons of rice captured from the enemy. Medical treatment provided for more than 25,000 Vietnamese men, women and children. More than 15,000 refugees relocated and more than 4,000 miles of road cleared of enemy control.

The Division, less the 1st Brigade, was at Fort Campbell, Ky., when it received warning orders in August 1967 to proceed to Vietnam. This elite band of paratroopers accomplished the move in record time via the largest military airlift of the Vietnam War. (See story page 3.)

Commanding general of the 101st., Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti, arrived on Dec. 13, 1967, and reported the Division ready for combat to Gen. William C. Westmoreland.

As always, the Screaming Eagles hit the ground running. To paraphrase Gen. Lee's statement: The 101st Airborne Division has a proud heritage, and it has another rendezvous with destiny.



101st Airborne troopers march in Bastogne.



Paratrooper in Vietnam.

Embassy Assault

By Maj. Billy E. Spangler

Paratrooper Maj. Hillel Schwartz tells how he led a platoon of Screaming Eagles in a heliborne assault onto the roof of the American Embassy, Saigon, which was under attack during the Communist Tet offensive.

Thirty-three-year-old Maj. Hillel "Gus" Schwartz, Tacoma, Wash., entered the elevator on the sixth floor of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and pushed the button for non-stop descent to the first floor.

"I didn't want to take a chance on the elevator stopping between floors and somebody firing me up," said the paratrooper officer as he recalled his actions while directing a platoon from the 101st Airborne Division in a combat assault to the roof top of the embassy building.

Schwartz, father of four children (one son and three daughters) was serving his second tour in Vietnam. His first tour was an advisory role with the 5th ARVN Division at Phu Loi in 1965.

As assistant intelligence officer of the famed Screaming Eagle Division, Schwartz had known of the enemy buildup in the Bien Hoa-Saigon area prior to the beginning of Tet.

About 3 a.m. on Jan. 31 the Bien Hoa air base came under attack. Schwartz and other officers of the 101st were occupying positions on a berm between the airbase and Division Headquarters.

As the paratrooper major and his fellow soldiers manned their defensive locations, Division Commander Maj. Gen. O. M. Barsanti received a message requesting a reinforcing element for the forces under attack at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon.

Division intelligence officer, Lt. Col. Charles Beckwith, Atlanta, Ga., went to

the berm and located Schwartz: "The CG's got a mission for you, Gus. Come Along!"

In the following minutes, Gen. Barsanti explained the mission to Schwartz and other staff members, emphasizing that



Maj. Hillel "Gus" Schwartz.

Schwartz was the commanding general's representative in dealing with embassy personnel and organizing the security force.

"General Barsanti told me we were going to take a platoon of paratroopers from C Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry and make a combat assault onto the embassy roof," Schwartz recalled. "The general told me what to look for on the rooftop and how to identify the LZ (landing zone)."

Schwartz in turn briefed the C Co. commander, Capt. John Speedy, Arlington, Va., and platoon leader Lt. Robert Bell, Jacksonville, Fla.

"Marines are barricaded in the Embassy," Schwartz said. "Military Police units are on the outside perimeter of the courtyard and Viet Cong armed with automatic weapons and RPG bazookas are inside the embassy perimeter."

At 6:33 a.m. Schwartz, Capt. Speedy and two sergeants boarded a helicopter and flew to Saigon. "We could see a lot of firing all over the city and particularly in the area of the embassy," he said.

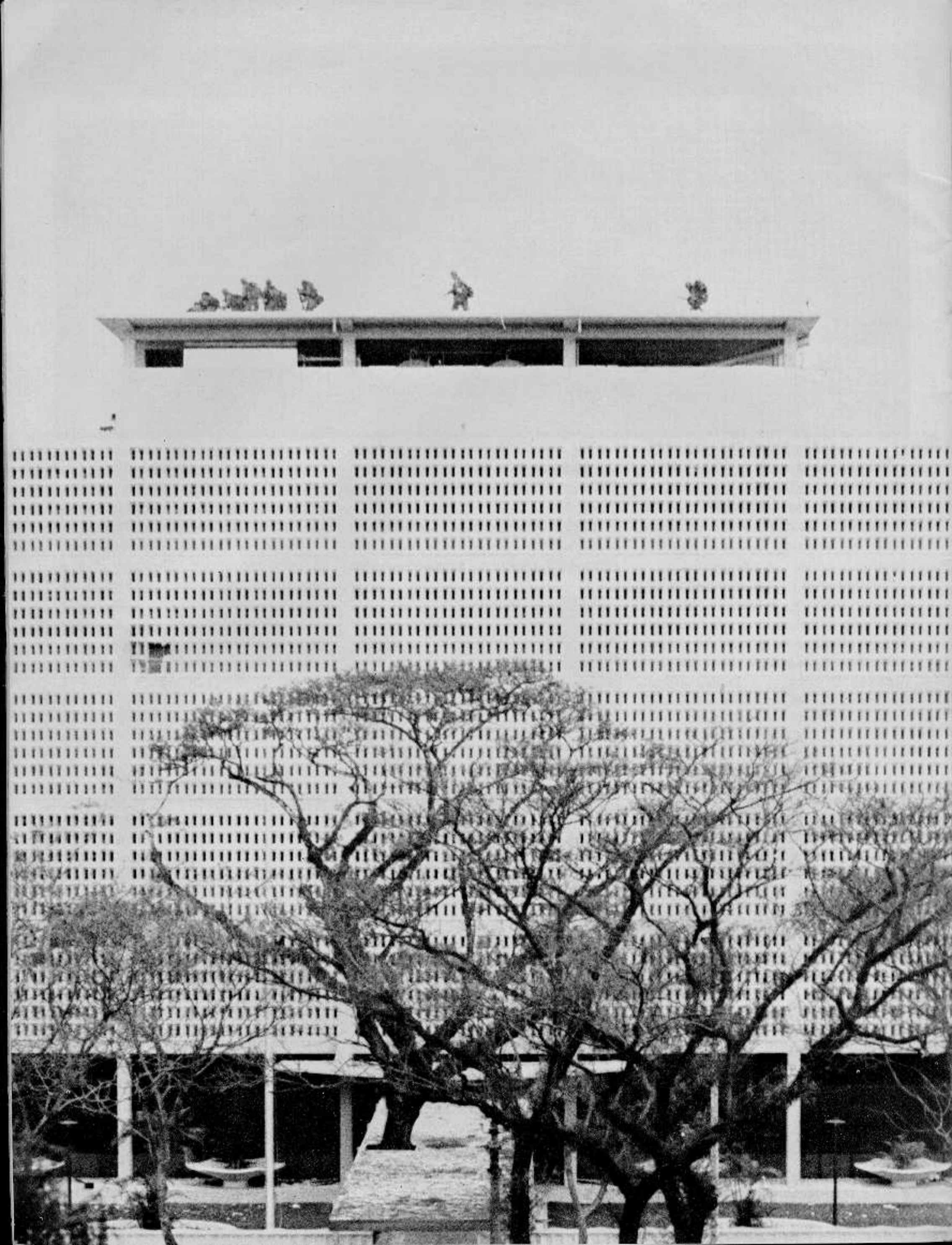
They started to land on the roof when the helicopter was fired upon. Four rounds hit the aircraft and the door gunner was wounded in the hand and shoulder.

"It's a hot LZ," someone said over the intercom as they pulled away. Schwartz shoved his M-16 rifle out of the door and fired at the muzzle flashes below.

Sgt. Robert J. Formanek, Anaheim, Calif., fired on the flashes too.

The pilot, Lt. Col. John McGregor, Makanda, Ill., commander of the 101st Aviation Bn. (Abn), noted that the aircraft was heating a bit and suggested they fly to Long Binh where the wounded gunner could be hospitalized and another chopper could be obtained.

"We got another ship and took off again for the embassy," Schwartz said. "There was still firing around the embassy, but somehow we got in without



taking any hits. We leaped out of the helicopter and it took off."

As the four paratroopers searched the roof, the phone rang.

Schwartz answered it and a member of General William C. Westmoreland's staff at MACV asked if the embassy had been penetrated and told Schwartz he was to take charge of all American forces in conducting the search and security mission.

Schwartz left one man as security on the rooftop and a guide for Lt. Bell and his platoon who were enroute in five helicopters.

He then entered the 6th floor of the embassy where he met a duty officer holding a 45 automatic. Schwartz asked him several questions and instructed Capt. Spedy to insure that the paratrooper platoon search every room and cubicle, post security on every floor and establish a perimeter in the courtyard.

"Then I went into an office where a phone was ringing and someone picked it up and handed it to me," Schwartz continued.

The caller was from the MACV command center and began asking questions.

An official gave Schwartz the key to the first floor mezzanine. He walked to the elevator, entered and punched the buttons marked "direct" and "1st floor."

"Gee... I was scared," he remembered. "I thought about a lot of things... my wife Marilyn, my dad in Philadelphia, and I wondered how the Army would get all the stuff in my quarters back to my family if something happened."

When the elevator stopped at the first floor, Schwartz stepped out with his rifle poised. He unlocked the door to the embassy proper and saw bullet holes "all over the place."

I found a Marine sergeant and told him I assumed control," he said.

"There's a lot of people out there," the sergeant answered, gesturing with his weapon toward the courtyard. He did not know how many.

Schwartz slipped through the door into the courtyard where he saw MP's pur-

Paratroopers of C Co., 1st Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf. after landing on embassy roof.

JUSPAO



Helicopter takes off from rooftop landing pad at the embassy.

suing Viet Cong dressed in civilian clothes and carrying AK-47 assault rifles. He told an MP officer to sweep the area and secure the surrounding buildings.

"A VC on my left suddenly opened fire from the consulate house," Schwartz said. "Then a window opened on the top floor and a man who said he was a retired colonel yelled he didn't have a weapon.

"An MP heaved a 45 automatic up to the man and I pitched him a few hand grenades. The MP also managed to get a protective mask up to the window and the rest of us started throwing a riot control agent into the room where we saw the VC flee."

Schwartz and two MP's entered the building.

"We heard firing upstairs," he said. "An AK fired a burst and then two shots from a 45."

As they reached the second floor, the three soldiers saw the VC dying. The man who had been tossed the weapon stood in the hallway, pistol in hand.

"Boy," the man said, "am I glad to see you!"

The paratrooper major and the MP's returned to the courtyard. "There were dead all over the place," Schwartz recalled.

He instructed the MP's to put two guards on each VC body and bring captured documents and weapons to his command post in the main entrance to the embassy.

Additional guards from the paratrooper platoon began to secure the area.

"General Westmoreland arrived and I accompanied him in an inspection of

the courtyard," Schwartz said. "Nineteen bodies littered the ground. Some lay sprawled among the big flower planters."

As the two looked at the hole blown in the embassy wall, the general was called to the phone. It was call from the White House.

The embassy seal had been shot down and lay bullet ridden on the ground. Helicopter supply ships were arriving and landing on the embassy roof.

Major Schwartz turned the security over to a Marine captain and walked into the embassy.

He entered the elevator, punched the button for the 6th floor, wiped the perspiration from his face and breathed deep. The mission was completed.

JUSPAO



Viet Cong rockets damaged but failed to break down the front door.

Chaplain (Maj.) John E. Green
in the Division chapel.

GOD'S WARRIORS

By Lt. Samuel B. Huff

Division chaplains discuss the problems and satisfactions of their unique mission.

One of the closest knit groups of clergymen in the world is the chaplaincy, whose members share, regardless of denomination, the common mission of bringing God to men in the face of combat.

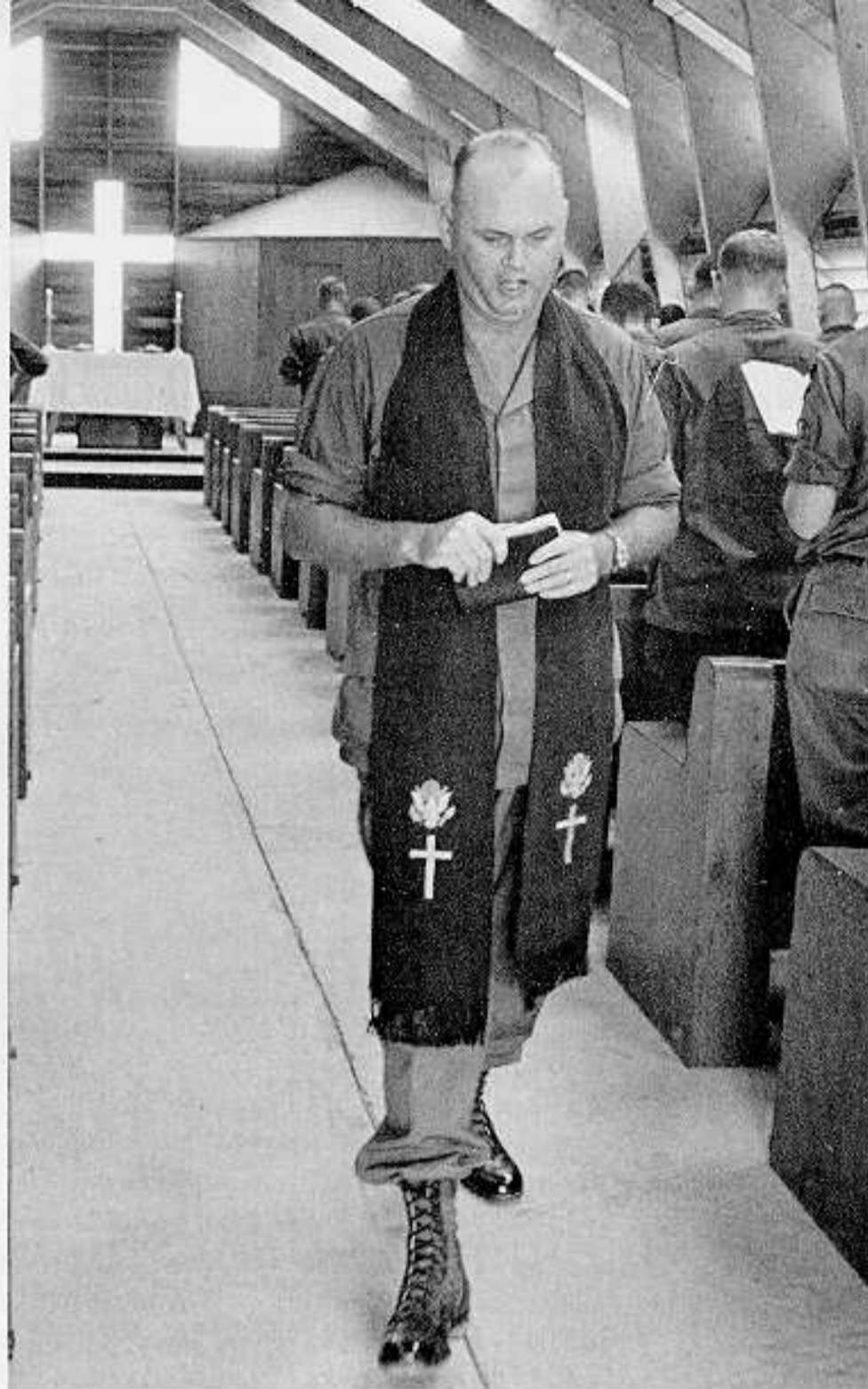
The 22 chaplains serving the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam feel they are particularly fortunate.

"The chaplaincy and the airborne both have a tradition of high esprit de corps," explained Division Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donald R. Sather as he sat in his small office beside the headquarters chapel in Bien Hoa. "For every vacancy we have more than 20 volunteers."

Sather, an athletic man who holds a master's degree in educational psychology as well as a divinity diploma, supervises the clergymen assigned to the brigades and battalions and advises the commanding general on matters of troop religion, morals and morale.

"Chaplains have two principal duties," he said. "The first is to provide religious services and the second is to counsel the men."

"Every day is Sunday here," said Chaplain (Maj.) Leo J. Matz of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 506th Inf., not necessarily speaking as a Pollyanna. The battalion chaplains try to hold a service once a week for each



Hekel

company, which means they hold a service somewhere in the field just about every day.

"This is particularly hard to do in a war like this," said Matz, a World War II veteran. "The troops are so spread out."

Danger is taken for granted.

Chaplain (Capt.) Roland R. Torer of the 2nd Bn. (Abn), 502nd Inf., for example, recalls a time last summer when he was delivering mass to paratroopers of Co. B near Duc Pho. "Snipers started firing on us," he said. "So we stopped, returned fire and resumed services immediately when all was quiet."

On several occasions Torer has conducted services while battles were in progress only a few hundred meters away.

Of course this is not the only time a chaplain risks danger.

"We often accompany the paratroopers on combat assaults," said the 1st Bn. (Abn), 327th Inf. chaplain, Capt. Thomas R. Thompson. "That way we can know what the men experience, check on morale and help the wounded."

On a sweep near Hue recently, Chaplain (Capt.) William W. Erbach, 2nd Bn. (Abn), 501st Inf., showed courage typical of the chaplaincy.

He was bent over helping a wounded man when a bullet passed through his midsection. Denying his pain, he continued to aid the wounded and accompanied them by helicopter to a field hospital at nearby Camp Evans.

"No one even knew he was injured," said Sfc. Donald W. Lester, medical platoon sergeant at the hospital. "He came in as cheerful as ever, talked to the wounded and helped them relax."

Finally, after everyone else had been cared for, Erbach showed the medics where the bullet had penetrated his abdomen and asked, "What about me?"

"It's no wonder the men like to have the chaplain along," commented a hospital medic. "The chaplain gives them a sense of home, security, something they can rely on."

The history of the Army chaplains dates back to the Revolutionary War, when 179 chaplains served under Gen. Washington. Many were known to have mustered entire companies from their church doorsteps.

During the Civil War chaplains on both sides organized and ran basic education programs and waged campaigns against drinking and gambling.

Chaplains were assigned the additional

duty of burying the dead in World War I because of the high casualty rate. More than 9,000 chaplains served in World War II, and in Korea 567 chaplains received 683 decorations.

Although the site of a religious service in Vietnam often consists of nothing more than a jungle hollow or an open field, the Division's permanent base camps are equipped with chapels.

"Our attendance reaches 700 for weekend services at Phuoc Vinh," said the 3rd Brigade chaplain, Maj. Kenneth E. Adcock.

"Counseling in Vietnam is much more informal than Stateside," Adcock added. Most chaplains say this phase of their mission takes about half of their time.

"This is actually less counseling than at home," said Chaplain Griffis. "Men in combat are forced to face reality and aren't bothered with insignificant worries."

"These men aren't hypocrites," Chaplain Matz observed. "Many have to struggle to admit a religious feeling they never had before."

Chaplain Thompson claims that the most common need for counseling here grows out of a man's fear of battle. "We try to direct such a man back toward the

challenge," he said, "or he might create a weakness in himself that will stay with him for the rest of his life."

The counseling experiences of the chaplains help them advise commanders on how to improve morale.

"When the men stop complaining, that's the time to start worrying about morale," said Chaplain (Maj.) James A. Peterman, assistant Division chaplain. "Men who are seriously troubled usually don't talk about it in the open."

The chaplains also advise commanders on how to handle individuals with severe personal problems.

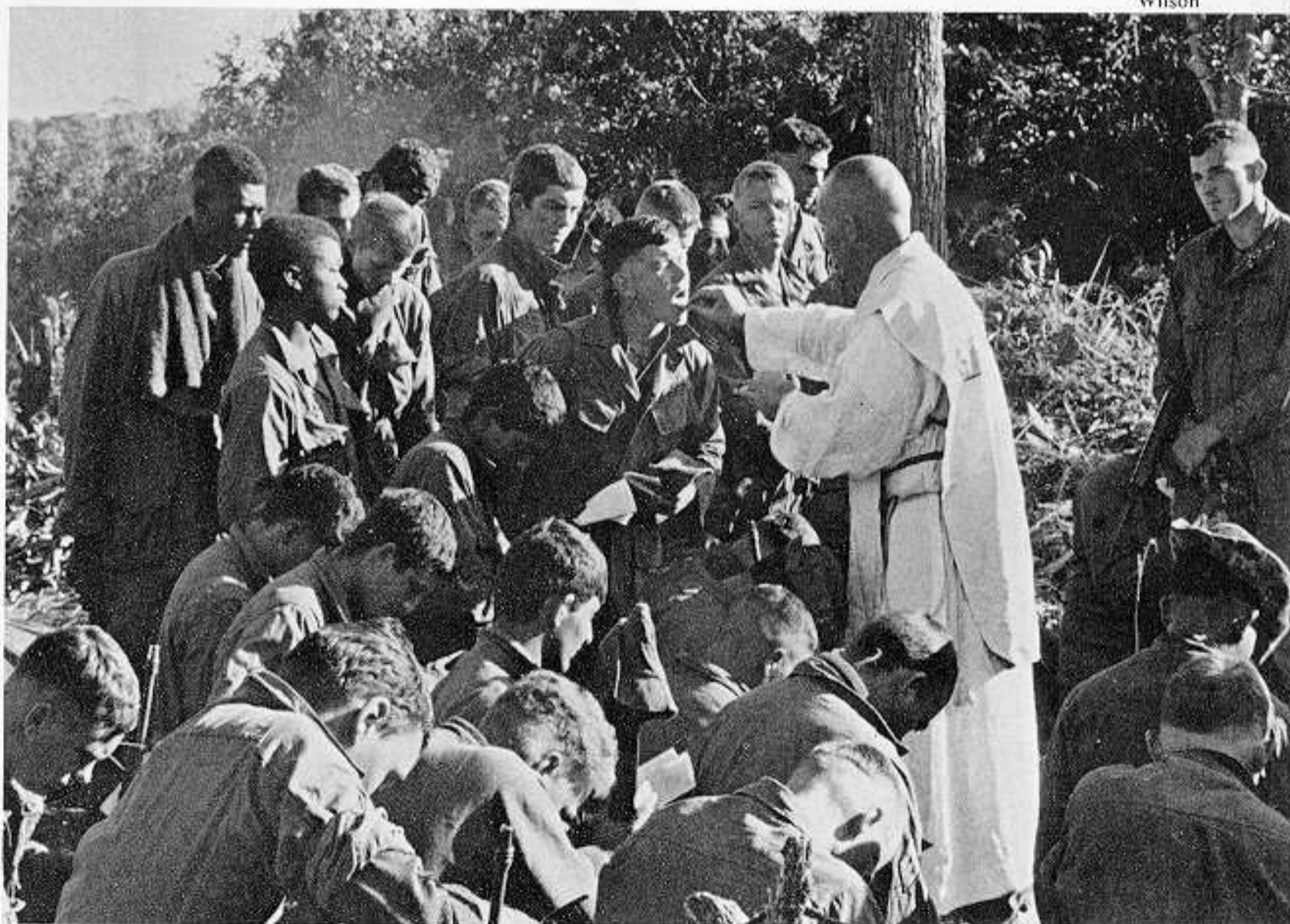
Chaplain Torer, who has served in Vietnam for 18 months, said he joined the chaplaincy because of the tremendous empathy between the chaplain and the men.

This empathy is reflected in their humor.

Chaplain Adcock recalls a time when a paratrooper jokingly thanked him for providing such good weather. "I'm not in management, only sales," he replied.

A skeptical airborne soldier once asked another if his faith would help stop a bullet. "No," the paratrooper answered, "but it will help me get well afterward."

Wilson



Chaplain (Maj.) James J. Murphy gives communion to paratroopers during Operation San Angelo.

Photo Album



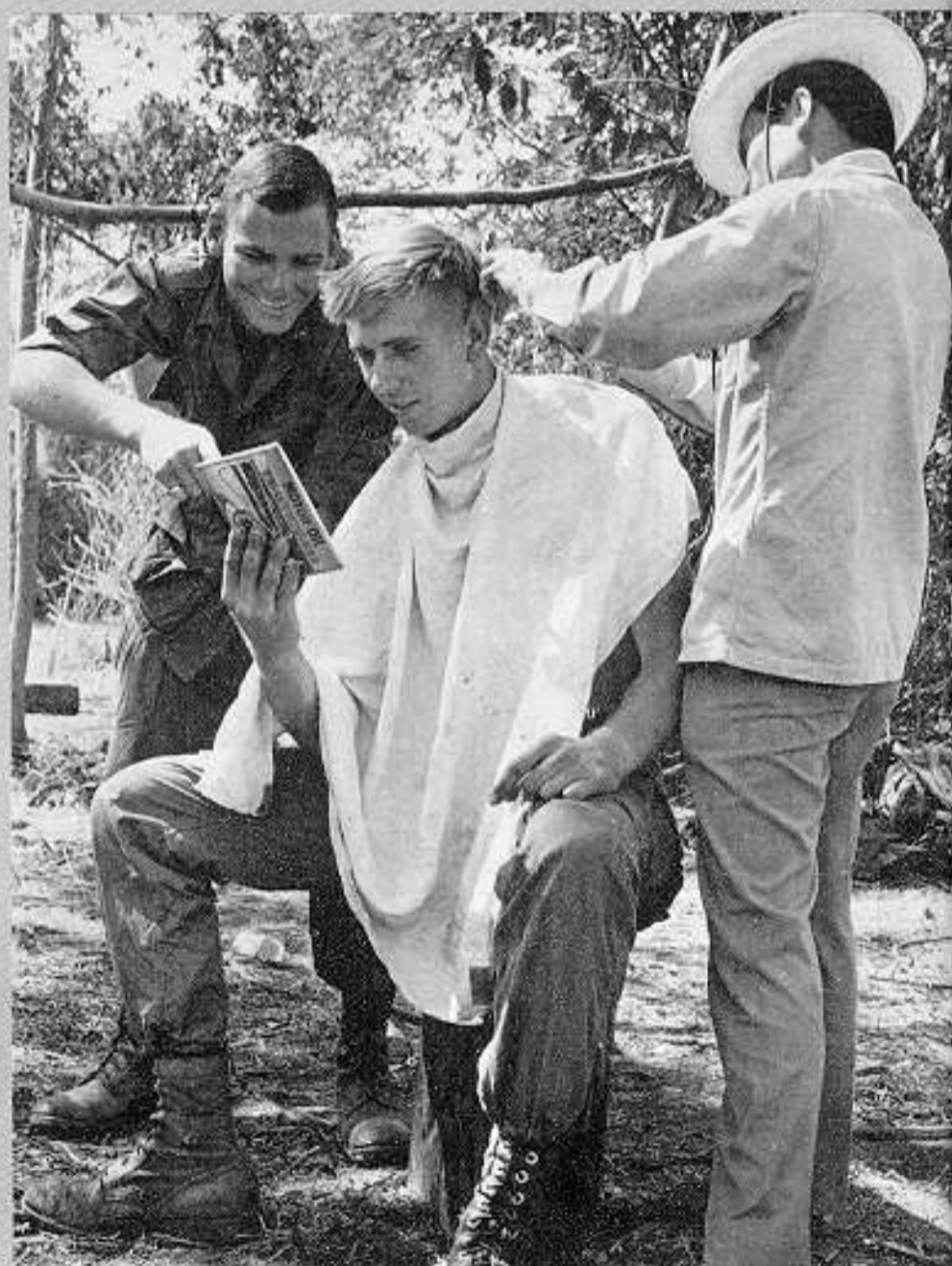
Smith



Smith

Home is where you dig it.

Pause that refreshes.



McLaughlin

Take it easy on the bangs!



Smith

Modern bath.



Smith

Soldiers carrying the burdens of war have sweated and cursed the dust of a thousand roads. From Shiloh to Song Be, the fatigue and weariness of war have not changed. Only the names of the faces are different. These are paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division plodding in thick red dust that leaves its mantle on man and his memory.



The Screaming Eagles



Prepared to Move Anywhere,

Anytime and Fight