

Rendezvous With Destiny



A Publication of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)

—M. J. McGlynn—



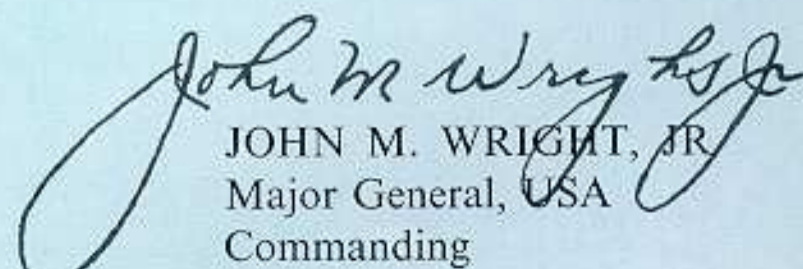
The Second Year

On 13 December 1969, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) marked the end of its second year in Vietnam as a full division. During this time, "Screaming Eagles" have been involved in highly successful operations and activities of true significance in helping the people of Vietnam develop a strong and viable nation, free from communist aggression.

In the final quarter of 1969, our missions were as varied as the area in which we operated. On two different occasions, "Screaming Eagles" were called upon to move to the DMZ; first to assist in the redeployment of the 3d Marine Division in early October, and then again in November when, in a few hours, an infantry battalion made a combat assault to reinforce elements of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), which were in heavy contact with NVA forces near the DMZ.

In early October, pacification and training programs in the populated lowlands of Thua Thien Province made it clear that the enemy had suffered not only severe military defeats, but long-range reversals that will render most unlikely any attempt to gain a position of power and influence in the province. Such operations have characterized the present role of the division. Every mission the "Screaming Eagles" will receive in the coming months—be it to engage and destroy the enemy, to train local forces, conduct civil affairs programs, or a combination of these—will be of utmost importance in deciding the future of Thua Thien Province, and ultimately the future of the Republic of Vietnam.

In order to hasten the success of our efforts here, there is no better time than the present for all personnel to rededicate themselves wholeheartedly to the tasks at hand in the true tradition of the "Screaming Eagles."
ALL THE WAY.



JOHN M. WRIGHT, JR.
Major General, USA
Commanding

Rendezvous With Destiny

Winter 1969

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MAI LOG

by Spec. 5 Anthony Kendall



Since becoming an airmobile division in July 1969, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) has time and again utilized its mobility in highly successful operations in Thua Thien Province, from the coastal lowlands to the A Shau Valley. Nothing, however, has illustrated the massive potential of an airmobile division more than in late fall and early winter when, on 30 September, two battalions of the 3rd Brigade were called upon to move to Quang Tri Province to assist in the redeployment of the 3rd Marine Division, and then again on 13 November, when, with only three hour's notice, the 2nd Brigade's 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry was airlifted to the vicinity of the DMZ to assist elements of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), which had been in heavy contact with enemy soldiers from the 27th NVA Regiment.

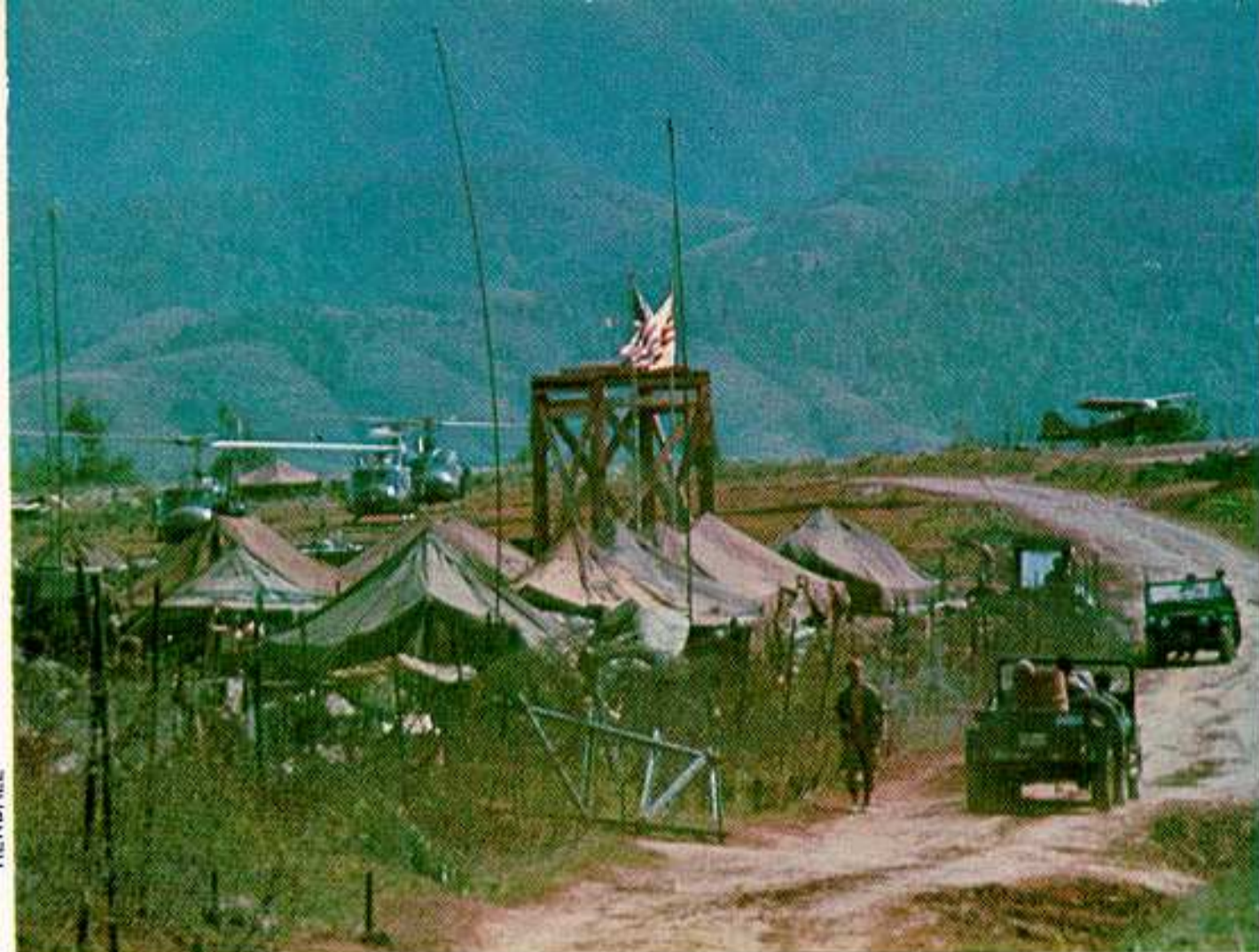
Mai Loc, a lonely Montagnard village and site of a former Marine airstrip, was to be the forward command post for the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 506th Infantry. It would serve as a base of operations during their mission as a security screen for the Marine's redeployment.

The plan was to insert two airmobile battalions, supported by artillery firebases, along a line from the DMZ to just north of Khe Sanh in the southern portion of the province. These battalions would stop enemy movements from Laos and North Vietnam that would interfere with the redeployment.

Through the use of numerous small reconnaissance teams, the force could effectively cover the entire area. By taking advantage of the brigade's airmobility, it would be possible to insert a ground force within minutes whenever needed.

On 30 September, Currahees of the 1st of the 506th staged at the Camp Evans airfield and under marginal skies, waited to board Air Force C-123 "Providers." The weather broke at noon and the Screaming Eagles soon found themselves enroute. At Mai Loc, the brigade forward command post had already been established, along with Alpha Troop, 2nd Squadron (Airmobile), 17th Cavalry, which had moved to the location to support the operation as needed.

On 30 September, the 2nd of the 506th moved north and the following day the operation began when eight combat equipped companies air assaulted into two primary areas just south of the DMZ. The first to hit a landing zone (LZ) was Charlie Company, 1st of the "O-Sixth," which was responsible for securing the area to



KENDALL

Mai Loc, a lonely Montagnard village and site of a former Marine airstrip, was to be the forward command post for the Currahees.

be used as their battalion command post.

"All in all, it was a pretty good start," recalled one Currahee infantryman. "We got rained on, we got hungry and at six that evening we got mortared." Although 25 rounds were fired at the Currahee position, there were no friendly casualties. The base was so small the mortar rounds hit on the far side of the mountain. After that first night's action, the troopers had no

trouble in finding a name for the scarred peak. They called it "Schrapnel."

While Schrapnel was being secured, the 2nd of the 506th assaulted onto "Nancy," an old Marine landing zone a mile and one half to the southwest. Bravo Company provided security for the base while the other three companies began operations to the east, west and south. By late afternoon of the first day, the screen behind which the

MOON





Marines could withdraw was in place.

Nancy was renamed "Scotch" by the Currahees and is graphically remembered by those who lived there during the operation. "Steep, muddy and small," recalled Sfc. Samuel DeLao of Venice, Fla. "So small in fact that when a helicopter would land, the tail boom would stick out over the artillery emplacements."

The battalion immediately began work to improve the base defenses and resupply capabilities. In a matter of days, an adjacent hilltop had been cleared for supply storage and two PSP helipads had been constructed. "It was the most secure fire-base I've ever seen," said DeLao. "With triple-layered tangle-foot and concertina wire surrounding the perimeter, there was virtually no way for the enemy to get in."

To the NVA operating near the DMZ, helicopters had posed few problems in the past. Never before had they confronted an airmobile unit. On 30 October, however, the enemy found that helicopters were something to worry about.

Shortly after noon that day, a CH-47 Chinook was flying in a load of PSP to Schrapnel when an enemy gunner on a ridgeline about 600 meters to the north opened fire with his .51 calibre anti-aircraft machinegun. The Chinook took several hits but managed to deliver its load and return to Mai Loc.

Twenty minutes later the Chinook reappeared, this time flanked by two Cobra gunships. Again the enemy opened fire. The Cobras responded by strafing the ridgeline with 2.75 inch rockets and minigun fire. No log bird flying supplies into Schrapnel was ever bothered again.

On 5 October, Company C, 1st of the 506th, acting on intelligence from aerial

RANDANT



Acting on intelligence from aerial reconnaissance, Currahees assaulted into an area west of Schrapnel where they uncovered a huge enemy cache that included 22 122mm rockets, over 100 mortar rounds, 17 mines and over three tons of food.

PARSONS



PARSONS




PARSONS

reconnaissance, assaulted into an area slightly northwest of Schrapnel and swept to the base of a rock cliff, honeycombed with caves. During the sweep, the Currahees captured a lone, weaponless NVA who said he had been left behind when his company had moved back across the DMZ on the previous day.

Searching the cave complex, the Currahees uncovered a battalion-size cache and two NVA bodies. The huge cache consisted of two individual weapons, 22 122 mm rockets, over 100 mortar rounds, 20 Chi-

com grenades, 17 mines, 36 rucksacks, 2,750 pounds of fish, 3,850 pounds of rice and 405 cans of meat.

By 31 October, the Marines had completed their redeployment. The Currahees began their phase-out operations as elements of the 1st ARVN Division prepared to take over the area of operations.

For the Currahees of the 3rd Brigade, the 38-day operation had been highly successful. The Marine units had redeployed safely while the enemy had suffered 59 killed and many more wounded. 

PARSONS



PARSONS

Five Days at the DMZ

by 2Lt. Ken Strafer



For the men of the 2nd Battalion (Air-mobile), 501st Infantry, the move began during the second day of a stand-down at Camp Sally. The 2nd Brigade troopers were being issued new clothing and cleaning weapons and equipment prior to a day of refresher training when they were alerted for the move north.

Within three hours, the commanders and their troops were on the strike pad. Waiting for the 500-man force were 15 huge CH-47 Chinooks from the 159th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter Support).

Assembled at specific points along the quarter mile long airstrip, the men smoked, talked quietly and waited for further instructions. Moments later an officer came by and directed each unit to a pre-designated chopper.

"You can remove your rucksack if you'd like, but no smoking until we lift," a crew chief shouted as the men boarded the choppers. Most of the troopers sat back, fastened their seat belts and fell asleep.

A short distance from the airstrip, the battalion command post was buzzing with activity. Lt. Col. Bobby Brashears, the battalion commander, looked over the activity and, turning to one of his officers, spoke softly. "It's really something to see a battalion deployed in a matter of hours. We formerly talked in terms of days and now we're down to hours."

One by one the birds began to lift and once in the air formed a line that stretched for over a mile. Fifteen minutes later and 23 miles to the north, the flight began to set down. The PSP airstrip below glistened in the sun as if signalling the Chinooks—possibly a welcome.

As the aircraft landed, the large rear ramps lowered and the Geronimos filed out. The assembly area was a large multi-aircraft hanger at Quang Tri Combat Base. Recently left by the redeploying 3rd Marine Division, the installation served as a transfer point for the combat force.

Again, the small unit commanders received further orders and in turn gave their units the plan for the operation. Throughout the hanger area, commanders were briefing their men on the forthcoming action. Company commanders reviewed sector maps, jotting down reference points



Within three hours, the commanders and their troops were on the strike pad. Waiting for the 500-man force were 15 huge CH-47 Chinooks from the 159th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter Support).

and plotting distances and directions of movement.

Following the briefing, the troops took time out for a quick lunch of C-rations. Some were cleaning their weapons for the second or third time that day while others took ammo out of magazines, wiped it off and reloaded. Another group loaded several additional magazines.

Shortly after one o'clock, "Slicks" from the 158th Aviation Battalion began to set down. The awed infantrymen watched what seemed like a never-ending procession of Huey helicopters arrive and align themselves in formation on the runway.

Within 15 minutes the first lift was airborne.

Members of Alpha Company, the second

lift, stood in silence by the hanger and watched their buddies lift off. Once in the air the choppers were spaced out as if coupled together by some unseen anchor system. The pilots made all movements precisely—arcing slowly to the north, steadily gaining altitude then levelling off.

"O.K. get it on!" someone in the hanger shouted. "We're moving out to the ramp."

Meanwhile, from the landing zone (LZ) 19 miles to the north, one company commander radioed back, "No fire on Lima Zulu!" Many Screaming Eagles at the ready area gave a sigh of relief as the news was flashed back.

One by one the choppers dropped their human cargo and departed without drawing enemy fire. As the ships landed, the "Drive On" troopers piled off and dashed for cover. Not far from the LZ, the infantrymen discovered several NVA bodies around a bombed-out bunker complex.

By this time it was late in the afternoon and the units moved only 1500 meters to a consolidated night defensive position (NDP). Evidence of a previous battle was strewn about the area—AK-47 rounds, wrappings from food packages and a strong odor of nuoc mam could be noted throughout the camp.

Darkness fell on the area and sniper fire brought the war into another prospective. The men knew the NVA were watching.

"There! Over there . . . I see something moving," a rifleman from Bravo Company shouted. Suddenly there was a burst of automatic weapon's fire from outside the perimeter. The burst was followed by a steady stream of tracers into the suspected enemy position. Then it stopped as suddenly as it started and all was quiet for the moment.

Cobra gunships and flareships circled overhead throughout the night. The ground was illuminated for a square mile around the defensive position.

The night passed without incident and the



As the aircraft landed, the large rear ramps lowered and the Geronimos filed out. The assembly area was a large multi-aircraft hanger at Quang Tri Combat Base.



STRAFER

Geronimos assault an enemy position after making contact on the second day of the operation. Below: A trooper gets a helping hand while crossing a stream.



PARSONS

following morning the troopers packed up and moved west. Delta Company began finding signs of NVA just before noon. Alpha saw its first two enemy soldiers shortly after noon and Bravo Company never really stopped passing signs of the bitter fight a few days before.

Early that afternoon, Alpha Company found a NVA position with an estimated squad-size element. The commander notified the battalion command post of the situation and a combat assault was ordered. Several helicopters drew fire on their way into the LZ and Cobra gunships responded with a volley of rockets and deadly minigun fire.

The enemy was located in a gulley some 40 meters from the center of Alpha Company's position. Sporadic gunfire kept the Geronimos pinned down. The third platoon assaulted onto a hilltop across from the main body of the company and set up a crossfire to trap the NVA.

Small arms fire and M-79s raked the enemy position. The enemy responded with their own AK-47s, Chi-com grenades and satchel charges.

At times the enemy could be seen crawling through the high elephant grass that blocked the fields of fire. Automatic weapons and hand grenades pelted the area once again, then all was silent. The cessa-

Troopers from Bravo Company keep low





POSNER

tion of hostile fire offered Alpha Company the much-needed time to move to a nearby hill to form a night defensive position.

The men were tired when they finally settled for the night. The battle had lasted 2½ hours. Added to their physical discomfort was the fact that the unit had minimal water and food. The troopers had dropped their heavy rucksacks at the LZ before assaulting the enemy position.

A resupply chopper brought in several cases of Claymore mines—the last mission of the night.

Morning brought Cobra gunships into the area. For over an hour they pounded the site of the previous day's battle with rocket and minigun fire. Meanwhile other choppers brought the company its rucksacks. There were smiles on a lot of faces as the troops located their gear and staggered off under the weight.

After a break for chow, the first platoon moved cautiously into the draw. The second platoon followed close behind and the third was deployed as a blocking force 25 meters to the north. Sweeping the battlefield, the Geronimo troopers found 10 enemy bunkers containing 41 mortar rounds, two Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) booster units and two enemy rucksacks.

It was the third day of the operation and

... during heavy contact with a large NVA force.



PARSONS



PARSONS

signs of fatigue began to show. Movement became a little harder, but the reward of finding the cache picked up spirits. Moments later, the unit received word that Bravo Company was in heavy contact with a large NVA force.

Charlie Company went on alert and was combat assaulted into the battle under the cover of darkness as flareships kept the enemy positions illuminated. It was an impressive sight; flareships lighting the rolling hills, sortie after sortie of "Slicks" coming in, dropping the Screaming Eagles. Blinking lights from the aircraft and strobe lights on the ground seemed like fireflies on a warm summer night in the States.

Once on the ground, Charlie Company moved quickly to reinforce Bravo in what would turn out to be an all night battle. Bravo Company, on the southern flank of the enemy, was the closest unit to the enemy and throughout the night reported seeing NVA soldiers moving back and forth in front of their position. Despite its tactical position, the platoon received no casualties.

Shortly before dawn the firing stopped and sounds of the enemy pulling their dead and wounded down into the draw could be heard. When morning came, everyone was surprised to see a lone NVA moving toward the perimeter. Capt. John Ellison of Downers, Ill., ordered the platoons of Charlie Company to hold their fire and try to take the enemy alive.

All eyes were on the six men who went

some 20 meters down the slope to pull the disoriented enemy into the perimeter. During interrogation, the NVA told the location of a bunker complex containing several weapons, documents and a portable radio.

Twenty-nine enemy were killed in the two-day battle, bringing to 36 the number of NVA killed during the operation. In addition, the infantrymen captured two SG-43 Russian-made heavy machineguns, one 82mm mortar tube, 44 mortar rounds, five AK-47 rifles and one SKS rifle.

The extraction and trip back to Sally was made in a cold drizzle on the sixth day. The weather began to close in quickly and the rain picked up in intensity as the infantrymen boarded choppers and headed south.

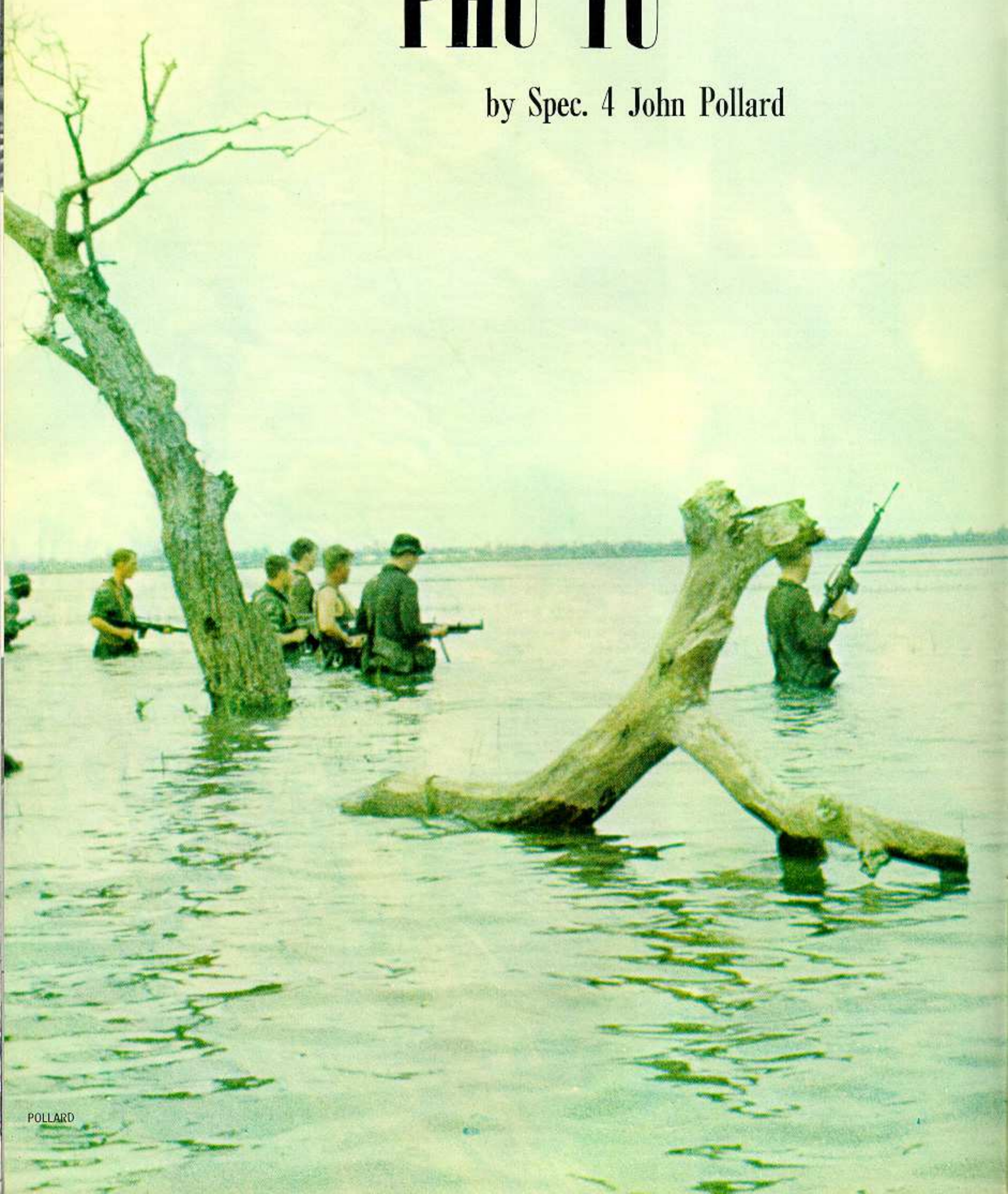
The troops departed the "Slicks" at Fire Base Charlie Two. The site was wet and muddy, unlike the warm sun that greeted them several days before. The weary infantrymen then loaded on Chinooks and soon found themselves heading north. The flight back took the men along the southern border of the DMZ. The helicopters then swung a slow arc to the east and south, toward home.

The Geronimos slept most of the way back. Few glanced at the DMZ. Every company in the battalion had assaulted into at least one hot LZ . . . that was enough to remember of the five days just south of the DMZ.



PHU TU

by Spec. 4 John Pollard



They were up before 4:00 in the morning, making last minute adjustments on weapons and equipment and putting the final items in the rucksacks that would serve as their homes for the coming operation. They had done these things so often that the fact it was still dark had little effect on their efficiency.

Thirty minutes later they began to move from the tents to the open areas in front of the orderly rooms for the final check of equipment and final briefing. Then it was to the trucks that would take them to the pickup zone (PZ) outside the Camp Eagle perimeter for the combat assault. Before anyone had reached the trucks, the rain began; slowly at first, then, by the time the trucks began rolling, a virtual downpour that soaked those in the open trucks. By the time the pickup zone was reached, it was clear the operation would not start on 1 Oct. 1969.

Shortly, the trucks turned around and returned to Camp Eagle where the men of the 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 327th Infantry, under the command of Lt. Col. Jeremiah J. Brophy of Tuckahoe, N.Y., went back into their tents, changed into dry clothing, and waited. The next day the battalion again piled into trucks and moved to Fire Support Base Roy on QL1. And again they waited for a break in the weather to begin their operation in Phu Tu District, southeast of Hue.

On 5 Oct., the decision was made to go. But the rain, now reaching record-breaking proportions, would not permit the use of helicopters. So the battalion temporarily discarded airmobility and began the long-postponed move on Phu Tu via truck.

Phu Tu District stretches to the southeast of Hue, bordered roughly by QL1 on the southwest and the Dam Ca Trung on the northeast. The district is basically a flat expanse of white sand flats and rice paddies, dotted with inhabited villages and abandoned hootch complexes. It is an area where the VC have always had a strong influence. In February 1968, the VC/NVA force that seized and held Hue during one of the bloodiest battles of the war used Phu Tu as a key infiltration route and staging area for their attack. When the enemy was pushed out of Hue, they turned the white sand into a mass grave for over 800 South Vietnamese citizens they had abducted from the Imperial City.

In the months preceding the beginning of the operation there had been little VC/NVA activity of any large scale in Phu Tu, however a significant hard-core VC Infrastructure was operating within the district, collecting rice and taxes for the enemy units in the mountains and initiating harassing attacks on the Regional Force (RF) and Popular Force (PF) units.

Troopers from C Company, commanded by Capt. Clarence A. Dunman of Boones Mill, Va., dismounted their trucks on the edge of Phu Tu and began moving on foot into the new area of operations. The going was tough from the start. The rains had washed out roads and pushed canals and rivers out of their banks so that in low areas the water was chest deep on the troops of the "Above the Rest" battalion.

Soon, however, the men discovered that they were not the only ones adversely affected by the torrential rains. The lead element of Company C had just passed an abandoned hootch when Capt. Dunman detected movement on the roof of the building. Dunman shouted for the VC to "Chieu Hoi." When he received no reply



POLLARD

The going was rough from the start. The rains had washed out roads and pushed canals and rivers out of their banks and in low areas the water was chest deep.

he opened up with a burst from his M-16. While the company commander kept the enemy on the roof pinned down, Sgt. Robert G. Olson of Thief River Falls, Minn., and Spec. 4 Riley F. Steele of Nashville, Tenn., began to scale an eight-foot wall to get on the roof of the building. The two reached the top of the wall and immediately fired on the enemy position. Seeing that further resistance was futile, and with three of their comrades dead, five VC dropped their weapons and came out with their hands above their heads.

Company C was not through for the day. The news of the American move on Phu Tu spread quickly among VC groups.

Seeking to evade the Screaming Eagles, one group of 20 or 30 decided to utilize the water to escape the area. As they were floating quietly down a canal they were observed by one of Company C's night positions. They troopers opened fire on the sampans, which immediately took evasive action. Two VC were left behind dead.

Although no one realized it at the time, these two engagements on the first day of the operation were to be the most solid contacts of the mission. For while it was the primary mission of the operation to engage and destroy the VC/NVA forces in Phu Tu, there were other objectives



BOICE

Making the best of the adverse rains, "Above the Rest" troopers navigate a swollen canal.



POLLARD

Shortly after setting up in Phu Tu, the battalion initiated a training program for RF/PF forces in the district.



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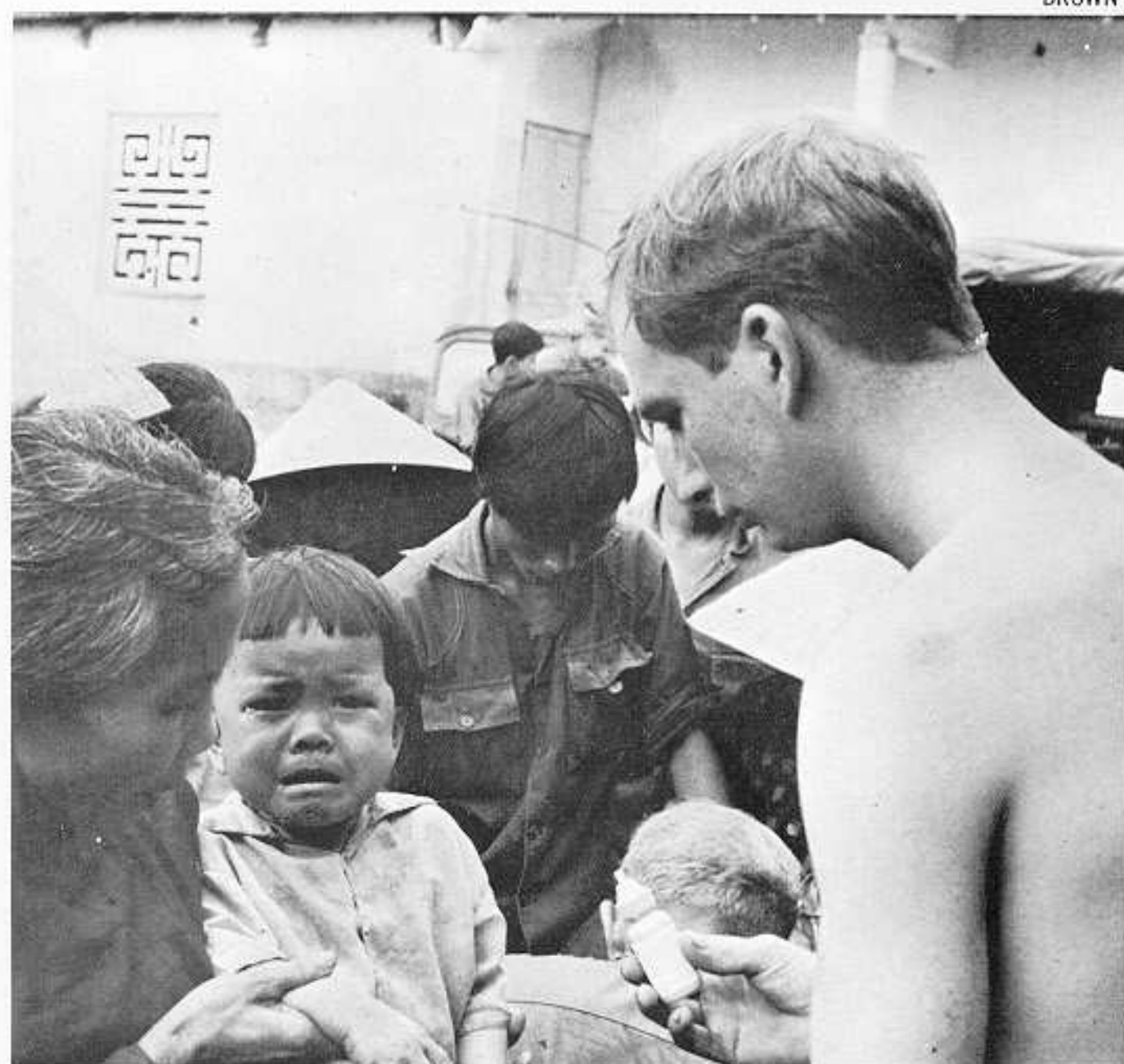
including training of Vietnamese RFs and PFs and improving the living conditions of the people through a vigorous Civil Affairs program.

While the four rifle companies of the battalion were seeking out high ground to set up a base of operations in their respective area of operations, a special task fell to members of Tiger Force, the battalion's reconnaissance platoon. The "Tigers" were designated as the security platoon at Landing Zone Saber where the battalion's forward command post had been located after being forced out of Phu Tu District headquarters by high water. But security during daylight hours at Saber, surrounded by flat, open land, was no problem. Thus, the platoon was free during those hours for a daily operation dubbed the Eagle Flight.

The Eagle Flight, carefully timed and coordinated by Lt. Col. Brophy and based on intelligence provided by the battalion S2, was a practical demonstration of air-mobility. It enabled the Tigers to cover three or four isolated islands of high ground in an afternoon, checking thoroughly, not only for stranded VC, but also for caches and bunkers that could be used for hiding places. The tactic was extremely valuable as a means of overcoming immobility caused by high water, and in addition aided in keeping the VC off balance and wary of congregating in any large groups.

Elements of the 54th ARVN Regiment had been operating in Phu Tu prior to the arrival of the 1/327th and had been highly successful in driving the NVA forces out of the area. Pacification, however, was just beginning and there were remnants of a strong VC infrastructure. The mission of the American troops in the district would be to provide the security necessary for the success of the pacification program and at the same time deprive the enemy of a jumping-off point for an attack on Hue or Phu Bai.

Shortly after setting up in Phu Tu, the battalion initiated a training program for



BROWN

A medic treats a small Vietnamese child during one of many MEDCAPs in the district.



The battalion's training program emphasized the basic infantry techniques; teamwork, ambushes, patrolling, marksmanship and maintenance of weapons.

Regional Force companies in the district. It was a significant step. Perhaps in the long run the training program was the most important part of the operation. The RF and PF forces are a key factor in the battle against the local VC in South Vietnam and an improvement in the quality of these troops is vital to the government.

The 1/327th's training program emphasized the basic infantry techniques; teamwork, ambushes, patrolling, marksmanship and maintenance of organic infantry weapons. To this basic program were added a few new touches. RFs and Screaming Eagles were paired off in a "buddy system." They attended training together during the day, and worked together at night putting into practice the lessons they had learned. "I considered the training program highly successful," one officer noted. "The RF's were highly motivated, well led and very eager to learn."

Meanwhile, an equally important event was taking place in the district. A reloca-

tion program for the villages of Luong Vien and Ba Lang, flooded out in early October, was initiated by the South Vietnamese Government with the aid of the 101st. The 326th Eng. Bn. provided bulldozers to clear the new sites for the villages while 1/327th troopers helped the villagers move their possessions and insured the villages would be secure from Viet Cong harassment or attack. In addition, the South Vietnamese Government charted an ambitious program of civic improvement for the new villages including wells, schools, a dispensary, and a village headquarters to raise the standard of living.

During the entire civic action and training programs, the search for the enemy went on as usual, but the enemy was avoiding contact whenever possible. Still, the thorough search tactics the battalion pursued netted dividends. Countless enemy bunkers and booby traps, almost imperceptible to the eye were discovered and destroyed.

By the end of November it was clear that

the enemy had suffered not just a temporary setback in Phu Tu, but a long-range reversal that would make any attempt to gain a position of power and influence very unlikely.

With relentless military pressure from the 1/327th and the 54th ARVN Regt. forcing main-force VC/NVA to flee the district, several key members of the VC Infrastructure, seeing no future in Phu Tu, took the alternative of rallying to the South Vietnamese Government. Those who rallied or who were captured gave important information to the government that led to the break-up of several VC political cadre groups. The most spectacular example of this occurred when the battalion netted one VC who informed on three others. These three also gave information that eventually led to the capture of 19 more cadre members in the Hue-Phu Vang area.

Simultaneously, the battalion had done much to eliminate conditions on which the VC thrive—a weak defense force and a low standard of living among the people. The main line of defense against the VC in the hamlets, the Popular Forces, had been better trained and prepared to defeat the enemy militarily.

The people had seen their government and the U.S. working together to provide them with better places to live, improved health conditions and safety from enemy activities.

On a larger scale, the two-month operation was a prime example of U.S.-Vietnamese co-operation and served to show that American forces could work effectively in a populated district, providing security from enemy elements and working through the Civil Affairs Program to improve living conditions.

As the troops boarded the Chinooks for the return to Camp Eagle, they left behind a vastly changed, and improved, Phu Tu District. And they had the satisfaction of knowing that the South Vietnamese would be better prepared to keep it that way.



THE CRITICAL PRELUDE

by Spec. 4 Nick Lackeos

The sharp stutter of an enemy machinegun echoes loudly through the thick jungle and men drop for cover.

"Hit it!" yells Pfc. Charles J. Bester of Birmingham, Ala. M-16 rifles and M-60 machineguns growl back, contaminating the air with the smell of burnt gunpowder. The Rakkasans of Delta Company, 3rd Battalion (Airmobile), 187th Infantry were doing their job. They had made contact with the enemy in the mountains east of the Laotain border and were in the process of defeating him.

"They're up on that hill," Bester yells to his fire team, making himself heard above the popping of weapons. "Circle around this stream bed to the left and start moving up," he snaps. "Stay low and spread out!"

Bent over a fallen soldier and utting clothing away from a wound is Spec. 4 Michael W. Belmont, a combat medic from Deerpark, Tex. Belmont looks up and sees another wounded soldier lying in the shallow water near the stream's bank. Quickly applying a pressure bandage to an arm wound, Belmont grabs his aid bag and scrambles to his feet.

"What about him?" Bester calls, inquiring of the wounded man at Belmont's feet.

"He'll be O.K." Belmont answers as he

hustles off toward the stream and his next patient.

The water splashes along a straight line at Belmont's feet as he runs along the stream toward his next patient. The bullets are near misses, leading the medic by inches.

Belmont leaps out of the water and picks up speed along the bank. Determined to stop him, the enemy machinegunner continues his fire and bullets kick up sand along the bank where Belmont dives for cover behind a log, splinters flying as the rounds chew away at the bark.

A flash up ahead and an explosion from accurate M-79 grenade fire silences the enemy position. Belmont is on his feet once again rushing to the wounded man. Another facade of bullets pierce the water at Belmont's feet as he drags the wounded man

from the stream.

Charging frantically through the foliage, Bester reaches Belmont and opens up with a barrage of protective fire at the enemy position while the medic goes to work on his patient.

They're a long way from home but it's just another day for the Rakkasans—another war-weary day in the jungle east of Laos.

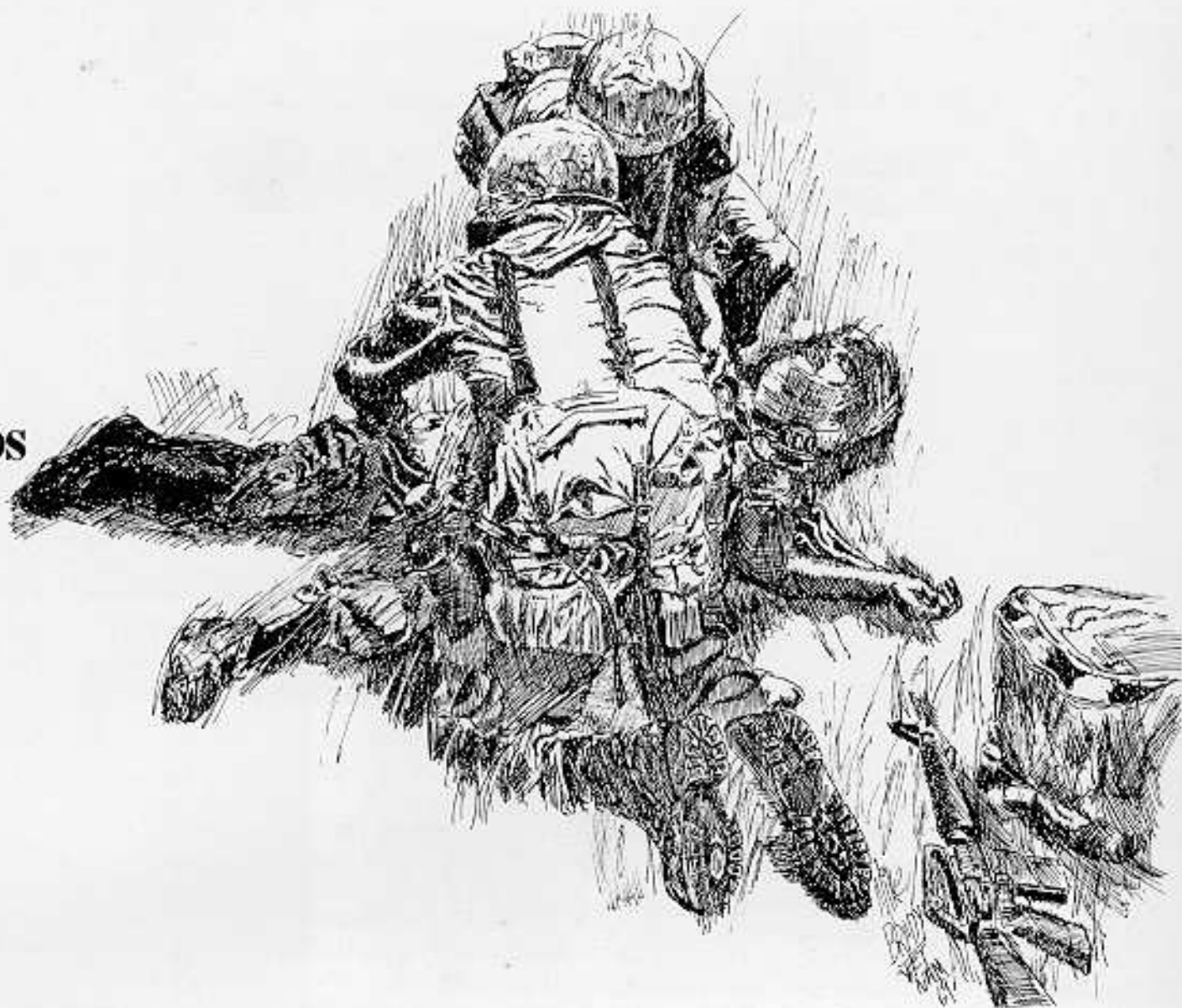
"Nothing is easy out here in the jungle," Belmont remarks an hour later during one of those rare moments when the tranquility of the jungle almost allows one to forget the war. "It's a challenge just to keep pushing when you feel like dropping, but everybody out here does a terrific job.

"The physical part of it is rough, but it's the frustration that really gets to you. It's the frustration that eats away at your insides—the frustration of seeing men in pain and only being able to do so much.

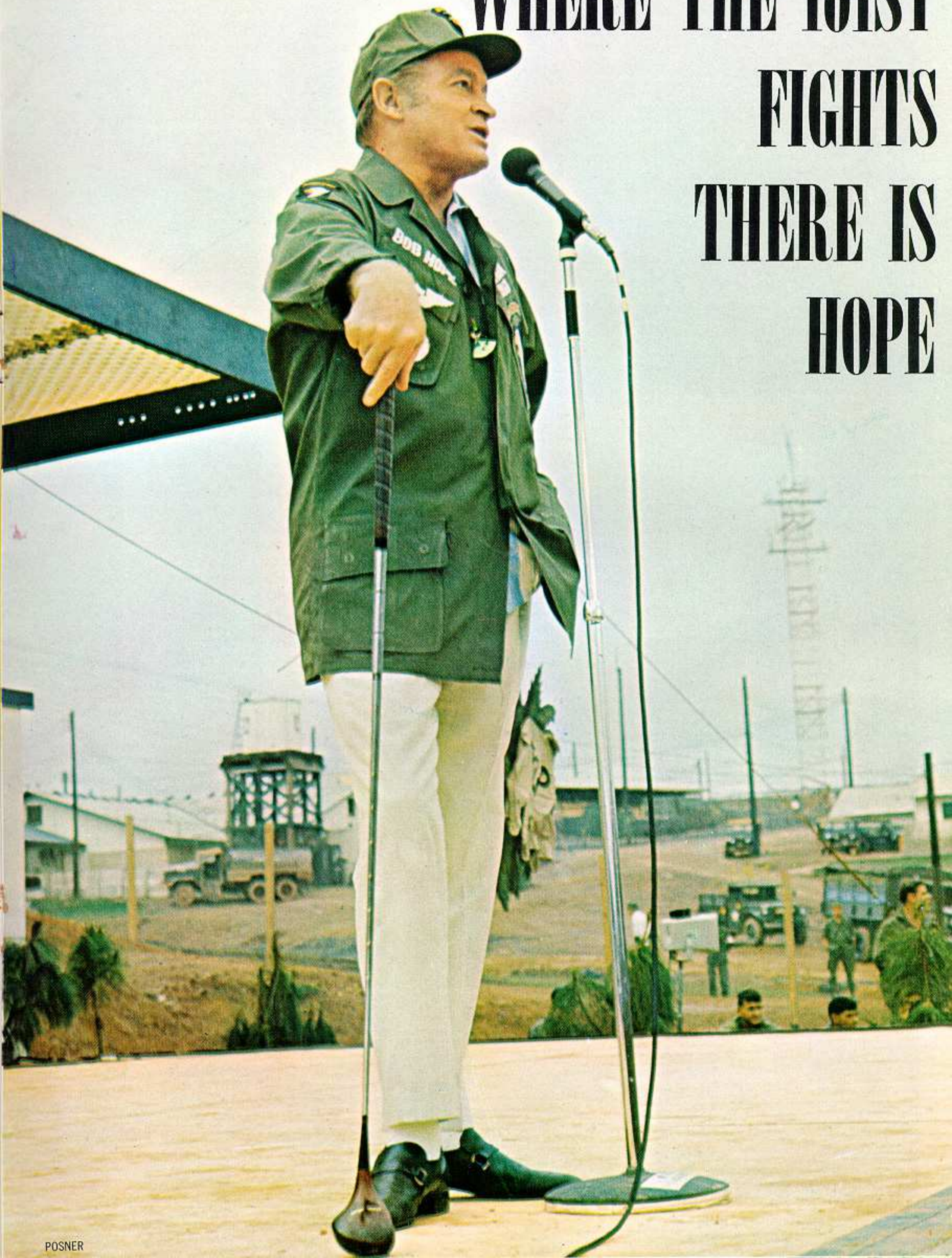
"The medics are limited out here. We're an infantry outfit and that means we move on the jungle floor. What we have is what we carry on our racks, and you can't take a hospital along in an aid bag.

"In spite of obstacles that confront us in the field we are able to get a lot done. The chopper pilots are a big help. It doesn't take long to get a MEDEVAC helicopter out here when you need it. After that, my job is over. It's those first few minutes after a man is hit that I come in. It's then, during this kind of limbo, this waiting period when one's nerves are prone to getting the best of him... the hoping, the praying, the fighting to keep a man alive."

There is nothing unusual about Belmont's appearance. He's a lean soldier with straight sandy hair, but to the men of Delta Company he's a blessing. He's there when it counts. He's at the soldier's side when he's first hit, and it is then, in this critical prelude before a man is evacuated from the battlefield to the hospital that Belmont, like all combat medics, serves such a vital service of rendering immediate medical attention that can make all the difference... and often does.



**WHERE THE 101ST
FIGHTS
THERE IS
HOPE**





POSNER



POSNER

POSNER



December 25, 1969, and Bob Hope spends Christmas Day at Camp Eagle with Screaming Eagles of the 101st. Over 16,000 troopers pack the Eagle Entertainment Bowl for the hour and one half show which features, in addition to Hope, astronaut Neil Armstrong, Connie Stevens, Suzanne Charny, The Goldiggers of 1970, "Laugh-In's" Teresa Graves, Les Brown and his Band of Renown and Miss World, Eva Reuber-Staier.



POSNER





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Miss World, Eva Reuber-Staier



1ST ARVN DIVISION

by 1Lt. Robert Gorman

On 1 January 1970, the First Division of the Armed Forces of Vietnam marked the 15th anniversary of its activation. In this relatively short but distinguished military history, the oldest and largest ARVN unit has met many crucial tests. But none of them have equalled the tremendous challenge of assuming full responsibility for the

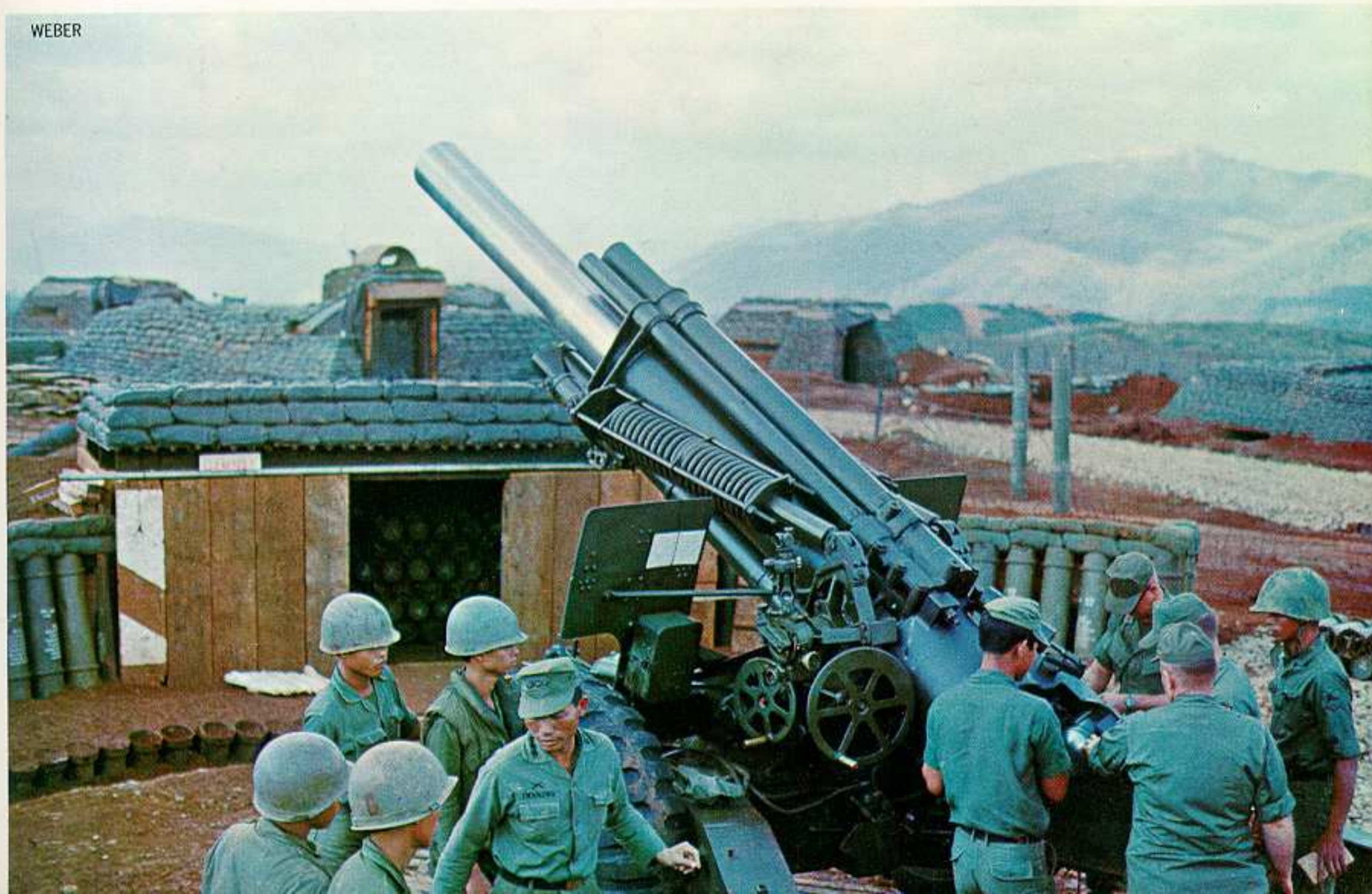
pacification and security of Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces in which they are now engaged.

The 1st Division is universally recognized as an outstanding ARVN unit. One contributing factor to the elite unit's success has been its outstanding leadership. Major General Ngo Quang Truong has commanded

the division since June 1966, after holding every position from platoon leader to chief of staff of the Vietnamese Airborne Division.

Former commanding generals have been President Nguyen Van Thieu; Lt. Gen. Nguyen Khanh, premier of South Vietnam in 1964 and current roving ambassador; Lt. Gen. Do Gao

WEBER





MOON



BROWN



Tri, ambassador to Korea; and Maj. Gen. Tran Thanh Phong, chief of staff of the Joint General's Staff.

Gen. Troung was the driving force behind the 1st Division's dramatic victory over enemy forces who assaulted the city of Hue during the 1968 Tet offensive. It was this victory more than anything else that has established the 1st ARVN Division as a force to be reckoned with and has won the support of the people of Hue and the surrounding countryside.

It was early morning on 1 February when the 10,000-man force of the 324th NVA Division invaded the city. The 2nd Battalion of the 6th NVA Regiment stormed the Citadel, moving towards the 1st ARVN Headquarters while the 800th NVA Battalion assaulted Hue airport. It was near the airstrip that the first major conflict of the 25-day battle for Hue took place. The enemy force was met head-on by the elite, all volunteer Hac Bao or Black Panther Company, the 1st Division's 100 per cent mobile reaction force. Using M72 LAW rounds, small arms, hand grenades and bayonets, the Hac Bao drove off the larger force, killing 30.

But by the following morning the enemy controlled all but the 1st ARVN Headquarters which was under strong attack from the 6th NVA Regiment. Gen. Troung sent the 3rd Regiment, the First Airborne Task Force and the Third Troop, 7th Cavalry to reinforce the Citadel. With incessant allied bombing and continuous ARVN pressure, the enemy finally fled after staging a bloody counter attack.

On 24 February the 2nd Battalion,



3rd ARVN Regiment seized the area of the Citadel's main flagpole and ripped down the VC flag that had flown there for 24 days. In its place they ran up the gold and crimson colors of the Republic of Vietnam.

On 25 February President Thieu flew to the 1st ARVN Headquarters to congratulate Gen. Truong on the victory. In all, 16 NVA battalions and

two divisions had been committed against Hue. Allied forces killed 2,642 enemy soldiers in 25 days.

The present mission of the division as articulated by Gen. Truong, is to clear and protect the provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien known as the 11th Division Tactical Area. The division provides direct support to the Revolutionary Development Cadres in the

provinces and trains the People's Self-Defense forces which live within the villages and hamlets.

Other division responsibilities include securing Hue against possible future attacks, protecting QL1 and interdicting enemy infiltration routes across the DMZ and Laotian borders.

The division is organized into four infantry regiments; the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and the 54th, which was added to the division after the Tet offensive in 1968 to garrison the crucial Phu Tu District. The 17th Infantry Battalion and 7th and 11th Cavalry Squadrons bolster division forces along with five artillery battalions and one artillery company.

Also organic to the division are the 41st Regional Force Company and 163rd Popular Force Platoon in Thua Thien Province and the 29th Regional Force Company and 168th Popular Force Platoon in Quang Tri Province.

On the waterways, the division is supported by three naval boat teams and a naval battalion.

The division's pacification program in both Thua Thien and Quang Tri has been a continuing task over a long period of time and now boasts remark-

HENSLEY





DEL E' TOILE



able results. The division's G3 (Operations) officer, Maj. Nguyen Trinh, cited figures showing that 437 out of Quang Tri's 451 hamlets have been pacified and that approximately 285,000 out of the province's 294,000 people fully support the South Vietnamese Government. "In Thua Thien Province, 91 per cent of the hamlets and 98 per cent of the people support the government," Trinh noted. "In addition, all the villages in both provinces have elected officials."

But this progress has been hard won. After Tet of 1968, it took three months of hard fighting to break the enemy resistance in the plains surrounding Hue. The last of the "big unit" battles took place in Phouc Yen village south of Hue. In a classic "hard cordon" operation, the 101st's 2nd Brigade and Vietnamese militia surrounded the 813rd NVA Battalion and captured 100 enemy soldiers. This was the end of large scale combat operations and the beginning of integrated Vietnamese-U.S. operations aimed at rooting out the V.C. Infrastructure in the villages and hamlets.

In the fall of 1968, the division took part in a "soft cordon" operation on the island district of Vinh Loc, east

of Hue. The 10-day operation was designed to seek out members of the VC Infrastructure and sympathizers who had infiltrated the island in the vacuum of manpower caused by the high enemy casualties of the Tet offensive. The 54th ARVN Regt., working with Screaming Eagles of the 2nd Brigade, combed the island from end to end. A joint Vietnamese-U.S. intelligence co-ordination center interrogated the suspects. Fifty-six infiltrators rallied to the government and led troops to several hidden weapons caches and provided a constant flow of intelligence information. During the operation, 116 members of the infrastructure and 254 VC were captured and 154 VC were killed. Vinh Loc was now ready to prepare for the 40,000 refugees who would return to their home.

In Thua Thien Province, the 101st has co-ordinated all its combat missions with the 1st ARVN Division. The results of combined U.S.-ARVN operations during 1969 are impressive.

In Operation Apache Snow, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ARVN Regiments, working with the 101st's 3rd Brigade, rendered the 29th NVA Regiment combat ineffective during the 10-day

battle for Dong Ap Bia. With tactical air support, artillery and helicopter gunships, the U.S. and Vietnamese troops successfully assaulted the hillmass, killing 691 enemy troops.

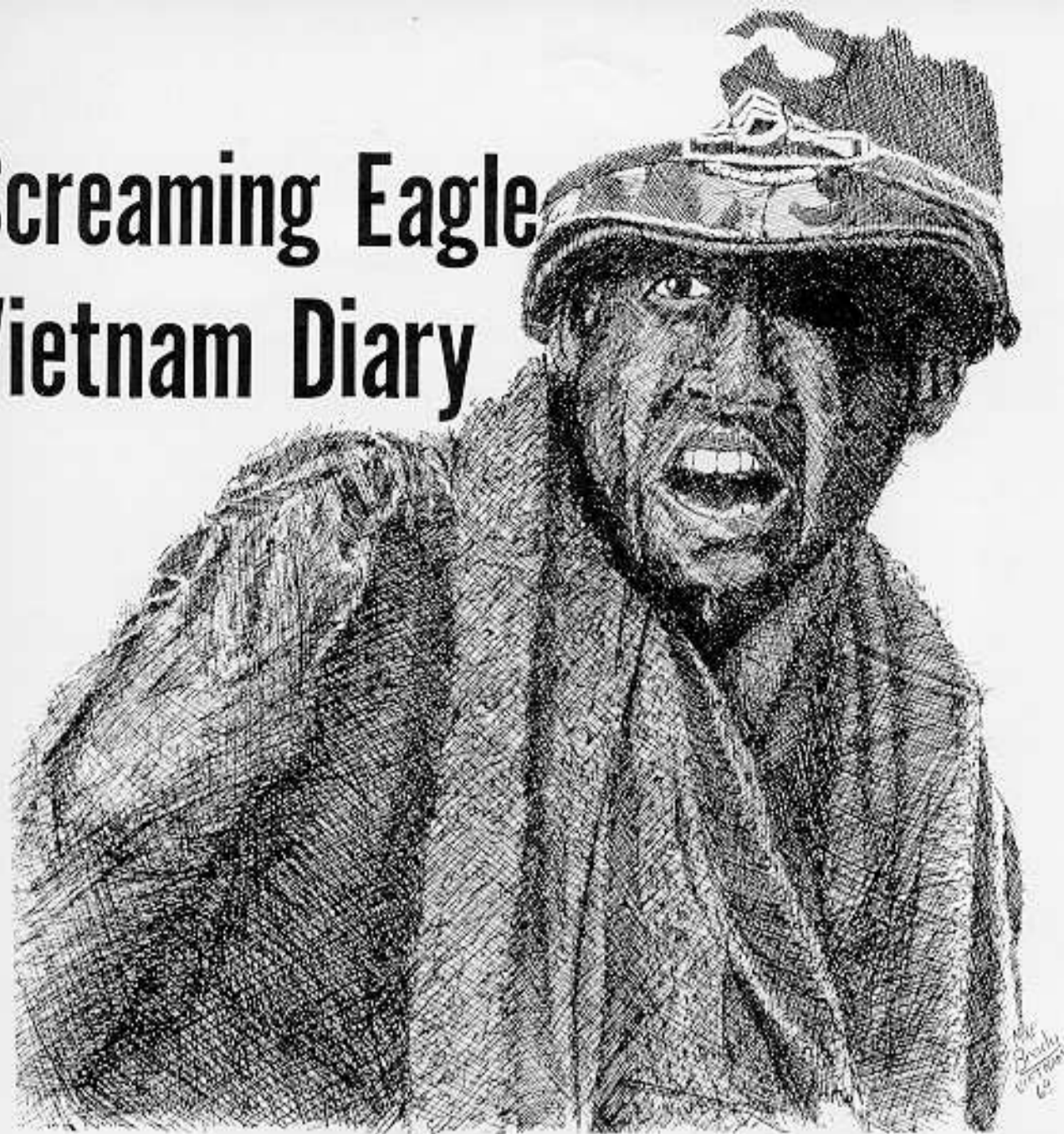
Operation Montgomery Rendezvous again saw Screaming Eagles from the 3rd Brigade working with the 3rd ARVN Regiment. The combined team sought out NVA forces in the high ground to the east of the A Chau Valley. The results of the two month operation were 390 enemy killed and 185 individual and 43 crew-served weapons captured.

The Government of South Vietnam has decorated the 1st ARVN Division four times for extraordinary military achievement. The 2nd Battalion of the division's 1st Regiment is the only regular Vietnamese Army unit ever to be awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation.

Troopers from the 101st and the 1st ARVN Division have fought together from the coastal lowlands to the DMZ. They fight that some day a Vietnamese generation may grow up to know their country in the peace and beauty in which it was created.



Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary



October 6—Currahees of the 1st Bn. (Ambl), 506th Inf. take one prisoner at an NVA cache site eight miles south of the DMZ. Located in a large cave complex, the cache contains two individual weapons, 22 122 mm rockets, 30 60 mm mortar rounds, 111 82 mm mortar rounds, 20 Chicom grenades, 17 enemy Claymore mines, 2,750 pounds of fish, 3,850 pounds of rice, 36 rucksacks, 405 cans of meat and six boxes of dried spinach. The 3rd Brigade troopers also found two NVA bodies believed killed by them after engaging an enemy force east of the cache site the day before. Elsewhere in the 3rd Brigade area of operations, the 3rd Bn. (Ambl), 187th Inf., becomes OPCON to the 2nd Brigade and begins pacification operations in the lowlands of southern Phong Dien District.

October 12—Elements of the 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl), 17th Cav. kill 11 NVA in scattered actions supporting 3rd Brigade troopers near Mai Loc in Quang Tri Province.

October 13—Helicopter crews from B Trp., 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl), 17th Cav., rescue a Cobra gunship pilot from rugged terrain near the A Shau Valley. The pilot, whose gunship had gone down in the area six days earlier, is evacuated to the 18th Surgical Hospital at Camp Evans.

October 17—Troopers from C Co., 2nd Bn. (Ambl), 506th Inf. uncover a cache containing 317 82 mm mortar rounds in the hills west of Mai Loc, where they are assisting in the redeployment of the 3rd Marine Division.

November 1—Currahees from the 2nd Bn. (Ambl), 506th Inf., uncover another munitions cache in the 3rd Brigade's northern area of operations near Fire Base Vandergrift. The find, by Co. A, contains 91 82 mm mortar rounds.

November 4—The 1st Bn. (Ambl), 506th Inf., terminates its role in the operation near Mai Loc and returns to Camp Evans.

November 8—The 3rd Brigade closes out its northern AO as the 3rd Marine Division successfully completes its redeployment from remote fire bases along the DMZ. Totals for the operation are 59 enemy

killed, 22 individual and two crew-served weapons captured. In the 1st Brigade AO, the newly-attached 1st Bn. (Ambl), 501st Inf. moves to the area around Fire Base Pistol in a four-company assault to seek out enemy staging areas.

November 13—On short notice, the 2nd Brigade's 2nd Bn. (Ambl), 501st Inf. moves from a stand-down at Camp Sally to the AO of the 1st Bde., 5th Inf. Div. (Mech), west of Quang Tri just below the DMZ. The enemy is composed of elements of the 27th NVA Regiment which are threatening a string of 5th Div. fire bases in the area. A massive airlift via Chinook and Huey helicopters accomplishes the deployment of the battalion in less than four hours. The battalion's command post is established on Charlie Two, a 5th Div. fire base.

November 18—The 2nd Bn. (Ambl), 501st Inf. leaves the 5th Inf. Div. (Mech) area of operations after a five-day battle with NVA soldiers in which 36 enemy died. The operation included a night combat assault in which two companies of "Drive On" soldiers surrounded an NVA bunker complex, killing 29 of the enemy. The battalion returns to Camp Sally in another rapid air move.

November 21—Gunships from A Trp., 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl), 17th Cav. kill seven enemy soldiers in three actions northwest of Fire Base Erskine in the northern part of the A Shau Valley.

November 27—The 1st Brigade's 2nd Bn. (Ambl), 502nd Inf. and 1st Bn. (Ambl), 501st Inf. join with the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 54th ARVN Regiment in the 101st's largest combined operation to date. The mission is a sweep of mountainous terrain north of Fire Base Boise in search of enemy base camps and caches.

November 29—The movement of the 101st Division Rear from Camp Ray in Bien Hoa to the I Corps AO is completed with the arrival of the Screaming Eagle Replacement Training School (SERTS) at Camp Evans. SERTS makes its home at the southern end of Evans in an area formerly occupied by a Navy Seabee unit. The 101st

Administration Company relocates in Phu Bai at the Eagle Personnel Center. In all, over 1,200 men and tons of equipment are moved 400 miles in a 45-day period.

December 1—It is another busy day for men of the 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl), 17th Cav. as they account for 10 VC and NVA killed in encounters throughout the division AO.

December 3—President Richard Nixon awards three Medals of Honor to former Screaming Eagles. Receiving the award in person at White House ceremonies is Sfc. Webster Anderson, a former member of Btry. A, 2nd Bn. (Ambl), 320th Arty. Two awards are made posthumously to relatives of Staff Sgt. Chester Sims, Co. D, 2nd Bn. (Ambl), 501st Inf., and Spec. 4 Dale Wayrynen, Co. B, 2nd Bn. (Ambl), 502nd Inf.

December 4—The 1st Brigade's Operation Saturate terminates in Phu Tu District. The two-month operation succeeds in its mission of pacification of the lowland rice-producing areas of Phu Tu and the training of Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces in the defense of their home ground. In one week of the operation alone, Screaming Eagles of the 1st Bn. (Ambl), 327th Inf. and Vietnamese forces capture 23 VC and VC Infrastructure.

December 6—The four-battalion combined U.S.-ARVN operation in the 1st Brigade AO ends, having denied the enemy use of the high country in the southern portion of the Division's AO.

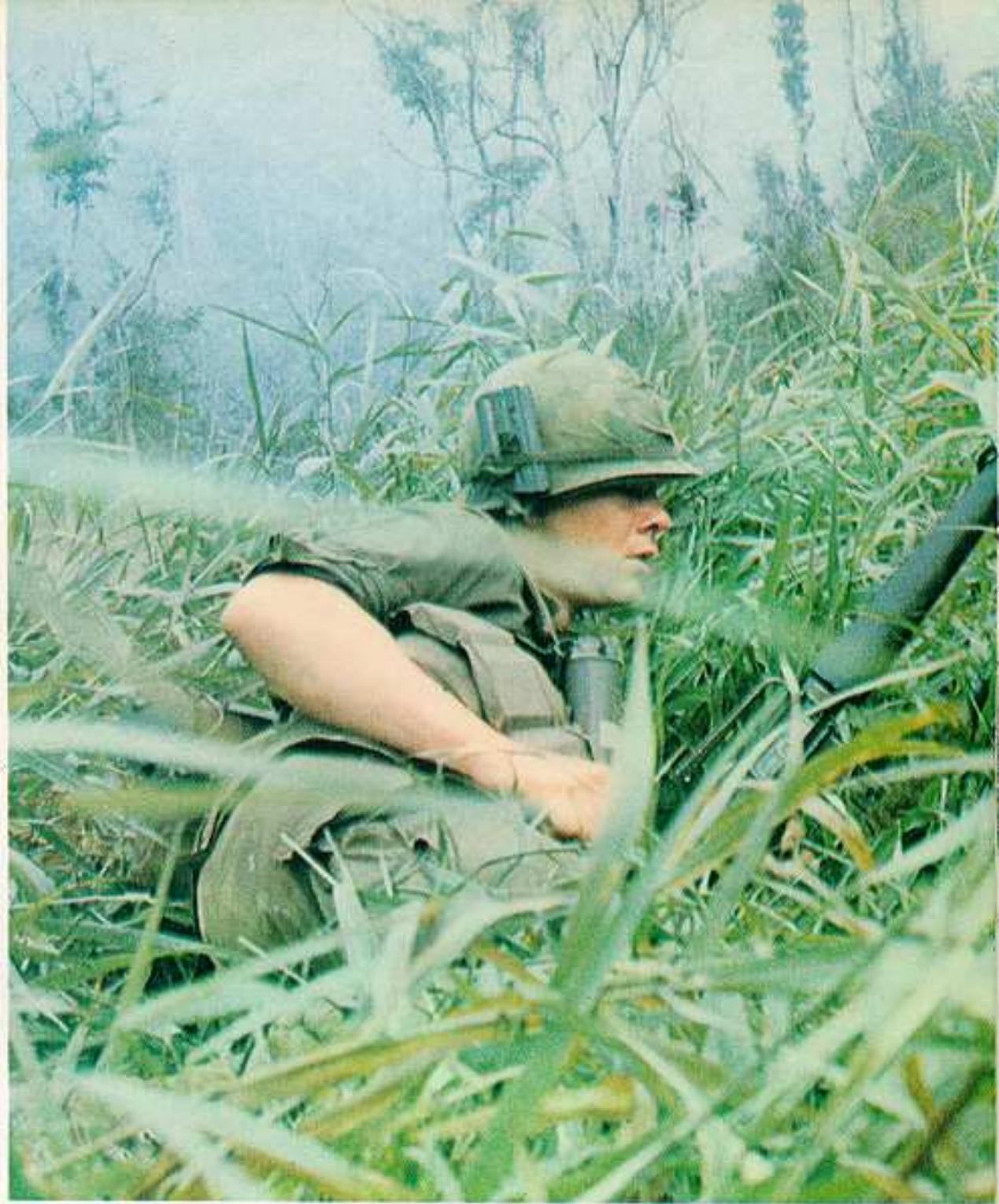
December 13—The division marks the beginning of its third year in Vietnam as a full division.

December 25—The 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) celebrates Christmas Day with Operation Holly, which brings the Bob Hope Christmas Show to Camp Eagle. Hope and his troupe arrive late in the morning from the USS Ranger after bad weather threatened their long-awaited first appearance in northern I Corps. The two-hour show features astronaut Neil Armstrong, Connie Stevens, The Goldiggers, Teresa Graves, Les Brown and his band and Miss World, Eva Reuber-Staier. An audience of over 16,000 cheers Hope in the newly-constructed Eagle Entertainment Bowl.

December 26—Maj. Gen. John M. Wright Jr., commanding general of the 101st, rescues a battalion commander and pilot of a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) following a forced helicopter landing in rugged terrain 25 miles northwest of Hue. Lt. Col. Howard G. Crowell, commander of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl), 506th Inf., and the pilot of his command and control LOH are stranded when their helicopter is disabled by an enemy booby trap. Gen. Wright hovers his aircraft inches above the underbrush while Division Command Sergeant Major William T. Mixon pulls the pilot and Lt. Col. Crowell into the ship.

January 3—Twenty-nine enemy are killed in one day of scattered fighting throughout the Division area of operations. The heaviest toll is taken when a cavalry team, flying a reconnaissance mission, sights an estimated 50 NVA soldiers on a mountaintop trail near the Laotian border. Cobra gunships from A Trp., 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl), 17th Cav. engage the enemy, killing 19. In other actions, both southeast of the first, the Cav. kills five more enemy and destroys 11 bunkers. An additional five enemy are killed in ground actions during the day.





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Ap Uu Thoung

by Spec. 4 James Greenfield



PINNELL

An occasional visitor to Ap Uu Thoung hamlet in Phong Dien District, north of Hue, probably notices very little change in this quiet little grouping of huts since October, 1969, when the 3rd Battalion (Airmobile), 187th Infantry, commanded by Lt. Col. William A. Steinberg began pacification operations in the district.

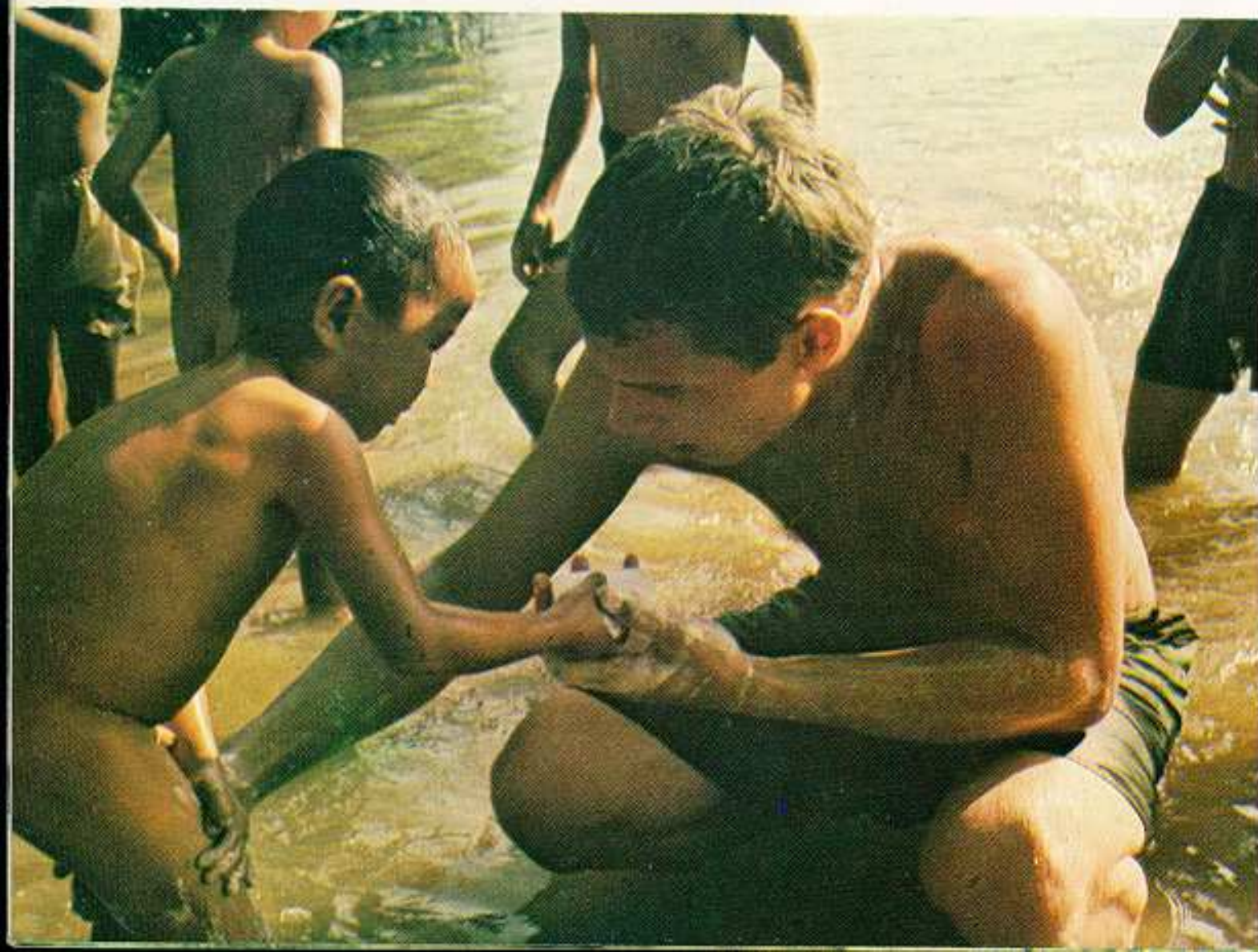
But then, life in tiny agricultural villages like Uu Thoung rarely does change. As conflict spread through Vietnam in the 1960's, the people who lived there noticed only one significant alteration in their way of life. Their home had become strategically important to the Viet Cong.

Uu Thoung sits on the bank of the O Lau River, just five miles from the district capital at Phong Dien. The hamlet was a logical place for VC rice-carrying groups to make portage around an impassible section of the river. It was also an excellent point from which the guerrillas could stage raids on the nearby district headquarters.

The first change had come. The ever-present VC dominated the area and used the people and resources of Uu Thoung in their war effort. However, as U.S. and Vietnamese forces pushed the enemy from the coastal plain farther back into the hills, Uu Thoung slowly emerged from the grip of communist forces.

In October, when the Rakkasans arrived, the immediate threat was gone, but an indirect one remained. The enemy was no longer in Phong Dien in strength. He was farther away, but still very hungry. Uu Thoung and scores of other hamlets like it were the targets of rice-gatherers from the enemy's retreats in the high country. Although the presence of Screaming Eagles from the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and ARVN forces was cutting down on infiltration, the local villagers still had much to learn about their own self-defense. For the allied strategy of rice-denial to be effective, the last lines of defense had to be as strong as the front line. A second change was needed.

Uu Thoung fell under the area of responsibility of Company A, commanded by





Despite the initial language barrier, steady progress was made.

Capt. David Treadwell. Staff Sergeant Robert A. Greensmith, of San Diego, Calif., brought his platoon to the hamlet with a mission. They were to stop Viet Cong movement across the O Lau River and train a 20-man Popular Force (PF) platoon and the hamlet's own Peoples Self Defense Force (PSDF).

Pacification was in its early stages. Greensmith recalls that he and his men "really didn't know what to expect" in their new mission. They had only recently come back from face-to-face contact with highly-trained North Vietnamese regulars in the A Chau Valley.

Greensmith and his men soon found out the nature of their task after their first few combined patrols with the PFs. The PFs were doing quite a few things wrong. It was hard to know where to begin training, but there was no question that it had to be done if the overall goals of pacification in the district were going to be achieved.

Noise and light discipline were stressed. The PFs were taught not to move their position during the night, and not to build shelters and light fires on ambush when the weather was wet. Despite the initial language barrier, progress was made. Soon, PF platoon leaders were given the res-

possibility of leading patrols and selecting ambush sites. The Americans left the role of leaders to the Vietnamese and became advisors.

Instruction in light weapons was part of the training. Rifle marksmanship classes were conducted, and the Vietnamese became acquainted with the use of the M-79 grenade launcher and the M-60 machinegun. The language barrier had collapsed. The Vietnamese learned fast—by example. Watch the Americans, and then do the same yourself. It was as clear as any language.



PINNELL

Working together, the Rakkasans and villagers of Uu Thoug repaired the defensive perimeter around the hamlet.



As the 101st troopers left, the people of Uu Thoung began a new existence on a secure foundation, built with a little advice and a lot of self-help and determination.

PINNELL



PINNELL

As the winter months approached, the job of the Rakkasan soldiers in Phong Dien District, and Sgt. Greenfield's platoon in Uu Thoung, began to change. Civil Affairs projects were initiated, and coordinated with local Revolutionary Development Cadre, but only after the residents of the hamlet had asked for help.

For Greensmith and his men, there was a period of anxious waiting before the first project was begun. Then, a PF platoon leader came to the Americans with an idea—rebuild an old schoolhouse on the outskirts of the hamlet.

It was done, but it was only the beginning. Together, American soldiers and Vietnamese repaired the defensive perimeter around Uu Thoung. They fixed holes in the roads and helped in the construction of an irrigation dam nearby.

The joint projects nurtured a feeling of mutual respect between the co-workers. As the bonds of friendship grew stronger, Americans and Vietnamese found time, not only to work together, but to play together too. The 101st soldiers introduced baseball to the children of Uu Thoung. Specialist 4 Cecil Dutton, Rogers, Ark., recalls, "At first we had to coax them, but later on they were begging us to play ball."

The recreation program gradually expanded to include soccer, volleyball and hopscotch. There was an incident where the Rakkasans and PFs were returning from a joint patrol when they spotted drawings in the sand which they suspected were signs of enemy activity. After checking out the surrounding area, the patrol returned to find a group of children playing hopscotch on the supposed "enemy diagram".

Perhaps the best indication of the success of the Screaming Eagles' multi-faceted mission in Uu Thoung was shown by the people's response when it was decided to remove the platoon from the hamlet. For the first time in their history, the people organized a "pressure group" which went to the District Chief, requesting that the Americans be allowed to stay.

But, there were other missions ahead for the Rakkasan soldiers, and the hamlet was left to its own resources, to begin a new existence on a secure foundation, built with a little advice and a lot of self-help and determination.



TOKYO

by Spec. 4 Gary Pitchford

Beneath a flashing neon sign that surges with the image of frothy beer filling a giant stein, the sidewalk is alive with short, interesting people rushing up the street with festive eagerness. Styles of dress range from the traditional brightly printed silk kimono to the newest London "Mod".

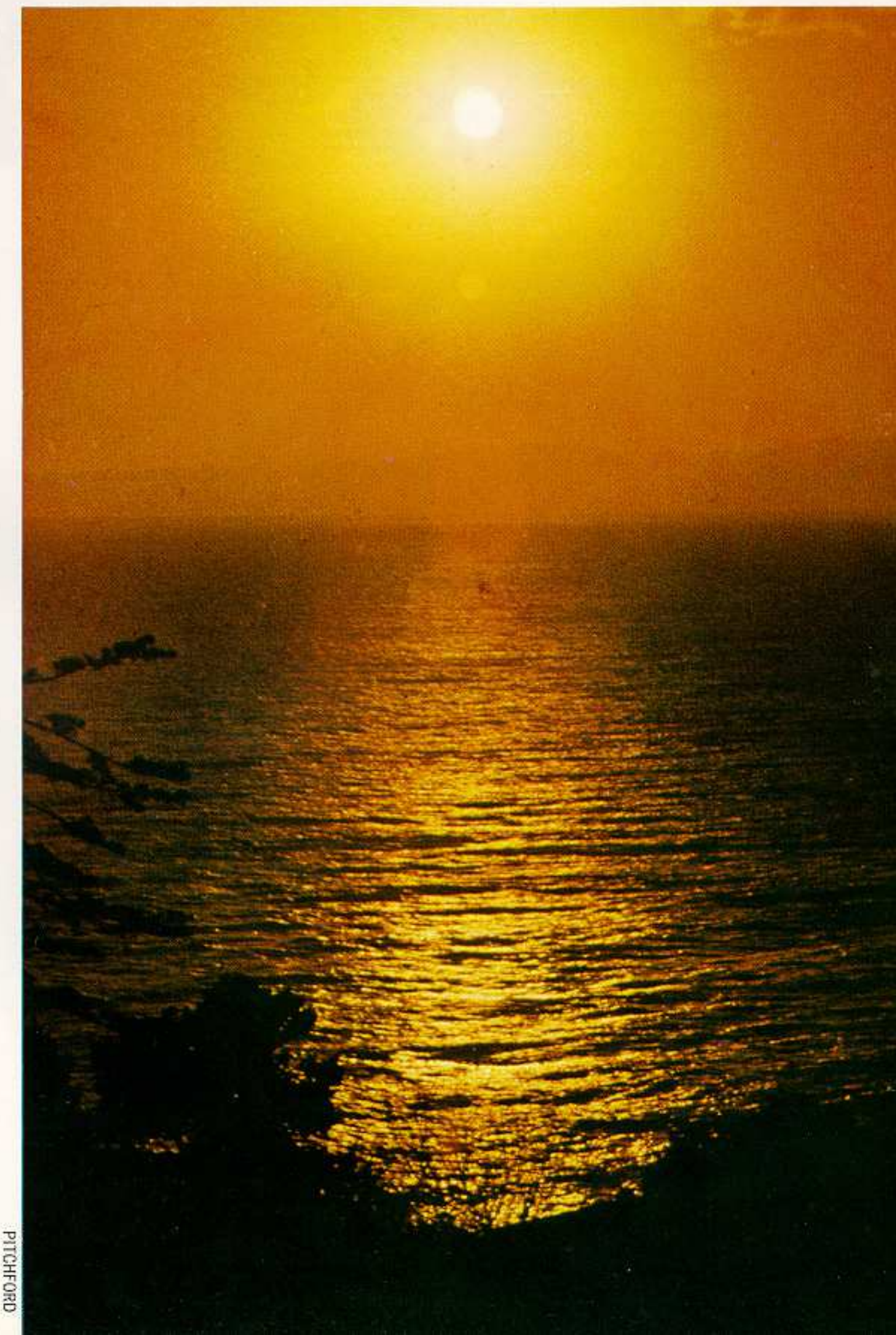
Taxi cabs, modern sedans and scattered motorcycles roar down the streets and alleys, jamming into tight clusters at intersections, horns blaring. These broad avenues and connecting smaller streets and still smaller alleys are outlined in flashing, pulsing neon that advertises the world of discotheques, night clubs and restaurants found inside. This is night in Tokyo—where literally anything can happen.

This scene could be Shinjuku, the fabulous Ginza, Asakusa, Ikebukuro or any of 10 or 12 pleasure centers in this giant city of 11 million people. To the soldier on R and R here, the art of relaxing, unwinding and then blasting the nervous system into numbness again would seem to be an exclusively Japanese invention.

Luxurious steam baths and coffee houses, where Mozart whispers over the stereo system and talking is forbidden, stand at one end of the spectrum.

At the other, are wild psychedelic discotheques such as the "Mugen" where hard rock blasts out into the night and go-go girls convulse in shimmering, vibrant light.

Surely few cities in the world can rival the infinite variety of Tokyo's night life. Unfortunately, this world of excitement and oriental charm can be a financial disaster for the visitor with limited resources. The





Tokyo, the world's largest city, is a city of contrast. A blend of the ancient East and the modern West, Tokyo boasts the tallest man-made structure on earth and has more bars per capita than any other city in the world. This atmosphere of excitement and oriental charm adds up to an R and R you will never forget.



PITCHFORD

Ginza, the most elegant of Tokyo's night spots, boasts high prices and efficient methods of separating the visitor from his money. It is not unusual for the uninitiated to spend several hundred dollars here in a single evening. And one of the most effective means for executing this financial ruin is the Japanese bar hostess.

She is found in bars and night clubs from the elegant Ginza establishments that cater especially to foreigners to the off-street bars frequented most often by Japanese. The hostess will dress in western or oriental costume and will be charming, witty, affectionate and expensive. Her thirst knows no bounds and as she consumes her drink in gulps and persuades her companion to buy another round (termed a "set" in the trade) she will, perhaps, nuzzle his ear. Unfortunately her sole function and interest is getting the traveler to spend more money. The more he spends, the more she makes. And that round of drinks may cost four or five dollars or more.

It is not too difficult to see how over the course of an evening a great deal of money could be spent on this mini-skirted or kimono-clad young lady. An unwary soldier may not know the cost of all this until it is too late, but had better pay up unless ready to face the law or an insistent bouncer and try to present his case. The chances of convincing either party of an injustice are slim.

Equally sad is the fellow who buys drinks for his young charmer hoping she will leave with him for a night on the town and a bit of romance. Before he manages to leave his "date," he will have purchased several sets while making his pitch and then find out he must bail her out of the bar by paying the proprietor something of what the girl would have earned had she remained in the bar. So even before the young thing is successfully extracted from her place of

work the tab is anything but insignificant. It would be an expensive evening.

Fortunately, it is not too difficult to avoid the more expensive restaurants and night clubs and even the tourist traps. Re-

putable establishments have prices prominently displayed in windows or on side walk signs. And anyone in Tokyo who sits down in a bar and orders a drink without knowing the price is asking for the fleecing he is likely to get.

Normally, drinks range from \$0.70 to \$1.25, depending on the drink and whether it's imported or domestic. It is helpful to know that the Japanese make extremely good beer and Scotch whiskeys, many of which are cheaper than imported brands.

Dining in Japan can be one of the most exciting and memorable facets of a trip to this fascinating country. In Tokyo can be found bits of culinary culture from all parts of the world; French, German, Indian, Indonesian, Italian, Mexican, Peruvian, and Spanish cuisine, even a Jewish Kosher Restaurant await the hungry visitor.

Chinese restaurants abound and are favorites of foreigners and Japanese alike. But the real treat and adventure—especially for these with an open mind toward what they eat—is found in the Japanese own foods.

The preparation and serving of food in Japan—like so many facets of this culture—has been ritualized and become a highly developed art. Many westerners have the idea that the Japanese diet is almost entirely raw fish. To the contrary, the Japanese concept of cuisine is a balance of many varied food and methods of preparation. Some of these are:

Tempura: Fish or shrimp deep fried and served with special vegetables and a tasty sauce.

Sukiyaki: This fabulous dish is cooked right at your table, sometimes in a gold pan or "Kinnabe" and is a combination of paper-thin beef slices, vegetables, bean curd



PITCHFORD





PITCHFORD



and noodles, braised and then simmered in a special sauce.

Yakitori: A Japanese shish kebab of skewered and broiled bits of chicken and vegetables.

Sushi: Here is a Japanese favorite that many westerners reject summarily without really trying. This is raw fish, cut in strips and served in a variety of ways, usually on a bed of pickled rice.

While many famous restaurants in Tokyo serve good food at sadly high prices, there are literally thousands of small shops, restaurants and street stands that sell delicious food at a very low cost. Small saki carts sell the famous hot Japanese rice wine and dozens of delicacies skewered with sticks and resting in a tray of hot water. A night of wandering the streets and back roads of the city can be a real adventure in eating for very little money.

For those on R and R, Tokyo can prove a very inexpensive holiday if several money-saving opportunities are exploited. At the beautifully landscaped Camp Zama, formerly a Japanese military academy and now a U.S. Army post, one can find a comfortable room at the R and R Center for 50c a night. Here too are inexpensive snack bars and mess facilities. A bus leaves Camp Zama several times a day for Tokyo and

stops at the USO in the heart of the Ginza, the Sanno Hotel (Transient Officers' Billet) and the Stars and Stripes building.

On the fourth floor of the Stars and Stripes facility is one of the finest Enlisted Mens' clubs in Japan. Open to all EM grades, it serves top quality meals at very low prices and the bar has all the best stateside brands at 25c per drink. Nightly floor shows, go-go girls and occasional visiting airline stewardesses make this the place to go.

Not far from the Stars and Stripes building is one of the quieter but more intriguing entertainment centers in Japan—Roppongi intersection. Hidden in quiet alleys and curving streets are hundreds of late-night restaurants, night clubs and discotheques.

The action does not halt until early in the morning and the streets are packed with attractive Japanese girls dressed in the latest London fashions. There are few, if any, hostesses in this area and the entertainment facilities are quiet and relaxed, often drawing patronage from Japan's celebrities and entertainers. Partially because of the proximity to Stars and Stripes, Americans are more well known in this area and the atmosphere is more than hospitable.

An R and R in Tokyo would certainly be a failure without a tour of the many shrines,

temples and parks in the vicinity. The USO arranges very interesting and reasonable tours ranging from a one-day tour of the city to a seven-day odyssey through the outlying cities and hamlets that reflect the charm of old Japan.

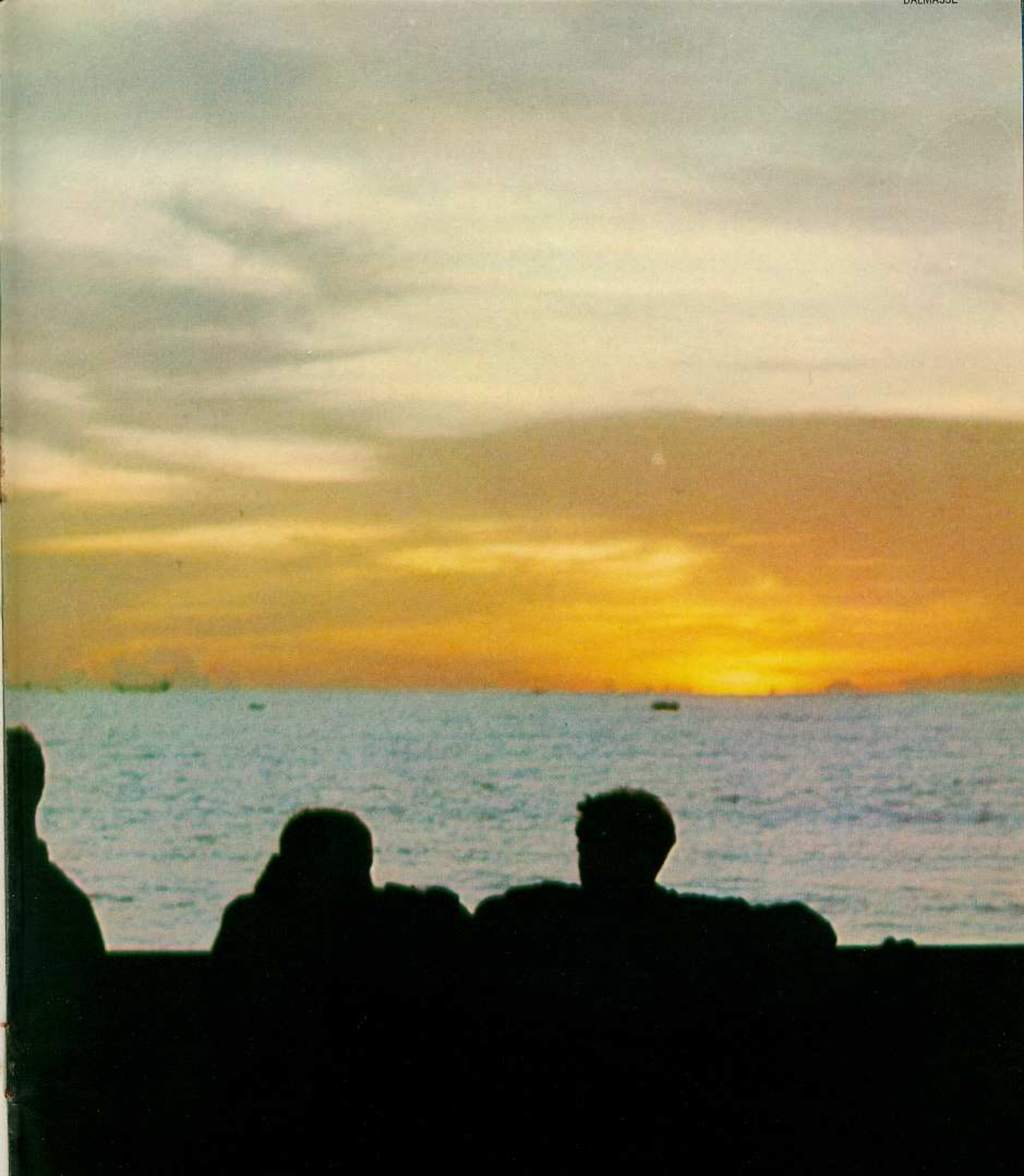
Of course one of the major reasons for venturing to a foreign country is the traveler's desire to meet and share experiences with people of another culture. For men on R and R, the USO can help by arranging for female student guides to take visitors on tours around the city—an excellent way to see the sights and get to know someone in a strange city.

For a less structured encounter, Tokyo's many coffeehouses offer the best chance for meeting Japanese students and young people on a casual basis. These coffee houses are the social hub of student life and the intellectual meeting place. Here it is possible to build up a close association with a group of young people and perhaps be drawn into their social circle.

If this happens, an R and R in Tokyo will be even more interesting and exciting than one could imagine.

Whatever your taste is, you will more than likely find it in Tokyo and an R and R spent there will be one that you'll never forget.





As the sun rises over the South China Sea, Currahees from Delta Company, 3rd Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry, prepare for an amphibious assault near Phan Thiet in III Corps.

