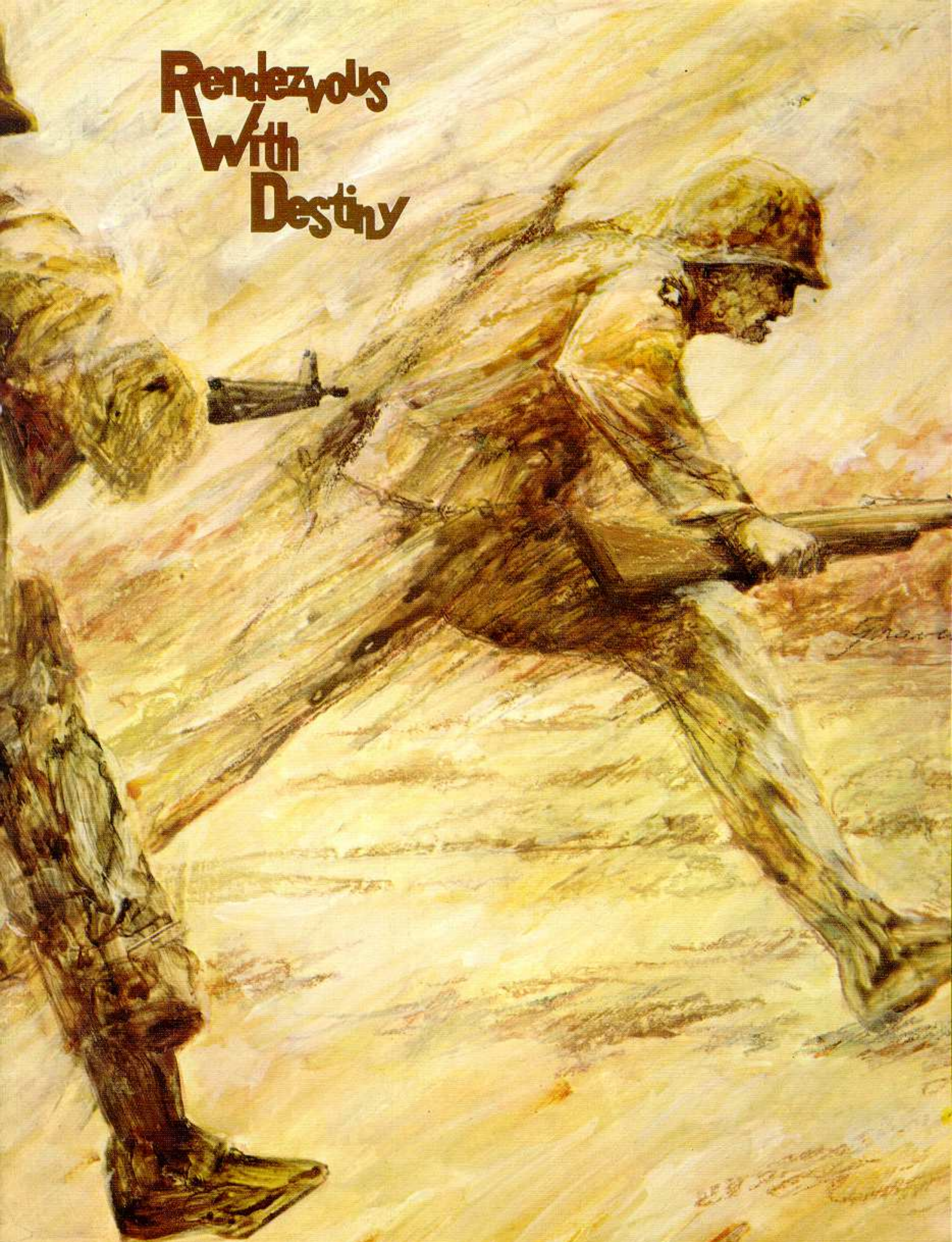


# Rendezvous With Destiny



**A Publication of the 101st Airborne Division(Airmobile)**





## *The Task Ahead*

For nearly three decades, and through the course of two major conflicts, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) has upheld a proud tradition and an unparalleled reputation of excellence in all undertakings.

All of us who are members of the division today have an obligation to build on and add to the accomplishments of the past. This, in itself, is a challenging task, one which demands a high degree of dedication, hard work, and professionalism.

The job ahead—that of Vietnamizing the current conflict—will require the same aggressive spirit and can-do attitude that members of the division have demonstrated in all endeavors. As the burden of the war shifts more and more to our Vietnamese allies, we must insure that they receive the full support of our know-how and resources. At times it will not be easy; there will be frustrations and temporary set backs. The ingredients of success are determination, understanding, and patience.

I am secure in the knowledge that once again the Screaming Eagles will not fail.

*John J. Hennessey*

John J. Hennessey  
Major General  
Commanding



# Rendezvous With Destiny

## Summer 1970

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# ***Task Force 3/506***

## ***Cambodia***



***Photos and story by Spec. 4  
Nicholas G. Kobe, Jr.***

**P**rek Drang Cambodia had for four years belonged to the enemy. Its river and tributaries cut through the jungle floor to the rock mantel of the earth's strata. Along its banks lay the rolling hills and spiraling trees which reached 60 feet into the life giving sunlight. The Prek Drang River carried the rich soil along its course and into the plain which lay at the foot of the lushly vegetated slopes. Nature had with its waters from the monsoon rains built a paradise for the ants, snakes and lizards.

The enemy was there too. An enemy who had torn away the undergrowth for his hooches and cut the heavy towering timber for his bunkers. His sandals, bicycles and vehicles had worn the narrow trails into the long broad expressways which carried the supplies, troop reinforcements, and the broken remains



of communist units that had fled across the international boundary from the Republic of Vietnam into Cambodia.

Chickens scratched through the undergrowth in search of seed while small pigs nursed from a sow. Fifty-five gallon drums of petroleum with their red painted tubular circumferences and white circular tops and bottoms set conspicuously along the sides of the trail. Men in green starched fatigues carried the weapons of war propped on their shoulders while casually lost in conversation.

The B-3 Front had transformed this isolated section along the Cambodian-Vietnamese frontier into a sanctuary which had protected them from American and South Vietnamese forces.

In 1969 elements of the B-3 Front crossed the frontier to strike at Ben Het in the summer and Bu Prang-Duc Lap in the fall.

It was now mid-May 1970. Task Force 3/506 had passed from the operational control (OPCON) of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to the operational control of the 4th Infantry Division. The task force, part of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), was to spearhead the 4th Infantry Division thrust into the Prek Drang sanctuary of Cambodia. The "Currahee" task force had already proven itself a formidable force while OPCON'ed to the 173rd Airborne Brigade. The Screaming Eagles had smashed the 8th Battalion, 22nd NVA Regiment in a vice grip on Hill 474 killing 90 of the enemy west of Landing Zone North English, capturing recoilless rifles and heavy machine guns. Southwest of LZ Uplift the 3/506 engaged elements of the 3rd NVA Division headquarters killing 22 of the enemy in bitter fighting.

Alpha and Delta companies were combat assaulted into the lowlands of Prek Drang with a detachment of engineers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 326th Engineers (Ambl). Fighting the swampy lowlands, the rain



and the persistent swarms of mosquitos they began etching out, with explosives and chain-saws, the crude beginnings of a fire support base (FSB) and a tactical operations center (TOC).

The CH-47 Chinooks with their sling laden loads of ammunition and howitzers brought in six 105's from Delta Btry., 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 320th Arty.

Fire Support Base Currahee, Republic of Cambodia was ready.

Delta Company, was commanded by Capt. William C. Ohl II of Albuquerque, N.M., who led the company out of FSB Currahee in search of the enemy.

"We hadn't moved far before we encountered the first bunkers. They were well constructed against indirect fire and

air bombardment. They weren't the type of bunker you could use as a fighting position," observed Capt. Ohl.

A short distance ahead lay a bamboo bridge worn grey and unpolished by the countless numbers of NVA soldiers trekking south. The trail bent sharply left, through an oriental bamboo gate and up along a gently sloping hill.

Nine men from Delta Company were kneeling on both sides of the deeply rutted trail. Spec. 4 Carmine Monti of San Pedro, Calif. rose to a crouched position—glanced quickly then rushed the bridge gaining the far bank. Lt. John C. Hall of Manhasset, N.Y., the patrol leader and Spec. 4 Dale Herrman, Belle Plaine, Minn., followed Monti across the bridge.

Again Monti rose, crouched, and slowly moved up the inclining trail. Through the irregular foliage off to the right of the trail the thatched roof of a hooch caught his eye.

Four NVA soldiers were variously occupied in the village.

New voices came from further up the trail. This time eight NVA soldiers were strolling down the trail towards the three Currahees.

Confronted with the unexpected enemy Lt. Hall and the two troopers concealed themselves on each side of the trail and waited.

As the soldiers drew closer Lt. Hall initiated the firefight. Monti and Herrmann joined the action with their M-16s after Lt. Hall's first rounds found their target.

Two NVA fell. The others fled back up the trail and out of sight.

The six Currahees who had been left at the bridge rushed up the trail and began pouring M-60, M-79 and M-16 fire into the enemy village. Under the

*A Currahee trooper clears one of the many enemy bunkers discovered by Screaming Eagles of 3/506 during their Cambodian operation.*







*Engineers from the 326 Engr. Bn. (Ambl) carry the tools of their trade to a waiting Chinook.*



*Close contact with support elements is kept as the Currahees sweep the Cambodian jungle looking for the enemy and his stockpiled equipment.*



cover of the added Currahee fire power Lt. Hall rushed out of concealment and down to the edge of the village. He threw a fragmentation grenade into an enemy bunker killing three NVA.

After the firefight the Currahees made a search of the village and found one NVA who had survived the grenade blast. Not seriously wounded, the soldier handed over his weapon and surrendered.

Back up the trail another brief firefight had developed filling the air with the acrid smell of burnt powder. Expended rounds found their way through the irregular pattern of trees.

An M-79 round burst punctuated the rifle and machine gun fire as the fighting gained momentum.

Staff Sgt. Joe B. Carter, Bulls Gap, Tenn. and Sgt. Irving C. Redfield, Bremen, Ga. were helping the last of three wounded Currahees into an awaiting medevac chopper when the sharp crack of an AK-47 round drove them to the ground.

The chopper quickly lifted up and over the 60 foot wall of trees carrying the three wounded men out of danger. Several more rounds sped through the hollow center of the landing zone. Carter and Redfield snatched up their M-16s and scurried to the tree line perimeter.

Two green clad enemy soldiers had taken up a position in a fox hole 75 meters from their perimeter and were sporadically pelting the landing zone with AK-47 fire.

Carter looked at Redfield, paused, then said, "Are you ready?" Redfield nodded, Carter understanding jumped to his feet and began placing semi-automatic rifle fire on the enemy's





*Engineers prepare to destroy a cache of enemy ammunition discovered in an NVA village and bunker complex.*

position. Redfield leveled his M-16 and rolled over into a prone position and took up the firing. Carter rushed toward the enemy, then dove behind a fallen tree. Carter then resumed firing.

Sgt. Redfield rose and rushed toward Carter, joining him behind the sheltering hunk of wood.

The NVA fire increased. The rounds from the AK struck the ground in front of the tree, then as the NVA zeroed in on the log, rounds chewed through the bark of the timber the two Currahees were hiding behind.

Carter took a grenade from his web gear, pulled the pin and threw it toward the enemy position. The grenade exploded, throwing shrapnel into the surrounding trees and causing the enemy to cease fire.

Carter and Redfield got to their feet and began to fire on the enemy position while slowly advancing toward the NVA. One of the enemy rose above the lip of the foxhole and Carter killed him instantly. Redfield then caught the second NVA as he rose to fire his AK and killed him.

The veteran Currahee battalion fought a series of short engagements with the NVA as they continued to press the forces of the communist B-3 Front away from the international frontier. Delta Company pressed further into the canopy and reeked havoc on enemy supply lines as they assaulted an NVA village of 15 large hooches.

The village contained a cache of 520 tons of rice. The rice had been well protected from natural elements in what Capt. Ohl termed the "grainery," however the enemy had left the rice with little protection from the Currahee troopers.

*An NVA supply hooch is destroyed in the wake of the relentless Currahee advance.*







*A heavily armed machinegunner leads his element in search of a fleeing enemy.*

Bravo Company, after a series of light clashes in which the Currahees killed six of the enemy, engaged a well-equipped NVA/VC force while moving across a lightly vegetated field. The enemy, concealed along a tree and ridge line unleashed a rifle, machinegun and rocket propelled grenade barrage against the Currahees during the five and one-half hour battle. The brutal contest raged through the afternoon and night as artillery fire from Delta Battery, 2/320 pounded the enemy positions. In the early morning hours Bravo Company was reinforced by Delta Company. When Delta Company swept through the tree line in the morning, they found 47 of the enemy laying dead among the shattered stumps of trees.

In the Se San River valley of Prek Dang, Charlie Company, under the command of Capt. Robert L. Acklen, Jr., Dallas, Texas, had worked its way up a wide, freshly used trail. Sgt. Gary Mullins of Ceres, Calif., heard some chickens cackling and spotted three NVA soldiers eating in a small clearing.

Capt. Acklen put the second and third platoons on line. Lt. Kenneth M. Roberts

of Portland, Ore., commanded the second platoon and Lt. Robert J. Case of San Antonio, Texas, commanded the third platoon as the Currahee force drove the 10 to 15 NVA out of the hooch and bunker complex. The sides of the hill held a series of small hooch and bunker complexes which stretched to the summit of the hill.

Inside the hooches lay a massive arsenal of weapons and munitions including 13 mortars, 14 heavy machineguns, 88 light machineguns, 33 submachineguns, 219 rifles, 236 pistols, 665 mortar rounds and numerous other weapons and munitions.

In 12 days, Task Force 3/506 had smashed what had taken the NVA four years to build. The concept of sanctuary warfare had come to an end in dramatic proportions as the NVA, caught by surprise, were unable to remove their grain, weapons and munitions.

In the last days of the operation, the monsoon rains began to transform the lowlands into huge swamps. Now, the swamps, blasted bunkers and burnt hooches are all that is left of the one-time NVA Cambodian stronghold.



*As the highly successful operation draws to a close, 3/506 troopers load a Chinook in preparation for their extraction and trip to Vietnam.*





# PROFILE OF A COMPANY COMMANDER

by Sgt. Timothy Coder



“Card-seven, card-seven, this is two-one,” shouts the voice on the field radio over the chaotic din of automatic weapons fire, commands to maneuver, and cries for the medic. “We’ve got contact over here!”

You could tell it was big. Across the yawning draw that separated your patrol base from the first platoon in the twisted jungles of Thua Thien Province rumbled the resonant bursts of methodical .51 caliber machinegun fire, and the ugly staccato of AK-47s. But interwoven in the bedlam could be heard the metallic ring of M-16 fire. At least this was good!

For three days you’ve suspected Hill 975 to be an enemy stronghold. And for three days you’ve watched as the Phantom jets that you called in swooped down over the mountain lobbing their deadly bombs in an effort to uproot the communist force which held the mountain. For three days you’ve cranked up artillery fire missions, guided in Cobra gunships, and called for more artillery until it seemed impossible that a shread of life could remain on 975. So today, it’s time for the infantry to check it out.

You’re a member of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion (Ambl), 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)—name: Captain Rembert Gary Rollison, from Hinesville, Ga. You run the show.

“Two-one this is card-seven,” you say with a tinge of southern drawl. “Okay partner, what ya have going on up there?”

“This is two-one,” cracks the harried voice over the radio. “Point and slack men are hit. Far as I can tell right now we’ve got three bunkers 40 to 50 meters in front of us. Well dug in with a .51 cal.



and AKs!"

"This is card-seven. Do you think someone can get up there to pull those two back?"

"Roger that. We've got two guys going after them right now. I think they can get them back alright!"

"Real fine, partner," you say in your most reassuring voice. "Keep your people down, spread out, and putting out a good volume of fire. Hold your ground and be ready to pull back. I'm going to get some help ASAP!"

"Tim," you call over to your radio-telephone operator (RTO), Sgt. Tim Heinzelman of Marion, Indiana, "call 'higher' and get ARA and a medevac on station right away!"

Across the draw you can hear the cracking of flying lead chewing up trees and zinging against rocks as if you were in the thick of it. You can vividly picture those men doggedly lowcrawling over bramble, hands bloodied, the dirt on their determined faces now turning to mud from sweat as they attempt to reach the wounded. You wish you were with them. But you've graduated now. You've got the whole ball game—120 men, and it's your job to see that they get the job done as efficiently as possible and get home safely when it's done. You hear the steady popping of M-16 semi-automatic fire. That's it! Just keep gnawing away at him. Make each man think that each shot is aimed at him! Charlie is good, but your men are pros. . . .

"Card-seven, this is seven-zero!" Now the second platoon was calling. "We're taking automatic weapons fire up here from the november-whiskey!"

"Damn!" you muse out loud. "Those



little devils really have themselves burrowed in up there."

"Seven-zero, this is card-seven. Okay buddy, I think you've caught part of that bunker complex that's giving two-one so much grief. Got any wounded packs up there?"

"Roger that. We've got three men hit. None of them too serious though."

"Okay, that's fine. I want both you and two-one to pull back up to the high ground to the sierra-whiskey. One-zero will move up to provide security and we'll use that as a lima-zulu for the dust-off. In the meantime we're going to call in the world on Charlie."

"Sir, 'higher' just called and said that ARA will be on our internal in about zero-two," called Rick, your other command post RTO; Sp4 Fred Rearick, of Warren, Mass. "It's Dragon niner-delta."

Seconds later, you could see the Cobras buzzing in the skies above, the most beautiful sight in the infantryman's world. The Cobras can get you out of most any mess. You know it, your men know it—and Charlie knows it! "Card-seven, this is Dragon niner-delta," sputtered the vibrating voice over the horn. . . .

And so it went that afternoon under

the burning tropical sun. . . . "Dragon niner-delta, this is card-seven. . . . Roger, we've got some little people with a .51 cal. and some AKs dug in down there. . . . two-one and seven-zero, pop smoke to mark your forwardmost positions. . . . that's affirmative, banana and goofy grape. . . . azimuth: six-two-three seven, distance: three zero-zero mikes. . . . two-one and seven-zero give me an up when you're back at the lima zulu. . . . that's beautiful, buddy. Can you swing left five-zero and drop two-five and give them another dive? Roger, two-one, I understand you're beck at the lima-zulu. Put out some good security with one-zero; seven-zero should be moving in shortly. . . ."

Tonight you can't sleep. Not that you ever really sleep out here, but tonight, your eyes like marbles, you lay on the steaming jungle turf blankly staring at the stars blinking through silhouetted branches. Thinking and wondering, and you suppose your men are doing the same. In a few short hours this afternoon you've lived a lifetime—a lifetime that skipped by in seconds. Only when it was over did exhaustion slap you in the face—your body drenched, mouth like cotton and a sand-paper throat caused by hours of shouting and too many





cigarettes. You've experienced more today than in your years at North Georgia College, studying English literature, playing football, going through ROTC. It's that way every time.

What is it that drove you to the life of a professional soldier? You've thought about that a lot, tried other things, but nothing compares. As an infantry officer leading men in combat, you strive through the most demanding and frustrating of life's occupations . . . and receive the greatest reward. It's a spiritual exhilaration, you guess, something like the mountain climber or cross-country runner experiences. And then there's patriotism—almost a dirty word in the minds of some. Sure, America isn't perfect; but it's the best country you've got and is certainly worth working for. So with all of war's filth and stench you know it's a good thing you've done today.

You wonder about your men—draftees most of them, 18, 19 and 20 years old. You know that many of them are skeptical about the war, but political beliefs in your company are beside the issue. You run a team. Every man has a job to do, and there is pride in a job well done. The American draftee infantryman is the best combat soldier in the world, probably because he's got so much to go home to—his girl, a new car maybe, an education. Today, your men have become heroes—more than any citation can ever recognize—in a way that only you and they will ever understand.

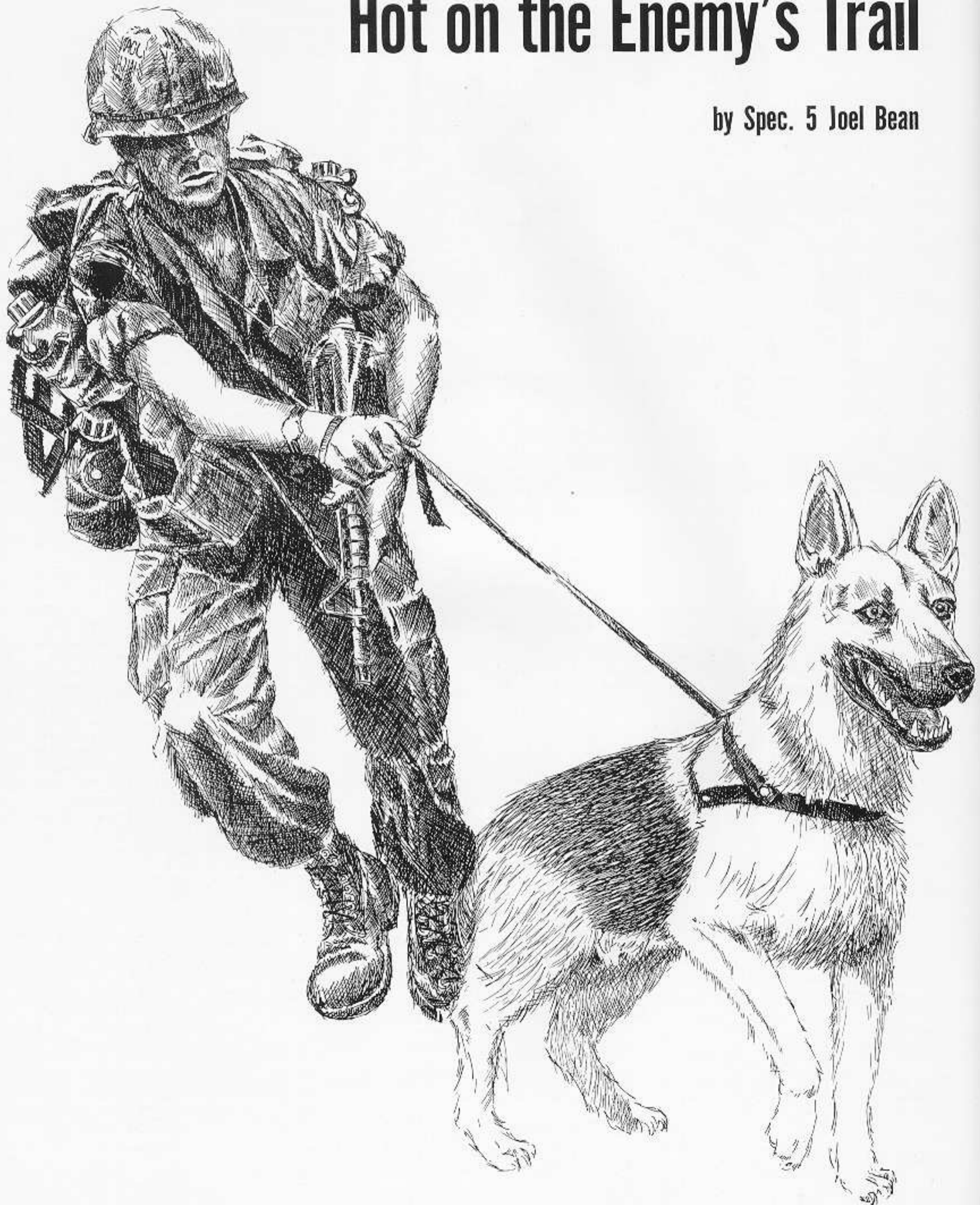
You look at your watch and it's two in the morning. Hell, you think, you're becoming a philosopher in your old age. Better get some sleep. We've got a big day tomorrow.





# Scout Dogs Hot on the Enemy's Trail

by Spec. 5 Joel Bean







Moody

It was mid-morning and already the sweltering heat of the jungle canopy was having its effect on the silent squad of men as it moved cautiously along the mountain trail.

The troopers, from Delta Company, 1st Bn. (Amb), 327th Inf., were patrolling in knee-deep mud on a mission designed to secure a nearby Landing Zone (LZ) which was essential to operations in the area.

But this was no ordinary patrol. Walking point—and thus exposing themselves to direct enemy fire—was a 65 pound black and white scout dog named "King" and his handler, Pfc. Joe Kozak, Buffalo, N.Y. The infantrymen, aware of the value of the scout dog's silent warning ability, were depending on King and Kozak to forestall any

possible enemy ambush.

"After searching an abandoned hooch, we continued to move down the trail until King alerted on some fresh enemy footprints," recalls Kozak. "I called for the Kit Carson Scout and the man walking slack to come up and take a look at the footprints. As we were examining the footprints, King suddenly alerted. The warning was clear, King sensed that the enemy was in the area."

The dog then did something which even his handler cannot explain. "Instead of remaining with the squad until we could check out the area, King lunged forward and began running down the trail ahead of us; and that's when we heard the bursts of fire from the enemy machinegun," related Kozak.

His mission completed, King had

taken 20 rounds from the enemy weapon. The squad, saved from a deadly ambush by the scout dog's alertness, sprayed the area with fire and called in artillery. Later, a larger force searched the area and found the spot where the enemy gunner had hidden.

"He was hiding in a thicket not visible from the trail," said Kozak. "If we had continued down the trail, the results would have been fatal."

The badly wounded scout dog was medevaced, but died aboard the helicopter before medical assistance could be reached.

Such incidents are not uncommon. Since the scout dog platoons were activated and the loyal German Shepherds joined Screaming Eagles in battling the communists, the occasions when the brave animals have warned their handlers of impending danger are too numerous to mention. In addition to saving the lives of their masters, the scout dogs serving with the 101st have spared countless other Screaming Eagles the agony of injury or death.

Currently, there are three Infantry Platoons Scout Dog (IPSD) providing tactical field support for the 101st. The 42nd, 47th and 58th support the division's 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades respectively.

The mission of the scout dog is simply to provide early silent warning of enemy presence. Each dog alerts differently. For that reason, it is the responsibility of the scout dog handler to accurately interpret his dog's warning of a foreign presence.

Scout dogs serving with the 101st are between two and five years old and must be at least 50% pure bred German Shepherds. Minimum weight for the



Moody





Moody

dogs is 65 pounds and they must measure at least 23 inches tall.

Both dog and handler are thoroughly trained before beginning their tour of duty in Vietnam.

The dogs are schooled at Fort Benning, Georgia, in a course which consists of four phases.

The first phase is a basic obedience course which teaches the dog to follow his master's commands. The second phase of the dog's training involves taking the dogs on short patrols where "enemy" decoys help to build confidence and interest in finding the "aggressor." The dog then graduates to the third, or intermediate patrol phase. This training teaches the dog to recognize and alert on mines, booby traps, caches and punji pits. The fourth and final phase is the long-range patrol where the dog learns to integrate everything he has learned during the three earlier phases.

Scout dog handlers attend a three month training session at Fort Benning. The course, which is most certainly Vietnam oriented, covers every aspect of the dog-handler relationship. Should the handler be selected for participation in the "off-leash" program, he under-

goes eight more weeks of training and then brings his "own" dog with him to Vietnam. Upon his arrival in Vietnam, the handler is given an additional two weeks of training at the USARV Dog Training Detachment at Bien Hoa.

Such training continues even after the handler is assigned to the 101st. In the 42nd Scout Dog Platoon, for example, the newly assigned handler is given two weeks of training outside the base camp perimeter where he learns to recognize and avoid trip wires, booby traps and other hazards. This instruction is carried out under the watchful eyes of his platoon leader, platoon sergeant and experienced senior dog handlers. Once he has proven himself ready for the field, he goes on a mission while a senior handler walks his slack. In short, the new handler receives a great deal of instruction before he is put out on "his own" in a combat situation.

Most scout dogs in the 101st work off-leash, providing the dog is either an off-leash dog or the handler has established sufficient control over his dog. This is primarily due to the rugged mountainous terrain which is common to northern I Corps. The dog walks point





for an infantry unit, usually keeping 15 to 30 meters ahead of his handler.

Scout dogs can and do work with tactical infantry units ranging from squad size to company level. Normally, the desired ratio is three dogs per company. If the vegetation is extremely thick, an infantryman may have to clear the vegetation for the dog, who follows close behind.

Once the dog warns of enemy presence, the handler notifies the element's commander, who will send someone "up front" to check the alert. The handler advises the commander as to the approximate distance and location of the enemy position.

The scout dog is trained to alert on the presence of foreign scents in the air. This involves a complex concept known as the "scent cone," which must be quickly and correctly analyzed by the handler. The scent cone is caused by the direction of the wind and the dog handler must use his own judgement in the determination of where the scent being acted upon is coming from.

Training of scout dogs at each of the scout dog platoons is continual. In the 42nd Scout Dog Platoon, dogs

scheduled for training are taken a mile outside the base camp perimeter each day and given six hours of training on specially designed courses. These courses contain trip wires and decoys which are stationed at various points. Another aspect of the training involves lengthy road marches which build the dogs' stamina and endurance. In addition to such training, a continuous program of grooming, medical attention and obedience classes keep the dogs in the best of shape.

The training of the dogs and the tactics governing their use has resulted in the saving of many American lives. Testimonials regarding the effectiveness of the scout dogs in the field are given each day.

In a recent two month period, seven dogs from the 42nd platoon were killed after they had warned their handlers and the infantry unit of impending ambushes. In three other instances during the same period of time, scout dogs were wounded while performing the same vital mission. In each case, the dog had alerted in time to spare Screaming Eagles injury or death.

"In these ten instances, not one handler was scratched by enemy fire," commented Lt. Thomas Sims, Jr., commanding officer of the 42nd IPSD. "In each case, the dog caused the ambush to be blown," added Sims. "The dogs have proven so effective in preventing ambushes that, according to the USARV Dog Training Detachment, the NVA have put a bounty on the scout dogs. It is obvious that the enemy ambush parties are both afraid of the scout dogs and aware of their early silent warning ability."

The value of the scout dog in the field is revealed in this excerpt from the after-action report of a company commander whose unit had been spared casualties because of the alertness of a scout dog. The dog was killed by the enemy. The commander stated; "I hate to lose a dog nearly as much as I do a man; however, in this case, "Max" saved the lives of many men."

"This is just a sample of the comments we have received on every after-action report involving the death of a scout dog," said Sims.

Scout dogs have also proven to be extremely valuable in helping units of the 101st locate caches of arms, rice and enemy supplies of all kinds.

There's an old saying that a dog is a man's best friend. If you doubt the truth of this statement, just ask some of the infantrymen of the 101st who are alive and well today thanks to the early silent warning of an alert scout dog.





# *The Veghel Operation*

*by Spec. 4 Elliot Cooper*





The helicopters came in, the whine of their engines breaking the pervasive silence of the jungle, their very presence disturbing the rugged symmetry of the lush, green mountains.

Then, as if pulled to earth by some unseen force, the UH1H "slicks" swooped from the sky, hovered close to the ground and their passengers, troopers from the 2nd. Bn. (Ambl), 502nd Inf., hustled out the door and immediately set up security.

The Strike Force troopers were at Fire Support Base Veghel, they were ready to take over their new Area of Operations (AO) and meet "Charlie" on his own terms.

Immediately upon their insertion, the men began finding numerous signs of recent heavy enemy activity. On the third day of the operation, Bravo Company's third platoon found an abandoned bunker complex of twenty 8 x 10 emplacements.

In the meantime, white teams from the 1st Bde. Aviation Platoon had spotted heavy enemy activity on a high, jagged ridgeline northwest of the firebase. The center of the activity seemed to be Hill 714.

Early on the morning of April 26th, the battalion reconnaissance platoon was inserted onto that ridgeline to conduct a reconnaissance-in-force mission toward Hill 714. After coming in on a "hot" landing zone, the Reconos ran headlong into the first of four well defended bunker complexes.

"Each of the four complexes occupied a knoll on the hill with the third one surrounding the top of the hill," explained Lt. Jim Hill of El Paso, Texas, the Recon platoon leader. "The enemy had set up ambush positions on both ends of a shallow draw fronting the first complex and we were taking enfilade fire from both ends of the draw plus fire from the bunkers in front of us," Hill continued.

*A spider hole is carefully inspected by an alert trooper.*



Burton

*NVA and VC emplacements are destroyed by Strike Force troopers as they operate in the vicinity of Fire Support Base Veghel.*

Support from Bravo Battery, 4th Bn., 77th Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA), silenced the ambush positions and moments later, artillery fire compromised the bunker complex, allowing the Screaming Eagles to sweep through the bunkers.

Later that day, Bravo Company was brought into the area, but the weather closed after only one platoon had been inserted. Early the next morning, the two platoons forged on to the second set of bunkers which were less than 100 meters away from the scene of the previous day's action.

With ARA and artillery fire again leading the way, the "O-Deuce" troopers ran the enemy off the second complex. "Each time we forced them off one complex, they simply fell back to the next one, set up, and waited for us," added Capt. Dan O'Connor, Phoenix, Arizona, Bravo Company's commander.

The remainder of Bravo, which had been inserted earlier in the day, joined in the action while another new arrival, Charlie Company, provided rear security.

On the third day of the operation, the Recon platoon and elements of Bravo and Charlie Companies went after the third complex. After a bitter fight, the combined force swept through the complex behind a hail of M-72 (LAWS), M-79 and M-60 fire.

"The fighting was extremely close in, and we were killing NVA still in their bunkers," explained Sgt. Ray Calgano, San Francisco. "They had everything their own way and we beat 'em."

The fourth and smallest complex fell easily after F4 Phantom jets "prepped" the bunkers.

The initial phase of the operation had left 81 NVA dead and an NVA battalion-size base camp destroyed.

Then, for a few days, a lull broke in the fighting as the hard pressed enemy fell back to re-group. It was during this lull that Charlie Company's first platoon uncovered one of the largest weapons caches found by Screaming Eagles in recent months.

According to Sgt. Jim Pando of Sheffield Valley, Ohio "We were looking for a place to set up our night defensive position (NDP) when Mike Stanley, our

Burton



pointman, spotted the muzzle of a .30 caliber machinegun sticking out of a pile of brush."

The undefended cache included four 60 mm mortar tubes and eighty 60 mm mortar rounds, 32 AK-47s, five RPD machineguns, three .30 caliber machineguns, 14 sniper rifles and a large quantity of ammunition.

By now it had become clear that the enemy had taken up new positions on nearby Hill 882.

This time it was Charlie Company which started the action. "We were reconning the area around the base of Hill 882," explained Sp4 George Cotton of Wichita, Kansas. "We moved out of a draw up the larger of the two hills flanking it." The small reconnaissance force was immediately engaged by small arms, automatic weapon and RPG fire.

After moving back down the hill, ARA from the 4/77th Artillery raked the area. Charlie Company was then joined by the remainder of the first platoon. They went back up the hill, again encountering a hail of enemy fire. The men were able to destroy several of the enemy positions despite the fact that grenades and satchel charges were being lobbed at them by enemy soldiers perched in trees. Finally, after several hours of hard fighting, the men withdrew to await the rest of the company.

The next morning, after TAC air and artillery had hit the area, the second and third platoons of Charlie Company went back up. "We just got on line and went after it," said Sp4 Ken Wilson, St. Louis, Mo.

Finally, the complex was theirs and 27 more enemy were dead. "There were fresh blood trails all over the place—and all were heading toward the summit of Hill 882," continued Wilson.

Alpha Company's third platoon started up the hill and encountered a large, well-defended bunker complex. After calling in ARA, artillery and tactical air, the Strike Force troopers eventually overran the complex, killing 27 more enemy. "The enemy was dug in and looking for a fight," related Sp4 John Creel, Yarmouth, Mass. "It took us three tries to take the hill, but we made it."

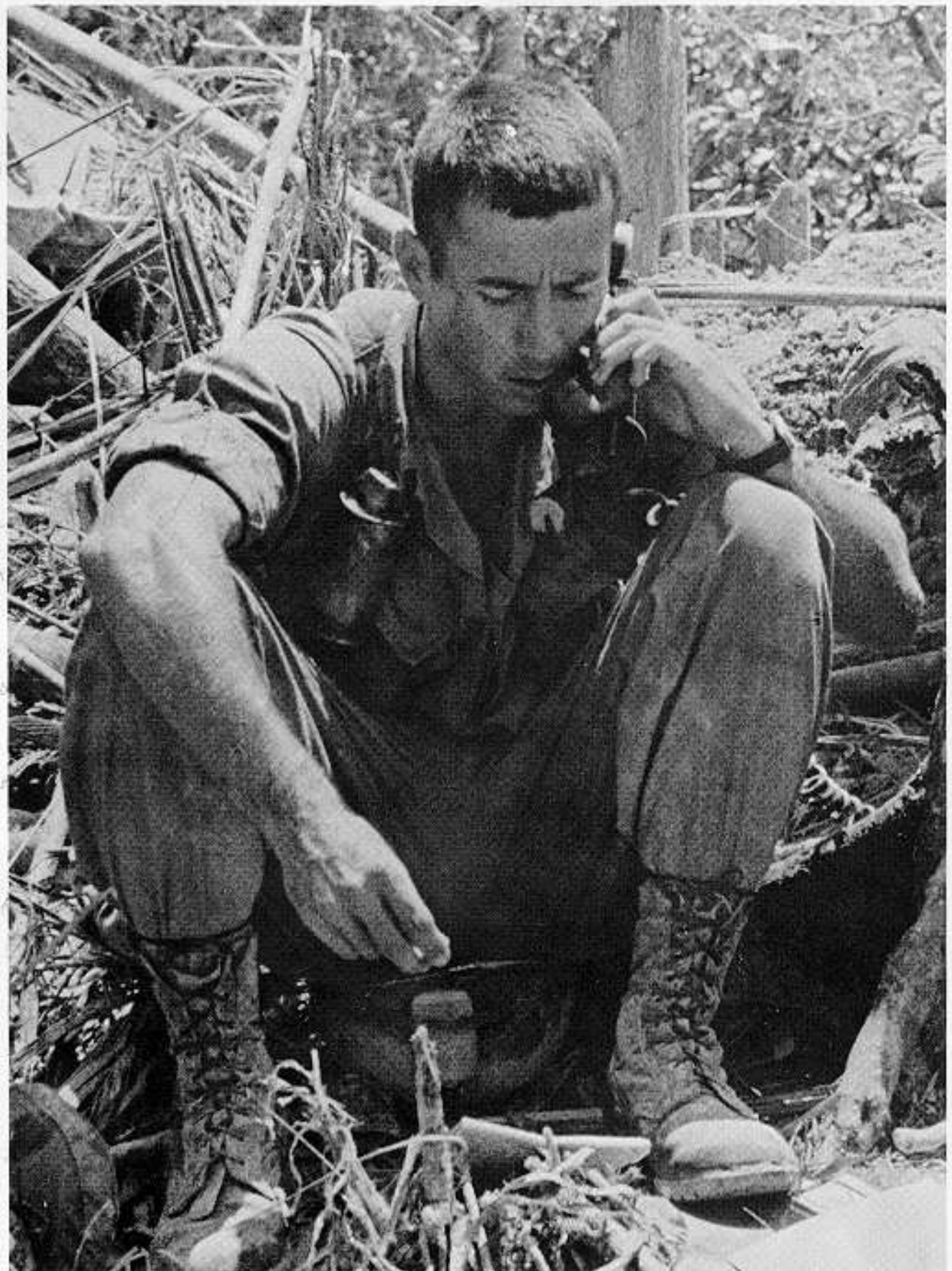
"The fighting was extremely close in," added Pfc Paul Hines, a medic from St. Charles, Ill. "We were open to ambush all the time. The guys showed a lot of guts doing what they did."

For all practical purposes the fighting was over, but several days later Alpha Company found 20 abandoned bunkers and 12 dead NVA. Also found were 200 pounds of rice forty-eight 60 mm mortar rounds and 300 AK-47 rounds.

The Strike Force troopers had made their presence felt in their new AO. They had met and defeated a seasoned enemy in his "own" territory and on his own terms. The men of the 2/502 had reasserted the fact that northern I Corps is indeed Eagle Country.



Burton



Burton



# Screaming Eagle Vietnam Diary

by Spec. 4 Daniel Suderman

*April 28*—In the mountains southwest of Hue near the Song Bo River south of Three Forks, Bravo Co., 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 502nd Inf. makes contact with an estimated enemy platoon while in their night defensive position. The "Strike Force" troopers engage the NVA and repulse the attack. An early morning search of the area reveals the bodies of 12 NVA. The sweep continues and three enemy bunker complexes are discovered which have been heavily damaged by Aerial Rocket Artillery, artillery and air strikes. A further search discloses 50 NVA killed and nets numerous military equipment.

*April 29*—Screaming Eagles of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 501st Inf. receive RPG, mortar and small arms fire at FSB Granite. The "Drive On" soldiers return fire with organic weapons and call for support from Aerial Rocket Artillery. The attack is repelled and a post-dawn sweep nets 22 NVA bodies and one detainee.

*May 3*—While on a reconnaissance mission southwest of Hue, elements of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 502nd Inf. receive small arms and RPG fire. The 101st troopers return fire and call in Aerial Rocket Artillery and air strikes. After the battle a sweep of the area reveals the bodies of 27 NVA.

*May 9*—In another action involving members of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 502nd Inf., "Strike Force" troopers, while on a reconnaissance mission, receive small arms and RPG fire and fragmentation grenades from an estimated 12 to 15 enemy in bunkers. The Screaming Eagles return fire with organic

weapons and call in Aerial Rocket Artillery, artillery and air strikes. A sweep of the area after the successful support strikes reveal 18 NVA KIAs.

*May 16*—While flying in support of reconnaissance teams in the Vietnamese Salient area, elements of the 4th Bn. (Ambl.), 77th Aerial Rocket Artillery receive small arms fire from the ground. The Cobras in turn engage the enemy and a later sweep reveals the bodies of 35 NVA.

*May 25*—In a morning ceremony at Camp Eagle, Maj. Gen. John M. Wright Jr. passes the division colors to Maj. Gen. John J. Hennessey. General Hennessey becomes the Screaming Eagles' fourth commanding general since they arrived in the Republic of Vietnam as a full division in December of 1967. General Wright's next assignment is in Washington, D.C.

*May 27*—Recon elements of the 1st Bn. (Ambl.), 506th Inf., while in an ambush position engage two NVA at a distance of 75 meters. An unknown size enemy force returns small arms and RPG fire. The "Currahees" retaliate and call for Aerial Rocket Artillery support. The successful operation results in 19 NVA KIAs.

*June 7*—The 101st welcomes Col. Olin E. Smith who is to become the Assistant Division Commander (Support). Col. Smith has previously served with the Screaming Eagles in the Republic of Vietnam as commanding officer of the 3rd Brigade and division Chief of Staff.

*June 10*—Elements of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 327th Inf. receive mortar

rounds, RPG fire and a ground attack at FSB Tomahawk. The "No Slack" troops with the help of Aerial Rocket Artillery and artillery thwart the attack denying the enemy penetration into the firebase. A dawn sweep of the area produces the bodies of 21 NVA and three enemy soldiers are detained.

*June 18*—It is a busy day for the 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav. as they engage numerous enemy targets throughout the 101st's area of operations. After the day draws to a close, the Cavalry is credited with killing 26 NVA.

*June 25*—A three-day combined operation involving elements of the 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav. and the 1st ARVN Division Hoc Bao (Black Panthers) terminates resulting in 64 NVA KIAs. In addition to the combined ground forces, Cobra gunships, Aerial Rocket Artillery and air strikes were also employed.

*July 1*—Brig. Gen. Sidney B. Berry arrives in Eagle Country to become the Assistant Division Commander (Operations) succeeding Brig. Gen. James C. Smith. General Berry comes to the 101st from Ft. Benning, Ga. where he was the Assistant Commandant of the United States Army Infantry School.

*July 2*—Elements of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 506th Inf. receive small arms and RPG fire and satchel charges in their night defensive position from an unknown size enemy force. The "Currahees" return fire with organic weapons and call in for artillery and Aerial Rocket Artillery support. The action results in 15 NVA KIA.

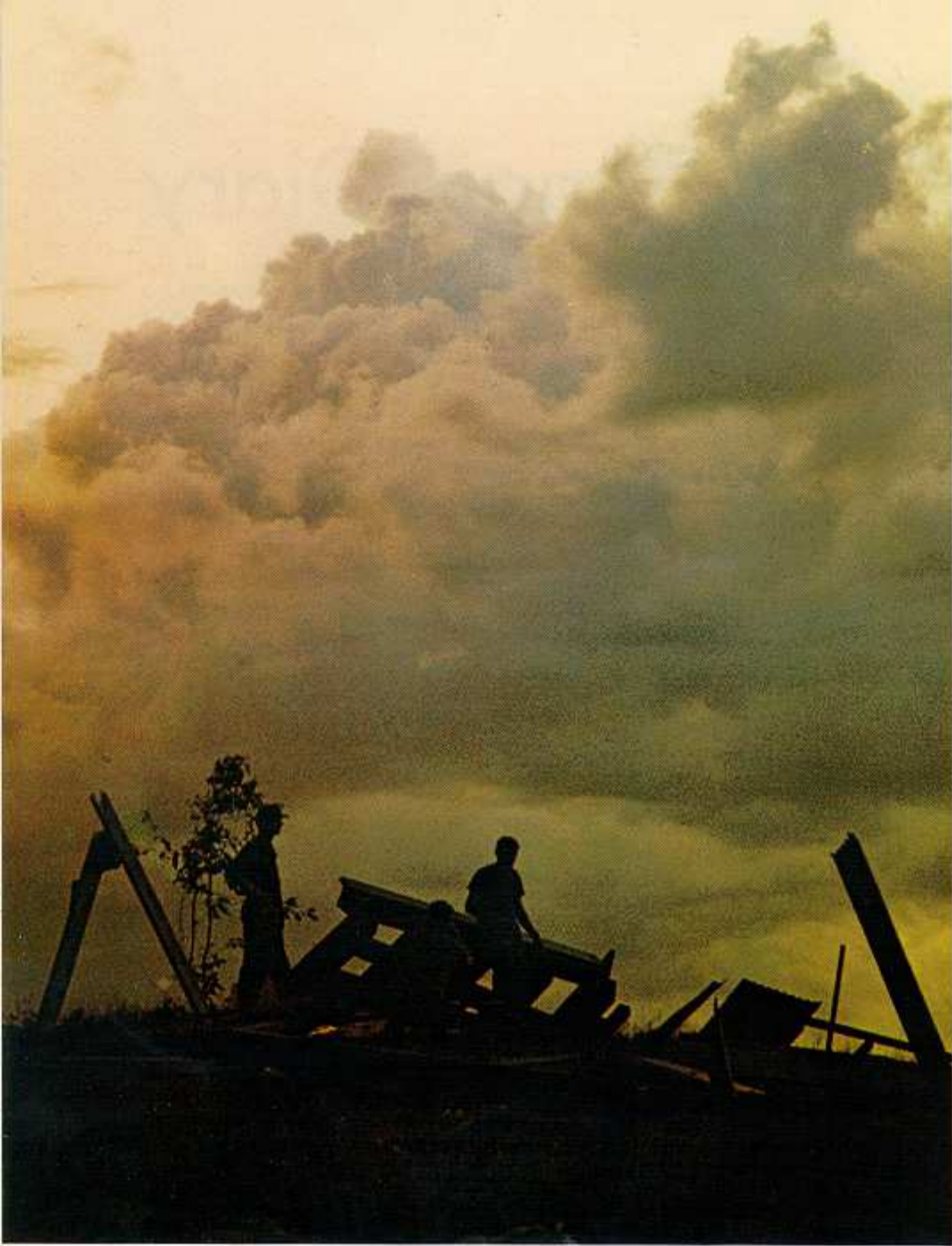
*July 6*—In operations in northeastern I Corps, elements of L Co., (Ambl.), 75th Inf. (Rangers) make contact with an estimated company size NVA force. The rangers retaliate with small arms fire and support from Aerial Rocket Artillery and Cobra gunships is employed. A later sweep of the area reveals the bodies of 13 NVA.

*July 7*—Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Richard J. Dunn arrives at Camp Eagle to assume the position of Command Sergeant Major of the 101st. He succeeds Cmd. Sgt. Maj. William T. Mixon whose next assignment is at Ft. Benning, Ga. This is the fifth time Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Dunn has served with Screaming Eagles.

*July 8*—In the largest action so far this year, elements of the 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav. observe 150 to 200 NVA near Khe Sanh in the northeastern section of the division's area of operations. The Cavalry engages the enemy throughout the day with a result of 139 NVA killed and four detained.







Pinnell



# EAGLE



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Strafer



# The Development of Airmobile Artillery

by Spec. 4 Thomas Rampton





“Fire mission!” The words cracked over the radio in the artillery fire direction center on one of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) mountaintop firebases northwest of Hue.

An infantry platoon had been inserted into a landing zone on high ground, and upon moving further down the ridge had come under heavy enemy mortar and small arms fire. The American platoon was pinned down and unable to move. Directly before it and dug in was an NVA unit reinforced by mortars—the probable source of recent mortar attacks on U.S. positions in the area.

The enemy had been surprised and confused by the sudden airmobile assault and now, after brief resistance, he would try to slip away down the canyon. He would fight again another day unless quick firepower could catch him here in the open—right now.

And catch him it did. A marking round burst overhead with a thud and a puff of white smoke. It was followed in quick succession by a couple of “hotel-echo” rounds on the deck from which to adjust. Then “fire for effect!” A veritable rain of destruction fell, and continued falling, on and behind the enemy’s position. There was no place for Charlie to go as the shells screamed down around him.

Helicopter gunships would arrive on station soon, and tactical air support would follow if required. But the big guns of the artillery had just put an end to one part of the NVA effort to harass and break the protective shield that Allied troops maintain along the edge of the populated coastal plain.

Division artillery has often been a lifesaver for U.S. troops who have come under direct attack by the enemy, or have run into sudden and unexpected resistance while operating in the thick jungle canopy. But the artillery, in conjunction with the troops on the ground, has also been a decisive factor in the destruction of enemy who would have escaped and vanished had quick, flexible firepower not been available.

The type of war we must fight in the Republic of Vietnam requires quick reaction coupled with a high degree of mobility. “Guerrilla operations will normally be fought in rough terrain such as that found in Vietnam. It is necessary that artillery be capable of conducting airmobile operations to insure immediately responsive fire support to the maneuver elements,” said Maj. Lewis Martin, 2/319 Artillery S3. “Without the airmobile concept, you would have to confine all operations to areas with existing road networks.” Clearly, airmobility is the name of the game in the Republic of Vietnam.

All combat units in Vietnam have some degree of helicopter support—some more than others. Helicopters are used all over the country for resupply, com-



Pierce

mand and control and troop movements. But the totally airmobile division does enjoy definite advantages—advantages also put to use by airmobile artillery.

The 101st, as an airmobile division, has the advantage of organic aviation battalions—the division’s own aircraft. A non-airmobile division can operate with helicopters too, but the aircraft must come from an independent aviation unit. Valuable time is lost in preparation, and the quick-reaction capability of the artillery or any other part of the division is greatly reduced.

The airmobile division is not impeded in this way. It can react quickly to concentrations of enemy troops wherever they pose a threat. Artillery, as well as troops and supplies, can be rapidly moved from one place to another with a mini-

mum of trouble within an airmobile division’s area of operations. The airmobile division can indeed plan and operate on this basis.

The concept of an artillery firebase deep in potential enemy territory is certainly a development of the Vietnam war. The old front line is by necessity of circumstance, the perimeter of a base camp and in this mountainous part of Vietnam, the firebase is truly an “island in the sky.” But airmobility allows us to move that island around at will. Any hill or mountaintop is a potential firebase, and a flight over the area of operations will show that a great many of the mountains have been so used.

One artillery operation in particular has been a product of the airmobile concept. It is the artillery raid. If intel-

*Although not organic to the 101st, big eight inch guns such as this are available on call to Screaming Eagles in the field.*



Rampton





Rampton

ligence indicates the presence of suspected enemy targets in the area, a raid may be planned. Early on the appointed day, a maneuver element is picked up and quickly moved to the raid location to provide the security for the artillery. When the landing zone has been secured the artillery battery is airlifted to the raid site. The battery is quickly laid and the scheduled targets are immediately engaged. As soon as all targets have been fired upon, the battery is airlifted out of the position. The entire raid takes one or sometimes two days to complete. The element of surprise is obvious and would hardly be possible without the airmobile capability.

Any firebase that has been used and abandoned can be occupied at any time. Old firebases usually retain their distinctive names, whether occupied or not, and the names of these bare mountaintops become the place names of the division's area of operations. Many a 101st trooper remembers the chronology of his tour in terms of the firebases he helped build, the ones he helped defend, or those in the vicinity of his unit's location.

Wherever ground troops are operating, there is at least one battery of 105 mm howitzers ready to fire in a direct support role. Why 105s? The 105 is the most responsive artillery weapon system in existence. The short reaction time and speed of adjustments account for its

always being employed where ground forces are conducting operations.

Though the 105 is the most responsive it does not possess the destruction capability found in the 155 howitzer. The 155 battery will be brought to bear against the enemy when greater penetrating power is needed against forces entrenched in bunkers, or under a very heavy jungle canopy. The heavier shell will penetrate and destroy a majority of the enemy bunkers. In heavy canopy, it is not as likely to detonate in the treetops where much of its effectiveness would be lost. Although the 155 battery takes slightly longer to respond to the initial call for fire, it can adjust and fire almost as rapidly as the 105 battery.

The heavy artillery, the 175 mm and eight inch, are used as area type weapons at long range. They fill a general support role, and are normally not fired in support of troops in close contact. The eight inch weapon system is the most accurate of all artillery weapons and is therefore frequently used to destroy point type targets as well as neutralize known enemy concentrations.

The method of artillery adjustment has come a long way since the pre-World War II days. In those days the field artillery tended to ignore refinements developed by the coast artillery and more or less fired "from the hip." But in field artillery, as well as in most other military endeavors, the slide rule won over



Pierce





Kobe

*The Cobra gunship, a new, but extremely effective member of the artilleryman's arsenal.*

guesswork, particularly where forward observers were being used to adjust on targets out of sight of the battery.

The result of such refinement is the modern fire direction center (FDC) which we have in Vietnam. The FDC is simply conceived and highly efficient. Like anything else in airmobile artillery, it can be moved and set up at a new location in a minimum amount of time. The equipment is the essence of simplicity; a plotting board on which the location of the target is plotted, and a slide rule like computer which is used to determine the necessary firing data to achieve any range within the capability of the weapon system.

One part of the FDC is not simple. That is "Freddy," and he has quite a personality. Freddy is a near genius and can do mathematical wizardry on request. He is the electronic computer that normally occupies one side of the FDC opposite the plotting board. His answers are used as primary firing data due to the extreme accuracy; however, the data is cross-checked against the results of the plotting board and the slide rule.

Freddy the computer performs the same computations electronically as the traditional plotting method, but the computer can take more variables into consideration, thereby accounting for its increased accuracy. For example,

weather data obtained from the Air Force is given to the computer every six hours to insure that the most recent meteorological conditions are being considered for all computations. Two of the most important meteorological conditions with respect to artillery fire are wind velocity and air density—both of which vary considerably with altitude. The computer can calculate the trajectory of the shell, its altitude at any point along the trajectory, plus the time of flight. The computer has the pertinent wind and density data and from this it calculates the meteorological effect on the projectile as it travels along its trajectory. Based upon this effect plus other variables existing at the time, the computer determines the required corrections and displays the firing data necessary to engage the target. Many other variables are taken into account, to include correction to compensate for the rotation of the earth.

All the variables taken into account by Freddy affect the flight of the round whether Freddy is there to compute it or not. In his absence, what is done to improve the accuracy of the simpler slide rule method of computation? Once every day, the battery is "fired in" on a target with an accurately known location. The firing data required to actually hit the target may be different from that initially calculated, and that difference is due to a combination of atmospheric

*An artilleryman checks the sighting of a howitzer insuring accurate fire—every time.*



Pierco



Rampton



conditions and other variables on that particular day. Until something changes, it will be a constant value, and this correction is simply penciled in on the slide rule.

The newest, and perhaps most spectacular of all artillery is the armed helicopter—the Aerial Field Artillery, usually called ARA—Aerial Rocket Artillery. It is the mission of the ARA to provide quick and effective rocket fire on targets beyond tube artillery range.

Division Artillery's ARA Cobra helicopters are used by troops in the field in much the same way as conventional artillery. The aircraft pilots are trained in methods of fire adjustment using the same terminology and procedures as used for a conventional fire mission. There is a difference—and an advantage

—in that the pilot of the helicopter can plainly see the terrain and the situation and act accordingly, and the supported infantry can actually see their artillery in action which is unusual in the employment of tube artillery.

Conventional artillery is normally adjusted in reference to the "observer-target line." That is, adjustments are called to the FDC as distances to the left, or right, along an imaginary line existing between the observer and the target. ARA is also adjusted in this way, but the ground unit has the option of using a "gun-target line" if it so desires. This is the line from the helicopter to the target as the aircraft fires its rockets. In a case where the helicopter is plainly visible to the ground unit and misorientation is unlikely, it may be advisa-

ble to use this method.

The 101st Airborne Division Artillery has an organic battalion of ARA. The 4th Bn. (Aerial Arty), 77th Arty. (Ambl.) has three ARA batteries, each with twelve Cobra helicopters, in general support of the division. In the 101st, ARA also provides support to the 1st ARVN Division and 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech.).

So this is the airmobile artillery of today. Where will it go in the future? Any future battlefield is likely to be in either rugged, jungle terrain much like we have found in Vietnam, or the much talked about computerized battlefield, with highly sophisticated weapons used by both sides.

Should it be guerrilla warfare in a rugged jungle, the U.S. Army should be well prepared indeed. If, on the other hand, it should be the new theoretical "automated" battlefield, or anything approaching it, how would the airmobile concept fare?

Though we cannot say for sure, indications are that airmobility would fare very well indeed. After considerable research and field testing under closely simulated conditions, the infantry branch reports; "The many airmobile techniques developed in Vietnam will be successful on a sophisticated battlefield."

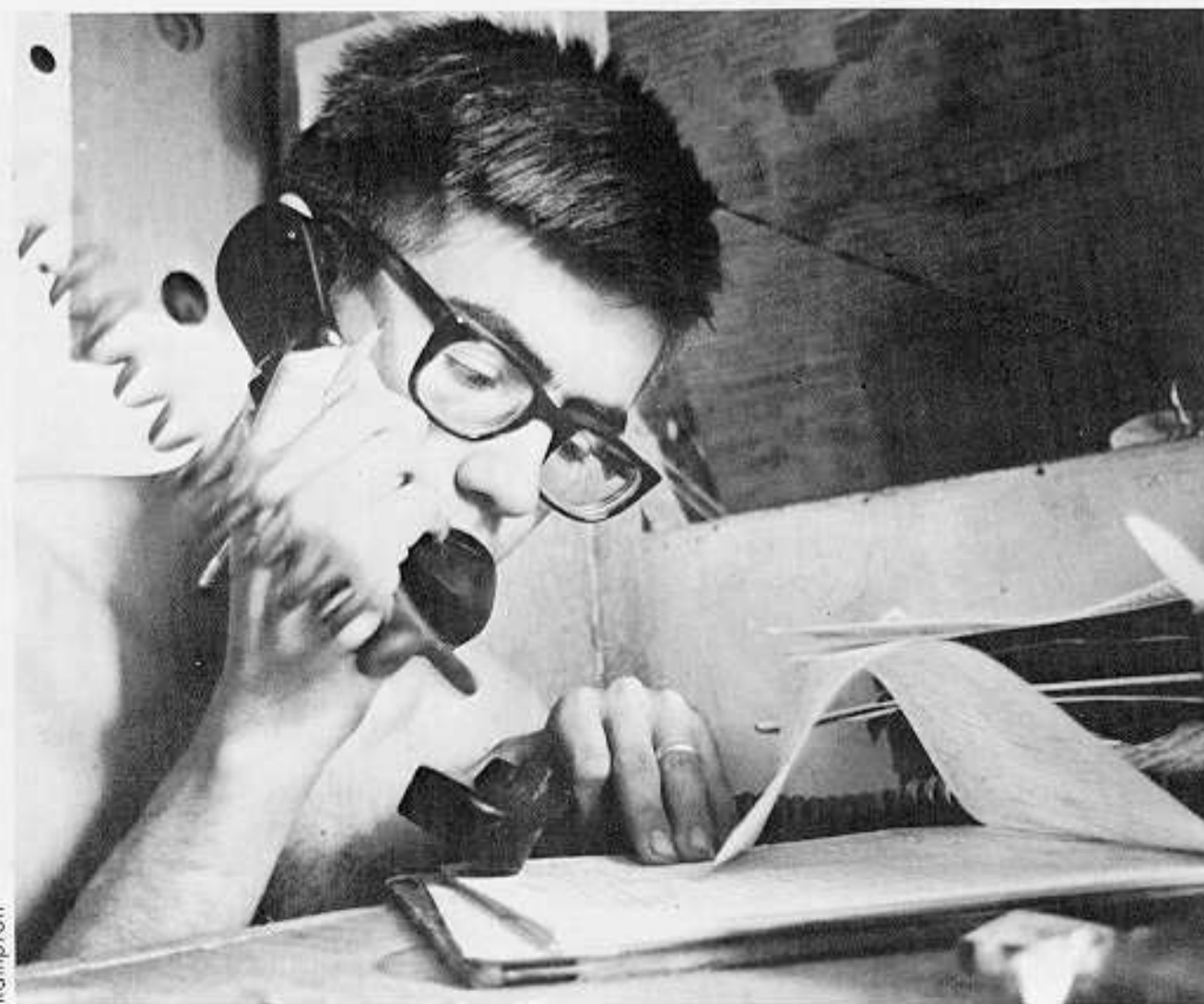
The helicopter, by taking full advantage of darkness and terrain, can operate against the most advanced anti-aircraft weapons, including ground to air missiles. Closely related to the mission of the artillery is the ability of the armed helicopter, properly equipped, to inflict severe damage to an armored force.

The Republic of Vietnam has been the proving ground for one of our most potent assets—the airmobile concept, and with it, airmobile artillery.



*A member of a Fire Direction Center (FDC) coordinates a fire mission, bringing quick aid to troops in the field.*

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# 326 Engineers

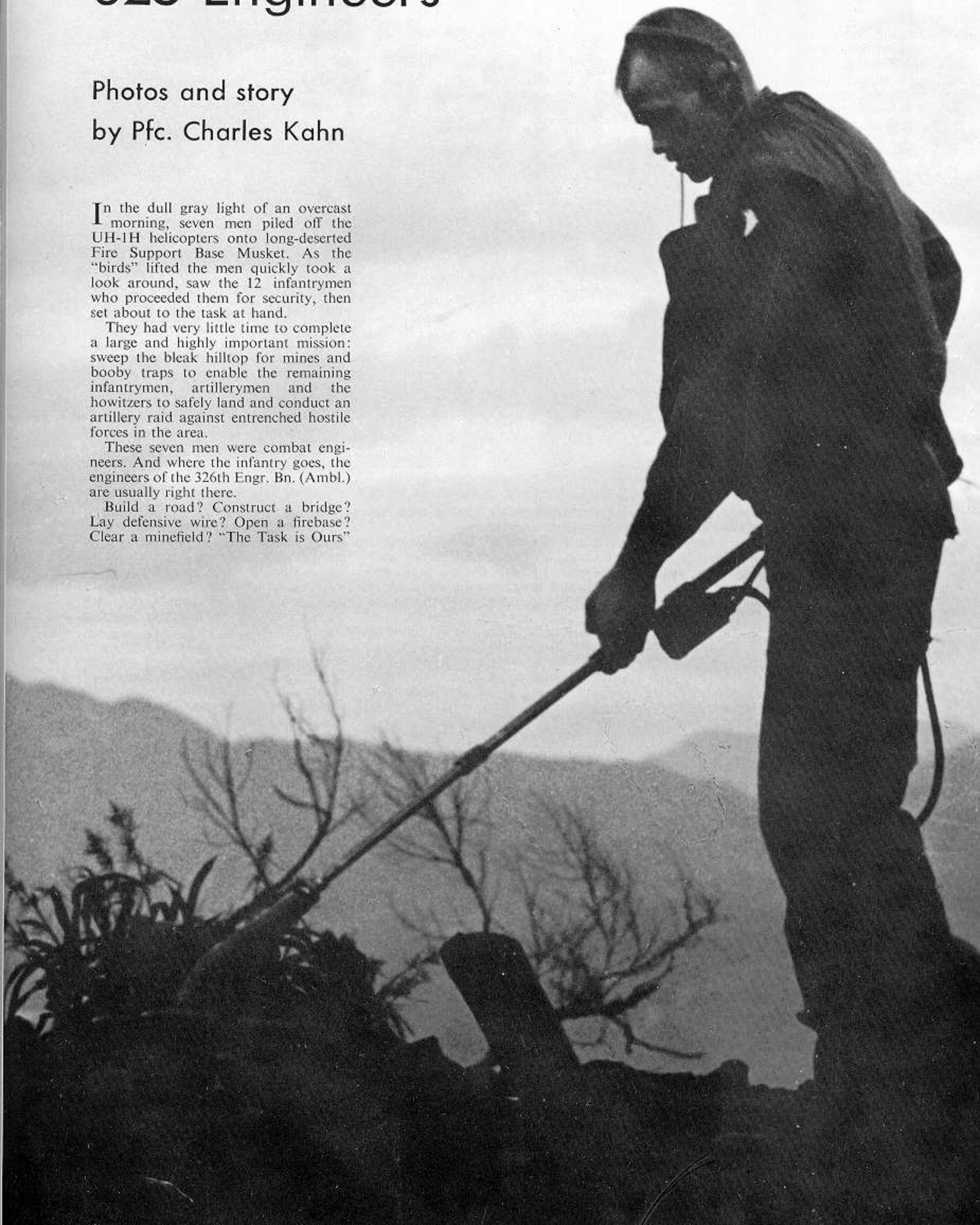
Photos and story  
by Pfc. Charles Kahn

In the dull gray light of an overcast morning, seven men piled off the UH-1H helicopters onto long-deserted Fire Support Base Musket. As the "birds" lifted the men quickly took a look around, saw the 12 infantrymen who preceded them for security, then set about to the task at hand.

They had very little time to complete a large and highly important mission: sweep the bleak hilltop for mines and booby traps to enable the remaining infantrymen, artillerymen and the howitzers to safely land and conduct an artillery raid against entrenched hostile forces in the area.

These seven men were combat engineers. And where the infantry goes, the engineers of the 326th Engr. Bn. (Ambl.) are usually right there.

Build a road? Construct a bridge? Lay defensive wire? Open a firebase? Clear a minefield? "The Task is Ours"





has truly become a living motto for the men of the 326th.

The task *is* theirs, and a large task it is to support the 101st. Acting in their direct support role the 326th only asks Where? and When? once the infantry requests their services.

The seven-man minesweep team which combat assaulted onto FSB Musket were troopers of Company C, a company while far from being typical, typifies the modern concept of combat engineering in airmobile warfare.

The unit has a long list of projects either recently completed, currently being undertaken, or still in the planning stages which more than illustrate the range and depth of the battalion's operations.

The mine sweeping operation on FSB Musket is one example of the airmobility of the engineers. The sweep team, led by Staff Sgt. Eugeneo Munoz of Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico and Staff Sgt. Willy E. Monelyon of Mobile, Ala., joined the infantry unit assigned to provide security for the operation and were among the first Americans to set foot on Musket in more than a year.

"Our job was to combat assault onto the hill, sweep it for mines, booby traps or dud rounds and clear it completely," said Monelyon.

Munoz added, "It would have been just a routine sweep operation except they gave us a strict time limit. It had to be done very quickly and very well."

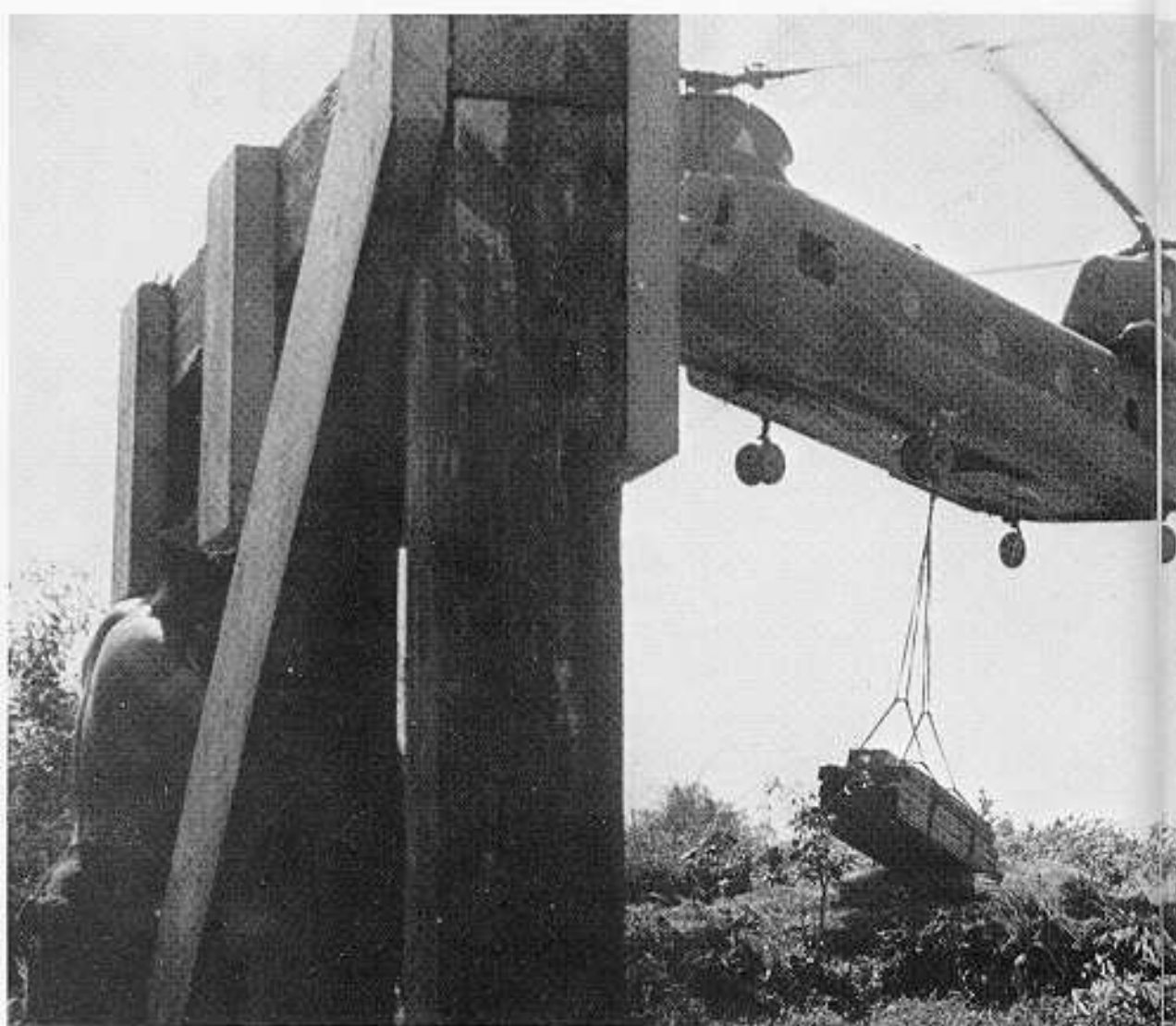
The successful sweep of Musket allowed the artillerymen of Btry. B, 1st Bn. (Ambl.), 320th Arty. to safely bring their howitzers and fire an effective mission.

Earlier this year "Contracting Charlie" was involved, in conjunction with the rest of the battalion, in "Operation Life-saver." More than a month, a considerable amount of time for one mission,

was spent improving landing zones all over northern I Corps.

The men of Charlie 326 and the other companies in the battalion are also responsible for the construction, upgrading and improving of fire support bases. This includes the building of bunkers and gun emplacements, the clearing of fields of fire and the laying of defensive wires.

The 326th Engineers work mainly on direct support projects for the 101st. However, civic action projects have found their way into the work schedule and rank high on the list of priorities.



*Combat engineers from the 326 Engr. Bn. (Ambl) work on a bridge as a Chinook brings in more building material.*

*Waist-deep in water, engineers prepare to place a bridge section.*



Lt. Joseph Rodriguez Jr., Compton, Calif., Company C's executive officer said, "We manage to always include one civic action project on our work schedule. I think the men enjoy working on these projects because they can get to meet and know the people and they know they are permanently helping someone."

"We are usually at least ninety per cent committed to the field at any one time," said Capt. Harry G. Buford of Brawley, Calif., Charlie Company commander. "We've done two road constructions, a couple of bridges, firebase constructions, some demolitions work and the mine sweeping projects. We've also accomplished some civic action projects from which the men derived a great deal of satisfaction."

Charlie Company's civic action programs include road and bridge construction along "The Street Without Joy" area which connects Quang Dien and Phong Dien districts. The men of C/326 provided advisory teams and construction aid on the recently completed road in Phu Tu district and have also provided supervisory teams to aid in the building of a school and dispensary in Nam Hoa.

One of the major civic action projects recently undertaken by the company was the construction of a bridge to link two remote villages in Phu Vang and Houng Tuyen districts. Everything had to be brought to the bridge site by air; men, materials and supplies. It wasn't easy to span the lily-choked stream with a conventional bridge but the men did the job in three short days.





*Work continues as the bridge, which will open farmlands to markets in Hue and Phu Bai nears completion.*

At times for the men of the 326th their work in conjunction with infantry units can turn them from engineering to fighting. "We work with a shovel in one hand and our rifle in the other," Spec. 4 Tom Love of Oddessa, Del. observed. "It's an old cliché but still true. Most of the time we're out in the field alongside the infantry and we have to be ready."

All of the companies of the 326th have similar records of achievement and combined, total an outstanding record for the battalion.

Maj. Robert D. Blanchard of San Antonio, Tex., battalion executive officer said, "The infantry names the job it wants done, tells us where to do it and when it has to be done. Then our men are there, working hard, anywhere in the 101st area of operations."

Each company of the 326th is assigned to directly support one of the three brigades in the 101st with the remaining company working with the divisional command.

A company's work schedule is apportioned to the various work elements according to their expertise and the needs of the project. In this way teams of combat engineers can be specialized for more efficient and faster completion of their assignments.

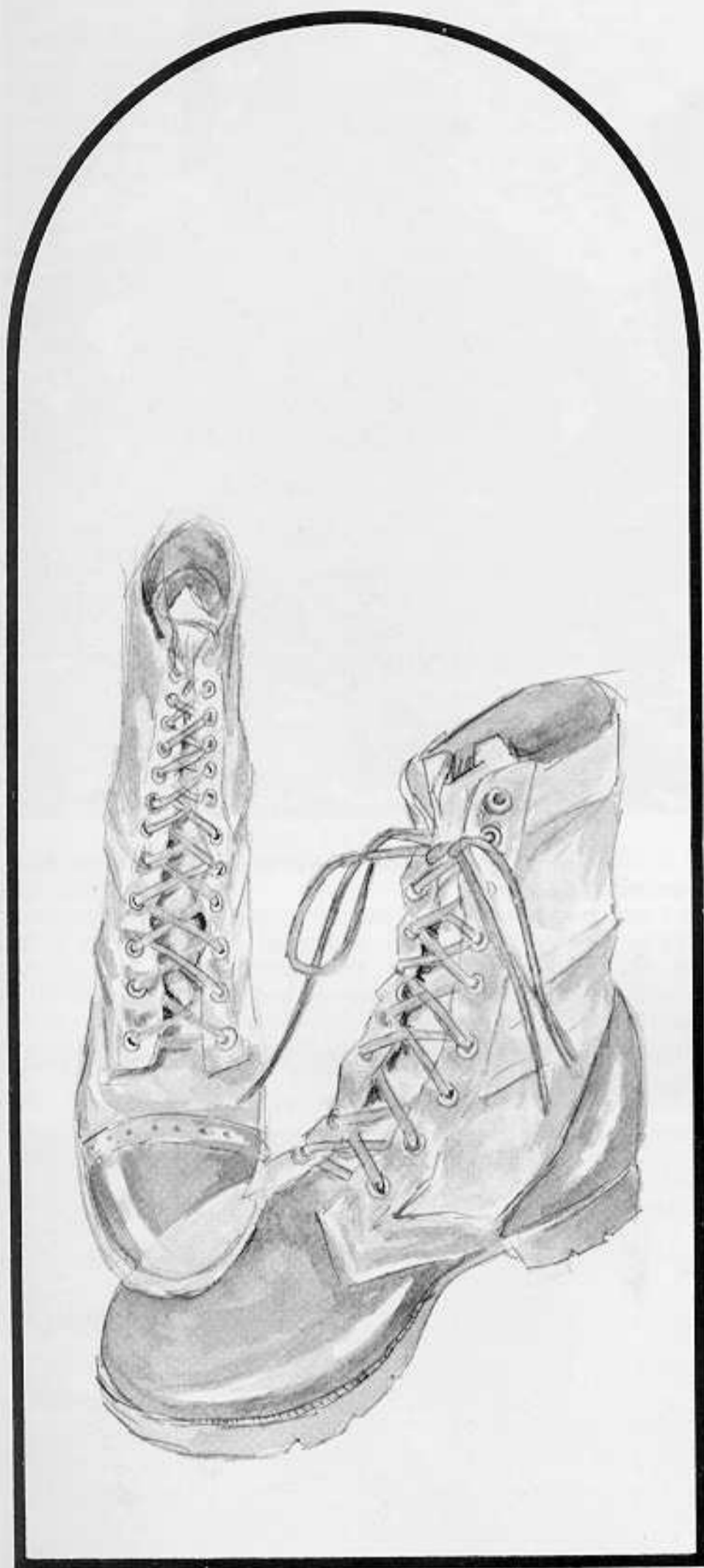
As well as providing direct military support to the 101st and various civic action programs, the 326th Engineers are also an integral part in the coordination and distribution of other construction and engineering units of USARV operating in I Corps.

The task is theirs.



*Cautiously probing for mines and booby traps, an engineer and an infantryman carefully examine a suspected location.*





Today borrows from yesterday to make tomorrow in the Summer-Fall fashion forecast for the young man about camp. Not to be outdone by some of the prominently known men's magazines, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) endeavors to make sure that its men have the 'in' wardrobe for northern I Corps this season.

Continuing the long-standing trend toward natural hues, subdued green, more prominently known as olive drab or OD, will continue to lead the market

this season. Variations on this theme, such as the popular jungle camouflage shades and tiger stripe style will also grab their share of the market in many areas.

The accent is again toward versatility of outfits. The standard light-weight tropical jungle fatigue uniform continues to be the favorite among the men this year. It forms the center of the man's wardrobe and is usually worn on both formal and informal occasions.

The loose fit of the fatigues combines

comfort and utility, assuring the wearer a maximum of comfort in both the heat of the dry season and the cold and wet of the monsoons.

Another carryover from last season will be the trend in footwear. The ever-popular jungle boot with the spike-retarding insole will again be the rage this year. As usual, the footwear should be highly polished whenever possible to be in style. Again, the jungle boot is the standard at both formal and informal occasions, although combat boots and

## FASHION FORECAST.





"jump" boots have gained popularity in recent months.

The correct headgear for the man in Vietnam is a must. One who refuses to wear a hat of any kind out of doors is severely criticized. Any man who is aware of the dictums of style realizes that he should wear the correct headgear for the occasion. When he is between points of security, the helmet or "steel pot" over a helmet liner is a must. The camouflaged cloth worn over the helmet matches the outfit, coupling high style

with that extra margin of safety.

In secure areas, such as base camps, the field cap or "baseball cap" is the standard of high fashion. The "boonie cap" is still popular with a few of the men, but it has become passe according to those in the fashion know.

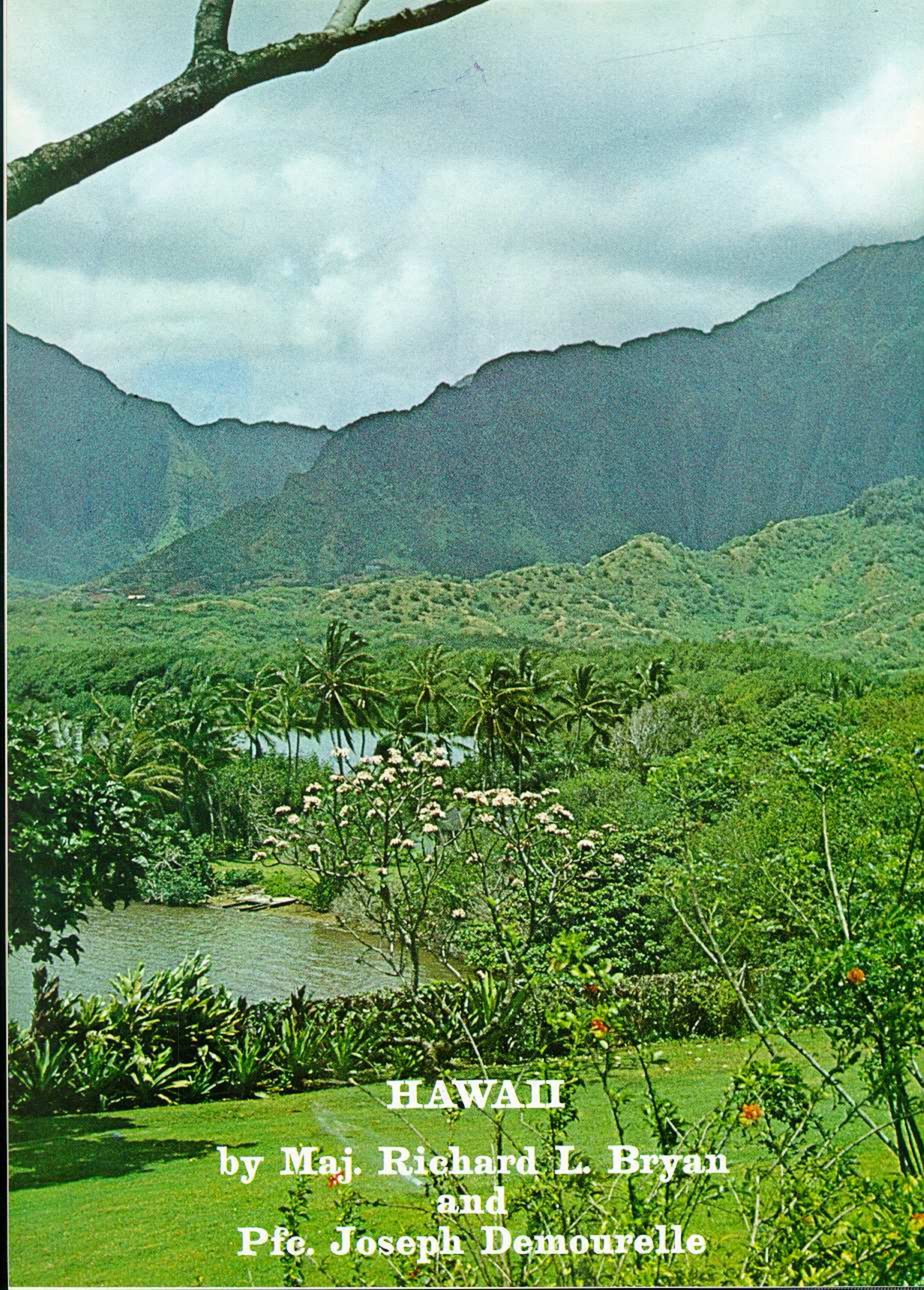
Hair style is again the subject of debate among the men this season. Under no circumstances should the hair be longer than one inch on the sides and three inches on top. Beards are definitely out and moustaches may be worn

if neatly trimmed and do not extend below the lip.

The fashion experts agree that it is of the utmost importance that Screaming Eagles in northern I Corps be aware of the proper wardrobe for this season. Those who do not choose to follow these guidelines will undoubtedly suffer severe criticism from their associates. The fashionable trooper realizes this and makes every effort to be a paragon of style at all times.







# HAWAII

by Maj. Richard L. Bryan  
and  
Pfc. Joseph Demourelle





Strafer



The sun's orange and red patterns of light embrace a young couple on a lonely stretch of beach. Hand-in-hand they walk under the swaying columns of palm trees. A gentle breeze crosses the beach from the open seas to pass through the young girl's hair.

The islands of Hawaii capture the romantic, care-free spirit as perhaps no other land can.

Waikiki, on the island of Oahu, with its expanse of beaches and night life, accented by the rhythmic beat of hard rock, laced with contemporary sounds, and the captivating drums of Tahitian islands is far removed from the Twenties when Waikiki sported but three drab hotels and a sprinkling of curio shops.

Ft. DeRussey, the processing point for R&R visitors to Hawaii, lies close to the dimly lit restaurants, clubs and the popular International Market Place.

In the marketplace, there is a seemingly endless assortment of 50 shops to delight the wanderer with an unlimited variety of goods from the far corners of the world. Duke Kahanamoku's, Kau Kau Village and Tahiti Imports are but a few of the names that capture the imagination with but one reality—this is Hawaii!

A brief stroll from the hectic pace of Downtown Waikiki finds a Hawaiian visitor in Kapiolani Park at the base of Diamond Head—with its atmosphere of tranquility. Here a person can relax under the banyan trees, enjoy the view of Diamond Head, eat a "shaved ice" at the local zoo or enjoy an outdoor concert.

As night approaches, Waikiki turns into a tropical dreamland. For an R&R visitor the night life seems limitless. The Rigger or CoCo's Coffee House provides a relaxing informal atmosphere while for the more exquisite tastes, an evening at Mario's or Canlis will be long remembered. Entertainment ranges from the traditional Hawaiian luau with grass skirted girls to the more contemporary sounds of Don Ho.

Strafer







For those with an adventuring heart there are five other interesting islands in the Hawaiian chain—all less than an hour by air from Honolulu International Airport. The largest of the islands is Hawaii, located at the southernmost tip of the six-island chain. The semi-active volcano, Mauna Loa, is located there and the remains of volcanic ash and lavaflow are prevalent. Good accommodations are located on either the Hilo side or the Kona Coast. The island of Hawaii is known as "The Orchid Isle." R and R points of interest include Rainbow Falls on the outskirts of Hilo and the Captain Cook Monument at Kealahou Bay where the seafarer and discoverer of Hawaii met his death.

The island of Maui—"The Valley Isle"—also abounds in sandy beaches and lava flows. Many fine accommodations are available for the R&R participant. Points of interest include Haleakala National Park, Kaanapali resort and recreational area and Lahaina, the restored royal capital of old Hawaii.

Kauai—"The Garden Isle"—has numerous fine accommodations available for those on R&R. This island is the oldest of the Hawaiian chain and it is reputed to be the most beautiful of the chain. This is the island Captain Cook first set foot upon when Hawaii was "discovered." Several points of interest include Haualei Valley and Poipu Beach.

The remaining two islands, Molokai and Lanai, are also of interest. Molokai—known as "The Friendly Isle"—is the old home of the lepers in that part of the world. This island is quiet and there are Hawaiians there who live today in a manner much the same as their ancestors did. Although accommodations are not as many as in some of the larger islands, the R&R soldier can find very adequate hotels there. If hiking and the quest for adventure are in your book, Molokai should not be discounted.

Lanai—"The Pineapple Isle"—has as its main city Lanai City. The city gives the taste of the New England fishing villages and the atmosphere is relaxed and easy. A Mormon colony existed at Palawai Basin on Lanai and ancient petroglyphs are preserved at Luahiwa. R&R accommodations are somewhat limited, but adequate housing is available.

The R&R Center at Fort DeRussey has complete information for the R&R planner on all phases of the vacation beneath the Hawaiian sun and moon. They are willing to provide answers to any questions on any subject and they are happy to make hotel reservations at appropriate places and prices for those unfamiliar with the isles.

No matter how or where you choose to spend your week in Hawaii, you'll always find Hawaiian people to be the friendliest in the world. Aloha and a warm smile await every visitor to the islands. So regardless of your tastes, you will more than likely find it in Hawaii and your R&R will be an unforgettable experience. 