

TASK FORCE
OREGON



RICHARD T. KNOWLES

MAJOR GENERAL

U.S. ARMY

COMMANDING

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

AVDF-IO

21 January 1968

Major General Richard T. Knowles
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C. 20310

Dear General Knowles;

Best wishes for the New Year and the best of health for many more years.

This little remembrance of your key days commanding Task Force Oregon should bring a thought or two to mind. If we have missed some, I'll be happy to search them out. If you are unhappy with some of the humor in the book, just tear out the pages and raise hell with me.

Warmest regards,

Sincerely,

PATRICK H. DIONNE
Major, GS
Information Officer

JUNE - AUGUST 1967



MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD T. KNOWLES

CHU LAI (IO) -- Major General Richard T. Knowles, 50, assumed command of the Army's Task Force Oregon in brief ceremonies June 25 at Chu Lai. Promoted to his present rank this month, he commanded the 196th Light Infantry "Charger" Brigade for the past seven months.

Born and educated in Illinois, Major General Knowles is a combat veteran of Europe and Korea.

He accompanied the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) from Ft. Benning, Ga. to Vietnam in 1965 as the Assistant Division Commander.

In addition to commanding the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, his previous commands include the 692d Tank Destroyer Group, in Europe, and the 96th Field Artillery Battalion in Korea where he earned the Silver Star for personally leading a counterattack against communist forces. He was Division Artillery Commander of the 11th Air Assault Division before it was redesignated the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

General Knowles decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with "V" Device, Air Medal, with 23 Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

He is a graduate of the University of Illinois, the Army Command and General Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College.

His wife and three children live in Columbus, Georgia.



RECEIVING THE LEGION OF MERIT FROM MG WILLIAM
B. ROSSON ON DEPARTING THE 196TH LT INF BDE

STAFF



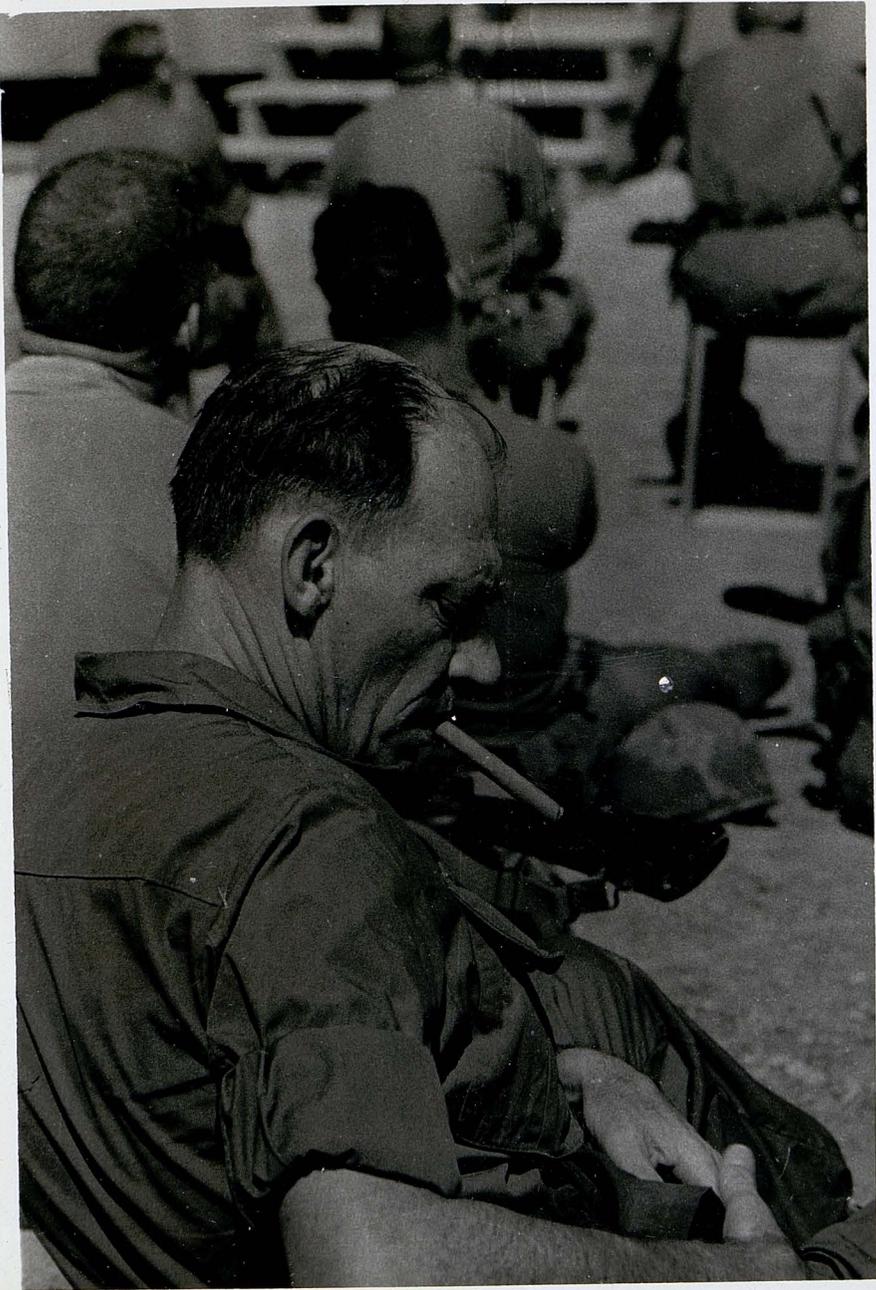
COL MASON J. YOUNG, TFO ARTY COMMANDER
BG FRANK H. LINNELL, CG, 196TH LT INF BDE
COL ROBERT B. PRIDGEN, CO, TFO SPT CMD
BG S. H. MATHESON, CG, 1ST BDE, 101ST ABN DIV



GREETING LTC ROY S. NASH, G4, LTC JAMES S. CONKLIN, G5,...

...MAJ WALTER HARRIS, HQ CMDT, MAJ HARRY HEATH, HISTORIAN,
AND MAJ PATRICK H. DIONNE, IO





COL EDGAR R. POOLE, CHIEF OF STAFF



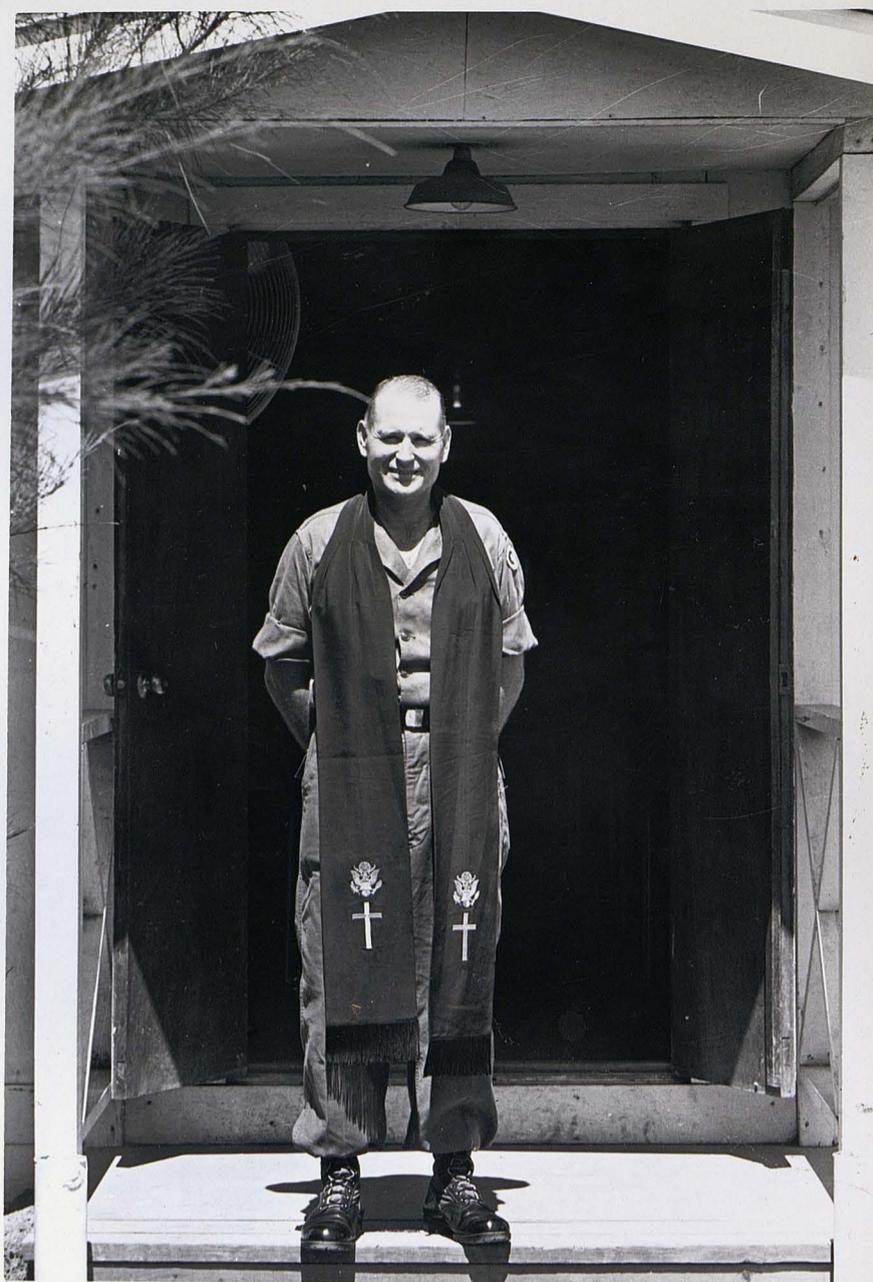
LTC RONALD J. ZAHM, AG

LTC ROY S. NASH, G4





LTC HAROLD E. MORTIMORE, IG

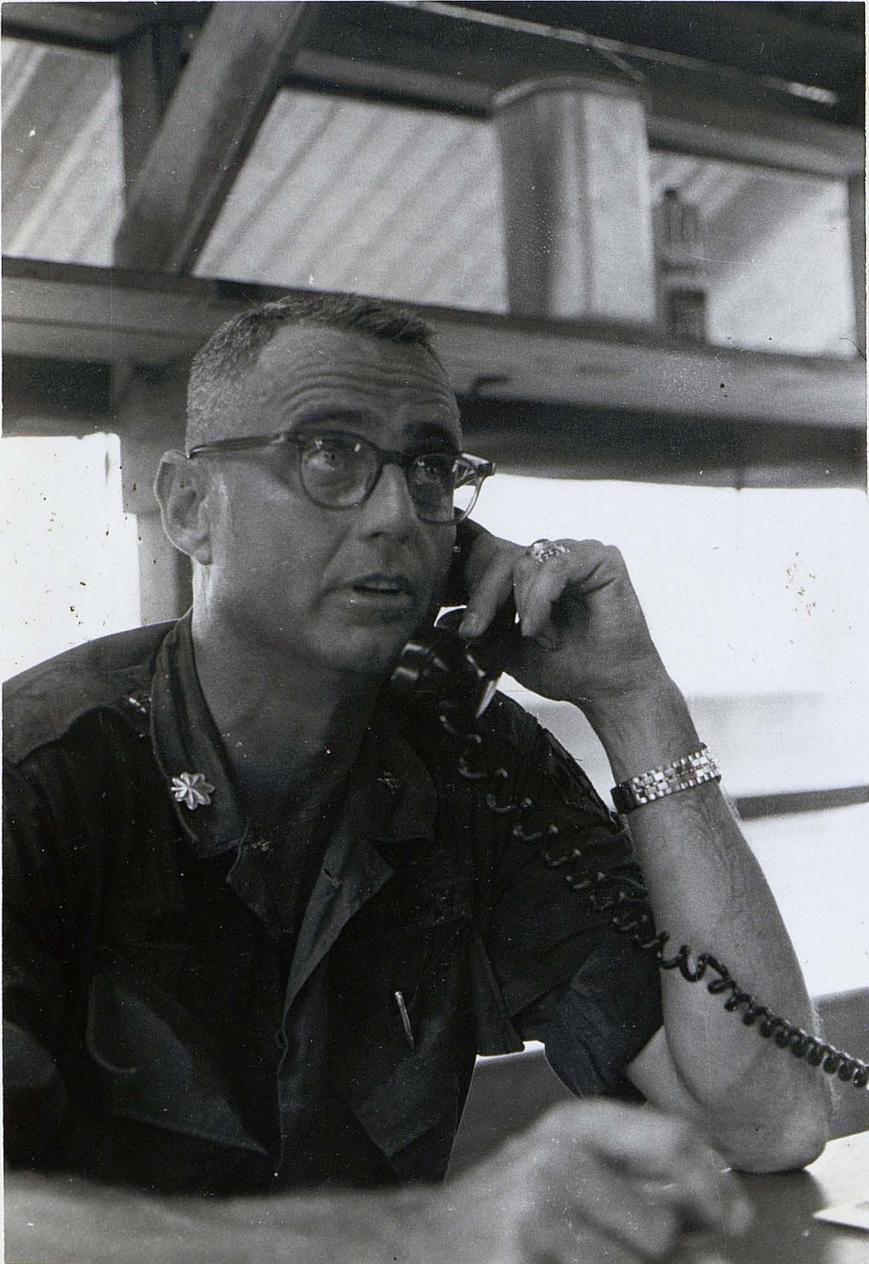


CHAPLAIN (LTC) BURTON G. HATCH

MAJ CHARLES J. MALEY, ASST CHIEF OF STAFF



LTC JOHN A. CALLAHAN, CHEMICAL OFFICER



LTC WILLIAM G. WALBY, G1



COL. WEDDEL, XO, 196TH, WITH "CHARGER" PLAQUE

FREEDOM FOUNDATIONS AWARD FOR COL YOUNG





PROMOTING CAPT STANLEY WHITE TO MAJOR...

...ARTILLERY'S JOHN E. FIET TO MAJOR...





...HISTORIAN HARRY A. HEATH TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL...

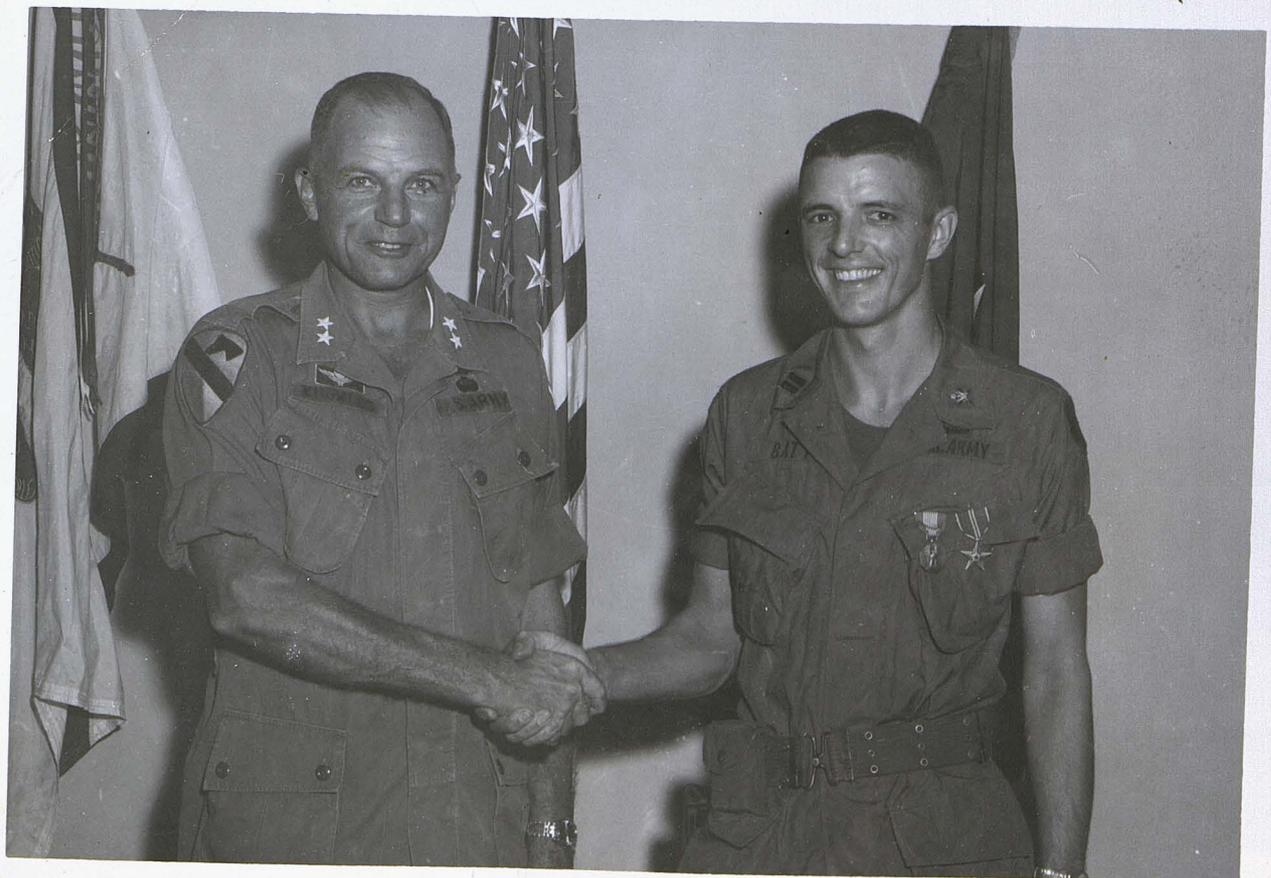
...AIDE KERMIT E. SOUTHERN TO MAJOR...





...AND CLDC'S HYACINTH MARCINIAK TO MAJOR

CONGRATULATING CAPT HOWARD C. BATT AFTER AWARDING HIM
THE SOLDIERS MEDAL AND THE BRONZE STAR





THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY
MARKING THE OPENING OF THE
FINAL SECTION OF HIGHWAY 1
AT SA HUYNH

COL LAM, COMMANDER, 22ND ARVN DIV
LTG STANLEY LARSON, CG, I FIELD FORCE
LTG ROBERT CUSHMAN, CG, III MAF
COL TOAN, COMMANDER, 2ND ARVN DIV



VISITORS

DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT S. MCNAMARA
GREETS AMBASSADOR KOREN AT DUC PHO



MAC AND WESTY

GEN EARLE E. WHEELER, CHAIRMAN
OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,
AND LTG BRUCE PALMER, JR.,
DEPUTY COMMANDER, ARMY IN
VIETNAM, AT DUC PHO



WITH CAPTURED VC CARBINE



MR. NICHOLAS RAIMO, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN WAR VETERANS AT THE 2ND SURGICAL HOSPITAL WITH MAJORS NACHEFF AND DIONNE

SGM WOOLDRIDGE, SGM ARMY, AND SGM COLEMAN, MACV, AT 196TH BDE WITH SGM DANIELS AND SGM SNYDER



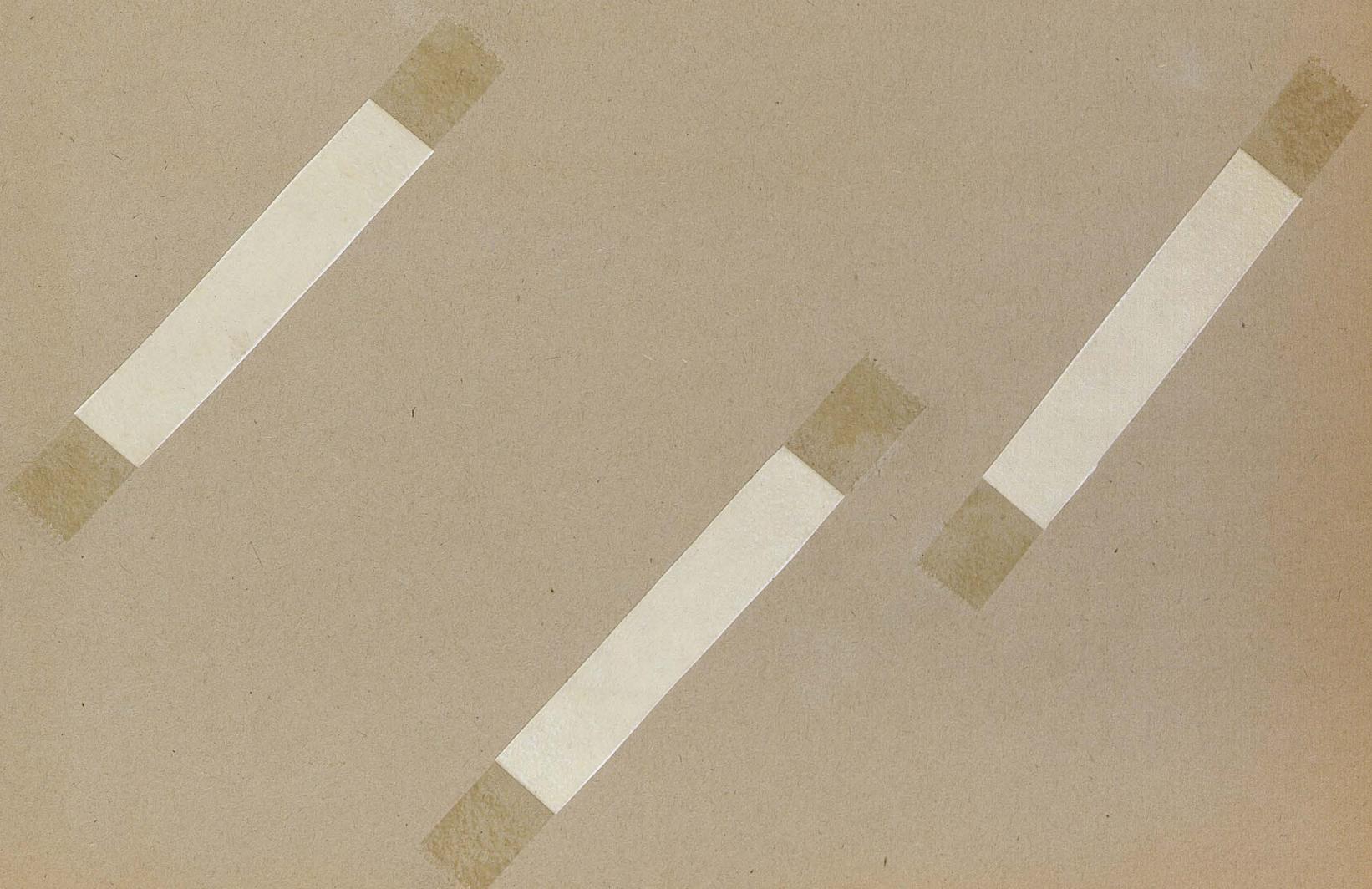


OPERATION MALHEUR II WITH GEN HAROLD K. JOHNSON AND
COL OSCAR E. DAVIS, DEP CMDR OF THE 1/101ST





COL RICHARD H. DOLSON, SR., ASST CHIEF OF STAFF,
PROMOTED BY GEN JOHNSON





AT THE AIRPORT WITH LTG ROBERT CUSHMAN

TOURING TFO WITH GEN WALLACE M. GREENE, MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT,
AND LTG CUSHMAN





GEN CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS AT THE 3/25TH DURING OPERATION HOOD RIVER





GEN W.C. WESTMORELAND GREETING STAFF OF 3/4 INF

GEN WESTMORELAND AND BG MATHESON CHECKING WEAPONS DISPLAY AT 101ST BASE CAMP





WESTMORELAND AND JOE ALSOP, COLUMNIST FOR THE WASHINGTON POST,
SET OUT FOR A BRIEFING AT THE 3/4TH

MILESTONES

COL YOUNG DOES THE HONORS
AFTER THE 100,000TH
ARTILLERY ROUND WAS
FIRED BY THE 2/11 ARTY

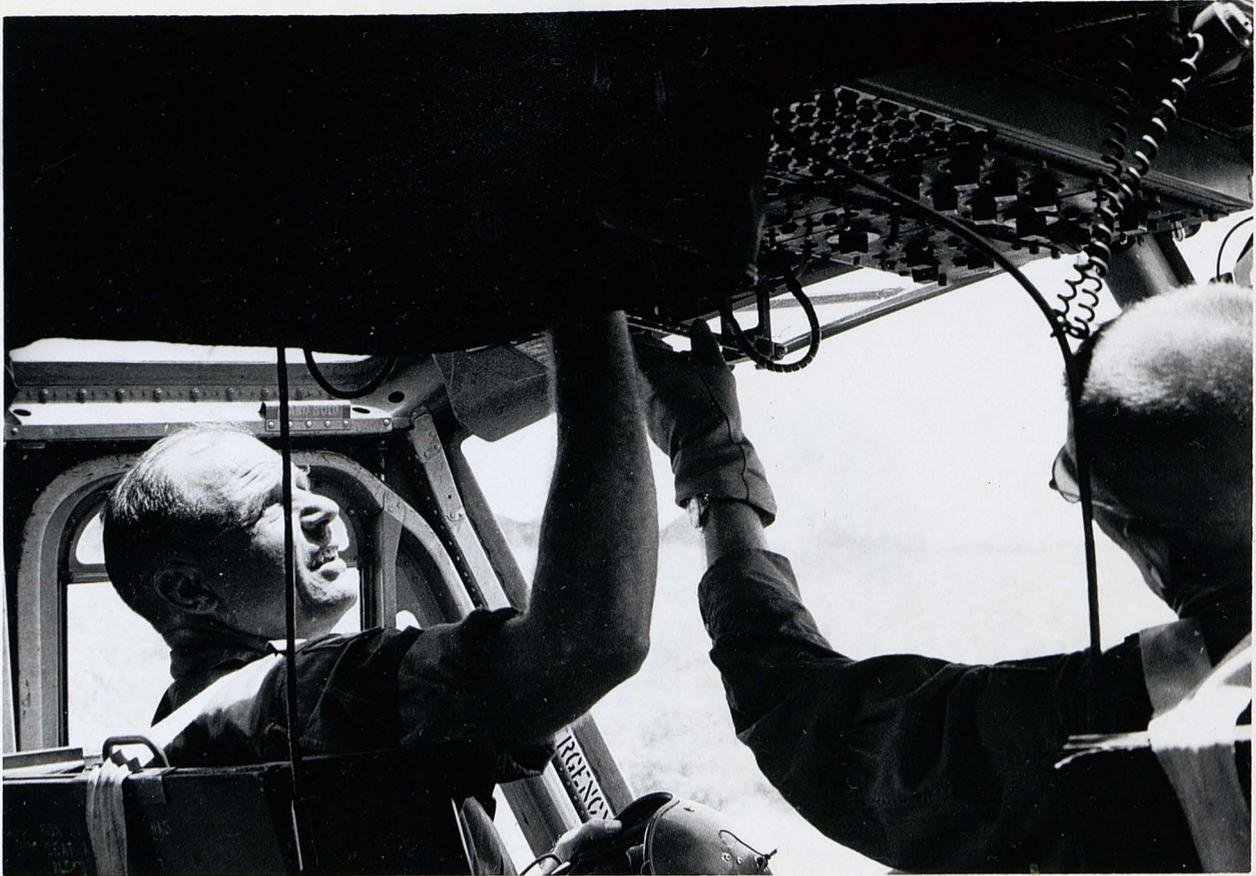




200,000TH ROUND AND CAPT RICHARD H. MOERBE, CO OF "C" BTRY 2/11 ARTY

RAMMING 200,000TH ARTY ROUND





FIRING THE 1,000,000TH 7.62MM ROUND OF THE 14TH AVN BN



101ST ABN





OPERATION HOOD RIVER







SGM WOOLDRIDGE AT A CONFERENCE WITH THE SGM'S OF THE 101ST

SPEC4 BEZ AND HIS SCOUT DOG PREVENTED VC AMBUSH ON PARATROOPERS OF THE 101ST DURING OPERATION MALHEUR





OPERATION HOOD RIVER BRIEFING WITH GEN ABRAMS,
MG ROSSON, AND MG TOLSON, CG, 1ST CAV DIV

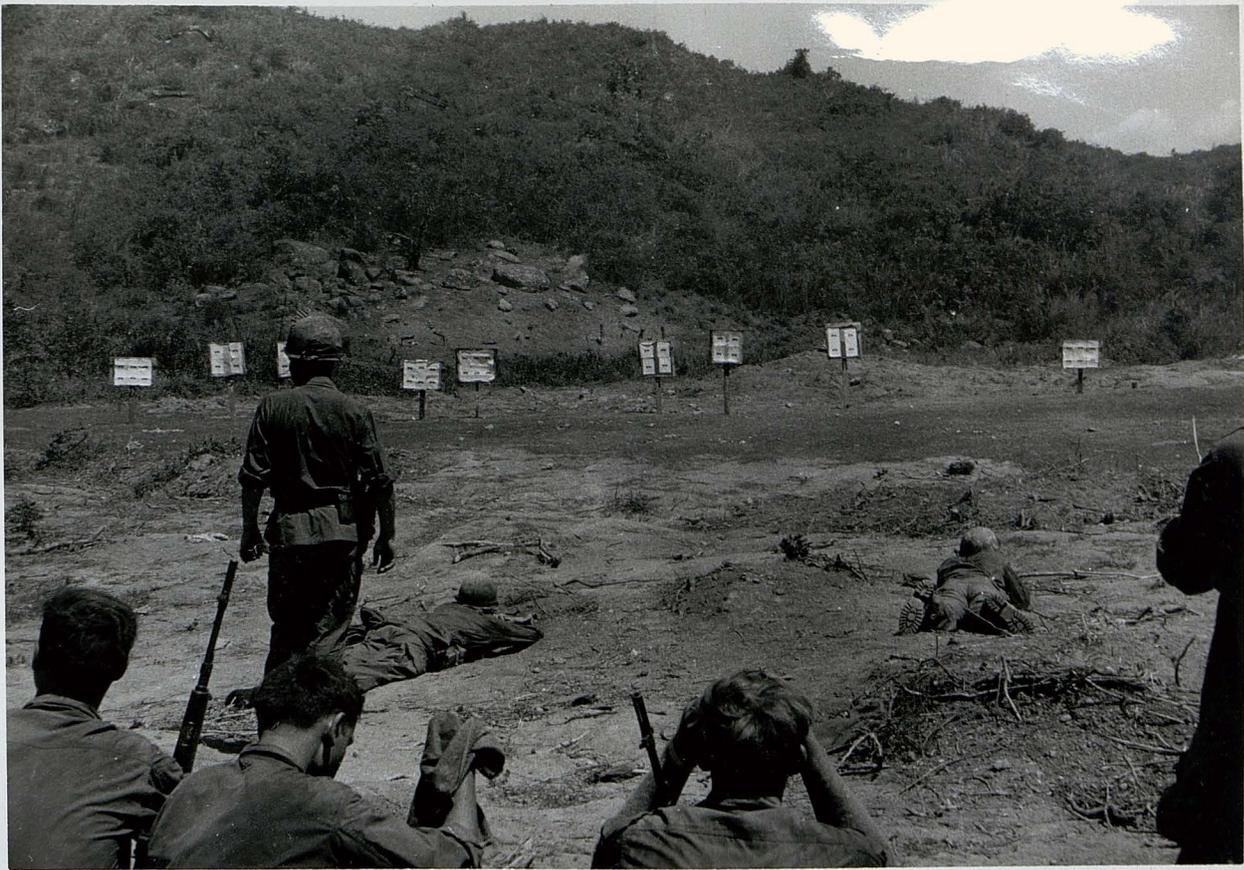




196 TH INF

MEMBERS OF THE LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL





SNIPER SCHOOL





3/25 TH



THE FIRST CONVOY INTO DUC PHO FROM CHU LAI AFTER THE OPENING OF HWY 1











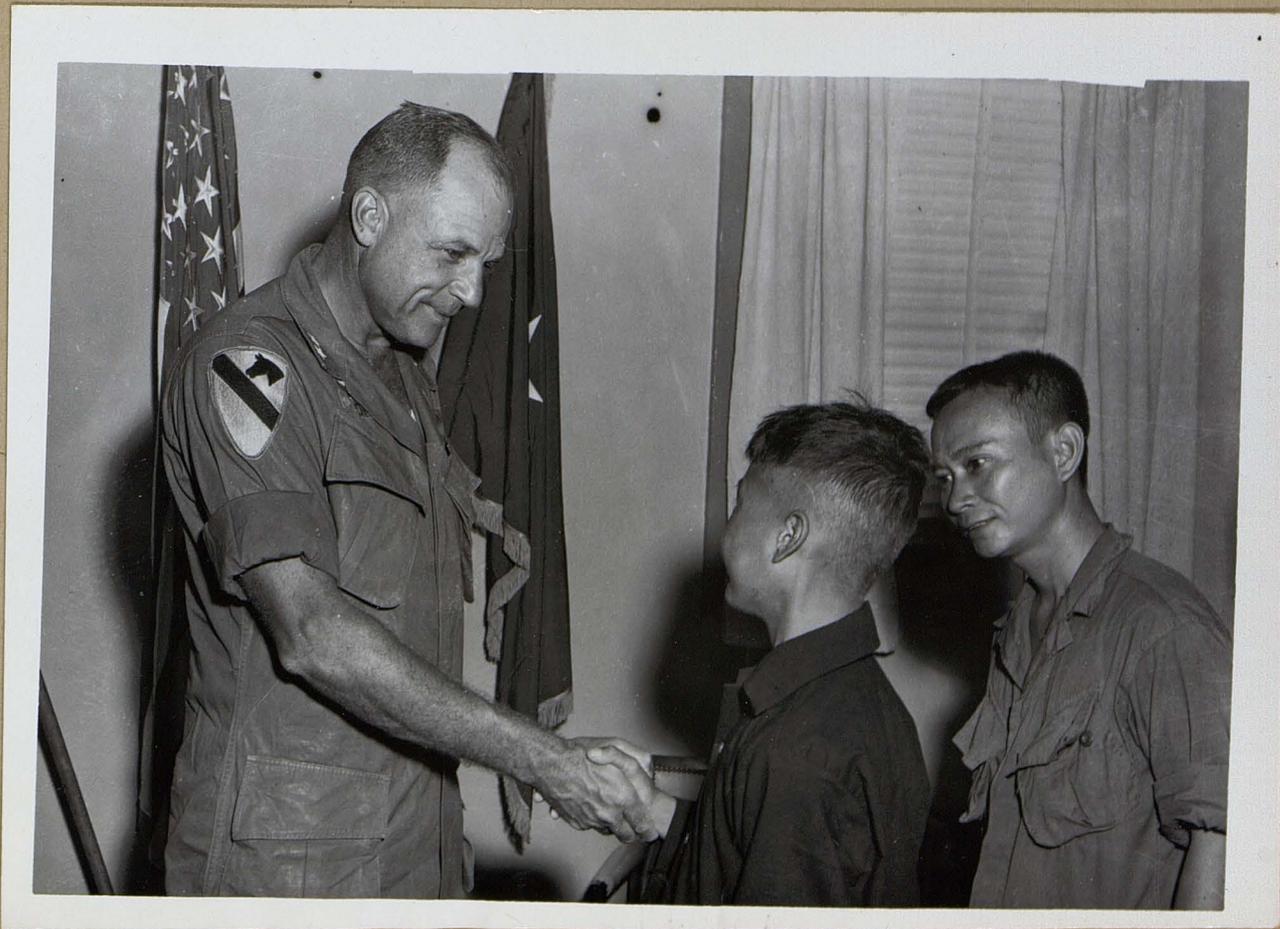


CHANGE OF COLORS CEREMONY OF THE 3/25TH TO THE 3/4TH



14-YEAR-OLD NVA, PHAN VAN THIN, AND CHARLIE BLACK

INTERPRETER SGT MINH





TFO APO





NVN TRAWLER LOADED WITH AMMO - BATANGAN PENINSULA







CHU LAI HARBOR





PEOPLE...





PLACES...







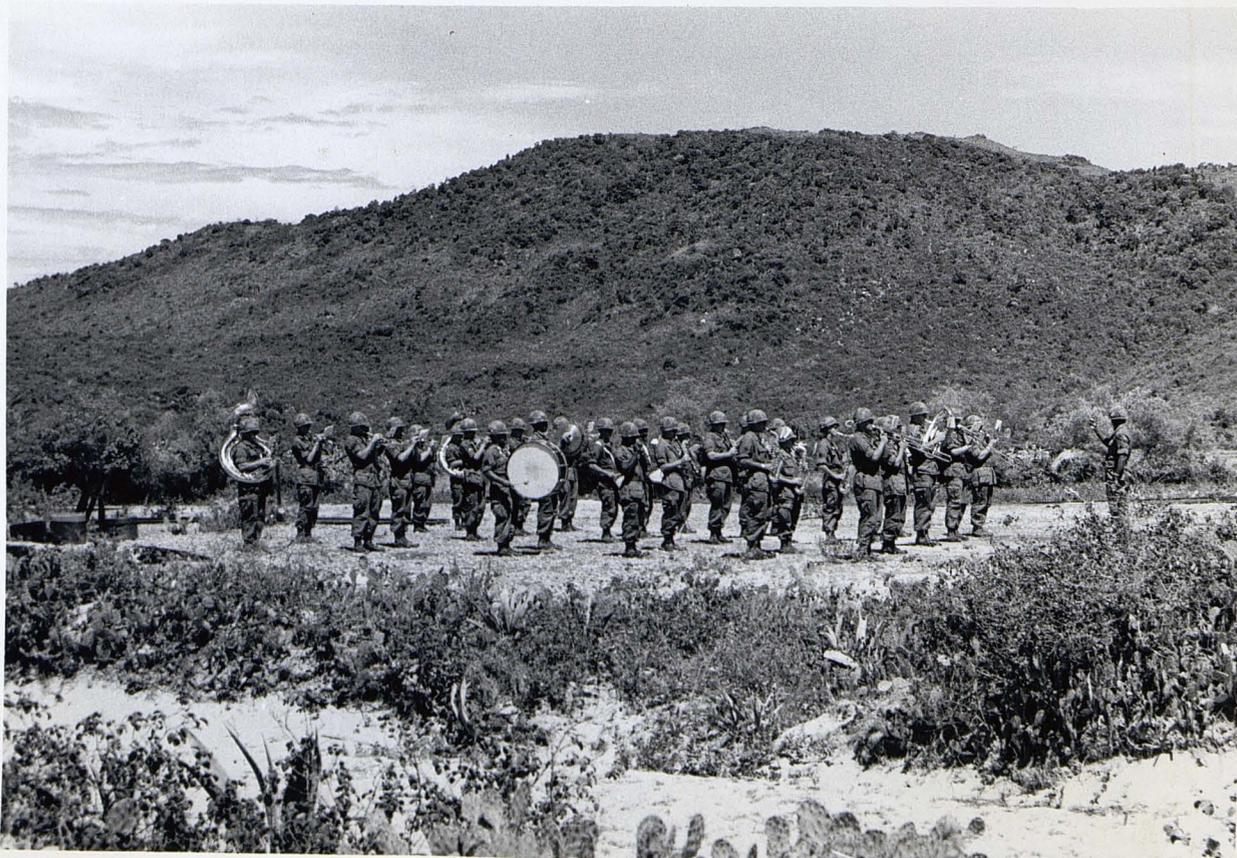
AND THINGS...





"IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING YOU, HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO EAT...
WITHOUT TAKING YOUR CIGAR OUT OF YOUR MOUTH?"

"REMEMBER, MEN, IN THE EVENT THAT THE BRIGADE RUNS SHORT OF AMMUNITION,
WE WILL BE CALLED TO THE FRONT TO..."





WESTY TO JOE: "DICK ACTS AS THOUGH I HAD...BAD BREATH?"



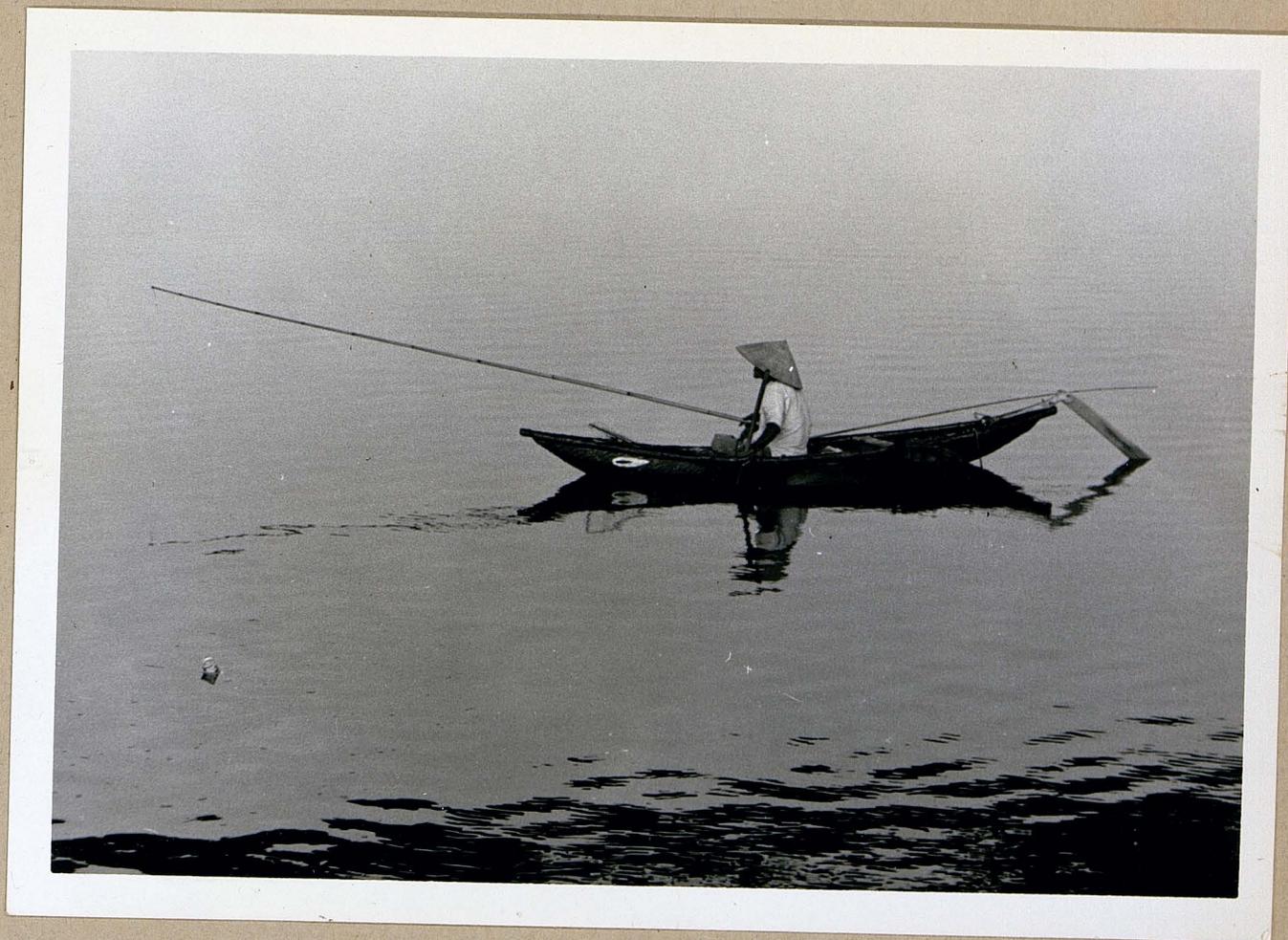


"IF YOU COME IN HERE DRUNK AGAIN, I'LL HAVE YOUR STRIPES!"

"I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT ON THIS MAP. IS THAT THE TFO, APO, USO, DUC PHO, OR A UFO?"



THE VIETNAMESE





EVACUATING 22 PRISONERS OF THE VC -- MALHEUR 11



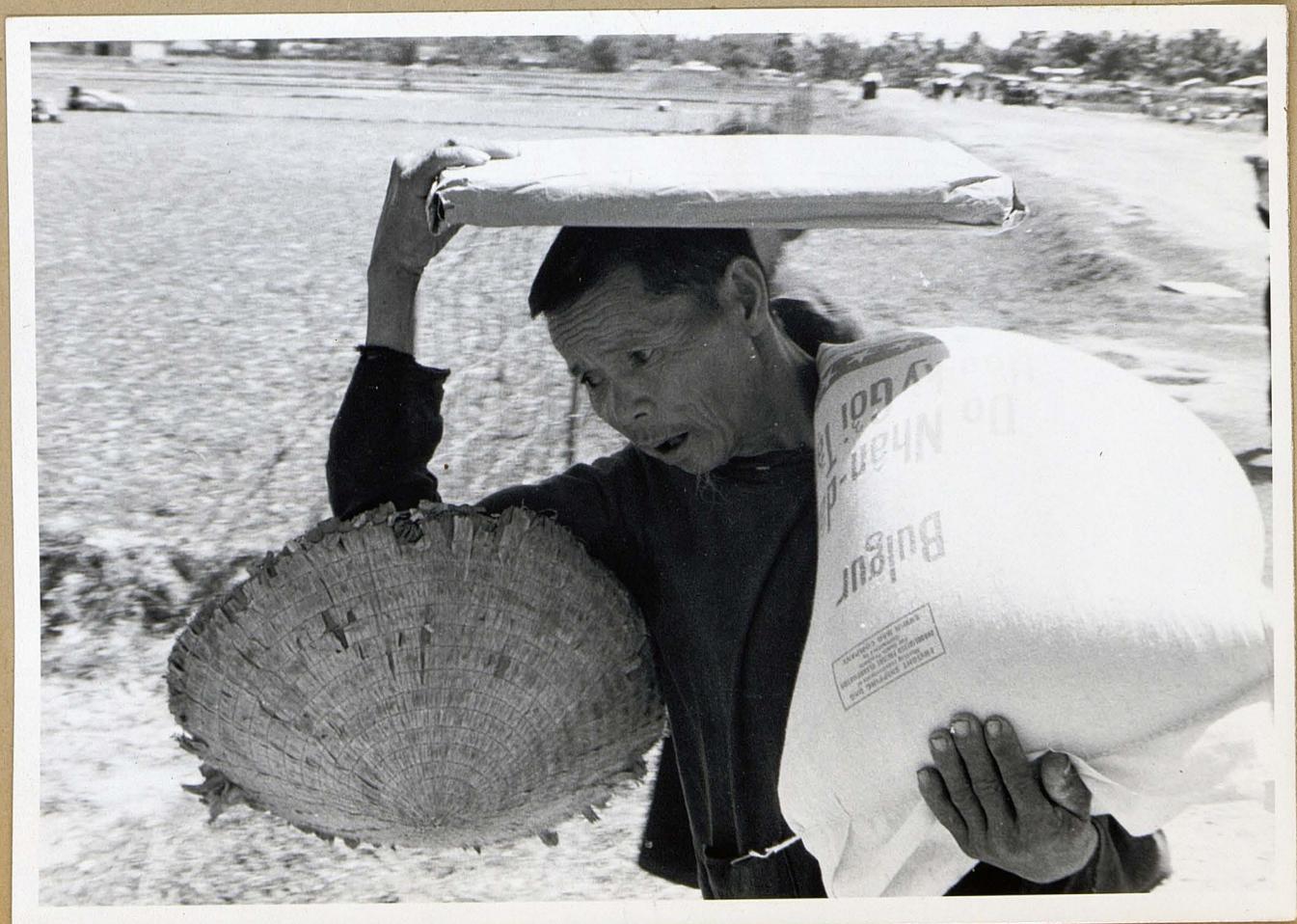






GRADUATION PARTY
FOR CONVERSATIONAL
ENGLISH CLASS







FIRST ADD...TASK FORCE OREGON x x x "...Infantry Brigade..."

killed three Viet Cong, captured two rifles and detained seven suspects.

At one point a platoon from the brigade's 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, received small arms and automatic weapons fire from three enemy positions. The U.S. infantrymen engaged the enemy, killing one Viet Cong armed with an AK-47 rifle and three Chicom grenades.

In another action a U.S. Air Force forward air controller received fire from enemy positions, and called in airstrikes on the area. A later search of the area by ground troops turned up two dead Viet Cong and eight fortified positions destroyed.

The 196th "Chargers" conducted 10 MEDCAPs (Medical Civic Action Programs) yesterday, treating a total of 837 Vietnamese villagers suffering from a variety of ailments.

The 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, killed two enemy found hiding in spiderholes. The "Broncos" also seized four individual weapons during the day.

* * *

↓
Major General Richard T. Knowles, 50, commanding general of Task Force Oregon, was hospitalized two days ago for hepatitis. He has been medically evacuated to the United States.

His condition is not considered serious. According to Lieutenant Colonel Nolen W. Fulton, ^{Louisville, Mississippi} Task Force Oregon surgeon, the form of hepatitis usually contracted in Vietnam is mild. The treatment includes rest for three weeks to a month or more. Multi-vitamins and a diet rich in proteins and carbohydrates also contribute to early recovery.

General Knowles arrived in Vietnam in the summer of 1965 as assistant division commander of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Later he became

-more-

SECOND ADD...TASK FORCE OREGON x x x "...he became..."

chief of staff of I Field Force Vietnam (I FFV) and next became commanding general of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

He led the brigade through the bitter fighting of Operation Junction City in the III Corps area near Tay Ninh, and commanded it when the 196th moved swiftly to the southern I Corps in April 1967 to relieve U.S. Marine Corps elements in the Chu Lai area. He assumed command of Task Force Oregon on June 25, 1967.

General Knowles' wife and four children live in Columbus, Ga.

Brigadier General S. H. Matheson has been named acting commander of Task Force Oregon.

* * * * *

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION REPORTS PROGRESS; TAKES 7 NVA "CHIEU HOI"

The 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) killed 13 enemy yesterday in light, scattered skirmishes in the Operation Pershing area, bringing to 2,990 the total of enemy killed since Pershing was begun.

An element of the 1st Cav's 1st Brigade interrupted a Viet Cong platoon's lunch hour Wednesday in the mountainous region north of the Bong Son Plain in Binh Dinh Province.

The Viet Cong were sitting down to their meal when the U.S. cavalrymen came upon them. The first volley from the Americans sent the enemy scurrying into the jungle. In their hurry to make themselves scarce, the Viet Cong left behind an M-1 rifle, a bolt-action French rifle, 15 field packs, two pairs of binoculars and a freshly cooked meal.

The division's 2d "Blackhorse" Brigade continued search and destroy operations in the Nui Mieu Mountains. "We're fighting the pros down here,"

-more-

***** ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** **
MACOI-P SAIGON, FRIDAY
RELEASED THIS DATE: 25 AUGUST 1967 - 1630H
No. 237-67 EVENING RELEASE
***** ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** **

* * *

* * * III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE * * *

1. TASK FORCE OREGON - QUANG NGAI PROVINCE - Yesterday, elements of the U.S. Army's 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, combat assaulted into an area infested with numerous spiderholes, 6 km (4 miles) northwest of Duc Pho. Many of the enemy in the area attempted to evade the American troops by crawling into the spiderholes, but 23 were killed in numerous small fights. Additionally, 15 weapons were captured and 47 enemy suspects were detained. There were no U.S. casualties reported.

* * *

2. OPERATION KINGFISHER (QUANG TRI PROVINCE) - This morning at 0035, elements of the 9th Marines came under ground and mortar attack from an unknown number of enemy 9 km (5.5 miles) southwest of Camp Carroll. The fire was returned and friendly artillery supported. An Air Force AC-47 aircraft was on station and upon request, supported the action. The enemy broke contact at 0500. There were eight enemy and eight Marines killed. Six individual weapons were captured and one suspect was detained. Twenty-two Marines were wounded, 11 of which were evacuated.

* * *

J.T.K.

(MORE)

INFORMATION OFFICE
HQ TASK FORCE OREGON
APO San Francisco 96374
Telephone: Oregon 541

9 July 1967

FACT SHEET

TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
Chu Lai, Quang Tin Province, RVN
Duc Pho, Quang Ngai Province, RVN

TASK FORCE OREGON was committed to combat 20 April 1967 with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate), 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

Enemy Losses during these 80 days:

VC/NVA killed	-- --	2284	U.S. Leaflets dropped	-- --	37,894,000
Detained	-- --	4497	Loud Speaker Broadcasts	--	hours
Hoi Chanhs	-- --	299	Air	-	232
Weapons	-- --	575 (individual) 35 (crew-served)	Ground	-	538
Rice	-- --	328 Tons	Boats	-	55
Salt	-- --	82 Tons			
Bunkers/structures destroyed	--	1830 (structures) 1780 (bunkers)			
U.S. Losses:					
	Killed	-- --	221		
	Wounded	-- --	409		
	Missing	-- --	9		

10,000 Refugees relocated

66,000 Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) treatments

Leaflets dropped 37,894,000

300 Tons rice harvested (Golden Fleece) without VC interference

US authorized strength: 19,000

VC/NVA - 45,000

(Page 2)

Operational success:

1. GVN Highway Route #1 between Chu Lai and Duc Pho opened for the first time in over two (2) years on 15 June 1967.
2. Continuous major assault on VC/NVA forces in Quang Ngai for the first time since ground forces committed to Vietnam in strength.
3. Construction of Duc Pho airfield and opened to C-130 aircraft in less than 18 days.
4. Registration of fishing boats along Quang Tin/Quang Ngai coast to interrupt possible resupply lines.
5. Destruction of many VC/NVA base camps and disruption of land supply systems.
6. Capture of hundreds of tons of rice and salt--important to VC/NVA diet.
7. Destruction of local VC units and forces.
8. Capture of hundreds of weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition.
9. Separation of NVA units from local VC forces by combat operations in Quang Ngai.

AMERICAL DIVISION (Army of the United States)

HISTORY: When the task of defending New Caledonia fell to the United States, a force was formed in the U.S. to be sent there for that purpose. Forty-five per cent of its strength came from Massachusetts troops of the 26th Infantry Division; the remainder came mostly from Illinois and North Dakota. This force, under Brig Gen Alexander M. Patch, was designated Task Force 6814 and left the New York port of embarkation 23 Jan 42 for New Caledonia, going by way of Panama and Australia. Shortly after its arrival at Noumea, New Caledonia on 12 Mar 42, the Task Force was constituted and organized as the Americal Division, 27 May 42.

DATE OF: Activation - 27 May 42
Inactivation - 12 Dec 45, at Seattle, Washington.

BATTLE CREDITS WW II: (Division) Northern Solomons and Southern Philippines.

COMMANDING GENERALS: Maj Gen Alexander M. Patch Jr. - May 42-Dec 42
Brig Gen Edmund B. Sebree - Jan 43-May 43
Maj Gen John R. Hodge - May 43-Apr 44
Maj Gen Robert B. McClure - Apr 44-Oct 44
Maj Gen William H. Arnold - Nov 44 to
inactivation

COMBAT CHRONICLE: The 164th Infantry Regiment of the Americal Division went into action on Guadalcanal on 13 Oct 42 as the first U.S. Army unit to conduct an offensive operation against the enemy in any theater. Elements of the Division defended Henderson Field against heavy enemy attacks, 23-25 Oct, took part in the offensive across the Matanikau River in Nov, and attacked and took Mt Austen Jan 43. Organized resistance ended and the Division was relieved 9 Feb. It moved to the Fiji Islands, beginning 5 Mar 43, to assume the defense of the main island of Viti Levu and to engage in extensive training. During the period 25 Dec 43 to 12 Jan 44, the Americal landed on Bougainville, relieving the 3rd Marine Div, and was given the task of holding and extending the right half of a previously established perimeter. The Division went on the offensive in Mar 44, driving the Japanese east of Mavavia River, 7-9 Apr, and seizing numerous strategic hill masses during the rest of the month. Training and long-range patrol activity continued until 30 Nov 44 when the Division was relieved. On 8 Jan 45, the Division began movement to Leyte and Samar, to take part in cleaning out remaining Japanese forces on those islands, and to invade Biri, Capul, Ticao and Burias. Relieved 13 Mar 45 on Leyte, the Division landed on

TF OREGON
news sheet

Volume 1 Number 132 Tuesday August 29, 1967

TF OPFGON NEWS

MAG 16 Mortared



HEAVY LIFT — Armormen from Co. C, of the 24th Infantry's 3d Bn., 70th Armor, watch closely as a T-shaped lift bar goes into position over the rear end of an M-50 tank.

CHU LAI (IO) -- Task Force Oregon units reported light contact yesterday resulting in eight enemy killed.

Paratroopers of the 101st Airborne accounted for five enemy kills as they continued Operation Benton near here.

The five enemy kills raised the total to 303 for the 101st during Operation Benton. One weapon was captured and two detainees were held for questioning.

The 196th Light Infantry Brigade reported light contact in Operation Benton, as the "Chargers" killed two enemy.

(Cont'd Page 2 Column 3)

DATELINES (UPI)

LONDON-- As they've often done before, the Beatles returned to London yesterday....but sadder than before. Their manager, 32-year-old Brian Epstein, was found dead at his home yesterday. He had masterminded the Beatles to fame. The singers were in Wales when they learned of his death.

(Cont'd Page 3 Column 2)

DA NANG (UPI)--Viet Cong guerrillas attacked the U.S. Marine helicopter landing zone at Marble Mountain just outside Da

(Cont'd Page 3 Column 1)

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM MAJOR GENERAL KNOWLES

Major General Richard T. Knowles, former commanding general of Task Force Oregon was evacuated from the 17th Field Hospital in Saigon to Fort Benning, Ga., following an attack of hepatitis.

Prior to his departure, he left the following message to all the men of Task Force Oregon:

"While I would have preferred to have said farewell in person, circumstances precluded such an approach. Nevertheless, I could not return to the United States without expressing my heartfelt thanks to all members of the magnificent fighting machine--Task Force Oregon.

"In the short time that you have operated together in the ICTZ (I Corps Tactical Zone), you have compiled a combat record that is the envy of every fighting organization in Vietnam. You have certainly changed the complexion of the war from Chu Lai south to Duc Pho. It has now reached the point where enemy units are down right hard to find-- in fact, you have to dig them out hole-by-hole in the hamlets and villages. Your support of every facet of the Revolutionary Development Program has been truly outstanding.

"As I depart this command with considerable pride and pleasure for having shared in your many accomplishments, I would enjoin you to redouble your efforts now in order to give this fight for freedom the extra surge so necessary to accelerate victory. I'm confident you will more than meet this challenge. Goodbye, good luck and good hunting."

