



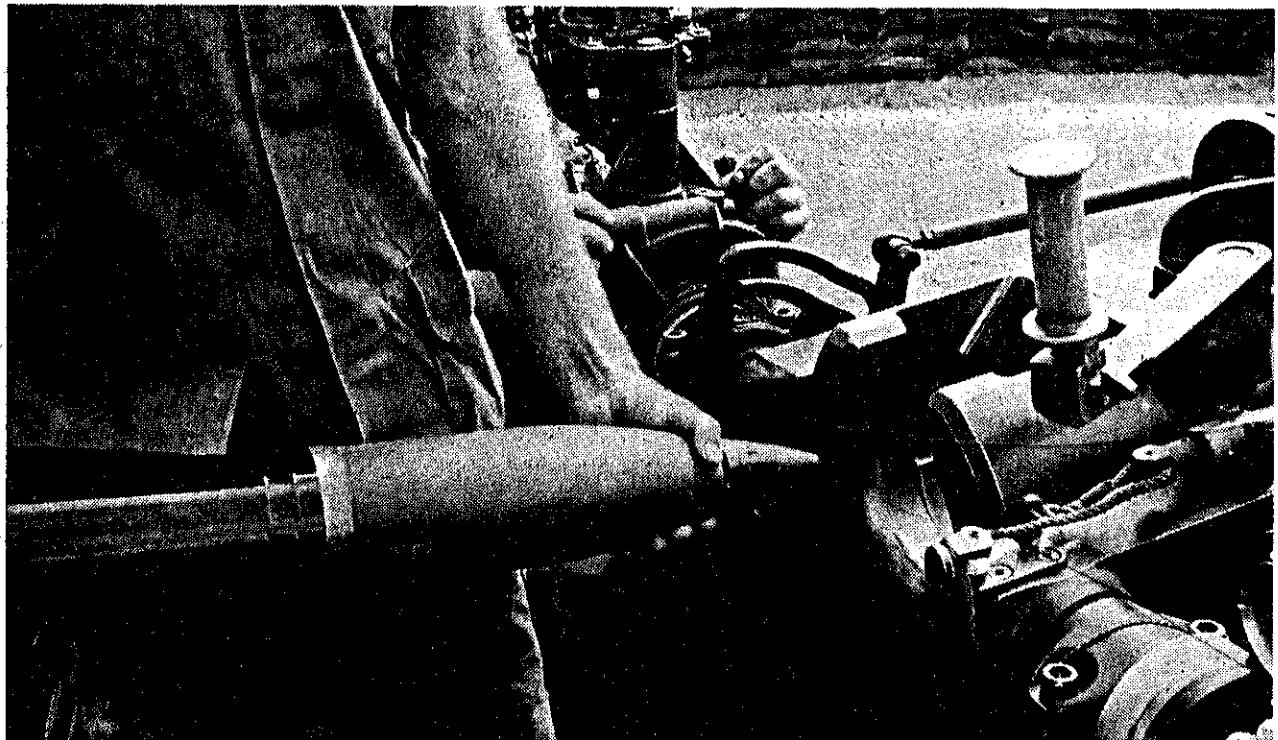
PLOTTING—Specialist 4 Charles Cline of Harrisville, W. Va., must plot the requested direction and distance of fire before firing data may be calculated and passed to the guns.

(1LT R. S. PERRY)



HEAD ON—At Diamond III this 105mm was

Private First Class Mario Alvarado of Suni

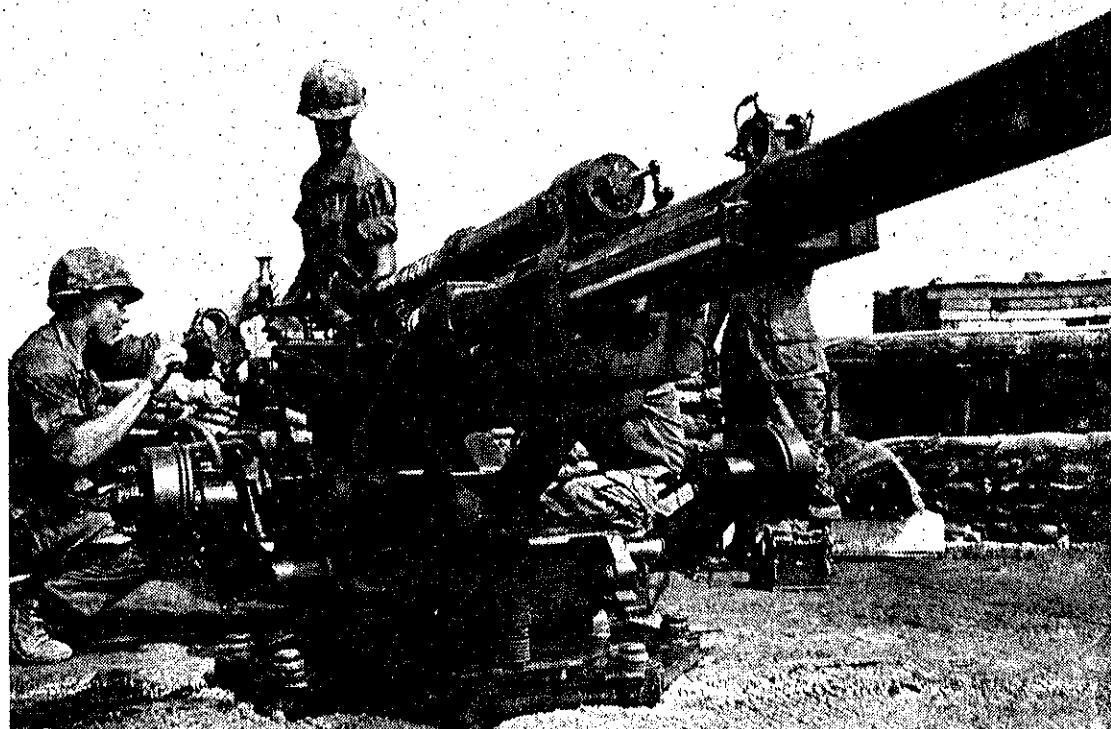


RAMMING THE PROJO—As the gunner sets the deflection and levels the bubbles on the sight, the #1 cannoneer rams the projectile and cannister into the tube.

(PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)

READY AND SET—Corporal Dale Dahlinger of Toms River, N.J., and Specialist 4 Doyle Reynolds of Bisbee, Ariz., assist in preparing the gun to fire. Dahlinger is setting the elevation of the tube while Reynolds rams the projectile into the chamber of the breech.

(PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)



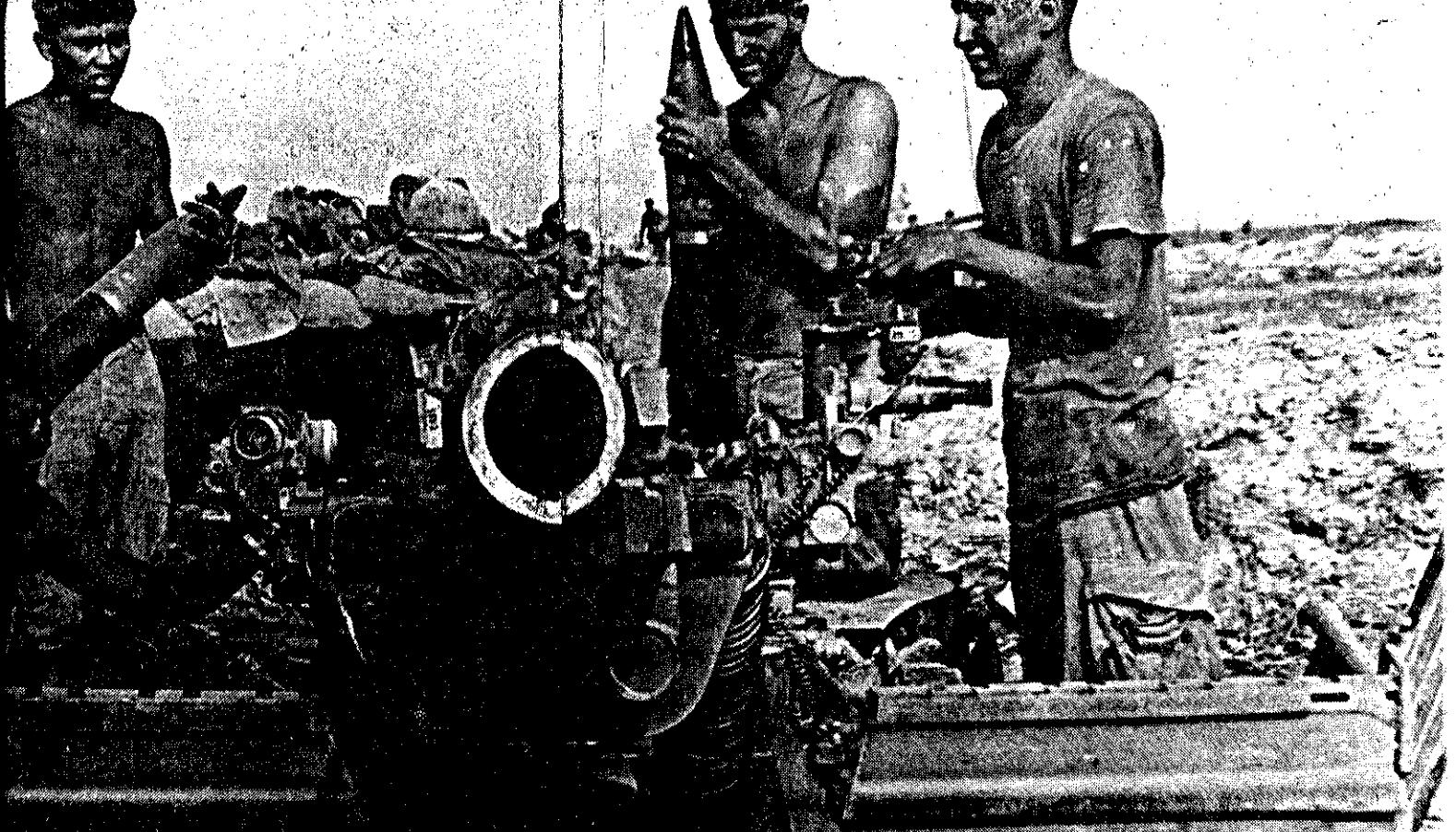
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05mm was lowered and belched fire 159 times that night. The crew, from left, consists of Specialist 4 Wayne Day of Anadarko, Okla.; Private First Class Sunland, N.M.; Sergeant George Belich of Pittsburgh; and Specialist 4 Roger Glover from Mansfield, La. (PHOTO BY SP4 R. B. WILL)

Artillery—the King of Battle— 1/8 Puts It Where It's Needed

By SP4 Bert Allen
1/8 PERSHING — "Battery just!" These words command the respect of the men of 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery. In this command, gunners move to their positions around big guns, and begin to perform their varied tasks to get projectiles out where needed, when requested. Located at three fire support bases and patrol bases Diamond II and III, the gunners are constantly prepared to give their support. The artillerymen have a never-ending task that results

in little visible reward. But the infantrymen and brown-water sailors on the Saigon River have seen the effects of the battalion's precise firing. These elements have been rewarded and the gunner is satisfied knowing that he has assisted in defeating the enemy, or destroying his resources.

Bravo Battery of the 1/8 is not only a fighting battery. It is a show unit capable of demonstrating the abilities of its artillery to men and all visitors, from diplomats and generals to Billy Graham or the likes of

"Peyton Place." Its guest list is impressive.

Also impressive are the awards for valor presented to the battalion's gunners who stand by their guns during hostile fire.

First Lieutenant Stuart Green of Hartford, Conn., Bravo Battery Executive Officer, is able to say, "We're number one in Vietnam, and we're going to stay that way."

There is a strict discipline in the battery in order to maintain the maximum ability to put and supporting fire rapidly and accurately. The manner of

disorganization and uncleanness at a fire support base in the fields of Vietnam is soon dispelled upon arrival at any of 1st Battalion, 8th Artillery, locations.

Each howitzer's parapet is constantly raked, and cleaned at least twice daily. It is almost impossible to find a cigarette butt in the battery areas.

The day of the artillerymen is long and arduous. If he's lucky, he gets a few hours sleep at night, and that may be broken by fire missions.

His early morning hours are spent maintaining and cleaning his weapon, as well as the "office"—the gun's parapet.

Sometime during the day a convoy arrives bringing a strenuous task for the gun bunnies—breaking out several hundred rounds of ammunition which weigh approximately 35 pounds each.

During the distribution of ammo, other gunners may possibly be firing more rounds, which makes the task seem eternal.

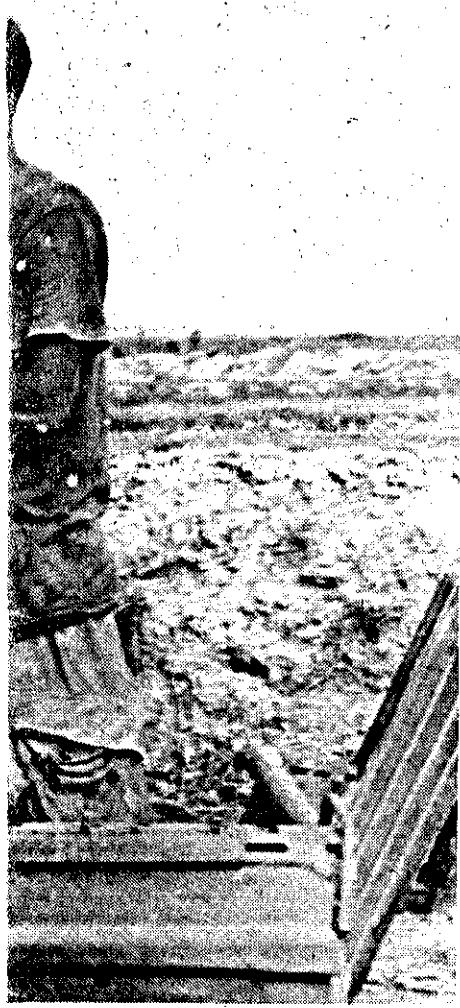
The never-resting "brain" of the artillery, the Fire Direction Center, demands quick reactions and smooth, calm thinking from its men under the most arduous conditions. It is not unusual to see the men of F.D.C. finishing a fire mission as exhausted as the gunners.

It is in F.D.C. that data is gathered from the forward observers, the "eyes" of the artillery with infantry units. The information is then calculated and given to the gunners in terms suitable for the guns' use.

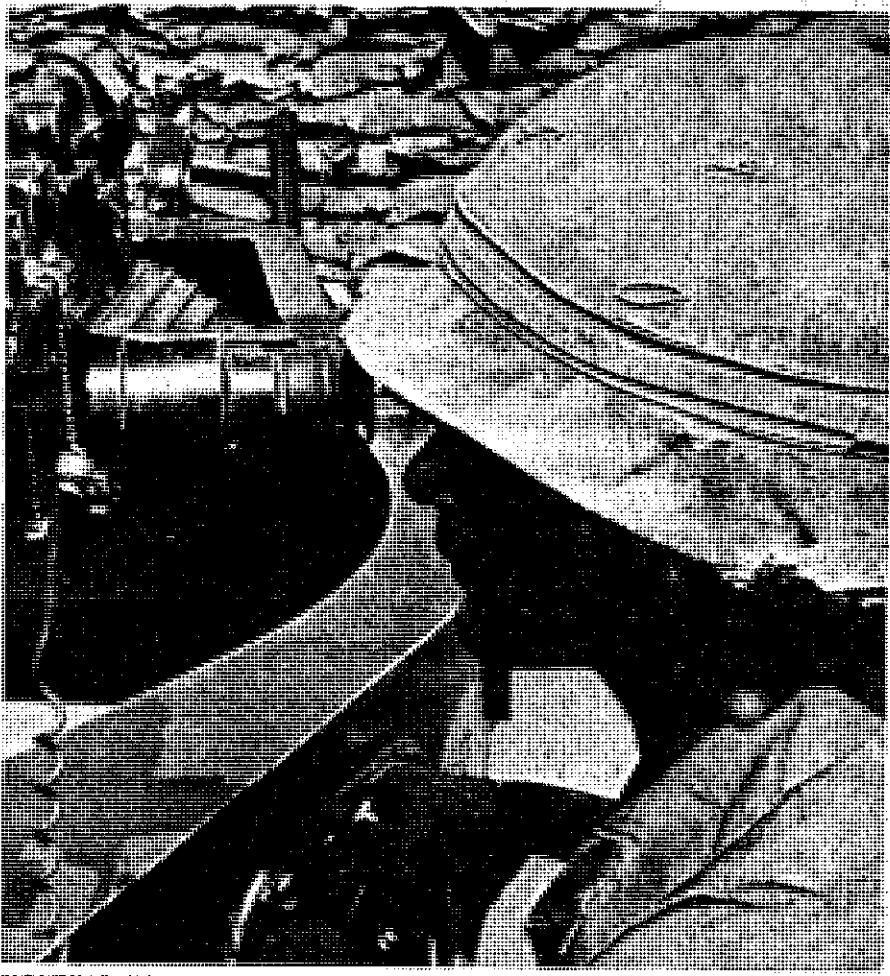


TOTE THAT BOX—Two gunners from Bravo Battery unload two of the several hundred rounds going to FSB Pershing daily. (PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)

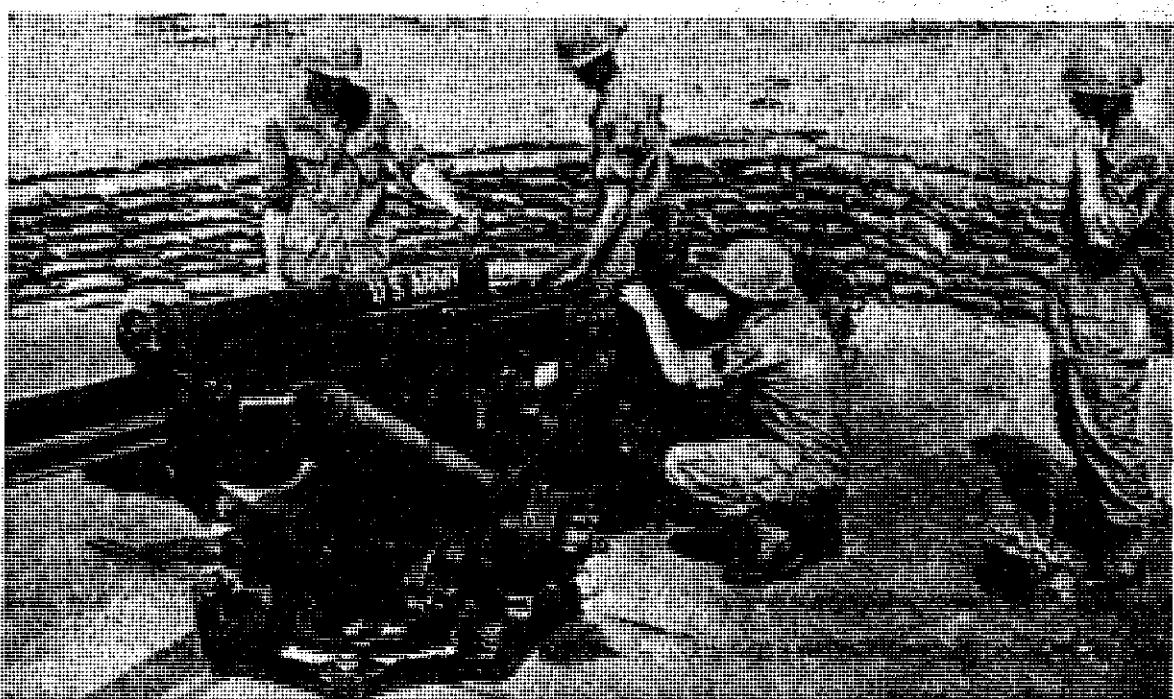
RECEIVING
from F.D.C.
Dohlinger
Browning



list 4 Wayne Day of Anadarko, Okla.; field, La.
(PHOTO BY SP4 R. B. WILLIAMS)



SIGHTING IN—Specialist 4 Mario Santante of South Park, Ill., performs the delicate task of setting the proper deflection before a round is permitted to leave the tube. His duty is similar to pointing a rifle in the right direction, but his work is much more complex. (PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)



RECEIVING THE COMMANDS—Sergeant Charles Garrison of Rome, Ga., gets the gun's commands from F.D.C. and passes them on to the gunners. Crew members are from left Corporal Dale Dahlinger of Toms River, N.J.; Specialist 4 Doyle Reynolds of Bisbee, Ariz.; and Sergeant Billy Browning of Little Rock, Ark.

(PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)



PUNCHING THE TUBE—Two gunners from the First of the Eighth's B Battery prepare to clean the bore of their howitzer. Performing this daily task are Specialist 4 Kenneth Sedbury of Hillcrest Heights, Ohio, and Private First Class Frederick DeBolt of Ottawa, Ill.

(PHOTO BY 1LT R.S. PERRY)