

Biographical Sketch

When Sterling photographer Howard Breedlove volunteered for the draft as a green seventeen-year-old in 1955, he was not even experienced at shooting pictures with a Brownie Hawkeye. However, one tour of duty with a tank company in the Republic of South Korea convinced him that a career change was in order, and he sought admission to career training school. Photography was still not his first choice -- it ranked third after transportation (locomotive operations) and becoming an electrician. Photography school had the vacancy, and so Harry started a career that would lead him to take the widely known photograph used on the cover of the book, Vietnam, The history and the tactics.

Harry was sent to Army Film School at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, where he was able to study under Frank Capra, Jr. (who also had been drafted). From there he spent some years in Europe, where he did feature stories for "Stars and Stripes" (the Army news publication) in Italy, Greece, Sardinia, and Turkey, and served as Staff Photographer to the Commander in Chief of NATO for Southern Europe, in Naples. Finally, he was accepted into an elite corps of Army photographers, the Department of Army Special Photographic Detachment Pacific in Hawaii. Beginning in 1965, Harry spent much of the next three years in Vietnam. His team was assigned to move into the countryside with any unit expected to see action, remain for the duration of the encounter, and keep shooting -- film instead of guns. While filming in Vietnam, Harry and most members of his team were wounded, and two members of the team were killed in action.

During this tour of duty Harry took many remarkable photographs, one of which is widely recognized as a definitive photo from the Vietnam era. The Army's motto was, "Move, Shoot, Communicate," and Army brass believed that Harry's photo of troops unloading from a

helicopter exemplified the motto. The photograph has since appeared on the covers of Saga Magazine, VFW Magazine, Army Digest, Infantry Magazine, "Trajectory" (Lockheed Aircraft's Annual Report on their Army Activities), and the book, The Flying Army. It has been used on calendars, and in textbooks. It is a featured photo-mural in the Pentagon, and in the meeting room of the House Armed Services Committee. It currently appears as the cover photograph on the book, Vietnam, The history and the tactics, an important work of history and photographs from the Vietnam era, published in 1982.

In addition to these honors, Harry received two Department of the Army awards for the best photo taken worldwide, and a Department of the Army "Emmy" for the most striking combat footage to come out of Vietnam. This footage has been aired on "That's Incredible," and was part of the 1982 seven-part television series on Vietnam. It is also included in the Department of the Army film, "The Combat Photographer".

Following his tour in Vietnam, Harry completed his twenty years in the Army on photographic assignments to Alaska, Bangkok, and Japan. While on assignment with Headquarters, Department of the Army, Pentagon, he covered such events as Medal of Honor presentations, and the DoD investigation of the My Lai massacre . Harry made a film of Sammy Davis, Jr. touring Vietnam (at the request of President Nixon) entertaining the troops and speaking on drug abuse, and was on a team that filmed the return and reacclimation of the Vietnam POWs at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Colorado.

Since his retirement from the Army in 1975, Harry spends his days as a Micrographics Technician for MITRE and his spare time doing wedding and industrial photography.