

U. S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES INSIGNIA BOOKLET No. 2

by J. SWEDER



Some of the most effective actions against the Communist forces in Southeast Asia were carried out by the U. S. Army Special Forces Recon Teams. Controlled by MACV/SOG these Recon Teams infiltrated deep into enemy territory to observe and gather intelligence. They would stay for months behind the lines to watch the supply trails and call in air strikes on the Communist troop concentrations and convoys.

Most of the insignia in the book are unauthorized by U. S. Army regulations. The units usually sent a man to one of the numerous taylor shops off the base or in a large town with a suitable design of a snake, tiger, dagger dripping blood, lightning bolts, and most likely a skull wearing a GREEN BERET.

The exact size and colors of the insignia are not given to prevent fake copies from being manufactured. I hope this booklet can serve as a useful guide to collectors of military insignia and historians.

I would like to acknowledge the unselfish efforts of two collectors, Sgt. Ken Sparks of Seattle, Washington, and Warrent Officer Pete McDermott of the 11 Special Forces group, for loaning to me for long periods of time insignia from their fine, personal collections to be photographed. Without their assistance this book could not have been written.

1st SPECIAL FORCES

HERALDIC ITEMS

COAT OF ARMS

Shield: Argent, a fighting knife in bend hilt to base sable.

Crest: On a wreath of the colors two arrows saltirewise argent.

Motto: *De Oppresso Liber* (Liberate From Oppression).

Symbolism: The shield was originally approved for the 1st Special Service Force of World War II on 26 February 1943. The knife is of a distinctive shape and pattern and was issued only to the 1st Special Service Force.

The crest is the crossed arrow collar (branch) insignia of the 1st Special Service Force, World War II, changed from gold to silver for harmony with the shield and to make a difference from collar insignia. The motto more fully translated means "from oppression we will liberate them."

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The distinctive insignia is the crest and motto of the coat of arms combined with the fighting knife from the shield in the form of a badge.

LINEAGE AND HONORS

LINEAGE

Constituted 5 July 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 1st Special Service Force, a joint Canadian-American organization to consist of the First, Second, and Third Regiments and Service Battalion. Activated 9 July 1942 at Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana. Disbanded 6 January 1945 in France.

Reconstituted (less Service Battalion) 15 April 1960 in the Regular Army; concurrently, consolidated with the 1st, 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th Ranger Infantry Battalions and the 2d Infantry Battalion (see ANNEXES 1-6) to form the 1st Special Forces, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System.

LINEAGES AND HERALDIC DATA

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II

Algeria-French Morocco
(with arrowhead)
Tunisia
Sicily (with arrowhead)
Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead)
Anzio (with arrowhead)
Rome-Arno
Normandy (with arrowhead)
Northern France
Southern France (with arrowhead)
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Aleutian Islands
New Guinea
Leyte (with arrowhead)
Luzon

Vietnam

Advisory
Defense
Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase II
Counteroffensive, Phase III
Tet Counteroffensive
(other campaigns to be determined)

DECORATIONS

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **EL GUETTAR** (1st Ranger Battalion cited; WD GO 56, 1944)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **SALERNO** (1st and 3d Ranger Battalions cited; WD GO 41, 1947)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **POINTE DU HOE** (2d and 5th Ranger Infantry Battalions cited; WD GO 10, 1945, and WD GO 73, 1944)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **SAAR RIVER AREA** (5th Ranger Infantry Battalion cited; WD GO 23, 1947)

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered **VIETNAM 1966-1968** (5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces cited; DA GO 45, 1969)

Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered **VIETNAM 1968** (5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces cited; DA GO 70, 1969)

ANNEX 1

Constituted 27 May 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 1st Ranger Battalion. Activated 19 June 1942 at Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland. Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion. Disbanded 15 August 1944 in the United States.

Reconstituted 1 September 1948 in the Army of the United States and redesignated (less Companies E and F) as the 1st Infantry Battalion; concurrently, activated at Fort Gulick, Canal Zone (Company E redesignated as the 559th Infantry Company—hereafter separate lineage; Company F redesignated as the 560th Infantry Company). Battalion inactivated 4 January 1950 at Fort Gulick, Canal Zone.

Company A redesignated 25 October 1950 as the 1st Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; activated 28 October 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Company B redesignated 2 November 1950 as the 5th Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; activated 20 November 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Battalion redesignated 24 November 1952 as the 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion and allotted to the Regular Army (concurrently, former companies [less Company E] restored to unit by redesignation).

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 1st Battalion, First Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 1st, 7th, 8th, and 9th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

ANNEX 2

Organized 21 May 1943 in North Africa as the 3d Ranger Battalion (Provisional). (Constituted 21 July 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 3d Ranger Battalion.) Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 3d Ranger Infantry Battalion. Disbanded 15 August 1944 in the United States.

Company A reconstituted 25 October 1950 in the Regular Army as the 3d Ranger Infantry Company; activated 28 October 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Company B reconstituted 2 November 1950 in the Regular Army as the 7th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 20 November 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 5 November 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Company C reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 11th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 5 January 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 21 September 1951 in Japan. Company D reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 12th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 1 February 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 27 October 1951 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Company E

reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 13th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 1 February 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 15 October 1951 at Camp Pickett, Virginia. Battalion reconstituted 24 November 1952 in the Regular Army (concurrently, former companies restored to unit by redesignation).

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 1st Battalion, Second Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 3d, 13th, 14th, and 15th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

ANNEX 3

Organized 29 May 1943 in North Africa as the 4th Ranger Battalion (Provisional). (Constituted 21 July 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 4th Ranger Battalion.) Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion. Disbanded 24 October 1944 at Camp Butler, North Carolina.

Company A reconstituted 25 October 1950 in the Regular Army as the 4th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 28 October 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Company B reconstituted 2 November 1950 in the Regular Army as the 8th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 20 November 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Battalion reconstituted 24 November 1952 in the Regular Army (concurrently, former companies restored to unit by redesignation).

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 2d Battalion, Second Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 4th, 16th, 17th, and 18th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

ANNEX 4

Constituted 21 July 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 5th Ranger Battalion. Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion. Activated 1 September 1943 at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. Inactivated 22 October 1945 at Camp Myles Standish, Massachusetts.

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 1st Battalion, Third Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 5th, 19th, 20th, and 21st Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

ANNEX 5

Constituted 16 December 1940 in the Regular Army as the 98th Field Artillery Battalion. Activated 20 January 1941 at Fort Lewis, Washing-

ton. Converted and redesignated 25 September 1944 as the 6th Ranger Infantry Battalion. Inactivated 30 December 1945 in Japan.

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 2d Battalion, Third Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 6th, 22d, 23d, and 24th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.

ANNEX 6

Constituted 11 March 1943 in the Army of the United States as the 2d Ranger Battalion. Activated 1 April 1943 at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. Redesignated 1 August 1943 as the 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion. Inactivated 23 October 1945 at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia. Redesignated 29 July 1949 as the 2d Infantry Battalion (concurrently, Companies E and F disbanded). Activated 15 September 1949 at Fort Gulick, Canal Zone. Inactivated 4 January 1950 at Fort Gulick, Canal Zone.

Company A redesignated 25 October 1950 as the 2d Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; activated 28 October 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 August 1951 in Korea. Company B redesignated 2 November 1950 as the 6th Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; activated 20 November 1950 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 1 December 1951 in Germany. Company C redesignated 27 February 1951 as the 14th Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; concurrently, activated at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 27 October 1951 at Camp Carson, Colorado. Company D redesignated 27 February 1951 as the 15th Ranger Infantry Company and allotted to the Regular Army; concurrently, activated at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 5 November 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Company E reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 9th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 5 January 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 5 November 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Company F reconstituted 15 December 1950 in the Regular Army as the 10th Ranger Infantry Company; activated 5 January 1951 at Fort Benning, Georgia; inactivated 15 September 1951 in Japan.

Battalion redesignated 24 November 1952 as the 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion and allotted to the Regular Army (concurrently, former companies restored to unit by redesignation). Redesignated 14 June 1955 as the 2d Infantry Battalion (concurrently, Companies E and F absorbed by battalion). Activated 1 July 1955 in Iceland. Inactivated 11 March 1960 at Fort Hamilton, New York.

Consolidated 15 April 1960 with the 2d Battalion, First Regiment, 1st Special Service Force to form Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 2d, 10th, 11th, and 12th Special Forces Groups, 1st Special Forces.



SPECIAL FORCES Pocket Patch
BULLION EMBROIDERED



Shoulder Patch, VIET MADE SUBDUED



PROJECT SIGMA



PROJECT GAMMA



Command Control South



Command Control South



COMMAND & CONTROL
CENTER



COMMAND & CONTROL
SOUTH





COMMAND CONTROL NORTH





Recon Team "ARKANSAS"





Recon Team Colorado



Forward Opns Base "4"





Recon Team "FORK"





RECON TEAM HOT CAKE



RECON TEAM IDAHO



RECON TEAM KENTUCKY



RECON TEAM KRAIT



Recon Team
North Carolina





Recon Team New York



Recon Team "OHIO"



RECON TEAM PLANE

RECON TEAM PLANE



RECON TEAM PUERTO RICO



RECON TEAM PRAIRIE FIRE

RECON TEAM TROWEL



RECON TEAM VIPER





RECON TEAM VIRGINIA

RECON TEAM WEATHER

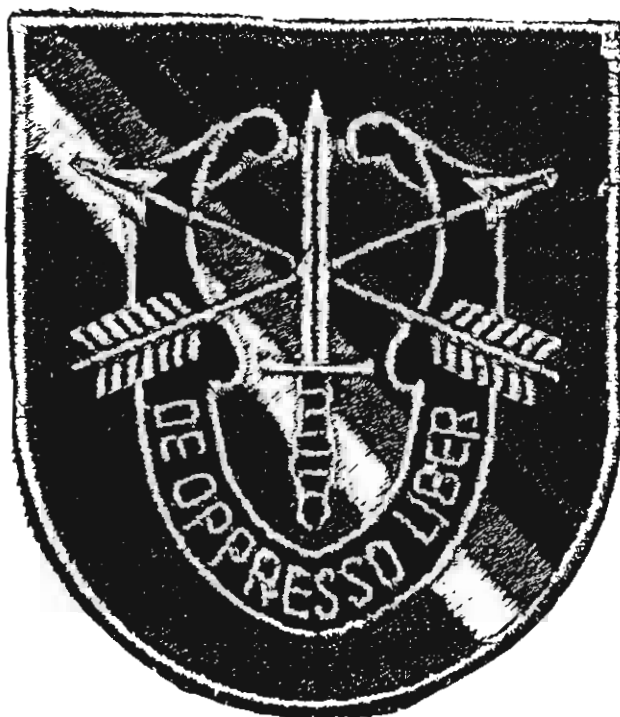




46th Special Forces Co



5th Special Forces Gp



10th Special Forces Gp



MOBILE LIAISON TEAM 1

MOBILE LIAISON TEAM 2

