



OLD GUARD



4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



Volume II, No. 6

5 September 1969

WEEKLY WRAP-UP:

August 25--Alpha Company had already set up NDP and sent out its four-man LP about 50 meters from the perimeter. Throughout the entire night nothing of any significance occurred to portend the attack that was to follow later on. All went as usual--people coughed and snored; air mattresses rasped and grumpy negative sit reps were called in.

The attack finally did erupt the next morning at approximately 0500 hours. A chicom grenade was tossed at a position along the perimeter. Simultaneously, two trip flares burst in front of the four-man LP and another somewhere off to the right diffusing light everywhere. About three RPG and several mortar rounds crashed into the perimeter. Beaucoup chicom grenades rained in followed by vehement return fire. The men on the LP (Sgt. Gary Meyers, Emma, Miss; Sgt. Arthur Argoa, Montebello, Calif; PFC Richard Ruh, Lapunti, Calif; and PFC William Connally) might have felt a little forgotten, a little helpless perhaps, but definitely scared. They were pinned down by the intense fire from the rest of the Company. The four men snuggled close to terra firma and nervously waited for the cessation of rounds cracking uncomfortably overhead. The 2-0 and 4-0 elements had meanwhile eliminated two of the enemy. The next day, the two dead NVA were found beside an RPG launcher and three rounds. The tube was loaded with all systems go. Near the end of the firefight, which lasted for about 40 minutes, only light intermittent fire broke out as the NVA

(continued on page 6, col. 1)

On the 25th of August, at 0445 hours, Alpha Company received about three mortar rounds and had two trip flares pop. The Company engaged the enemy with small arms fire. At approximately 0600 hours, three incoming rounds hit the perimeter in the form of RPG-7s. This time claymores were detonated with the result of one NVA killed. A half hour later, Alpha again engaged and killed an NVA and captured an RPG-7 launcher and rounds, two AK-47s and 37 chicom grenades. That same day, Charlie Company found two dead NVA.

August 26 - On the morning of the 26th, San Juan Hill received rockets of unknown type. No casualties were reported. Delta Company's 2nd Platoon made contact with several NVA almost immediately after it touched down from a chopper. The Company was combat assaulted onto several neighboring hills a few "klicks" southwest of Duc Pho village. The Company killed two of the NVA and captured an AK-47 and an M-79.

At 0950 hours, Bravo Company found two dead NVA while on its trek off San Juan Hill. The dead were victims of the H&I 81mm mortar fire the night before.

On August 27, little action occurred. Recon Platoon received automatic weapons fire from about 40 meters out. No results reported. The next day, Bravo Company took 60mm mortar fire. Consequent engagement of the enemy mortar position with accurate artillery fire resulted in one large secondary explosion.

(cont. on page 3, col. 1)

SGT. BROWN WRESTLES WITH NVA

On the morning of the 26th of August, Delta Company combat assaulted onto several neighboring hills approximately two "klicks" southwest of Duc Pho. However, only the 2nd Platoon encountered any resistance. Sargeant James Brown(Virginia Beach, Virginia), who was in the center of the action, summarizes the order of events that suddenly exploded after his platoon alighted from the chopper which brought them to the hot LZ. It was a tight fit when the chopper descended down between two boulders and so the men had to jump off. After doing so, he explains, they came under immediate and close enemy fire originating from behind heavy shrub and several boulders. Everyone dove for cover. Chicom grenades were thrown at another group of men and then they too received fire from the NVA. PFC Jerry Gammon(Pleasant Shade, Tenn), among that group, stated, "We didn't know where the firing was coming from. We couldn't even tell what was happening." It was all so quick and completely unexpected. They hit the ground at the crack of the AK rounds. Gammon crawled over to a wounded man and administered whatever aid he could under the circumstances.

CLUBS COMMIE

The men in the 2nd Platoon, refusing to remain in a helpless position, started to maneuver. Sgt. Brown bounded over the large boulder he was concealed behind and found himself staring into the malevolent eyes of two NVA - one with an AK-47, the other with an M-79. All in a span of interminable seconds, one of the NVA automatically raised his weapon and pulled the trigger. The AK failed to fire! Brown pulled the trigger of his weapon as the NVA, scared out of his wits, started to hightail it. His M-16 wouldn't fire. By this time, the other NVA had raised his M-79 - a round exploded out of the barrel, glanced off the helmet of Sgt. (continued on page 4, col. 1)

DELTA MAKES CONTACT

The 4-3 Old Guard was recently embroiled in some of the heaviest action ever witnessed to date. The site of the extensive battle, which took place on August 30, has the ominous ring of "ambush alley" (also known under the pseudonym of rice bowl). It extends west of Highway I - a corridor of frequent ambush attempts on large convoys passing through.

The action occurred about 1030 hours when Delta Company along with the 1-1 Cavalry, to which it has been annexed to and under its operational control, came under exceedingly heavy 82mm mortar, RPG and automatic weapons fire. In no mood for exaggeration, one grunt from Delta Company described the intensity of the attack when he said, "It just rained mortars."

FAST AND FURIOUS

The Company had already broken camp by 1000 hours and was well on its way on an operation slated to search out and destroy the enemy west of the highway. 1-1 Cavalry tracks and tanks parted from the Company going off in a tangential direction burning and destroying enemy locations as it implacably rumbled along. At 1030 hours, the pointman for Delta Company, SP4 Ted Smith (Pittsburg, Ind.) spotted an NVA evading to the west. He opened up on him and received immediate return fire. As if this was the cue, mortar rounds started coming in fast and furious accompanied by small arms fire. As the rounds came whistling in the men sought out shallow holes and rice paddy dikes. This sort of thing went on at intervals never ceasing till about 1500 hours. The 2nd and 4th Platoons, somewhat separated from the 1st and 3rd elements, started to assault managing to gain about 500 meters. The other Platoons moved considerably less due to the fact that they received the brunt of the mortar and RPG attack. About 20 minutes had elapsed since the first mortar round fell when the 1-1 Cavalry came charging in barreling through to the (continued on page 5, col. 1)

(cont. from pg. 1, col 2)

On the morning of 29 August, Delta Company made heavy contact in an ambush alley south of LZ Bronco off Highway 1. In some of the heaviest fighting ever witnessed, Delta Company received innumerable 82mm and 60mm mortar rounds, .30 caliber, RPG and small arms fire. The Company was on a joint operation with the 1-1 Cavalry to whom the Company has been under operational control. Nine NVA dead were confirmed. Three AK-47s, many medical supplies, a recoilless rifle and chemical grenades were captured. The following day, Alpha Company snared a lone NVA 10 miles west of Duc Pho. The NVA was killed when he walked into an ambush in the late afternoon. An AK-47 was captured.

Bravo Company came across a tunnel complex about 11 miles west of LZ Bronco. When the Company threw grenades into the tunnels, a secondary explosion resulted and a body of a VC was found in the tunnel in the subsequent search. *



R&R COLUMN:

TOKYO

For a guy tired of the "boonies" and the backward life he becomes accustomed to in Vietnam, Tokyo offers an R&R with a complete contrast; for Tokyo, the world's largest city, is a big, busy, international metropolis. Everything about Tokyo is big- big buildings, big neon lights, big night clubs, and big cost.

Tokyo is now a city desperately trying to be modern and succeeding often at the expense of its original unique appeal. Because of this, there is often a direct clash between the past and the present. Within walking distance of the moated Imperial

Palace, which was the headquarters of the feudal Shoguns of the past, one will find the Ginza, bustling day and night with cosmopolitan crowds of people.

One of Tokyo's main international attractions is the night life. With an estimated 1,000 bars, cabarets, and night clubs in a four block square area behind the Ginza, it's impossible even to begin to list the major ones. Names are in English, French, German, Spanish and almost any

language you can think of.

Night clubs and cabarets have a cover, table, hostess, and service charge, plus food and drink charges for dinner and a floor show. They usually provide a 30 minute show twice a night and the services of hundreds of seductive hostesses.

Nightlife ranges from small intimate bars and coffee shops seating only a few people, to large five storied establishments with three bands and a half dozen singers alternating on a circular stage which goes up and down the floor.

Despite the wide range of bars and clubs, all have one thing in common - they are expensive. You pay for every minute a hostess looks like she is with you or claims she was with you. Be sure you know all the costs because failure to pay just debts by Japanese law is robbery. It is best for you to pay for each drink order as it is delivered to you.

Although fascinating, and sometimes charming,
(Continued on page 6, col. 2)

AWARDS

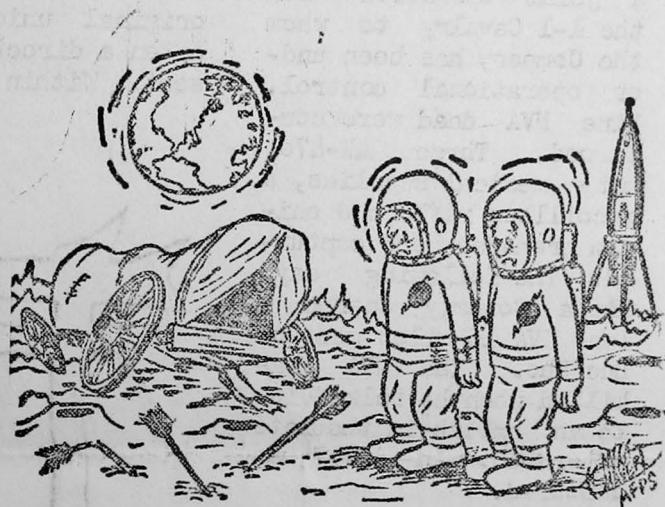
<u>Company</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Awards</u>
HHC	Schack, R.	PH
Alpha	Downie, D.	
	Houston, R.	
	Atkins, H.	
	Cole, R.	
	Franks, D.	
	Harper, R.	
Bravo	Jones, C.	PH
Charlie	Small, R.	PH
	Pinsenschaum, R.	PH
	Frysinger, V.	PH
	Henegan, J.	PH
	Maslowski, N.	PH
Delta	Goad, W.	SS
	Smith, T.	SS
	Olmstead, D.	SS
	Gilbert, D.	SS
Echo	Diaz, W.	PH
	Barrett, J.	PH
	Rau, R.	PH
	Tomsick, L.	PH
	Stroud, J.	PH
	Batiste, L.	BSW
TOC	Bedient, T.	SS

 Sgt. Brown-cont. from page 2, col. 1)
 Steven Liberatore (Cleveland, Ohio), who was nearby and then glanced off SGT. Brown's arm badly bruising it. Brown, still close enough to shake hands, did the contrary. He jumped at the NVA and both went to the ground in a frenzied struggle. Sgt. Brown yelled for help. Sgt. Liberatore smacked the NVA with the butt of his M-79 while Sgt. Thomas Stedman (Syracuse, N.Y.) came running and shot the NVA ending the struggle. Meanwhile, the 1-1 Cavalry began to recon by fire with .50 caliber machine guns. They succeeded in killing the other NVA who tried to escape down the hill. Elsewhere, Lt. Warren Haugen and "LZ Baldy" Anderson managed to seriously wound a third NVA. Sgt. Tom Stedman saw another of the ambushers run down the hill and disappear behind a hootch. Later on, the Company found a set of ARVN clothing and a pair of boots. Important documents were also found on one of the dead NVA reportedly stating that the mission of his unit was to harass the convoys along Highway I. One AK-47 and an M-79 were also captured. *

AROUND THE BATTALION

It's Captain Warren Haugen now. On September 2, the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Robert N. Fernandez, flew up to the 91st Evac and pinned the double bars on Captain Haugen's hospital jacket, officially promoting him to the rank of a Captain.

The 4-3 Old Guard extends its welcome to two new officers who recently joined its ranks. The officers, Lt. Charles R. Fitzgerald (Memphis, Tenn.) and Lt. James A. Volovich (Mokus Rocks, Pa.), are going to Delta and Alpha Companies respectively.



STAND-DOWN

Stand-down is around the corner again and with it, a brief respite from the sun and storm of the "boonies". Below is the schedule for stand-down beginning September 20.

SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Company</u>
20 Sept	C Co
23 Sept	D Co
26 Sept	A Co
29 Sept	B Co
2 Oct	Recon

DELTA CO: cont. from pg. 2, col. 2)

front of the Company. With the arrival of the 1-1 Cav came massive fire power -- 42 tracks and 8 APCs wielded a considerable punch and hard-hitting mobility. "If it weren't for the 1-1 Cav," -- reported Steven Liberatore (Cleveland, Ohio), "we would have been wiped out." Many concurred on this point. The APCs and tanks pulled on a line and began to hammer away at the center of the enemy ambush. However, even with the formidable appearance of all that armor, the battle still raged on. The NVA began to maneuver on the flanks of the entire parade of men and machine. Heavily camouflaged NVA were often spotted stealthily creeping along the thick hedgerows and paddy dikes that abound there. Some yelled that they spotted clumps of bushes inching their way towards them and tried to pick them off as they moved. SP4 Amado "Speedy" Gonzales (Lyman, Nebraska) saw two NVA in a hedgerow. One was in a spiderhole; the other jumped up and disappeared in a trench to the rear. He eliminated both of them. By the end of the day, SP4 Gonzales was credited with three kills. SP4 Tom Ericson (St. Paul, Minn.) and SP4 J.W. Taylor managed to pick off four more attempting to enclose the Company from the rear and flanks.

(continued on adjacent page)



In the confusion and sudden massiveness of the attack, some commendable action went unnoticed and unheralded. But among those cited for exceptional action was Lt. James Tidgewell - he held his station and monitored the radio in spite of impacting bullets all around him. "He stayed and did a job" as one man from Delta stated. Another was SP4 Harley Malloy, infantryman by circumstance, medic by choice and desire (SP4 Malloy recently returned from Chu Lai where he partook in an accelerated course in first aid and now fills a job as medic though actually a mortarmen). Several grunts in the Company pointed out his exceptional part in the fight when he constantly risked his life without hesitation or forethought in order to administer aid to anyone in vital need of it. Sergeant Wayne C. Ralston (Cuba, N.Y.) was also mentioned for the fine job he did directing the 2-0 and 4-0 elements in an assault on the enemy positions and in calling in and directing gunships to provide fringe security.

While the tanks and APCs continually fired salvos of .51 caliber and 90 mm recoilless, gunships struck at the rear staving off any hellish enclosure of the men. There were as many as eight at one time peppering the surrounding area with mini-guns. Gradually, the fighting dwindled. Resupply of critically needed ammo arrived. By 1630 hours, the Company was heading back to its previous NDP. However, slight action still took place as the Company pulled back. Redleg RTO Gary Randall killed one NVA while the tracks at rear security received several RPG rounds without any casualties. During the course of the battle, Delta Company was credited with nine NVA kills although it is suspected that there were many more. Three AK-47s, numerous medical supplies, RPG launchers and rounds and a recoilless rifle were captured. *

(cont. from pg. 1, col 1) withdrew. The LP, on the brink of nowhere, was still quite alert. The men distinctly heard the sharp metallic report of a bolt slamming forward several times. About eight feet away an NVA was loading his AK preparing for a few more pot shots. PFC Connally immediately reacted --- he threw three frags in the direction of the sound. The NVA went thrashing into the gloom. After daybreak, the men found that they had badly wounded the NVA. They also discovered that all but one claymore wire had been cut and the trip flare handles were tied down (all but two).

The Company captured two AK-47s, an RPG launcher and rounds and 37 chicom grenades. *

SEE THE EAST: cont. from page 7.)

When you have all the necessary paperwork, make certain that it arrives at USIRV 60 days before your ETS. Then all you have to do is show them that you have enough money to get out of the country by air (\$60 to Bangkok).

Once you are a civilian you can skip off in any direction your pocketbook, thumb, or desire takes you. If the Orient isn't your bag, you can hitchhike or work your way to Europe. Finally, when you want to go home, (any time up to a year), just drop in on the nearest U.S. military installation with a copy of your ETS orders and claim transportation home. *

OSW

R&R TOKYO: continued from pg. 3)

Tokyo's nightlife should not be penetrated without the guidance of a Japanese friend. Japanese bars are like clubs. The clientele is limited to regular customers.

Being an international city, Tokyo offers food for just about any taste. In Tokyo, you can sink your teeth into food from almost every civilized part of the world. There are plush American restaurants, such as the Gaslight, and V.I.P. Room, and restaurants that cater to the lovers of French cuisine, such as the Crescent, the Peacock, and Rosier. You can get Chinese food at the Prince House, and indulge in German calories at hotels and Rosen Keller. There are excellent eating houses that feature Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian and Indian food.

There are, of course, numerous Japanese restaurants such as the Asaki, the Sorignor, the Suchirs, and the Miyoshi. A word of caution to the wise—Japanese food is quite different than Western food. If you are not familiar with what you are ordering, you could end up with "Take" (raw octopus) or "Ordou eli" (skirmish shrimp eaten alive). It is advisable to pick up menu cards published by the Tokyo USO. The menu cards are an English description of most of the Japanese meals so that you are forewarned about what to expect.

Due to the shortness of your stay, it is advisable for you to procure a guide so that you can tour the city quickly and not miss the main sights. The USO offers free guides for those who wish them. Students from the Japan Training School who wish to improve their English and their ability to serve foreigners have volunteered to serve as guides. Touring with a private guide can be a most enjoyable experience as you see places off the beaten track and see things through the eyes of a native.

Some suggested sights are: the Migi Shrine and the many neighboring temples, the Imperial Palace, Olympic Park, the Sony Building, Ueno Park, the department store exhibitions halls, Noh and Kohusai Theaters and Tokyo Towers.

If you still have any money left after paying your hotel bill, your food bill and the bill for several nights of nightlife, there are a number of excellent buys for the wise shopper. Good buys can be found on photographic and electronic equipment, silk and pearls, fine art and woodblock prints, kimonos and porcelain.

One can have a really fine R&R in the world's largest city - if he budgets himself and spends money for only things he wants to see or do. Tokyo is a worldly, sophisticated city. When you go there, act accordingly. *

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

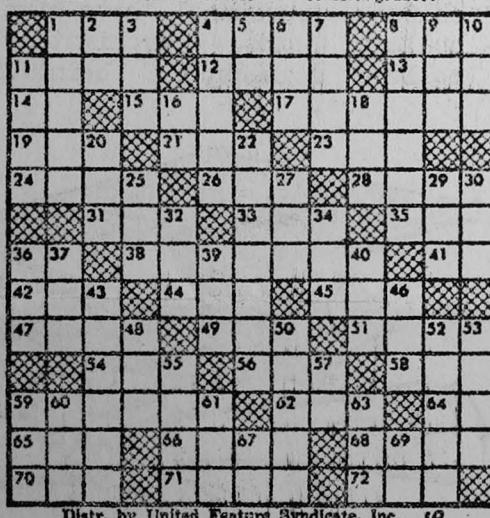
ACROSS

1-Once around track
4-Pierce
8-Male sheep
11-Couple
12-Assistant
13-Period of time
14-Teutonic deity
15-Lubricate
17-Trader
19-Mature
21-Spread for drying
23-Afternoon party
24-Lease
25-Place
28-Heavenly body
31-Parent (colloq.)
33-Falsehood
35-Female sheep
36-Parent (colloq.)
38-Assuage
41-Latin conjunction
42-High mountain
44-Monetary unit of Bulgaria
45-Devoured
47-Scorch
49-Condensed moisture
51-Wolfhound
54-Bone of body
56-Take unlawfully
58-Time gone by
59-Piffers
62-Communist
64-Exists
65-Measure of weight
66-Semi-precious stone
68-Eye closely
70-Unit of Siamese currency
71-Staff
72-Golf mound

DOWN

1-Big
2-Three-toed sloth

3-In favor of
4-Transactions
5-Note of scale
6-Total
7-Vegetable
8-Tell
9-Exist
10-Deface
11-Fruit
16-Pronoun
18-Roman bronze
20-Goal
22-Communicate
25-Sailor (colloq.)
27-Cravat
29-Reverence
30-Soak
32-A slate (abbr.)
34-Girl's name
36-Dance step
37-Beverage
39-Conducted
40-Greek letter
43-Father or mother
46-Guido's high note
48-Inlet
50-Globe
52-Nimble
53-Part of face
55-Puff
57-Exist
59-Music: ^{as} written
60-Small child
61-Resort
63-Speck
67-Indefinite article
69-Earth goddess



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WANT TO SEE THE EAST AS A CIVILIAN - TROOP?

Five days of R&R isn't really much in comparison to the year of abstention from the good life in the 'Nam. Most times, it's just enough to whet your appetite for the mysteries Far East life offers the curious Western traveler.

Want to go back for some more? There's no reason why you can't spend up to a year in that favorite R&R spot if your ETS spot comes the same time as your DEROS.

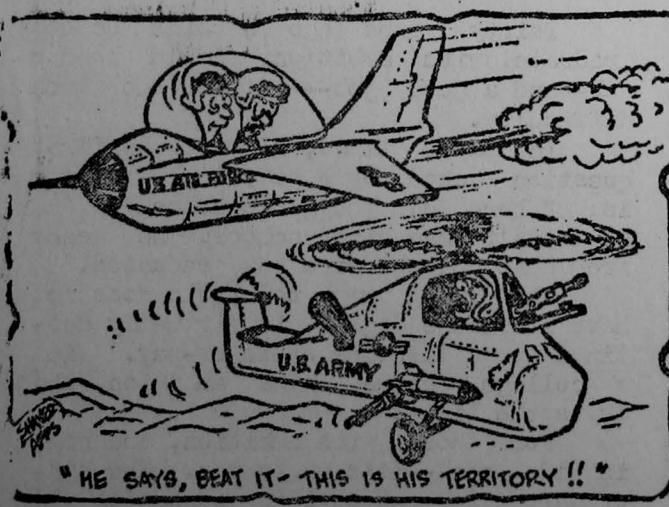
It takes a lot of paperwork, determination and the desire to spend a year in the Orient as a civilian. Anytime within a year of your out the Army will fly you back to the States free of charge.

All the facts you need are contained in USARV Reg 635-1, available at unit personnel offices (policy states that personnel eligible for separation by reason of term of service (ETS) may apply for release from active duty within RVN for any of the reasons listed below: student status, employment, travel). If anyone says it can't be done, politely point them to the reg.

You have to start the ball rolling at least five months before your ETS Deros date. First thing you'll need is a U.S. passport. Drop a note to the American Embassy, Consular Section, 4 Thong Nhut, Saigon. Basically you need a birth certificate, three passport photos and a letter from your CO stating you need the passport for post-ETS travel purposes.

After you get the passport you must get permission from Vietnamese immigration officials to remain in-country for a short time after separation. Write a letter to Chief of Immigration Service, RVN, 337 Vo Tan, Saigon. Give him all the poop about your military background, your passport number and what you are trying to do. Then ask for an exit visa so you can get out of the country.

(continued on page 6, col. 1)



EDITORIAL



COMMUNIST BLOCK WEAPONS

Soviet 7.62mm Assault Rifle
AK-47

The AK-47 is the basic individual weapon for most of the Communist world armies. Two major types exist, a model with a conventional wooden buttstock and one with a folding metal stock. The AK-47 is recognized by its high front sight, its long receiver with a large selector/safety on the right side, and a long curved magazine.

CHARACTERISTICS

Caliber-----7.62mm
Operation-----Gas, selective fire
Length-----25.4 in, folded
34.25 in, extended
Weight-----10.58 lbs., loaded
Feeding device---30 round detachable box magazine
Effective range---400 meters
Rate of fire----40 rpm - semiautomatic
90 to 100 rpm - automatic
Ammunition-----Soviet 7.62mm M43,
or Chicom Type 56
rimless cartridges

OLD GUARD

LTC Robert N. Fernandez CO.
1Lt. Thomas J. Klein S1
PFC John Calderonello R PORTER

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TAKE TKE

THE PILL THE

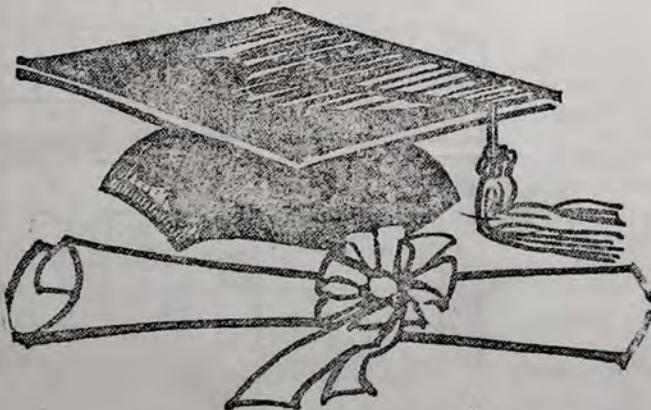
TAKE TAKE

IT'S UP TO YOU

One of the most admirable pursuits of the Department of Defense is its urging military personnel to further their education.

The encouragement by the Pentagon is designed to offer personnel the opportunity to perform their assignments more effectively, prepare them for more responsibility and to increase their chances for promotion and better living.

The importance of education for the Armed Forces is evident by the high education levels already existant. Defense-wide, 73% of the commissioned officers have college degrees, 91% have completed some college work; 22% of the enlisted personnel have completed some college work, approximately 2% have college degrees, 83% being high school graduates.



Thirty years ago a high school graduate, with ambition, could land a job--and a good job---without too much difficulty.

In these times, almost the first question asked by a potential employer is: "Where did you go to school?" And he doesn't mean high school. He means from what college were you graduated.

The young man today who does not have a college degree is virtually destined to a lifetime of lower-pay. With a college degree, plus ambition, the sky's the limit.

For those with ambition, the road is wide open--it's up to you. The opportunity for a college education is available to anyone who really wants it --take it--and good luck. (FP) *