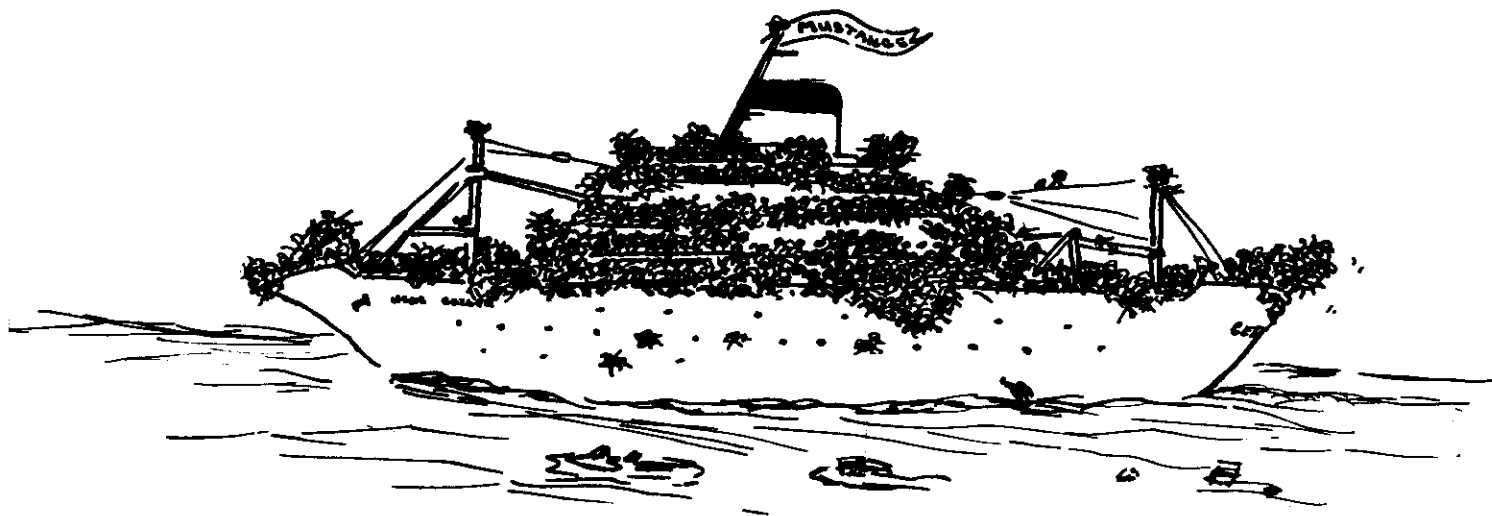




YEARBOOK
OF THE
1st. BATTALION
AIRBORNE
8th CAVALRY
JUMPING MUSTANGS

1 JULY 1965

1 JUNE 1966



On 20 August 1965, we boarded the USNS Geiger at Savannah, Georgia and arrived at Quin-Hon, Republic of Vietnam on 21 September 1965.


A SOLEMN MOMENT



THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE MEN OF THE JUMPING MUSTANGS
WHO GALLANTLY GAVE THEIR LIVES FIGHTING COMMUNIST
AGGRESSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

2ND LT	SUARK K. TWEEDY	05326502	Company A
SGT	SAMUEL J. BESS	RA14560525	Company A
SGT	JIMMIE L. BROOKS	RA14552287	Company B
SGT	DALE L. FUGATE	RA19556866	Company A
SGT	GUNDER P. GUNDERSON	RA17546841	Company D
SGT	GARY W. PLATT	RA19650221	Company A
SP/4	CHARLES HARMON	RA55746649	Company B
SP/4	JAMES U. DONNELLY	RA13816747	Company B
SP/4	WILBUR W. IVANON	US17546841	Company C
SP/4	JAMES E. THOMPSON	RA15613004	Company A
PFC	DINNIS M. ELMORE	RA13616747	Company C
PFC	JAMES E. FLAGG	US54361396	Company B
PFC	RICHARD E. GEORGE	RA19835083	Company D
PFC	CARLOS R. HATCHER	RA14837968	Company D
PFC	EDMOND M. MASTERSON	RA16825476	Company B
PFC	WILLIAM D. MC KILLOP	RA15737320	Company B
PFC	THOMAS T. OSBORNE	RA11452968	Company D
PFC	NELS W. SWANSON	US55819456	Company C

MUSTANG COMMANDERS

A black and white photograph of Lt. Colonel Kenneth D. Mertel. He is sitting on the ground in a field, surrounded by dense foliage. He is wearing a dark jacket and pants, and is looking off to the side. There are some papers or maps on the ground near him.

LT. COLONEL KENNETH D. MERTEL
August 19, 1965 — March 25, 1966



LT. COLONEL LEVIN B. BROUGHTON
March 25, 1966



FORWARD

THE HISTORY OF THE 8TH UNITED STATES CAVALRY REGIMENT IS INEXTRICABLY INTERWOVEN WITH THE HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE UNITED STATES, OF DEMOCRACY, AND OF THE FREE WORLD. THROUGHOUT MANY ARDUOUS, HECTIC YEARS OF INDIAN CAMPAIGNS IN THE WEST, THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR IN CUBA AND THE PHILIPPINES, THE MEXICAN BORDER DUTY IN WORLD WAR I, THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AND EUROPEAN THEATERS IN WORLD WAR II, OCCUPATION DUTY IN JAPAN, THE KOREAN CONFLICT AND NOW IN VIETNAM, THE 8TH CAVALRY HAS ESTABLISHED A PROUD HERITAGE OF DUTY, GALLANTRY AND COURAGEOUSLY PERFORMED IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY, TO DEMOCRACY AND TO HUMANITY.

THE BRIEF HISTORY THAT FOLLOWS IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A BRIEF INSIGHT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS REGIMENT SINCE ITS ACTIVATION ON 17 NOVEMBER 1866. AS BARE AS IT IS, THE ELEMENTS OF HONOR AND COURAGE AND ITS OUTSTANDING SERVICE ARE EVIDENT THROUGHOUT. AS MEMBERS OF THIS REGIMENT, THIS HERITAGE IS YOURS. YOUR DEEDS OF TODAY IN VIETNAM ARE THE REGIMENT'S HISTORY TOMORROW. BE PROUD OF THE HERITAGE YOU BEAR; LEAVE IT BRIGHT AND HONORABLE TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW YOU IN THE FUTURE.



REGIMENTAL INSIGNIA

THE REGIMENTAL INSIGNIA OF THE 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT WAS APPROVED ON 10 JANUARY 1927. UPON LOOKING CLOSELY AT THIS INSIGNIA IT MAY BE NOTED THAT THERE ARE MANY DESIGNS USED IN ITS MAKE-UP. EACH SEPARATE PART OF THE INSIGNIA HAS A DEFINITE MEANING. THE WHITE HORSE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED AS A DEMI-HORSE RAMPANT, AND REFERS TO THE UNIT'S CAVALRY ORIGIN. THE HORSE ITSELF, IN THIS POSITION, INDICATES THAT IT IS UNTAMED AND UNCONQUERED. THE EIGHT STARS THAT APPEAR ON THE INSIGNIA ARE CALLED MULLETS, PIERCED. THE MULLETS RESEMBLE ROWELS FROM THE RIDING SPURS WHICH INDICATE THAT THE REGIMENT IS A CAVALRY UNIT. THE MULLETS BEING EIGHT IN NUMBER INDICATE THE NUMERICAL DESIGNATION OF THE UNIT; 8TH CAVALRY. THE WORDING OF THE SCROLL IS SELF-EXPLANATORY. HONOR AND COURAGE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE HALLMARK OF THE 8TH CAVALRY TROOPER.

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

INDIAN WARS

ARIZONA 1867
ARIZONA 1868
ARIZONA 1869

COMANCHES
APACHES
PINE RIDGE
OREGON 1868
MEXICO 1877

WORLD WAR II

NEW GUINEA
BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO (WITH ARROWHEAD)
LEYTE
LUZON

* NORMANDY (WITH ARROWHEAD)

* RHINELAND

* ARDENNIS-ALSACE

* CENTRAL EUROPE

* EARNED BY 4TH RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY WHICH WAS CONSOLIDATED
WITH THE 2ND RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, 8TH CAVALRY 1 APRIL 1957.

KOREAN SERVICE

UN DEFENSIVE
UN OFFENSIVE
CCF INTERVENTION
FIRST UN COUNTEROFFENSIVE
CCF SPRING OFFENSIVE
UN SUMMER-FALL OFFENSIVE
SECOND KOREAN WINTER
KOREAN, SUMMER-FALL 1952
THIRD KOREAN WINTER

DECORATIONS

STREAMER, PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, EMBROIDERED 17 OCTOBER 1944 TO 4 JULY 1945.

STREAMER, REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, EMBROIDERED WASGWAN-TAEGU.

STREAMER, REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION, EMBROIDERED KOREA.

STREAMER, CHRYSSOUN ARISTON ANDRIAS (BRAVERY GOLD MEDAL OF GREECE) EMBROIDERED KOREA.

* FOURRAGERE, BELGIAN (MODEL 1940)

* CITED IN THE ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE BELGIAN ARMY, EMBROIDERED BELGIUM.

* CITED IN THE ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE BELGIAN ARMY, EMBROIDERED ARENNES.

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION, STREAMER EMBROIDERED LUZON.

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION, STREAMER EMBROIDERED TAEGU.

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION, STREAMER EMBROIDERED MANUS ISLAND.

BORN IN CALIFORNIA
REARED IN THE WEST
FOUGHT OVER HALF THE WORLD

THE ABOVE HEADING APPLIES IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS TO THE LIFE HISTORY OF THE 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT WHICH WAS ORGANIZED ON ANGEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA, ON 17 NOVEMBER 1866.

TROOP B, THE PREDECESSOR OF OUR OWN 2ND RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON, WAS ORGANIZED WITH AN INITIAL ENLISTMENT OF 85 OFFICERS AND MEN, AT THE PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO ON 23 OCTOBER 1866. SECOND LIEUTENANT S. A. PORTER, 14TH INFANTRY, WAS ASSIGNED AS ITS FIRST COMMANDER.

FIELD OFFICERS FIRST ASSIGNED TO THE 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT WERE: COLONEL JOHN I. GREGG, COMMANDING OFFICER; LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS C. DEVIN; MAJOR WILLIAM R. PRICE; AND MAJOR WILLIAM GAMBLE. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS THE FACT THAT COLONEL GREGG HAD ATTAINED THE RANK OF MAJOR GENERAL DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND HIS SECOND IN COMMAND. LIEUTENANT COLONEL DEVIN, THAT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL. COLONEL GREGG HELD COMMAND OF THE REGIMENT UNTIL 1879.

ALMOST FROM THE TIME THE REGIMENT WAS FORMED, IT HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN EITHER COMBAT OR THE PERFORMANCE OF SOME TYPE OF SECURING MISSION.

EARLY IN 1867, THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS WAS LOCATED AT CAMP WHIPPLE, ARIZONA, WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE 12 LINE TROOPS SCATTERED OVER FIVE STATES FROM CALIFORNIA TO WASHINGTON.

DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, THE REGIMENT SAW MANY SMALL UNIT SKIRMISHES AGAINST HOSTILE INDIANS. TROOPS, AT THIS TIME, GENERALLY COUNTED NOT MORE THAN 70 SABERS AND SELDOM WAS THE WHOLE TROOP EMPLOYED AS A UNIT. ACTIONS USUALLY CONSISTED OF A DETACHMENT OF 10 TO 20 MEN WITH AN OFFICER OR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER IN COMMAND.

THE WORK OF PROTECTING THE SETTLERS ON THE FRONTIER WAS DIFFICULT. THE REGIMENT HAD AS OPPONENTS THE APACHE AND HULAPAI INDIANS. THE NAME "APACHE" IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE TYPE OF FOE THE 8TH CAVALRY WAS UP AGAINST, FOR THE LITERAL TRANSLATION IS "THE ENEMY."

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS REMAINED AT FORT MEADE, SOUTH DAKOTA UNTIL 1898. WHEN THE UNITED STATES WENT TO WAR WITH SPAIN ON 21 APRIL 1898, THE REGIMENT RECEIVED ORDERS TO ASSEMBLE ITS FORCES AT CAMP FORCE, ALABAMA. IN NOVEMBER 1898, AFTER RECEIVING ORDERS FOR OVERSEAS MOVEMENT THE 8TH CAVALRY SAILED FROM SAVANNAH, GEORGIA FOR THE ISLAND OF CUBA. THE REGIMENT PERFORMED OCCUPATION DUTY FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

IN 1902, THE REGIMENT RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AND WAS GARRISONED AT FORT RILEY, KANSAS AND JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MISSOURI.

IN 1905, THE REGIMENT AGAIN WAS ORDERED TO OVERSEAS DUTY. THIS TIME TO THE PHILIPPINES. UPON ARRIVAL IN THE PHILIPPINES THE REGIMENT WAS ASSIGNED VARIOUS TYPES OF GUARD MISSIONS, ONE OF WHICH WAS GUARDING THE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE CITY OF MANILA AGAINST POLLUTION FROM AN OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA.

AFTER TWO YEARS IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE REGIMENT WAS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES WITH GARRISONS THROUGHOUT THE STATES OF NEBRASKA, WYOMING AND ARIZONA. IN DECEMBER 1910, HOWEVER, THE REGIMENT WAS ORDERED TO A THIRD OVERSEAS TOUR, AND ITS SECOND TOUR IN THE PHILIPPINES. THIS WAS TO LAST FOR FIVE YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME THE REGIMENT WAS ACTIVE IN FIGHTING THE MOROS OR IN PATROLLING MISSIONS.

MEXICAN BORDER

IN 1915, THE 8TH CAVALRY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES AND WAS ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF PATROLLING THE MEXICAN-US BORDER TO PROTECT RANCHERS FROM RAIDS CONDUCTED BY MEXICAN BANDITS. DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS THE FREQUENCY OF THESE RAIDS INCREASED SO IT WAS NECESSARY TO MOVE THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS FROM FORT BLISS TO THE BIG BEND COUNTRY OF TEXAS. WITH THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS LOCATED AT MARFA, TEXAS, AND THE REMAINDER OF THE REGIMENT STRATEGICALLY LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE BIG BEND COUNTRY, THE RAIDS OF THE MEXICAN BANDITS BECAME LESS AND LESS FREQUENT.

THE 8TH CAVALRY NEVER CROSSED THE BORDER INTO MEXICO IN FORCE; HOWEVER, ONE OF ITS MEMBERS, FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGES PATTON, SERVING AS AIDE-DE-CAMP TO GENERAL PERSHING, REPRESENTED THE REGIMENT VERY WELL. ON A FORAGE MISSION WITH A SMALL DETACHMENT, PATTON DEPLOYED HIS SEVEN MEN TO COVER A RANCH HOUSE OF ONE OF PANCHO VILLA'S COLONELS. THREE HORSEMEN GALLOPED FROM THE HOUSE AND IN AN EXCHANGE OF SHOTS, PATTON KILLED ALL THREE WITH HIS PISTOL, INCLUDING THE COLONEL.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO POINT OUT THAT TROOP B, 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT HAS WON A TOTAL OF 33 MEDALS OF HONOR. THE TOTAL NUMBER WAS WON IN ACTIONS AGAINST HOSTILE INDIANS IN 1868. THESE DECORATIONS AND THE BATTLE STREAMERS, AWARDED FOR INDIAN FIGHTING, BEAR MUTE TESTIMONY TO THE SERVICE OF THIS REGIMENT.

A NEW MISSION WAS ASSIGNED TO THE REGIMENT IN 1875. THE SETTLERS AND RANCHERS ALONG THE MEXICAN BORDER WERE BEING TERRORIZED BY THE COMANCHE, MESCALERO APACHE, AND THE KIOWA INDIANS. THE COMANCHE AND THE APACHE WERE, AT THIS TIME, CONSIDERED TO BE SOME OF THE FINEST LIGHT CAVALRY IN THE WORLD. THEY EXCELLED IN THE AMBUSH AND SURPRISE ATTACK, AND THE TROOPER CAPTURED DURING AN ENGAGEMENT FACED THE MOST INHUMAN TORTURE.

MUCH OF THE TROUBLE WITH THE INDIANS IS NOW CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN THE FAULT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR IN MISHANDLING OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WHICH PUT THE INDIANS ON THE WARPATH, RESULTING IN MORE DEAD TROOPS. ON TOP OF ALL THIS, THE ARMY WAS DEALT ANOTHER BLOW. IN 1875, THE FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS ADJOURNED WITHOUT PASSING AN APPROPRIATION BILL FOR ARMY PAY. FOR THE NEXT YEAR THE ARMY SERVED GRATUITOUSLY.

WITH THIS NEW MISSION, THE MOVEMENT OF REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS FROM NEW MEXICO TO FORT CLARK, TEXAS WAS NECESSITATED. THE TROOPS WERE ASSIGNED SECTORS OF RESPONSIBILITY FROM FORT BROWN, TEXAS (ON THE GULF OF MEXICO) TO FORT HANCOCK, TEXAS, NEAR EL PASO. SINCE THERE WERE NO RAILROADS AVAILABLE, THIS ENTIRE MOVEMENT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON HORSES AND WITH HORSE-DRAWN EQUIPMENT. THIS MOVE WOULD SEEM LIKE QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, CONSIDERING THE DISTANCE INVOLVED, BUT TO THE 8TH CAVALRY, IT WAS MERELY A SHORT TREK FOR IN MAY, 1888, THE REGIMENT, AFTER CONCENTRATING ITS FORCES AT FORT CONCHO, TEXAS, BEGAN A MARCH TO RELIEVE ELEMENTS OF THE 7TH CAVALRY OPERATING IN MONTANA AND SOUTH DAKOTA. THIS MARCH WAS COMPLETED

IN APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AND COVERED A DISTANCE OF 2000 MILES. ONE UNIT, TROOP H, TRAVELED 2613 MILES FROM FORT DAVIS TEXAS TO FORT KEOGH, MONTANA. THIS MOVEMENT IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE LONGEST MARCH EVER MADE BY ANY REGIMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

TWO YEARS LATER, IN 1890, THE 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT PARTICIPATED WITH THE 6TH, 7TH AND 9TH CAVALRY AND ELEMENTS OF THE 3RD AND 21ST INFANTRY IN ACTIONS AGAINST THE SIOUX. IT WAS A DETACHMENT OF THE 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT THAT KILLED SITTING BULL IN AN ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO ARREST HIM.

THE PEACEFUL YEARS

THE 8TH CAVALRY BECAME A PART OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ON 15 SEPTEMBER 1921, AND HAS REMAINED ASSIGNED TO THIS DIVISION TO DATE. DURING THE PEACEFUL YEARS (1930-1940), THE REGIMENT, STILL MOUNTED ON HORSES, PARTICIPATED WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, IN MANY SMALL MANEUVERS IN THE HEUCO DESERT OF TEXAS, AND IN ALL LARGE SCALE MANEUVERS IN LOUISIANA AND TEXAS.

WORLD WAR II

WHEN WORLD WAR II BEGAN, THE 8TH CAVALRY, AS A PART OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, WAS AGAIN ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF PATROLLING THE MEXICAN-US BORDER. THE DIVISION AT THIS TIME WAS COMPOSED OF TWO BRIGADES OF CAVALRY, WHICH CONSISTED OF TWO CAVALRY REGIMENTS AND SUPPORT TROOPS IN EACH BRIGADE. THE 1ST BRIGADE CONSISTED OF THE 5TH AND 12TH CAVALRY REGIMENTS, WHILE 2ND BRIGADE CONSISTED OF THE 7TH AND 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENTS.

IN LATE 1942, THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION BECAME A DISMOUNTED UNIT FOR ALL HORSES AND HORSE-DRAWN EQUIPMENT WERE FORSAKEN AND THE 8TH CAVALRY TROOPERS HAD DISMOUNTED TO FIGHT ON FOOT.

IN JULY 1943, THE 8TH CAVALRY, AS A PART OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, WAS MOVED TO AUSTRALIA. SIX MONTHS OF INTENSE TRAINING FOLLOWED AT CAMP STRATHPINE, INCLUDING AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT OPERATIONS. THE REGIMENT WAS FINALLY COMMITTED AT SALAMIA BEACH ON LOS NEGROS ISLAND. THE MISSION OF THE 8TH CAVALRY WAS TO MOP-UP BEHIND THE 5TH, 7TH AND 12TH CAVALRY REGIMENTS. "MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS" WERE CONTINUED UNTIL 15 MARCH 1944.

ON 15 MARCH 1944, THE 8TH CAVALRY ASSAULTED THE BEACH ON MANUS ISLAND AND CAPTURED THE LORENGAU AIRSTRIP. FOR ITS ACTION ON THIS DAY, COMPANY A WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED UNIT STREAMER. THE REGIMENT CONTINUED FIGHTING UNTIL THE ADMIRALTY CAMPAIGN ENDED ON MAY 18, 1944. "MOPPING-UP" IN THIS CAMPAIGN CONTINUED UNTIL OCTOBER 1944.

IN OCTOBER 1944, THE 8TH CAVALRY WAS SELECTED AS THE DIVISION RESERVE IN THE INVASION OF LEYTE. TWO DAYS AFTER LANDING, THE REGIMENT LAUNCHED ITS FIRST ATTACK WHICH CARRIED OVER TWO MILES AND ENDED IN THE INVASION OF SAMAR ISLAND. PATROLLING AND FLANK SECURITY MISSIONS WERE CONDUCTED UNTIL JANUARY 1945.

THE REGIMENT LANDED ON LUZON IN LATE JANUARY 1945. THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION COMMANDER RECEIVED ORDERS DIRECT FROM GENERAL MAC ARTHUR TO "GO TO MANILA." THE 2ND SQUADRON WAS CHOSEN TO MAKE THIS 100 MILE MOTORIZED DRIVE INTO ENEMY HELD TERRITORY. ON THE 1ST OF FEBRUARY, THE 2ND SQUADRON MOVED OUT AND TWO DAYS LATER, AFTER BLASTING ROADBLOCKS, FORDING RIVERS, AND DRIVING A WEDGE DEEP INTO THE ENEMY LINES, THE 2ND SQUADRON, 8TH CAVALRY WAS THE FIRST BATTALION SIZED UNIT TO REACH MANILA. THE 2ND SQUADRON, 8TH CAVALRY RECEIVED A PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION FOR THIS ACTION.

THE 8TH CAVALRY WAS ASSIGNED TO CONTINUE SEEKING OUT SCATTERED ENEMY RESISTANCE UNTIL THE LONG AWAITED NEWS OF THE JAPANESE AGREEMENT TO UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER WAS RECEIVED.

WITH THE JAPANESE SURRENDER IN AUGUST 1945, THE 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT WAS ORDERED TO JAPAN TO ACCOMPANY GENERAL MAC ARTHUR TO TOKYO. THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WERE SPENT ON OCCUPATION DUTY AND TRAINING IN JAPAN.

KOREAN WAR

ON 25 JUNE 1950, THE NORTH KOREANS MOVED ACROSS THE 38TH PARALLEL INTO SOUTH KOREA. EIGHTEEN DAYS LATER, ON 13 JULY 1950, THE 8TH CAVALRY SAILED FROM JAPAN FOR AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT. LANDING BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES AT POHANG-DONG, KOREA. THE LANDING WAS UNOPPOSED, HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THE 8TH CAVALRY FOUND ITSELF IN THE BITTER FIGHTING IN DEFENSE OF THE NAKTONG RIVER LINE. AT THIS TIME THE REGIMENT CONSISTED OF ONLY TWO BATTALIONS AND THE REGIMENTAL FRONTAGE ASSIGNED WAS 20,000 YARDS. DURING THIS ENGAGEMENT THE 3RD BATTALION, 7TH INFANTRY WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 8TH CAVALRY AS ITS ORGANIC 3RD BATTALION.

WHEN THE UN OFFENSIVE OF SEPTEMBER 1950 FINALLY HALTED, THE 8TH CAVALRY WAS AT PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA, AND THE WAR APPEARED TO BE OVER. THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, HOWEVER. THREATENING MOVEMENTS OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS IN MANCHURIA CAUSED THE CORPS COMMANDER TO DETACH THE 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT FROM THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION AND ORDER IT TO TAKE UP POSITIONS TO THE NORTH WEST OF UNSAN. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ALMOST RIVALS THE SLAUGHTER OF THE 7TH CAVALRY AT THE LITTLE BIG HORN.

ON THE NIGHT OF 1 NOVEMBER 1950, THE CHINESE STRUCK THE 8TH CAVALRY, PENETRATING COMPANIES B AND C, THEN TURNED AND CUT THE SUPPLY LINES BETWEEN THE 5TH AND 8TH CAVALRY. BEFORE THE REGIMENT COULD WITHDRAW, ANOTHER CHINESE ATTACK CUT THROUGH THE 8TH CAVALRY AND SURROUNDED THE 3RD BATTALION. REPEATED ATTEMPTS OF THE BATTALION TO BREAK OUT OF THE ENCIRCLEMENT FAILED AND THE FEW SURVIVORS OF THE ENCOUNTER BROKE THROUGH THE ENCIRCLEMENT SINGLY AND IN SMALL GROUPS. AT THE END OF THIS ENGAGEMENT THE REGIMENT WAS AT 45 PER CENT STRENGTH.

REGIMENTAL HISTORICAL BRIEFS

23 OCT 1866 TROOP "B" CONSTITUTED AT PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

17 NOV 1866 REGIMENT ORGANIZED AT ANGEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA.

1866-1888 REGIMENT AT FORT DAVIS, TEXAS, PERFORMING DUTY ALONG THE MEXICAN BORDER.

1888 LONGEST MARCH IN HISTORY FOR A REGIMENT, WITH TROOP "H" MARCHING 2613 MILES FROM FORT DAVIS, TEXAS TO FORT KEIGH, MONTANA.

1898-1902 ORDERED TO CUBA WHERE THE UNIT REMAINED FOR FOUR YEARS.

1902-1905 REGIMENT LOCATED AT FORT RILEY, KANSAS AND JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MISSOURI.

1905-1907 ORDERED TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR A TWO YEAR TOUR.

1907-1910 REMAINED IN STATES OF NEBRASKA, WYOMING AND ARIZONA.

1910-1915 RETURNED TO THE PHILIPPINES TO FIGHT MOROS, AND ENGAGE IN ACTIVE PATROLLING.

1915-1921 REGIMENT AGAIN PERFORMANCE MEXICAN BORDER PATROLLING WITH HEADQUARTERS AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS AND THE BIG BEND COUNTRY, TEXAS.

1921 THE REGIMENT BECAME AN ORGANIC ELEMENT OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION.

1943 DEPARTED THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA.

1944 LANDED ON SALAMIA BEACH, LOS NEGROS ISLAND AND BEGAN MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS.

1945 THE 8TH CAVALRY REGIMENT MARCHED INTO MANILA.

1945-1950 OCCUPATION DUTY IN JAPAN.

1950-1952 PARTICIPATED IN NINE CAMPAIGNS OF KOREAN CONFLICT.

1952-1957 SECURITY DUTY AND TRAINING IN JAPAN.

1957-1965

REORGANIZED AS PENTOMIC BATTLE GROUP ON OCCUPATION DUTY IN KOREA, AND TWO ACTIVE RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRONS AND TWO RESERVE UNIT RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRONS.

1965-Present

REORGANIZED AS 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS (AIRBORNE) 8TH CAVALRY AND SENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AS PART OF THE 1ST BRIGADE (AIRBORNE) 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION, (AIRMOBILE).

1 JULY 1965

REORGANIZED AS AN AIRBORNE BATTALION IN THE NEWLY REORGANIZED 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, COMMANDED BY LT COL KENNETH D. MERTEL.

28 JULY 1965

1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) ORDERED TO VIETNAM.

18 AUG 1965

ADVANCE PARTY (18 MEN), DEPARTED TRAVIS AFB, CALIFORNIA FOR VIETNAM.

20 AUG 1965

MAIN BODY, DEPARTED SAVANAH, GEORGIA, ON THE USN GEIGER FOR VIETNAM.

21 SEPT 1965

MAIN BODY ARRIVED AT QUI NHON AND WAS MOVED BY HELICOPTER TO THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) BASE NORTH OF AN KHE IN BINH DINH PROVINCE (BR 476466).

28 SEPT 1965

BATTALION EXECUTED RELIEF OF ELEMENTS OF TASK FORCE 1ST BDE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION ON THE PICKET LINE. PLATOON AND COMPANY SIZED AIR ASSAULT OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED BEYOND THE PICKET LINE DURING 28 SEPT. — 2 NOV. 1965.

2-12 OCT 1965

BATTALION OCCUPIED A PORTION OF THE DIVISION INNER PERIMETER.

A. ON 4 OCTOBER 1965, CO C WAS ATTACHED TO SECURE AN ARTILLERY TASK FORCE (AMOS) VIC PHU CAT (BR 910520).

B. ON 10 OCTOBER 1965, CO C WAS RELIEVED OF ITS MISSION TO SECURE 2ND FORWARD SUPPORT INSTALLATION NEAR BINH KHE (BR 644445).

C. ON 11 OCTOBER 1965, CO C WAS RELIEVED OF THIS MISSION AND RETURNED TO THE BATTALION BASE NORTH OF AN KHE.

D. ON 11 OCTOBER 1965, CO A RECEIVED MISSION TO SECURE THE 3RD FORWARD SUPPORT INSTALLATION VIC BINH KHE (BR 644445)).

13-18 OCT 1965

BATTALION OCCUPIED A PORTION OF THE DIVISION PICKET LINE. COMPANY AND BATTALION SIZED AIR ASSAULTS CONDUCTED BEYOND THE PICKET LINE.

A. ON 13 OCTOBER 1965, CO A WAS RELEASED FROM FORWARD SUPPORT SECURITY MISSION AND RETURNED TO THE BATTALION.

19-20 OCT 1965 BATTALION OCCUPIED A PORTION OF THE DIVISION INNER PERIMETER.

21-27 OCT 1965 BATTALION CONDUCTED SEARCH AND CLEAR OPERATIONS IN THE BINH KHE (BR 687422) AREA PRIOR TO ITS OCCUPATION BY A RGT OF THE ROK CAPITAL DIVISION.
 A. DURING PERIOD 24-26 OCTOBER, CO B DESTROYED APPROXIMATELY 150 HUTS IN A VC STAGING AREA AND EVACUATED 8.5 TONS OF RICE (BR 734422).
 B. ON 27 OCTOBER 1965, CO C WAS ATTACHED TO SECURE AN ARTILLERY TASK FORCE (AMOS) AND DEPARTED FOR TUY HOA (CQ 1646).

28 OCT 1965 BATTALION ALERTED FOR MOVE TO PLEIKU. MOVEMENT WAS CANCELLED AFTER THE FIRST LIFT OF UHID HAD DEPARTED FOR PLEIKU WITH CO B AND THE RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON. THE BATTALION (-) RETURNED TO THE BATTALION BASE (BR 472468).

30 OCT -
2 NOV 1965 BATTALION SECURED DEO MANG PASS (BR 581445).

2-7 NOV 1965 BATTALION INVOLVED IN OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN THE PLEI ME, DUC CO, AND LA DRANG VALLEY AREA SOUTH OF PLEIKU.
 A. DURING PERIOD 3-4 NOVEMBER 1965, CO A CONDUCTED A NIGHT AIR ASSAULT (FIRST IN THE DIVISION) INTO A LANDING ZONE UNDER ATTACK BY PAVN FORCES TO REINFORCE A UNIT FROM THE 1ST SQUADRON, 9TH CAVALRY (YA 824068). ESTIMATE 10 VC KIA.

9-21 NOV 1965 BATTALION SECURED AND CLEARED HIGHWAY 19 FROM AN KYE WEST TO VIC BR 310457. PORTIONS OF THE DIVISION PICKET LINE WERE ALSO OCCUPIED.
 A. ON 13 NOVEMBER 1965, CO C WAS RELEASED FROM SECURITY MISSION IN TUY HOA AND RETURNED TO THE BATTALION BASE NORTH OF AN KHE.

21-28 NOV 1965 BATTALION CONDUCTED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN THE LA DRANG VALLEY (YA 875125) SOUTH OF PLEIKU.

RESULTS OF THE OVERALL DIVISION OPERATION IN THE LA DRANG — PLEI ME AREA.

VC KIA (BC)	1447
VC KIA (EST)	1998
VC WIA	43
VC WIA (EST)	1008
VCC	136
INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS	497
CREW SERVED WEAPONS	126

30 NOV 1965 — BATTALION OCCUPIED PORTION OF DIVISION INNER PERIMETER AND AN KHE AIRFIELD.

8 DEC 1965	INNER PERIMETER, AN KHE AIRFIELD, AND PICKET LINE.
9-15 DEC 1965	BATTALION CONDUCTED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS SOUTH OF AN KHE ALONG THE RIVER VIC BR 407305. ELEMENTS OF COMPANY C AND RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON, COMPANY D UTILIZED REPELLING TECHNIQUES IN A COMBAT ASSAULT IN THICK JUNGLE. ALL UNITS OF THE BATTALION USED THE TROOPER LADDER FROM THE CH47 CHINOOK, IN COMBAT ASSAULTS DURING THIS OPERATION.
17-20 DEC 1965	BATTALION CONDUCTED OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS VIC THUAN HAHN (1) VIC BR 658467. 25 VC KIA (BC,) 100 VC KIA (EST).
21-4 JAN 1966	BATTALION ON R&R AT BIEN HO LAKE, PLEIKU PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. COMPANY B SECURES 3RD BRIGADE 25TH INFANTRY BASE CAMP
5-12 JAN 1966	BATTALION CONDUCTED SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION ALONG CAMBODIAN-REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM BORDER IN PLEIKU PROVINCE. VCC-3 TROOPER LADDER USED EXTENSIVELY WITH GREAT SUCCESS THROUGHOUT OPERATION.
13-JAN-17 FEB 1966	BATTALION SECURED HIGHWAY 19 FROM DEO MANG PASS TO AN KHE AND LATER BECAME DIVISION RESERVE FORCE. CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE PATROLLING 10 — 12 KM NORTH EAST OF AN KHE. ON 8 FEBRUARY COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION 8TH CAVALRY ENGAGED ESTIMATED NORTH VIETNAM PLATOON. VC KIA—1 VC KIA (EST) 7 VC WIA 12—(EST)
18 FEB-6 MAR 1966	BATTALION PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION WHITE WING AT BONG SON AND CONDUCTED SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATIONS. VC KIA (BC) 25, ESTIMATED KIA 23, ESTIMATED WIA—41 VCC—6 VCS—40 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS CAPTURED—7
7-12 MAR 1966	BATTALION IN DIVISION RESERVE AND PREPARATION FOR FURTHER SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSIONS.
13-22 MAR 1966	CONDUCTED COMPANY SIZE SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION IN SONG CON RIVER VALLEY AREA. VC KIA—1, 55 HUTS DESTROYED, 1/2 TON RICE DESTROYED, 4 ELEPHANTS AND 35 WATER BUFFALO DESTROYED.
14-24 MAR 1966	BATTALION IN DIVISION RESERVE AND PREPERATION FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS.
25 MAR 11 APR 1966	BATTALION RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE (COMPANY AND PLATOON SIZE) NORTH OF LA DRANG VALLEY IN PLEIKU AND DARLAC PROVINCE. ESTIMATED 1 TON OF RICE DESTROYED.
11-17 APR 1966	BATTALION RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE (PLATOON AND SQUAD SIZE) ALONG CAMBODIAN BORDER NORTH OF HIGHWAY 19 IN PLEIKU PROVINCE. ESTIMATED VC WIA, 1 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS CAPTURED—2.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS
1st. Battalion Airborne 8th. Cavalry

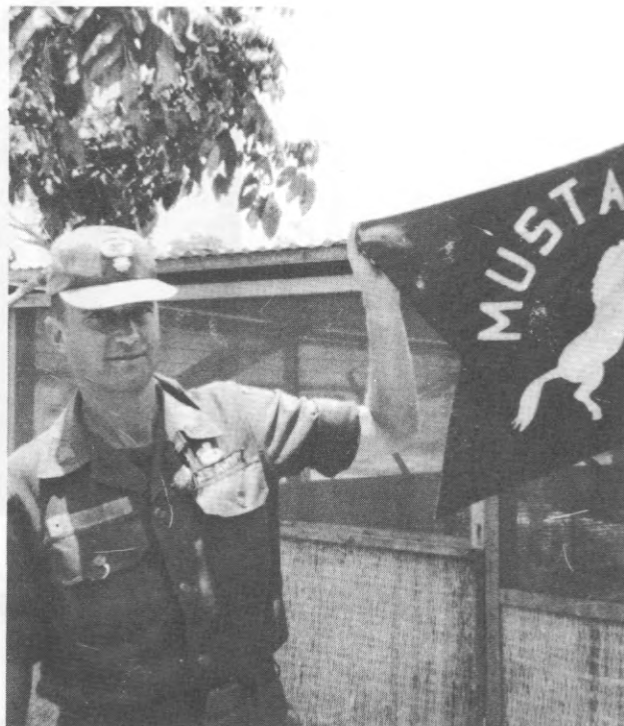
GENERAL JOHNSON Meets
Battalion Staff



Battalion Executive Officer
2-4
MAJOR HERMAN
W. WO-1



Mustang Leaders Welcome
GENERAL JOHNSON



Battalion Executive Officer
MAJOR HERMANN



Battalion Surgeon
CAPTAIN ODOM

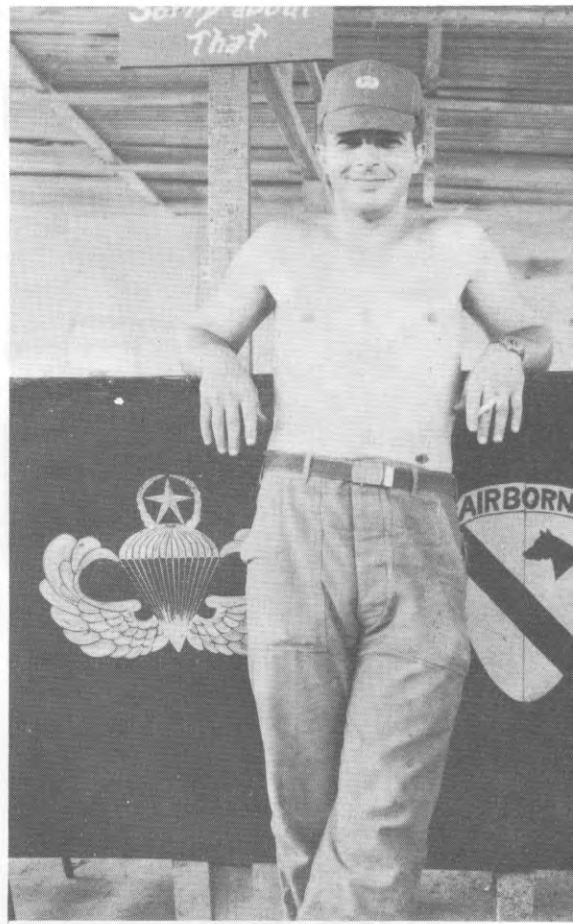


S-4 Section
W. WO-1 Rader



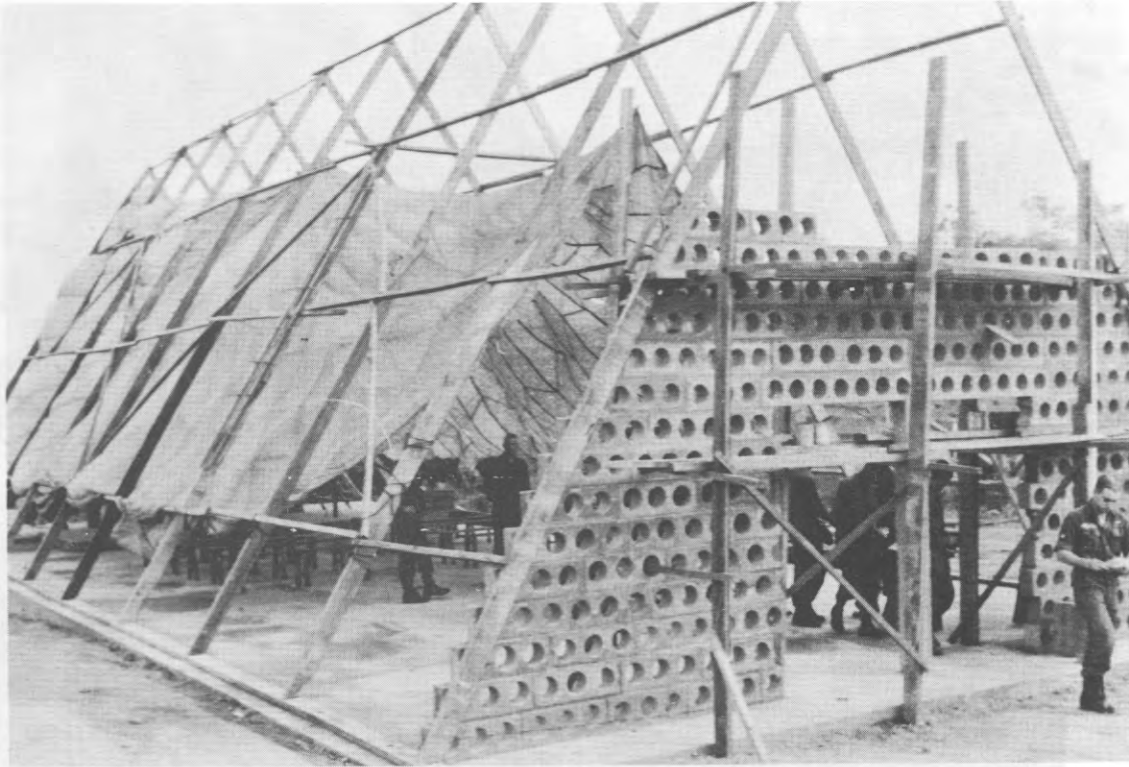
S-4 Section
1st. Lt. NICKLES

Manager of Battalion
Service Club
SERGEANT GUGLIETTA

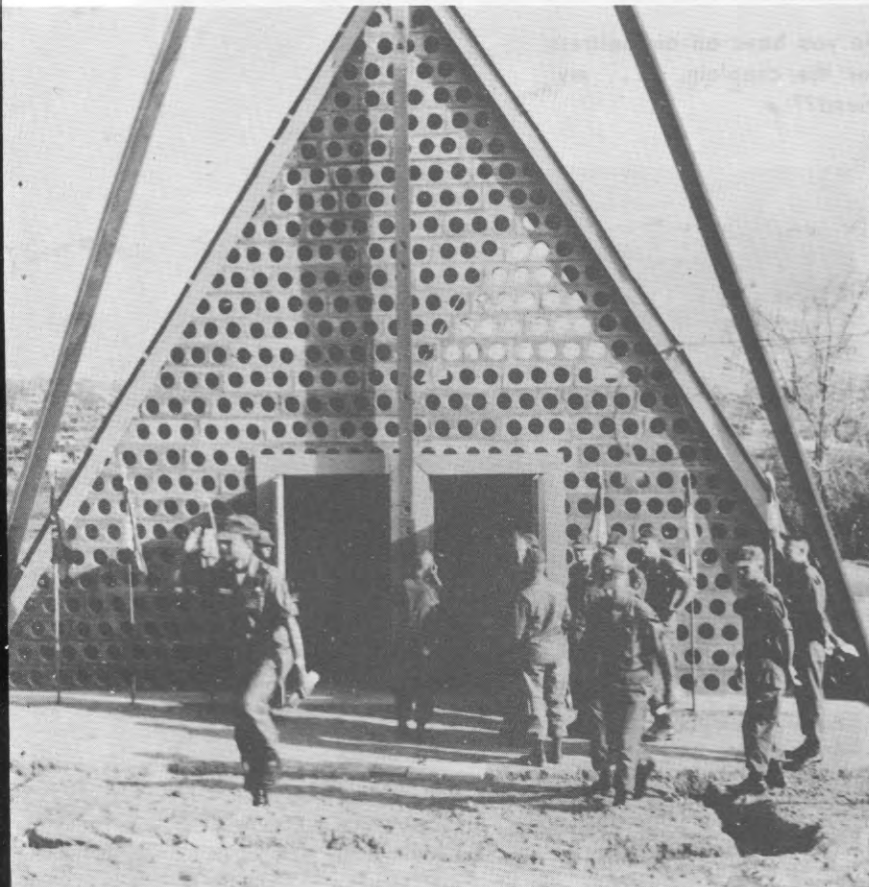


Assistant Manager
SERGEANT MORILLO

CHAPEL OF THE JUMPING MUSTANGS



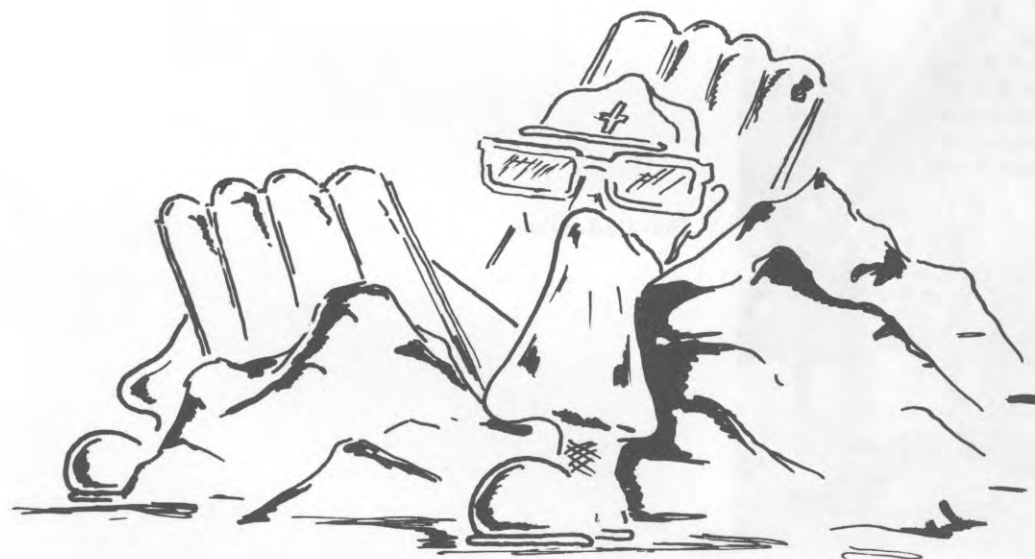
In the beginning



The Dedication



Do you have an air-mattress
for the chaplain, my
friend??



S-3 Officer
MAJOR PROPPES



S-2 Officer
CAPTAIN TALMADGE



Those are mine...
This "one" is yours
CAPTAIN SMITH S-3 AIR



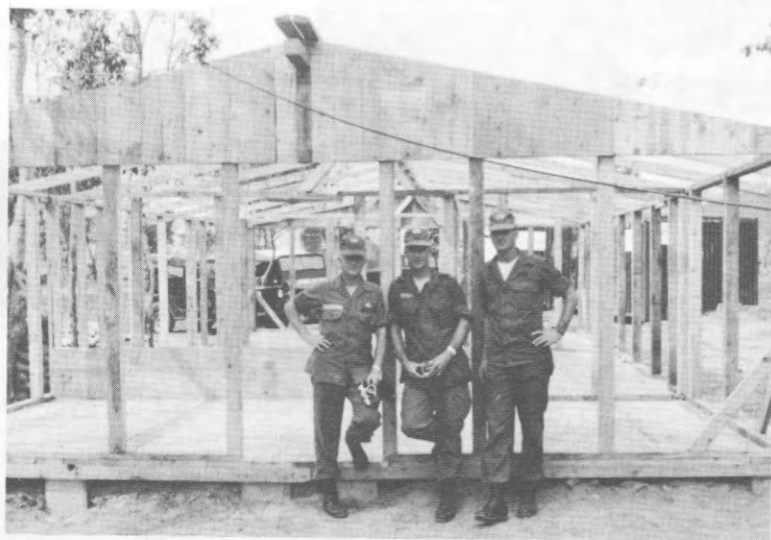
S-4 Officer
CAPTAIN MC LAUGHLIN

SERGEANT E-6 BRAUN
Chemical NCO



Only One Sir?
CAPTAIN WILKIE
SERGEANT DEVER

Beginning of a Home
 SERGEANT E7 WILLIAMSON
 SERGEANT E6 SHEPARD
 SERGEANT E5 ADAMS



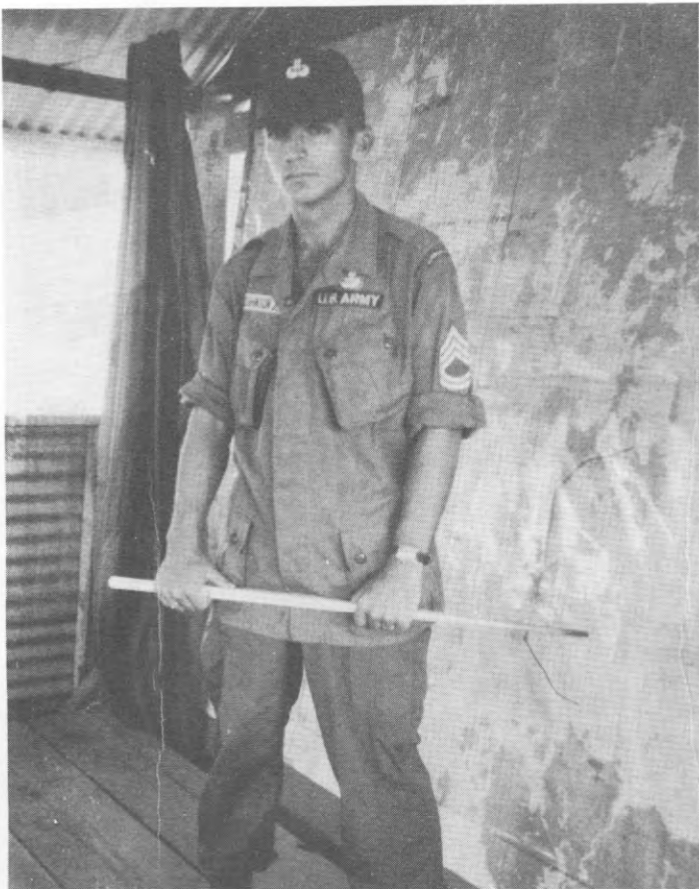
Completion of a Home
 Message Center

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS WILLIAMSON





Monday Morning Again!
SERGEANT E6 SHEPARD



Sergeant First Class
J. L. JOHNSON



MASTER-SERGEANT PLAISTED
MASTER-SERGEANT HUBBARD



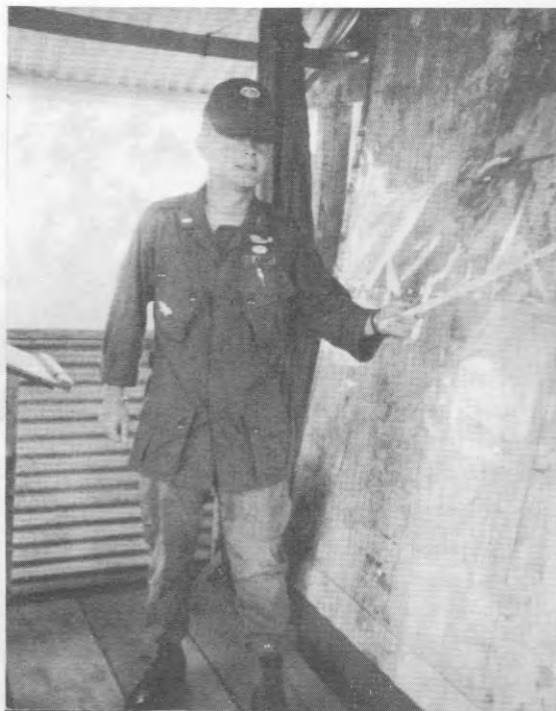
SERGEANT-MAJOR MEEHAN

Sergeant First Class
J. L. JOHNSON



Company Commander
CAPTAIN R. W. SANDY





1st. Lt. CATER
S-3 Section



1st. Lt. KAROLY
S-3 Section



1st. Lt. WEARY
S-1 Section



SERGEANT BEY
S-1 Section

Headquarters Company 1st. Battalion Airborne 8th. Cavalry



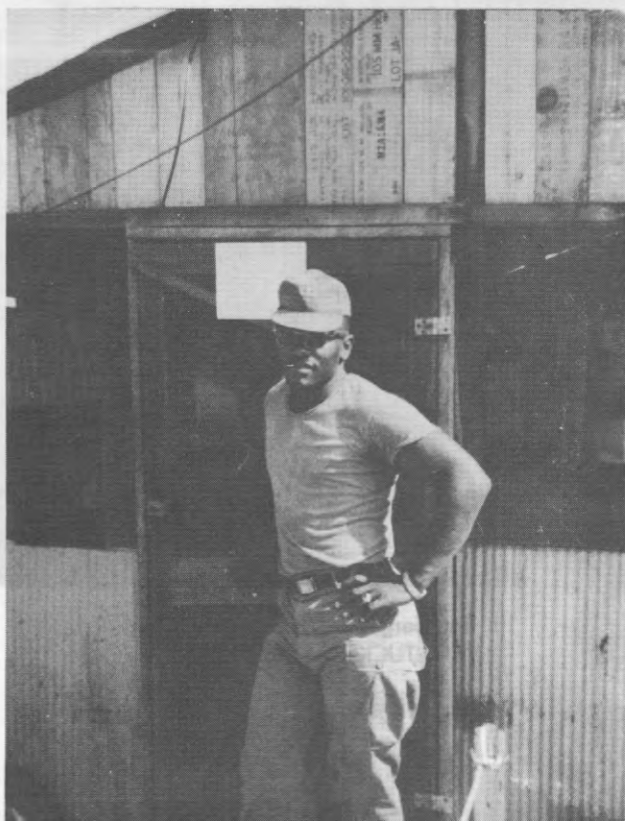
Company Commander
CAPTAIN R. W. RAMSEY



First Sergeant
W. J. TUCKER



Headquarters Supply
SERGEANT HAYNES



SUPPLY CLERK
PFC PORTIS



Its a Small World for these Three

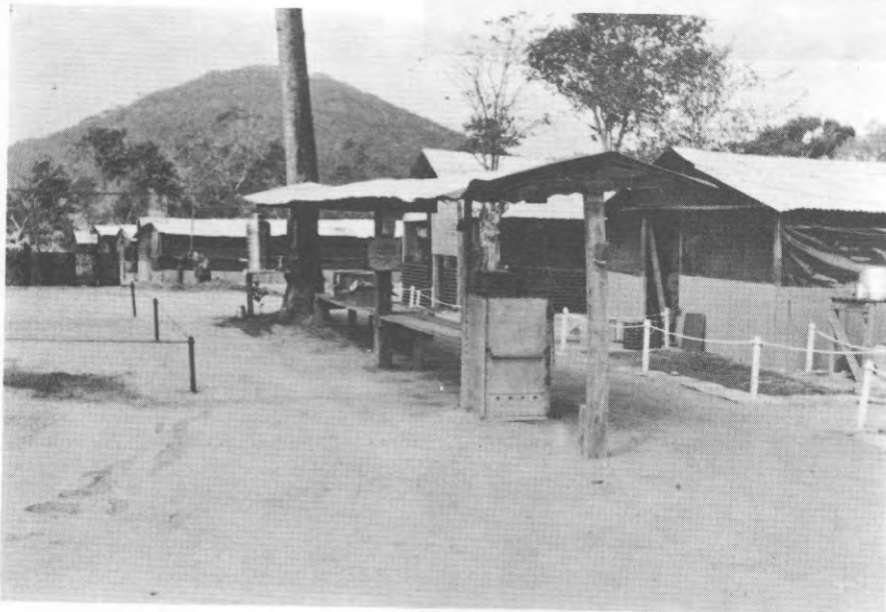
GARRY A. HALL, PFC
101st. Airborne Division
EARL J. HALL, SERGEANT
173rd. Airborne Brigade
BERRY E. HALL, PFC
1st Battalion 8th. Cavalry
(Airborne)



We don't all have to walk
Specialist 4 LARANANG



Headquarters Mess Hall



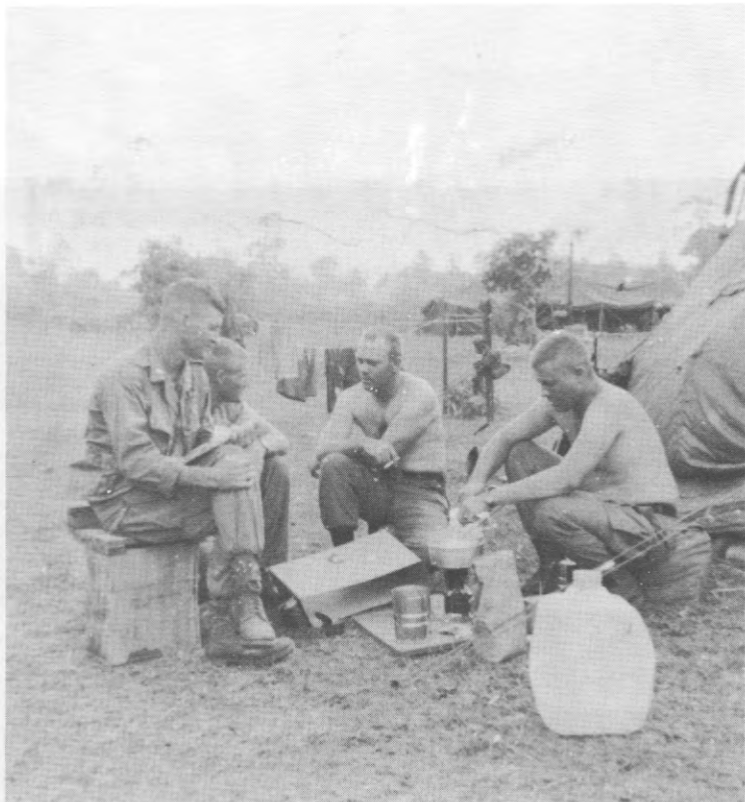
Serving Line

Battalion Mess Steward
SERGEANT J. JOHNSON



It says here that you should have
skinned him first !!!!!

LT. LANGSTON
LT. NICKLES



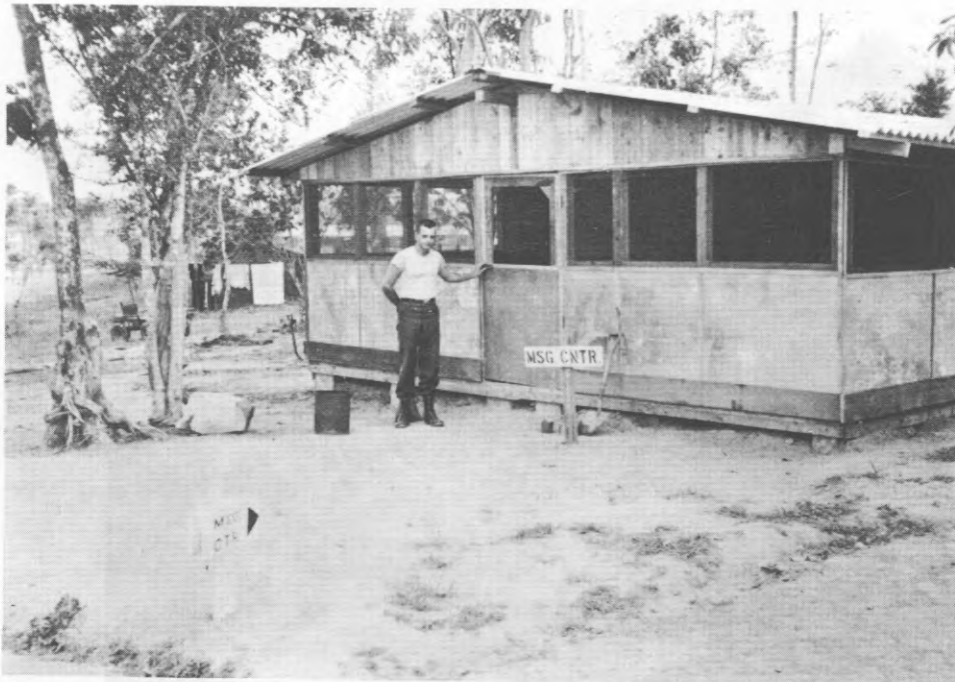
Headquarters Camp
PFC DOWNS
SFC JOY



The last mile!! Headquarters Orderly Room



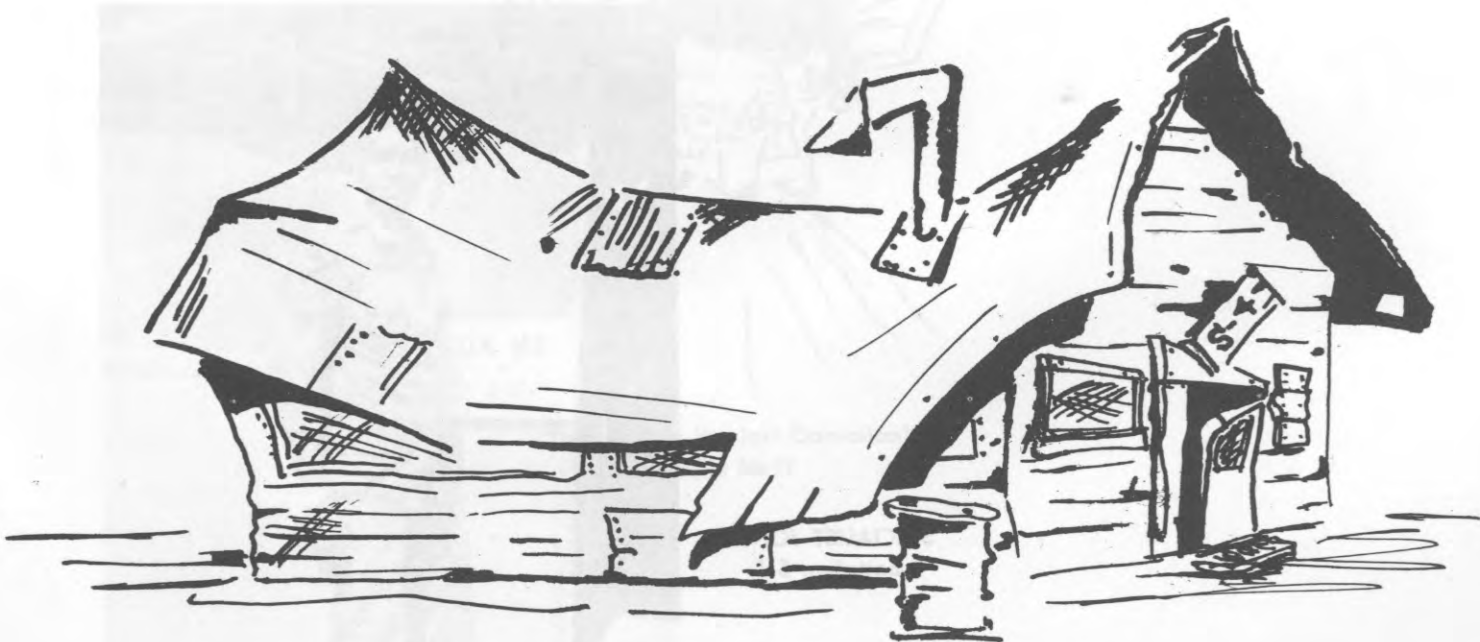
He has a Hang Nail!
 Headquarters Cooks
 PFC DOWEN
 PFC FOY



Sergeant WILSON NCOIC Message Center



S-4 Section Begins to Build Their Home
WO W-1 RADER
PFC ATKINSON
SP-4 LARANANG

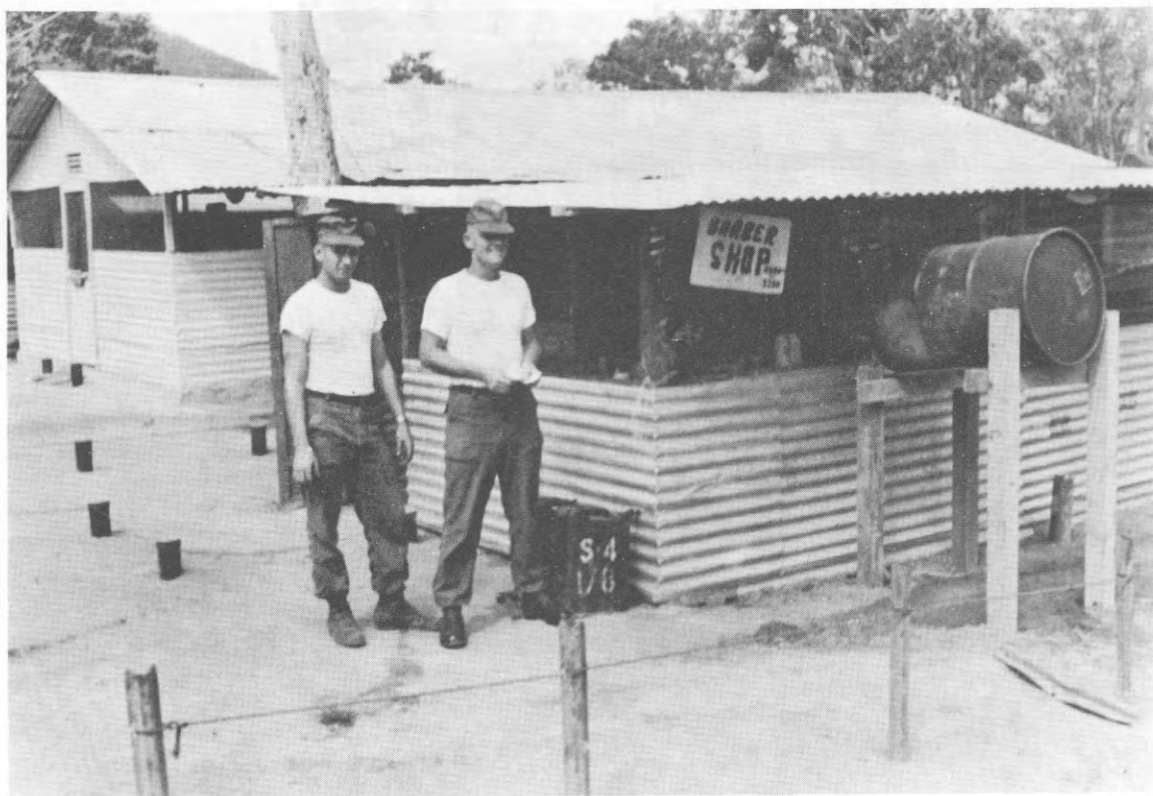




SERGEANT ADAMS
Company Clerk



SPECIALIST JONES
Battalion S-1



Battalion Barber Shop
SERGEANT E6 NEAL
SPECIALIST 6 AGEЕ



Did I go on the last Operation!!
Who Me??



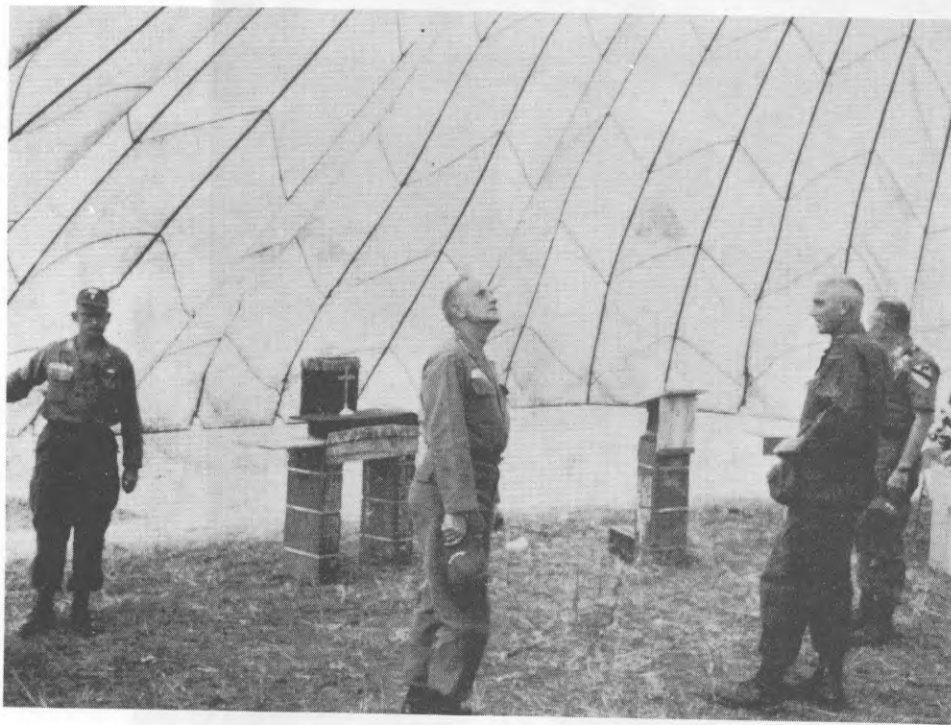
Those Unforgettable Moments



It Ani't Much, But It's
Home!!
SPECIALIST 4 BARRON



What Sir, My Dog Tags?
SERGEANT KENNEDY



General Johnson
Hatch
Hatch & Thach

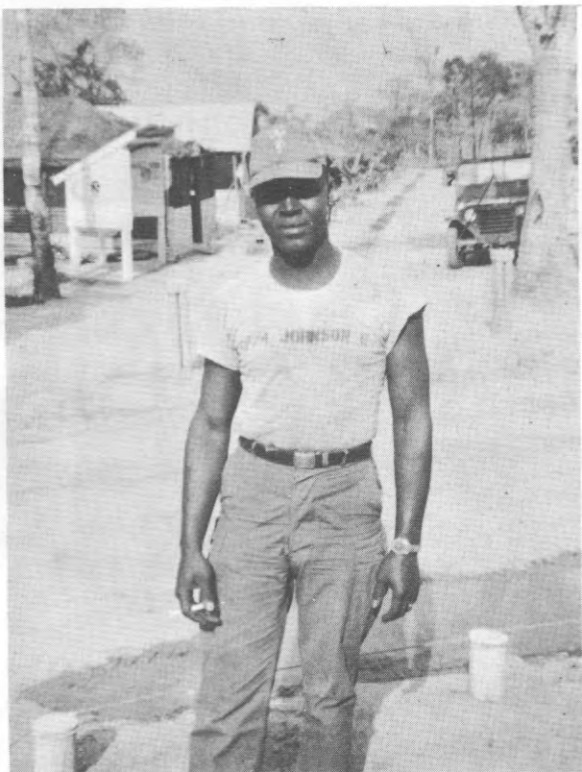
GENERAL JOHNSON Visits Our First
Battalion Chapel in Vietnam



The One at Hanoi
Hanoi
Hanoi
Hanoi

Our First Christmas in
Battalion Chapel
CHAPLAIN SPEAR
LT. COL. MERTEL
GENERAL KINNARD





SPECIALIST 5 JOHNSON
"Big John"



PLATOON SERGEANT CONNER



Our Own, Mr. Personality
Heart of the Medical Platoon
SPECIALIST 6 WILLIFORD



26103127 E JOHNSON
"Big John"

Anybody Seen My Tooth-Brush??



A Company

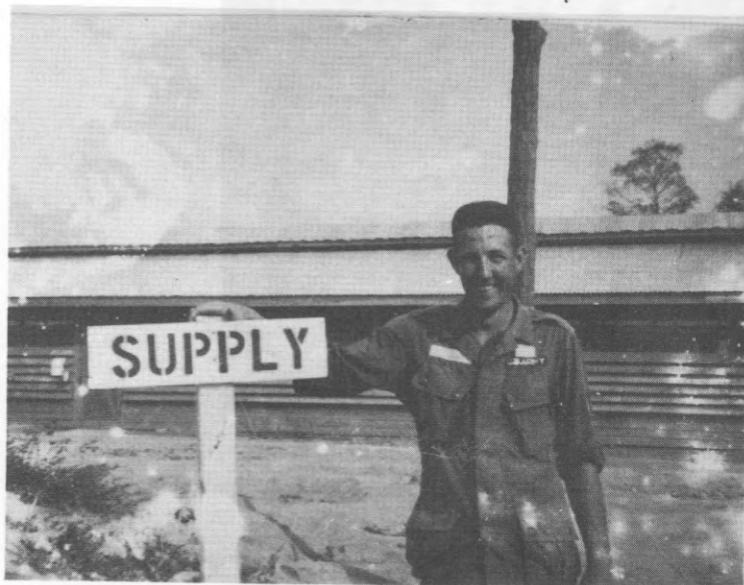
1st. Battalion Airborne 8th. Cavalry



Company Commander
CAPTAIN C. B. STONE

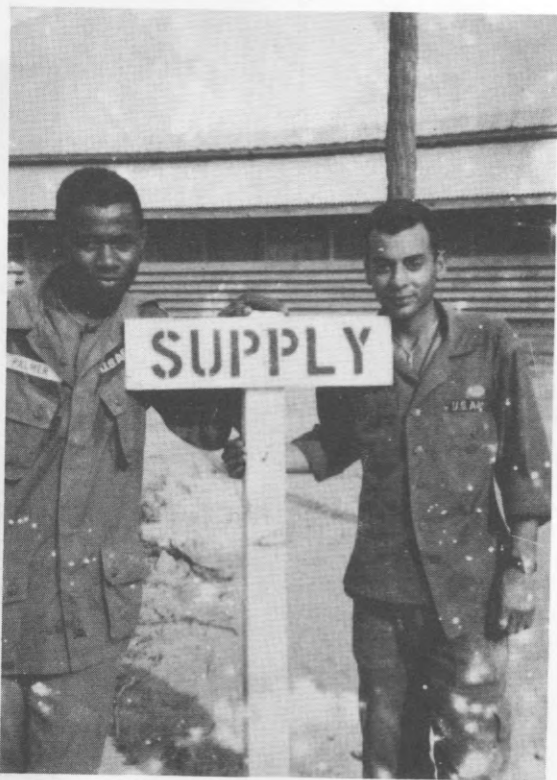


First Sergeant R. GONZALES



Supply Sergeant
SERGEANT E-5 JOLLAY

CAPTAIN C. B. STONE



Supply Clerks
SPECIALIST PALMER
SPECIALIST OYOLA



Platoon Leaders, ALFA Company

LT. SIMPSON
LT. SALAZAR
LT. WILSON
LT. MOKUP
LT. IUBET

Men of ALFA Company
Third Platoon





SERGEANT MAJOR MEEHAN
FIRST SERGEANT GONZALES
SERGEANT E7 MAK
SERGEANT E7 ROSS
SERGEANT E7 RIVEER
SERGEANT E6 JERRY

NCO's of a Company



"Those Guys Ain't Nothing"
SERGEANT LUCKEY
SERGEANT BUTLER
PFC LUDD
PFC RILEY

