

A COMBAT ASSAULT (LEFT) NEAR PLEIKU IN OPERATION GREELY AND CHECKING OUT A TUNNEL COMPLEX (RIGHT) IN OPERATION JUNCTION CITY.

## 173rd Airborne Makes Mark in Vietnam

### USA Photos

BONG SON, Vietnam (Special)—Five years ago Saturday the 173rd Airborne Brigade was activated on Okinawa as a quick strike guerrilla warfare reaction force.

Few units in the history of the American fighting man have been so successful in meeting their mission requirements.

Deployed as the first U.S. Army ground combat unit to Vietnam in May 1965, the paratroopers have been the most mobile strike force in Vietnam and have built an enviable reputation.

From the jungles of the Iron Triangle to Hill 875 at Dak To,

the 173rd had played the role as troubleshooter in the II and III Tactical Zones. They have participated in 64 different combat operations, they have been heavily involved in civic action programs, and have the only combat parachute assault in the war. Four Sky Soldiers have been awarded the Medal of Honor and the Brigade's 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry has received the Presidential Unit Citation.

Currently the brigade is deployed in three areas of operation along South Vietnam's north central coast under the command of Brig. Gen. Richard J. Allen.



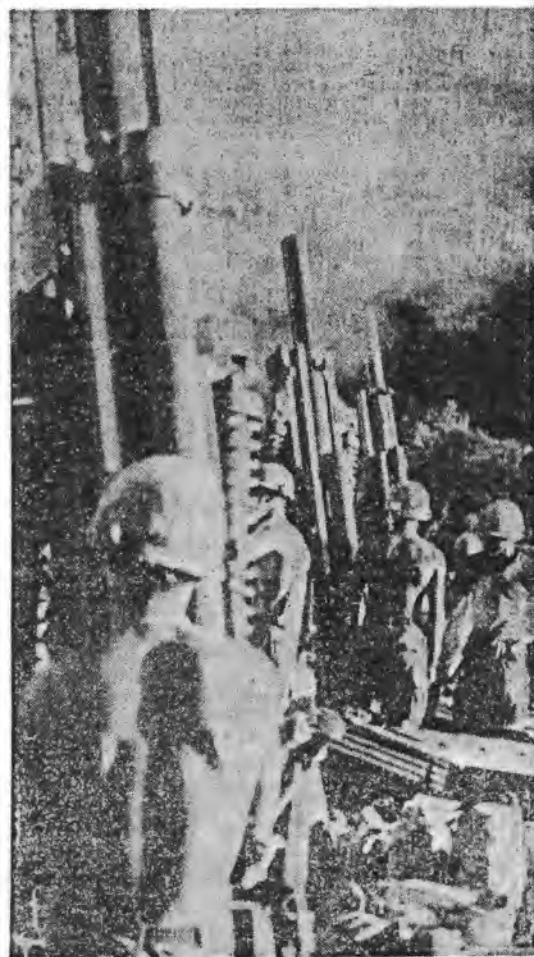
A 173rd Airborne Brigade trooper moves during Operation Bolling near Tuy Hoa.



A 173rd Sky Trooper awaits a dust-off chopper on Hill 875, near Dak To.



PARATROOPERS FIND ROUGH GOING DURING OPERATION NEAR PLEIKU.



HOWITZERS PROVIDE FIREPOWER AT DAK TO.