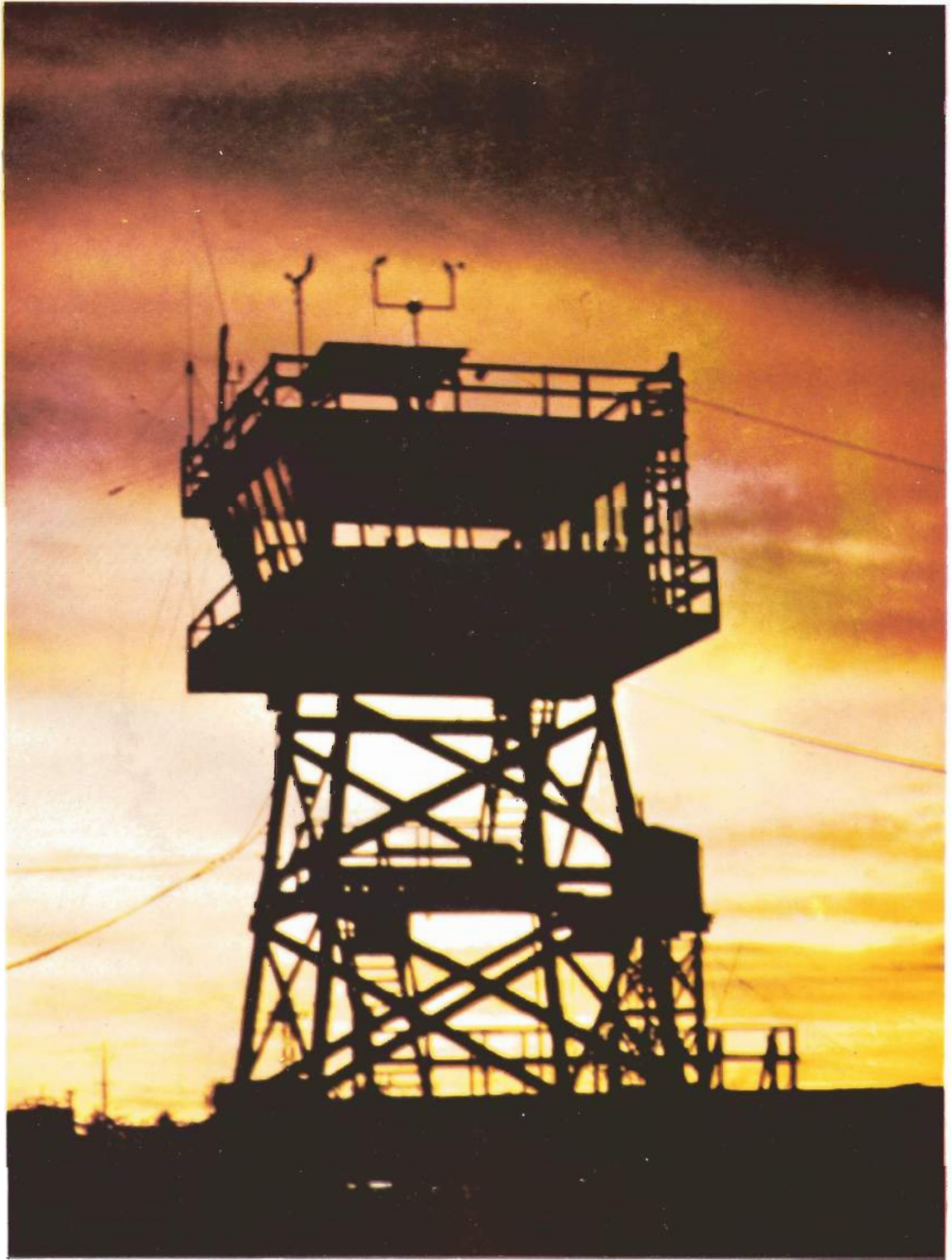




**HISTORY OF THE
175th AVIATION COMPANY
(ASSAULT HELICOPTER)
AND ATTACHED UNITS
1968-1969**





**HISTORY OF THE
175th AVIATION COMPANY**

(ASSAULT HELICOPTER)

1 January 1968–30 September 1969

**approved by
LEO A. KRAMER, JR.
MAJOR, INFANTRY
commanding**

**214th AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT)
1st AVIATION BRIGADE
UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM**

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 175TH

Over the past few years, the OUTLAWS have established records unsurpassed by few units. These records have been achieved as a result of hard work, dedication and great undiminished effort. You can take justifiable pride in your accomplishments. Your efforts have certainly made the 175th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) "THE DELTA'S BEST."

From an Xuyen Province in the south to Kien Thong Province in the north praise has been bestowed upon you in the form of letters, words and tokens of appreciation. The numerous awards and decorations that you have received attest to your outstanding devotion to duty and professionalism. You are to be commended for your effort in the fight against communism. Be aware that you fight for the freedom for the Vietnamese people has upheld the heritage of America as a freedom loving nation.

To you who have been a part of the unit's history and especially those OUTLAWS who have given the supreme sacrifice, this book is dedicated.

LEO A. KRAMER JR.
MAJ, INF
Commanding



THE COMMANDERS

THOMAS E. ANDERSON	MAJ	14 Dec 64—26 Jun 65
ALFRED J. ILLER	CAPT	27 Jun 65—2 Spt 65
SAMUEL M. VINCENT	MAJ	3 Spt 65—6 Feb 66
RICHARD W. LEISTER	MAJ	7 Feb 66—15 Jul 66
ROGER L. LACOURSE	MAJ	16 Jul 66—6 Mar 67
WILLIAM J. MEEKAN	MAJ	7 Mar 67—2 Jul 67
ROBERT F. O'KANE	MAJ	3 Jul 67—8 Spt 67
GEORGE W. BARNITT JR.	MAJ	8 Spt 67—11 Mar 68
JOHN T. PERSCH	MAJ	11 Mar 68—12 Aug 68
JOHN H. BOYSEN	MAJ	12 Aug 68—11 Feb 69
WILLIAM E. CALLENDER	MAJ	11 Feb 69—12 Jul 69
LEO A. KRAMER JR.	MAJ	12 July 69—



OUTGOING COMMANDER

This yearbook was developed for the most part during the tenure of Major William E. Callender. The outstanding reputation that this unit now enjoys can be credited to the professional, dedicated efforts of this fine commander.

FOREWORD

Many memories are carried with one after a year in Vietnam that reflect joy and sorrow, hope and disappointment. Many of these memories can never be put to words or pictures but the following few pages of this book hope to bring back some of the happier moments of life in Southeast Asia.

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175TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

EDITOR

KENNEDY K. McELROY JR.

1LT, INFANTRY

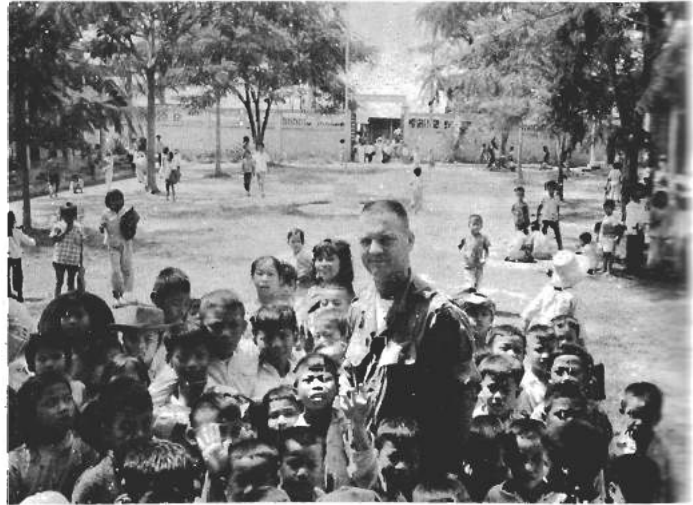
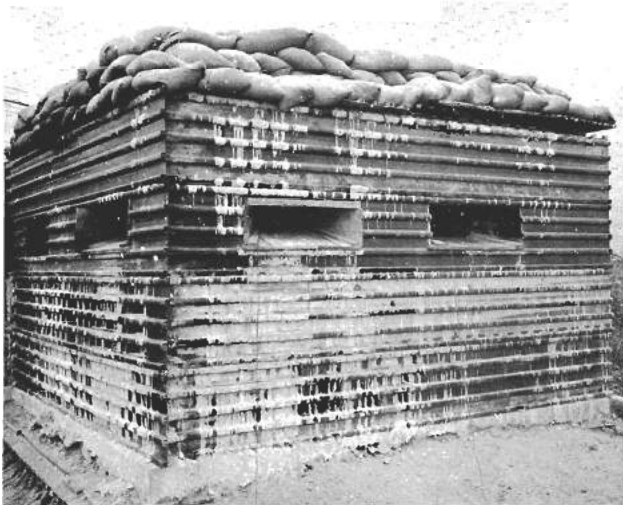
175th AVIATION COMPANY

PHOTOGRAPHER

PHILIP J. KINSEY

SP4 USA

175th AVIATION COMPANY



HISTORY OF THE 175th

The 175th Assault Helicopter Company was originally born as the 62nd Aviation Company, 11th Air Assault Division on 6 August 1964. On 14 December 1964, the 62nd was redesignated Company A, 502 Aviation Battalion. Finally, on 1 September 1966, the unit was activated as the 175th Aviation Company.

The 175th was first commanded by Major Roger L. Lacourse and was authorized 14 Officers, 41 Warrant Officers, and 141 Enlisted Men. It was under this designation that the nickname **OUTLAWS** was adopted for the company as a whole and the name **MAVERICKS** was chosen by the armed platoon of the company.

On 2 November 1967, the designation of the "175th Assault Helicopter Company" was adopted for "in country" use. The primary mission of any Assault Helicopter Company being to provide tactical air transportation for combat troops, supplies, and equipment within the area of operations for the supported unit.

At the beginning of 1969, the 150th Maintenance Detachment was incorporated into the 175th Avn. Co. to provide second and third echelon maintenance for company aircraft. At the same time, the 28th Signal Detachment joined the **OUTLAWS** to provide radio repair and avionics supply to the 175th Aviation Company.



MISSION OF THE OUTLAWS

The 175th Aviation Company was part of the United States Army Support Command, Vietnam which became in August of 1965 the United States Army, Republic of Vietnam. Under both Commands the 175th was controlled directly by the 13th Aviation Battalion, which in turn is commanded by the 164th Aviation group.

The Company's general Mission is to augment, within the "rules of engagement", the aviation capability of the Republic of Vietnam forces by providing army aviation support for the Army of the Republic of Viet Nam in the IV Corps area which is known as the Delta.

Specifically, aviators of the 175th were and are required to fly troops and supplies over the remote and otherwise inaccessible areas located in the Delta so that these troops could avoid ground ambush and arrive at the selected site fresh and ready for combat. It has been the use of the helicopter in this manner which has provided the third dimension in warfare, the vertical, air-landed employment of troops.

MAVERICK

VINH LONG AIR FIELD

MAY BAY OANH KICH MAVERICK

Tu than se den voi Ban **DEATH TO VIET-CONG**



THE ENEMY

The Communist Guerilla in Vietnam can trace his elusive organization back to the Viet Minh who fought the Japanese and French occupation for a free Vietnam. With the choice of the former Viet Minh leader, Ho Chi Minh (The Enlightened One), to follow the Communist Doctrine a split developed.

The name Viet Minh was changed to Viet Cong and the former war against the French and Japanese was changed into a terrorist campaign to intimidate the population of South Viet Nam into accepting Communism.

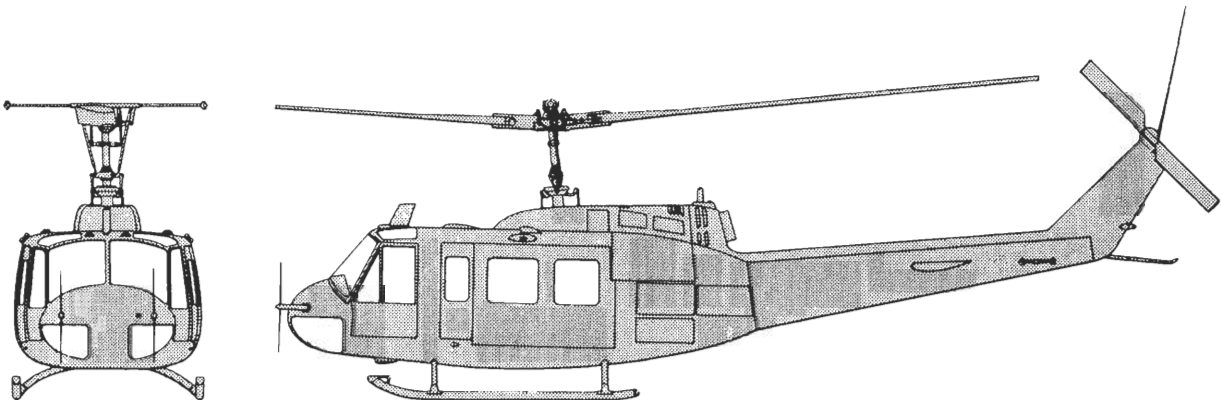
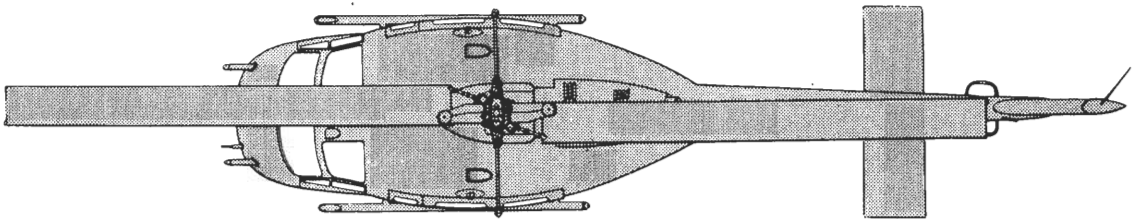
The Viet Cong, or as he is known by U. S. forces, "Charles", is often hard to find as he lives and works with the local people who are often forced to feed and shelter him. Because he taxes the local populace for subsistence, support, and even men, he is able to rule only as long as the local populace supports him.

He is both evasive and ingenious in his jungle and rice paddy domain as is shown by his underground supply system and his vast communication system and intelligence network.

Many individuals who have not had the pleasure to visit South Vietnam labor under the mis-conception that "Charles" is forced to contend with a modern army with only primitive means.

This is of course not true even though the Viet Cong try to further this image.

The Viet Cong are toughened combat troops who's ancestors have been engaged in war for thousands of years. Now they are aided by weapons and equipment of the most sophisticated type which are "donated" by the Communist Bloc of nations.



The UH-1D "Huey" Helicopter

UH-1 "HUEY"

The 175th Assault Helicopter Company is presently equipped with the utility helicopter (UH-1) for use as both transport and armed helicopter. Although the Bell helicopter was originally called the "Iroquois", it is better known by the nickname "Huey".

The "Huey" had the original function of an air-ambulance but as the U. S. involvement in Vietnam increased the variety of uses for the "Huey" became apparent.

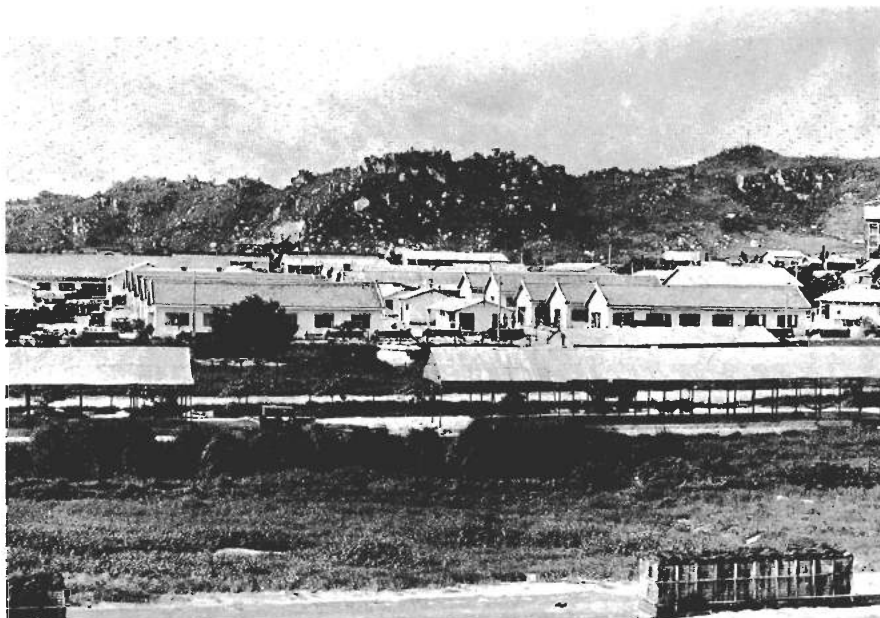
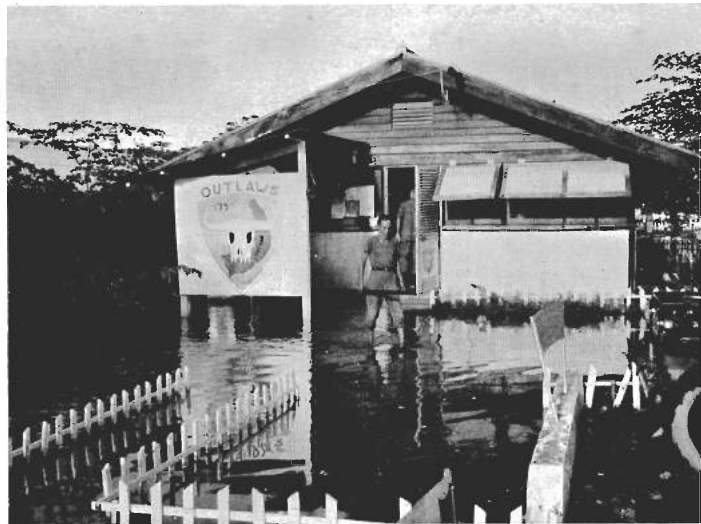
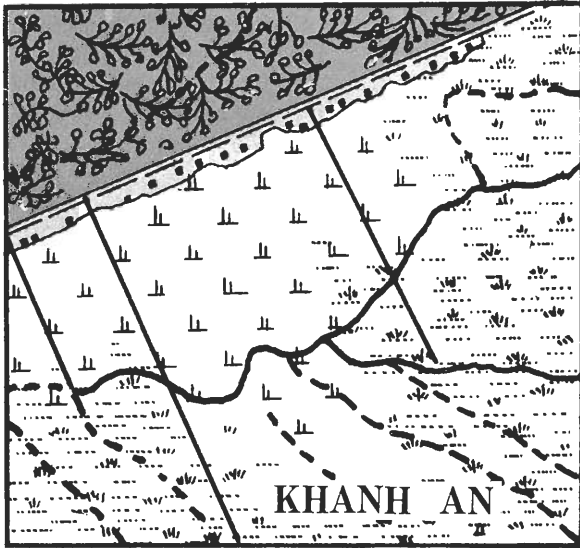
As time conditioned to supply facts for the designer's imagination the "Huey" became modified over and over again. The engines were made to produce more shaft horse power thus giving the ability to lift more weight as well as being more maneuverable.

At this time the UH-1D is the primary helicopter for troop transport but even now the UH-1H version with increased power is supplementing this function. The version used for effective armed protection is the UH-1C. Both have the gas turbine Lycoming engine and semi-rigid rotor system.

These ships which have the function of troop or supply transport are known as "Slicks". This nickname was given to these ships as their fuselage is bare of any external weapons, thus they are streamlined in appearance and hence the name "Slicks".

The gunships on the other hand have their armament systems protruding from their sides, and the case of the 40 mm, from their nose.

The armament of the UH-1D is usually two M-60 machine guns. The UH-1C can carry a variety of weapons. Combinations include twin miniguns capable of 4000-6000 RPM, the M-5 40 mm grenade launcher which fires at 250 RPM, and the "Hog" which is a system of 48 2.75 inch folding fin rockets.



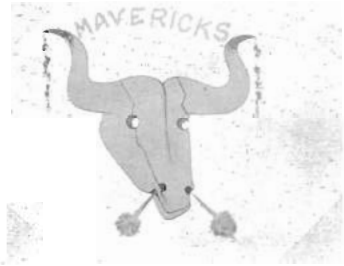
AREA OF OPERATIONS

The IV Corps tactical zone, which the 175th Assault Helicopter Company helps support, covers nearly all of the Mekong Delta, south and west of Saigon. This area encompasses the major food producing area of Southeast Asia and contains 80% of Vietnam's population outside of the Saigon area.

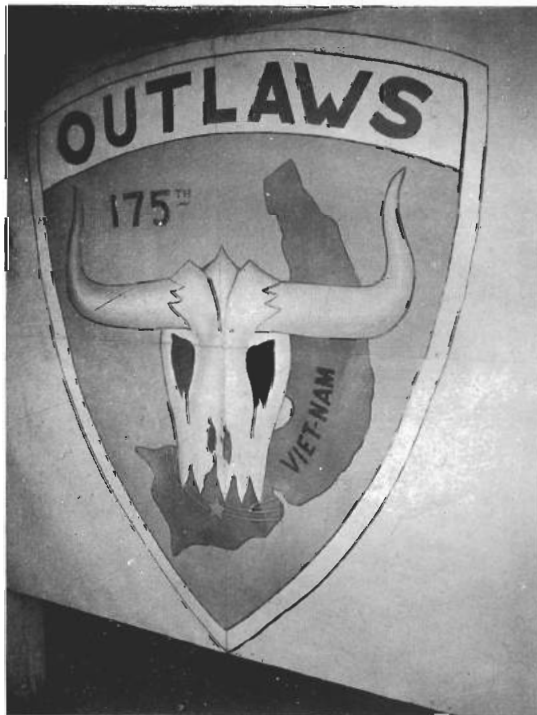
The Delta is unique in the length of its crop growing season. It is here that a possible three rice crops per year can be obtained and this amount would be able to supply the majority of Southeast Asia with its main food staple, rice. This very characteristic which makes the Delta the "Rice Bowl" is also the one which causes the envy of other nations.

The Delta is characterized as a flat, poorly drained surface with an average elevation of only 10 feet. Despite the vast network of canals and streams, the area is so poorly drained that up to 70% of the Delta may be under water in the rainy season. The land is mainly covered with rice paddies lined with dikes. Trees border canals, and mangroves are common along the coast. The only jungle is in isolated and uncultivated areas.

Despite an average temperature range of between 80-95 F and a high year round humidity, there are two distinct seasons. From November to May is the dry season with a prevailing east wind and clear skies. Flight during this period is hampered by widespread dust, haze, and smoke. The rainy season, from June to November, is a time when heavy rainshowers and thunderstorms occur daily. The winds are mainly from the Southwest and are often gusty. Early morning low overcasts are frequently experienced and these along with frequent thunder showers during the day cause hazards to flight during this season.



THE



TEAM



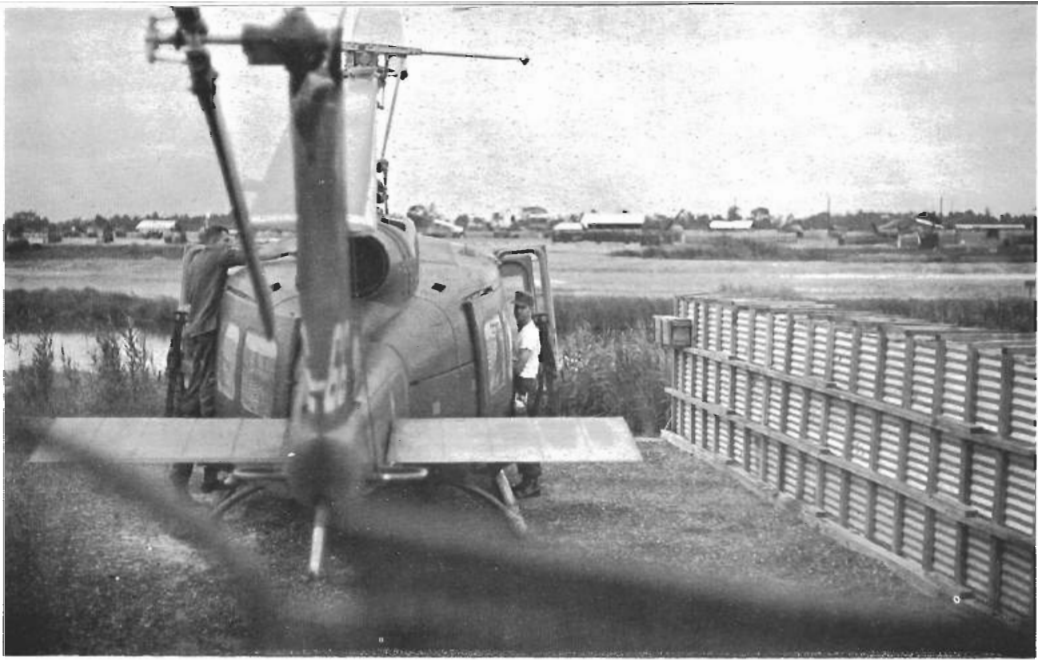
TROOP LIFTS

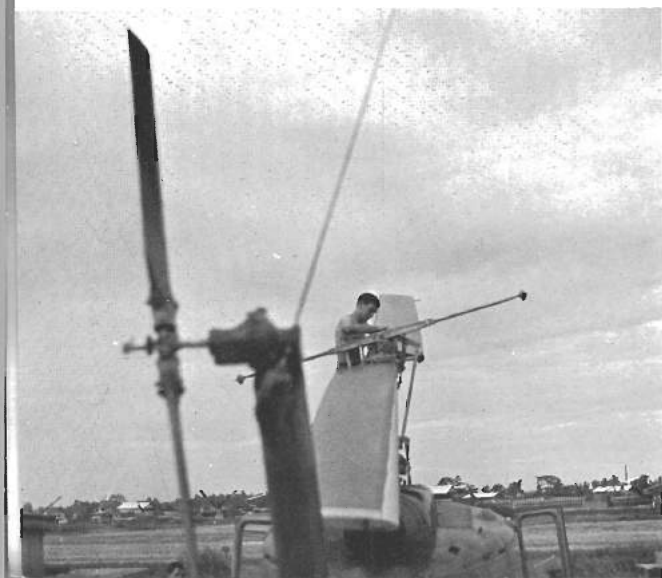
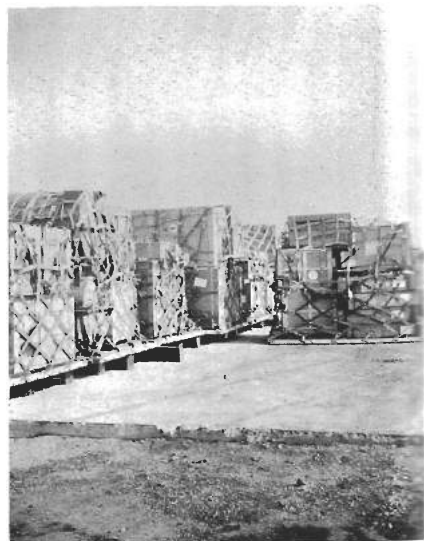
In complying with its mission of "supporting the ARVN forces in the IV Corps area", the 175th Assault Helicopter Company is often called upon to "fly troops over the remote and otherwise inaccessible areas located in the Delta".

Pilots are briefed, detailed maps are issued, and the eager troops are loaded for the day's adventure. The Command and Control ship and the armed "Gun-ships" precede the "Slicks" to the Landing Zone where a reconnaissance is made of the area and smoke is dropped to mark the exact point of touchdown for the "Slicks". The "Gun-ships" then go out to a prior designated location to meet the "Slicks" in flight. Escorted by the "Gun-ships", the "Slicks" land at the selected site. If fire from the enemy is encountered at this time, it is the function of the "Gun-ships" to draw and return this fire for the "Slicks" are most vulnerable since they are committed to a landing and no evasive action can be taken.

This moment just described is where the birth of pride in being an aviator occurs. Only in such moments of natural fear which is controlled and the mission accomplished, can the pride of wearing wings be fully recognized.

In the late evening, the helicopters return to the same area to pick up the weary ARVN soldiers who have spent the day chasing the Viet Cong and now wait in the secured Pickup Zone in small "Sticks" of 7 to 10 men for the friendly lift out and home.





SUPPLY

"Swing Ships", those ships who's mission is supply, furnish another vital component in complying with the OUTLAW mission of supplying the troops and outposts throughout the IV Corps area. Resupply missions may take pilots anywhere from Nui Cotto to Cai Cai to Vung Tau. Ocassionally, someone is lucky enough to be scheduled to such beloved areas as Moc Hoa or even Cau Mau.

Supplies carried by the "Swing Ships" may range from anything like weapons, movies, and penicillin, to hot chow, cold beer, or even a birthday cake. Now and then the "Swing Ship" flies a mission of mercy to extract some wounded soldier, civilian and all to often, child who weakly smiles at HER pilots.

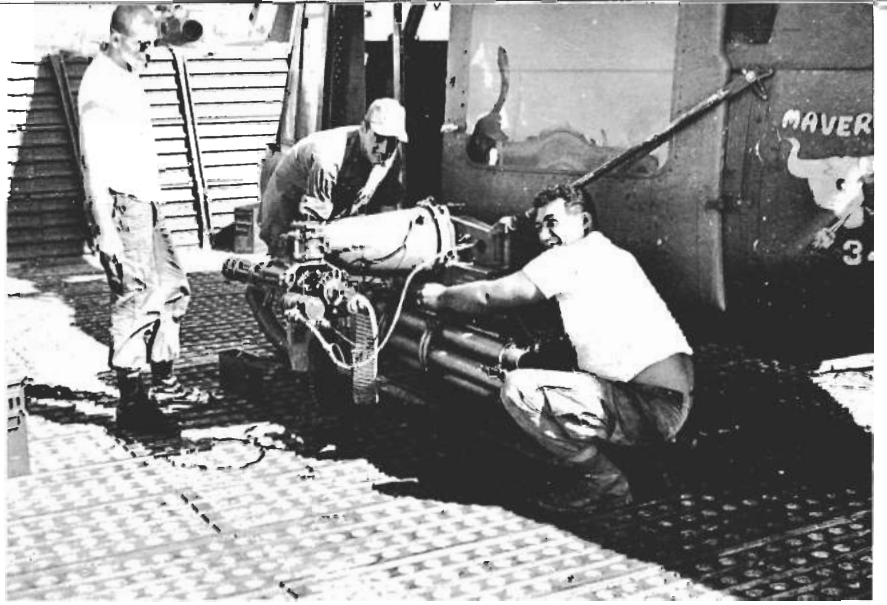
It is by this smile of the child and the others that the "Swing Ship" pilot reaps his reward.

ARMED SUPPORT

Supporting the "Slicks" to and from operations and providing fire support for ground units is the goal and mission of the MAVERICKS, the gun platoon of the 175th Assault Helicopter Company. The MAVERICKS also furnish two ships to fly with the "Bug Ship" in the nightly defense of Vinh Long; "Bug Ship" having the function of dropping flares for illumination in case of attack.

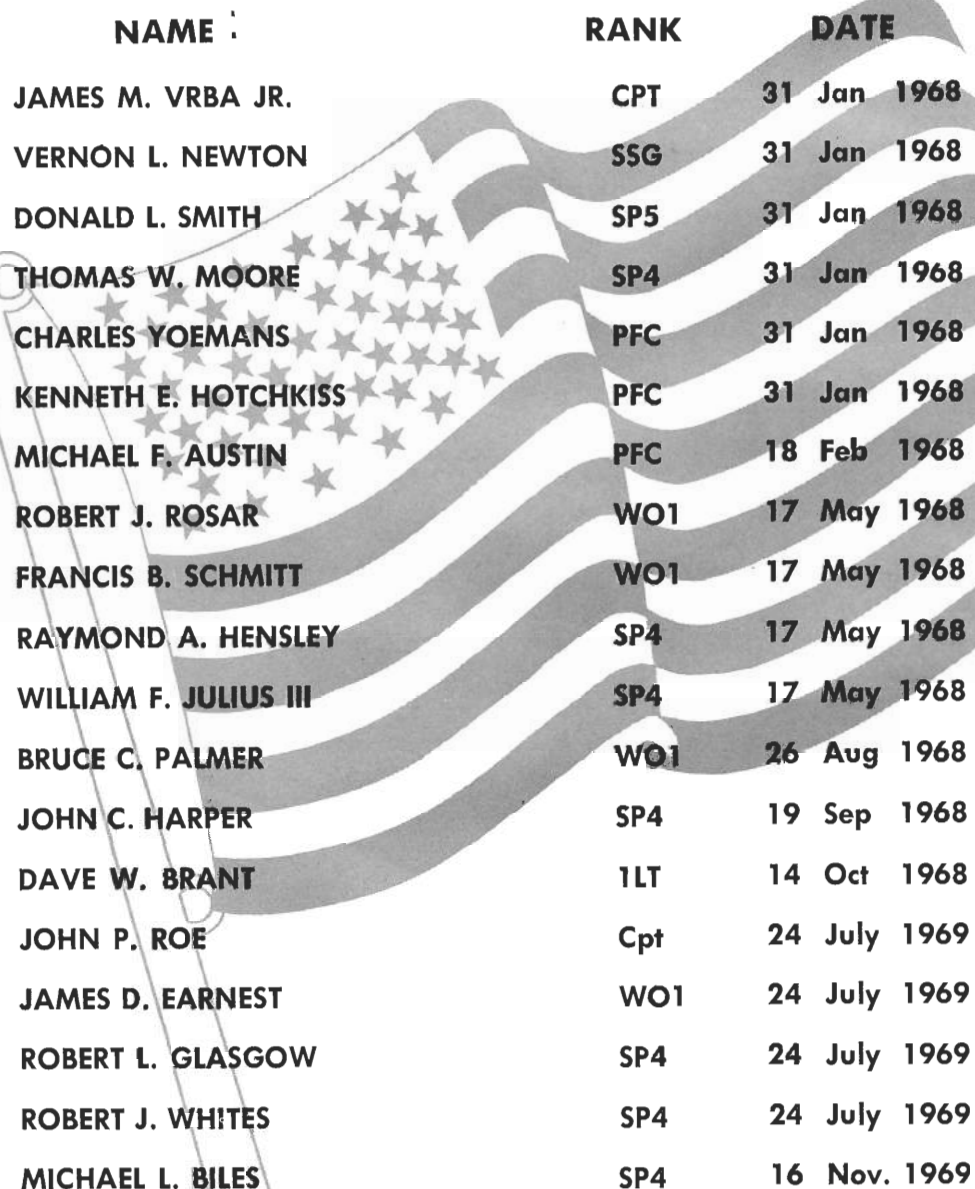
The gun platoon of the 175th is one of the best known and the highest praised gun platoon in the Delta. The outstanding record of the elite MAVERICKS is beyond comparison.





**"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT
A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS"**

ST. JOHN 15:13



NAME :	RANK	DATE
JAMES M. VRBA JR.	CPT	31 Jan 1968
VERNON L. NEWTON	SSG	31 Jan 1968
DONALD L. SMITH	SP5	31 Jan 1968
THOMAS W. MOORE	SP4	31 Jan 1968
CHARLES YOEMANS	PFC	31 Jan 1968
KENNETH E. HOTCHKISS	PFC	31 Jan 1968
MICHAEL F. AUSTIN	PFC	18 Feb 1968
ROBERT J. ROSAR	WO1	17 May 1968
FRANCIS B. SCHMITT	WO1	17 May 1968
RAYMOND A. HENSLEY	SP4	17 May 1968
WILLIAM F. JULIUS III	SP4	17 May 1968
BRUCE C. PALMER	WO1	26 Aug 1968
JOHN C. HARPER	SP4	19 Sep 1968
DAVE W. BRANT	1LT	14 Oct 1968
JOHN P. ROE	Cpt	24 July 1969
JAMES D. EARNEST	WO1	24 July 1969
ROBERT L. GLASGOW	SP4	24 July 1969
ROBERT J. WHITES	SP4	24 July 1969
MICHAEL L. BILES	SP4	16 Nov. 1969

"IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES"

THOSE WITH BROKEN WINGS

**Out of a society, out of
A world, in which all too
Many chastize and criticize,
You were different.**

**Those "old fashioned" ideals
Of patriotism, pride, love of
Others and the manliness to
Save these which others had
Forgotten, you eagerly took.**

**You were not satisfied
To do only your "fair share"
Even then, you sought more,
You wished to excell, you
Sought wings.**

**With wings of duty you
Continued to feel and do,-
And you did well. For that
Love which defies words
You gave your lives.**

**We, with our wings
Bow in tribute to honor
You for our span is
Overshadowed by yours,
You with Broken Wings.**

Lt. John V. Florian

RECOGNITION

In recognition of the sacrifices made and heroism shown by the men of the 175th Assault Helicopter Company throughout 1968, outstanding personnel were awarded:



Distinguished
Flying
Cross



Legion
of
Merit



Soldier's
Medal



Air
Medal



Silver
Star



Bronze
Star



Distinguished
Flying
Cross

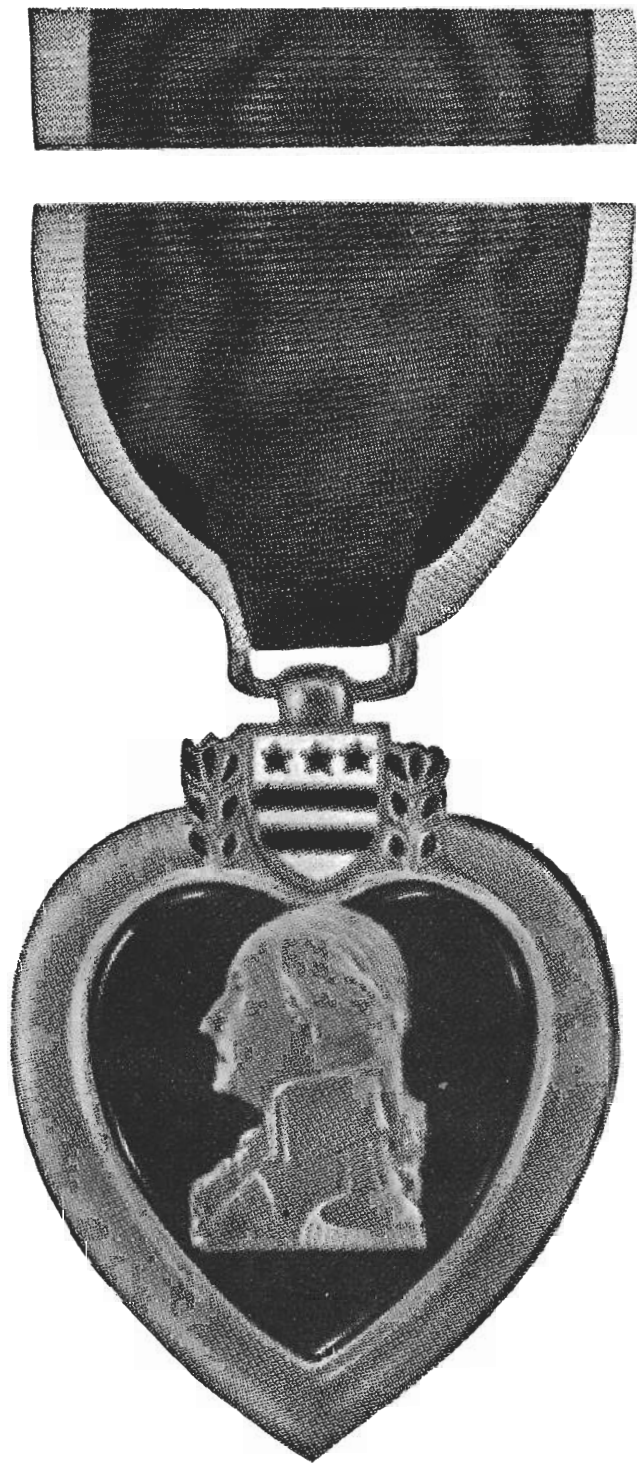


Army
Commendation
Medal

WOUNDED PERSONNEL

Stanley D. Arnold
Edward Brown Jr.
Donald J. Kreshtool
Michael V. Sheehan
Donald B. Doring
Frank J. Medlin
Robert D. Socci
Thomas Wulff
Jose E. M. Fernandez
Michael E. Jenkins
Joseph V. Santora
George S. Walker
Richard W. Geraghty
Joseph B. Mongogna Jr.
Josiah I. Austin
John M. Soares
Robert A. Glass
Ross A. Johnson III
Kenneth J. Leiss
Jimmie R. Asher

Stanley D. Arnold
Vernon E. Shannon
Ronald Barton
Fred T. Grotenhuis
John W. Hughes
Richard S. Maysill
James F. Rath
Virgil K. Wright
Howard S. Brush
Joseph J. Wisneski
Lawrence Dean
Robert A. McCann
Arthur Kramer
Otto Jimenez-Campos
Joseph B. Mongogna Jr.
Barry E. Smith
James H. Canady
William Scott
Willian E. Callender



OPERATIONS

Operations is responsible for the successful coordination of flight requirements and maintenance of flight operation records. Operations officers often accompany the Command and Control ship to supervise field operations. The operations office is manned around the clock by either an operations or an intelligence officer.

Yet, even with all of this responsibility, Operations still has time to operate a "Ramp Taxi" which gives transportation to returning pilots who are weary enough to appreciate this consideration.







ROAD RUNNER

So that the **OUTLAWS** may maintain their fine record of aircraft availability, a combined maintenance helicopter is sent with the company on all major operations. This ship is known as the "Road Runner".

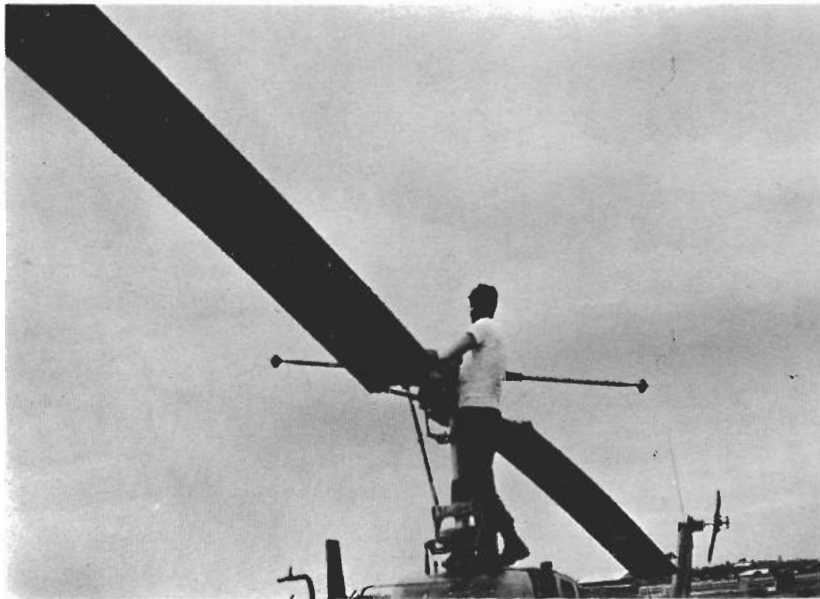
The Road Runner personnel, formerly part of the 150th Maintenance Detachment, provide emergency repairs, help in recovery of downed aircraft, and decide whether damaged ships can be safely flown back to secure areas. They are a frequent and welcome sight in the operational area.



CONSOLIDATED MAINTENANCE

No praise can be too great for the outstanding effort put forth by the maintenance and service personnel in keeping aircraft available for the operational demands of the 175th Assault Helicopter Company.

The combined maintenance sections are capable of working on any of the major components of the UH-1 helicopters from the armaments to avionics to the rotor system.







MOTOR POOL

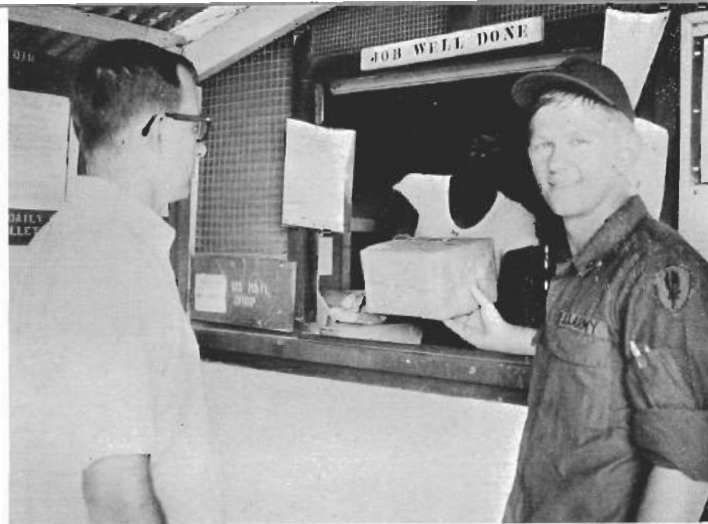
Often underrated, or even completely forgotten, is the Motor Pool which maintains all of the vehicles in the 175th Aviation Company at their high standards. It is a valiant effort they put forth to keep the rest of us from walking.

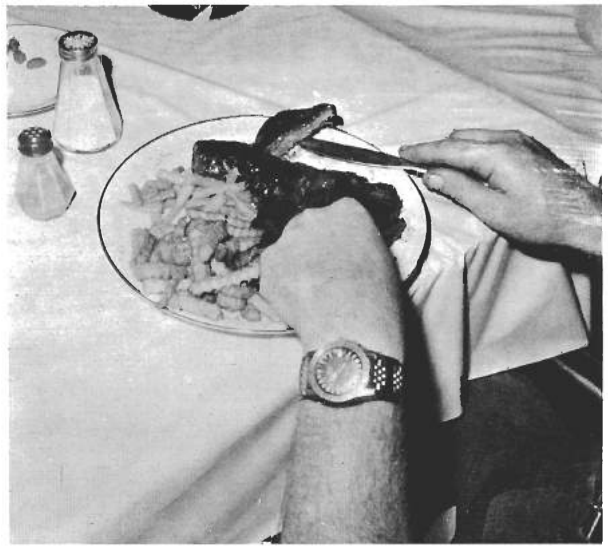


HEADQUARTERS SECTION

Napoleon said that "an army marches on its stomach", but the route is paved with paperwork. Thanks to the hard work of the Headquarters Section of the 175th, very little of this paperwork is ever seen by the common soldier. By their great effort the OUTLAW team has much more time to devote to its assigned mission.

Part of the Headquarters Section includes the mail clerks who are responsible for one of the greatest morale factors in the United States Army in Vietnam. Everyone appreciates their speed and efficiency in enriching our daily lives.





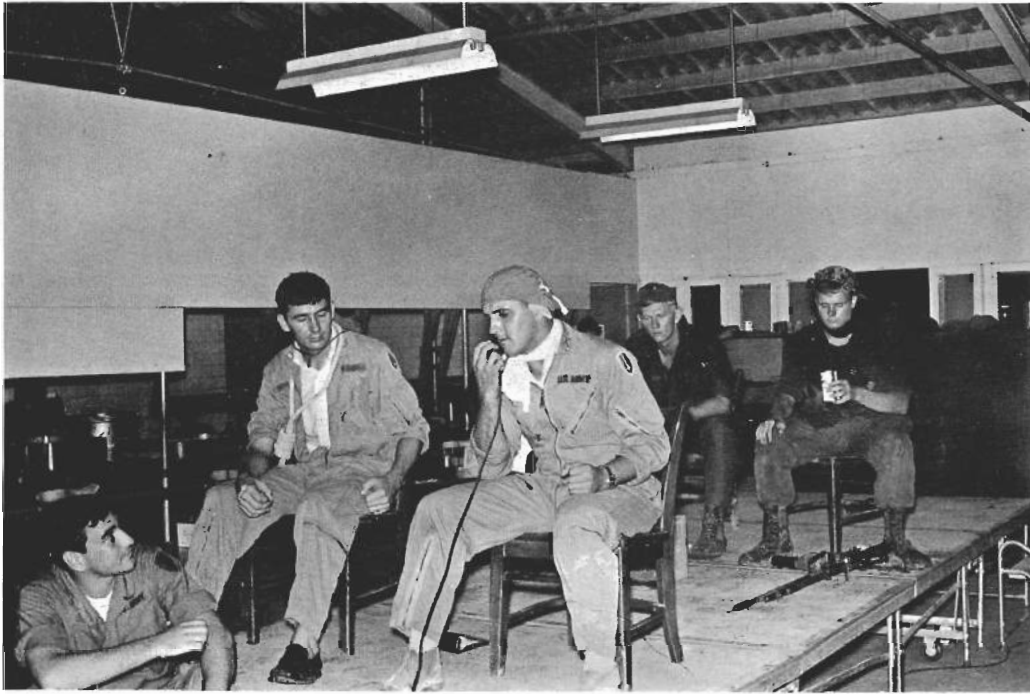
CONSOLIDATED MESS HALL

Vinh Long is exceedingly proud of its Consolidated Mess Hall which is considered one of the best in the Delta. The Mess Hall is run in conjunction with the 175th OUTLAWS, the 114th KNIGHTS, and the 199th SWAMP FOXES.

Besides supporting these three outstanding Aviation Companies, the Consolidated Mess Hall is the official Mess facility for the post of Vinh Long. All of the civilian workers supporting Vinh Long, American, Korean, and Vietnamese crowd into the Mess Hall for their three daily meals.

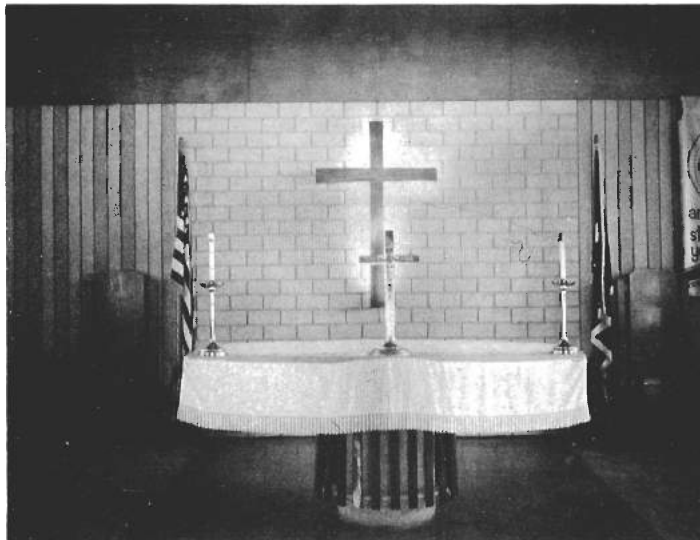
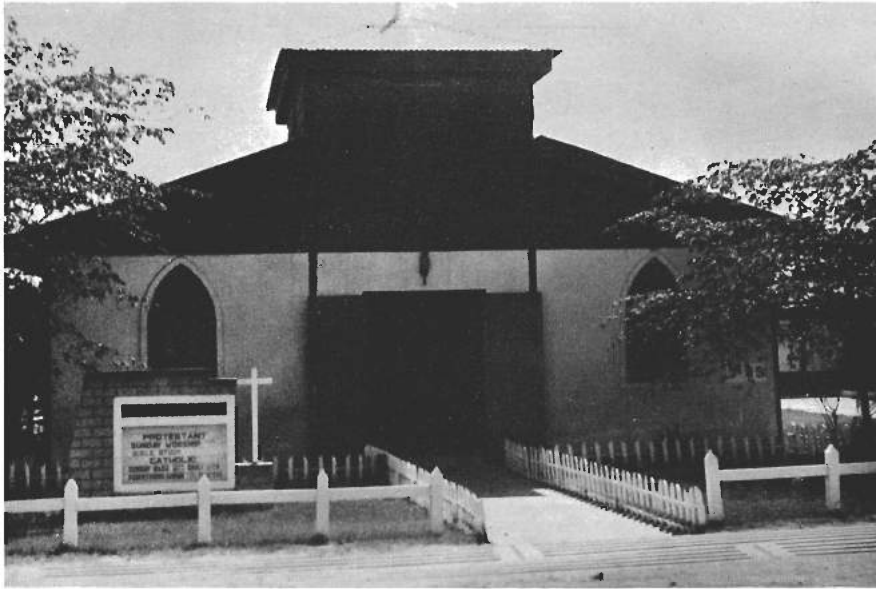
In addition to feeding an average of 1,000 people three times a day, the Consolidated Mess Hall also serves the Midnight Mess for the many people of Vinh Long who work around the clock.

The Vinh Long Consolidated Mess has been able to maintain the highest standards of the United States Army Mess Halls while under the most adverse conditions.



OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES





VINH LONG MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The Vinh Long Memorial Chapel was built in 1965 as a joint project of the 175th Assault Helicopter Company, then A Company of the 502 Aviation Battalion, and the 114th Aviation Company. It was financed by the free offerings of Protestant and Catholic congregations throughout the IV Corps area.

The Canterbury Methodist Church of Birmingham, Alabama donated the bell for the church's tower. Contributed by the Saint Patrick's Catholic Church of Drockton, Washington was a memorial plaque with the names of twenty-four men who gave their lives while flying combat missions in the Republic of Vietnam.

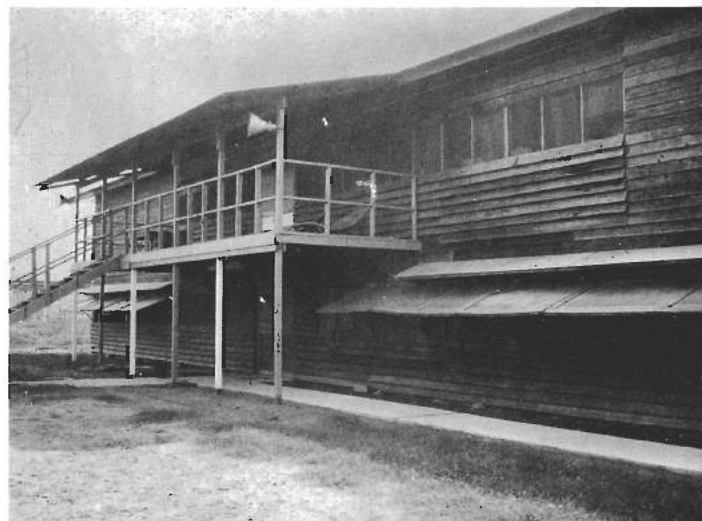
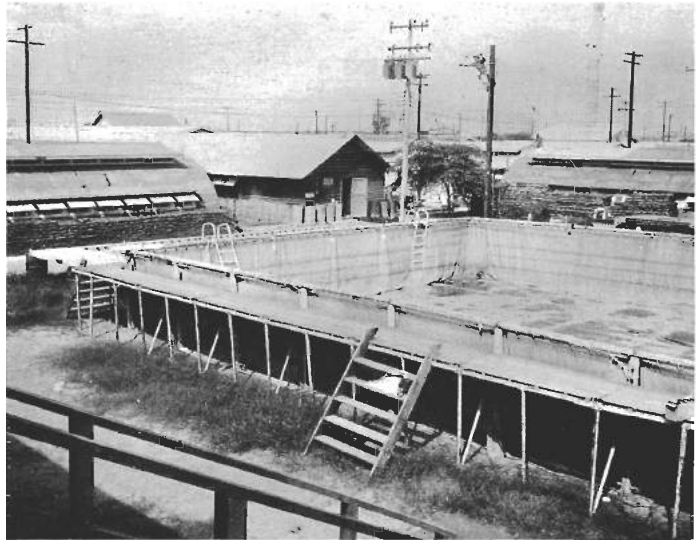
CARL S. MILLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Built in memory of Major Carl S. Miller who was killed in action on 29 January 1966 at Ba Tri. The library has become one of the favorite resting places for personnel at Vinh Long.

The air conditioned building contains over 3,000 volumes, subscribes to over 35 magazines and to 15 daily newspapers, and has a fine collection of tapes for listening and recording.

It is the source of relaxation and cool enjoyment for everyone from 0800 to 2200 hours daily.





SERVICE CLUB

Completed in early 1968 by Vinh Long personnel who volunteered their spare time, the service club and adjacent swimming pool have become a well known meeting place.

It is designed to provide for up to 500 people daily through its pool, pool tables, ping pong, magazines and books, music parties, or just lounging about talking with one of the pretty supervisors. Special added attractions include movies and U.S.O. shows.

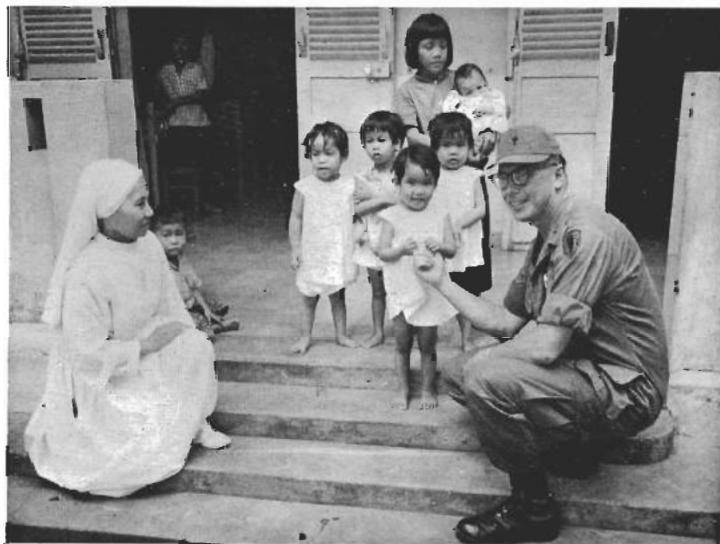
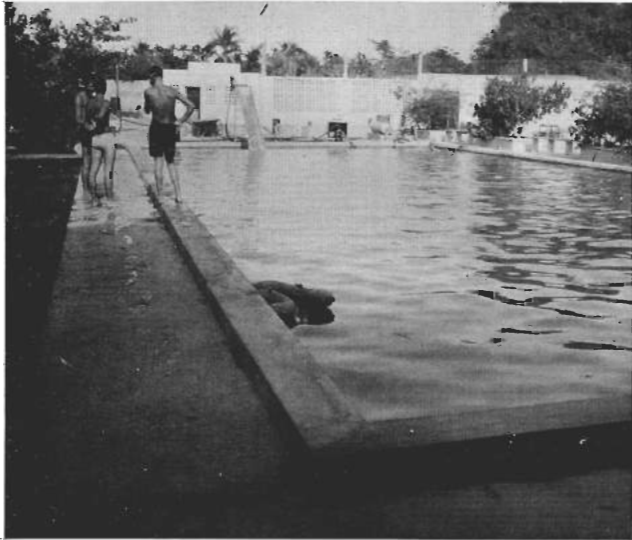
"Thanks girls", for all the enjoyment you have brought into our dull lives.

GOOD SHEPPARD CONVENT

The men of the 175th, both Catholic and Protestant, are greatly attached to the Good Sheppard Convent of Vinh Long. OUTLAWS drop by the convent not only to enjoy conversations with the Sisters and to walk through the beautiful convent garden but also to enjoy the swimming pool.

Several times a year the Good Sheppard sponsors parties for the local orphans in which many Americans are more than willing to help both by contributions to "Operation Angel" and through donating their spare time.







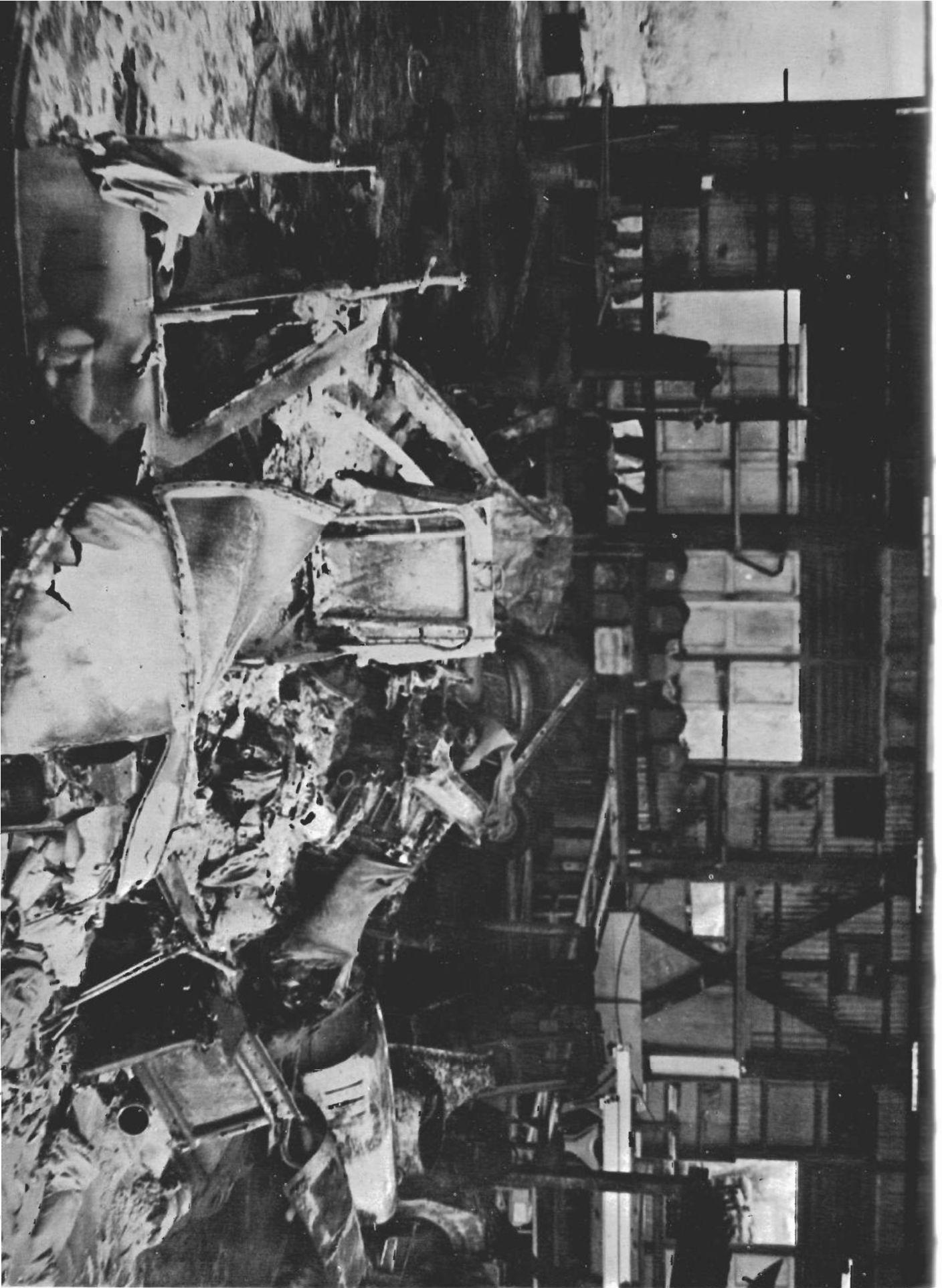
VINH LONG

Vinh Long, earlier known as Long Ho, meaning "Dragon Pond", was for many years a part of Cambodia. In 1680, a Chinese warlord named Mac Cuu established himself at Ha Tien. In 1714, during a pillaging raid by the Siamese, Mac Cuu was forced to ask for aid from the Vietnamese which he received only at cost of becoming a Vietnamese protectorate. In 1757 the Vietnamese obtained all of the land north of Can Tho by suppressing a Cambodian revolt.

In the early 19th Century, the name Long Ho was changed to the present name of Vinh Long which means "Eternal Dragon". The French began their conquest of Cochin China in 1859 by taking Saigon. It was not until 1862 that the French finally subdued Vinh Long from which they withdrew only to retake in 1867.

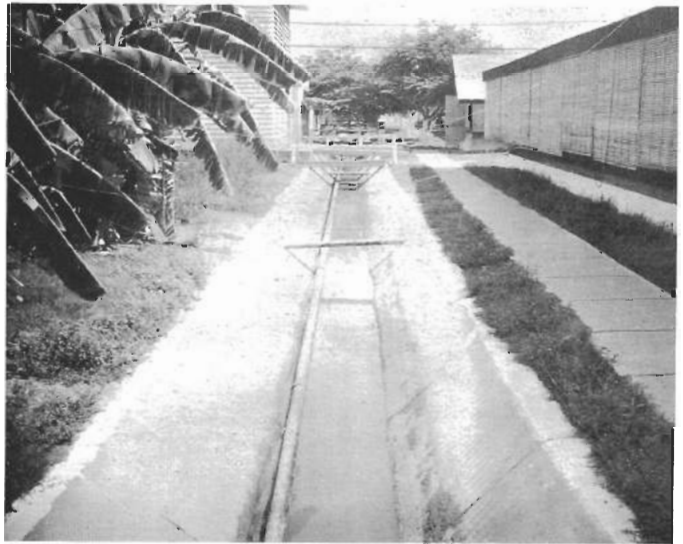
Vinh Long was one of the early and best known centers of resistance against the French from 1939 until Vietnamese independence in 1954.







Yea, though I walk
through the valley
of death, I fear
not...



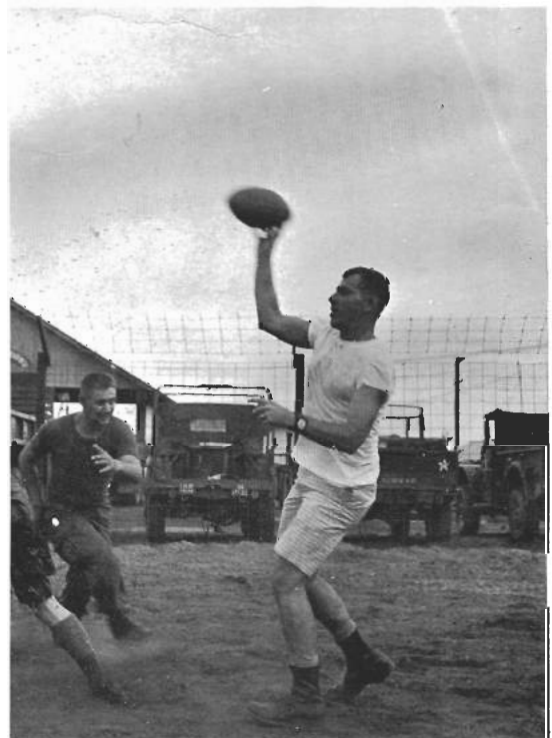
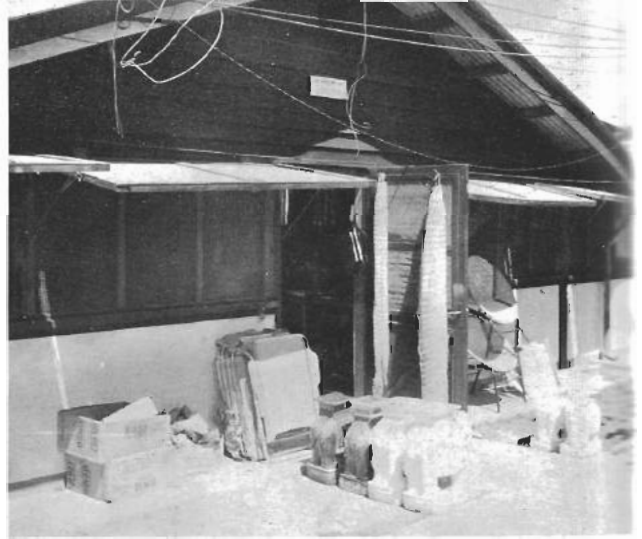
The white nights
are really fairies



Da slicks is bedda
dan da guns



Burma Shave



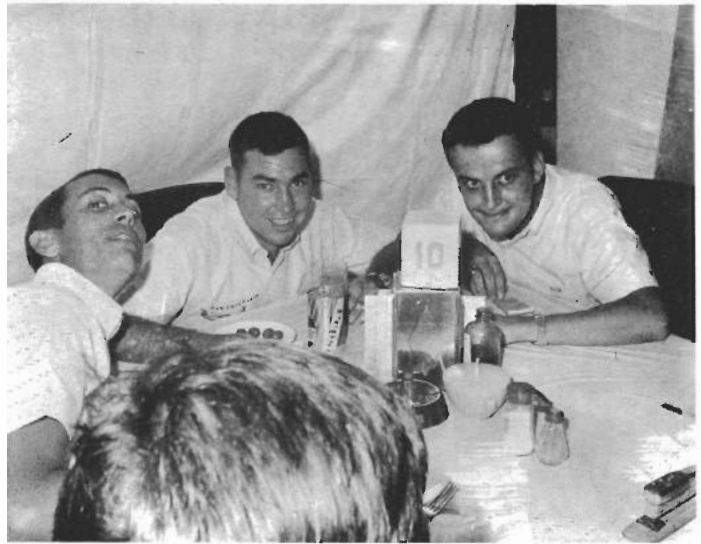


**Is the Helicopter the
Ultimate Weapon**

The CAV mascot is really a chicken painted black

I have the strength of ten for my heart is pure





THE MAVERICK ARMS

MANAGER: [REDACTED]

PLUSH ACCOMODATIONS:

HEATED POOL AIR CONDITONING

MAID SERVICE... INSIDE BUNKER FACILITIES

... TV ... QUICK FLIGHT CONNECTIONS...

LODGING FOR THE NIGHT
UP TO ONE YEAR LEASE
WITH 15 MONTH OPTION

T-100	PRESENT	TENNATS	T-100
A-1 [REDACTED]	A-5 [REDACTED]	B-1 [REDACTED]	B-5 [REDACTED]
A-2 [REDACTED]	A-6 [REDACTED]	B-2 [REDACTED]	B-6 [REDACTED]
A-3 [REDACTED]	A-7 [REDACTED]	B-3 [REDACTED]	B-7 [REDACTED]
A-4 [REDACTED]	A-8 [REDACTED]	B-4 [REDACTED]	B-8 [REDACTED]

Once an outlaw always
an outlaw but once a
knight is enough



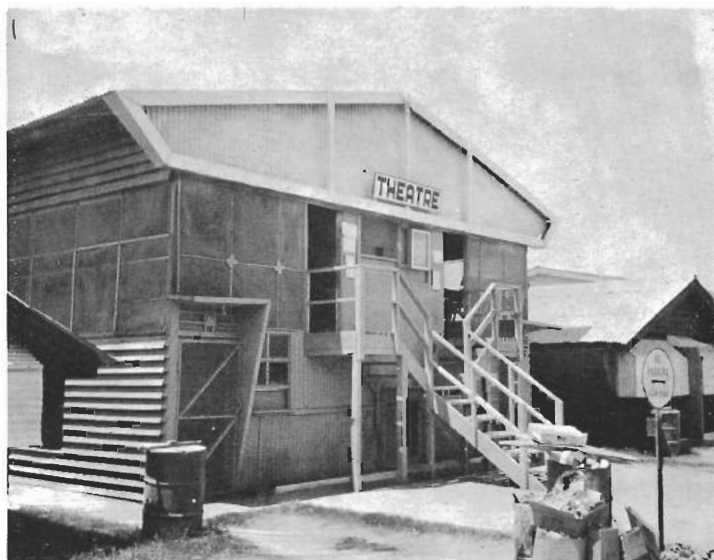


Walt Disney sleeps with a Teddy Bear
Kilroy was here



George is Dead





**Do Unto others
then split**





You can't leave me in the Outlaws, my father and mother were married to each other



GLOSSARY

A.F.V.N.	Armed Forces Viet Nam radio and TV services
A.M.L.	Air Mobile Light
A.R.V.N.	Army Republic of Viet Nam and its soldiers
AUTUMN MIST	Defoliation mission
COBRA	AH-1G Assault Helicopter
COBRA	Gunships of the 114th Aviation Company
D.E.R.O.S.	Date expected to return from overseas station
DUSTOFF	Medical Evacuation Helicopter
HOOTCH	Living quarters while "in country"
L.Z.	Landing Zone
MAVERICKS	Gun platoon of the 175th
OUTLAWS	175th Aviation Company
P.F.	Popular Forces
PILL	Chloroquine and Primaquine Phosphate, Malaria Pill
P.O.L.	Petrol, Oil, Lubricants
PROVINCE	Political subdivision of Vietnam equal to our states
P.R.U.	Provincial Reactionary Unit—usually mercenaries
P.Z.	Pickup Zone
R.F.	Regional Forces
ROAD RUNNER	Maintenance helicopter for the 175th
R & R	Rest and Recuperation
SLICK	Unarmed transport helicopters
SWING SHIPS	Resupply helicopter
V.I.P.	Very Important Person—anyone in the 175th
V.N.A.F.	Vietnamese Air Force—enough said
THE WORLD	Stateside, Home



REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

WORLD CONFLICT AREA

ILL. C. H. EDWARDS JR.

GULF OF SIAM

TONKESAP

CAMBODIA

VIETNAM

SOUTH

CA MAU

SOC TRANG

CAN THO

RACH GIA

VINH LONG

SAIGON

BIEN HOA

VUNG TAU

DA LAT

CAM RANH

BAN ME THOUT

NHA TRANG

PLEIKU

AN KHE

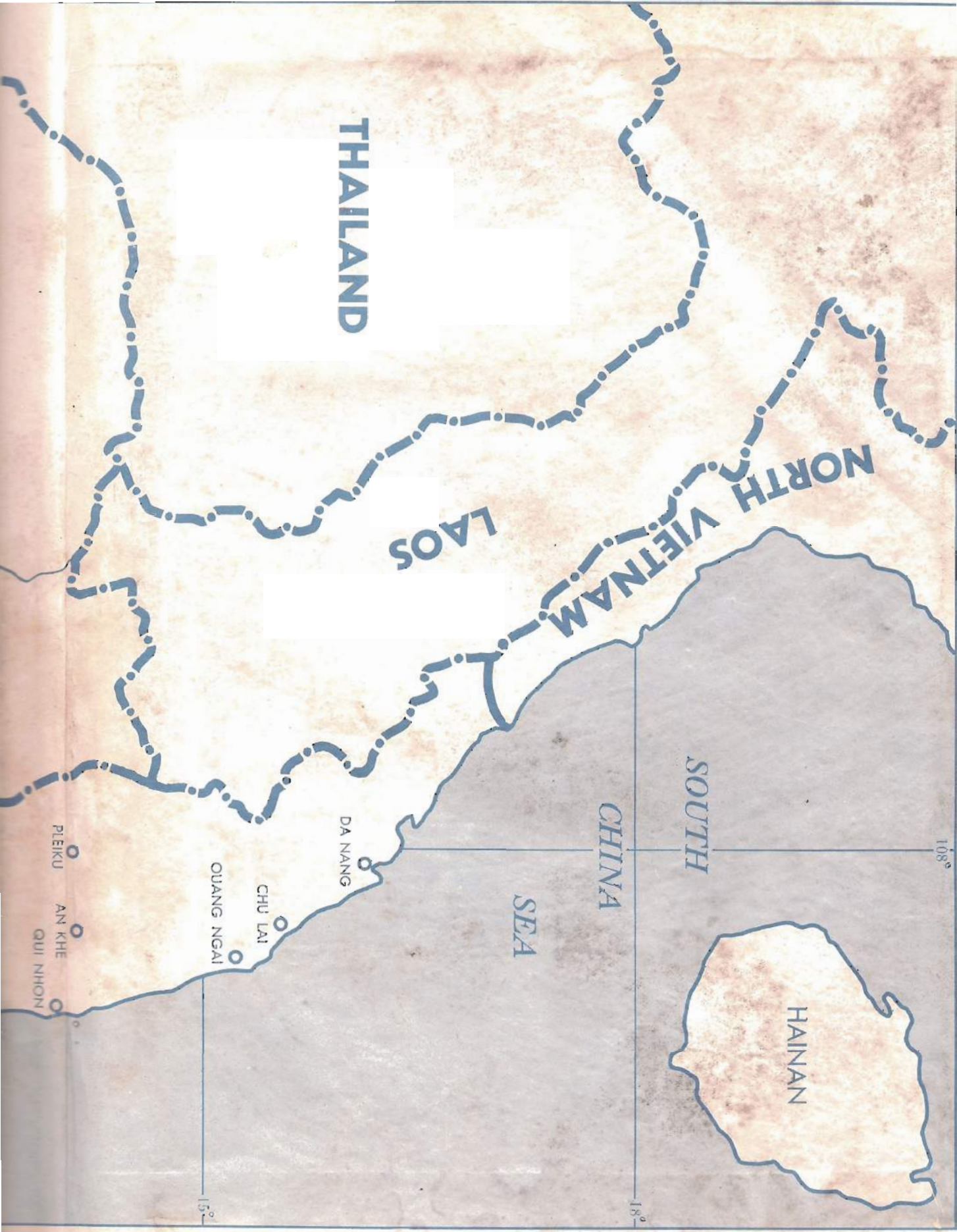
QUI NHON



105°

108°

12°



THAILAND

LAOS

NORTH VIETNAM

SOUTH

CHINA

SEA

HAINAN

PLEIKU
AN KHE
QUI NHON

CHU LAI
QUANG NGAI

DA NANG

15°

18°

108°