

World War II

05
-9
1968



9th Infantry Division

1918



1968



U.S. Army, 9th Infantry Division

Vietnam

Major General Julian J. Ewell

Commanding

Major General Julian J. Ewell became the third commanding general of the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam, Feb. 25, 1968.

General Ewell received the Division colors from Major General G. G. O'Connor, who had commanded the Old Reliables since June 1, 1967.

The present commander arrived here from Fort Belvoir, Va., where he was Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff for Combat Developments Command.

General Ewell holds numerous U.S. and foreign decorations, including the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman's Badge (2d Award). Before leaving his last assignment, General Ewell was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (the country's highest award for service) for a study on future deployment of artillery.

After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and receiving an infantry commission, General Ewell took his first assignment with the 29th Infantry at Fort Benning, Ga. He was part of the initial group to enter the 501st Parachute Infantry—at that time a new type of service.

During the early stages of World War II, he served with various parachute units before becoming a member of the 501st Parachute Infantry in 1942 and remaining with the unit in several capacities until the end of the war.

The 501st participated in European campaigns as part of the 101st Airborne (Screaming Eagles) Division. General Ewell jumped into Normandy on D-Day and into Holland in the autumn of 1944.

General Ewell returned to the U.S. after the war as a student and, later, an instructor at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

After his tour there, General Ewell was assigned to Berlin as executive officer to the U.S. Commander, Berlin, and subsequently became chief planner of the Seventh Army at Stuttgart.

He attended the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., before being sent to Korea in 1952 as commander of the 9th "Manchu" Infantry Regiment of the Eighth Army.

On returning to the States, he spent four years at West Point as commander of a cadet regiment and later as assistant commander of cadets. In 1958-59, he attended the National War College. After graduation he served on the Army General Staff as a planner for two years.

General Ewell was transferred to the White House as Executive Assistant to the Military Representative of the President, General Maxwell D. Taylor.

He then moved to the Pentagon as executive to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In the spring of 1963, he went to Germany as Assistant Division Commander of the 8th Infantry Division. He was transferred in June, 1965 to Frankfurt as Chief of Staff, V Corps, and assumed his last post at Fort Belvoir in June, 1966.

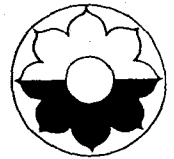


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U. S. Army Military History Institute

9th Infantry Division

1918-1968



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FRONT COVER—High point of the 9th Infantry Division's World War II action was recorded in March, 1945, when the Old Reliables crossed the Remagen Bridge over the Rhine River for their final thrust against the Nazis (top photo). Twenty-three years later, 2d Brigade infantrymen of the Mobile Riverine Force shuttle to and from combat operations in South Vietnam's stream-laced Mekong Delta aboard Armored Troop Carriers of Naval Task Force 117 (bottom photo).



Highlights

Troops of the 9th Infantry Division, nicknamed "The Old Reliables," have scored major triumphs since launching combat operations in Vietnam in December, 1966. Significant achievements include many overwhelming victories against Main Force Viet Cong units, initiation of sustained operations in the Mekong Delta, formation of a Mobile Riverine Force, discovery of the largest enemy weapons cache of the Vietnam war, and suppression of the VC terror campaign during Tet 1968.

In addition, Division units have reduced VC control in four populous provinces and helped foster a spirit of cooperation between the government and its citizens through civic action programs.

1966 The 9th Division became the first division to be organized, equipped and trained for deployment to an overseas combat theater since World War II when Department of the Army reactivated the Old Reliables on Feb. 1, 1966.

Organized under the ROAD (Reorganization Objective Army Division) concept, the Division includes 10 maneuver battalions (three each assigned to the 39th, 47th and 60 Infantries, plus the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry), the 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry, 15th Engineer Battalion and Division Artillery. It has three brigade headquarters, the 9th Aviation Battalion, 9th Signal Battalion and the typical support command setup with Headquarters Company and Band, 9th Administration Company, 9th Medical Battalion, 9th Supply and Transport Battalion and the 709th Maintenance Battalion. In addition, there is Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company and the 9th Military Police Company. Supporting the Division are two additional engineer battalions and an aviation battalion.

In early May, a warning order from Department of the Army alerted the Division for movement to Southeast Asia during December.

On Oct. 19, the 15th Engineer Battalion became the first echelon to arrive in Vietnam and immediately began developing a Division-size base, "Camp Bearcat," near Long Thanh, about 20 miles northeast of Saigon.

Advance parties of the Division deployed to Vietnam by air, with the first group landing Dec. 8. The rest traveled aboard Naval transport ships and arrived between Dec. 19, 1966-Feb. 2, 1967.

The official entry of the 9th Division to Vietnam was recorded Dec. 19 when Major General George S. Eckhardt led an increment of 5,000 Old Reliables onto the beaches of Vung Tau, where they were welcomed by General William C. Westmoreland, commander of Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

1967 In mid-January, the 9th Division became the first American infantry unit to establish a permanent camp in the Viet Cong-

infested Mekong Delta. The Division's 3d Brigade headquarters and the 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry occupied Camp Dong Tam, five miles west of My Tho on the My Tho River.

Dong Tam was built up by dredging sand from the My Tho River to form a hardstand above the water line of the surrounding silty rice paddies. Two companies of the 15th Engineer Battalion transformed the sand hardstand into a base camp by constructing roadways, laying foundations for buildings and establishing a defensive perimeter.

In the Division's first significant contact with the enemy on Jan. 20, 1st and 3d Brigade units, along with



Gen. Westmoreland greets Gen. Eckhardt

... Old Reliables land at Vung Tau





the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, cut down 14 Viet Cong during Operation COLBY.

A month later, the 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery, supporting the 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry, mounted 105mm howitzers on floating barges and began to navigate the Delta waterways.

In March, the 1st Brigade and the 3d/5th Cav joined Operation JUNCTION CITY, the largest operation of the war. During this multi-division operation, the Old Reliables encountered their first important battle. In the pre-dawn hours of March 20, Troop A, 3d/5th Cav was attacked by elements of the 273d VC Regiment near Bau Bang, about 34 miles north of Saigon. A furious six-hour firefight left 230 enemy dead, while friendly losses were four killed and 67 wounded.

A few weeks later, another lopsided engagement near Rach Kien in Long An Province produced 207 VC killed, against one American dead and 15 wounded. A pre-planned air-strike exposed underground VC positions and forced the enemy to flee their damaged hideouts. Immediately the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry, together with the 2d, 3d and 5th Battalions, 60th Infantry, boxed in the disorganized enemy and took a heavy toll.

Deeper in the Mekong Delta on May 2, elements of the 2d Brigade collided with a force from the 514th VC Battalion. Displaying exceptional resourcefulness, the 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry and 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry encircled the enemy as helicopter gunships and fighter bombers rained deadly streams of fire. A search of the Ap Bac battlefield, near Dong Tam, accounted for 195 enemy bodies.

During mid-May, the Cam Son

Tam, became the target of a combined recon in force operation. In this sweep, the 3d and 4th Battalions, 47th Infantry, joined by elements of the 7th ARVN Division and several naval river assault teams, killed 113 enemy.

Emphasized during the Delta fighting was the need for a mobile strike force capable of navigating the Mekong waterways. In June the solution came with the formation of the Mobile Riverine Force, composed of two 2d Brigade battalions and Naval Task Force 117. Operating from a fleet of 100 naval vessels, the MRF initiated extensive combat operations in the Mekong marshlands.

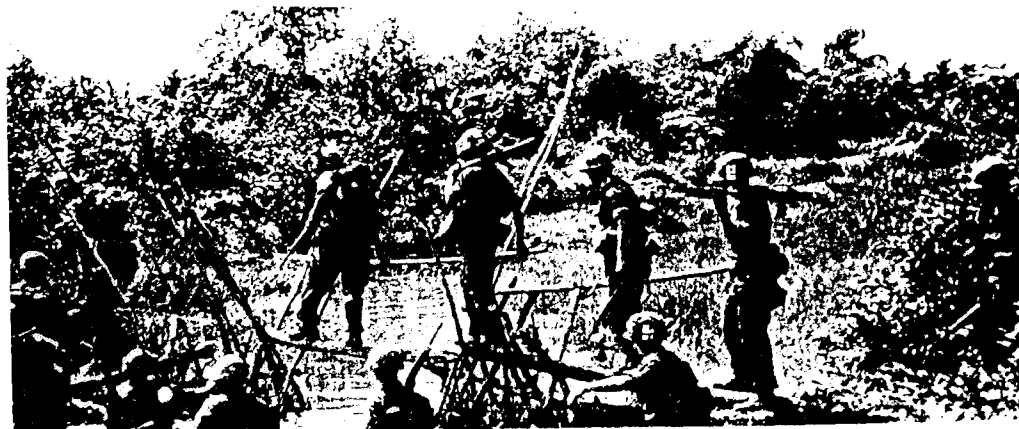
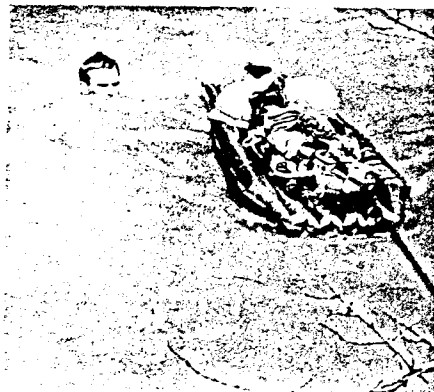
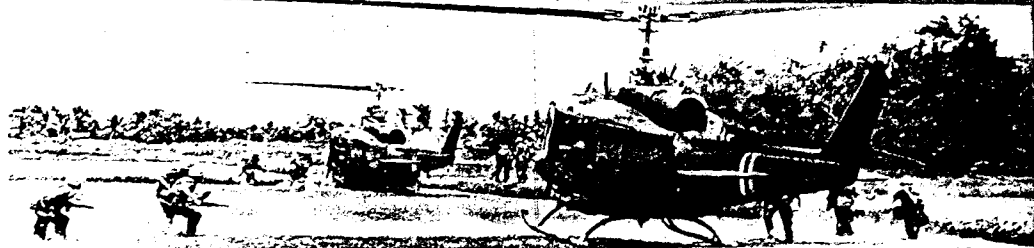
In their first major contact June 19-22, MRF units netted 256 VC kills at Rach Nui Canal, west of Rach Kien.

The focus of action shifted north to Phuoc Tuy Province on July 10, as the 1st Brigade teamed with the 1st Australian Task Force and two battalions of Vietnamese Marines to begin Operation PADDINGTON. The six-day mission, designed to open VC-dominated jungle, resulted in 93 enemy killed.

Another heated engagement came two weeks later as elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry conducted a major jungle clearing operation along Highway 20 in Long Khanh Province. Suddenly besieged by an estimated battalion of the 275th VC Regiment, the cavalymen mounted a savage counterattack which felled 90 enemy.

Early in August, a joint American and Vietnamese force tightened the noose around a suspected enemy stronghold in the Cam Son Secret Zone during Operation CORONADO II. After eight days, the Allies from the 2d Brigade, Naval





Infantrymen dash through paddies

...combat action in Mekong Delta

285 dead VC.

Encouraged by the success of CORONADO II, soldiers of the 2d Brigade, combined with two battalions of the 3d Brigade and ARVN units, continued combat probes into the enemy haven of Cam Son. Totals for the 27-day Operation CORONADO V in September were 330 enemy killed and one crew-served and 11 individual weapons with 11,200 rounds of small arms ammo seized from enemy supply caches.

On Sept. 21, after months of preparation by the 9th Division, the 2,200 man Royal Thai Army Volunteer Regiment landed in Vietnam as the fifth free world force to join the South Vietnamese in their struggle. Operating out of Bearcat, the Queen's Cobras began combat and civic action operations in the Nhon Trach jungles, 20 miles southeast of Saigon.

largest arms cache ever seized in the Vietnam war. During Operation AKRON III, while clearing jungle 13 miles southeast of Bearcat, elements of the 1st Brigade and support units turned up a massive system of tunnels and bunkers. Nearly two weeks of extensive clearing and searching yielded 1,140 weapons, almost 95,000 rounds of small arms ammo, 3,634 grenades, 2,273 recoilless rifle shells and 452 mortar rounds. The cache included four 85mm howitzers—the first artillery pieces seized from the VC by U.S. forces.

After a month of scattered contact, action exploded again during Operation CORONADO IX, Dec. 4. Two battalions of the Mobile Riverine Force, working with the Vietnamese Marines, eliminated 250 VC in day-long fighting along the Rach Ruong Canal, 65 miles south-

L. LUNA



Sergeant searches huge enemy tunnel complex
...found during AKRON III



Gen. Westmoreland examines Soviet sniper rifle
...extracted from subterranean system

Tet Aggression

1968 Combat activity slackened the first month of 1968. The only major engagement during the first 30 days came Jan. 10, when the 2d Brigade counted 47 enemy bodies after bitter fighting in Dinh Tuong Province. The action marked the first contact with the 261st VC Battalion.

Then on Jan. 31, during the Tet truce, massive guerrilla attacks broke out from the DMZ to the Delta. The 9th Division swiftly grabbed the initiative and turned the tables on the brazen insurgents. Once the VC and North Vietnamese Army units exposed themselves, they immediately were shoved on the defensive by the Division's inexorable counter-thrust.

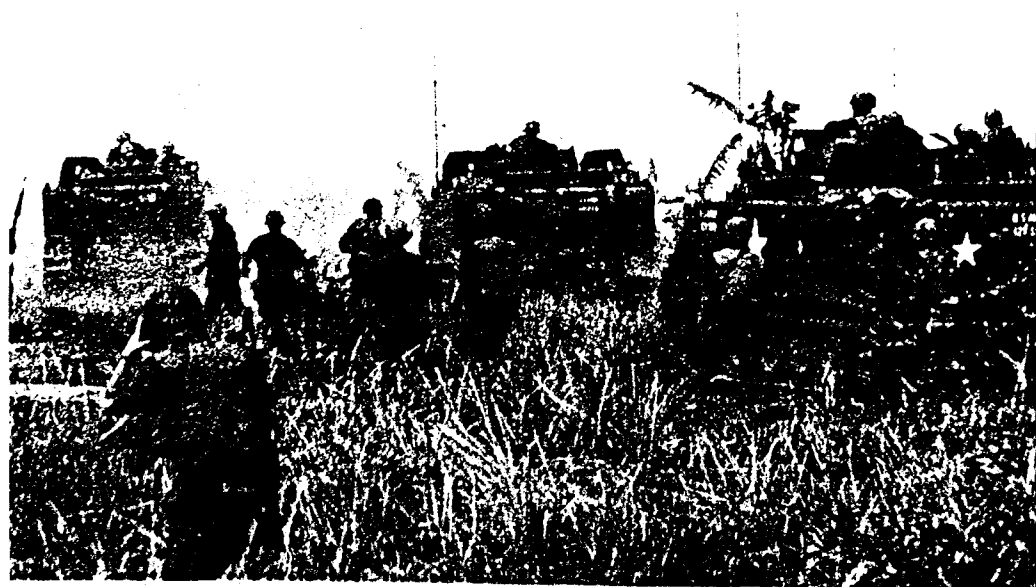
Before the communist tidal wave subsided, Division infantrymen found themselves engaged on many unaccustomed fronts and unrehearsed



Adding one more weapon
...to largest cache of war



2d/47th riflemen closing in
... on enemy hideouts



2d/47th tracks assault VC positions
... at Widows' Village outside Long Binh

missions.

Units of the 1st Brigade were summoned from their jungle environment into the Mekong Delta. Armored vehicles from the 3d/5th Cav helped to crush an enemy uprising at Bien Hoa airport, first and last stop for many servicemen in Vietnam. Troops of the 2d and 3d Brigades, who normally slosh through the Mekong mire, tracked down marauding bands of invaders in World War II-style street fighting at Ben Tre and My Tho. Other Delta-oriented units flushed communist terrorists out of the Saigon-Cholon area.

To overcome the biggest communist push of the war, the Old Reli-ables gained momentum early and never failed to carry the battle to



2d Brigade troops climb walls in My Tho

... during World War II-style street fighting

the VC. Division soldiers achieved decisive victories at Long Binh, Bien Hoa, Saigon-Cholon, Ben Tre, Xuan Loc, My Tho, Vinh Long, Ap Bac, Can Tho and Tan An.

By Feb. 22 more than 1625 VC and NVA bodies were credited to Division troops. A stunning blow had been dealt the terrorists.

Nevertheless, on Feb. 25, the daring enemy attempted an early-morning assault on Fire Support Base Jaeger, 10 miles west of Dong

Tam. More than 500 VC were repelled by members of the 5th/60th, reinforced by artillery batteries. After four hours of fierce fighting, more than 100 enemy bodies were counted, and over 45 weapons were captured.

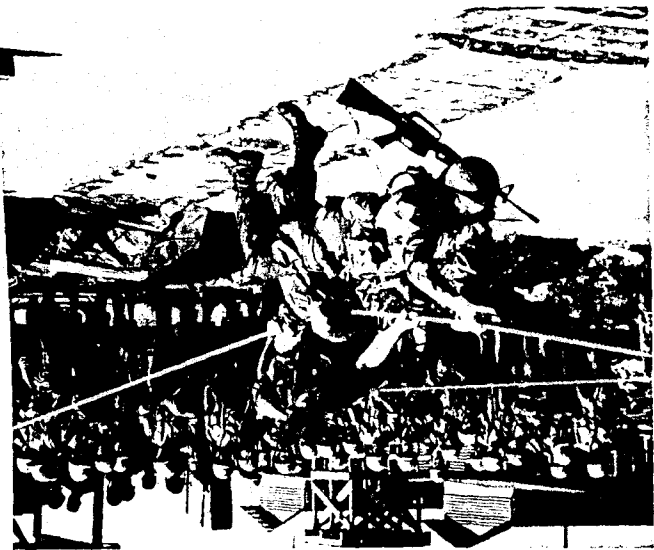
On March 11, the 3d Brigade closed its 13 month-long Operation ENTERPRISE. The many-faceted operation to drive the VC out of Long An Province netted more than 2,000 enemy dead, more than 1,000

...after combat mission

The pause that refreshes

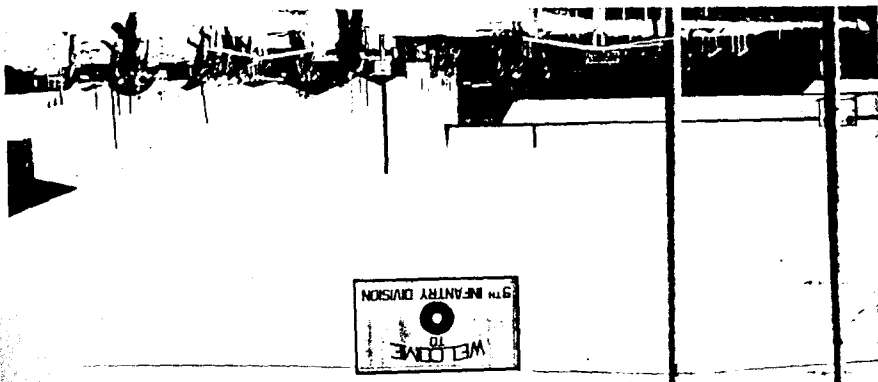


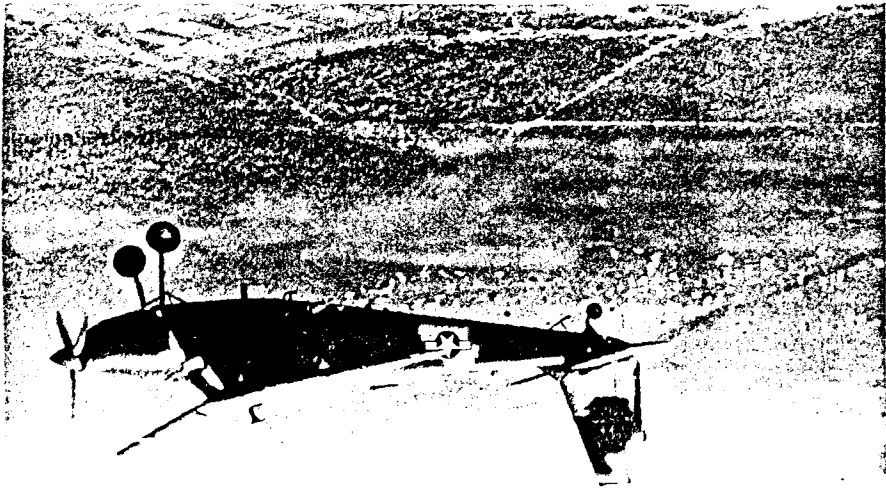
suspects detained, 35 Hoi Chanhs (Government returnees) and 8,500 VC bunkers destroyed. As a result of the long-term operation, many roads and waterways once controlled by the VC are open; enemy-held hamlets have reverted to Government control; once deserted villages are reoccupied; and thousands of acres of waste land have been put back into producing rice. Slowly, the scars of battle are being erased in Long An Province.



First stop for new replacements entering the 9th Division is the Reliable Academy, where seasoned veterans pass on lessons learned in Delta combat. All enlisted arrivals and officers to the rank of captain undergo a basic Vietnam orientation which includes refreshers or familiarization courses on weapons and demolitions, communications, map reading, artillery fire adjustment, field sanitation, Viet Cong methods of operation. Climaxing the training, in which practical exercises are stressed, is an actual ambush patrol. Officers and non-commissioned officers also attend a leadership course to prepare them better for their specific roles.

Reliable Academy





Air Force U-10 scatters PSYOPS leaflets

... messages aimed at friends and enemies

Civic Action

Through extensive civic action programs, the 9th Division has pursued a vigorous attack on disease, poverty and isolation among the Vietnamese people.

Speartheaded by the G-5 Civil Affairs section, the 9th Division has extended substantial aid to the Vietnamese in support of pacification efforts of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

The Old Reliables' civic actions effort includes teaching programs, MEDCAPs, self-help construction projects, commodity distribution and psychological operations (PSYOPS).

Using materials furnished by the Division the Vietnamese people have built or rebuilt their villages with new schools, roads, orphanages, bridges, outposts and dispensaries.

Division PSYOPS have disseminated information to friends as well as enemies. Planes fly loudspeaker missions or leaflet drops throughout the Division area of operations.

Results of the civic action projects are not measured in body counts, but in the support and friendship given to the Government of Vietnam and the Allied forces by Vietnamese.

Winning Friends



Mother helps Division medic

... take child's temperature



Reaching for cold drinks

... during Division MEDCAP

9th Division soldiers and Buddhist monks

... building dispensary at Orphan's Village



Delta Terrain

Viet Cong guerrillas are not the only enemies encountered by 9th Infantry Division soldiers in Vietnam. The treacherous terrain of the Mekong Delta region south of Saigon provides another formidable obstacle to Old Reliable infantrymen. As the muddy Mekong River flows from the Cambodian border, it begins to fan out into thousands of smaller streams, leaving very little dry land running through the Delta. During the dry season, Mekong waterways irrigate the fertile rice fields that checkerboard the region. When monsoon rains flood the streams and canals, the Delta is an immense sea of muddy water.

Under such conditions, every step turns into an individual battle. Paths follow the rice paddy dikes to ease movement, but these dikes often are booby-trapped by the VC, forcing troops to negotiate the mud. More than a massive mudhole, the Delta wears many faces. About 20 miles southwest of Saigon begins one of the most barren areas in the Delta—the Plain of Reeds—a large sheet of stagnant water dotted by rotting vegetation. The VC regard the Plain of Reeds as an inaccessible sanctuary.

Only 10 miles southeast of Saigon is the Kung Sat Special Zone, a water-shrouded expanse of mangrove swamp considered one of the most forboding and desolate places in the Delta. Known as the "Everglades of Vietnam," the Kung Sat cannot be penetrated except by water.

Many 9th Division soldiers maintain that movement in Go Cong Province is harder than in the Kung

Sat. One exhausted trooper observed that he found at least an occasional root or stump to stand on in the Kung Sat, but in Go Cong there was only sucking, sticky mud. Through ingenuity and resourcefulness, the Old Reliables maneuver by land, air and water. The 9th Division makes ample use of helicopters, Armored Personnel Carriers and Mobile Riverine Force boats in overcoming its twin Delta enemies the Viet Cong and the terrain.



Soldier negotiates mud

... every step a battle

Religion



In the field or at base camps, conducted each week, whenever soldiers of the 9th Division can call upon more than 20 chaplains for religious services and counseling. The ever-increasing religious program also includes Bible study groups and fellowship organizations. On the average, 100 services are

Octofoil and Unit Crests



31st Infantry



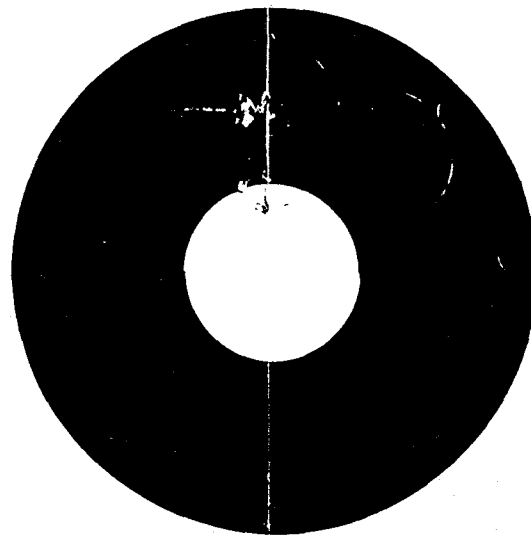
11th Artillery



34th Artillery



60th Infantry



THE OCTOFOIL shoulder patch of the 9th Infantry Division dates from the 15th Century when it was customary for each son in a family to have an individual mark of distinction. Under the rules of heraldry there are eight foils or positions. The Octofoil went to the ninth son, symbolic of his being surrounded by eight brothers. The symbolism of the Octofoil makes it a logical and correct insignia for the 9th Division. The red quatrefoil of the patch alludes to the Artillery, while the blue one represents the Infantry.



9th S&T
Battalion



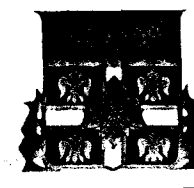
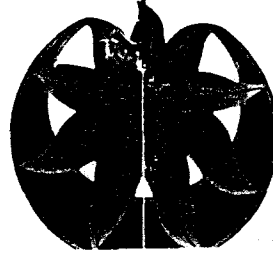
39th Infantry

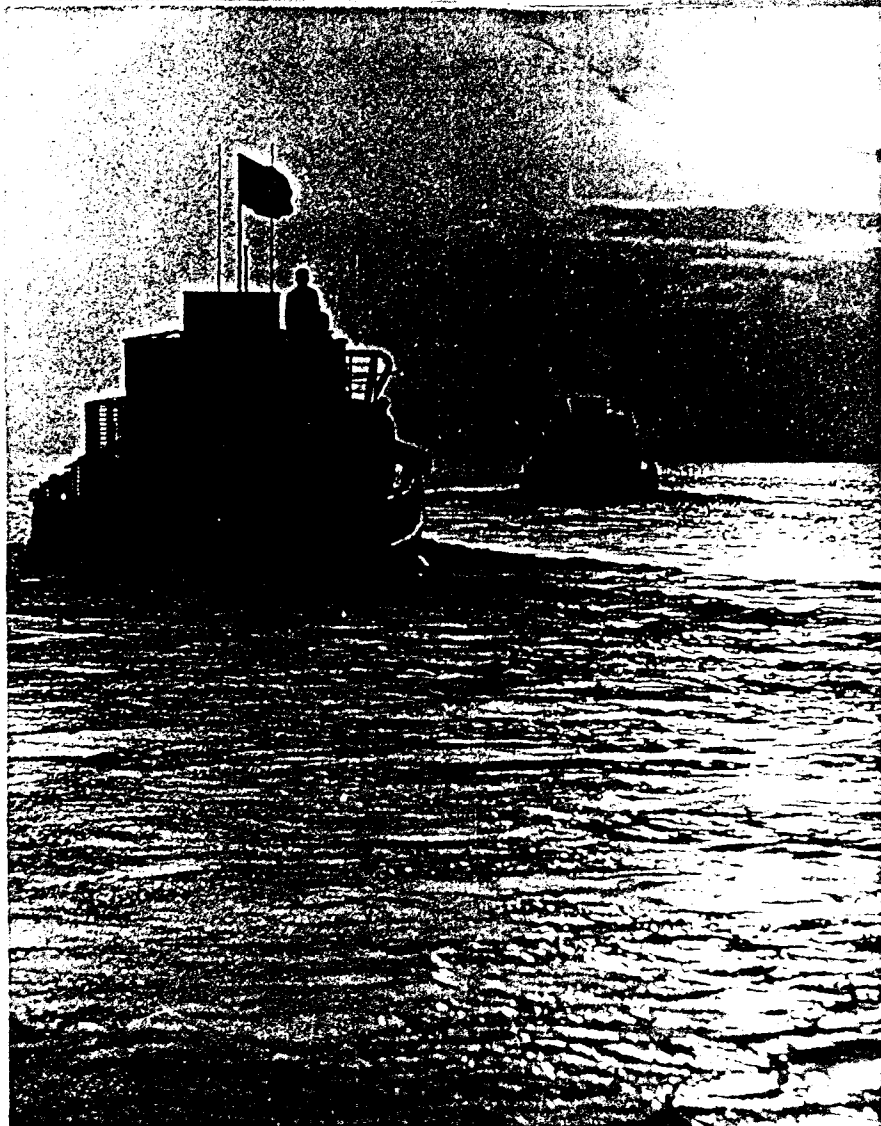


84th Artillery



9th Aviation
Battalion





Mobile Riverine Force

The second Mobile Riverine Force in U.S. military history has proved to be a logical and effective means of probing the Mekong Delta in pursuit of the elusive and native Viet Cong.

Formed in June, 1967, the flexible strike force was based upon concepts and strategy developed during the Mississippi Delta campaign of the Civil War.

In today's reincarnation of riverine operations, 9th Division soldiers leave comfortable barracks ships and are transported aboard Armored Troop



2d Brigade infantrymen leave ATCs

... en route to mission in Dinh Tuong Province

Carriers (ATCs) of Naval Task Force 117 into their areas of action. The ATCs, with Monitor gunboats, then remain nearby to provide fire support and act as a blocking force.

Supporting artillery is close at hand, thanks to another tactical innovation—floating artillery barges. Two batteries of 105mm howitzers from the 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery have been mounted on barges. With their small fleet of landing craft, artillery batteries can traverse the meandering Delta waterways in support of the infantrymen.

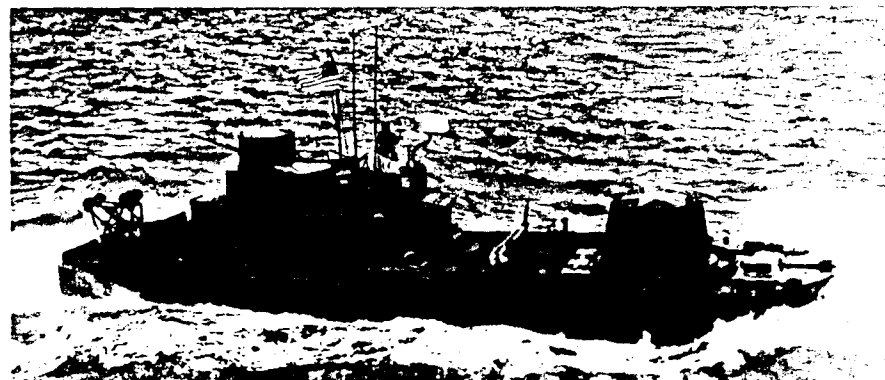
These modernized adaptations of land-water warfare have propelled

the 2d Brigade to many one-sided victories at Rach Nui Canal, the Cam Son Secret Zone and the Rach Ruong Canal.

During the enemy's Tet aggression campaign in February, 1968, the MRF left no doubt about its quick strike capability.

Shifting rapidly from one oppressed Delta capital to another, the waterborne soldiers crushed hostile forces at My Tho Ben Tre, Vinh Long and Can Tho.

The period of heightened hostilities took the MRF on its deepest penetration of the Delta, more than 100 miles south of Saigon.



Sleek U. S. Navy Monitor

... provides fire support for Riverine Force

9th Division History



Reliables in Review

1918 Organized July 18, 1918, at Camp Sheridan, Ala., the 9th Infantry Division was in training in the United States when World War I came to an end. The Division was demobilized Feb. 15, 1919, but was redesignated a Regular Army unit in 1923, although it remained on the inactive list.

1940 Reactivation of the Division came Aug. 1, 1940, at Fort Bragg, N.C., with units assigned to it that had seen combat action during World War I. Among them were three infantry regiments, the 39th, 47th and 60th, that had already distinguished themselves in combat and would receive honors in the years to come.

After reactivation the Division entered a period of intensive training, followed by the Carolina maneuvers, conducted by the First Army in September, 1941. The Division later was attached to the Amphibious Corps of the Atlantic Fleet and underwent amphibious training. Subsequently released from its attachment, the Division again came under the control of the Army Ground Forces.

1942 The first elements of the 9th Division departed in November, 1942 for the North African Theater of Operations. Elements of the Division took part in "Operation Torch" when the 39th Regimental Combat Team landed at Algiers, the 47th hit the beaches of Safi, French Morocco,

and the 60th fought on the beaches at Port Lyautey, Morocco, and secured the "Citadel" (Kasba).

In the weeks that followed, the 9th Infantry Division completed combat missions in Tunisia (where the "Afrika Korps" was smashed) and in Sicily, and then left for England where it went into training for the invasion of Fortress Europe. The Division landed on the Normandy beaches June 10, 1944, battled across France and, on Sept. 2, laid claim to being the first Allied unit to begin the liberation of Belgium when a unit of the 9th entered Monignes. The Meuse River was crossed early in September and the Division moved into Germany, south of Roetgen, on Sept. 13. It later moved to the Monschau Forest area where, on Dec. 16, the "Battle of the Bulge" launched the German winter offensive. Here the Division beat back the enemy's best efforts.



(TOP PHOTO) Old Reliables march across hill just prior to entering town of Bizerte, Tunisia. (BOTTOM PHOTO) Troops of 39th Regiment hug walls for protection against German artillery in town of Remagen.



Searching town of Bizerte for snipers

...1943 action in Tunisia, North Africa



1945 High point of its World War II record was the crossing of the Rhine early in 1945. By the morning of March 7 all bridges across the Rhine had been blown except one—the Ludendorff Bridge below the small town of Remagen. After a forced march, the 47th Infantry's 2d Battalion deployed over the bridge, crossing against heavy artillery, to become the first infantry regiment to battle across the Rhine barrier since the Napoleonic Wars.

Soon the 60th made a daring dash across the battered bridge followed by the Division support units. Meanwhile, the 9th's Military Police Platoon, despite artillery and air attacks, kept traffic moving and doubled as medics and evacuation men.

By March 11 all combat teams of the 9th were over the Rhine. On March 17 the bridge collapsed and all further crossings by Allied troops in the central sector had to be made on pontoon bridges erected by engineers. By March 20 the 9th had conquered the entire central bridgehead area between the Rhine and Wied Rivers, securing a front from which



Reliables enter Nideggen

...near end of war

the final blow was struck at the heart of Germany.

The "Old Reliables" (a nickname given the Division for action around the Schwammanauel Dam) worked constantly on the shrinking Ruhr pocket in the closing days of the war, freeing approximately 900 slave laborers from five different countries with the capture of Sinu on the Dill River. On April 21, 1945, the Division relieved the 3d Armored Division along the Mulde River near Dessau and held that line until V-E Day. Following the war, the Division was assigned to Ingolstadt, Germany, where it performed occupation duties until Jan. 15, 1947, when it was inactivated.

1947 The 9th Division was reactivated July 15, 1947, at Fort Dix, N.J., as a training divi-

sion. On May 25, 1954, the Division was transferred to replace the 28th Infantry Division at Goepingen, Germany, where it served as a part of the NATO Forces until the autumn of 1956.

1956 The Division was rotated to Fort Carson, Colo., in 1956 under the Army's "Operation Gyroscope." It was reorganized into a Pentomic division in December, 1957 and the three infantry regiments became five infantry battle groups. During the reorganization many of the organic elements had their identities changed either by reorganization, redesignation or by activation as new units. From its arrival at Fort Carson until its inactivation Jan. 31, 1962, the 9th Division trained approximately 102,000 men in the basic military arts.

39th Infantry Regiment

Assigned to the Division's 1st Brigade, the 2d and 4th Battalions, 39th Infantry have fought in the jungles around Bearcat as well as the swamps of the Mekong Delta. The 3d/39th, of the 3d Brigade, has devoted its major efforts to Operation ENTERPRISE in Long An Province. During the last two months of 1967, the 4th/39th became the first 9th Division unit to operate in the Central Highlands, when it joined the 4th Division on Operation MACARTHUR. Both the 2d and 3d Battalions proved adaptable to World War II-style fighting when they rescued the enemy-held town of Ben Tre early in February, 1968.

The day was bright and clear on June 1, 1917 at Camp Syracuse, N.Y., when the 39th Infantry Regiment, "The Fighting Falcons," was activated.

On July 18, 1918 the 39th, participating with the American Expeditionary Force, joined in battle for the first time in the now famous Aisne-Marne offensive which was destined to swing the fortunes of war in favor of the Allies.

When the smoke of World War I cleared away, the 39th's colors showed battle honors for the campaigns of the Aisne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne, Lorraine, St. Mihiel and Champagne, a Distinguished Unit Citation from the grateful French government and the French Croix de Guerre with Gold Star. The regiment returned home in 1919 and was deactivated in 1921.

The 39th Regiment became part of the 9th Division when the Division was reactivated at Fort Bragg, N.C., July 20, 1940. After the U.S. entered World War II, the Regiment trained long and hard, readying themselves for the test of battle. The first combat unit of American troops to set foot on foreign, though friendly, soil in World War II were members of the 39th. The regiment landed Oct. 17, 1942 at Inverary, Scotland.

Soon the 39th had a mission—that of securing the northern coast of Africa and thereby safeguarding the Mediterranean link in the Allied lifeline to the Middle and Far East. To accomplish this mission, they landed Nov. 8, 1942 on the beaches near Algiers. Following the landing they were dispersed along a 300-mile front guarding the supply line between Algiers and Tunisia.

The 39th took a decidedly more active role in the war when they deployed east of the famed Kasserine Pass as a covering force for the 1st Armored Division. This was followed quickly by successive battles in the final drive to Bizerte. The 39th played a leading role in this action—thus bringing the German Panzer Armee, Afrika to its knees and winning control of North Africa.

Sicily loomed on the horizon for the Fighting Falcons and while in this island action, Colonel H.A. "Paddy" Flint took command. This legendary hero of the regiment gave it the slogan "Triple A Bar Nothing." The "Anything-Anytime-Anywhere-Bar Nothing" regiment immediately put the slogan to work with eight days of ferocious fighting for Troina, the hub of the German defenses in Sicily.

By Nov. 11, the 9th Division, including the 39th, was on the high seas bound for England and more intensive training in preparation for the Normandy invasion. On D-Day plus four the regiment landed at Utah

Beach.

On June 12 the Division began a series of battles which resulted in a race to the sea and the eventual sealing off of the Cherbourg Peninsula. The battle for the Cotentin Peninsula began June 18. Again the 39th excelled, this time at Anderville, which fell July 1, yielding 3,000 prisoners.

Next followed the famous "Battle of the Hedgerows." For 25 days the men of the Fighting Falcons fought, bled and died in one of the bloodiest battles of all time.

After the St. Lo breakthrough, the 39th raced across France tangling with the retreating Germans at every town and crossroads where the Germans chose to stand and fight.

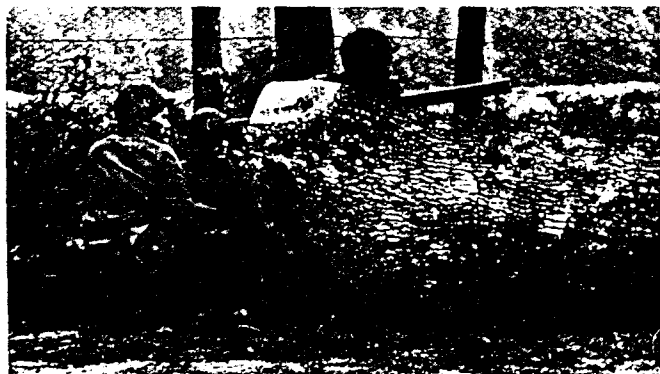
By Aug. 19, 1944 the 39th was poised for the drive to the Seine River and Paris. By the 26th the Seine was reached. The 39th then moved north-eastward and sealed off the Mon's Pocket. It then wheeled eastward into Belgium. On Sept. 13, 1944 the 39th swept forward to begin a long and costly drive through the Huertgen Forest. It moved past the Dragon's teeth and closed in on the fortified town of Roetgen, Germany. On Sept. 14 the town fell to the 39th, the first German city captured in World War II.

Day by day throughout the rest of September, October and the first week of November the 9th Division battled its way through the Huertgen Forest. On Nov. 16 it started a campaign to close up the left bank of the Roer River. This was accomplished by Dec. 16, 1944.

By New Year's Day 1945, the 39th and the Division were on the move again. By the end of January the Division was spearheading the drive across Germany to the Rhine.

The 39th reached the Rhine on the morning of March 7. On this morning the first Division troops crossed the Rhine and by March 21 all infantry units of the Division were across the river and poised for the mortal blow to the German heartland.

Forging east and then north during April, the Fighting Falcons fought into the Harz Mountains and the Ruhr Pocket. The days wore on until May 8, 1945 when victory in Europe was gained.



39th Regiment troops aim rocket

...at German half-track in Andaine, France

47th Infantry Regiment

The 2d, 3d and 4th Battalions, 47th Infantry have spanned almost the entire Division area of operations in Vietnam. The 2d/47th, a 1st Brigade unit, has conducted major combat missions in the jungles of Bien Hoa and Phuoc Tuy Provinces. During Operation AKRON III in October, 1967, the mechanized unit helped find the largest enemy arms cache of the war. On Jan. 31, the 2d/47th was rushed down to the sprawling Army installation at Long Binh to smash an enemy attack outside of II Field Force Headquarters.

Both the 3d and 4th/47th, 2d Brigade units, have participated in significant missions of the Mobile Riverine Force in the Mekong Delta.

Camp Syracuse, N.Y., witnessed the birth of the 47th Infantry Regiment on June 1, 1917.

Almost a year later, on May 25, the 47th landed at Brest, France. Two months were spent training with British and French units before July 27 when the Raiders were marching knee deep in mud to their first action. Cracking the German line by fighting Indian style, the 47th soon took possession of the town of Sergy.

The 47th then joined with other units of the American Expeditionary Force to deal decisive defeats to the Germans at St. Mihiel and the immortal Meuse-Argonne, thus breaking the German war machine and ending the hostilities.

By December the 47th had moved to the Rhine and remained there until the fall of 1919 when it sailed home. On Sept. 21, 1921 the regiment was deactivated after earning five battle streamers for action during World War I.

The 47th Infantry Regiment was reactivated on Aug. 1, 1940.

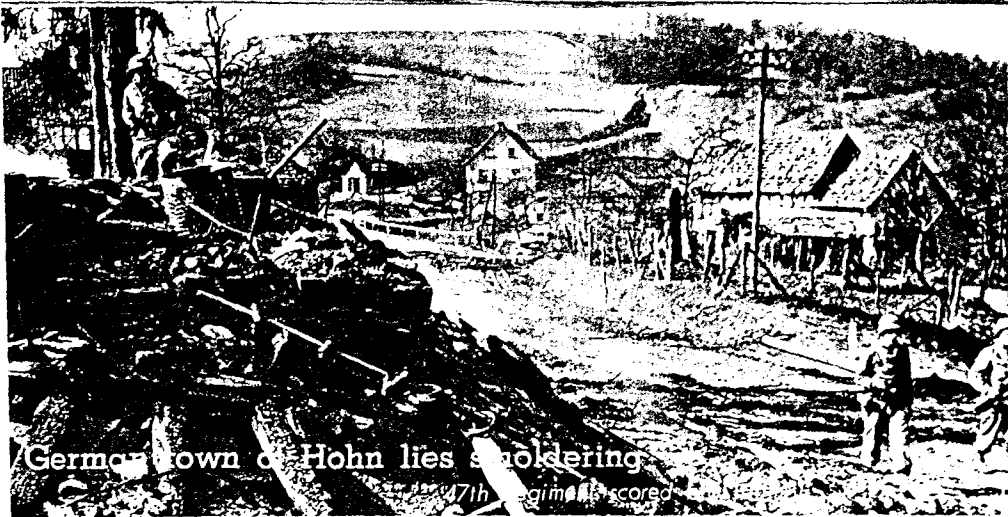
In early November, 1942, in the campaign to secure the northern coast of Africa the 47th Regimental Combat Team stormed the beaches of Safi, Morocco. The 47th continued across North Africa with the Allies in their successful campaign to drive the German armies from that continent.

Landing at Palermo, Sicily, on Aug. 1, 1943, the Raiders swung into action one week later. On Aug. 26 Sicily was officially declared in the hands of the Allies.

On D-Day plus four the 47th landed on Utah Beach. By June 14, 1944 combat patrols were in contact with the Germans and by nightfall of the 16th the 47th blocked the last escape route for the Germans in the Cotentin peninsula.

The famous port of Cherbourg was next and its capture is one of the brightest chapters in 9th Division history. With the help of sister regiments the 47th laid siege to the city. Stubborn opposition greeted the Raiders, for the enemy held the high ground and other strategic positions. However, just after noon on June 25, the regiment's 2d Battalion became the first Allied troops to enter the city. Stiff resistance was encountered until the 28th when Cherbourg fell. The 2d and 3d Battalions received Distinguished Unit Citations for their gallantry and heroism in the seizure of the city.

For a few days 9th Division operations halted for necessary rest and re-supply. The order to resume combat came July 9 and soon elements of



German town of Hohn lies smoldering

the 47th were in the midst of the "Battle of the Hedgerows," one of the bloodiest and toughest encounters of the French campaign.

With the breakthrough at St. Lo the rush was on. Innumerable Allied units raced across France in pursuit of the retreating Germans. By August, 1944, the 47th had forded the Seine River and headed for the Vesles and a memorable anniversary. It was in August 1918 that the 47th battled over the Vesles in a bloody crossing. Twenty-six years later the regiment crossed the river unopposed at the same point. In crossing they passed a monument erected to commemorate their heroic efforts in World War I.

Belgium was next for the 47th and they gained another first—this time they were the first Allied troops to set foot on Belgian soil in the drive for Germany.

Then the long awaited invasion of Germany began. On Sept. 14 the Raiders breached the mighty Siegfried Line. Three days later the 47th became the first Allied unit to pierce the Siegfried Line.

Following the battle of the Huertgen Forest, the regiment was directed to shift north and drive to the city of Frenzerberg. Despite staggering U.S. losses, the city fell. The 1st Battalion and Medical Detachment received the Distinguished Unit Citation for their action in the battle which punctuated 145 continuous days of combat for the Raiders.

The German counter-offensive in December hit the 47th full force but it repulsed the attacks and soon ripped open the way to the center of Germany. The famous Rhine River was now in sight and one of the most glorious chapters in the history of the U.S. Army was about to take place at the Ludendorff Bridge near Remagen.

This key span marked the spot where the first infantry regiment since the Napoleonic Wars battled across the Rhine. The 47th was forced to earn this distinction by engaging in some of the most savage warfare of World War II. The Germans showered the Ludendorff Bridge with shrapnel and shells. Through this wall of death, the 47th pushed forward, established a bridgehead and held it against all attempts to dislodge them.

Finally, in the last week of April, elements of the 47th Infantry Regiment and the 337th Russian Rifle Regiment joined ranks. The once mighty Third Reich had been defeated and among its conquerors stood the Raiders of the 47th Infantry Regiment.

60th Infantry Regiment

Both the 5th Mechanized and 2d Battalions, 60th Infantry, of the Division's 3d Brigade have participated in the long-term, multi-faceted Operation ENTERPRISE in Long An Province. During the enemy's Tet aggression in February, 1968, the 5th/60th became the first Division unit to fight in Saigon. The 3d/60th, a 2d Brigade unit, has been aloft with the Mobile Riverine Force, conducting combat operations deep in the Mekong Delta.

The 60th Infantry Regiment was born June 10, 1917 at the historic Gettysburg National Park, Pa.

In World War I the allegedly impossible crossing of the Meuse River by the 60th was regarded by military experts as indicative of the skill possessed by the American fighting man. This crossing and the brilliant records accomplished at Alsace-Lorraine and St. Mihiel were handed down to the 60th when it was reactivated at Fort Bragg, N.C. on Aug. 1, 1940.

The 60th's battle honors during World War II date from the campaign fought to control the northern shores of the African coast and keep open the Allied lifeline in the Mediterranean Sea. Highlighting this campaign for the 60th was the seizure of the Kasba (Citadel) in early November, 1942. The "Go Devils" continued across North Africa with the Allies until the German-Italian Army Group Africa was totally destroyed.

Sicily was the 60th's next assignment and they landed near Enna, July 24, 1943 to support the 1st Division. After numerous actions the cities of Floresta and Basico became the last Sicilian strongholds to fall to the might of the 60th Regiment. On Aug. 14, 1943 the 60th was ordered to halt and was put into reserve with the rest of the 9th Infantry Division to await its next assignment.

That next assignment called for the 9th Division to enter the battle of "Fortress Europe."

The 60th's first taste of battle on European soil came June 2, 1944 when it joined the 39th and 47th Regiments for an offensive into France. The order was given to march toward St. Colombe. In this action the 2d Battalion achieved outstanding results. Driving hard toward the objective, the 2d Battalion completely outdistanced the rest of the Division. They overran the German defenses, set up a bridgehead on the Douve River and held the position for seven hours until the rest of the Division could catch up with them. For this aggressiveness the 2d Battalion was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation.

During the next three months, the Allied pincers began closing on the Fatherland, but two major obstacles stood in the way—the Meuse River and the Siegfried Line.

After a lapse of 26 years, on Sept. 4, 1944, the 60th again found itself on the west bank of the Meuse River.

By Sept. 17 the Hofea position of the Siegfried Line was being patrolled by elements of the 60th. Later the Siegfried Line was breached and the Allied drive continued toward the Roer River. In a quick change of direction, the 60th



Germeter-Huertgen road junction. In doing so, they captured more prisoners than they had men present for duty in the battalion.

The Ludendorff Bridge at the town of Remagen was used for a bridgehead over the Rhine River. German troops were preparing to destroy the bridge on March 7 when American troops captured it intact. The 9th Division quickly seized the advantage and prepared to cross the river. The 60th began crossing the bridge the night of the 8th under heavy machinegun and artillery fire. The crossing took 24 hours.

Now the job of mopping up began. Thousands of disillusioned German troops surrendered. The last objective of the war for the 60th and the 9th Division was Drohndorf, which fell April 21. Then on April 26 a patrol of the 60th contacted elements of the Russian Army and the East and West fronts were now one. This link-up signaled the end of Hitler's Germany and of fighting in World War II for the 60th Infantry Regiment.



Ski troopers of 60th Regiment
... in Mutzenich, Germany, 1945

2d Battalion, 4th Artillery

To ease operations in the Mekong marshlands, the 2d Battalion, 4th Artillery has introduced portable firing platforms. The huge metal stands—resembling drilling rigs used in offshore oil exploration—are lifted into position by transport helicopter to provide firm firing bases for artillery units in the wet paddy lands.

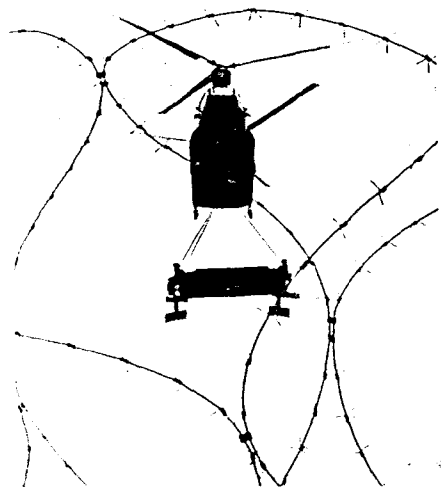
Since arriving in Vietnam, the battalion has supported the 2d and

3d Brigades during many major combat operations, including Operation ENTERPRISE.

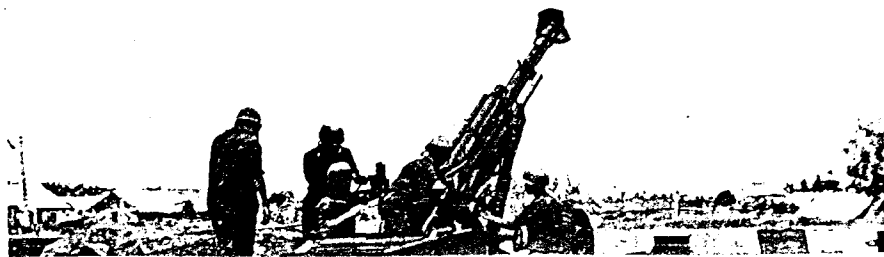
The 2d/4th can trace its history back to the early 19th Century. Some units destined to make up the battalion were organized by June 1, 1812 and were active in nearly every war the United States has fought since then. The 2d/4th has been awarded 43 campaign streamers for fighting in the War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War of 1846, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican War of 1916 and World War II.

The battalion's 20th Century history involves three units—Battery D, 4th Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA); Battery B, 4th Coastal Artillery; and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 4th Field Artillery.

On Jan. 28, 1958, the 4th AAA was consolidated with the 4th Coastal Artillery at Fort Bliss, Tex. Six months later the two units joined and adopted the name of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 4th Field Artillery, at Fort Carson, Colo. The 2d/4th was reactivated and redesignated the 2d Battalion, 4th Artillery on Feb. 1, 1966, at Fort Riley, Kan., where it underwent basic and advanced training before deploying to South Vietnam.



(TOP PHOTO) Chinook lowers platform to provide firm firing base. (BOTTOM PHOTO) 2d/4th artillerymen cut loose in Long An Province.



1st Battalion, 11th Artillery

The 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery has supported the 1st Brigade in the northern sector of the Division area. It provided hard-hitting, accurate and immediate fire for two of the major operations in the war—JUNCTION CITY and SANTA FE.

First organized as the 11th Field Artillery on June 1, 1917, at Camp Harry S. Jones, Douglas, Ariz., the 1st/11th served with the 6th Division in the province of Lorraine, France during World War I.

The unit's original armament was horse-drawn 4.7 inch howitzers. The regiment was motorized in January, 1918, sailed to England in July and fired its first round at the enemy in October. On Nov. 11, 1918, "Calamity Jane," the number two piece of Battery E, fired the last shot of World War I.

From June, 1919 to January, 1921 the unit was in the United States. It then trained in Hawaii until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The regiment reorganized into the 11th Field Artillery Battalion, 90th Artillery Battalion and 24th Division Artillery Headquarters Battery, in October, 1941.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor until August, 1943, the battalion manned batteries of 155 and 240mm howitzers as a part of the tactical defense of Oahu. In August, 1943, the battalion underwent a strenuous training program in preparation for jungle fighting. The 1st/11th was attached to the 38th Division Artillery in January, 1945, and conducted operations on several islands while moving toward Japan from Bataan, Parang Harbor, Talmo and Leyte Island.

It has received battle honors commemorating heroic actions in the Meuse-Argonne, Central Pacific, New Guinea, Luzon, Leyte and Southern Philippines. It received the Distinguished Unit Citation for its service in the Korean conflict. The unit was reactivated Feb. 1, 1966, at Fort Riley, Kan.

6th Battalion, 31st Infantry

The recently reactivated 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry became the Division's 10th maneuver battalion early in April, 1968.

Dubbed the "Bearcats," the unit is conducting operations in the jungles of Bien Hoa Province. The battalion was flown to Vietnam from Ft. Lewis, Wash., where it trained since reactivation on Nov. 1, 1967.

Most of the battalion's preparation for Vietnam took place in winter weather, causing such unlikely scenes as infantrymen searching a mock-up Vietnamese village in the snow.

Originally organized in 1917, the 31st Infantry Regiment has seen action in every major war fought by the U.S.

In World War I, the Regiment plodded through the bitter winter of 1917 to construct the Siberian Railroad in Russia.

During World War II, the 31st Infantry battled the Japanese in the South Pacific and Asian Theater.

At the outbreak of the Korean War, the unit was summoned to action to curb the communist threat breaching the 38th Parallel. In 1951, the regimental colors were retired. After a 17-year lull, the 6th/31st was reactivated last November for

1st Battalion, 84th Artillery

Operating out of the 2d Brigade's Mekong Delta base camp at Dong Tam and the Division headquarters camp at Bearcat, the 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery has provided general support for the Division with three 155mm howitzer batteries and an eight-inch battery. It participated

Gunner jerks lanyard



in Operation JUNCTION CITY, the largest operation of the war.

Constituted on Sept. 16, 1918 as Battery A, 84th Field Artillery, the unit was demobilized two months later at Camp Sheridan, Ala. It was activated on July 1, 1936 at Fort Riley, Kan., and redesignated Battery A, 84th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm howitzer truck driven). It was concurrently activated at Fort Bragg, N.C., and assigned to the 9th Division.

The unit was inactivated Nov. 1, 1946 in Germany, after a successful tour in the European Theater with the 9th Division. During World War II, it participated in the campaigns in Algeria-French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. The 1st/84th won the Belgian Fourragere decoration in 1940 and was awarded Distinguished Unit Citations with streamers embroidered with the names Thala, Tunisia and Remagen Bridgehead. The unit was cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action along the Meuse River and in the Ardennes.

On Dec. 1, 1957 the 1st/84th was relieved from assignment to the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo. It was redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Missile Battalion, 84th Artillery on June 2, 1958, and 20 days later the battalion was activated at Fort Sill, Okla., as a Corporal missile unit. It was inactivated April 19, 1962 at Fort Sill. Assigned to the 9th Division it was reactivated Feb. 1, 1966 at Fort Riley, Kan., where it underwent training before deploying to South Vietnam.

3d Battalion, 34th Artillery

The 3d Battalion, 34th Artillery, which supports the Mobile Riverine Force, is the first artillery unit to go afloat in the Vietnam war. By mounting 105mm artillery pieces on barges, the 3d/34th has provided fast and accurate support of all MRF combat operations.

First organized on Aug. 7, 1918 at Camp McClellan, Ala. as Battery C, 34th Field Artillery, the unit was demobilized there in 1919. Ten years later the unit was reconstituted and assigned to the 9th Division (later the 9th Infantry Division). The regiment was reorganized Oct. 1, 1940 and served with the 9th Division throughout World War II.

The 3d/34th has won battle honors in Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland,

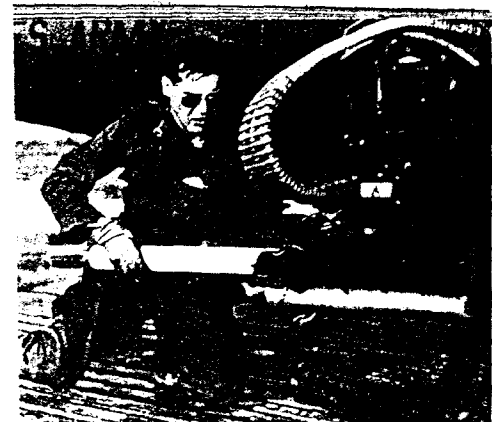
Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. It was cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action along the Meuse River and in the Ardennes.

The battalion was inactivated in 1946 and reactivated in 1948 at Fort Dix, N.J. On Dec. 1, 1957 it was reorganized and redesignated Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3d Rocket Howitzer Battalion, 34th Artillery. It was allocated to the Army Reserve and assigned to the 103d Division. The battalion was withdrawn from the Reserve, allotted to the Regular Army, redesignated 3d/34th, assigned to the 9th Infantry Division and activated all on Feb. 1, 1966, at Fort Riley, Kan.

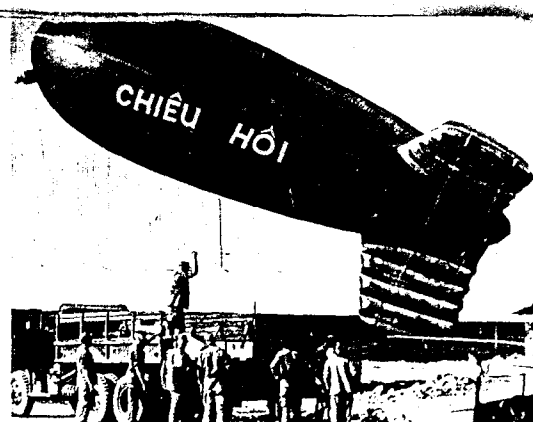


Artillerymen of 3d/34th support riverine operations

...by mounting howitzers on barges



9th Aviation soldier
... loads rockets on gunship



Communications balloon
... helps jungle units

9th Aviation Battalion

Living up to its motto that "no mission is impossible," the 9th Aviation Battalion has flown a variety of combat and support missions for the Division. Battalion gunships have often poured deadly streams of fire on enemy targets from above, while slick ships have ferried men and supplies throughout the Division area of operations.

15th Engineer Battalion

The 15th Engineers paved the way for the Old Reliables in Vietnam. Two months before the first echelon of infantrymen beached at Vung Tau in December, 1966, the 15th Engineers began preparing a Division-size base camp at Bearcat. Soon after, they created the Mekong

9th Signal Battalion

Providing the 9th Division with an entire spectrum of communication capabilities are 670 officers and men of the 9th Signal Battalion.

The battalion installs, operates and maintains a communications system, consisting of command multi-channel telephone and teletype service between major subordinate units of the Division. The unit also supports the Old Reliables with still and motion picture photography.

Delta base camp at Dong Tam.

Operating in close support of infantry units, the engineers have often engaged enemy forces while building or repairing bridges, clearing roads and jungles, demolishing enemy bunker and tunnel complexes, and detecting Viet Cong mines.



9th Medical Battalion

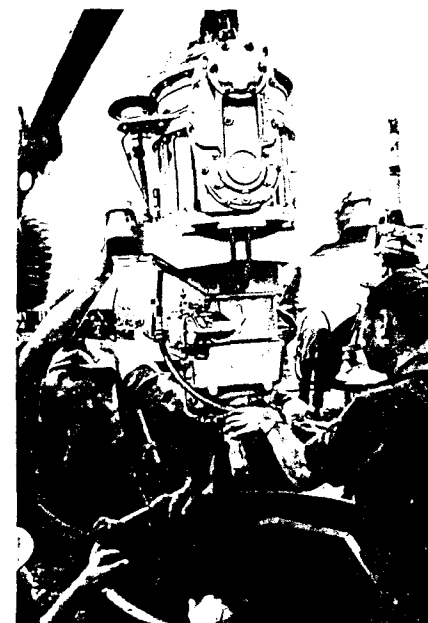
No matter where 9th Division soldiers may corner the Viet Cong, they can be sure that medical assistance is only a few minutes away. 9th Medical Battalion doctors stand ready at base camps for any emergencies that may arise. They are equipped with a massive array of treatments, including drugs, injections, pills and plasma.

Besides treating wounded troops, the battalion's doctors see more than 5,600 other patients each month. Battalion personnel also tend to the mental and dental health of the Old Reliables.

9th S & T Battalion

The 9th Supply and Transport Battalion has logged well over a million miles traveled in Vietnam, supporting the Old Reliables.

Daily convoys carry everything from fuel to troops along the meandering roads of the Division area. For less traffic and faster travel, night convoys also are dispatched. These have the added benefit of denying the roads to the Viet Cong.



709th mechanics
... overhaul chopper transmission

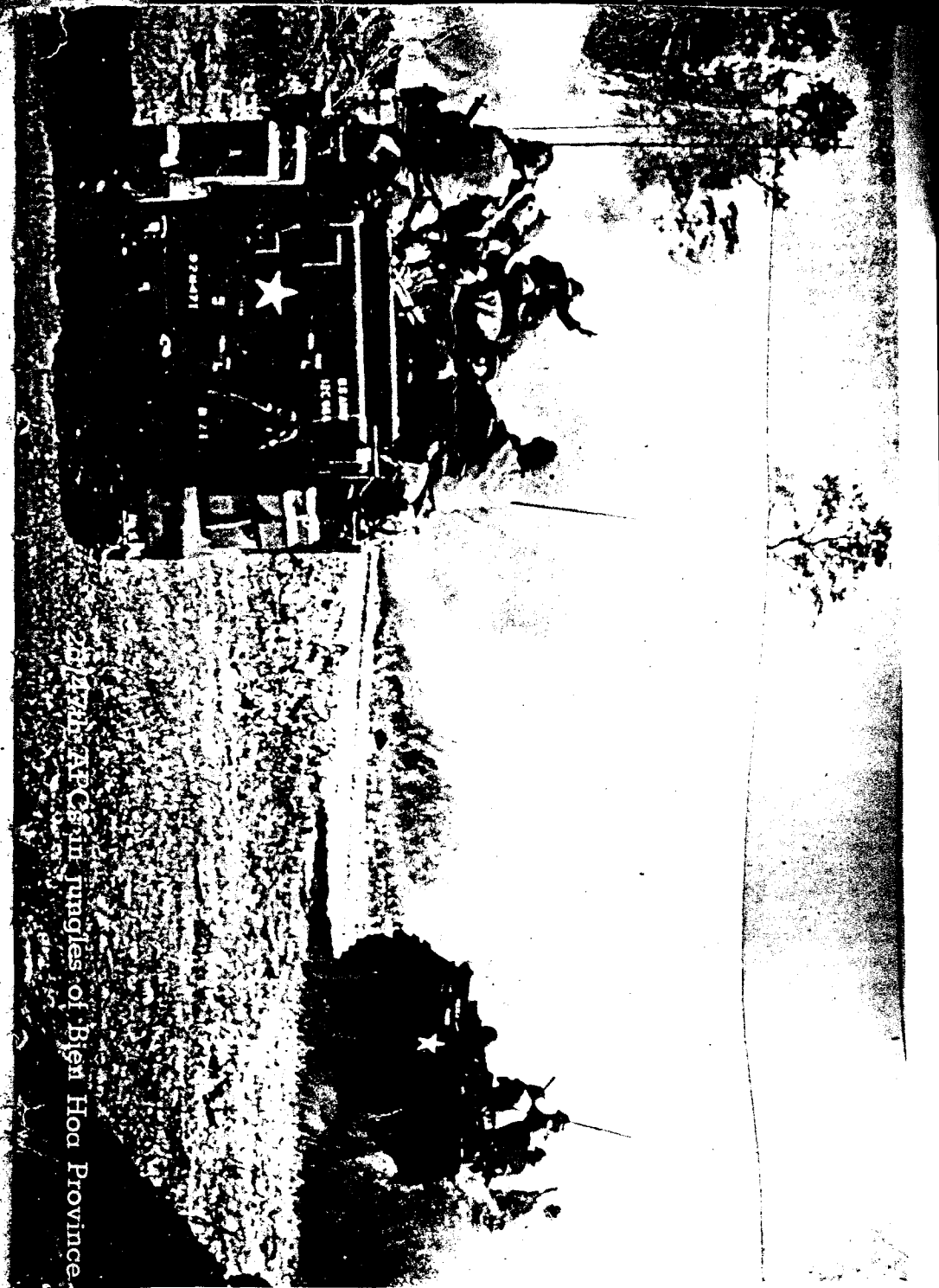
709th Maintenance Battalion

A computer that processes 5,000 requisitions a week and a huge status board listing nearly 9,000 maintenance jobs per month help the 709th Maintenance Battalion provide direct support maintenance, repair parts supply and evacuation services for the Division.

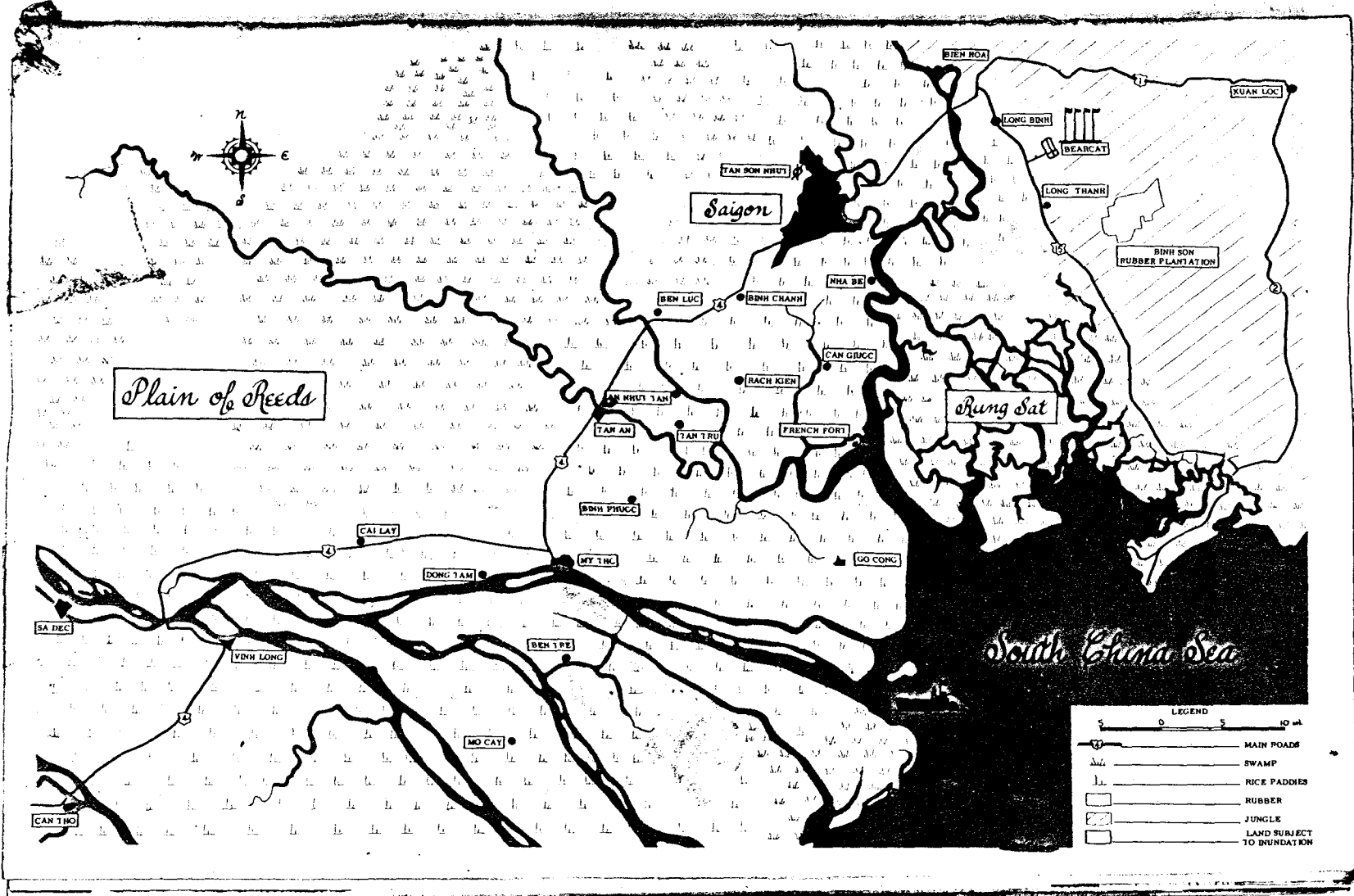
The battalion's highly skilled soldiers can repair anything from armored personnel carriers to the computers themselves. Repair can be performed at forward areas or base camps.

Division Commanders

July, 1918	Colonel Charles C. Clark
Sept., 1918	Major General Willard A. Holbrook
Oct., 1918	Brigadier General James A. Ryan
Nov., 1918–Feb., 1919	Major General Willard A. Holbrook
Aug., 1940	Colonel Charles B. Elliot
Sept., 1940	Brigadier General Francis W. Honeycutt
Oct., 1940	Major General Jacob L. Devers
Aug., 1941	Major General Rene E. Hoyle
Aug., 1942	Lieutenant General Manton S. Eddy
Aug., 1944	Major General Louis A. Craig
May, 1945	Brigadier General Jesse A. Ladd
March, 1946–Jan., 1947	Major General Horace L. McBride
July, 1947	Major General William W. Eagles
April, 1948	Major General Arthur A. White
Oct., 1949	Major General John M. Devine
Sept., 1950	Major General William K. Harrison
Feb., 1952	Major General Roderick R. Allen
June, 1952	Major General Homer W. Kiefer
July, 1953	Major General Cornelius A. Ryan
May, 1954	Major General Donald P. Booth
Nov., 1954	Major General H. G. Maddox
June, 1956	Major General Harry P. Storke
Sept., 1957	Brigadier General Joseph B. Crawford
March, 1958	Major General Martin J. Morin
April, 1959	Brigadier General Richard A. Risdan
March, 1960	Colonel Charles L. Heltman Jr.
May, 1960–Feb., 1962	Brigadier General Ashton H. Manhart
Feb., 1966	Major General George S. Eckhardt
June, 1967	Major General George G. O'Connor
Feb., 1968	Major General Julian J. Ewell



257th ARCs in jungles of Ben Hoa Province



Plain of Reeds

Saigon

Chung Sat

South China Sea

LEGEND

- MAIN ROADS
- SWAMP
- RICE PADDIES
- RUBBER
- JUNGLE
- LAND SUBJECT TO BUNDATLON