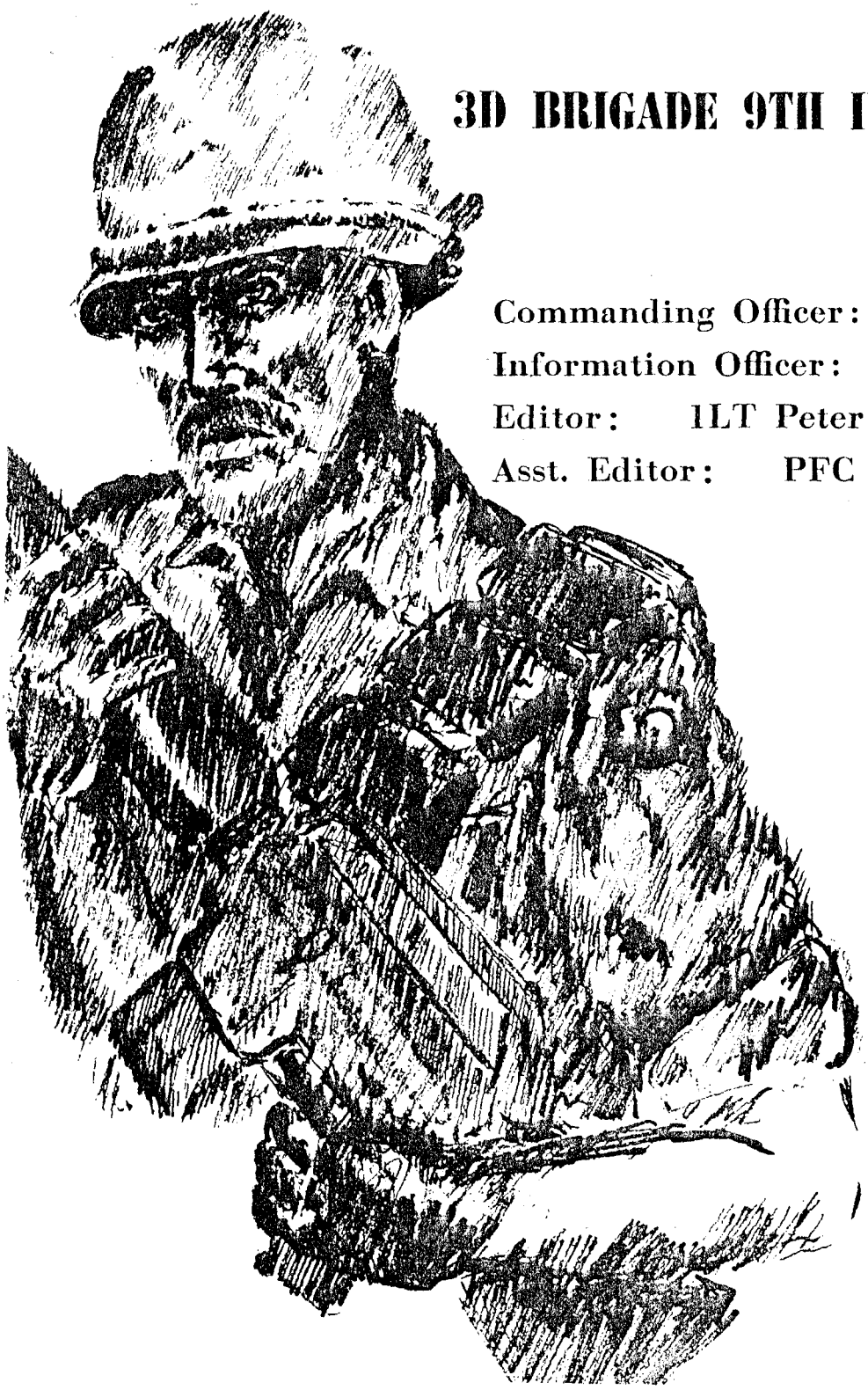
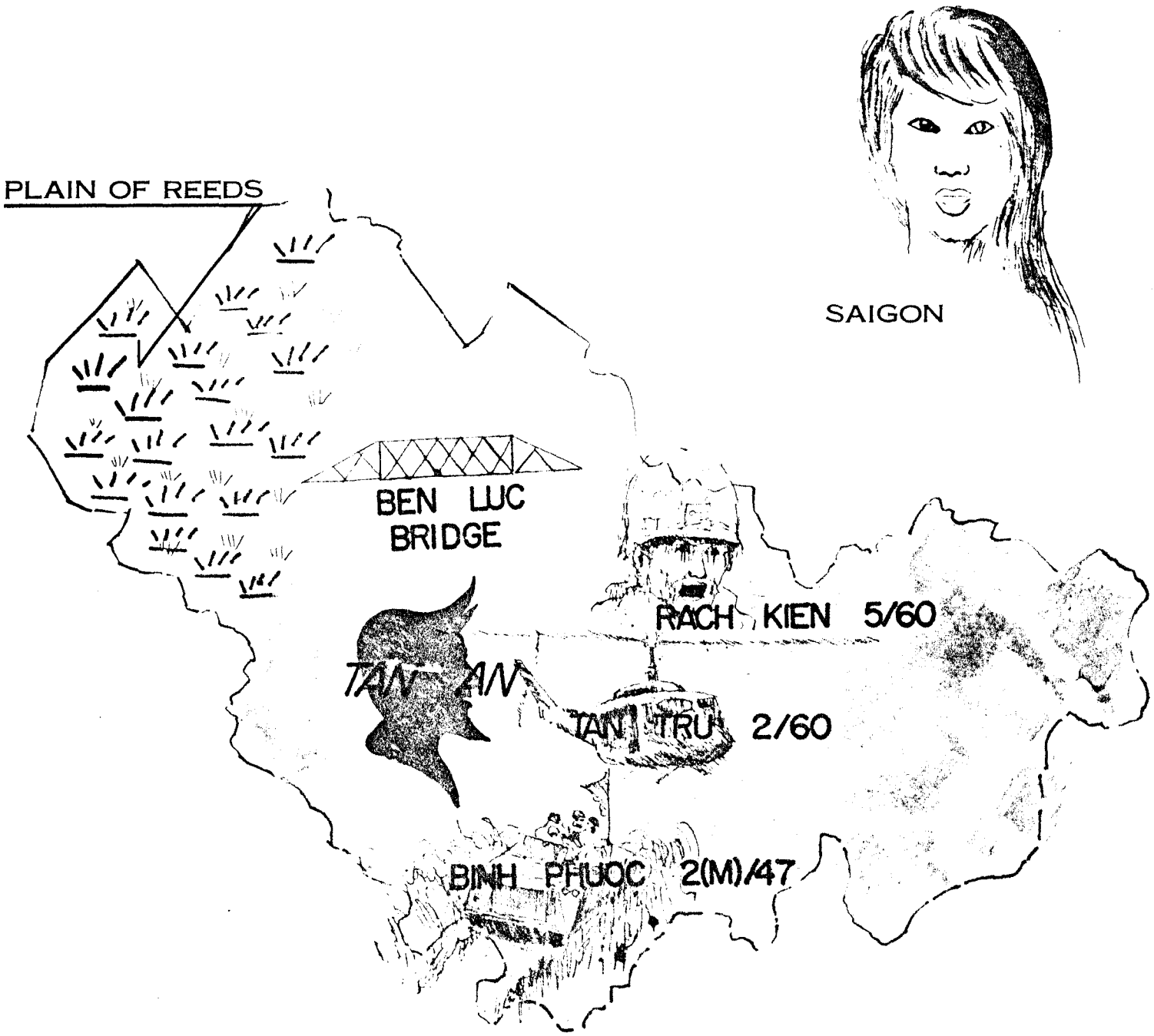
# ORIENTATION BROCHURE

## 3D BRIGADE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION



Commanding Officer: Col. W. F. Williams
Information Officer: 1LT W. H. Seiler Jr.
Editor: 1LT Peter B. Carden
Asst. Editor: PFC H. Worthington

# LONG AN PROVINCE



GO DEVIL COMMANDER Colonel W.F. Williams receives the colors of the 3d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division from II Field Force Commander Lieutenant General Julian J Ewell at the Brigade Change of Command at Tan An Base Camp on March 27, 1970.

# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

You have joined a unit with an outstanding reputation and record through combat in three wars. Every soldier who has worn the Octofoil shoulder patch feels pride in the job that the 9th Infantry Division has done in fighting agression. The GO DEVIL BRIGADE continues that tradition in Vietnam.

Your new unit faces a series of strong challenges:

- to support pacification:
- to upgrade the military forces of the Government of Vietnam:
- to eliminate enemy main force and local force units.

These challenges are difficult ones to meet, but the GO DEVIL BRIGADE is known for accomplishing its mission with proficiency and honor.

This area of the upper Mekong Delta has long been a heartland for the communist insurgency in South Vietnam. To meet this threat American and Vietnamese military and civic action personnel have joined hands to overcome the enemy. The joint effort has been successful, but much remains to be done.

# HISTORY

The GO DEVIL BRIGADE has a proud heritage dating back to July 18, 1918, when the 9th Infantry Division was organized at Camp Sheridan, Alabama. Following World War I, the unit was inactivated. It was reactivated on August 1, 1940, and participated in "Operation Torch," the landing on North Africa in 1942 contributing valiantly to the subsequent crushing of Rommel's "Afrika Korps."

The "Old Reliables" came onto the beaches of Normandy on June 10, 1944. The high point of the division's World War II record came with the crossing of the Rhine River in March, 1945. All the bridges crossing the river had been destroyed by the retreating Nazis, except the span at Ramagen. The 2d Battalion of the 47th Regiment stormed across the damaged, but still standing bridge, and secured a bridgehead on the eastern bank of the Rhine. The unit became the first infantry regiment to battle across the Rhine barrier since the Napoleonic Wars.

The 9th Infantry Division's Vietnam history began February 1, 1966, when the "Old Reliables" became the first division to be organized, equipped, and trained for deployment to an overseas combat theatre since World War II.

The division's official entry into Vietnam took place on December 19, 1966, when Major General George S. Ekhardt led an advance force of 5,000 men onto the beaches at Vung Tau. A month later, the 9th Division established a permanent base camp at Dong Tam, 15 miles southwest of Tan An, and began their historic confrontation with main force Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars in the Mekong Delta.

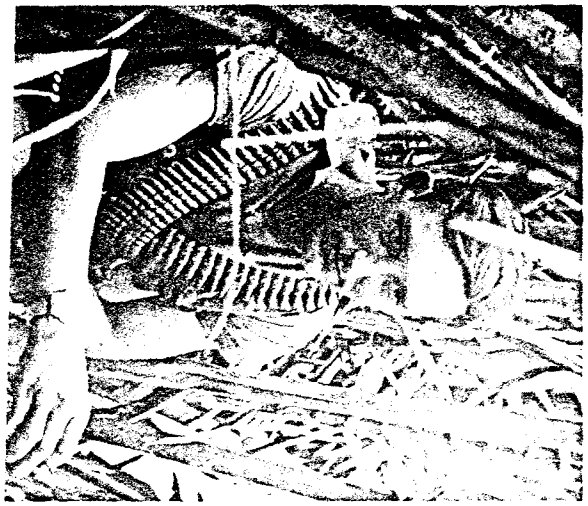
The division took on the foe wherever it could find him. The battles were many and fierce. Their heroic fighting during Tet, 1968, prompted MACV Commander General William Westmoreland to remark, "Your alertness, professionalism, aggressiveness, and courage - individually, by team, and by unit – add new luster to our outstanding reputation. You have destroyed more of the enemy in seven days than the United States has lost in the seven years of the war since January 1, 1961."

On June 8, 1969, Presidents Richard M. Nixon and Nguyen Van Thieu met at Midway Island and announced that 25,000 American troops would be redeployed from Vietnam. Five days later it was announced that a majority of this number would be troops of the 9th Infantry Division. The "Old Reliables," minus the 3rd Brigade, were going home! The 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry became the first American combat unit to be redeployed from Vietnam.

During their almost three years in Vietnam, division soldiers killed 31,000 enemy. For their sacrifices and successes on the field of battle, the division was presented the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry on two separate occasions. The 9th is the only American unit to have received this honor twice. The unit also received the Vietnamese Civil Action Honor Medal for its pacification efforts.

On July 26, 1969, the 3rd Brigade was organized as a separate brigade. At a ceremony at Tan An base camp 9th Infantry Division commander Major General Harris W. Hollis made it clear that all "Old Reliables" would be watching the GO DEVILS in Long An Province. He was sure that this last representative of the 9th Infantry Division would not falter in upholding a fine tradition that was begun in 1918.

The 3rd Brigade of the 9th Infantry Division has, indeed, upheld this fine tradition. Time and again, the GO DEVILS have proven themselves against the enemy in Long An. It continues to write yet another glorious chapter in the history of the "Old Reliables."



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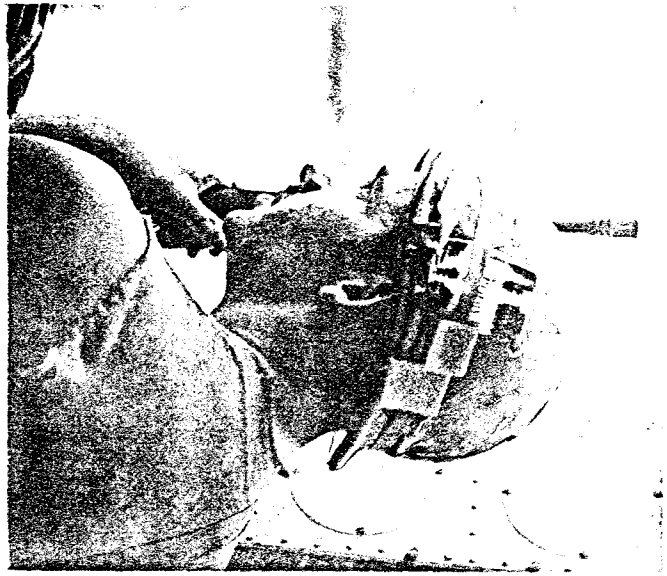

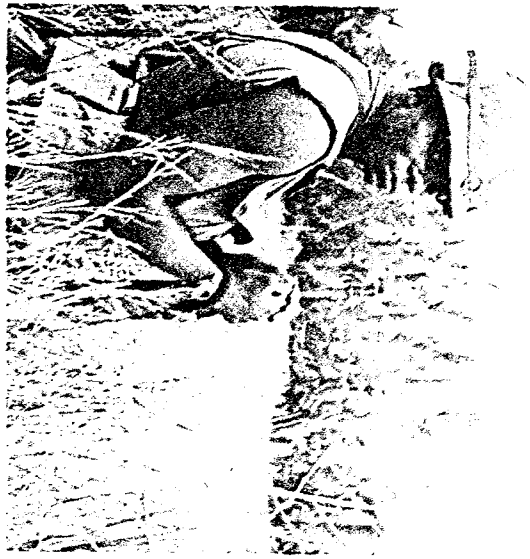

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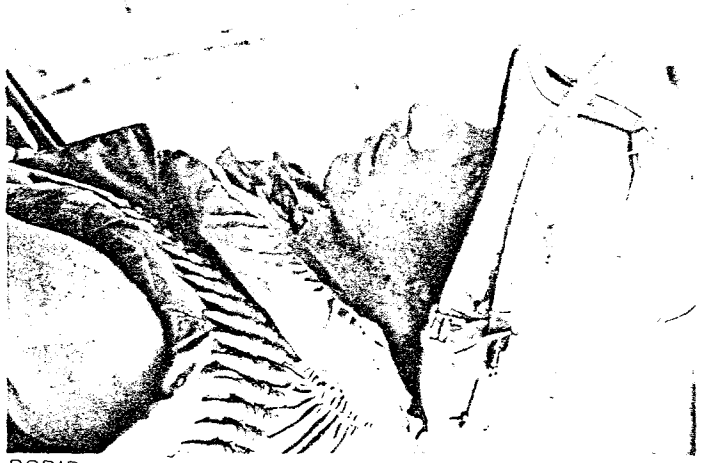

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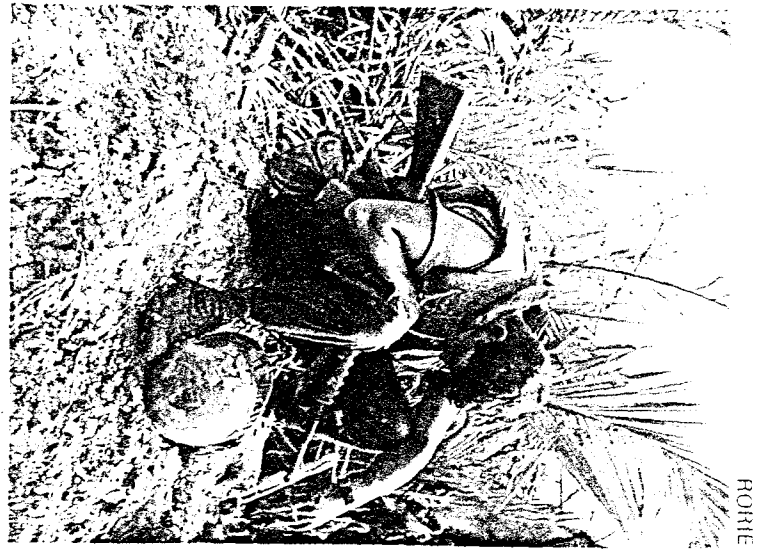

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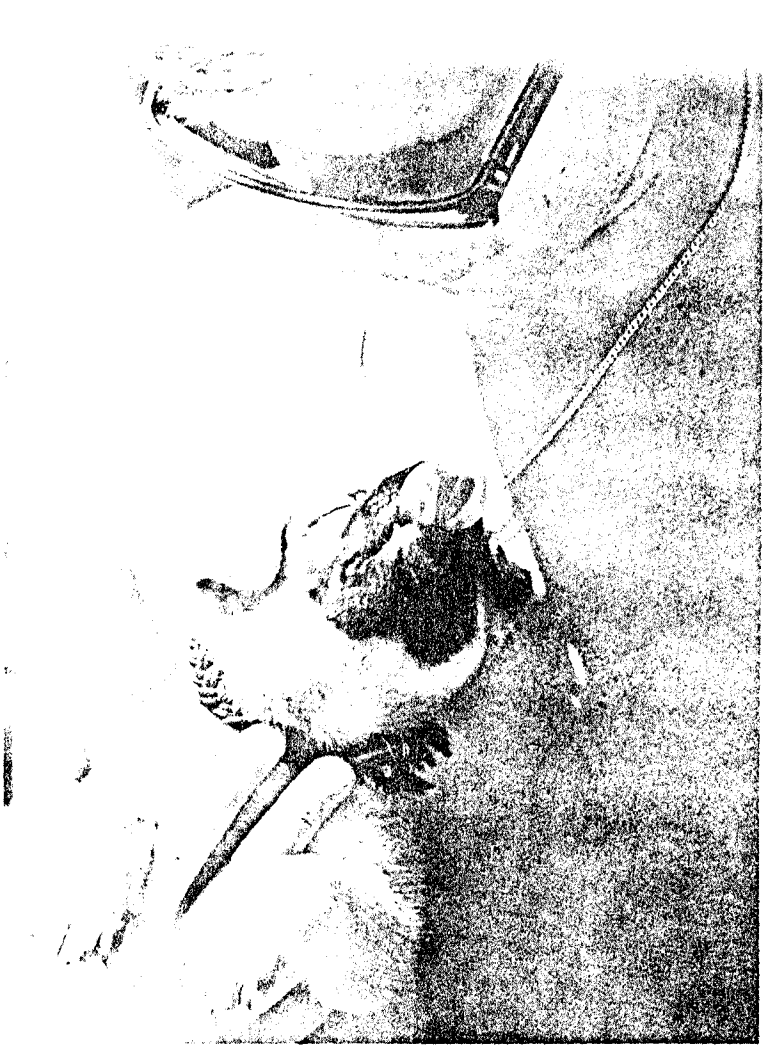

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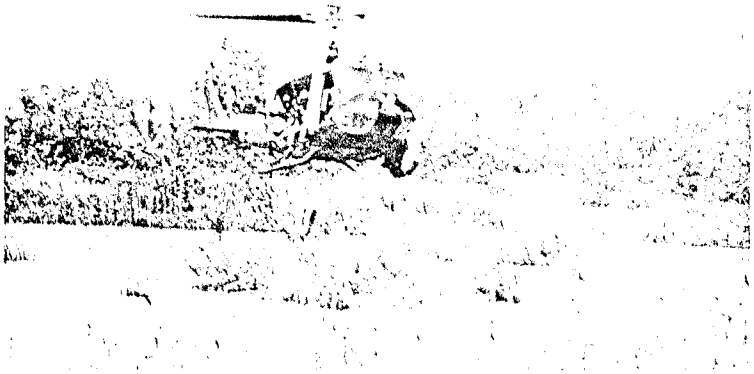

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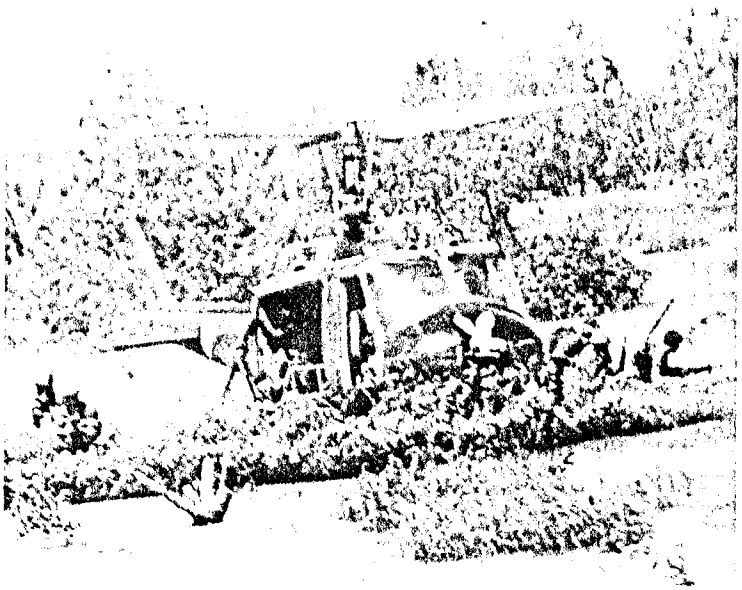

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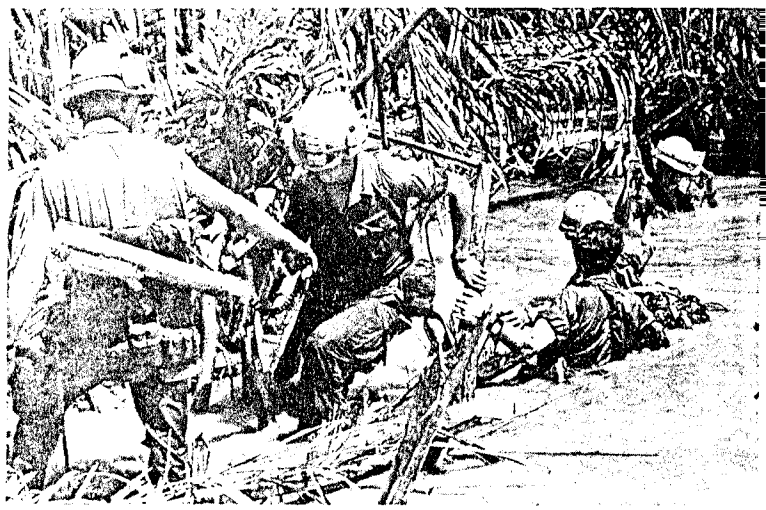

# WATER

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# PLATOON LEADER

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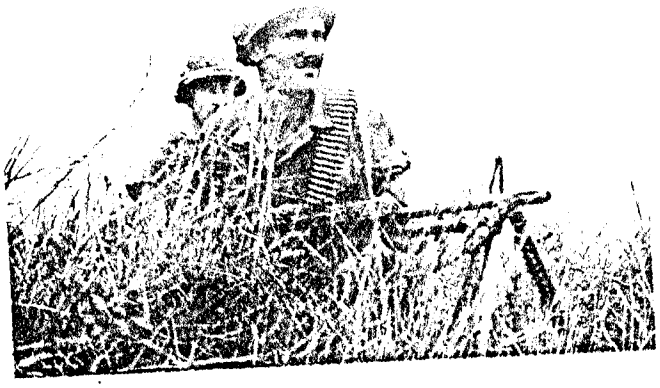

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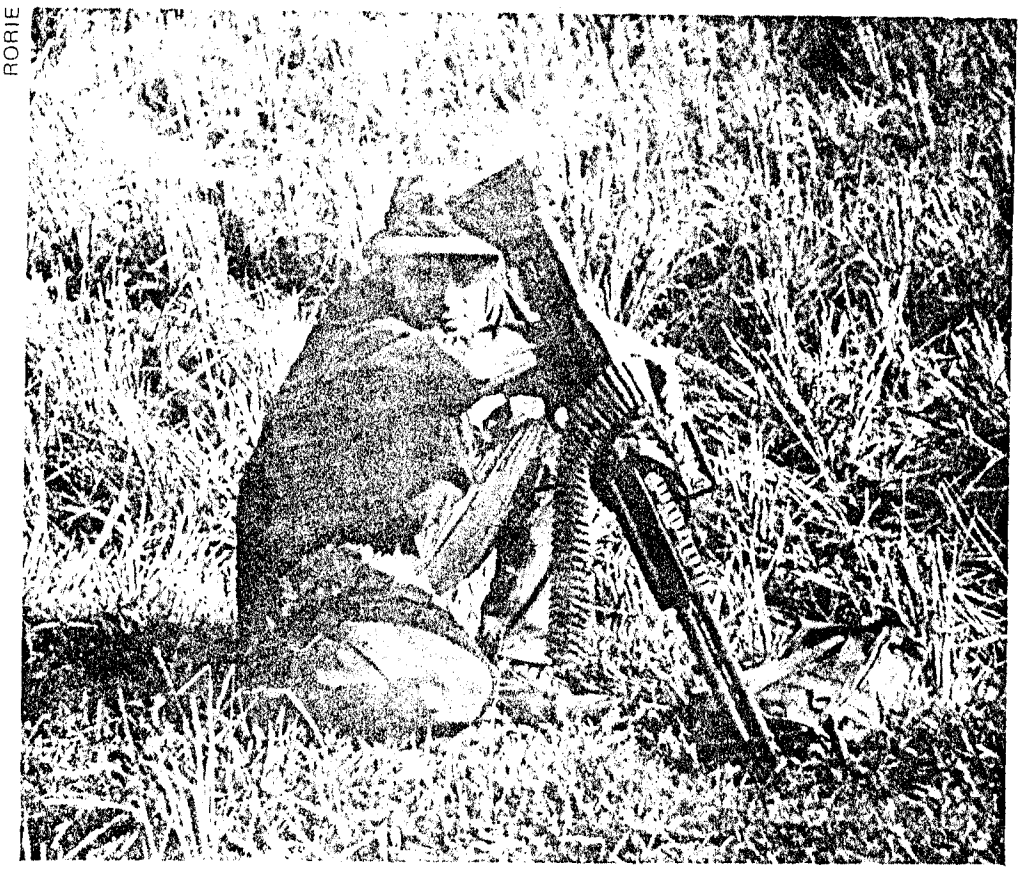

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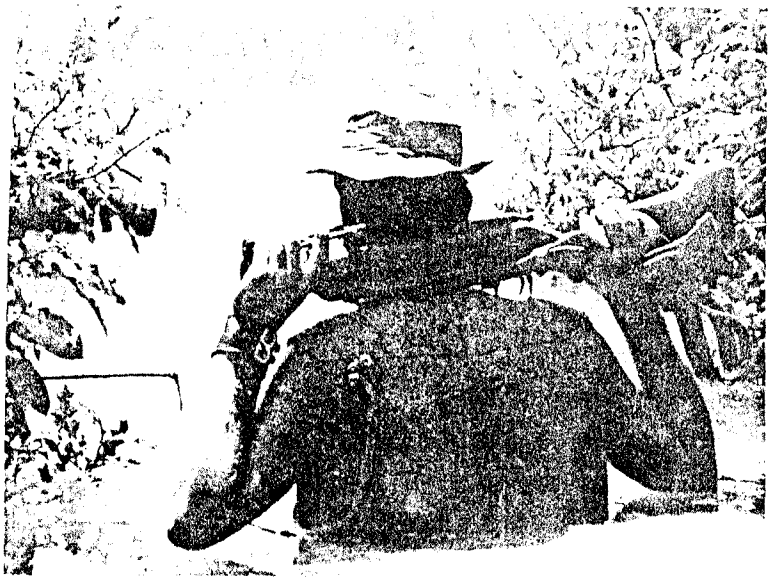

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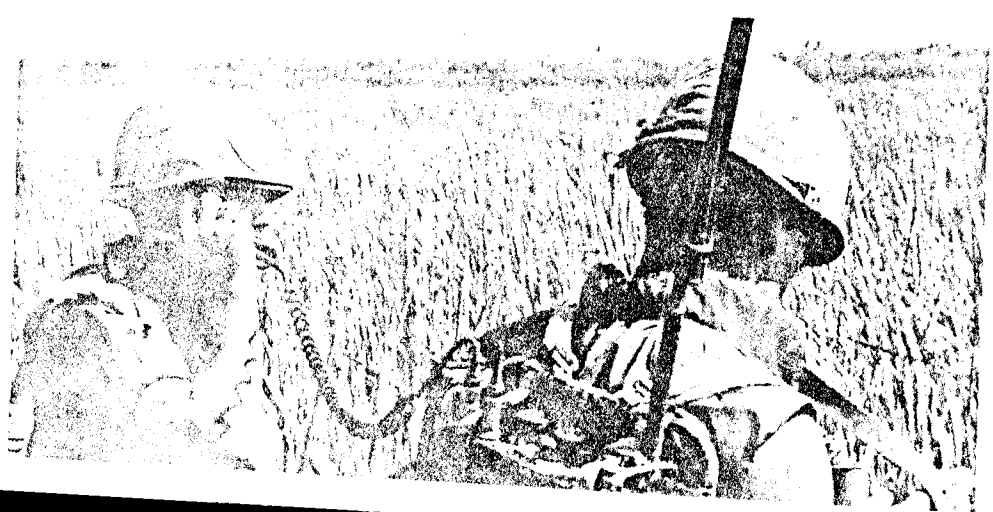

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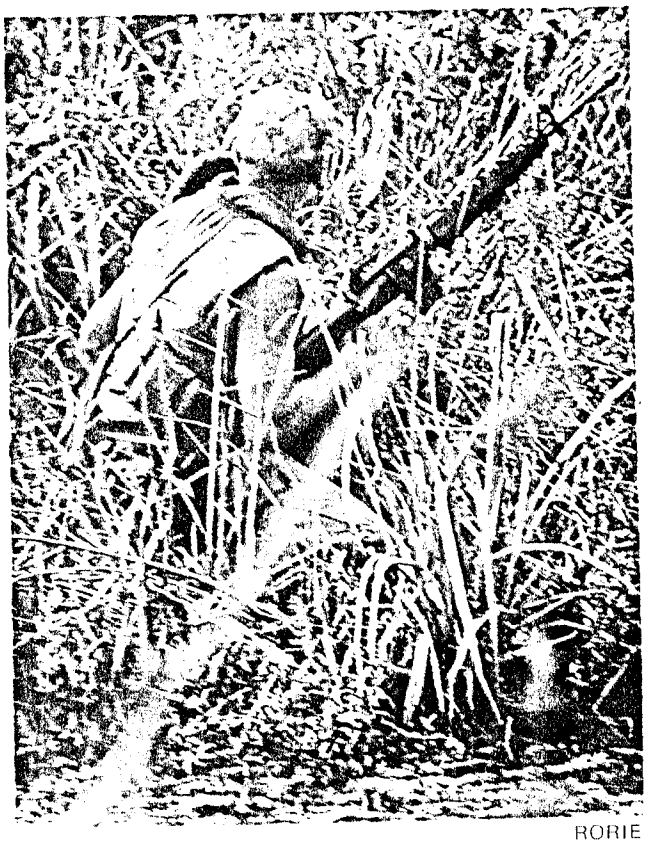

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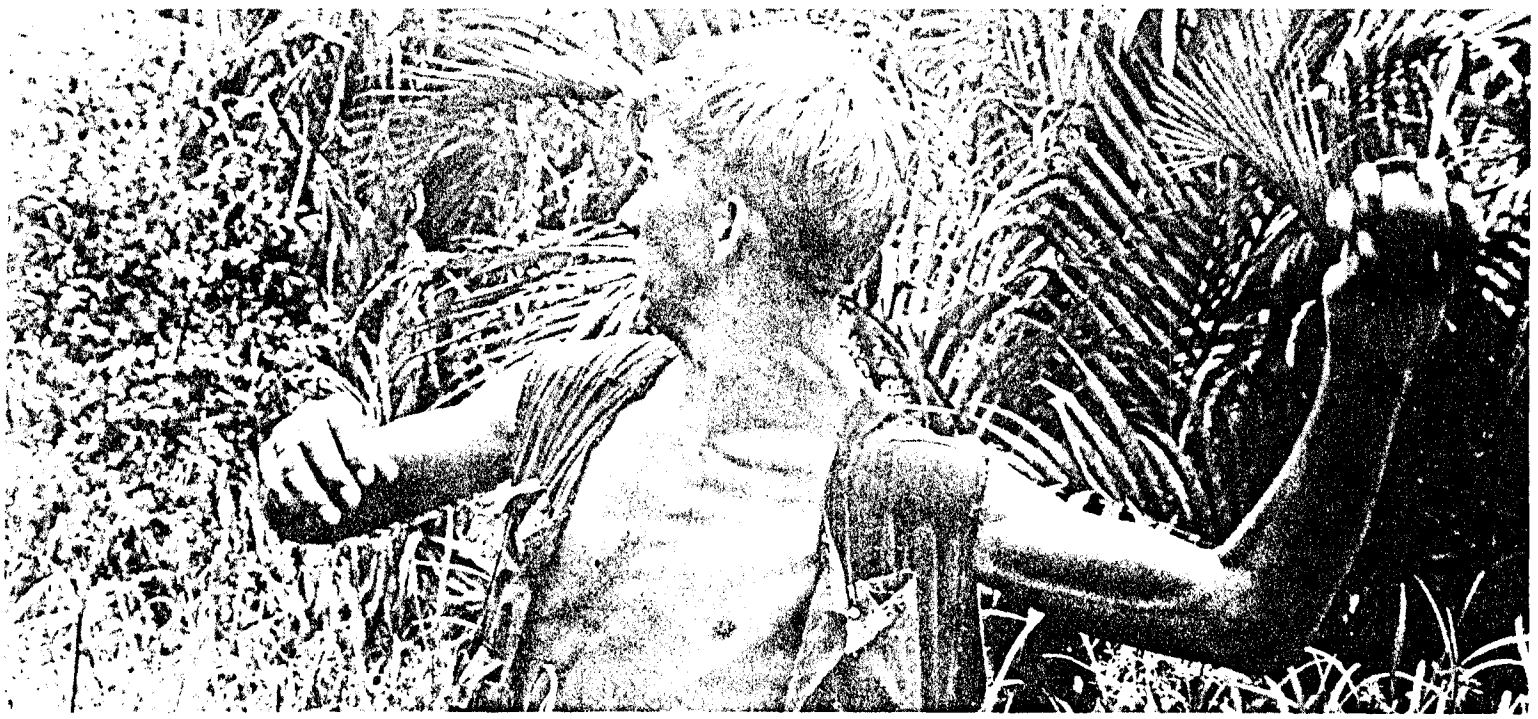

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# PLATOON SERGEANT

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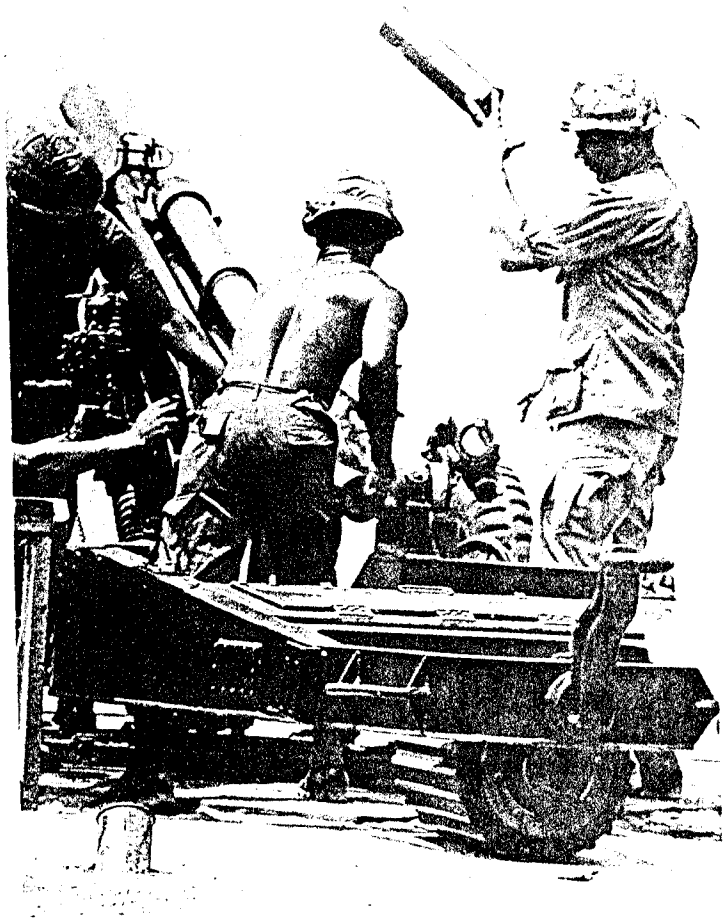

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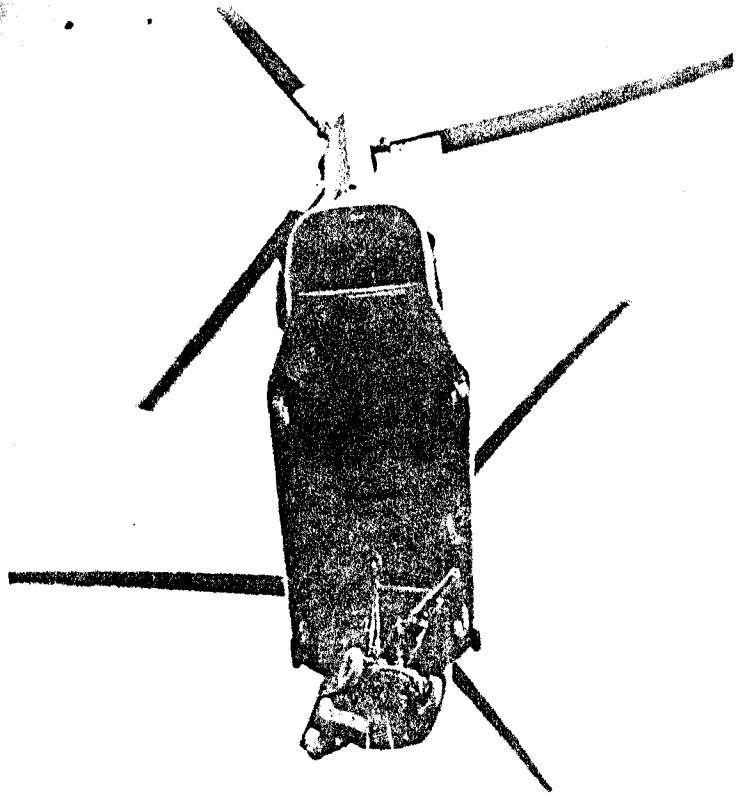

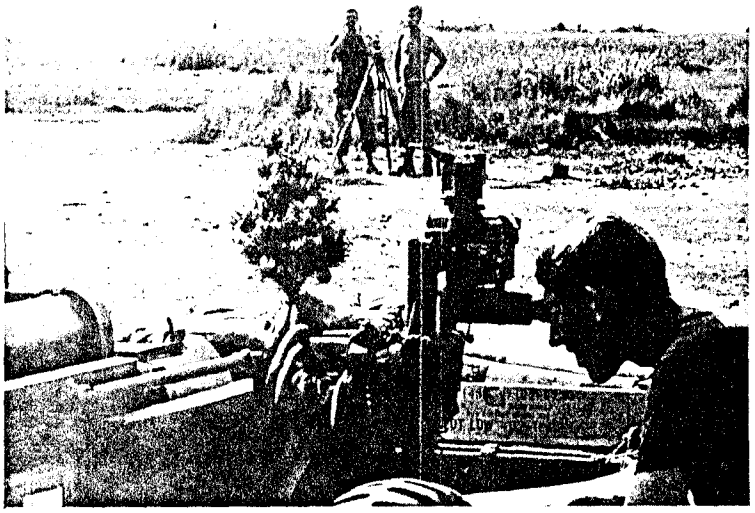

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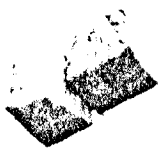

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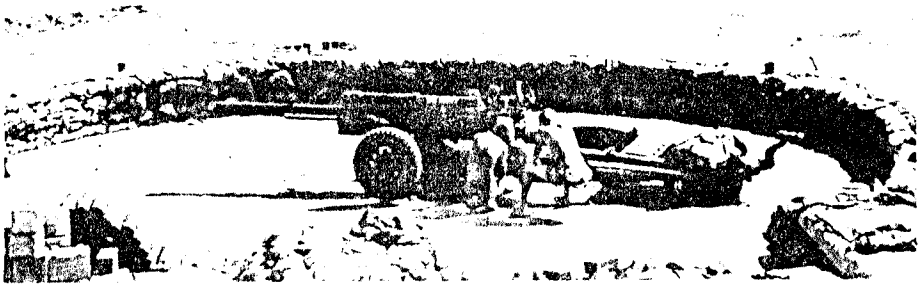

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# AIR CUSHIONED VEHICLES

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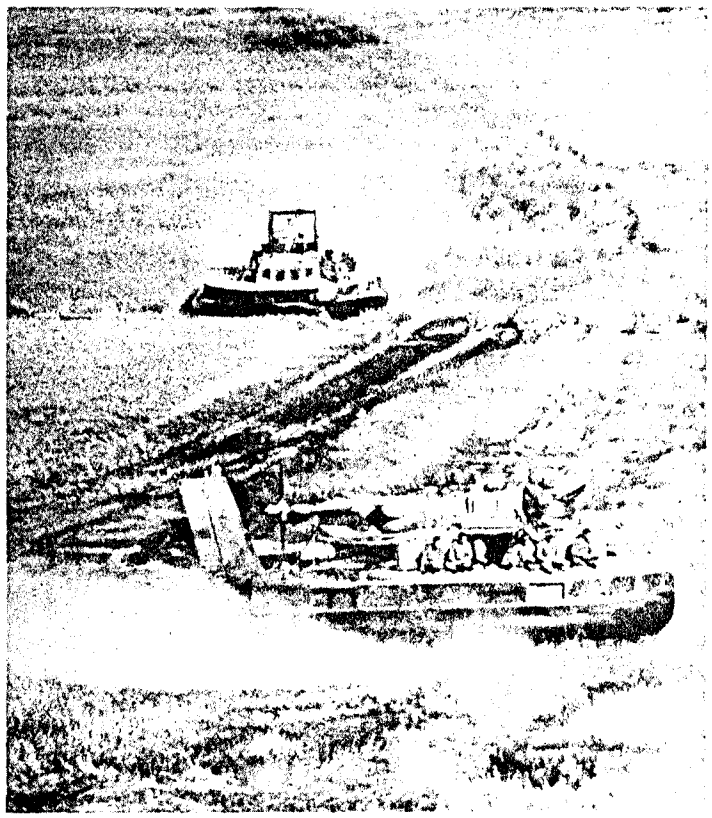

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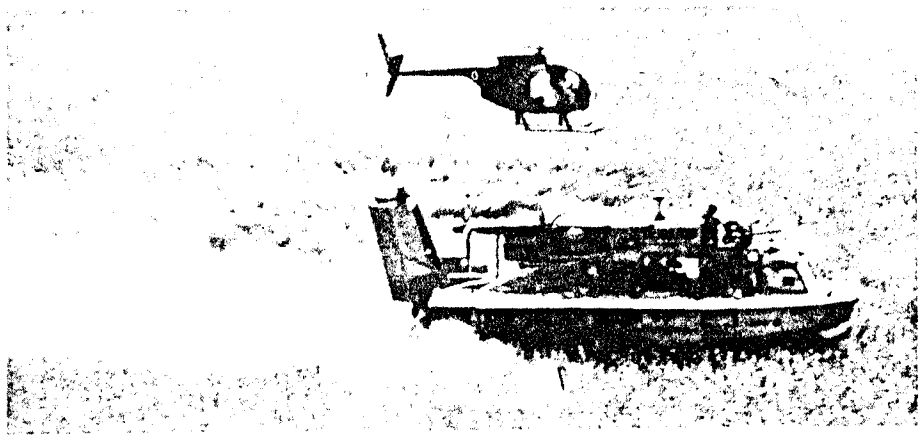

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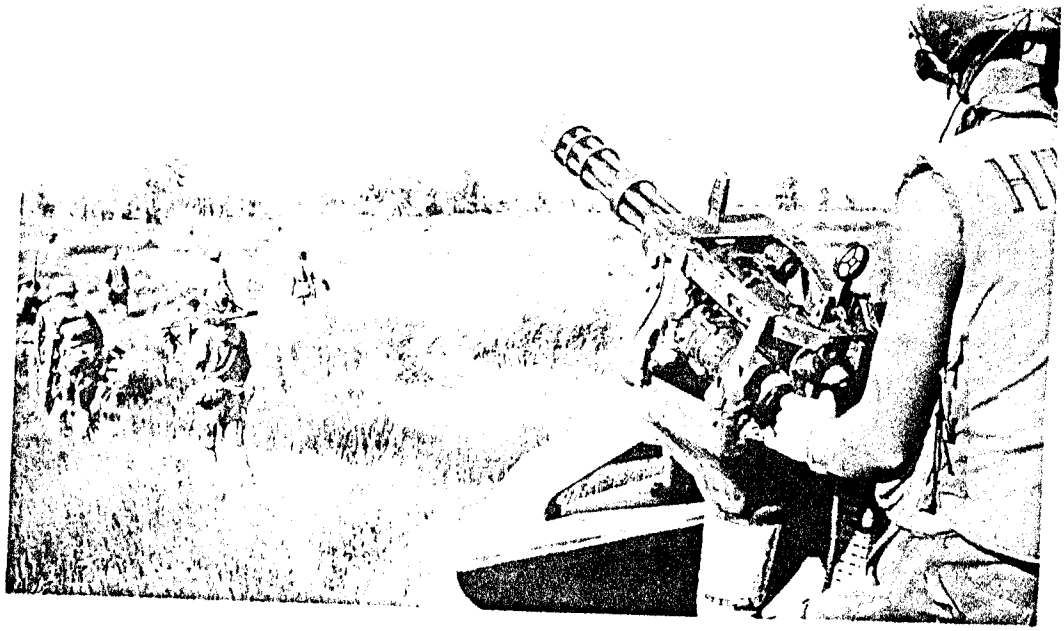

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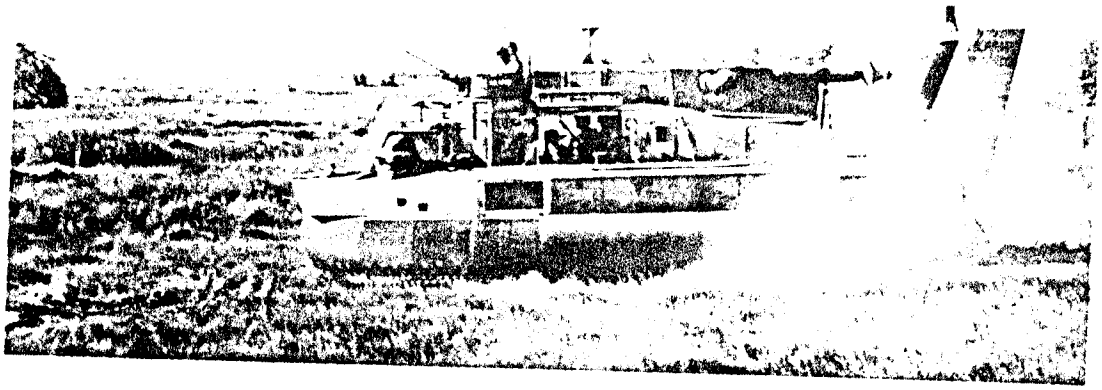

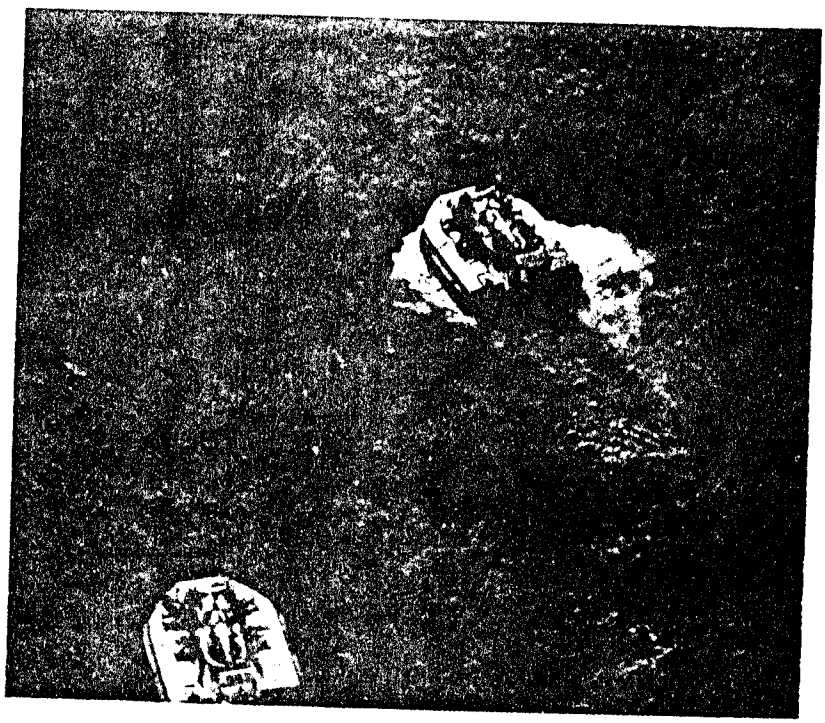

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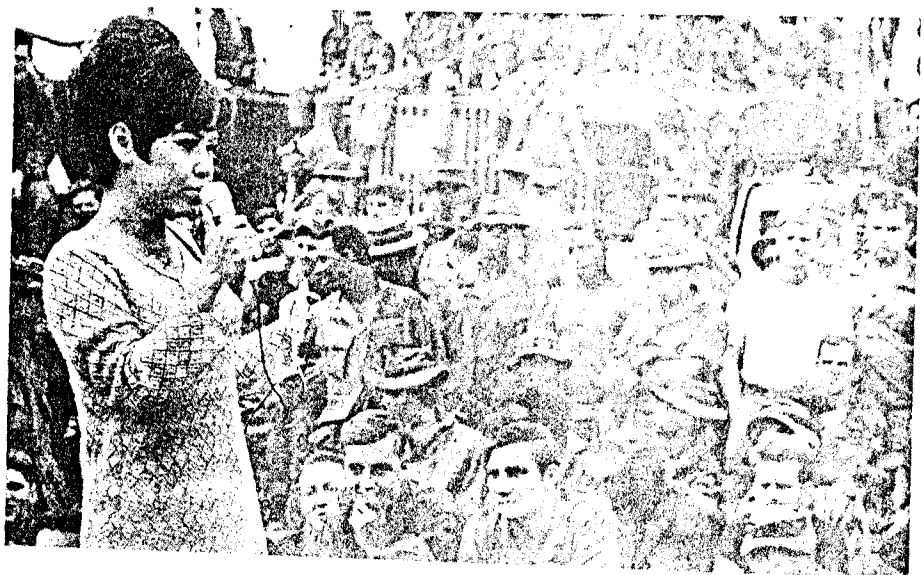

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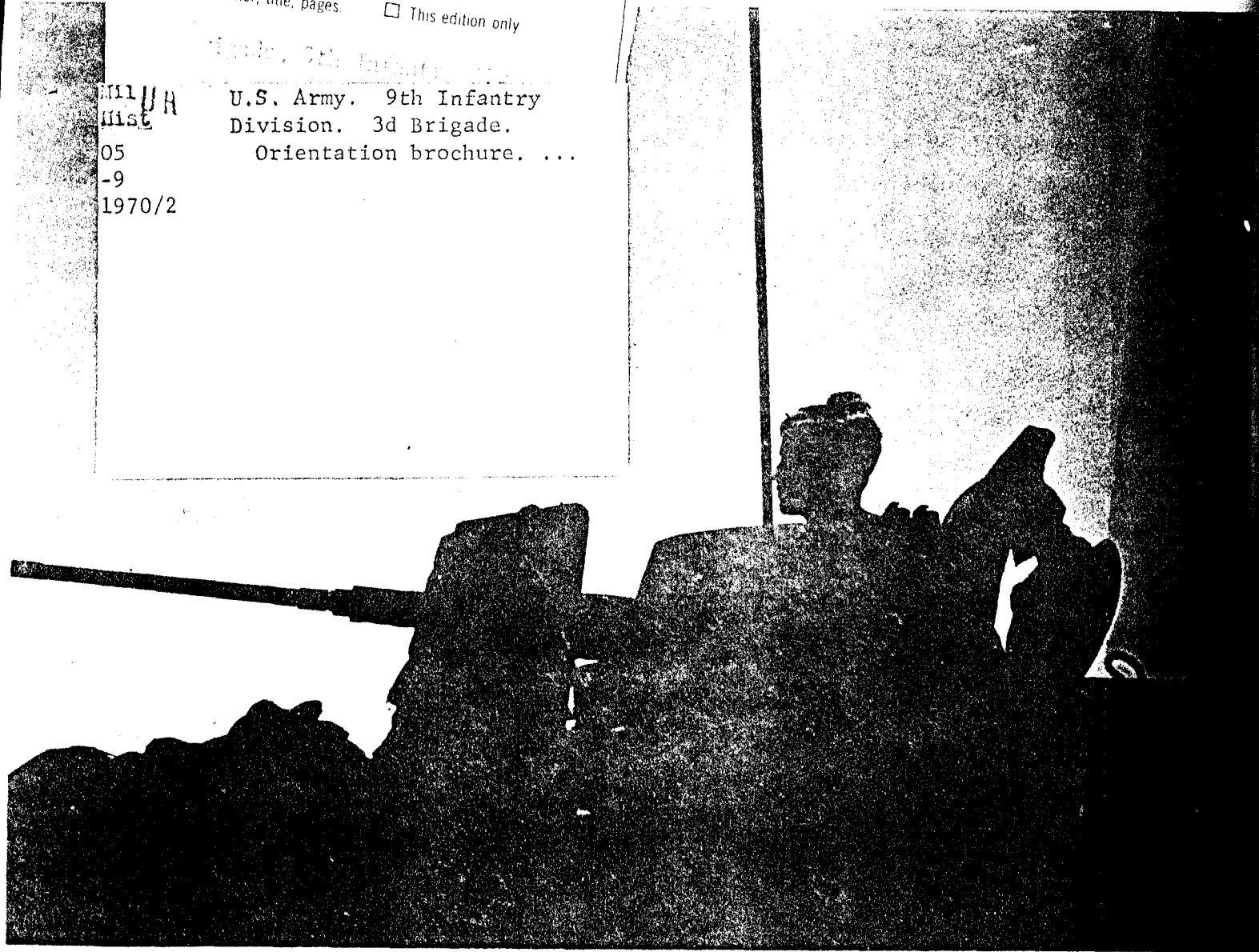
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