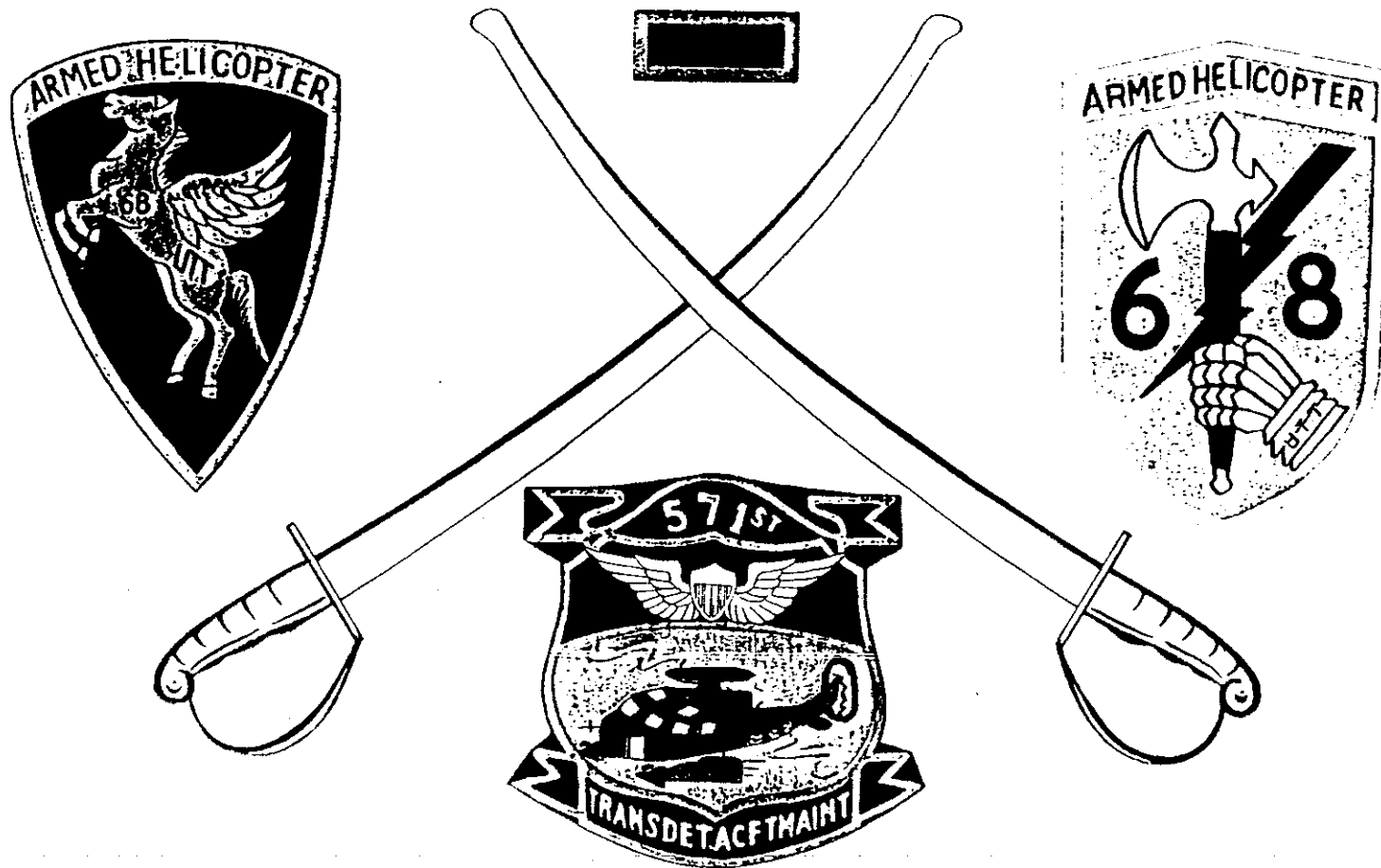


THE SABER



SAIGON VIETNAM 1964-1965

OUR VALIANT ONES

Those who man the helicopters, the pilots, crew chief, and gunners, have distinguished themselves more than all the others in this conflict in Vietnam. They are seen in the most remote places. Their engines are heard in the darkness of night. The sound of their craft is a welcome sound to many people in trouble. It means help and medication and often rescue. It means reinforcements and support from the sky.

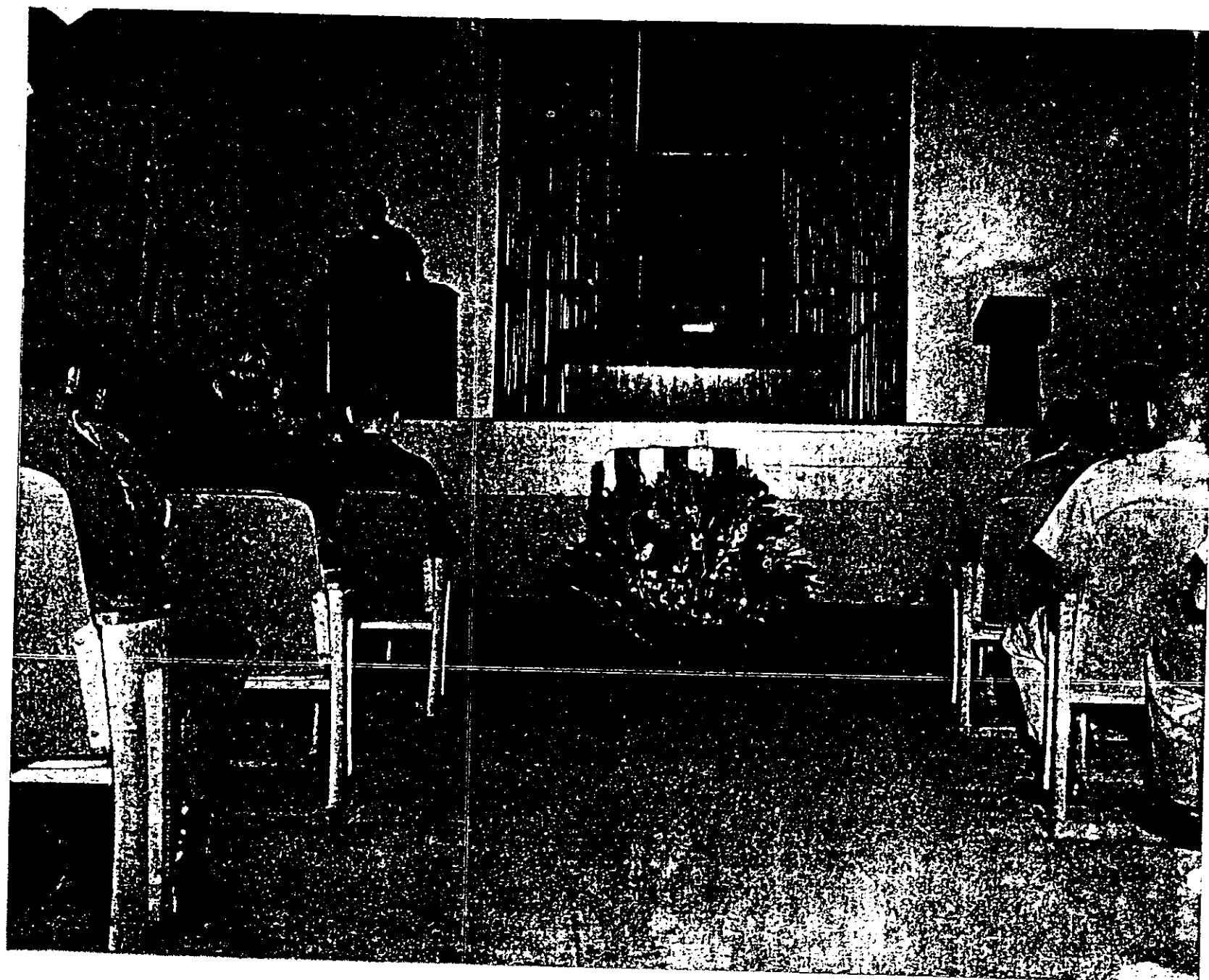
Their dedication to duty is writing new annals in the history of heroisms in the United States Army. Many of their feats are unsung and unknown to others. However their dedication to their mission is very well known to all of us.

With our prayers we address these comrades who are gone and trust that they will have eternal happiness. Let not our prayers plead for self safekeeping and protection from danger, but that if called upon to make the supreme sacrifice, we may be as valiant as these.

Capt Lyal H. Erwin
I/Lt Harold L. McNeil
WO Roy G. Azbill
WO Stephen G. Morgan

WO John R. Urban
Sgt Franklin D. Porter
Sp5 Leonard W. Lockard
PFC Alton Hornbuckle

PFC Theodore A. Winowitch



UNIT HISTORY

Since publication of the last pictorial memorial, the UTT, activated 15 July 1961 at Okinawa, has been deactivated and its men and equipment absorbed by the 68th Aviation Company. The 68th Aviation Company was originally activated on 14 April 1960 at Ford Ord, California, and was deactivated on 28 November 1962 at the same post. The 68th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) (Provisional), was subsequently assigned to the US Army Pacific and activated on 15 August 1964 by General Order 143, Headquarters US Army Pacific, dated 31 July 1964, with an authorized strength of 29 Officers, 26 Warrant Officers and 113 Enlisted men. The 68th was further assigned to the 145th Aviation Battalion, retaining the UTT mission of General Support in South Vietnam.

The addage, "Not a stitch was dropped", became an impressive fact as the Officers and Men of the "Old UTT" embraced this new name "68th" and were determined it would embody the same, if not an even higher, esprit de corps, and ability to get the job done, that the UTT had earned.

As the Playboys, Raiders, Dragons and Saber elements fell to the task under the guideon of the 68th, an impressive and at times an amusing fact became apparent. The UTT had indeed accomplished its pioneer, all armed helicopter, mission so well that to the ground advisors in the field any armed helicopter was referred to as "UTT". No manner of explanation seemed to avail as the members of the new 68th Aviation Company attempted to explain the name change. The name "UTT" for any armed helicopter, that roamed the skys, rice paddies and canals of Vietnam, stuck and is now a source of pride to those who remember the pioneer days of the old "Utility Tactical Transportation Company". The mottos, "The One Thing We Do Not Do Well Is Quit", and "We Lead The Way", have become indomitably embroidered into the fibre of the 68th Aviation Company and the 571st Transportation Detachment that supports her.

As the wet season of August passed into the dry season of December, the personnel of the 68th and the 571st fell to the task of continued superior support of the ARVN Troops. August and September saw many new faces appear as an increased stream of replacements began to flow from the states. On 12 August Lt Harold L. McNeil was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for having given his life at Ben Cat, the largest airmobile operation held to date. In mid September Lt Price was wounded by a .50 caliber machine gun in the vicinity of Ben Cat, however Capt Timmermyer successfully flew the ship back to Saigon Navy Hospital.

October saw the Dragon platoon at Nha Trang and Ban Me Thuot supporting special forces during a Montagnard insurrection. The Raiders, with the assistance of a certain reporter, precipitated

an argument with the Air Force over a VC .50 caliber fight which received front page previewing with the New York Times. The playboys began operations with the 48th Regiment at Tan Uyen, which was to grow into a deep mutual respect between the 68th and the 48th ARVN Regiment. Bien Hoa and Tan Uyen mortared; ALERTS—ALERTS—Alerts—Alerts—!!!

November saw the company engaged in the largest heliborne assault to that stage of the counter-insurgent effort in Vietnam. Captain "Ed" Riley and CWO "Doc" Holloway were shot down on this operation while reconning an LZ (landing zone). The aircraft and crew were evacuated successfully after a few moments of excitement. The Raiders left for a months support of I Corps at Danang, after a severe flood had crippled central Vietnam, leaving the Playboys and Dragons to cope with one typhoon warning after another in Saigon.

December saw the Dragons replace the Raiders at Danang and the Raiders returned to Saigon to join the Playboys in the Christmas Spirit of keeping the pressure on Ole Victor Charlie. Mid December ushered the name of Binh Gia into the after actions reports as becoming a "Hot Area". Just before Christmas the Playboys replaced the Dragons at Danang. On 29 December 1964 Lt. Paul D. Murray and WO Daniel Sullivan were shot down by enemy ground fire in heavy action in the Binh Gia area. Lt. Murray and his gunner Sp4 Casprowitz received injuries so serious that they had to be evacuated from Vietnam. On 30 December 1964 WO Roy G. Azbill, WO Steve G. Morgan, Sgt Franklin Porter and PFC Theodore Winowitch were killed in action when their helicopter was shot down by .50 caliber machinegun fire at Binh Gia and crashed in enemy territory.

January—Action in Binh Gia classed as heaviest of American participation in the counter-insurgent effort of Vietnam. Playboys return home—Raiders lose Capt Lyle Erwin and PFC Alton Hornbuckle (571st) to a wire strike while escorting a convoy of the 48th Regiment to Saigon.—Dragons Slicked.

February saw the Company getting used to the idea of no longer being all armed. Dragons attack the slick missions with the same vigor that has become traditional in the "UTT", 68th, 571st. "The One Thing We Do Not Do Well Is Quit".

9 February AM, Raider 21, Lt James L. Reed, shot down while escorting Dragons into an LZ near Binh Gia, WO John Urban, co-pilot, killed by same fires, Sp5 Robert L. Carroll wounded by Viet Cong fire after landing. Capt Jack O. Johnson wounded while marking VC positions for an Air Force strike. Lt Luther D. Young wounded when he entered the LZ in order to get suppressive fire on VC positions.

9 February PM. WO Mark King, WO Larry Kammerer, Sp5 Carroll Zanchi, Sp4 Bobby Hudler shot down while flying overhead cover for Red hat troops. Aircraft destroyed. crew recovered.

Captain Johnson, WO King, and Sp4 Hudler subsequently evacuated to the states as a result of wounds received this day.

Rumor persists of still another name change — 197th — Company wide contest for new patch design — Officers and men endowed with the same Esprit De Corps that has marked the UTT — 68th-571st — and now to keep the Spirit and drive and maintain the fight through another name change

"WE LEAD THE WAY" "THE ONE THING WE DO NOT DO WELL IS QUIT"

1 March 1965 — The 68th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) (Provisional) deactivated. 197th Aviation Company Activated. "The new patch", with the old UTT flying horse, a 68 branded on his foreleg, the UTT on his rump, and a 197 over the wings. All this leaves no doubt as to the reputation this fledgling 197th Aviation Company will carve.

"STOP PRESSES"

26 April — 197th Aviation Company becomes first Army Unit in Viet Nam to be awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation by the President of the United States for actions at Duc Hoa 1 to 3 April. The History of this unit runs deep and its actions run swift.



**COMMANDERS OF UTT
AND 68th AVIATION COMPANY**

Capt Calvin R. Bean
16 Dec 63 14 Feb 64

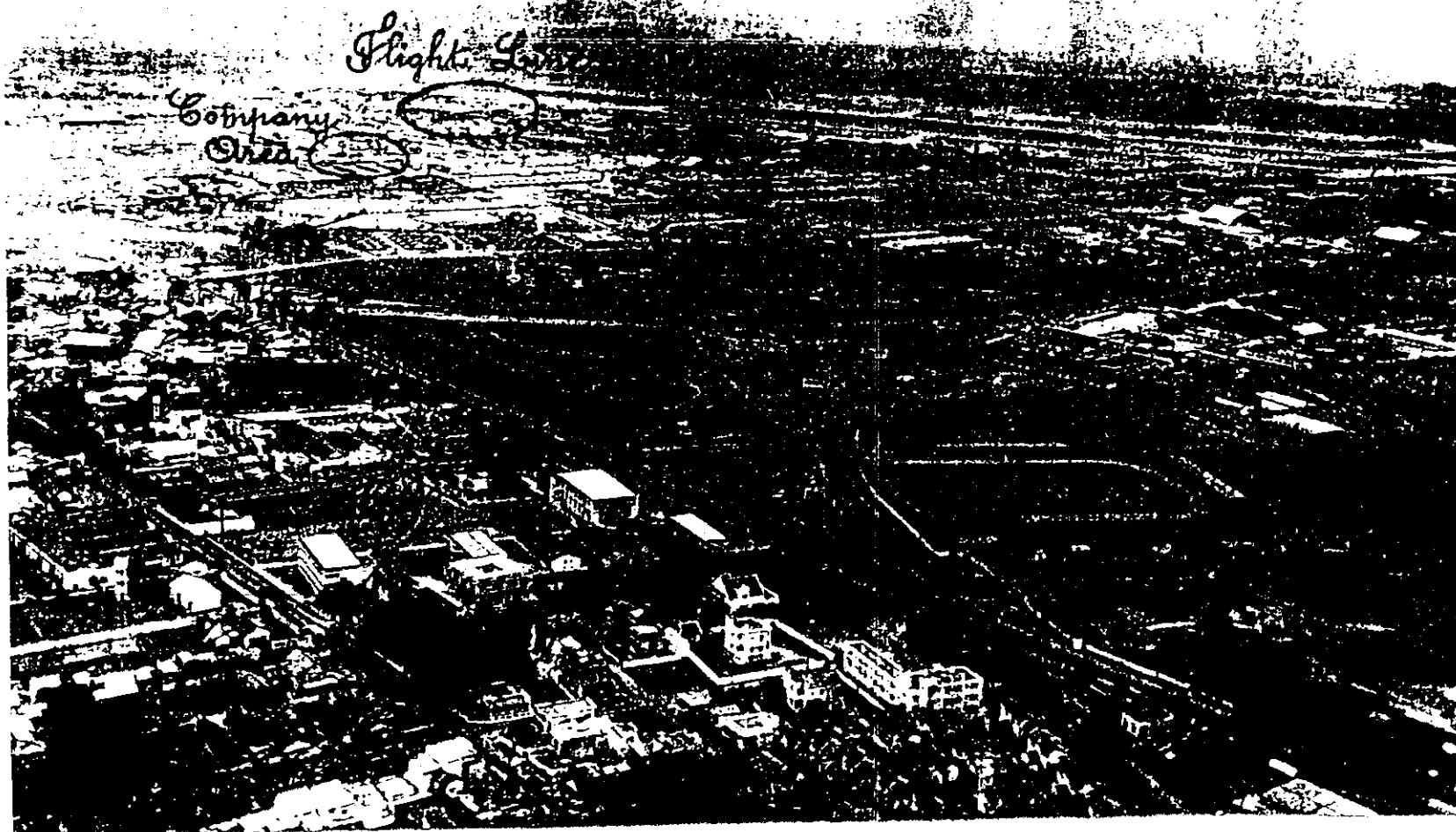
Maj Patrick N. Delavan
15 Feb 64 25 Jun 64

Maj Ralph D. Irvin
26 Jun 64 30 Oct 64

Capt Edwin C. Riley
31 Oct 64 22 Nov 64

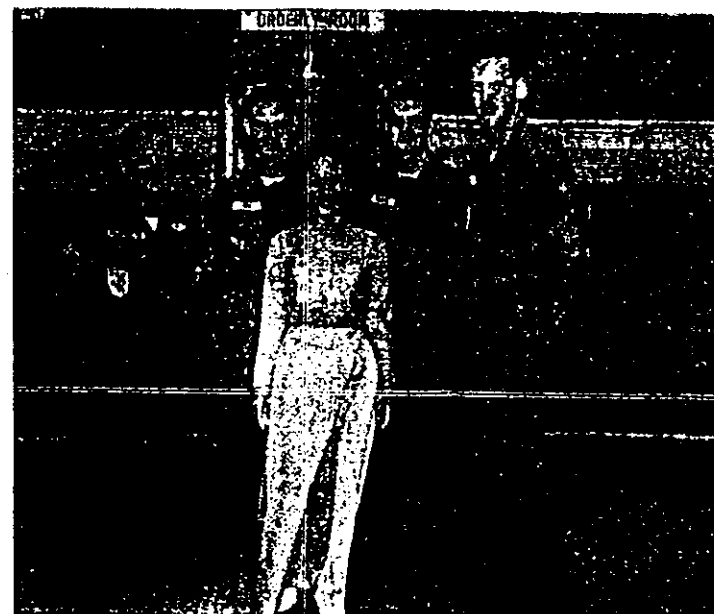
Maj Joseph N. Jagers Jr
23 Nov 64 Present

OUR
HOME
AWAY
FROM
HOME
T.S.N.





ALWAYS "MOT"



CO.

H.

Q.

T.

R.

S.



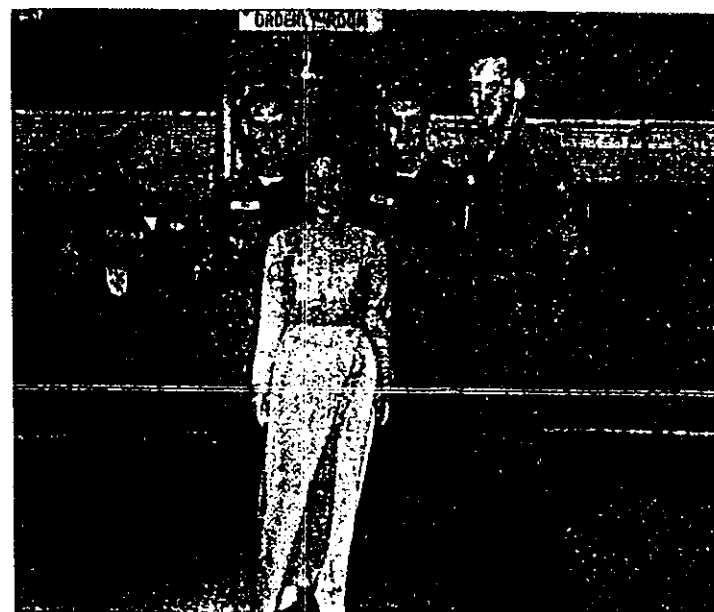
HAMBURGER "5"



HAMBURGER "6"
AND CREW



ALWAYS "MOT"



CO.

H.

Q.

T.

R.

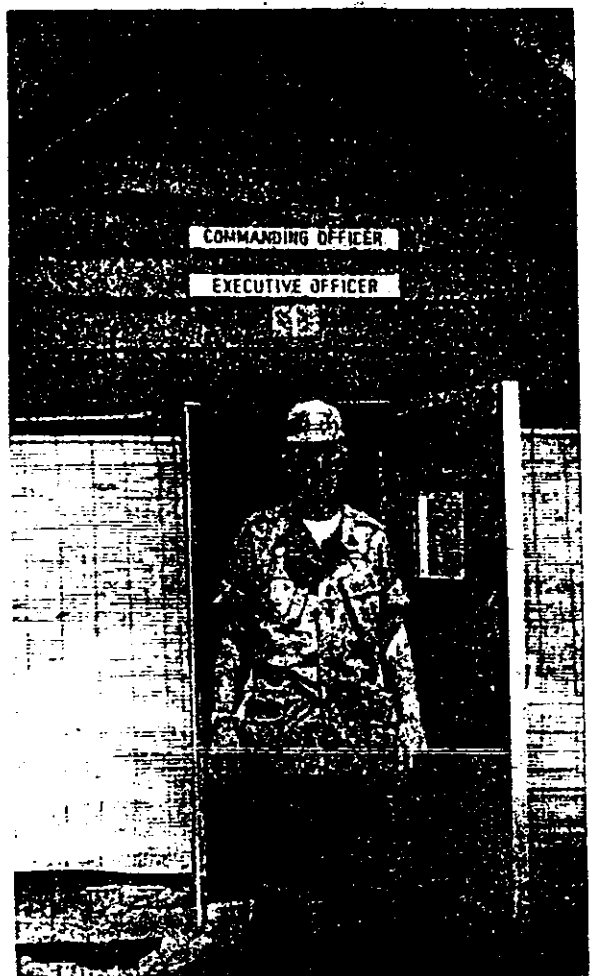
S.



HAMBURGER "5"



HAMBURGER "6"
AND CREW



X - O

O
P
S



JOBE AND FRIENDS

C
O
M
M
O



CHAPMAN WEST



PHILLIPS HITT MOORE

M
A
I
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T
A
I
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C
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RODRIGUEZ



MAINT SECTION



MOORE THE MAINTAINENCE MAN



"GENERAL HANDYMAN"



MEIER MAINT TECH.



"WHEELS"

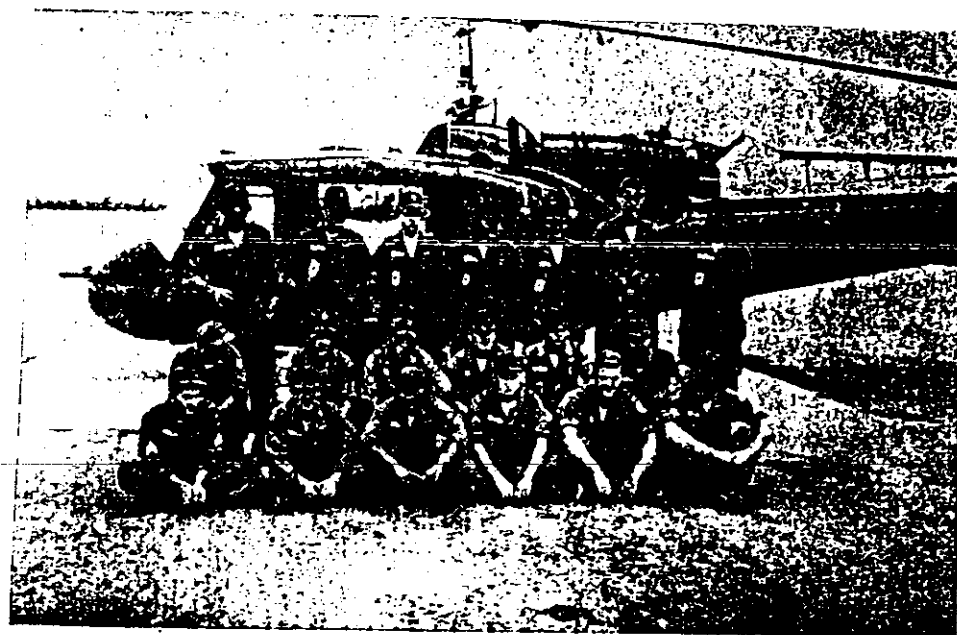


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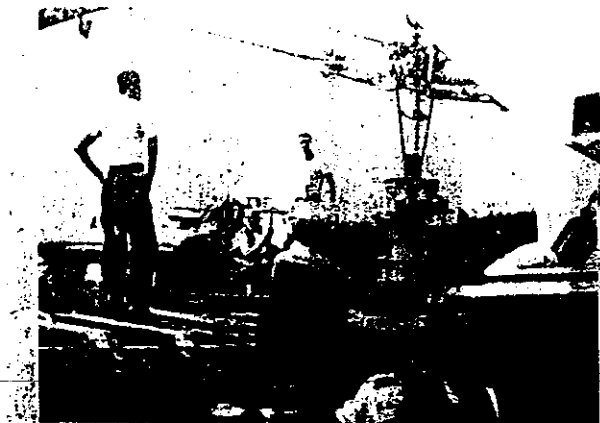
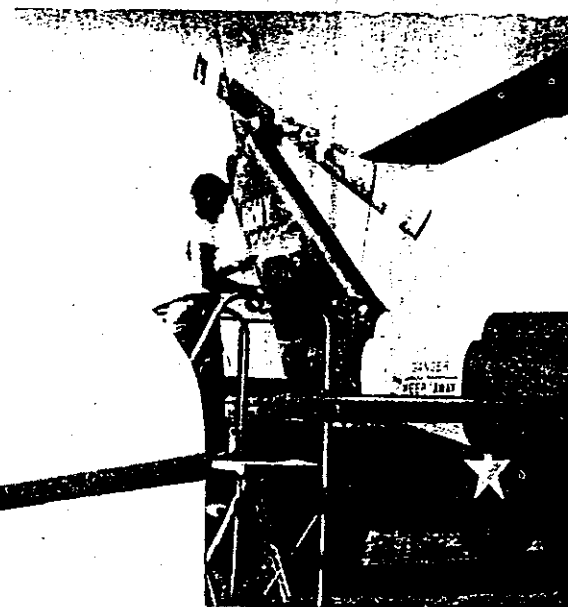
ON THE WAY UP THE LADDER



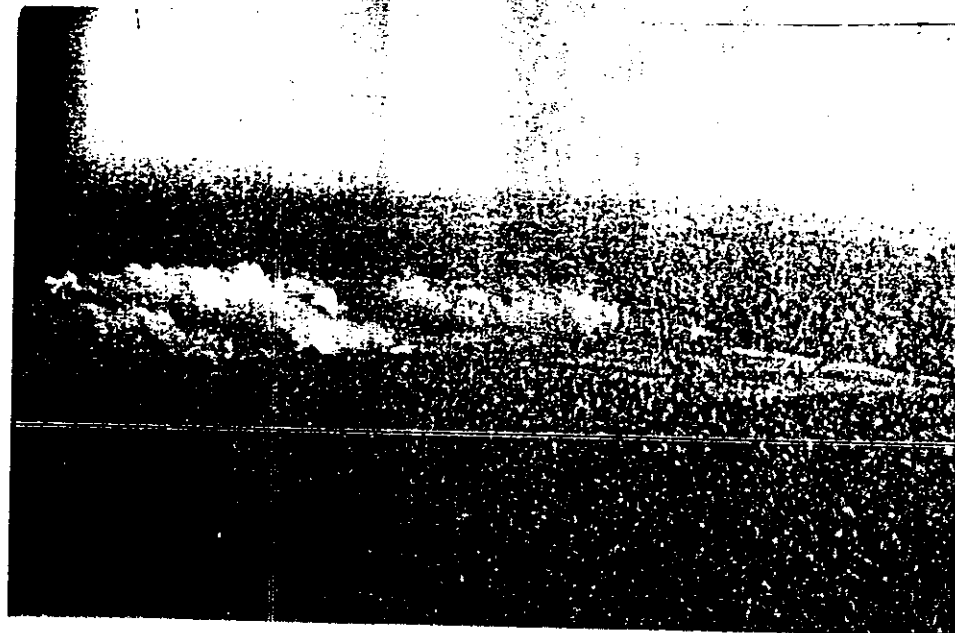
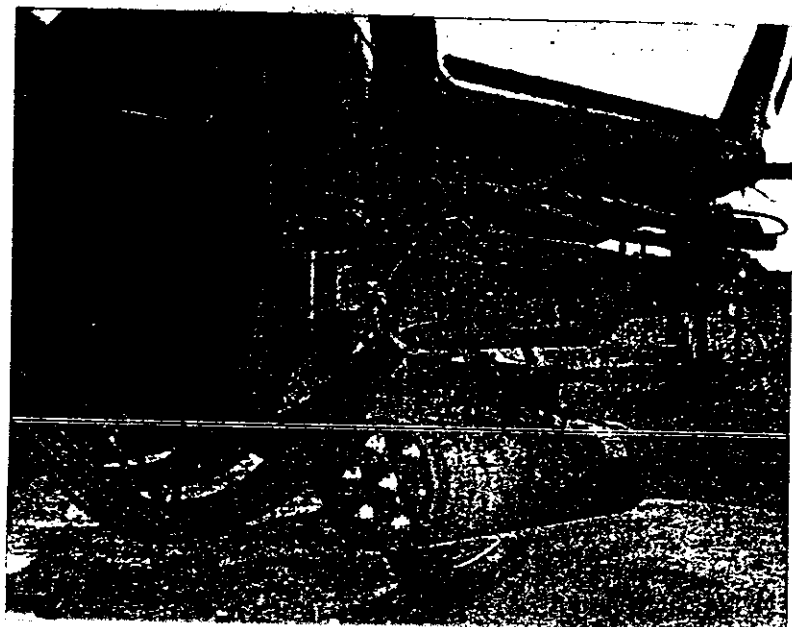




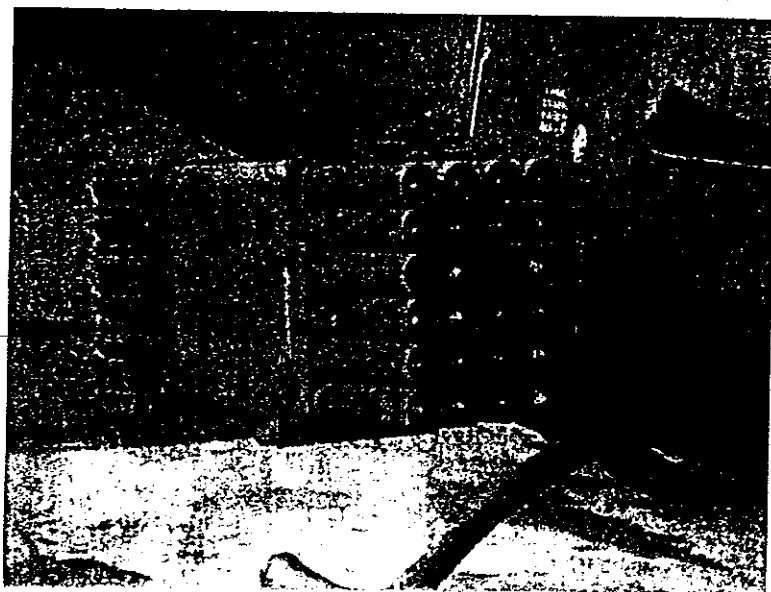
WE
KEEP THEM



UP



AND FIGHT





GOING TO WORK



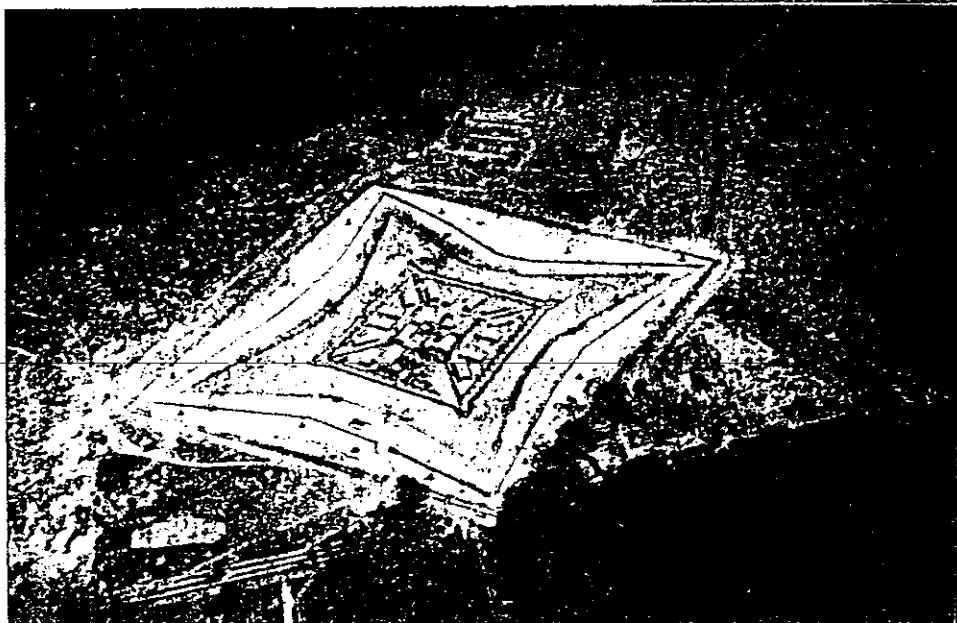
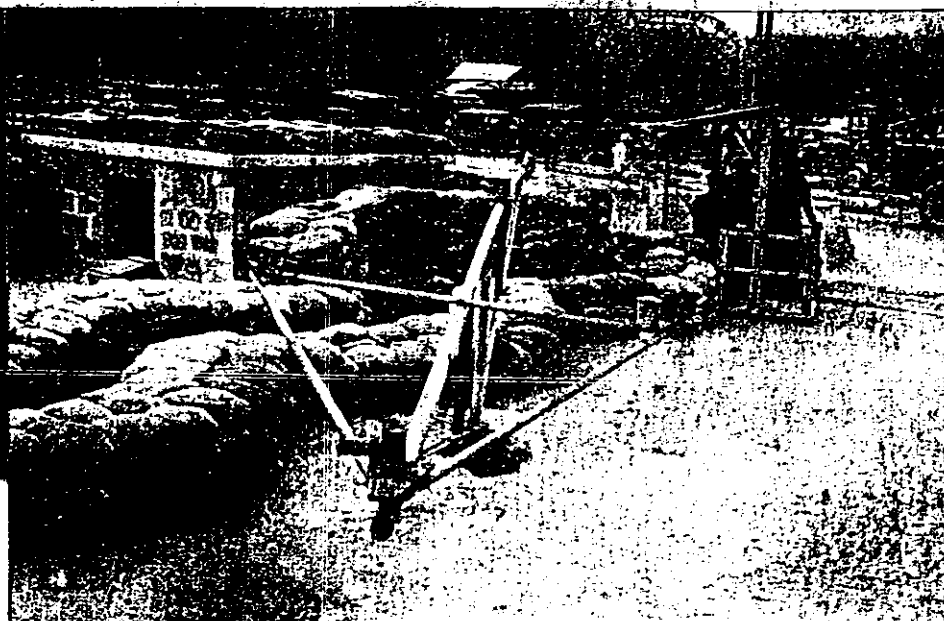
WORKING



ON THE WAY AGAIN

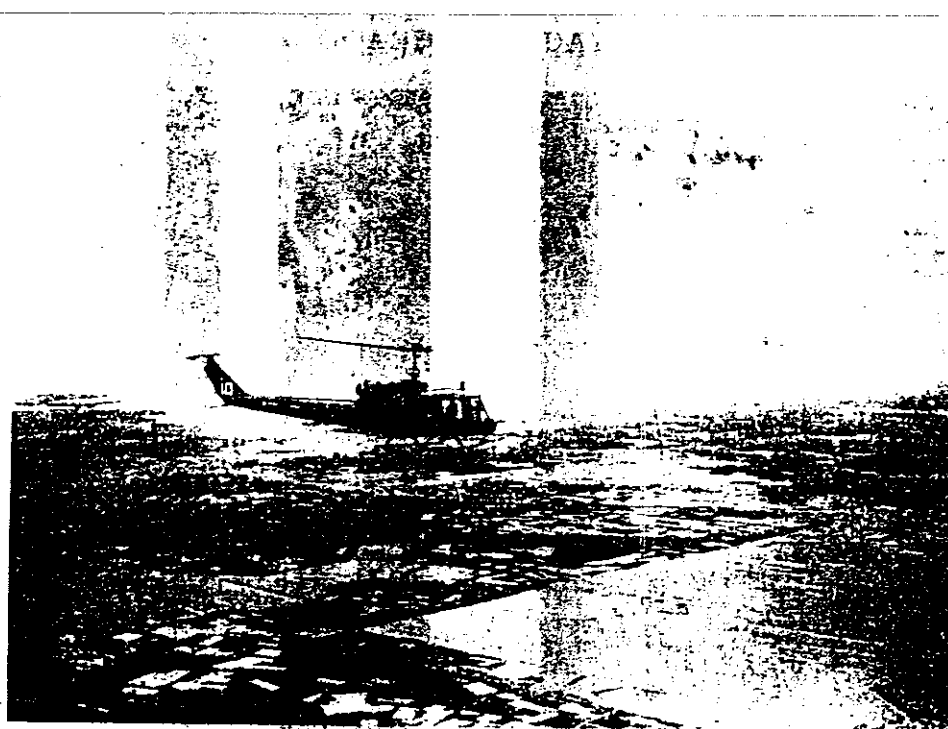


IN THE NIGHT

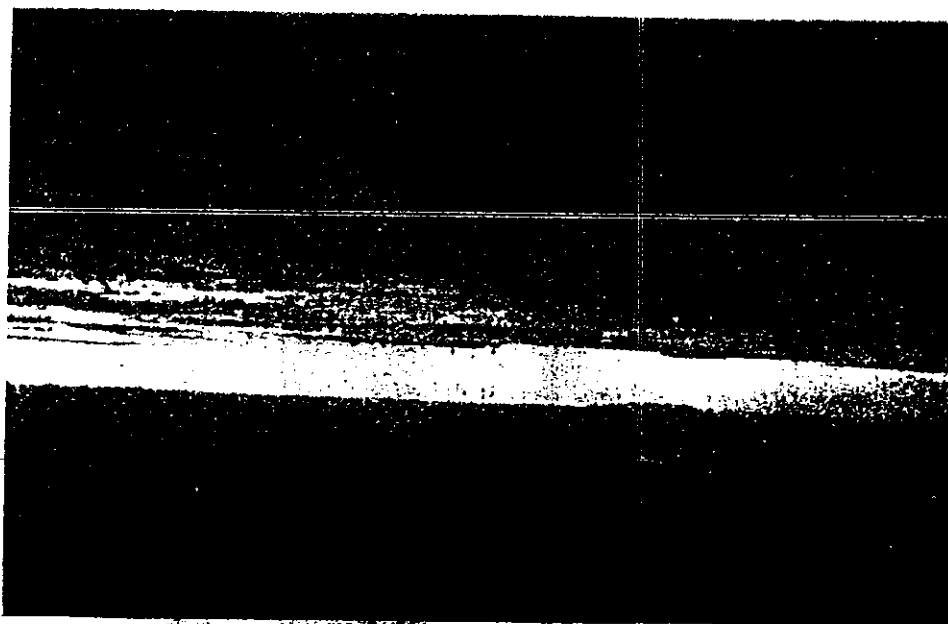


WE WERE THERE

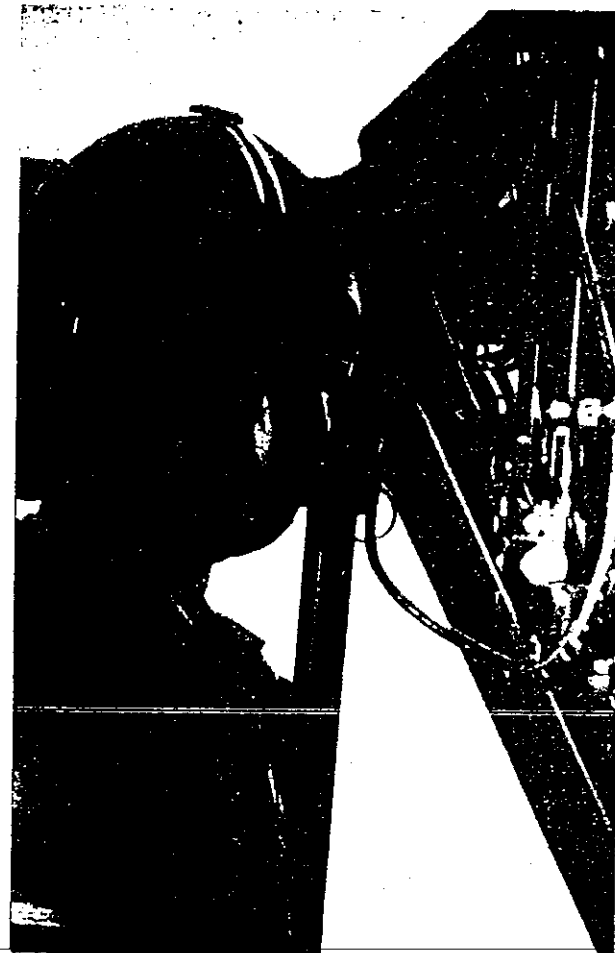




AND ALL DAY



AND INTO NIGHT AGAIN



WHAT ! ANOTHER FIREING PASS ?



ALWAYS

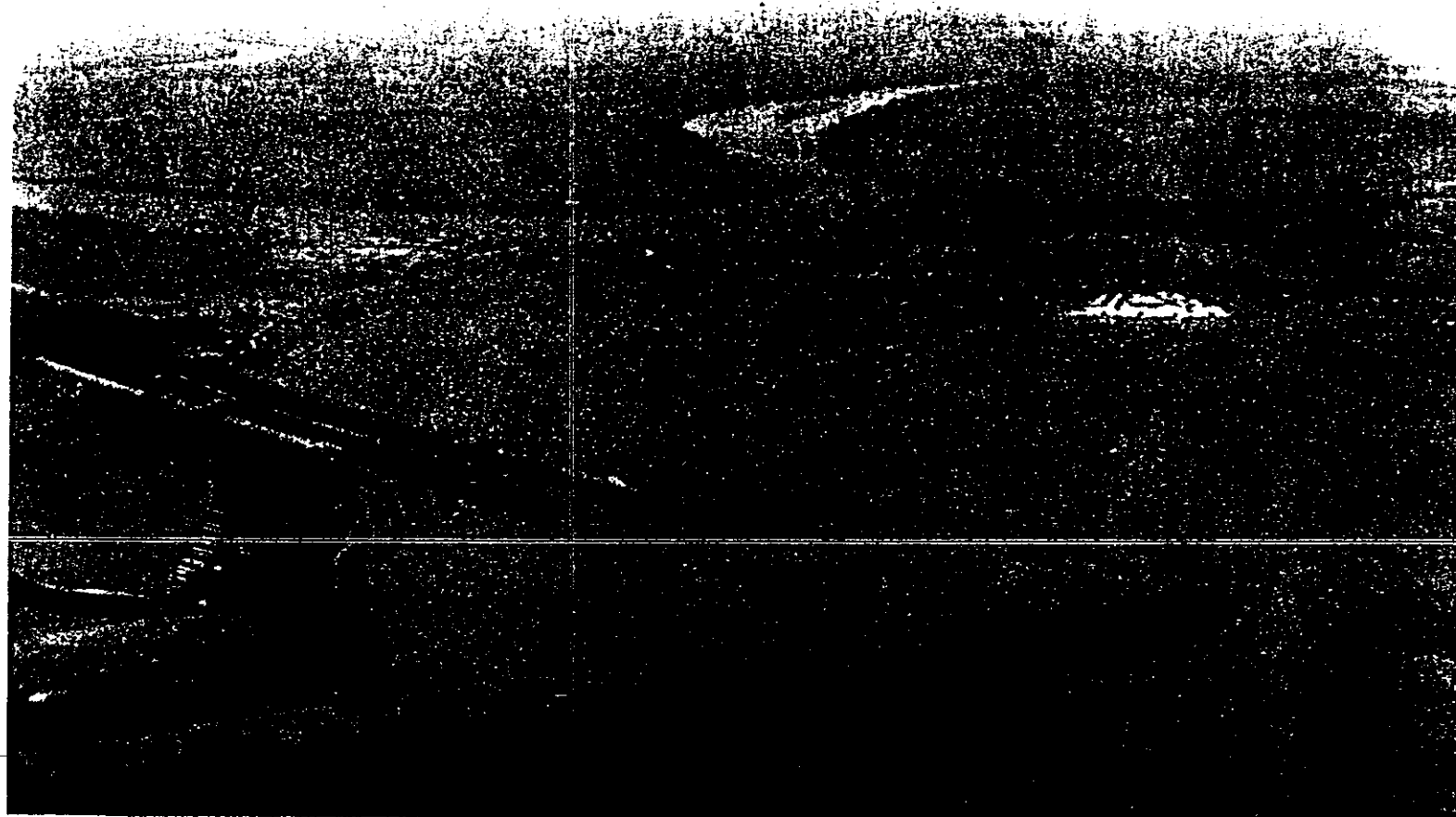
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NEAR



OUR TOOLS



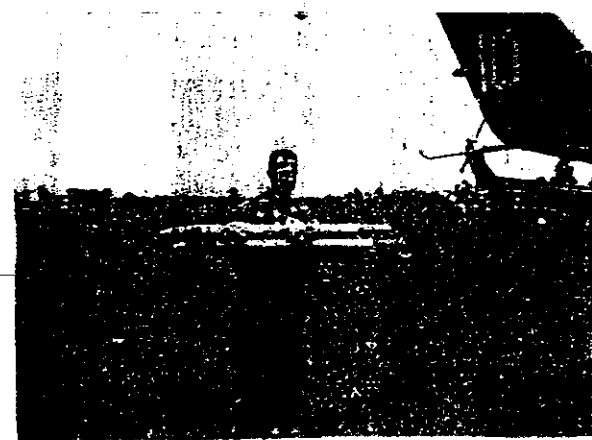
ROCKETS



ROCKETS

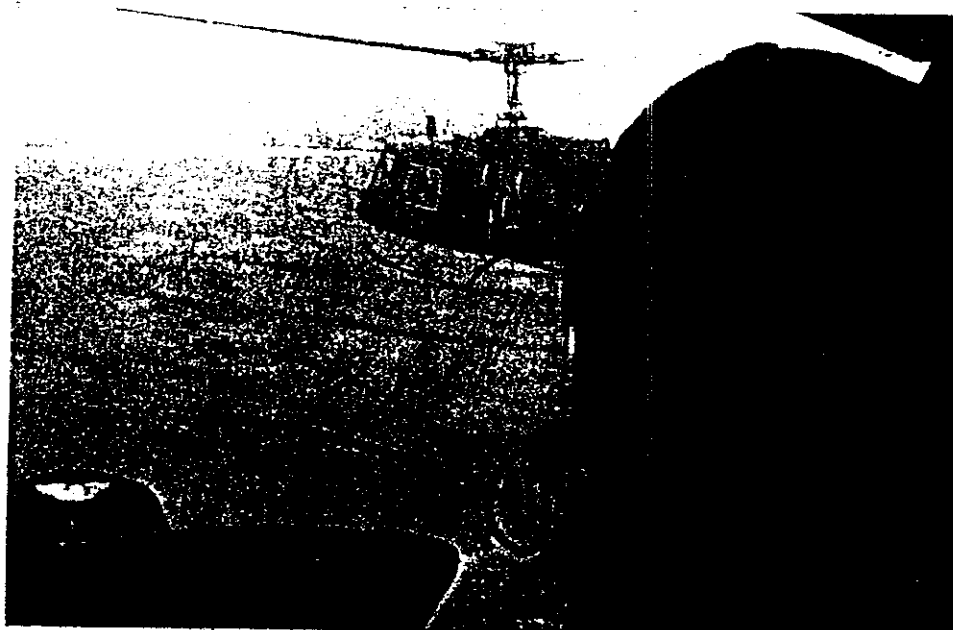


MORE ROCKETS

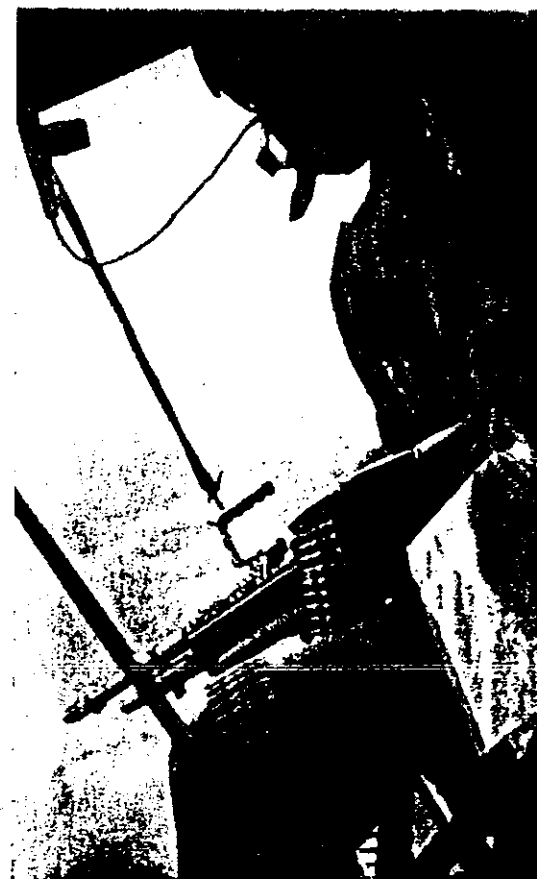
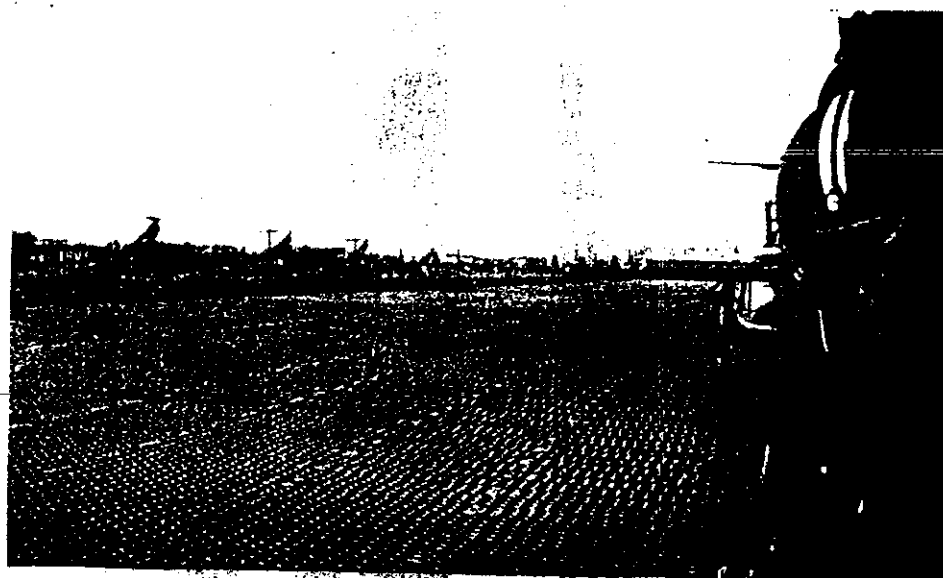


EVEN W.O.'s WITH ROCKETS

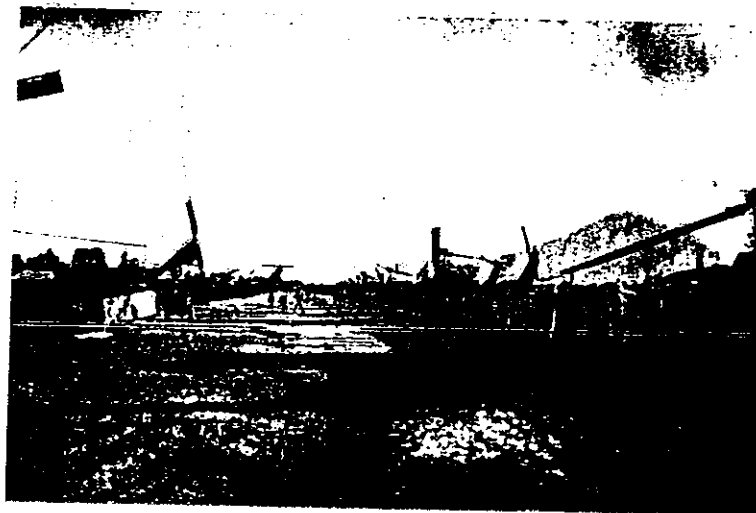
YOU GET ANY CLOSER AND I CAN INSPECT THE ROTOR



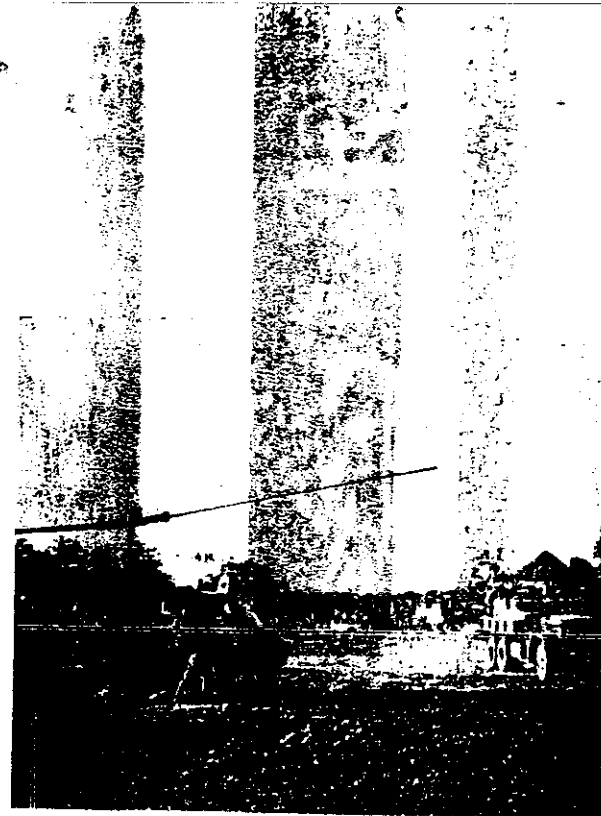
SIR THE "GRF" IS ABOUT TO START



HEY! SIR! I SEE SOME
GUYS RUNNING



RUSH!



RUSH!



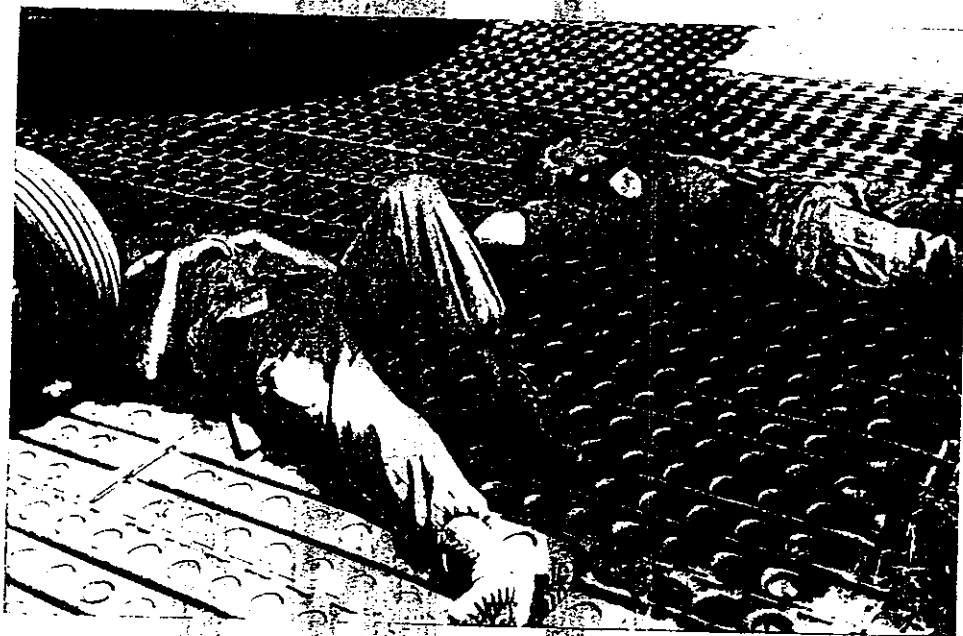
AND THEN WAIT



I THOUGHT I HIT THE ARM SWITCH

A
L
E
R
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C
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W



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T
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I
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K
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R



"P.O.C." TIME





OF COURSE I KNOW WHAT KIND OF WEAPON IT IS!
IT'S A — AH, WELL ITS V.C. ANY WAY



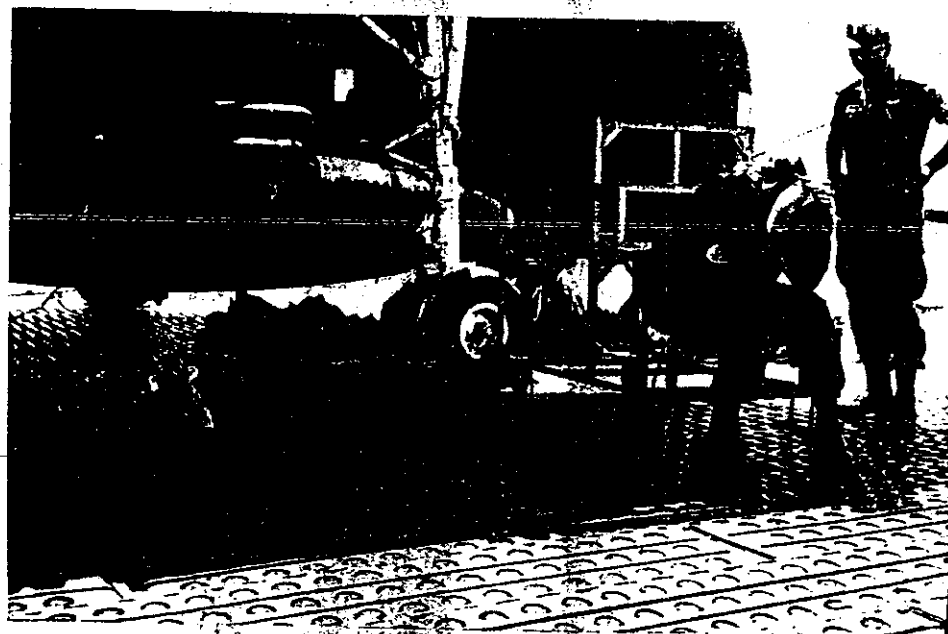
ELLY ALWAYS LENDS A HAND

THE LONG WAIT





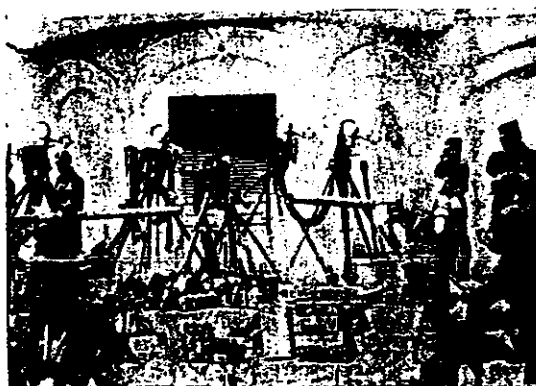
NEXT WEEK I GET TO DRIVE AN AIRPLANE



"AIR SICK ARVIN"



← DON'T WORRY CAPT JARRETT
YOUR HOG WILL BE FIXED SOON.
THEN YOU CAN BE A HERO TOO.



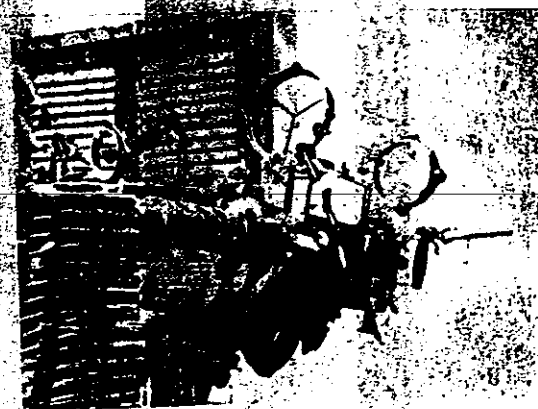
DOES THE L.Z.



R
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R



GOOD OLE GREEN TAPE

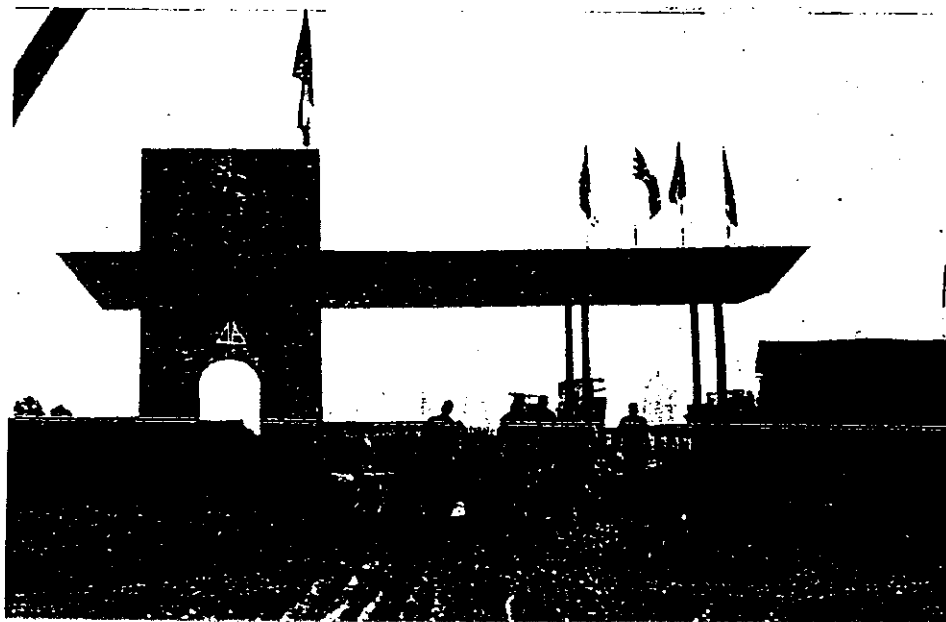


GET HOT ?



V. C.





FRIENDS



B
I
N
G

+

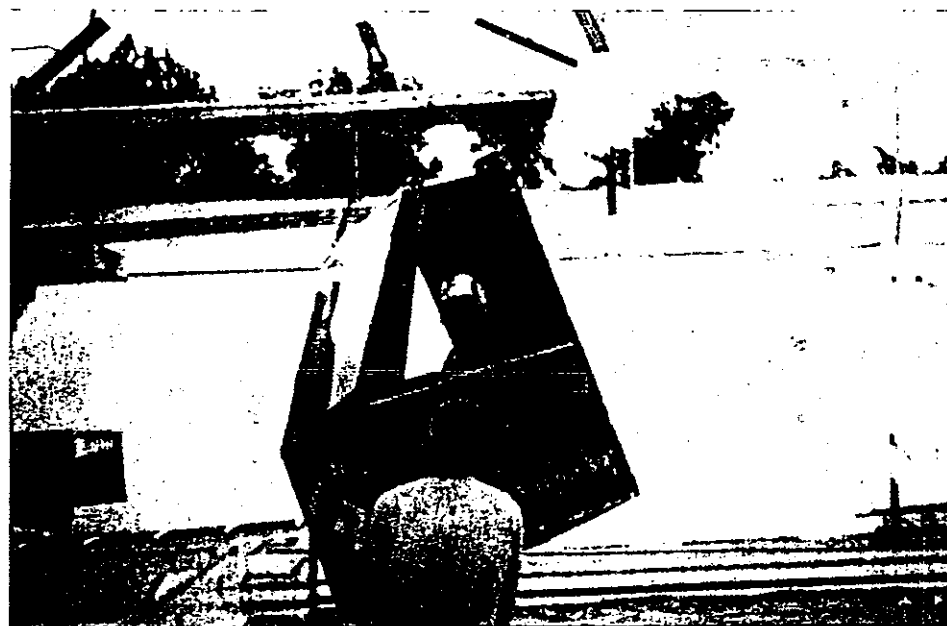


B
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D
D
Y

SCRAMBLE!!!



D
U
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K
E
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THE BIG PICTURE



FUN GAMES



HATTON, JONES and FRIEND — I HOPE

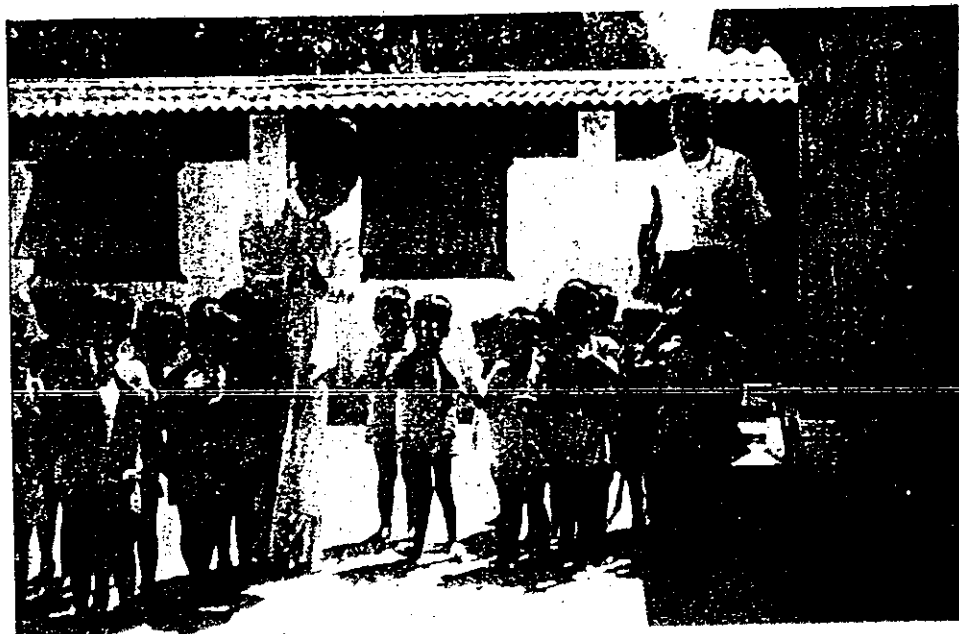


GRETNA DROPPED IT OVER THERE

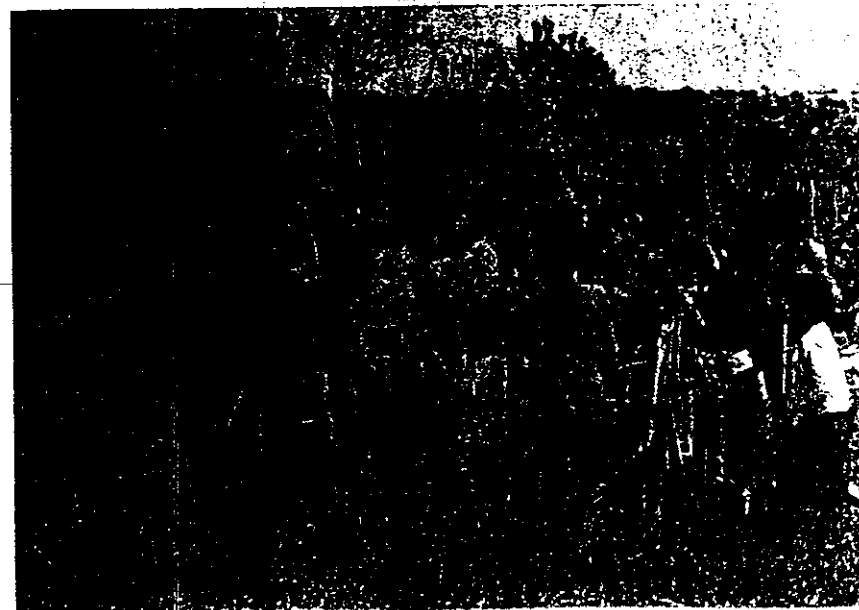
GEE YOU GUYS



HOW BOUT THAT



TIME OUT FOR THE KIDS







THE YACHT CLUB



VUNG TAU





OUR SGT RUDISALL