



11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

TRIDENT

"JUNGLE WARRIORS"

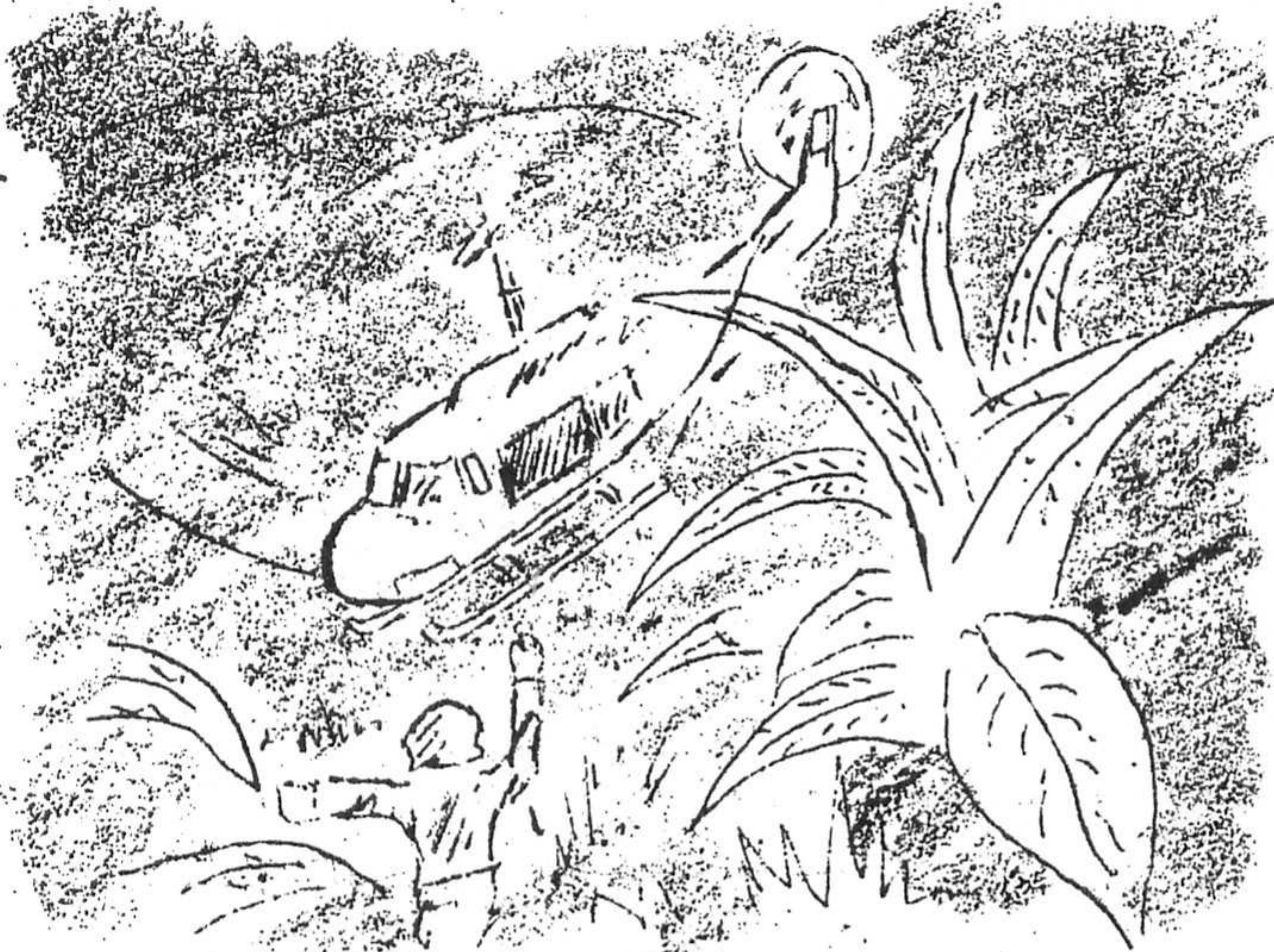


VOLUME 3 NUMBER 6

DUC PHO, VIETNAM

FEBRUARY 15, 1969

HEAVY ACTION NETS 147 KIA



The 11th Brigade "Jungle Warriors" encountered heavy action this week in Southern Quang Ngai Province with 147 kills, 56 detainees, and 35 weapons.

On February 3, soldiers from D Co., 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry commanded by Captain (CPT) Gerald D. O'Leary (St. Louis, Mo) wounded one VC and detained three more seven miles southeast of Duc Pho. "Shark" gunships of the 174th AHC supporting the "Sykes Regulars" soldiers killed four more evading VC. A Co. of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, commanded by 1st Lieutenant (1LT) Steven B. O'Keefe (Memphis, Tenn.) found a tunnel complex in which was hidden 2300 pounds of rice.

On the 4th of February, D Co., 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, led by CPT John S. Walker (Wakefield, RI) accounted for 9 KIAs and two VCS detained 12 miles southwest of Quang Ngai (WRAPUP cont on page 3)

174TH CHOPPER PILOTS PERFORM DARING RESCUE

In the heat of a bitter firefight, the importance of one man's life can stand out vividly, and his rescue become vital. First Lieutenant (1LT) Earl Ingram II (Columbus, Ga.), and Warrant Officer (WO) Richard C. Cichowski (Westfield, Mass.) Proved this one dark, foggy night.

1LT Ingram and WO Cichowski, UH-1 pilots with the 174th Assault Helicopter Company, were flying the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry Command and Control ship on routine missions off LZ Cork when word came that B Co. had been ambushed near a village south of there by an estimated 100 enemy soldiers.

"We flew Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Gregg Coverdale, the 3rd of the 1st commander, to the site of the contact so he could assess the situation and deploy his troops," 1LT Ingram commented. "We dropped him off at one of the companies on the edge of the village and went back up to guide the gunships and MEDEVAC aircraft coming in. Soon, we could (FLIGHT cont on page 5)

C 3/1 FINDS 62 WEAPONS WEST OF QUANG NGAI CITY

One of the most effective ways of defeating the enemy that we face in Vietnam is to locate and destroy his well hidden weapons caches. The 11th Brigade soldiers of the Americal Division have been extremely successful in uncovering these caches.

The men of C Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry, led by Captain (CPT) William J. Straub (Mt. Kisco, N.Y.) on a recent operation approximately eight miles west of Quang Ngai City, uncovered three enemy weapons caches and found a total of 62 weapons in a period of two days.

Private First Class (PFC) William D. O'Keefe (Denver City, Texas) was acting as point man on the first day when he noticed a pile of rocks that "just didn't look right." When he examined the stones more closely, he found that they were covering a can that (CACHE cont on page 3)

COMMAND INFORMATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second article in a series on GI Bill benefits. This week we will continue where we left off in our discussion of Flight Training.)

For flight training a recognized vocational goal is something such as a commercial pilot's license. You must first possess a valid private pilot's license or have completed satisfactorily the number of hours necessary for such a license, and, of course, you must meet the physical requirements. Assistance for flight training as part of an approved college degree program is also available.

HIGH SCHOOL TRAINING

If you, as a veteran, must finish high school in order to qualify for higher education, you are eligible to receive financial assistance for this training in addition to your regular entitlements (one month assistance for each month of active duty). This includes refresher courses to make up deficiencies in order to qualify for admission to an approved educational institution.

APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms for all GI Bill benefits are available here in Vietnam as well as at each VA office in the United States.

RESTRICTIONS

You may not receive the educational allowance if you are receiving financial assistance under provisions of another law, as this would constitute a duplication of funds from the Federal Treasury. If you have already received 12

months assistance under the Korean War GI Bill, for example, this would be counted against your entitlement under the present laws.

LOAN GUARANTY BENEFITS

The VA may guarantee loans for the purchase, construction, alteration, repair or improvement of homes; to purchase farms, farm supplies or equipment; or to construct, alter or improve farmhouses or other farm buildings.

Direct loans from the VA may be used only for the purchase of a home or farmhouse. Business loans are not authorized under the present laws. Veterans who may be eligible for business loans under provisions of an earlier law should consult the VA.

DURATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Each eligible veteran has a minimum of 10 years in which to apply for a VA loan or loan guaranty. An additional year is allowed for each three month period spent on active duty, up to a maximum of 20 years in which to apply.

WHAT IS A VA LOAN GUARANTY

A VA loan guaranty is a promise by the VA to pay a certain percentage of loans made to veterans should they default in repayment. This means that you have the government "vouching for" your credit, and the result is a better chance for you to obtain favorable interest rates with little or no down payment. The VA will guarantee a home loan for up to \$12,500 or 60% of the total amount, whichever is less. For farm real estate, the VA will guarantee \$4,000 or 50%; for non-real estate farm loans, \$2,000 or 40%. There are no limits imposed by the VA on how large a loan you may make from a private lender.

(Next week we will continue with GI Bill Part III.)

SEPARATION PAPERS TO ALSO INCLUDE INSURANCE PAMPHLET

A Veterans Administration (VA) pamphlet explaining insurance protection and the conversion privilege under the Serviceman's Group Life Insurance program soon will be included in the separation papers for military members.

Also, the Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge (DD Form 214) now will be used to establish eligibility for converting the serviceman's group policy.

Within 30 days of separation, the VA will send each individual covered by SGLI additional insurance information together with a list of all participating insurance companies.

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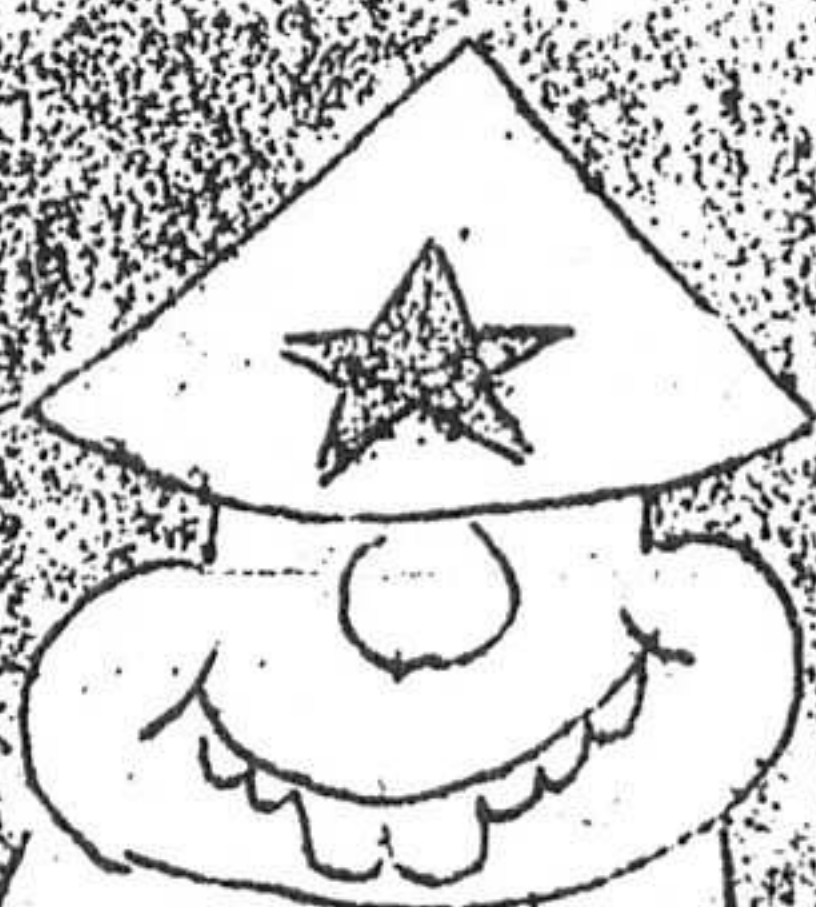
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CAPT. MAX. BY SPE^{ER} LOU FEDD

CA CHUWA MINH HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO CALL IT QUITS... UNTIL AFTER TET, THAT IS.



IT HAS BEEN BEACCOUP LONG TIME, SINCE I BEEN TO HANOI FOR VISIT.

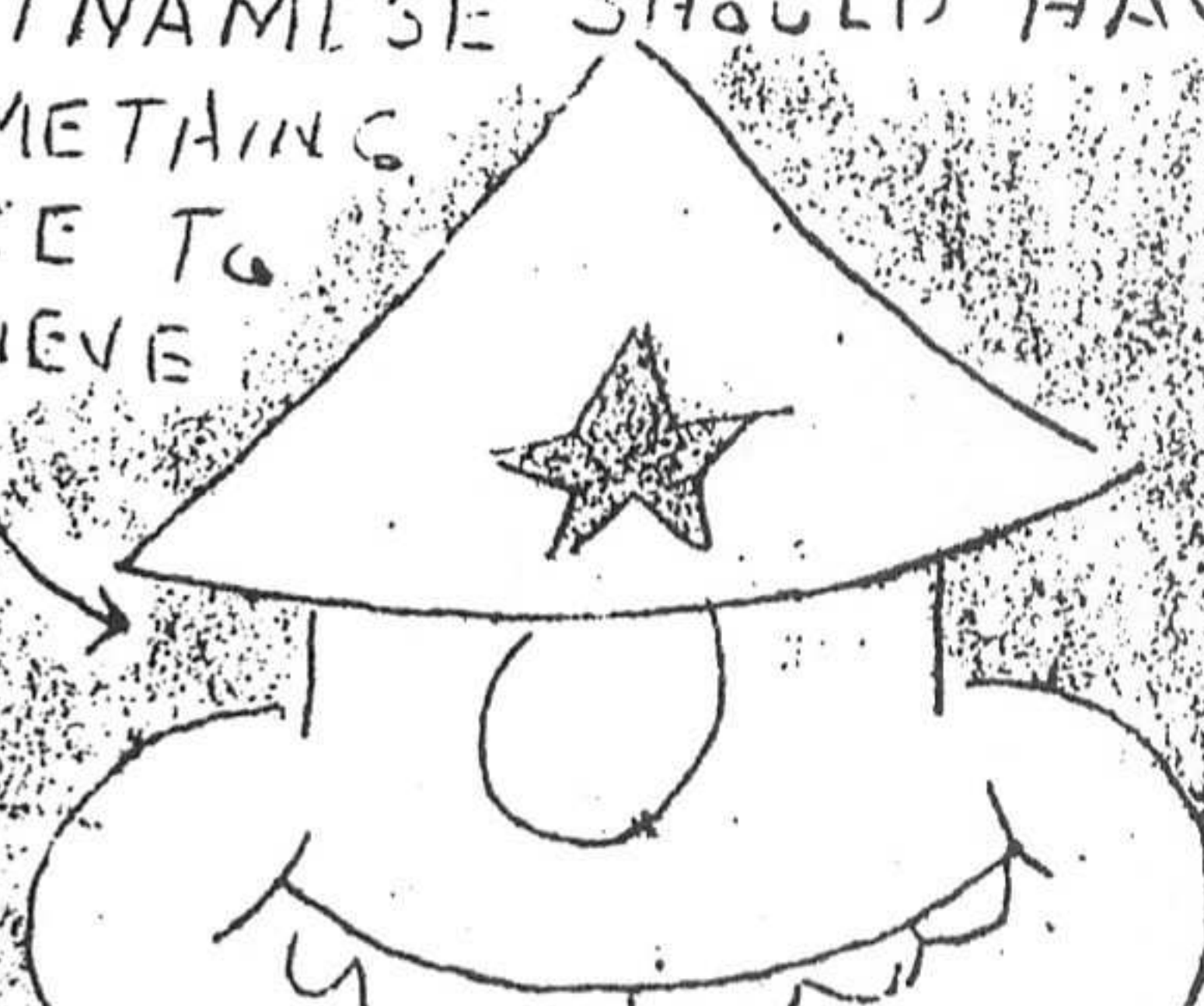
AS HE CASUALLY WALKS INTO THE STREETS OF HANOI, CA CHUWA IS IMPRESSED BY ITS BEAUTY.



HEY! DINK DO YOU BELIEVE IN SANTA SON, HUH!



YES I CERTAINLY DO, US VIETNAMESE SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING NICE TO BELIEVE IN.



HO CHI MINH IS OUR SANTA SON, BIC? HE IS SOMETHING NICE.

YOU MUST BE FROM THE SOUTH. DUMB PADDY DINK.



TRY IT AGAIN NEXT WEEK

PFC O'KEEFFE CRAWLS TRAIL LEADING TO WEAPONS CACHE

(CACHE cont from page 1)

was filled with new blasting caps and firing devices.

PFC O'Keeffe began searching around the area and found a well camouflaged trail that was cut through thick brush. The soldier began to crawl along the trail on his hands and knees because the overhanging brush made it impossible for him to stand up.

As he slowly moved down the trail, PFC O'Keeffe found seven or eight places where the trail branched off. Following one of these branches, he came upon a group of massive rocks.

Rain had washed away large quantities of dirt from under the rocks, leaving large depressions which had provided the enemy with well concealed places to store his weapons and ammunition. PFC O'Keeffe had uncovered a large weapons cache which included two 30 caliber machine guns. Many sleeping positions were found in the area and it was obvious that the enemy had been

(CACHE cont on page 4)

(WRAPUP cont from page 1)
City.

On February 5, D Company, 3/1, killed two evading VC seven miles west of Quang Ngai. The recon element of 3/1 led by 1LT Paul H. Yamada (Chicago, Ill.), found two bunkers and two hootches 13 miles west of Quang Ngai and killed two VC in the area. The recon platoon of 4/21, led by 1LT Robert McEldowney (Hilo, Hawaii), killed four VC five miles west of Quang Ngai.

On the 6th of February A Company, 4/21, in an area nine miles northwest of Quang Ngai found 2,800 lbs. of rice. "Shark" "WRAPUP cont on page 5)

VN CELEBRATES TET FEB. 17-20 PRIMO PROVIDES ANSWER TO CHAPLAIN'S PRAYERS

This time of the year in Vietnam, one topic is included in almost everyone's conversation. That topic is Tet--the Vietnamese New Year Celebration.

Tet is the most important holiday in the Vietnamese year. It marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year and Spring Season. Everyone desires to be home for Tet, to have his debts paid, to honor his ancestors, and to participate in every phase of the celebration.

Officially set for a period of three days the festival customarily goes on longer if the individual can afford it. Family members exchange gifts on the eve of Tet, but friends give their presents on the first day as is customary.

LRRP'S UNWELCOME GUESTS IN NVA BASE CAMP AREA

Three NVA soldiers were recently welcomed by an Americal Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) team which discovered their jungle hideout near the Song Ve River, seven miles west of Duc Pho.

The incident took place when the LRRP team, working with the 11th Infantry Brigade, discovered a newly constructed hootch containing K44 rounds, fresh laundry, and an enemy jacket. Since there was only evidence of two or three men living there, SGT Dick T. Roth (Billings, Montana), the team leader, decided to wait for the occupants to return. He set up his men in nearby positions to watch the hootch while he waited inside.

It wasn't long before voices were heard moving toward the waiting Americal soldiers. Three NVA, obviously unaware of the forthcoming reception, walked casually toward the doorway. Suddenly one of them began to shout and point at the hootch, but it was already too late for the trio to turn back. SGT Roth jumped into their pathway and started firing his Gar-15 on automatic, dropping all three before they could return fire. When he started to insert a full magazine, however, K44 rounds began cracking over his head. Two of the NVA were still alive, trying desperately to escape, despite serious wounds. They escaped temporarily, but the next day the Recon element of 4/21 found two NVA bodies as they swept the area.

The Bronco Chapel is showing a bright new coat of paint, thanks to the efforts of SP4 John Roach, SP4 Clifton Gibbon, and SP5 Thomas Cote, all from the 11th Brigade's Primo Aviation Ltd.

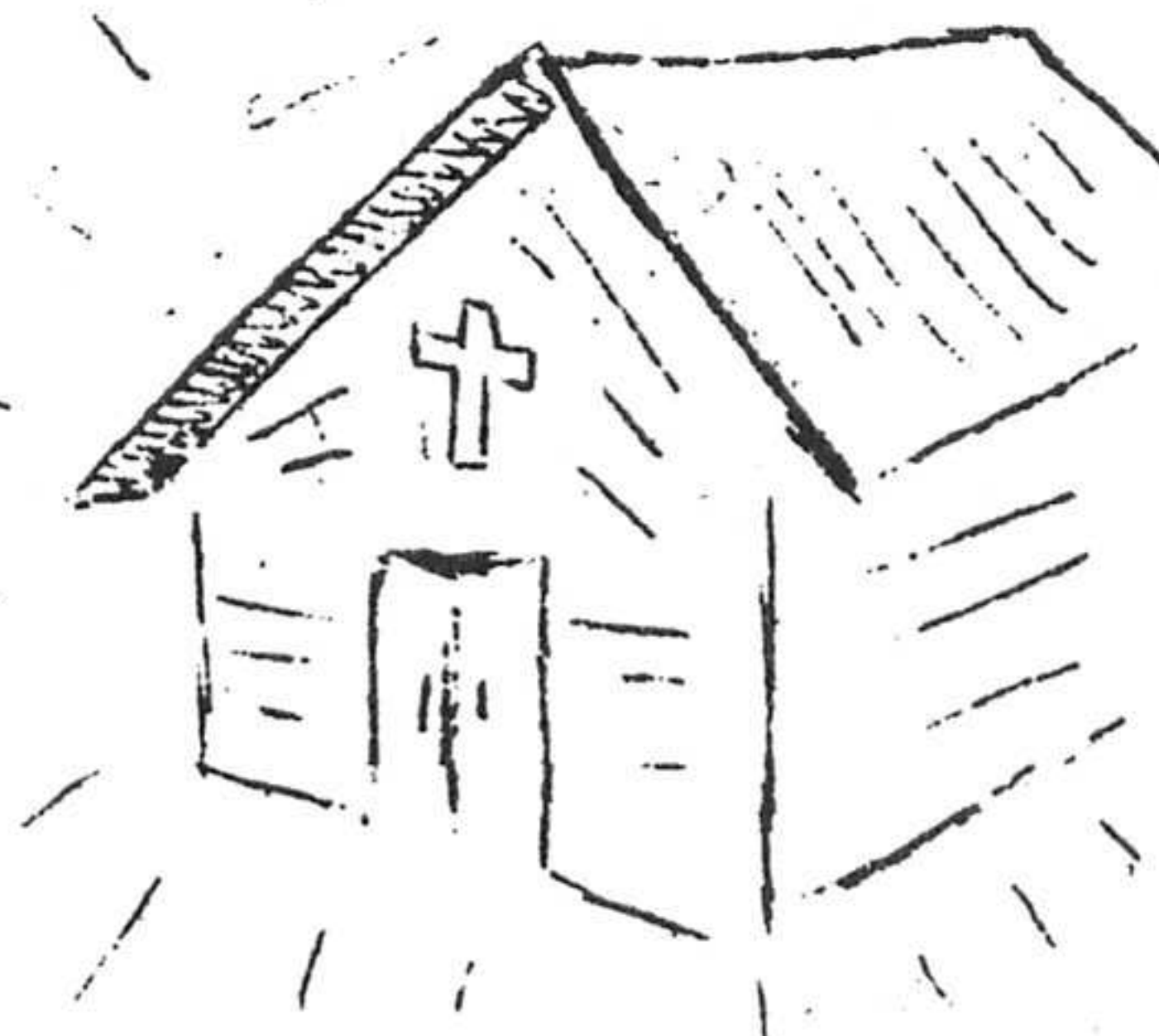
The job was started on February 11 and was completed in less than a day.

The project was initiated by SP4 Roach who noticed that the chapel looked "a little drab."

"I was at Mass one Sunday and mentioned to Chaplain Dombrowski that I thought it could use a coat of paint," remarked SP4 Roach. "He agreed and as soon as we rounded up the equipment we needed we began the job."

Primo Aviation Ltd. supplied the paint and a Vietnamese worker to help the painters.

"I had been thinking the chapel needed to be painted," remarked Chaplain (CPT) Robert J. Dombrowski, the 11th Brigade Chaplain. "It was like an answer to my prayers."



(CACHE cont from page 3) there recently.

While the "Always First" soldiers were removing the weapons from the cache and destroying the explosives, PFC Dean S. Purcey (Grand Rapids, Mich.), followed another trail and noticed an American made poncho lying over some rocks. When he removed the poncho, he found that it had been covering a crevice that contained another cache.

The two caches contained 30 weapons.

The next day PFC McArthur Webb (Chatham, Va.) discovered another cache.



G.I.'S LIFE SAVED

PILOT BRAVES ENEMY FIRE, BAD WEATHER

(FLIGHT cont from page 1)
see from the air that three companies had formed a half-moon around the village and were pouring heavy fire into it.

When the MEDEVACs arrived, they radioed 1LT Ingram for landing instructions but the pick-up zone hadn't been established at that time due to intense enemy fire in the area. As soon as word reached 1LT Ingram and WO Cichowski that the PZ had been set up, they directed the 11th Brigade Command and Control craft in to evacuate five wounded soldiers.

about 4:30 in the afternoon, one of the companies pushed into the village and called for a "hust-off" to pick up a seriously wounded man. As the MEDEVAC was about to land at the PZ, intense enemy fire opened up on it and caused it to crash.

the next MEDEVAC was also hit and forced to

withdraw.

"I was really nervous about going down because our soldiers were all over the area and we couldn't use our machine guns."

"We were flying in some of the most miserable weather I've seen over here," WO Cichowski said. We received a call from one of the units who had a man who wouldn't last the night unless he was evacuated. So that was all there was to it—we had to go down and get him."

As 1LT Ingram and WO Cichowski circled the now

burning village, they tried to spot the landing signals put for then, but the scattered fires complicated the mission.

Their troubles had just begun, however, for the pilots still had to execute a perfect landing in the midst of heavy foliage on an inky night, besides evading enemy fire from within the village. They decided that the best approach to the landing zone would be to skim the tree tops, dipping down to pick up the wounded man at (CACHE cont on page 6)

18 ENEMY FOUND DEAD FEB. 17

(WRAPUP cont from page 4)

gunships supporting 1/20 on a combat assault 11 miles south of Quang Ngai City killed six members of a VC carrying party. D Company, 3/1, operating 12 miles west of Quang Ngai, discovered an enemy base camp of six huts and killed one VC.

On February 7, 18 enemy bodies were found 11 miles northwest of Quang Ngai. They had been killed by 6/11 artillery. D Company, 3/1, killed one VC 11 miles west of Quang Ngai and captured a K44 and an M-16.

On February 8, "Aero Scouts" of the 123rd Aviation Battalion detained two VCS eight miles northwest of Quang Ngai. D Company, 1/20, captured nine VC 12 miles south of Duc Pho.

On February 9, the recon element of 1/20 called in artillery on a VC carrying party and killed 12 enemy.

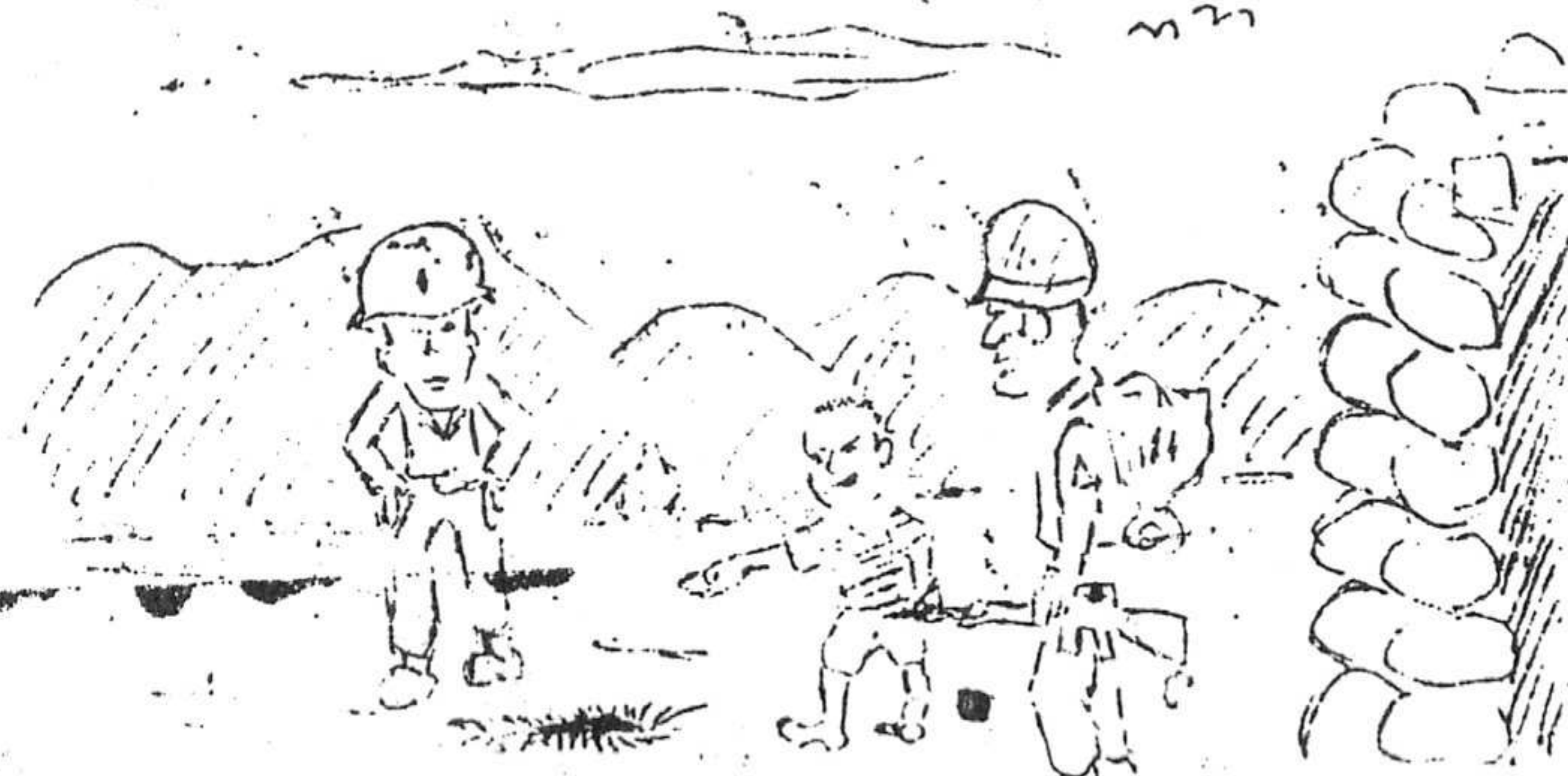
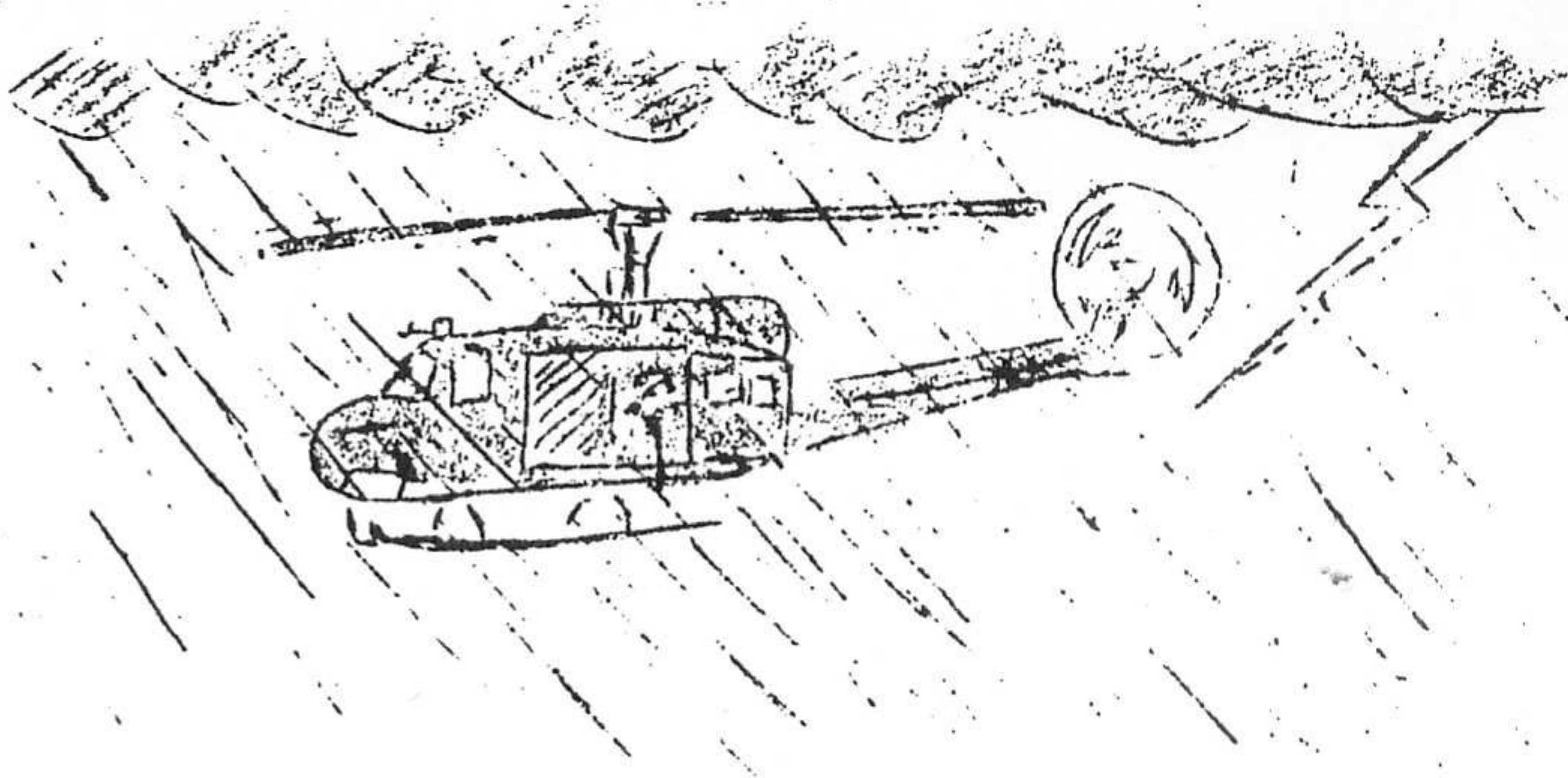
VIET CHILDREN G.I.'S FRIEND

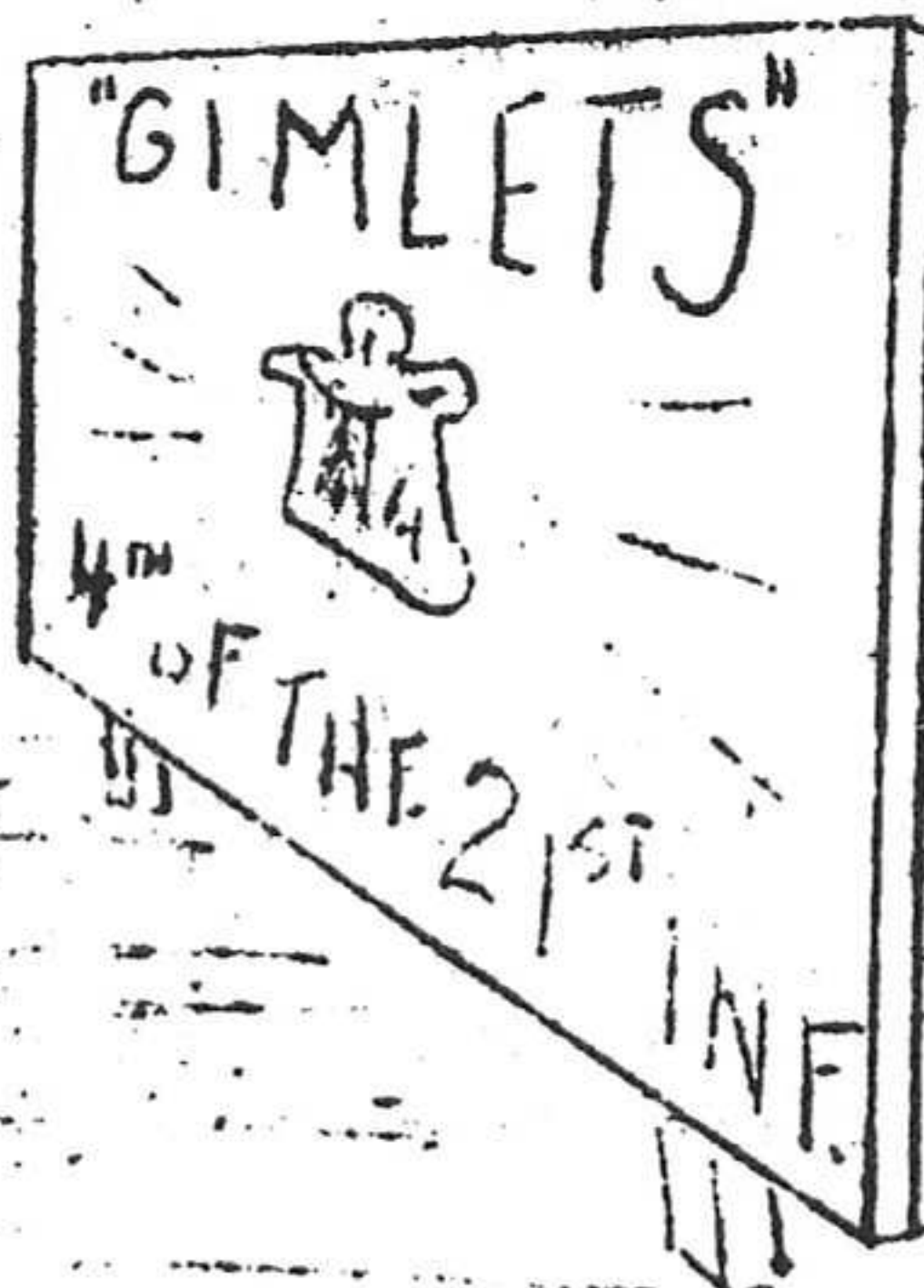
The Vietnamese child is often the soldier's best friend. This was recently proven as a squad of Americal Division soldiers from the 11th Brigade arrived at a bridge which they were to guard for the night.

The squad from the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry's B Company, led by Sergeant (SGT) Patrick F. Herringa (Cadillac, Michigan), received information from the squad that they were relieving that there might be booby traps in the foxholes.

"The kids around the bridge said, 'When GI di di foxhole, GI go boom,' explained SGT Herringa.

The squad moved cautiously toward the holes. They threw some grenades and discovered that there were booby traps since the soldiers encountered secondary explosions.





4/21 FAMILY AFFAIR FOR CAPTAIN WYLAND HOPKINS

For Captain (CPT) Wyland Hopkins (Grand Junction, Colo.) being a "Gimlet" of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry is a family affair. CPT Hopkins is the third member of his family to serve with the 4th of the 21st.

Wayne F. Hopkins, his father, is a retired First Sergeant who served with the 4th of the 21st from 1942 until 1945 as an infantryman and a recon Sergeant. He saw action in the invasion of Leyte, Mindanao, and Luzon.

The 4th of the 21st was then part of the 6th Infantry Division.

The second member of the Hopkins family to serve with the 4th of the 21st was CPT Hopkins' brother, Sergeant (SGT) Melvin A. Hopkins. SGT Hopkins joined the battalion shortly after it was activated in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. After undergoing intensive jungle warfare training, SGT Hopkins deployed to Vietnam with D-4/21. He served as an infantryman until he went home on emergency leave.

CPT Hopkins joined the 4th of the 21st in November. He is presently battalion S-1.

The three "Gimlets" were all assigned to the battalion by chance.

NEW BARBER SHOP NOW OPERATING

11th Brigade soldiers are now able to enjoy all the comforts of a hometown barber shop. Thursday, Feb. 13, 1969, marked the grand opening of a new shop located in the heart of LZ Bronco, next to the Brigade Library.

It was constructed by Co., 26th Engineers, under the direction of MAJ George R. Perkins (El Paso Texas), and contains a photo and artist shop. The shop is equipped with new fluorescent lights, running water, and cabinets. In March, air conditioning will be put in.

(RESCUE Cont from page 5) the last moment, and clear the area before the enemy could deliver effective fire against them. "It was really tricky," 1LT Ingram noted, "especially since we were blacked out with no landing lights on a zero illumination night. As low as we were coming in, I was sure that our rotor blades were going to hit a tree."

WO Cichowski made a perfect landing on the pick-up spot, but no sooner than they touched down, a sniper opened up on them from 20 meters away. Bullets crashed into the rotor blades, engine, and one hit the armor plate on 1LT Ingram's cockpit seat, but they evacuated the man safely.

WO Cichowski had much to say about his pilot. "1LT Ingram organized and directed 4 'Sharks,' two MEDEVACS, a recovery ship, and the 11th Bde. CC. He did a very commendable job that day."

"We would have never made it through the day," WO Cichowski commented, "if 1LT Ingram had not been directing us."

VIETS FETE CPT. NIMS(MD)

Good medical attention is one of the most desperate needs of the Vietnamese people, and CPT Thomas A. Nims MD (Troy, Ohio) has done much to lessen this need.

Dr. Nims is the administrator of the Duc Pho Hospital Program, the largest such program in the 11th Brigade, and has made many friends among the Vietnamese people through his work and genuine concern for them.

He was honored recently at a dinner, and Vietnamese food and American beer was abundant as the people expressed their appreciation to him.

TRY A NEW FIELD

SEE YOUR

CAREER COUNSELOR

MSG WILLIAM CHARLIC

11TH INF. BDE.

STAY ARMY