



187TH AIRBORNE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

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RAKKA SAN!

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187TH AIRBORNE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 1942-1956

LINEAGE

Constituted 12 November 1942 as the 187th Glider Infantry
 Activated 25 February 1943 at Camp Mackall, Hoffman, North Carolina, and assigned to the 11th Airborne Division
 Allotted to the Regular Army 15 November 1948
 Redesignated 30 June 1949 as the 187th Airborne Infantry
 Withdrawn from assignment to the 11th Airborne Division, 1 February 1951
 Retired from Active Federal Service 19 June 1956
 Redesignated 187th Airborne Combat Group and assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, 21 September, 1956

RAKKASAN SYMBOLS AND IDENTIFICATIONS

PATCH—The distinctive shoulder sleeve insignia of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team is unique in that it is one of the few patches that clearly symbolizes the reason for the unit's existence. In addition it is the insignia of one of the few Regimental Combat Teams in the United States Army.

Final adoption of the distinctive shoulder patch was delayed until 10 June 1952 when it was officially approved by the Department of the Army. A patch very similar to the one now being worn was used by RAKKASANS returning to the United States from Korea. This shoulder patch had been designed while the 187th was in combat in Korea and the unit was eager for its adoption. General Matthew B. Ridgway, as Commanding General of the Far East Command, gave approval to use the temporary patch until approval of the present one.

The only change between the original shoulder patch and the one officially adopted was the blue background color. The original used Infantry Blue as the background and the official uses Ultramarine Blue.

By official description the 187th Abn RCT shoulder sleeve insignia is on a shield two and three-eighths inches in width and three inches in height over all, ultramarine blue with a one-eighth inch white border, a white wing on and over a base of red flames edged in white, in chief (on the blue field) a white parachute.

The symbolism of the insignia is clearly defined, Paratroopers (white parachute) descending from the sky (blue) on the flames of war (red) with the wing (white) designating the Airborne.

At the time of the official adoption of the 187th Abn RCT patch, the tab or Airborne striker, was to be worn one-fourth inch above the shield but since that time all Airborne units using a shield or round type insignia have adopted a patch that incorporates both patch and tab as a single unit.

RAKKASAN

RAKKASAN—In any mention of the 187th, the name "RAKKASAN" consistently appears. To the uninitiated, this name might sound as though it were a collection of sounds without meaning but actually the word is a corruption from the Japanese language.

To the Japanese people RAKKASAN means falling down umbrella. Taken quite literally it means parachute. Applying the title to the Paratroopers of the 187th required no stretch of the imagination and the name stuck.

During their stay with the 11th Airborne Division as a part of the troops occupying Japan, personnel of the 187th Glider Infantry Regiment and 674th Glider Field Artillery Battalion were all grouped under the 11th's nickname, "The Angels from Hell."

After becoming a Regimental Combat Team and serving in the Korean War, the organization moved to Beppu and Kumamoto. A ready made nickname was there, it was different and the 187th adopted the name RAKKASAN. Both the Japanese people and the Paratroopers have used the name since that time.

It's a proud name among the Troopers of the RCT, it has been covered with glory won in combat and garrison and whether in Japanese or English, the RAKKASANS have a right to be proud of it and the enemy has a reason to fear RAKKASAN.





COAT OF ARMS

674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion

SHIELD: Per fess enhanced or and gules, on a pile of two points Azure (Korean Service Ribbon blue) fimbriated on the first between in base two Philippine suns of the like, a howitzer mounted on a heavy drop platform and attached to an open parachute all of the last.

MOTTO: "Thunder from Above"—"Thunder" being indicative of the troop carrier planes carrying us to battle, and the artillery support of the infantry. "Above" is the direction from which entry into combat is made.

DESCRIPTION: The colors Red and Yellow are for artillery. The two suns taken from the Philippine flag represent the two campaigns in the Philippines during World War II. The pile, Korean service ribbon blue, refers to the sky and together with the descending parachute and howitzer alludes to the Airborne classification of the battalion. The 674th was the first artillery unit to make a heavy drop in combat. The two points symbolize the two parachute jumps the organization made in Korea.



PARACHUTE BADGES—The proudest possession of a Paratrooper is his badge. Not only does the badge denote bravery but it also shows his seniority in jumping. Many times Troopers are heard to refer to their Parachute Badge as their "guts." To be eligible for the Parachutist Badge, an individual must satisfactorily complete the proficiency tests while assigned to an Airborne or attached to an Airborne Unit or the Airborne Department of the Infantry School; or participate in at least one combat parachute jump into enemy-held territory. This must be as a member of an organized force carrying out an assigned tactical mission for which the unit was credited with an Airborne Assault landing by the Theater Commander.



INFANTRY



ARTILLERY



ENGINEER



QUARTERMASTER



MILITARY POLICE



MEDICAL



COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE



PARACHUTIST BADGE BACKGROUND

Pride in a man's unit has always been a mark of the outstanding soldier and many ways have been used to display definite and ready proof of his organization. Among Airborne units the parachutist badge background shows the Troopers unit at a glance.

Worn only by parachutists assigned to airborne units, the background is a ready identification and proclaims the man to be a parachutist on jump status.

The 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team Parachutist Badge Background is identified by ultramarine outer border, white inner border and red center, the RCT colors.



The Senior Parachutist Badge may be awarded by the Commanding General of Airborne Divisions, Commandant of the Infantry School and Commanding Officers of Airborne Regiments. To be eligible to receive the Senior Wings an individual must make 30 jumps of which five must be with combat equipment and two night jumps (one as a Jumpmaster). He must be a graduate of a Jumpmaster School and have character and efficiency rating of excellent or higher.



COAT OF ARMS OR CREST—The Regimental Coat of Arms is unique in that it is one of the few in the United States Army that does not incorporate either a Regimental crest or motto, but is simply a plain shield.

The 187th Coat of Arms was officially adopted by the Department of the Army on 15 December 1952 after extensive correspondence between the RCT and Washington. Only minor discrepancies delayed the final adoption after the first coat of arms was proposed.

The first coat of arms differed from the one presently in use in that the motto "No Desit Virtus," Let Valor Not Fail, was suggested but omitted in final planning. The actual design of the coat of arms was made in 1943, but due to the suspension of all new insignia, it was never approved.

The present coat of arms is emblazoned azure on a pale nebule argent a double handed sword erect gules. Translated to modern English this heraldic description means "with sky blue edges and a light silver-like cloud in the middle of the shield, one-third of its width, with a red sword upright on the cloud."

In the case of the 187th, the blue represents the Infantry. This partition line of the pale represents clouds and the two-handed sword, an ancient Infantry weapon, symbolizes the character of the organization as an Airborne Infantry unit.



The Master Parachutist may be awarded by Commanding Generals of Airborne Divisions, Commandant of the Infantry School and Commanding Officers of Airborne Regiments. In order to be eligible for his Master Wings an individual must make 65 jumps to include 15 with combat equipment and four night jumps (one as a Jumpmaster). He must be a graduate of a Jumpmaster School and have character and efficiency ratings of excellent or higher.

LIST OF ORIGINAL UNITS 187TH ABN RCT

Assigned 29 July, 1950

187th Airborne Infantry Regiment
674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion
Company "A" 127th Airborne Engineers
Battery "A" 88th Airborne Anti-Aircraft
Battalion

Assigned 23 August, 1950

Detachment 11th Airborne Military Police
Company

Detachment 11th Airborne Quartermaster
Parachute Maintenance Company

Assigned 26 August, 1950

Platoon Clearing Company, 11th Airborne
Medical Battalion
Platoon Ambulance Company 11th Airborne
Medical Battalion













Attached 28 August, 1950

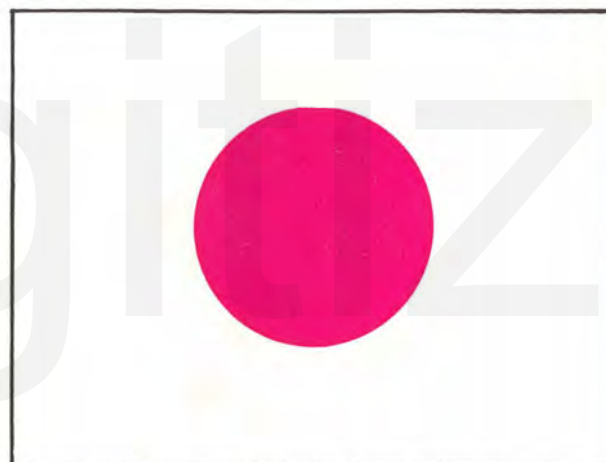
2384th Quartermaster Air Packaging and Re-
supply Company



COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE

RAKKASAN DECORATIONS

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----|
|  | ↳ MEDAL OF HONOR..... | 3 |
|  | DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS .. | 20 |
|  | DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL .. | 1 |
|  | ↳ SILVER STAR | 164 |
|  | LEGION OF MERIT | 5 |
|  | DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS | 2 |
|  | SOLDIER'S MEDAL | 12 |
|  | ↳ BRONZE STAR W/V | 233 |
|  | ↳ BRONZE STAR | 126 |
|  | ↳ AIR MEDAL | 19 |
|  | COMMENDATION RIBBON | 50 |
|  | ↳ PURPLE HEART (over 4,000) | |



WORLD WAR II

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS
World War II
New Guinea
Luzon (with arrowhead)
Leyte



KOREA



Korea
UN Offensive (with arrowhead)
CCF Intervention
First UN Counter-offensive (with arrowhead)



DECORATIONS

Philippine Presidential Unit Streamer embroidered 17 OCTOBER 1944 TO JULY 1945

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Streamer embroidered KOREA

1st Battalion entitled to Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered TAGAYTAY RIDGE

3rd Battalion entitled to Presidential Unit Streamer (Navy) embroidered INCHON

3rd Battalion entitled to Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered SUKCHON

Company E entitled to Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered WONJU

2nd Section, Antitank Gun Platoon, Support Company awarded Distinguished Unit Citation for action at SUKCHON (cannot display)

Medical Company entitled to a Meritorious Unit Streamer embroidered KOREA

Military Police Platoon awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation for service in Korea (cannot display)

CCF Spring Offensive
Korea summer-fall 1952
Korea summer-fall 1953
Korean Presidential Unit Citation



"THE PARACHUTE"

The use of the parachute as an instrument of war is a fairly recent innovation. Some of the older troopers will remember when soldiers descending from the sky by parachute was a thrilling, new spectacle. Thousands of people who had never seen a parachute before became accustomed to seeing hundreds of heavily armed troops making mass drops. Paratrooper quickly became a new word in everyone's vocabulary and Airborne was the newest and most modern combat force.

But the idea was not new at all. Benjamin Franklin once made a statement to the effect that a small number of troops descending unobserved behind an enemy's lines or into his territory could cause untold destruction before they were detected or apprehended.

The ancestry of the parachute, however, can be traced much farther back than Benjamin Franklin's time. As early as 1306 Chinese acrobats used a device similar to a parachute in their acts. Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) experimented with several different designs of parachutes. One of his designs had a flat, square canopy and four suspension lines.

But it remained for the dare-devils of the 18th and 19th centuries to construct the parachute from which our modern parachutes take their basic form. Francois Blanchard (1753-1809) is credited with the first successful use of a parachute, when in 1785, he dropped a dog from a balloon. Later, in 1793, Blanchard screwed up his courage and made a leap himself. The crude canvas affair worked inasmuch as it slowed his descent but apparently the daring jumper didn't make a PLF. He broke a leg upon landing.

A few years later a man named Andre J. Garnerin really got jump happy. Between the years 1797 and 1804 he made a total of five jumps from balloons using parachutes of his own design and manufacture. His final jump was made from an altitude of 8,000 feet using a parachute 23 feet in diameter and very similar in design to present day parachutes.

Parachute experiments continued throughout the 19th century but parachutes were not regarded as safety devices by balloonists who apparently did not place much confidence in them. They were used chiefly by exhibition jumpers at fairs and carnivals.

Leo Stevens, an American, developed the first free-fall, ripcord operated parachute in 1900. The design included a leather harness with straps under the arms and around the waist of the wearer. His was the first parachute that did not have to be attached to the aircraft to enable it to deploy as the jumper fell.

World War I saw the first use of parachutes by military personnel. Though they were not considered safe by any means the wholesale destruction of captive observation balloons by fighter planes made imperative some means of escape for the observers. The successful use of the parachute by the balloonists caused the German Air Force to equip their fighter pilots with them. Late in the year 1917 Allied airmen began to see pilots of disabled enemy aircraft hitting the silk. Toward the end of the war British flyers began wearing a parachute known as the Guardian Angel.

Up until the end of the war all parachutes (except for the one designed and used by Stevens) were of the attached or static line type and were not satisfactory for use in leaving a disabled aircraft because of the danger of tangling on parts of the ship before the jumper was clear.

The troop type, static line parachute used by Airborne troops today is a greatly improved form of the old attached type. It is favored by mass jumping at extremely low altitudes because it produces a rapid, positive opening and prevents individual mistakes in judgment of altitude and time from causing fatalities or interference between jumpers.

Development of a free type parachute was begun in 1918 by U.S. Army Air Corps at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio. The group of experimenters headed by Major E. L. Hoffman developed the Army Model A parachute which was successfully jumped on April 28, 1919. Pilots still lacked confidence in the new device, however, and it was not until Oct. 22, 1922 that a pilot made the first free bailout from a fighter plane without injury. In January 1922, the wearing of parachutes was made mandatory on all flights.

The basic features of the Army Model A parachute were incorporated in most civilian and military parachutes throughout the world. Many refinements in design and material were made in the Model A but until the beginning of WWII the parachute remained basically the same.

WWII with the advent of high speed aircraft and large mass drops of airborne troops necessitated the further development of the parachute and led to the birth of the science of parachute aerodynamics. By the end of the war special purpose parachutes had been used to drop instruments and weapons of war ranging from simple parachute flares to field artillery.

After the war experiments in parachute designing and equipment dropping proceeded at a great rate and cargo aircraft were especially designed for transporting and dropping troops and equipment. The years up to the beginning of the Korean War saw parachutes as large as 100 feet in diameter being used in clusters to drop equipment such as bulldozers weighing 18,000 pounds. In the Korean conflict, for the first time in history, vehicles and artillery were dropped completely assembled and ready for instant use.

New designs and types of parachutes will continue to be seen as long as men fly and need a means of descending safely from disabled aircraft. But until men grow wings it will never be a natural impulse to step out into thin air thousands of feet above the earth trusting only to God and a handful of nylon.

However, as those dauntless jumpers of centuries ago discovered, a parachute correctly packed and correctly jumped will *always* open.

LOS B
GENK

MANCHURIA

KOREA

JAPAN

CHINA

(27) HAKODATO - SAPPORO

(26) ATSUGI

(25) OKINAWA

(23) APPARRI
(18) MALAKINPULO
(19) LAKE TAAI
(20) MT MACOLOD
(21) MT MALEPUNYO
(22)(24) LIPA

(11) MAHONAG
(10) ANONANG
(9) BURAVEN
(7)(8) MANARAWAT
(6) BITO BEACH

LOS BANOS (17)
GENKO LINE (16)
MANILA (15)
AGA DEFILE (14)
TAGAYTAY (13)
NASUGBU (12)

NEW GUINEA

(5) DOBODURA

(4) ORO BAY

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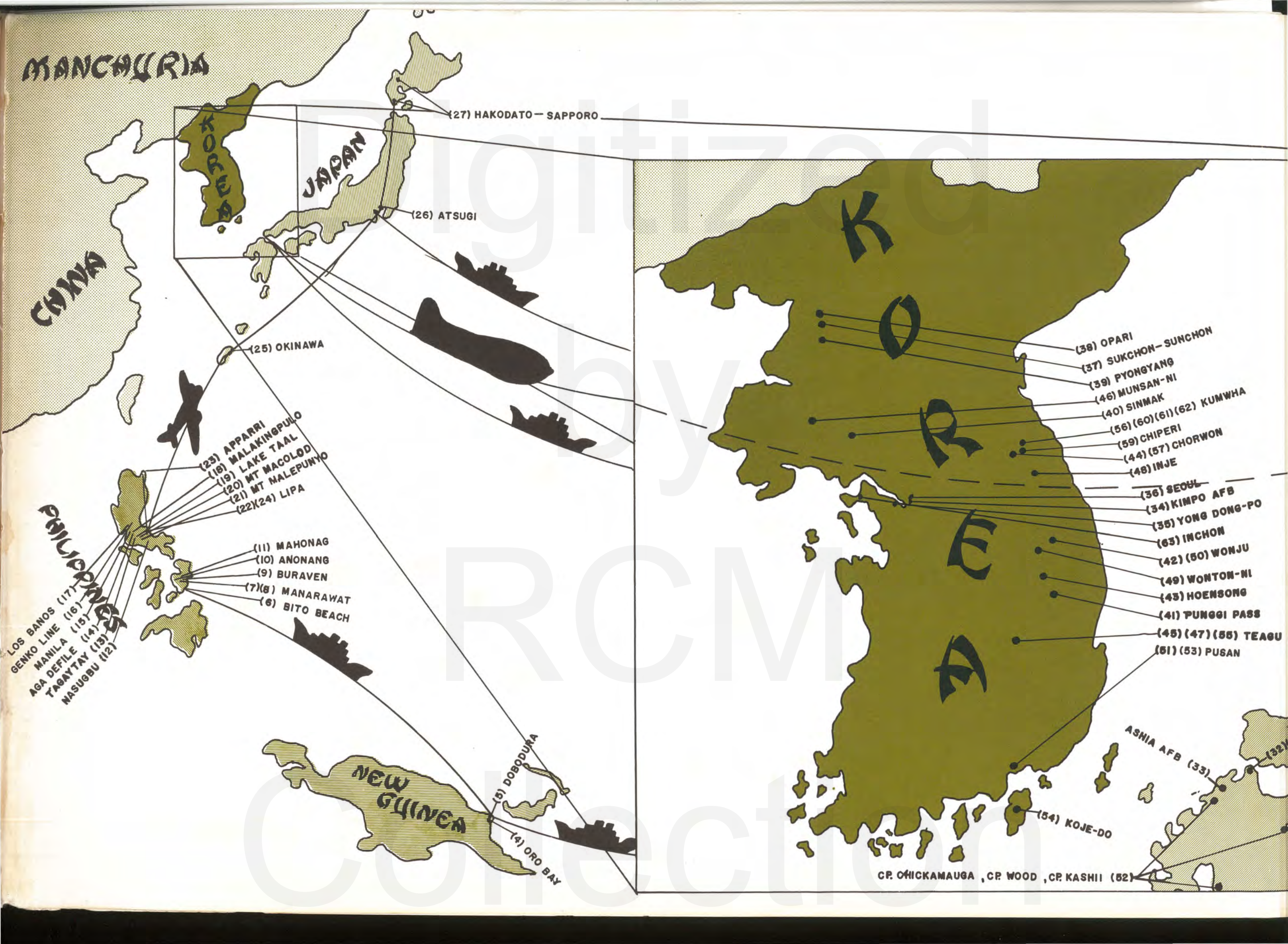
(38) OPARI
(37) SUKCHON - SUNCHON
(39) PYONGYANG
(46) MUNSAN-NI
(40) SINMAK
(56) (60) (61) (62) KUMWHA
(59) CHIPERI
(44) (57) CHORWON
(48) INJE

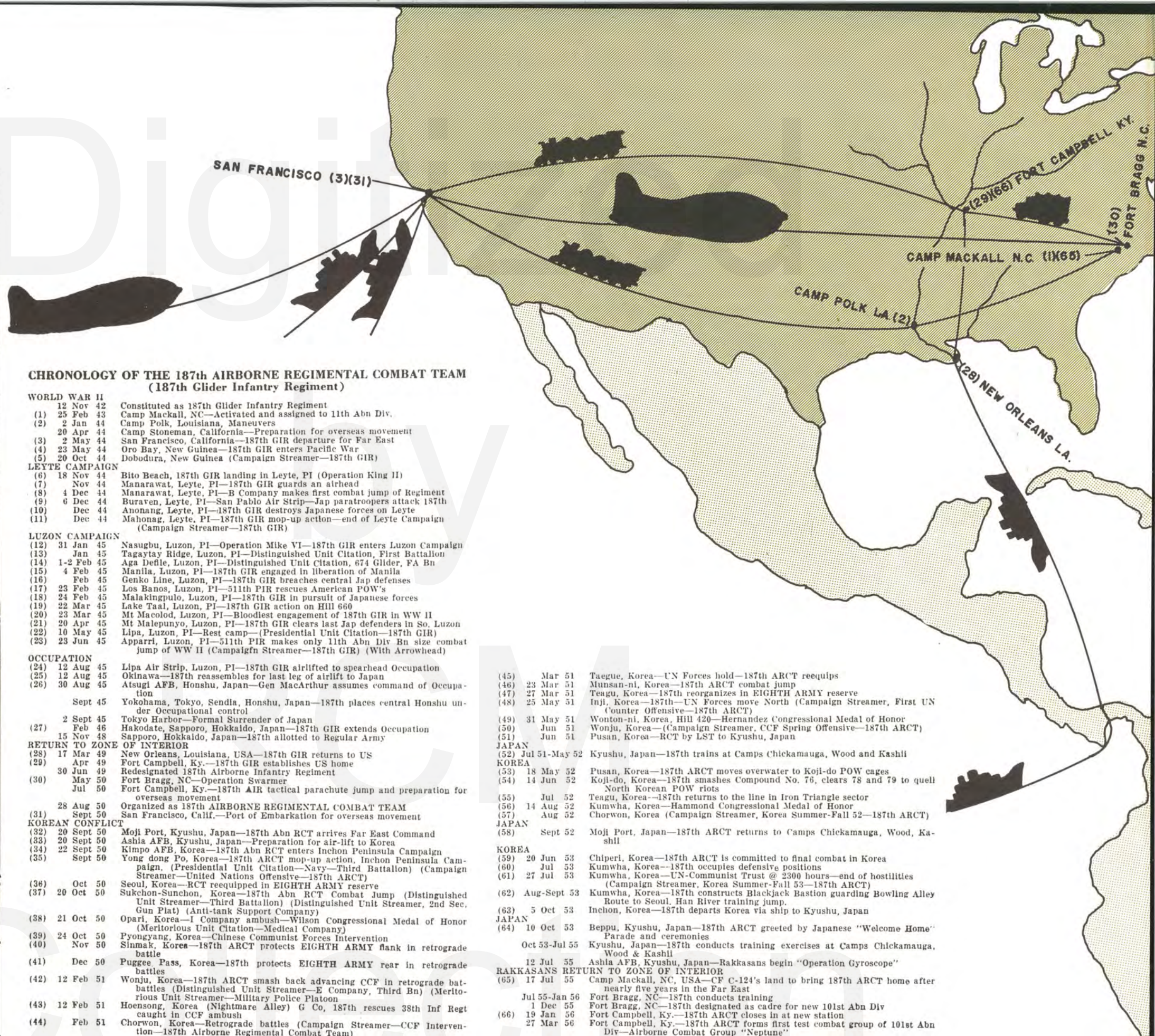
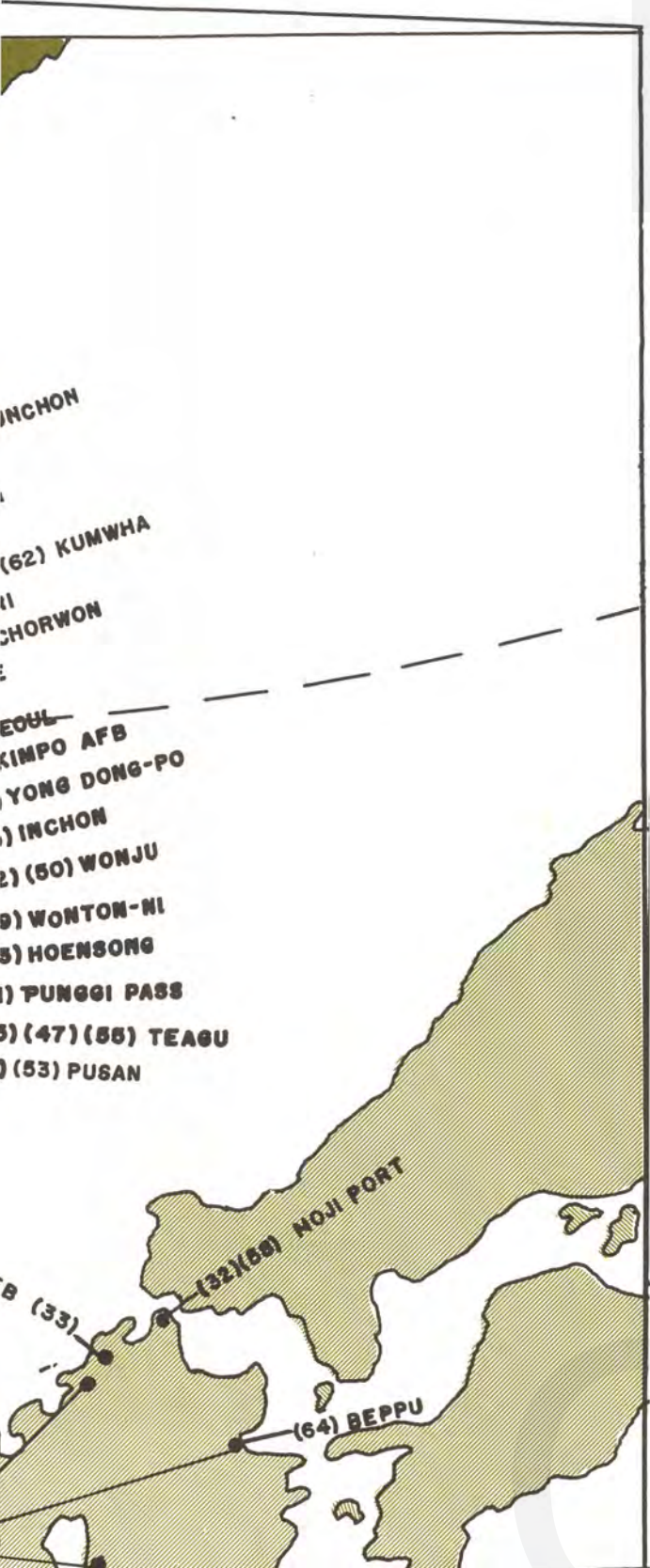
(36) SEOUL
(34) KIMPO AFB
(35) YONG DONG-PO
(63) INCHON
(42) (50) WONJU
(49) WONTON-NI
(43) HOENSONG
(41) PUNGGI PASS
(45) (47) (55) TEAGU
(51) (53) PUSAN

ASHIA AFB (33)

(54) KOJE-DO

CP. OHICKAMAUGA , CP. WOOD , CP. KASHII (52)





**CHRONOLOGY OF THE 187th AIRBORNE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM
(187th Glider Infantry Regiment)**

- WORLD WAR II**
- (1) 12 Nov 42 Constituted as 187th Glider Infantry Regiment
 - (2) 25 Feb 43 Camp Mackall, NC—Activated and assigned to 11th Abn Div.
 - (3) 2 Jan 44 Camp Polk, Louisiana, Maneuvers
 - (4) 20 Apr 44 Camp Stoneman, California—Preparation for overseas movement
 - (5) 2 May 44 San Francisco, California—187th GIR departure for Far East
 - (6) 23 May 44 Oro Bay, New Guinea—187th GIR enters Pacific War
 - (7) 20 Oct 44 Dobodura, New Guinea (Campaign Streamer—187th GIR)
- LEYTE CAMPAIGN**
- (8) 18 Nov 44 Bito Beach, Leyte, PI—187th GIR landing in Leyte, PI (Operation King II)
 - (9) Nov 44 Manarawat, Leyte, PI—187th GIR guards an airhead
 - (10) 4 Dec 44 Manarawat, Leyte, PI—B Company makes first combat jump of Regiment
 - (11) 6 Dec 44 Buraven, Leyte, PI—San Pablo Air Strip—Jap paratroopers attack 187th
 - (12) Dec 44 Anonang, Leyte, PI—187th GIR destroys Japanese forces on Leyte
 - (13) Dec 44 Mahonag, Leyte, PI—187th GIR mop-up action—end of Leyte Campaign (Campaign Streamer—187th GIR)
- LUZON CAMPAIGN**
- (14) 31 Jan 45 Nasugbu, Luzon, PI—Operation Mike VI—187th GIR enters Luzon Campaign
 - (15) Jan 45 Tagaytay Ridge, Luzon, PI—Distinguished Unit Citation, First Battalion
 - (16) 1-2 Feb 45 Aga Defle, Luzon, PI—Distinguished Unit Citation, 674 Glider, FA Bn
 - (17) 4 Feb 45 Manila, Luzon, PI—187th GIR engaged in liberation of Manila
 - (18) Feb 45 Genko Line, Luzon, PI—187th GIR breaches central Jap defenses
 - (19) 23 Feb 45 Los Banos, Luzon, PI—511th PIR rescues American POW's
 - (20) 24 Feb 45 Malakingpulo, Luzon, PI—187th GIR in pursuit of Japanese forces
 - (21) 22 Mar 45 Lake Taal, Luzon, PI—187th GIR action on Hill 660
 - (22) 23 Mar 45 Mt Macolod, Luzon, PI—Bloodiest engagement of 187th GIR in WW II
 - (23) 20 Apr 45 Mt Malepunyo, Luzon, PI—187th GIR clears last Jap defenders in So. Luzon
 - (24) 10 May 45 Lipa, Luzon, PI—Rest camp—(Presidential Unit Citation—187th GIR)
 - (25) 23 Jun 45 Appari, Luzon, PI—511th PIR makes only 11th Abn Div Bn size combat jump of WW II (Campaign Streamer—187th GIR) (With Arrowhead)
- OCCUPATION**
- (26) 12 Aug 45 Lipa Air Strip, Luzon, PI—187th GIR airlifted to spearhead Occupation
 - (27) 12 Aug 45 Okinawa—187th reassembles for last leg of airlift to Japan
 - (28) 30 Aug 45 Atsugi AFB, Honshu, Japan—Gen MacArthur assumes command of Occupation
 - (29) Sept 45 Yokohama, Tokyo, Sendia, Honshu, Japan—187th places central Honshu under Occupational control
 - (30) 2 Sept 45 Tokyo Harbor—Formal Surrender of Japan
 - (31) Feb 46 Hakodate, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan—187th GIR extends Occupation
 - (32) 15 Nov 48 Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan—187th allotted to Regular Army
- RETURN TO ZONE OF INTERIOR**
- (33) 28 Aug 50 New Orleans, Louisiana, USA—187th GIR returns to US
 - (34) Sept 50 Fort Campbell, Ky.—187th GIR establishes US home
 - (35) 30 Jun 49 Redesignated 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment
 - (36) May 50 Fort Bragg, NC—Operation Swarmer
 - (37) Jul 50 Fort Campbell, Ky.—187th AIR tactical parachute jump and preparation for overseas movement
 - (38) 28 Aug 50 Organized as 187th AIRBORNE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM
 - (39) Sept 50 San Francisco, Calif.—Port of Embarkation for overseas movement
- KOREAN CONFLICT**
- (40) 20 Sept 50 Moji Port, Kyushu, Japan—187th Abn RCT arrives Far East Command
 - (41) 20 Sept 50 Ashia AFB, Kyushu, Japan—Preparation for air-lift to Korea
 - (42) 22 Sept 50 Kimpo AFB, Korea—187th Abn RCT enters Inchon Peninsula Campaign
 - (43) Sept 50 Yong dong Po, Korea—187th ARCT mop-up action, Inchon Peninsula Campaign. (Presidential Unit Citation—Navy—Third Battalion) (Campaign Streamer—United Nations Offensive—187th ARCT)
 - (44) Oct 50 Seoul, Korea—RCT reequipped in EIGHTH ARMY reserve
 - (45) 20 Oct 50 Sukchon-Sunchon, Korea—187th Abn RCT Combat Jump (Distinguished Unit Streamer—Third Battalion) (Distinguished Unit Streamer, 2nd Sec. Gun Plat) (Anti-tank Support Company)
 - (46) 21 Oct 50 Opari, Korea—I Company ambush—Wilson Congressional Medal of Honor (Meritorious Unit Citation—Medical Company)
 - (47) 24 Oct 50 Pyongyang, Korea—Chinese Communist Forces Intervention
 - (48) Nov 50 Sinmak, Korea—187th ARCT protects EIGHTH ARMY flank in retrograde battle
 - (49) Dec 50 Pugee Pass, Korea—187th protects EIGHTH ARMY rear in retrograde battles
 - (50) 12 Feb 51 Wonju, Korea—187th ARCT smash back advancing CCF in retrograde battles (Distinguished Unit Streamer—E Company, Third Bn) (Meritorious Unit Streamer—Military Police Platoon)
 - (51) 12 Feb 51 Hoensong, Korea (Nightmare Alley) G Co, 187th rescues 38th Inf Regt caught in CCF ambush
 - (52) Feb 51 Chorwon, Korea—Retrograde battles (Campaign Streamer—CCF Intervention—187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team)

- (45) Mar 51 Taegue, Korea—UN Forces hold—187th ARCT reequips
 - (46) 23 Mar 51 Munsan-ni, Korea—187th ARCT combat jump
 - (47) 27 Mar 51 Teagu, Korea—187th reorganizes in EIGHTH ARMY reserve
 - (48) 25 May 51 Inji, Korea—187th—UN Forces move North (Campaign Streamer, First UN Counter Offensive—187th ARCT)
 - (49) 31 May 51 Wonton-ni, Korea, Hill 420—Hernandez Congressional Medal of Honor
 - (50) Jun 51 Wonju, Korea—(Campaign Streamer, CCF Spring Offensive—187th ARCT)
 - (51) Jun 51 Pusan, Korea—RCT by LST to Kyushu, Japan
- JAPAN**
- (52) Jul 51-May 52 Kyushu, Japan—187th trains at Camps Chickamauga, Wood and Kashii
- KOREA**
- (53) 18 May 52 Pusan, Korea—187th ARCT moves overwater to Koji-do POW cages
 - (54) 14 Jun 52 Koji-do, Korea—187th smashes Compound No. 76, clears 78 and 79 to quell North Korean POW riots
 - (55) Jul 52 Teagu, Korea—187th returns to the line in Iron Triangle sector
 - (56) 14 Aug 52 Kumwha, Korea—Hammond Congressional Medal of Honor
 - (57) Aug 52 Chorwon, Korea (Campaign Streamer, Korea Summer-Fall 52—187th ARCT)
- JAPAN**
- (58) Sept 52 Moji Port, Japan—187th ARCT returns to Camps Chickamauga, Wood, Kashii
- KOREA**
- (59) 20 Jun 53 Chiperi, Korea—187th ARCT is committed to final combat in Korea
 - (60) Jul 53 Kumwha, Korea—187th occupies defensive positions
 - (61) 27 Jul 53 Kumwha, Korea—UN-Communist Trust @ 2300 hours—end of hostilities (Campaign Streamer, Korea Summer-Fall 53—187th ARCT)
 - (62) Aug-Sept 53 Kumwha, Korea—187th constructs Blackjack Bastion guarding Bowling Alley Route to Seoul, Han River training jump.
 - (63) 5 Oct 53 Inchon, Korea—187th departs Korea via ship to Kyushu, Japan
- JAPAN**
- (64) 10 Oct 53 Beppu, Kyushu, Japan—187th ARCT greeted by Japanese "Welcome Home" Parade and ceremonies
 - (65) Oct 53-Jul 55 Kyushu, Japan—187th conducts training exercises at Camps Chickamauga, Wood & Kashii
- RAKKASANS RETURN TO ZONE OF INTERIOR**
- (66) 12 Jul 55 Ashia AFB, Kyushu, Japan—Rakkasans begin "Operation Gyroscope"
 - (67) 17 Jul 55 Camp Mackall, NC, USA—CF C-124's land to bring 187th ARCT home after nearly five years in the Far East
 - (68) Jul 55-Jan 56 Fort Bragg, NC—187th conducts training
 - (69) 1 Dec 55 Fort Bragg, NC—187th designated as cadre for new 101st Abn Div
 - (70) 19 Jan 56 Fort Campbell, Ky.—187th ARCT closes in at new station
 - (71) 27 Mar 56 Fort Campbell, Ky.—187th ARCT forms first test combat group of 101st Abn Div—Airborne Combat Group "Neptune"

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THE COMMANDERS MESSAGE

This record of the RAKKASANS is reverently dedicated to our many fallen comrades who gave their blood and their very lives on nameless fields so that Democracy might live in a world of free men and to the men of the Rakkasan Team who carry on the "tradition of valor." These courageous paratroopers who responded to the call of 'duty,' were privileged to still the forces of aggression and to nurture the principles of freedom in a foreign land.

Attesting to the 'spirit and self-sacrifice of RAKKASANS past and present are the campaign streamers and battle honors so proudly displayed by the Regimental Combat Team.

Born of war and tested in the crucible of the Korean Conflict the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team occupies a unique and honored position in the annals of the United States Military Establishment. The RAKKASAN lineage originates in World War II and subsequent heroic action in Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. Continuing the tradition of valor in the Far East the men of the 187th materially effected the course of the war in Korea.

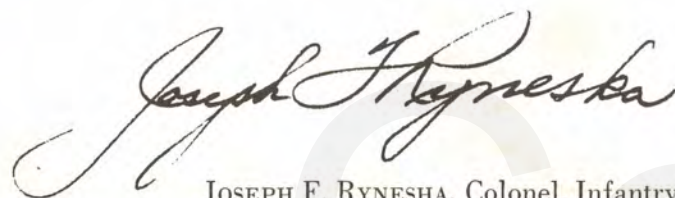
Executing two combat jumps deep behind enemy lines the RAKKASANS created fear and respect in the heart of a brutal foe. Written in flame on the pages of history are Wonju, Hoen-song, Chorwon, Inje, Kumwha and Koje-do. All felt the might of the RAKKASANS.

Displaying the maturity of seasoned combat veterans the men of the 187th assumed new responsibilities in war's aftermath in Japan. Despite a rigorous professional schedule the RAKKASANS contributed substantially to Japanese-American relations as evidenced by the many orphanages, schools, churches and community improvement programs sponsored by the RCT.

Airlifted to the Zone of Interior after almost five years service in the Far East Theatre the RAKKASANS continued their enthusiastic support of military and community missions.

As the 187th ends its sixth year of Federal Service as a Regimental Combat Team the RAKKASANS again meet a new challenge and a new environment as the 101st Airborne Division is organized.

Rich in tradition and professionally competent the men of the RCT bring to the new division the skills and efficiency garnered in two wars. This record of achievement will be best reflected in the accomplishment of the new mission and by the high standards maintained in the 187th Airborne Battle Group which will carry forward the traditions of the RAKKASANS.



JOSEPH F. RYNESKA, Colonel, Infantry
Commanding



JOSEPH F. RYNESKA, Colonel, Infantry
Commanding 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team

Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska assumed Command of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team on 1 August, 1955.

Receiving a BS and a commission when he graduated from North Carolina State College in 1937, Colonel Ryneska was assigned, in 1940, to the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Bragg. Joining the 27th Infantry Division in Hawaii in 1941 he rose from platoon leader to battalion commander in the "Wolfhounds" in combat action at Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Bougainville, and the Philippines.

Colonel Ryneska attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in 1948. A Tour at Department of the Army, G1, Military Personnel Division, Washington, Washington, DC, followed.

In 1950 he became Airborne qualified at Fort Benning and joined the 82nd Airborne Division in August of the same year. Assigned to the 504th AIR, he was progressively a Battalion Commander, Regimental

Executive and commanded the Regiment for three months in 1952.

The same year he began a tour with the Turkish Military Mission that was to last for twenty-two months, the last year he was Chief of Inf. of the Mission.

Upon return to CONUS Colonel Ryneska became Deputy Chief of Staff, G4, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, a position he held until assuming command of the Rakkasans on 1 August, 1955.

Colonel Ryneska's awards and decorations include: Silver Star with Oak Leaf, Bronze Star Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Philippine Liberation Medal with one Campaign Star, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Master Parachutist Badge. He also holds seven overseas bars.



MAJOR GENERAL F. S. BOWEN, JR.

Major General F. S. Bowen, Jr., was born in the Philippine Islands on 4 March 1905, he is married and has a son, now a Cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

General Bowen, currently the Commanding General of Fort Jackson and the United States Army Training Center, Infantry, was commissioned a second lieutenant with the 13th Infantry at Fort Andrews, Massachusetts, 12 June 1926, upon graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

When the Korean War broke out, General Bowen took command of the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment from August, 1950, to August, 1951. He then was assigned to SHAPE, September, 1951, to May, 1954, before going to Fort Leonard Wood. He attained the rank of Brigadier General in October, 1950, and the rank of Major General on 15 September 1955.

He wears the Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Ribbon, the American Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantry Badge with second award, the Parachutist Badge with two stars denoting combat jumps, the Medal for Military Merit (Philippine), and the Ulchi with Gold Star (Korean).

Other decorations include the Yagtze Patrol (Navy); the American Defense Ribbon; the Asiatic Pacific with one Arrowhead, one Silver Star, one Bronze Star; the World War II Victory Ribbon, the Occupation Ribbon (Japan); Korean Service with one Arrowhead, four Bronze Stars; the National Defense; the Philippine Liberation with two Bronze Stars, and the United Nations Ribbon.



MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS J. H. TRAPNELL

Major General Thomas J. H. Trapnell, who assumed command of the 187th Abn RCT after the departure of General Bowen, joined the Regiment as Colonel on 28 July 1951. General Trapnell was promoted to Brigadier General on 5 October 1951. Highlight of his tour with the 187th Abn RCT was when the Regiment restored order among the rebellious prisoners of war on the island of Kojedo. General Trapnell left command of the 187th on 5 July 1952 to serve on the MAAG (Military Assistance Advisory Group) to Indo-China. Among the decorations he wears are the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

General Trapnell is presently CG, 82nd Abn Div., Fort Bragg, N. C.



BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND

Brigadier General William C. Westmoreland, who assumed command of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team on 29 July 1952, joined the unit as a Colonel. He was promoted to his present rank on 7 November 1952. General Westmoreland led the 187th Abn RCT on two tours of combat duty in Korea after he first joined the unit at Taegu. He departed the Regiment on 19 October 1953 and is presently serving as Assistant G-1 in the Pentagon at Washington, D. C. His decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star and Air Medal.

Commander of Truman Beddingfield in Viet-Nam



BRIGADIER GENERAL ROY E. LINDQUIST

Brigadier General Roy E. Lindquist assumed command of the RCT 19 October 1953, following a tour of duty as Assistant CG of the 6th Inf. Div. Upon activation of the Headquarters Provisional Parachute Group in 1941 he was assigned to that command and subsequently to the Headquarters Airborne Command upon its activation in 1942. General Lindquist was assigned as the Commanding Officer of and activated the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Camp Blanding, Florida, in October 1942.

Among General Lindquist's personal awards and decorations are the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Master Parachutist Badge with two Combat Jump Stars. He has also been awarded the French Croix De Guerre, Order of the Dutch Lion, and the Greek Order of the Phoenix.



BRIGADIER GENERAL CURTIS J. HERRICK

Brigadier General Curtis J. Herrick, assumed command of the Rakkasan Regiment on 15 July 1955.

Following graduation from West Point, Brigadier General Herrick attended Infantry School and Tank School and also served eight years troop duty with the Infantry and Infantry Tank units, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 57th Infantry (PS), Infantry School, 24th Infantry, 66th Infantry (Light). In August 1940 he went to the new Armored Force joining the 68th Armored Regiment, Second Armored Division at Fort Benning and General Staff Course No. 10 in 1942.

From June to December 1944, he attended the Army-Navy Staff College in Washington, D.C.

He was G3 Action officer responsible for the outfitting and movement of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team to Far East and Korea in 1950.

A veteran of 24 years commissioned Army service, General Herrick has been awarded the Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Republic of Korea Ulchi with Silver Star, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation and others.

He is married to Alice M. (nee Reasoner) and has 4 children, Curtis J., 18, Robert M., 17, Alice A., 10, and Mary R., 7.

General Herrick is currently Chief of Staff, XVIII Abn Corps, Fort Bragg, N. C.



DEDICATION

To the men of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team from 1950, through the years of the conflict in Korea, to the present this book is dedicated.

The story of these valiant men is one of glory. Glory enough there is to make very member of the Combat Team swell with justifiable pride. But the older members of the Team know the roots from which the story grew and which make the glory deserved. They know the anxiety, the anguish, the agony, the weariness, the exhaustion, the bitter cold, the driving rain, the sleepless nights, the mile after mile of weary tramping over ridge after ridge, feeling out the enemy in his fortified places, stalking his patrols, enduring his untimely barrages. Who knows better than they who were there what the Team suffered that we might be safe?

Some have been decorated for valor. Many have not been. In situations where heroic incidents are commonplace, inevitably many heroic deeds go unacknowledged and even unobserved by men.

From the men who have given their lives, from the experience of each airborne combat soldier learn what patriotism is. Patriotism is more than emotion. Patriotism is not always an easy thing; sometimes it takes all that we have, even our lives. But patriotism is a duty, an honorable and glorious duty. We are patriotic not for power, or position, or promotion, or money, or medals, but for love.

Today, tomorrow and every day, in war or in peace, we must so live as to be worthy comrades of the valiant men of the 187th.

FRANKLIN T. GOSSER
Chaplain, Major, USA

THOMAS E. WALDIE
Chaplain, Major USA



Private First Class Richard G. Wilson, Medical Company, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team was attached to Company "I" as a Medical Aid Man. On 21 October 1950 he accompanied the unit on a reconnaissance in force through hill country near Op̄ari, Korea. The main body of the company was passing through a narrow valley flanked on three sides by high hills, when the enemy laid down a barrage of mortar, automatic weapons, and small arms fire. The company suffered a large number of casualties from the intense hostile fire while fighting its way out of the ambush, and Pfc. Wilson proceeded at once to move among the wounded and administer aid to them, oblivious of the danger to himself, and constantly exposing himself to the enemy fire. The company commander ordered a with-

drawal as the enemy threatened to encircle and isolate the company. As the unit withdrew, Pfc. Wilson assisted the wounded men to safety and made sure that none were left behind. After the company had pulled back, he learned that one of the men, previously believed to be dead, had been seen moving and attempting to crawl to safety. Although his comrades protested it, Pfc. Wilson returned, unarmed, to search for the wounded man who had been left behind. Two days later a patrol found him lying beside the man he had returned to aid. He had been shot several times while trying to shield and administer aid to the wounded "Trooper." For his supreme self-sacrifice, Private First Class Richard Wilson was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



PFC RICHARD G. WILSON

Congressional Medal of Honor



CPL. RODOLFO P. HERNANDEZ

Congressional Medal of Honor



Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez, a rifleman serving with Company "G", 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, was with his platoon in a defensive position on Hill 420 near Wonton-ni, Korea on 31 May 1951. The enemy mounted a fanatical attack supported by mortar and artillery fire and began pushing the platoon off the hill. Cpl. Hernandez, although wounded in an exchange of hand grenades, stayed in his position and continued to deliver deadly and harrassing fire into the charging hordes. He continued cutting down the enemy until a cartridge ruptured in the chamber of his rifle. He then began a counter attack on his own, armed with only a bayonet and an inoperative rifle.

Fearlessly engaging the foe, he killed six of the enemy before falling unconscious from grenade, bayonet, and bullet wounds. His heroic action momentarily halted the advance and enabled his unit to counterattack and retake the lost ground. For his action, Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In the words of the citation, "The indomitable fighting spirit, outstanding courage, and tenacious devotion to duty clearly demonstrated by Corporal Hernandez reflects high credit on himself, the Infantry, and the United States Army."



Corporal Lester Hammond, Jr., was a communications specialist assigned to Company "A", 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. As a radio operator in the unit he was on a reconnaissance patrol on 14 August 1952 near Kumwha, Korea. The patrol had penetrated about 3,500 yards into enemy-held territory when it was ambushed and partially surrounded by a large Communist force. They quickly opened fire on the enemy and withdrew up a narrow ravine in search of protective cover. Cpl. Hammond was wounded in the initial exchange of fire and retreated with the large group. However, he found a vantage point where he was exposed to the enemy fire. Refusing to seek shelter he called for artillery fire to support the defensive action his patrol was undertaking.

Although he was exposed to the enemy fire he remained at his observation point coordinating and directing the artillery fire on the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties and repulsing several attempts by the enemy to overrun his patrol's position. He was thus wounded again but still refused to take cover where he would not be able to direct the supporting fire. He remained at his position, calling in artillery fire on the Communist group until he was mortally wounded. His action enabled the patrol to stem the onslaught and enabled a friendly platoon to reach and evacuate the trapped patrol and its wounded. For this action, Corporal Lester Hammond, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



CPL. LESTER HAMMOND, JR.

Congressional Medal of Honor



1ST LT. LEONARD M. HANZER
Adjutant, 187th RCT

MAJOR JAMES J. MEYERS
Operations Officer 187th RCT



LIEUTENANT COLONEL LE ROY D. BRUMMITT
RCT Executive Officer

Lt. Col. Brummitt was assigned to the 187th Airborne RCT in March, 1954 from his position as Executive Officer, 503rd AIR. Currently Executive Officer of the RCT he served as Deputy Commander, and Deputy Installation Commander while the RCT was in Japan.

A veteran of fifteen years service, Col. Brummitt made two combat jumps in Europe, one with the 82nd Airborne Division in the Normandy Invasion, and one as CO of the 518th AIR, 17th Airborne Division in the Rhine River Crossing. Army schools he has attended include the Associate Advanced Course at Fort Benning; Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, and the Advanced Armor Course at Fort Knox.

Among his decorations Col. Brummitt holds the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He is a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Lions and the Elks.

Colonel Brummitt is married to the former Mary O'Conner of Alliance, Nebraska. They have three children: Susan, eleven; Don, nine; and Ann, five.

RCT STAFF



CAPT. RICHARD O. JETT
S-2 Officer, 187th RCT

CAPT. FRANCIS L. CHAMPAUX
S-4 Officer, 187th RCT



SPECIAL STAFF

MAJOR THOMAS E. WALDIE
RCT Chaplain



MAJOR FRANKLIN T. GOSSER
Prot. Chaplain



MAJOR ALVIN K. CHARLES
Arty. Officer



CAPT. JASPER C. HALFORD
RCT Surgeon



CAPT. DAVID M. DIAL
CO Aviation Section



CAPT. ARCH E. ROBERTS
PIO Officer



CAPT. CLYDE GREGORY, JR.
Pacht. Maint. Officer



CAPT. ROBERT L. VRANISH
Comdt. Abn School



1ST LT. EDWARD W. BOYSON
RCT Legal Officer



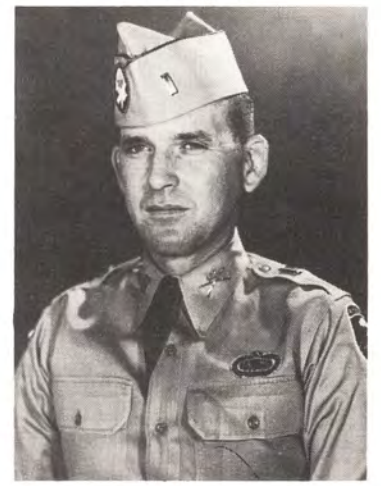
1ST LT. MARSHALL D. TALBOTT
Anti-Air. Officer



1ST LT. EVAN W. PROSSER
Personnel Officer



1ST LT. HOWARD L. HYATT
Motor Officer



1ST LT. PHILLIP C. MILLER
Honor Guard Commander



1ST LT. JAMES P. SMALLWOOD
Eng. Officer



1ST LT. THOMAS L. JONES
Provost Marshall, 187th RCT



CAPT. WILLIAM J. JONES
Communication Officer



CWO NATHAN A. CAMMACK, JR.
187th Bandleader



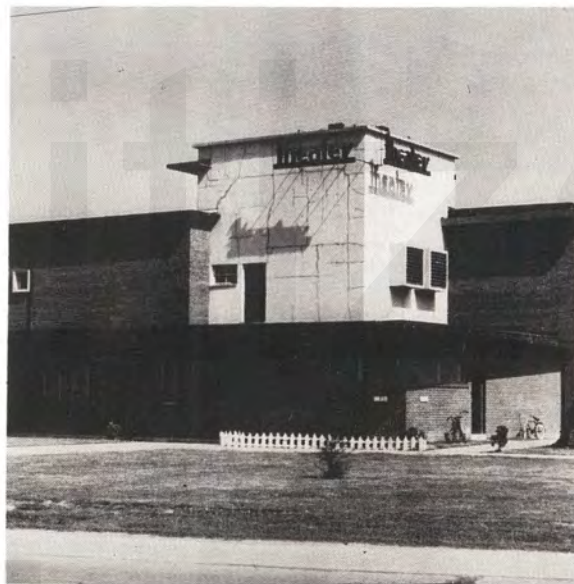
M/SGT. GEORGE P. DUNAWAY
Sgt. Major





187TH AIRBORNE RCT





FORT CAMPBELL

1955 - 1959 - 1960 - 1962



SAGA OF THE RAKKASANS

BY ARCH ROBERTS



WITH THE 187TH—KOREA . . . For nine days this regiment of paratroopers attacked the Chinese foe.

In a dashing move they drove a wedge into the tail of the retreating Communists, capturing and killing thousands.

To hold open an escape corridor north of Inje the Chinese organized strong defensive positions and halted the paratroopers. In an ugly battle (which I followed from the day it began) many paratroopers, the very cream of our military youth, were killed or wounded. These tough lads are trained to drop out of planes. Instead, they have been motoring, hiking and mountain-climbing to catch the Chinese.

Until now, for logical security reasons, I could not write that the Jumping Joes were in the line. By today the Oriental foe knows (Ouch) that paratroopers are shooting at them. So its no longer hush-hush.

Parachuting around this part of Korea with its thousands of rocky peaks would be like tap-dancing barefooted on a spiked fence. The previous two jumps the 187th made were in pan-cake terrain.

I was at 10th Corps headquarters six days ago when General Edward Almond, his military sixth sense working overtime, guessed correctly that Mao's mobsters were winded. Their great spring offensive had bled itself against our unbreakable ramparts.

He ordered the paratroopers, then in reserve, to make a dramatic 60-mile motor march through Inje to the town of Kansong on the coast of the Sea of Japan. This would be an end run through the Red badlands, actually behind the main body of Chinese and North Koreans, which then was still south of the road to be used, but rapidly retreating.

Thousands of Communists in the eastern part of South Korea,

figured Almond, would try to get back to their cozy collective cribs in North Korea via Kansong.

Standing in a rice paddy in a steady downpour I heard the trooper say: "Get your vehicles on the road. The convoy will be twelve miles long, spiced with tanks. Keep going. If your jeep is shot up, push it off the road and climb into the next one. Don't delay! Delay might mean disaster."

Parachutist General Frank Bowen told me: "This is a typical airborne operation on wheels instead of wings."

Get the big picture around Inje: Chinese were retreating north along several roads . . . like a line of ants . . . which crossed at Inje. The lead battalion of paratroopers drove right up the same road, shoving the surprised Chinese into the ditches.

They actually ran down many. By moving so fast they prevented enemy mine-laying units from operating.

THEN . . . trouble . . . and our casualties began. Apparently the Chinese sniffed a plan to cut through them. Other battalions had to run an actual gauntlet. Chinese got on the hills on both sides of the narrow road and zeroed-in machine guns and artillery. In one instance a fanatical Chinese stood on a cliff and simply dropped a grenade down on a jeep. I saw mortars bursting on the road behind my vehicle.

Scores of vehicles were knocked out. Chinese snipers wearing green uniforms and using no-flash rifles peppered us at will. They couldn't be seen in the thick growth. One jeep driver ahead of me quietly slumped over his wheel, a sneak bullet in his right ear. Several "Suitcase Charlies" . . . fanatical Chinese carrying valise-shaped explosives . . . ran right up to a few tanks and tossed their packages between the treads. But like a covered wagon train in the wild west Indian days we bulled our way through the comparatively primitive foe.

The chutists never got a break. The heavens simply wept. The roads were huge mud pies. A bridge was washed out, forcing the convoy to crawl. At one point we made eight miles in ten hours.

Part of the motor march was made at night. Whew! riding through mountain valleys after dark with positive knowledge that an armed enemy is on both sides of the road is hardly calculated to lower your blood pressure. I can now author a book entitled, "I was a Duck in a Shooting Gallery."

Barreling up the road to Inje, the chutists collected the stragglers Chinese. One lad went off the road a moment and saw four Chinese cooking rice. He pitched a grenade right across the home plate and broke up the dinner.

During a pause another Jumping Joe caught two Chinese swimming in a brook. Like the old swimming hole trick he simply

collected and sat on their clothing . . . and gats . . . and waited until they paddled in for capture.

The paratroops traveled as lightly as escaped convicts. Typical attire: Weapons, ammo, jump boots, fatigues, tooth brush and comb and wicked "jump knife," a snapping affair ordinarily used to cut away chute lines when you dangle from a tree . . . used for more deadly purposes in this operation.

Yes, many of these fine lads, picked for telephone wire nerves as well as for bulging biceps, will never come down that winding road from Inje.

Blitz technique means condensing ordinary infantry fighting into a few furious days. You lose more men that way quickly but in the long run you might lose less. Furthermore, the Airborne is a "hold until death" outfit. It is the Infantry plus that added something that makes elite troops like our Marines or the British Commandos.

Personally I believe if they had been so ordered the chutists would have got through to the coast . . . would have kept going as long as one man could stand. One company leading a convoy out of Inje heading north (still seeking the sea) made four miles. Then it ran into thousands of Chinese dug in, around and over the road.

They gave not one inch of this drenched Korean soil. They stood pat until relief columns with tanks walked up on both sides of the road just before dark.

Several fellows wounded in one hand, kept firing with the other. An artillery liaison officer radio-directed the cannon (inside Inje) while lying on his stomach under a tank with ten shrapnel chunks in his body.

The paratroopers' physical stamina kept them going with hardly a wink for five days . . . another testimonial to brass-knuckled training. Even after the drive to the sea was cancelled (Kansong later fell to another UN force which advanced up the coast with naval protection) morale remained as high as a Hollywood starlet with a freshly inked five-year contract. They sought no chair-borne jobs when they asked for Airborne . . . a shooting war is their career.

When the Chinese fanatics attacked, one group screeching "Shanee" (Pipingese for Banzai) the paratroopers screamed back "Airborne."

Personally my pigeon chest is stuck out as far as it will go. I am proud to have been with the paratroopers in this end-run operation and see them pen yet another classic chapter in their adventurous archives.

(Reprinted by courtesy of the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS)

This account of the battle of Inje by Pulitzer prize winner Fred Sparks is illustrative of the determined courage of the men who comprise the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team.

Bloody Inje, a phase of Operation Killer, reached a climax on 26 May, 1951. Brilliantly exploited by the Rakkasans, Inje is a highlight, a singularly significant highlight, of the 187th. By 26th May the Regiment had fought through eight months of the Korean Conflict and had struck far to the rear of the enemy in a vertical parachute assault at Sukchon-Sunchon. Many more blood baths lay ahead before the men of the Combat Team were to return home.

The story of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team does not begin at Inje, Korea, anymore than it ends there. The chalice of courage, carried forward by succeeding increments of paratroopers who wear the shoulder patch of wing and flame, had its origins more than a decade prior to the Battle of Inje. The history of the 187th is a war diary of an Army Airborne Regiment whose destiny was irrevocably linked to the Far East. It is also the story of men with the hearts of boys—and boys with the hearts of men.

The beginning is 25 February 1943, at Camp Mackall, North Carolina where, as part of the 11th Airborne Division, the 187th, then the 187th Glider Infantry Regiment, was officially "Activated."

Even as America was girding for war and testing its sinews for the world-wide struggle of World War II, the 187th was to critically effect the manner in which that war was to be conducted.

The year 1943 was a period of testing. The testing of new equipment, of new military concepts—and of men. The airborne concept, successfully employed by the Germans at Crete and other operations, and indifferently applied by the Russians after mass peacetime experiments, was an untried military factor to American Army planners. The feasibility of United States Airborne operations, on the grand scale, was yet to be determined.

In the fall of 1943 the War Department convened a board of officers, known as the Swing Board after Major General Joseph M. Swing, Commanding General, 11th Airborne Division, to determine the War Department policy on the mission and scope of American Airborne operations. The result of the inquiry and study of this board, of which General Swing was President, was the publication of War Department Training Circular 113. The Knollwood maneuvers, scheduled for December, were planned according to this circular.

The 11th Airborne Division including the 187th Glider Infantry Regiment, was to provide the answers to the following questions: Could a large Airborne force, of division size, travel over a three to four hour instrument course across a large body of water and arrive at precisely selected drop zones? Could such a force land in gliders and by parachute without excessive landing casualties? Could a division so landed wage sustained combat? Could a division so landed be supplied by air and by air landing alone?

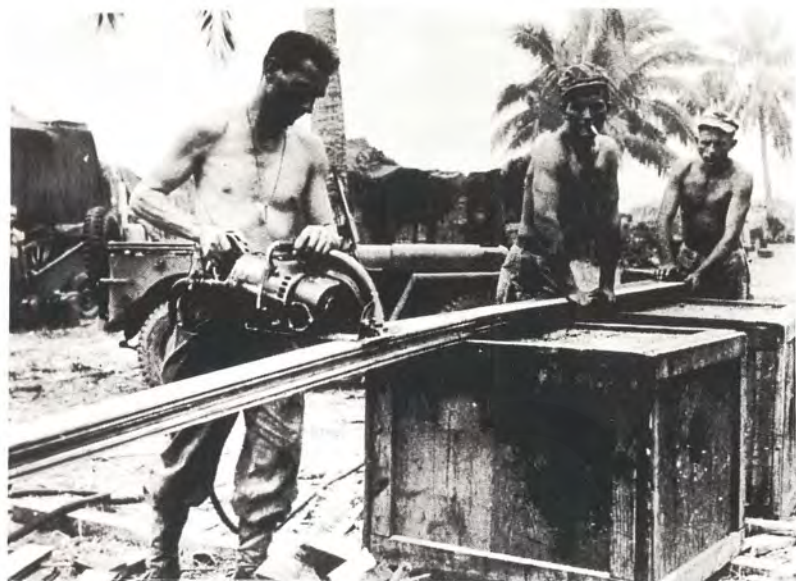
Assembling at departure airfields at bases in North and South Carolina, including Pope, Mackall, Florence, Lumberton and the Lumburg-Maxton Army Base, the Angels prepared to justify their concept of vertical envelopment.

On the sixth of December, as the green light flashed on in hundreds of troop carrier aircraft, thousands of paratroopers 'hit the silk' over the drop zones and glider pilots cut lose from their tow ships to launch a perfectly executed assault. Securing the airhead the paratroopers



June Brunner, (left) and Carole Landis, of the Jack Benny United Service Organization Troupe, with men of the 11th Abn. Div., at Dobodura, New Guinea, prior to an exhibition jump which the paratroopers put on for the visiting entertainers. 1 Aug. 44

Men of A Co., 127th Engr. Bn., 11th Abn. Div., are sawing lumber prior to making it into building partitions. 27 Nov. 44



and glidermen established a perimeter defense, and on the following day a never-ending procession of aircraft, loaded with all classes of supply, commenced landing at the airport. Bitter simulated warfare was waged over the sand hills of North Carolina for the next five days.

After the airborne men returned to barracks at Camp Mackall, General McNair wrote to the division commander: "After the airborne operations in Africa and Sicily, my staff and I had become convinced of the impracticability of handling large airborne units. I was prepared to recommend to the War Department that Airborne efforts be restricted to parachute units of battalion size or smaller. I shall now recommend that we continue our present schedule of activating, training, and committing airborne divisions."

Having proven the tactical worth of airborne operations the 187th, as part of the 11th Airborne Division, was to engage in a Pacific war that was almost entirely void of airborne operations.

Tested for Combat readiness on the Louisiana Maneuvers the paratroopers and glidermen were alerted for movement overseas on 15 March 1944.

On 23 May 1944, the men of the 187th pulled into Oro Bay, New Guinea to begin a series of operations and campaigns that would end in victory in the Pacific and Occupation Duty in Japan.

THE LEYTE CAMPAIGN

New Guinea, the land of jungles and mountains, of Fuzzy-Wuzzies and thatched houses, was to be staging area. Jump school, which qualified nearly eighty-percent of the men, including glidermen, as paratroopers, was opened. Operating in conjunction with the 54th Troop Carrier Wing at Nadzab the 187th conducted combined troop-carrier training at Dobadura. The 187th was committed to the Battle of Leyte Island, Operation King II, on 18 November with the Division mission of relieving the 7th Infantry Division along the line Burauen-LaPaz-Bugho and of destroying all Japs in that sector. The Japanese were resisting furiously at this stage. Yamashita had announced that decisive battles of the Philippines would be fought on Leyte.

As the 7th Division was relieved the 187th Glider Infantry was left on Bito Beach and Colonel Hildebrand, the Regimental Commander, was placed in command of all rear areas and assigned the mission of securing the vital corps installations. The problem of securing the Air Force Headquarters was solved by separating the 674th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, later a part of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, and the 675th from their guns, and assigning them protective missions as infantry.

Losing the Second Battalion and then the First Battalion as the Division plunged into the mountains, the 187th finally left Bito Beach to join the inland fight.

Before quitting Bito Beach, however, the 187th men were to experience their first encounter with Japanese paratroopers.

Striking for the rich prize of material on the beaches three plane loads of Japanese pathfinders, advance elements of a Japanese airborne

Infantrymen of G Co., 187th ARCT, 11th Abn. Div., moving up on the way to Sulac, Batangas, Luzon, PI. 9 Apr. 45



striking force, roared in over the beaches in the early morning hours of 29 November. Looking like C-47's in the dark they were mistaken for the regular couriers from Biak. One of the three crash-landed on San Pablo Airstrip and all the occupants were killed. The second skidded in near the Command Post of the 20th Armored Group killing two Japanese with eleven presumably free in the jungle. The third crash-landed on the beach on the north boundry of the Bito Beach area. Needless to say the air invasion never materialized.

The first combat parachute jumps of the 11th Airborne Division were made on 4 December when Battery B, 457th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion parachuted in at the Manarawat Mountain stronghold to provide artillery support for troops in the mountain. Shortly after, the men of B Company, 187th Glider Infantry Regiment parachuted into Manarawat, jumping from L-4 Artillery liaison planes, to take over the mission of securing the Manarawat position. The operation placed one platoon of the 187th at Manarawat, the Second Battalion at Burauen Heights and the remainder at Bito Beach. At the same time the Japanese were preparing a coordinated airborne-ground assault to seize the airfields at Burauen, San Pablo and Buri. The Jap 26th and 16th Divisions, scattered and behind schedule, met American paratroopers in the jungle and were decimated.

At about 1800 hours on the 6th a flight of Japanese bombers, came out of the west over the San Pablo Airstrip. The bombers circled well overhead and dropped a few bombs while the accompanying fighters remained high and well out of range. Two flights of C-47 type aircraft in a V of V's came in slowly over the field at about seven hundred feet. Suddenly the air was filled with Japanese paratroopers. About 300 men

of the Japanese Katori Shimpei Force dropped on the strips and attacked in all directions.

Although the Japs had picked some of their best men to make the attack, and surprise complete, utter confusion was apparent once they hit the ground. Many were killed before they could take up a fighting position. Others inflicted heavy damage and dug in to make the airstrip untenable. The Japanese quick release harness, in many cases, released paratroopers five or six hundred feet from the ground.

The paratroopers had evidently been commanded to destroy the liaison planes and supply dumps. They set fire to the planes and everything inflammable in the dumps. They attacked the bivouac of the Division personnel manning the supply installation and destroyed the camp. The only division personnel present at this time were from the 127th Engineers, the Signal Company and Headquarters Battery of Division Artillery.

The 674th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion was ordered to leave its guns on Bito Beach and get to the airstrip prepared to fight as infantry. Thereafter, throughout the Leyte Campaign, this is the way they fought.

At daylight on the seventh, just as an attack by headquarters people got started, Colonel Hosak arrived with his 674th Artillery-Infantrymen. The Japs were holed up all around the strip but initially the strongest resistance was made in front of the Engineers. The 674th pushed across the strip and into a coconut grove some seven hundred yards north of the airstrip. Here they halted and dug in for the night. Behind, the dead Japanese were removed from the strip and the few remaining



Private James Harper, of Hanford, Calif., a member of G Co., 187th ARCT, 11th AB Div., Sulac, Batangas, Luzon, P.I., rests beside a dud para-bomb, during the lull in fighting. 4 Sept. 45

Tanks and infantry entering Jap motor pool, which was captured by G Co., 187th ARCT. Several trucks and guns still in packing cases were found there. Sulac, Bastangas, Luzon, P. I. 9 Apr. 45



L-4's took off. On the eighth Colonel Hildebrand arrived with the First Battalion of the 187th to take over the task of clearing the airfield.

Meanwhile the remnants of the Japanese 16th Division were doing their part in the so-called coordinated attack. Lieutenant Hurster of the 187th set up a perimeter around the 44th Station Hospital with forty men, including cooks, supply personnel and drivers. This cordon held and no Japanese penetrated it during the night. Next morning patrols crossed the rice paddies and killed the remaining Japs.

One regiment of the 26th managed to mount a half-hearted night attack on the 11th but was repulsed with heavy losses. About 1500 men, survivors of the 16th Division, assembled northwest of the Buri Strip and, on 6th December launched an attack through a swamp. Inflicting heavy losses on American service troops stationed at Buri they dug in and prepared to fight. Moving into Burauen Heights at this time, the First Battalion of the 187th met a portion of this force and destroyed them. The 187th then turned back to dislodge the Japanese force on the north edge of the Buri strip.

While the First Battalion was clearing the Burauen airfields the Second Battalion of the 187th relieved elements of the division north of Anonang where they contained one of two main Japanese concentrations. The other Japanese portion was west of Mahonag where the long sought Japanese supply road was found. It was decided to cut this



Major General Swing, CG, 11th Airborne Division steps off plane at Atsugi Airport, Japan and is greeted by Major Ellis, also of the 11th Airborne Division, 30 Aug. 45

supply trail at Anas, a deserted village, to sever the Japanese in the mountains from their supplies.

Directed to join the 511th at Hacksaw Ridge the Second Battalion of the 187th arrived as the 511th attack became a route and the Second Battalion was ordered to proceed to the coastal plain.

With the first Japanese position destroyed it became imperative to reduce the second. The enemy held area was on two parallel ridges. The rear ridge where the Japs were most thickly dug in was known as Purple Heart Hill. Failing to find an avenue of approach into the position the 187th First Battalion back from Anonang, turned north, and in a wide encirclement, had ended up north of the Jap position.

On the night of the 26th artillery, mortars, and machine guns pounded the Japanese. On the 27th the Second Battalion stormed Purple Heart Hill and stayed atop it. The Japs who were not killed were scattered to the north and west. Those moving north ran into the First Battalion of the 187th which had attacked southward along the gorge. After-battle search of the area disclosed 238 Jap bodies in addition to many fragments of bodies, arms and legs, mangled by artillery. Also in the Purple Heart Hill area was found the end of the main Japanese supply trail which wound over the hills and through gullies from Ormoc Bay to Anonang.

By 15 January 1945, the 187th had closed into Bito Beach, with the rest of the Division, for rest, recuperation, and reorganization.

THE LUZON BATTLES

Seven days after returning from the mountains the 187th was alerted for the impending Luzon operation. The history makers were to become familiar with such places as Nasugbu, Batangas, Mt. Aiming, Tagaytay Ridge, the Genko Line, Nichols Field, Fort McKinley, Cavite and Manila.

On 31 January, the convoy of LCP's, LCI's, LST's and APD's, carrying the 187th and 188th arrived off Nasugby Bay to begin Operation Mike VI. Following preparatory Naval shelling the first wave headed for shore. At noon the Army Commander decided to exploit the landing and proceed to Manila. On landing, the First Battalion was attached to the 188th for the land push north while the Second and Third Battalions assumed responsibility for the operation and defense of Sasugby. One battery of the 674th remained to support the 187th in defense of the port. At midnight of the 31st the First Battalion of the 187th passed through the 188th to continue the advance up Highway 17 toward Tagaytay Ridge. Meeting small Japanese delaying parties the troopers brushed them aside and continued the advance. Approaching the heavily wooded Mt. Carilio-Mt. Aiming-Mt. Batulao defile, the battalion came under devastating fire. It became evident that the Japs were now ready to fight. The First Battalion, 187th and Second Battalion 188th continued attacking abreast toward the east. The Jap regimental Command Post

was over run in the vicinity of Aga at 1300 hours. Huge stores of supplies were seized.

The remainder of the 187th, meantime, had cleaned out the flank positions at San Diego and Nasugbu points.

Beginning the final attack on the Carilio-Batulao line on the third, the land forces were heartened by the sight of the first jump serial of the 511th over Lake Taal at 0815. Tagaytay Ridge, the drop zone, was on the northern slope of a volcano. Shorty Ridge, center of the last fanatical Japanese resistance, was attacked from both sides while the Japanese were battered by artillery and air support. The high ground was secured and, with the exception of the Japs left in caves on Shorty Ridge, highway 17 was clear.

The Division held a beachhead a hundred yards wide and sixty-nine miles long. The mission of protecting this corridor fell to the 187th. Impressing Filipino guerrillas, and later utilizing the 19th Infantry RCT, Colonel Hildebrand took over the vast task of covering the large area that the rapid advance had liberated.

In a few days the 187th was to move forward and take part in the attack on the Genko Line. The line consisted of a series of concrete pillboxes, mutually supporting and extending six thousand yards in depth through the Manila Polo Club. It stretched east across Nichols Field and anchored on the high ground of Mabato Point along Laguna de Bay. The rear of the line was based on the high ground of Fort McKinley. Many of the concrete pillboxes were two and three stories deep.

Glum faced soldiers at the side of the field watch the arrival of the 11th Airborne Division at Atsugi Airstrip outside Tokyo, 30 Aug. 45



PFC William Osterman of Brooklyn, N. Y. (center) and PFC Kenneth Burns of Lubbock, Texas both of the 11th Airborne Div., are outfitted in Japanese peasant straw raincoat and hat as they chat with another GI in the outskirts of Sendai, Japan. Sept. 45

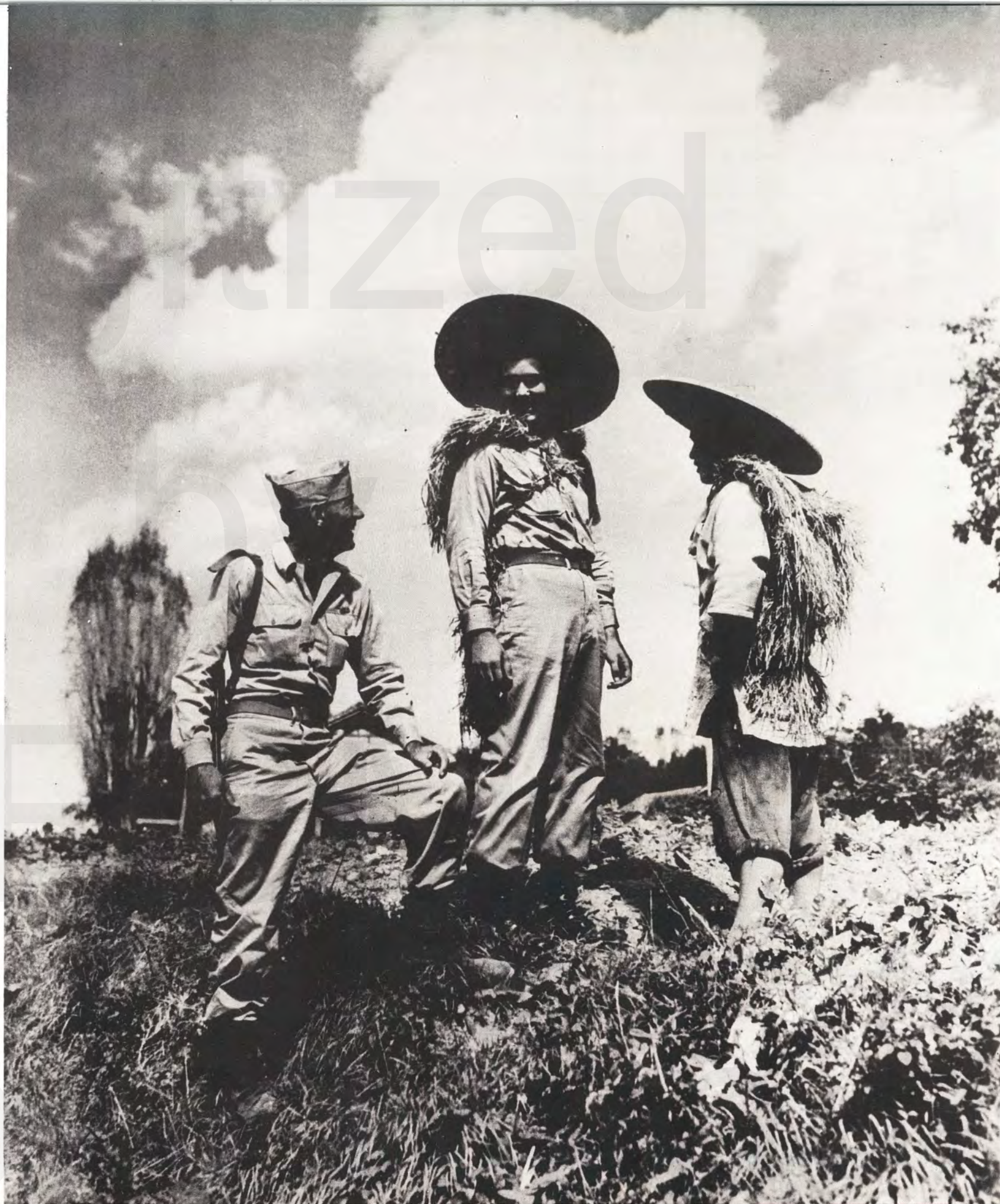
Six thousand strong, the Japanese Southern Unit, Manila Defense Force, occupied over 1,200 pillboxes.

On the sixth, while the 511th drove north up the left flank, the First Battalion, 187th, attached to the 188th, made their flanking movement. Executing a wide envelopment of the southern defenses on the north corner of Nichols field they attacked toward the center of the enemy lines.

On 11 February contact was made with elements of the First Cavalry Division and the 188th, with the attached 187th Battalion, succeeded in breaking through the southern defenses on Nichols Field. On the 12th the First Battalion of the 187th wheeled across the field and joined with the Second Battalion of the 187th, commanded by Colonel Norman Tipton. Following a coordinated attack the 511th came up on line with the remainder of the Division and the field was secured.

The three regiments then turned and headed for Fort McKinley and Mabato Point, the remaining strongholds and the Jap Defensive line. Seizing Fort McKingley, the attackers moved to isolate the last Jap stronghold at Mabato. With the reduction of the Genko Line, the capture of part of Manila and the seizure of Nichols Field and Fort McKinley, the 187th had reason to be proud of its accomplishments.

GIs of the advance party, 11th Airborne Div., enjoy all the comforts of home, oriental style, in the Matsushima Hotel, Matsushima, N. Honshu, Japan. Sept. 45



On 23 February the Division was given the mission of destroying all the Japs in Southern Luzon south of Manila. The guerrillas attached to the 187th proved themselves invaluable and without this assistance the paratroopers would have suffered many more losses. In addition to opening the Batangas Highway the immediate objective was to free Manila Harbor. The 187th and 511th Regiments were to attack abreast to destroy the Japs on the southern shore. Route of attack was through the narrow neck of a land between Lake Taal and Laguna de Bay.

On the northern shore of Lake Taal, the 187th proceeded from Talisay on the road to Tanauan without resistance until it came up to Hill 660. The regiment was attacking with its two battalions abreast, the First on the left making the main effort, and the Second on the right, scouring the terrain south of the Tanauan road. About three hundred yards west of Hill 660 the regiment came under extremely heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire from the Japanese positions on the hill.

In three days of heavy fighting the 187th enveloped the position by moving through the dense bamboo groves and captured the key position, a fortress of pillboxes surrounding a converted concrete water tank. On top of the hill the enemy was partially routed out of a vertible underground garrison of large interconnected caves. Many Japanese were sealed in the large, hollow rooms where they could be heard screaming and scratching on the dirt-filled exits.

At about this time Colonel Hildebrand departed and Colonel George Pearson assumed command of the 187th.

Taking over the mission of reducing the Japanese positions on the southwestern slopes of Mt. Macolod the 187th prepared for its bloodiest and toughest battle of the Luzon Campaign.

In this area, the Japanese had constructed a formidable defensive position. They had employed impressed Filipino laborers to construct underground positions and, to insure secrecy, had slain the laborers when the job was completed. Only dummy positions were visible from the air and the mountain bristled with artillery and automatic weapons carefully laid to cover all approaches with interlocking bands of fire. The 187th initially attacked frontally, less a battalion, which amounted to an attack by one battalion, with a wide envelopment by the First Battalion calculated to strike the position in the vicinity of Bukel Hill. Then the 187th, less the First Battalion, moved eastward from Lipa toward Mt. Malepunyo and the village of Sulac at its base. As they crossed the first low ridge east of the City of Lipa they were hit by a prolonged artillery concentration and heavy mortar and automatic weapons fire. Weary from its fierce battles on Brownie Ridge the 187th needed reinforcements. The Third Battalion of the 511th, fresh after resting for twelve hours as Division reserve, was attached.

To attack and destroy the Macolod position the 760th and 756th Artillery Battalions, and the 472nd and 675th 105mm Howitzers were placed in support of the 187th as well as a company of Chemical mortars, a company of medium tanks and a company of tank destroyers. A coordinated attack was launched with the two battalions abreast. The First Battalion attacked and seized Bukel Hill and retained it as a departure point. Advance was slow, particularly on the left flank, where it was necessary for the troops to proceed across the bare face of Brownie Ridge which was swept by mortar and machine gun fire.

Men of the 11th Airborne Div. give candy to a little Japanese girl in front of the makeshift post office in Yokohama. Sept. 45





American soldiers of the U. S. Army, 11th Airborne Div., try out a light Jap tank for size. Sept. 45

Men of the 187th RCT, 11th Abn. Div., paddle their rubber landing craft shoreward during amphibious training for all 8th Army tactical units, conducted from a former Jap Naval Base, in Yokoshka, Japan. In the background are amphibious DUKW's. 27 Sept. 46



Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichalberger, CG, US 8th Army, and his party stand at attention on the reviewing stand as graduates of the 11th Abn. Div., Jump and Glider School pass in review, at Carelus Field, near Sendai, Japan. L-R, front row: Gen. Eichalberger, Lt. Col. Mann, Maj. Gen. Charles W. Ryder, CG, IX Corps. In back row are: Brig. Gen. Milton B. Halsey, Col. Thayer, Col. Connor, and Col. Horner. 7 December 1946

Reconnaissance vehicles of the 187th Glider Infantry Regiment, 11th Abn. Div. pass in review during Army Day ceremonies held at Camp Crawford, Hokkaido, Japan, 2-9 April 1948





Demolition crew of the 187th Glider Inf. Regiment, 11th Abn. Div., detonates a charge of explosive during the blowing up of a bridge, the objective in a tactical training jump at Camp Crawford, Hokkaido, Japan. 2-9 April 1948

Tank destroyers were placed along the highway just west of Dita from where they could fire directly at the mouths of the caves in the side of the mountain, and 155 howitzers were towed up to the front lines where they could lay directly on the caves with armor-piercing shell.

Then, as the tanks moved across and up the slope of Brownie Ridge, Bud Miley took his company up the sheer southwestern side almost to the top of the mountain and, as he turned back down to hit the Japanese from the rear, the whole line moved forward.

On 20 April the 187th overran the mountain.

After the fall of Mt. Macolod and Malepunyo there were no longer enough Japs concentrated in any one spot to permit the establishment of front lines. Those who did remain gathered in small, starving pockets in the mountains and lived from day to day awaiting discovery by American troops. The 187th was given the job to ferret out these pockets.

The 187th assumed the detail of garrisoning Manila on the 29th of May.

Anticipating a full scale invasion of the Japanese homeland in the fall the 187th was notified on 11 August that it would participate in the

spearhead landing of the Allied Occupation Forces. At 1200 hours the same day the troopers were told that planes would start arriving at Lipa Airstrip to start the move to Okinawa.

The 187th, with the remainder of the 11th Airborne Division, would fly from Lipa to Okinawa where it would establish a temporary camp while waiting for the final peace terms to be settled. Speed was the keynote but care had to be taken to land in Japan with complete combat equipment.

RAKKASANS OCCUPY JAPAN

At 0100 hours on 30 August the Angels started on the last leg of the unopposed invasion. General Joseph Swing, riding the first plane, touched down at Atsugi Airfield, on the outskirts of Yokohama, at 0600 and the formal occupation was underway. At 1400 hours General of the Army Douglas MacArthur arrived in the Bataan to assume command of the Allied Occupation.

By 15 September the 187th was housed at the Japanese Army Arsenal at Sendai and in February 1946, with the inactivation of the 77th Infantry Division, the 11th Airborne Division was given the entire island of Hokkaido to occupy. The 187th set up in the old Japanese

Army barracks outside the city of Sapporo. The Anti-tank Company and First Battalion went to Hokodate, the Third Battalion to Ashigawa.

Occupation duty was to hold the 187th in the land of Cherry Blossoms until 17 March 1949. The Rakkasans initial tour in the Far East eventually extended to four years, ten months and fifteen days.

The grim war years faded as the Rakkasans, so named by the Japanese for "Falling Umbrella," assisted in the rehabilitation of a whole society and culture. The democratic policies instituted by General of the Army MacArthur were implemented by units like the 187th. By example, display, and surveillance the Japanese were directed along the path of a new national order.

Sergeant First Class William G. Ignatz joined Company K in November 1947. Recalling his experiences during the Occupation in considerable detail, Ignatz, who is presently serving with the same company, said, "When I arrived in Sapporo the mass movement of troops home had been completed. K Company had sixty-five men present for duty. All units in the 187th were similarly understrength. I was a fat, dumb and happy fifteen year old airborne volunteer so the 'old man' immediately sent me to the Yamoto Jump School at Camp Schimmelfenning near Sendia. While there I made the usual five qualifying parachute jumps and, surprisingly also qualified as a glider-rider by taking two glider flights. We were using a small Drop Zone near the Inland Sea. The gliders would cut loose over the water and glide back to a landing. On returning to K Company we began ski training at the site of the 1933 Olympics in the mountains of Hokkido. Later our company, as were the other elements of the Regiment, went on "patrol" jumps. These consisted of loading a platoon in a C-46 aircraft, riding a flight pattern for about an hour then jumping in small groups near some coastal village. Usually the mayor and his entourage would greet the paratroopers on whatever drop zone we were able to hit and escort us into the town. Following a search of the houses for Samurai swords, rifles and ammunition, and questioning the townspeople for evidence of Communist activity, we would form up and march the hundred or so miles back to base. Enroute the platoon conducted field problems, compiled maps and made reports of the villages investigated on the way home.

Camp Crawford, home of K Company, provided the best living conditions of any that I have found in the Army. General Swing had planned barracks that housed a platoon or section instead of the usual Company size barracks. Recreation facilities were excellent and the missions interesting.

In the winter of 1948, for example, my platoon and some I&R people were sent out on a rescue mission to parachute in at the northern tip of Hokkaido to secure a crashed C-47. Thirty of us, loaded with winter equipment, weapons, ammunition, one days rations and mountain sleeping bags, made the flight north. On the four minute signal we lumbered to our feet. Looking out the little side windows I could see the Russian mainland in the distance. Because of the small DZ the pilot made two passes over the downed C-47. Hitting the blast I looked down to locate the plane which was partially hidden in deep snow. Making a deep slip toward the plane I landed in calf deep snow. On assembling at the plane we found the crew had moved into a nearby town. We set up a guard until the Air Force could bring in fuel and spare parts from Chitose Air Force Base. Airborne two days later the C-47 was salvaged but we had to walk back to Crawford—a matter of two days march.

I was very favorably impressed with Japan. I was able to visit the Wakani (SSO) Hot Springs Hotel, where the military "tourist" rate was

seventy-five cents a day for room and board. Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were included on my leave schedules. Nagasaki, though badly smashed by the "A" Bomb, was, even then, under reconstruction as the Japanese industriously rebuilt their city."

Ignatz much later, made the Sukchon-Sunchon combat jump, participated in the bitter retreat to Taegue, and smashed north with the 187th at Inje, Korea.

Patrol jumps became paramount in the military activities of Corporal Coleman V. Joyce who joined Headquarters Company, Third Battalion in August 1947. "About ten of us would load aboard a beat-up C-47 and drop into little Japanese towns throughout the island. Very few of these people had seen an American before and none had ever seen a paratrooper until we jumped in on top of them. Little brown legs would pump madly as the Japanese dashed out to our tiny drop zone. They, particularly the youngsters, would help us roll up our chutes and carry the silk and our gear to the local inn.

There was no such thing, of course, as a regular Drop Zone. We would just fly around looking for a field then out the door we'd go. The plane would drop off five to eight men then go on to the next likely town. Once on the ground the NCO in charge would set up a variety of missions, such as checking bridges and generally making a show of strength. On some occasions the whole population would come out to the edge of town to meet us."

In November 1948, the Third Battalion made an Arctic Jump near Sapporo with three C-47's. The operation lasted from dawn to dusk but everybody jumped.

"I enplaned with fifteen men from Headquarters Company in the afternoon," Joyce continued, "wearing pack and combat gear. A twenty-minute flight brought us over the DZ. Because of the short pattern we could jump only six or seven men on a pass. Jumping on the first pass I saw men and snow weasels scurrying around in the snow. When I came in it felt like landing in a featherbed. I sank into the snow up to my hips, flipped over and, as I struggled to get out of the parachute harness, a snow weasel came chugging over the field and picked me up to take me to the assembly area. Quite an experience.

We also gave ski instruction to other men of the Regiment. More men were hospitalized because of ski training than injuries by parachute jumps. The same winter our platoon conducted a drop at Wakkanai on the northern tip of Hokkaido. After landing we scrambled aboard a Japanese boat which navigated the strait separating Japan from Russian held Sakhalin. Checking a little Japanese island in the middle of the strait we turned around and headed back again. This time we returned to camp via the Japanese National Railway."

Now a member of Company E, Joyce, too, made the Sukchon-Sunchon combat jump in Korea, survived the Chinese Intervention and accompanied the Regiment to Inje in "Operation Killer."

In June 1948 Colonel Pierson returned to the Zone of Interior to be replaced by Colonel Harvey J. Jablonsky, new commanding officer of the Rakkasans.

The Rakkasan occupation of Japan, however, was fast approaching an end. Many of these same men would return later as guests of the

Paratroopers of the 187th Glider Inf. Regt., 11th Abn. Div., jump out of a C-46 transport plane over the drop zone, from an altitude of 1200 feet, during tactical jump training at Camp Crawford, Hokkaido, Japan. 2-9 April 1948



Japanese Government following grim operations against the Communists in Korea. But that was in a future day that none, at that time, could foresee.

STATESIDE

In January 1949 the 31st Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division arrived in Japan to relieve the 187th Glider Infantry Regiment of Occupation Duty. The difficult task of transferring responsibility to the relieving unit was accomplished smoothly and without undue friction.

Major Richard J. Allen, Regimental S-3, and two enlisted men departed with the first echelon on 12 January 1949, to establish an advance group at Camp Campbell, Kentucky. The first main body, including Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Service Company, Medical Detachment, and the Third Battalion, sailed aboard the United States Army Transport General Hershey, with elements of the Division Artillery, on 19 February. Docking at New Orleans on 17 March the Rakkasan Headquarters was officially opened at Camp Campbell at 0800 hours, 24 March 1949. The First Battalion remained in Japan until 23 April when it too, quitted Japan to rejoin the Regiment at Campbell.

The initial task of the 187th in the States was to rehabilitate the camp which had deteriorated following the war years. This was essential before any program of individual or unit training could be established. Renovation and building of training facilities, painting and general policing and beautification was accomplished by 24 June.

On 25 June 1949 the 187th Glider Infantry Regiment was redesignated the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment and Company L was reactivated concurrently with the reorganization of the regiment. In addition to becoming an airborne infantry regiment changes were made in unit designations. Anti-tank Company became Support Company and the Medical Detachment was converted to a Medical Company.

The Rakkasans were alerted for Operation Swarmer in December and embarked on a program of advance unit training.

Under the overall command of Lieutenant General Norstad, preparations for the Swarmer Operation, friendly and Aggressor alike, was initiated. Paper plans had been laid on months before. Supplies were gathered and troops indoctrinated in mission and objectives. The purpose of "Swarmer" was to determine whether it was possible to establish a military attack position by air and maintain it completely by air . . . Thus, Swarmer paralleled the Knollwood Maneuvers of 1943. Operation Swarmer, however differed from the earlier Knollwood Maneuvers in that all classes of supplies were to be delivered by air and by air landed aircraft. This operation capitalized on the experience factors gained in the Berlin Airlift operation and succeeded in landing an aircraft every three minutes to supply the expanding airhead.

Unknown to the 187th men participating at the time many of the theories applied in the Swarmer Operation were to successfully maintain them in battle scant months later in Korea.

In June, 1950, the North Koreans, at the urging of their Communist masters, spilled across the thirty-eighth parallel in a brutal invasion of South Korea peacefully occupied by friendly Allied forces. The 187th rapidly assumed an attack posture which was to strike fear in the hearts

Members of the 187th Glider Inf. Regt., 11th Abn. Div., go through rigorous training during a tactical jump and field problem at Camp Crawford, Hokkaido, Japan. Apr. 48



of Russia's tool-of-aggression and to, twice, smash the aggressor back across the demarkation zone in a retaliatory bloodletting. The Rakkasans would soon re-enter, the Orient.

On five June Lieutenant Colonel Arthur H. Wilson assumed command of the 187th, vice Lieutenant Colonel Harvey J. Jablonsky. This proved to be a temporary assignment for, as the situation in Korea worsened, it became apparent that there would be an urgent need for airborne capability. The knowing looks became more pronounced when Colonel Frank S. Bowen assumed command of the Regiment on 21 June. Colonel Bowen, a Brigadier General in World War II, was to rapidly shape the policies that poised the Rakkasans for combat.

By 31 July all elements of the Combat Team, away from Campbell on various recruiting, training and demonstration missions, had returned to base and, on the first of August, Colonel Bowen assembled the Regiment in Theater Number Three and announced that the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment was alerted for overseas movement. As of that date the 187th was designated as the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team although, officially, it was not to carry that distinct identification until formal Activation ceremonies were held on 27 August 1950.

Implementing the new status was General Order No. 34, dated 29 July which established the elements of the new command:

- 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment
- 674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion
- Company A 127th Airborne Engineer Battalion
- Battery A 88th Airborne Anti-Aircraft Battalion

On August 23 and again on the 26th, additional support units were assigned to the basic organizations:

- Detachment 11th Airborne Military Police Company
- Detachment 11th Airborne Quartermaster
- Parachute Maintenance Company

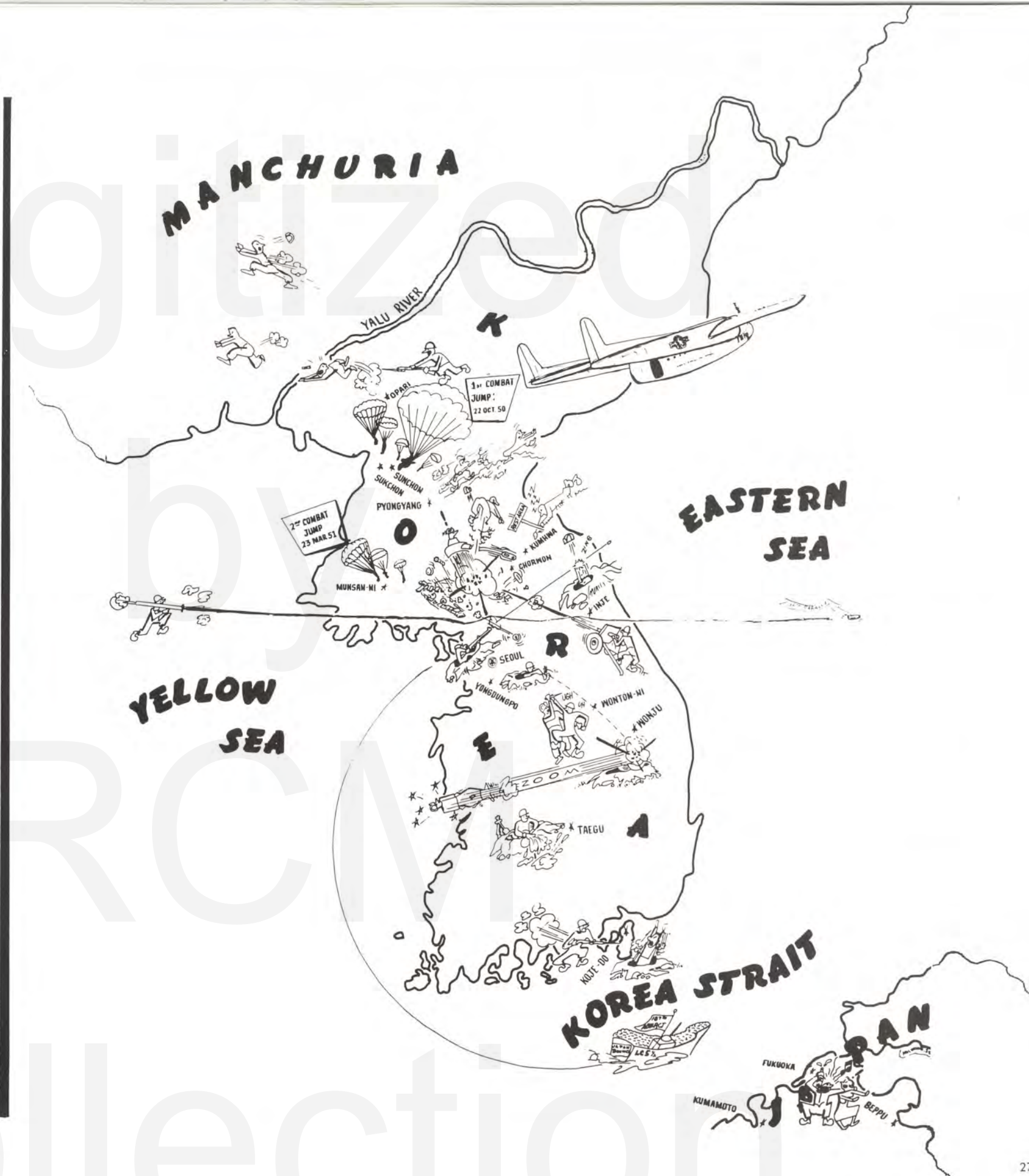
And:

- Platoon Clearing Company 11th Airborne Medical Battalion
- Platoon Ambulance Company 11th Airborne Medical Battalion

On 28 August the 2384th Quartermaster Air Packaging and Resupply Company was attached to the command.

Immediate intensive tactical training was begun. Administrative instructions were published and carried out in the making of wills, powers of attorney and the many and varied obligations soldiers must undertake before shipment to a war theatre. A course was set up to allow each man in the RCT to fire every type of weapon. Each man underwent infiltration refresher training and other POR qualification courses. This training was climaxed by a Combat Team drop on the 187th Drop Zone.

Specialist Third Class Edward R. Gasperini made his sixth parachute jump as a member of L Company on this final tactical problem before departure for the Far East. "Our final operation," he said "was held two weeks before leaving for the port of embarkation. We were loaded down with all the TO&E equipment. As an assistant machine gunner I jumped my machine gun in a Griswold Container, in addition to field pack and ammunition. Two hours after landing in the stumps and chuck holes of what is now the 187th DZ it started raining. This was a foretaste of the typical operational weather we were to experience in Korea. Company L assembled in good order and we moved out to our objective in a realistic battle formation. Recalling Colonel Bowen's remarks just a few days before we all really dug in and made a bang-up job of our three day problem. We had a pretty good idea what we would be doing in Korea,—living up to the recruiting posters that advertise the paratrooper as the toughest soldier in the Army."





KOREAN CONFLICT: Major General Edward M. Almond, CG, X Corps (right), talks to members of the Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 187th ARCT, as they leave for their new positions to the north, during his visit to the 187th ARCT front, near Seoul, Korea. 1 Oct. 50 . .



KOREAN CONFLICT: 20 Oct. 50. Airborne troops of the 187th Regimental Combat Team relax and take a quick smoke before boarding planes for drop behind Communist-held North Korean lines north of Pyongyang, Korea.

Colonel Bowen quickly became known as an ambitious commander—and a very exacting one. Every operation, in those last few vital days, was squeezed dry of training for the men and field commanders—from squad leaders on up to the RCT commander himself. This brass knuckled training was to pay big dividends in a much more grim situation less than a month away. Final cleaning of equipment, a prosaic but necessary chore, was accomplished by the 31st and the Rakkasans began clearing Fort Campbell for the Far East Command.

Fourteen trains were used in the move. Train number one, carrying the advance party, departed at 0001 hours, 1 September 1950, destination, Fort Lawton, Washington. Transferring to airlift, the party flew to Ashiya Air Force Base, Kyushu, Japan, via Anchorage, Shemya and Tokyo. The remaining thirteen trains moved the main body to Camp Stoneman, California for embarkation aboard the USNS Heintzelman and the USNS Anderson for transport to Sasebo, Japan, departing on the 6th and 7th of September, respectively.

The first fatalities for the RCT occurred when Lieutenant Colonel Lavern G. Witmer and First Lieutenant Robert J. Nelson, members of the advance party, were lost in a plane crash at Osaka on 6 September.



Gen. MacArthur At Pyongyang As Fight

187th 'Hits The Silk' North Of Pyongyang To Trap NKs

By HOWARD HANDLEMAN
WITH GENERAL MACARTHUR OVER NORTH OF KOREA
 More than 4000 American paratroopers jumped to earth 25 miles north of Pyongyang Friday under the personal direction from the air of General Douglas MacArthur in a move to cut off fleeing Red forces.
 General MacArthur dropped combat-tested paratroopers on two key communications centers 25 miles north of Pyongyang, and after watching the drop said triumphantly:
 "The war is very definitely coming to an end shortly."
 Swa MacArthur He first of the hovering The carried in Gen the move of parat miles du Sianju.
 Another group dropped near Suncheon, 16 miles east of Suikho.
 The paratroopers were ordered to cut the double-tracked railway north from Pyongyang. This line goes through Suikho and leads to Sinanju and the Yalu river bridge to Antung in Communist China's Manchuria.
 Another objective was a single-track line running from Pyongyang through Suncheon and northeastward to the Yalu river at Manpojin just across the river from the White mountain colony of Koreans in Manchuria.
 General MacArthur, explaining his reasons for the airborne operation, said he is determined to prevent any Red big-wigs from escaping into Manchuria and directing guerrilla warfare against UN forces in Korea.
 "Whoever is in the net we are going to try to get," General MacArthur said.
 He expressed confidence that the Reds do not have much military power north of Pyongyang at present. He said, however, that without the mass jump, the Communists might have had the opportunity to regroup for another stand in three or four days.
 The unexpected jump was made coincidentally on

SEWART, CAMPBELL BOYS HAVE TOP ROLE IN WAR'S CLIMAX

MacArthur Directs Drop To Cut Off Reds

By ROSELL BRINES
WITH GENERAL MACARTHUR IN THE AIR OVER KOREA, Oct. 20—
 (AP)—American parachute troops jumped into Communist territory 25 miles north of Pyongyang today in a swift thrust to cut off Red escape routes from the UN-occupied North Korean capital.
 General MacArthur, circling the battle area in his transport plane, personally directed the first parachute drop of the Korean campaign.
 It was commanded by Col. F. S. Bowen of the 187th Regiment of the veteran 11th Airborne Division which had trained at Fort Campbell near Clarksville, Tenn.
 The North Korean government, including Premier Kim Il Sung, is believed to have fled the Communist capital to the north. Prisoners said the government had fled to Hailuon, 40 miles north of Pyongyang.
 The prisoners also said North Korean military headquarters had been moved to Suncheon, a sizeable town 11 miles east of Suikho.
 The ground troops American dropped on the railroads between the key highway towns of Suikho and Suikho.



KOREAN CONFLICT: 20 Oct. 50. Airborne troops of the 187th Regimental Combat Team can still smile despite the danger awaiting them as they board USAF C-119's for a drop behind Communist-held North Korean lines, north of Pyongyang, Korea.

PARATROOPERS ENTER THE KOREAN CONFLICT

Colonel Bowen and his staff left the Advance Party in Tokyo to report to Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, for a briefing on the immediate commitment of the 187th. The remainder of the Advance Party continued to Ashyia and then to Camp Hakata, Kyushu where they set up the RCT Headquarters in the old 13th Field Artillery Battalion area. Sand tables were set up, a War Room and Operations Room established, and quartering arranged for the incoming troops. Camp Wood was chosen as the troop area but, being sixty miles distant from Hakata, Colonel Bowen requested that the arrival port be changed to Moji so that the RCT could be marshalled directly at Ashyia Air Force Base. Thus the 187th became capable of immediate combat attack by airlanding or by parachute, anywhere in Korea.

On the 19th the headquarters displaced to Ashyia Airfield and, on the 20th the first troops of the Rakkasan Team, set foot on Japanese soil at Moji Port. The "overseas" tour of the 187th in the United States had been eighteen months—short.

SUKCHON, KOREA. Dropping to the earth, Sockurek caught the slanting, swaying spectacle of the jump into Red territory. The troops at the upper right are just bailing out of their Flying Boxcars. 20 Oct. 50

—Reprint courtesy of Life Magazine





At 1400 hours on the 24th of September the Third Battalion and Support Company were in action against North Koreans at Kimpo Airfield.

KIMPO

Sergeant J. H. Alexander, a rifleman assigned to Company A describes the arrival of the First Battalion in the Korean Conflict.

"This move was really a hurry-up operation. We first heard that we were going to make a combat jump. It looked like the real thing when we were issued parachutes. The First Battalion was fully loaded for combat when we went aboard our C-119's; including monorail bundles rigged for paradrop. Flying into some anti-aircraft fire on approaching the coast of Korea, we turned out to sea and our serial came in from another direction. About mid-morning we landed at Kimpo. US Marines had partially cleared the strip of North Korean soldiers and guerrillas but we landed under small arms fire from the edges of the field. All the buildings were smashed and burning. Destroyed aircraft littered the runways.

When the plane came to a halt the last man in the left stick opened the door and was promptly killed by a sniper bullet between the eyes. Hurridly unloading the plane we stacked monorail and other equipment to one side to permit immediate take off of the aircraft. The air traffic was continuous. As one hardstand was cleared and the aircraft became airborne, another would touch down and taxi to the side to be off-loaded."

Assembled at the airfield, A Company, with its baggage and equipment following in trucks, made a five mile road march to Suwon south of Kimpo.

"I carried 10 bandoleers of M-1 ammunition, five grenades, two boxes of M-6 Ammo and my field gear," Alexander continued. "Some march."

During our overnight bivouac at Suwon we came under sniper fire. Our platoon leader routed three of us volunteers out of the sack, Sergeant Pulver, Corporal Munture, and myself, and told us to dig out the NK straggler.

This was war . . .

Sneaking along the road, we started in the general direction of rifle fire. "Our" sniper appeared to be located along the side of the road in a dug-out of some kind. About 350 yards from the company area we located our man in a cut-bank next to a cornfield. Corporal Munture, with a BAR, went to the left to give me covering fire and I crawled along the bank to approach a corn-stalk covered hole. Leaning against the bank next to the hole I shouted over to Munture to throw in a couple of rounds. Sure enough, out fell a Red clutching a Russian rifle with fixed bayonet. He was dead before he hit the ground."

The 187th RCT was assigned the mission of clearing the Cumpo Peninsula which lies south of the Han River and is formed by the north-westerly course of the Han into the Yellow Sea. Estimated strength of the opposing forces was 3,000 men of the 31st, 32nd and 33rd Battalions of the 107th Security Regiment of the North Korean Forces. Other decimated forces, remnants and stragglers from units broken up by the UN advance were believed to be in the area.

The Third Battalion airlift was followed by the First and Second Battalions. By 26th September all elements of the 187th were in Korea

SUKCHON, KOREA. After landing troops cross rice fields. 20 Oct. 50
—Reprinted courtesy of Life Magazine



KOREAN CONFLICT: 20 Oct. 50. "Angles" and equipment of the 187th RCT, landing in the drop zone in the Sukchon Area to seal the Communist-led North Koreans' escape route from their fallen capital of Pyongyang, approximately 25 miles away.

except for a small rear detail at Ashyia and a Detachment at Camp Kashii including the Parachute Maintenance Company and the Personnel Section of Service Company.

At 1230 hours on the 27th Company L was ambushed by a force estimated at 400 men. The enemy allowed the truck column to advance half-way through a small village before opening fire. The fire fight continued for four hours with the paratroopers inflicting heavy losses on the North Korean forces. Withdrawing in orderly fashion L Company carried out their dead and wounded without losing a single piece of equipment. Sergeant First Class Fred Bailey, Sergeant Kenneth E. Stevenson and Private First Class Clark M. Bradford were among the first battle dead suffered by the Regiment.

Specialist Third Class Edward R. Gasperini, machine gunner in L Company remembers the action this way:

"By the fifth or sixth day in Korea most of the men in my platoon had become pretty well adjusted to combat—or at least as ready for it as we were ever likely to be. We all felt better when, after digging and moving and being shot at, L Company got its first solid mission. The young 'Lions' of L Company were to stop a reinforced company of North Korean guerrillas who were racing north just ahead of the First ROK Marine Regiment. Armor, in the lead of the pursuing force, had stopped at a blown bridge, so it was up to us foot soldiers to make the play.

We started off up the road in company column, First platoon in the

lead and my platoon, the Third, in the rear. Somehow the lead section, under the command of the Company Exec, passed through a body of North Koreans hidden to the right of the road without seeing them. As the Main body came up the Reds began firing down the length of the column. From a hidden position about five hundred yards away mortar fire began dropping on the company. Rallying, the 1st and 2nd platoons carried a screaming attack across a rice field toward the center of the Communist position on a hill. While my machine gun helped lay a base of fire the paratroopers swarmed over the hill and drove the NK's down the other side. Our losses were comparatively light for the four hour action."

On the 29th the First Battalion attacked northwest, driving to the extremity of the peninsula on the 30th. Ten casualties were sustained in this operation, including the loss of Private Gordon O. Fengstadt, a four year veteran of the 187th. Three hundred of an estimated 3,000 man force escaped in small boats to a coastal island to the west and the next morning the First and Second Battalions, accompanied by a Battalion of the Republic of Korea Marines under the command of Major Kim, attacked toward the west of Tongjin and completed the mopping up operations.

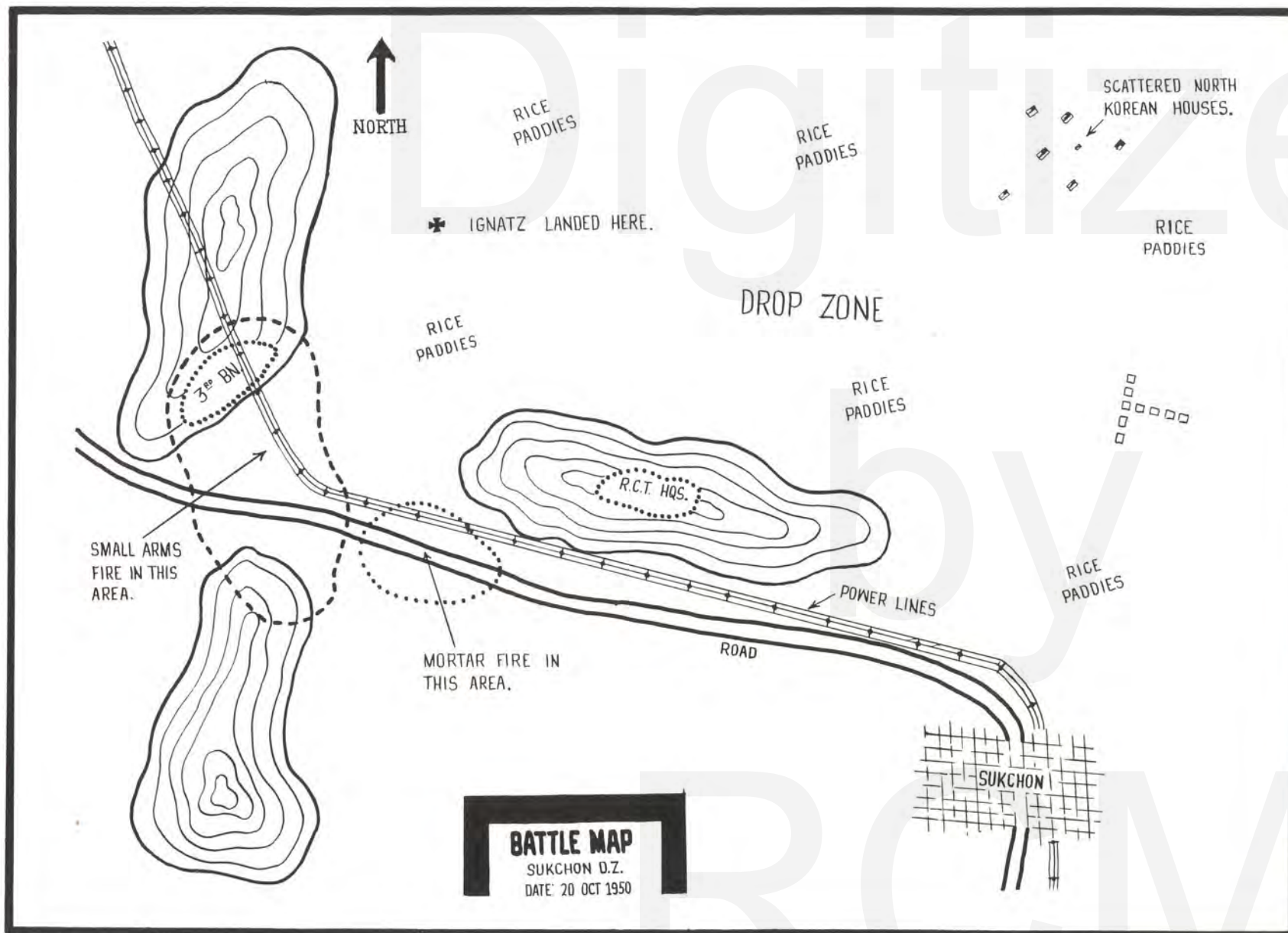
Typical of these rat hunting expeditions was the experience of Sergeant Alexander with A Company. "Moving west on the road toward Tongjin we spread out on both sides of the road keeping a watchful eye on the ditches for 'sleepers,' NK's playing dead. In the approach march to a small village we came under moderate small arms, automatic and mortar fire. The Second Platoon of A Company covered my platoon, the First Platoon, as we spread out in platoon-on-line to cross a series of rice paddies over which a company size enemy force was retreating toward the hills. Most of the Reds fled before our marching fire but a few stayed to the bitter end. Two jumped up directly in front of our advance and three of us walking together fired simultaneously to get both of the running men. Just as suddenly a machine gun opened up from a house on our left flank and we hit the dirt. We were still the three musketeers, Pulver, Munture and myself. Crawling to a fence surrounding the mud hut I threw a grenade. Out stumbled a North Korean soldier who was quickly followed by a second man carrying a rifle. Inside the hut we found a drum-fed Russian machine gun which we promptly smashed. The prisoners were herded to the rear. We continued our sweep to the hills, radioed for Naval gunfire and watched the hill erupt in beautiful geysers of rock, dirt and smoke. There were no enemy left when we climbed to the top."

Rounding up the last of the Communists and killing those who resisted the Rakkasans cleared the area to the Han River. Leaving the ROK Marines in the vicinity of Tongjin to maintain control the RCT, on 2 October, closed in at Kimpo to bivouac in the deserted dependent housing area. Here the paratroopers began servicing equipment in preparation for succeeding operations. In the offing was the first combat jump of the Korean war.

During the Kimpo Peninsula Operation the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team had defeated an organized enemy force of 3,000 men, killing or capturing all but 300 and cleared the Kimpo Peninsula enabling X Corps to advance unhampered to the west.

SUKCHON, KOREA. Irrigation ditch makes for a wet landing. 20 Oct. 50
—Reprinted courtesy of Life Magazine





SUKCHON-SUNCHON

Vanguard of the impending operation were the press representatives. By 7 October Howard Sochurck of Life, Fred Waters of INS, Norman Williams of Acme News Service, James Cannon of the Baltimore Sun, James Michael of the New York Times, Lionel Crame of the London Daily Express and Philips Doughty of the Agency French Press moved in to cover the Rakkasans on a yet undisclosed operation. The TO&E was now complete.

Battle training continued as press correspondents gained background material. The first training jump on Korean soil was conducted on the sand flats of the Han River with Life, Stars & Stripes and the French Press representatives participating.

As late as 11 October it appeared doubtful that the 187th would get off the ground. Our ground forces were advancing so rapidly that pro-

jected drop zones were overrun in advance of the airborne schedules. Morale dropped accordingly. However, preparations continued for an airborne assault on five proposed drop zones. Tentative aircraft allocations were made, reports of critical items of equipment submitted and loading of heavy equipment started.

On 16 September General MacArthur launched the Inchon Invasion.

While the RCT focused on preparations for the airborne operation ground troops of the Eighth Army were approaching Pyongyang. The five possible drop zones narrowed down to two possible objectives. The first was at Anju and the second in the Sukchon-Sunchon area. Anju, first selected, was deleted when the ground elements bogged down in the advance and, on 18 October, General Bowen received orders that Sukchon-Sunchon was to be the target. The 187th had the mission of dropping far to the rear of stiffening enemy resistance at Pyongyang

to seal off the North Korean escape route and to capture Communist "brass" believed to be in the area. Concurrently the Rakkasans were to rescue an undetermined number of United States prisoners of war who, it was reported, were to be hurriedly evacuated from Pyongyang ahead of the advancing UN Forces.

D-Day was set for 20 October . . . Morale soared.

Gasparini of L Company recalls; "We all became excited about the first combat jump in Korea. Naturally the old paratroopers of World War II, those who had made jumps with the 101st and the 82nd, and some who had not, bragged about their exploits in the 'old' airborne. Each was careful to tell us that all combat jumps were made at low altitude to escape concentrated ack-ack fire. This, of course, made us younger jumpers feel just great. This one was going to be my seventh jump.

Drop Zone for the Third Battalion was set at Sukchon and all of us began attending well guarded, top secret briefings. Battalion, company, platoon, squad and individual riflemen missions were covered in detail. Every trooper had a job to do as part of a team effort. My company, L Company, was to be airlifted in the last serial and, on landing, take the high ground and help secure the perimeter."

Sergeant First Class Arron D. Kirksey, a member of F Company, noted that, "Briefings were continuous. On the morning of the twentieth we had briefings with maps made that same morning. F Company, as part of the Second Battalion, had the mission of taking the town of Sunchon. My mortar section was to be in general support of the rifle platoons. We were to set up, first at the assembly area in the initial phase and, thirty minutes after landing, we would move out to Sunchon about two miles from the drop zone. We were very carefully briefed on the action the Battalion would take in capturing a trainload of American POW's."

At 1900 hour on the eighteenth, with all preparations completed and billets cleared, a briefing was held for pilots and jumpmasters at Kimpo AFB. A drizzling rain had begun and continued throughout the day. At the joint briefing it was announced that, in the event of worsening weather, the jump would be delayed by three hour periods. Though the weather reports were unfavorable for the 20th, Headquarters remained alert throughout the late hours until Colonel Bowen returned with the news that P-Hour was postponed until 1100 hours, 21 October. Turned out of barracks the troops had only their combat loads and a ticket on an air train that looked as though it might not leave.

Revielle was held at 0230 hours on 20 October. It was still raining when the men fell out for formation. Formed by plane loads in stick order they shuttled to Kimpo AFB. At 0400 hours the drawing and fitting of parachutes began. Then the jump was postponed for three hours. Few men realized that a train containing Communist Party Big Wigs and American Prisoners of War had already departed Pyongyang.

At 1030 the order was given to chute up.

A typical C-119 aircraft load carried two sticks of 23 men each, fifteen monorail bundles and four door bundles. The planes were so filled that some men had to sit on the floor to find space. Each man, besides a main parachute and reserve, carried a light pack, water, rations ammunition, a 45 caliber pistol and a carbine or M-1 rifle. An extra Griswold container, filled with small arms or light mortar ammunition was carried by some.

At 1200 hours the first aircraft, commanded by Colonel Bowen was airborne. Some of the aircraft scraped the ground on takeoff.

"Plane number one, SFC Ignatz said, was jammed with thirteen Pathfinders, riflemen, RCT Staff and unit assembly men and equipment. I was a visual aids man carrying panels which were to be placed on the ground to guide in succeeding planes, including resupply aircraft. Colonel Bowen held number one position in the left stick. In addition I carried a case of smoke grenades, an M-1 rifle, a 45, and full field equipment.

The armada consisted of seventy-three C-119's of the 314th Troop Carrier Wing from Ashiya, AFB, Kyushu, and forty C-47's of the 21st Troop Carrier Wing from Brady AFB, Kyushu, Japan. "We rendezvoused in a nine plane V of V's over the Han River," Ignatz said, "then proceeded north along the west coast of Korea in waves of fifteen and thirty planes spaced about fifteen minutes apart. Colonel Bowen was very cool standing in the door looking for landmarks."

At 1350 hours the airborne force turned east on the base leg of the approach to the drop area. Our monorail doors opened at the twenty minute warning. I noted that we were still over the ocean. The red four minute light came on just as we crossed the beach headed inland. There was no flac or enemy fighter activity in our immediate area.

The Colonel stood up and gave the jump commands just like a training operation. Sticks were checked in the same manner and we were ready to go. I felt pretty good about jumping with Colonel Bowen. "If it was good enough for the Colonel it was good enough for me."

Ahead the fighters could be seen working over the area. The air was becoming a bit rough but there was no flac. When the green light came on door bundles, monorail and paratroopers debouched in a streaming mass. Seventy-four tons of equipment and 1470 men were landed from the first two serials alone.

The green light flashed on and Colonel Bowen leaned back from the door to yell "Go," then was gone in the peculiar sucking, swish of sound that accompanies the leap of a paratrooper into the prop wash. In half a heartbeat the double line of paratroopers were moving to the rear of the aircraft and out the door.

"All of us yelled something," Ignatz continued. "Some going back to World War II days screaming Geronimo to relieve the nervous tension. Hitting the blash I looked up to check my canopy then tried to orient myself in relation to landmarks on the ground. I could see Sukchon burning in the distance. At 600 feet I started getting out of my harness slipping the belly band, unsnapping the reserve chute on one side, pulled the quick release fork and turned the face red edge up. Looking around in the air for the team sergeant I came down with a crash of equipment, helmet, and teeth in a nice, dry rice paddy. Slipping my harness I grabbed my rifle and started to my assembly as a spatter of small arms fire began at the south end of the DZ. Enroute I came upon Corporal Douglas Grover, the pathfinder who jumped in front of me. He was bashed up a bit from hitting a high tension line. Fearing nearby machine gun fire he had slashed his lines from thirty feet up and broke some ribs on landing. Together we found Lieutenant Maloney, our platoon leader, and proceeded to set up our directional panels on the left flank. I fired a white smoke grenade as the next wave of planes approached. As the drop started I rushed some nearby houses for possible snipers. There was hot rice and cold pickles on the tables but no civilians. We did find some North Korean soldiers who had hurriedly pulled civilian

clothing on over their uniforms but instead of shooting them we turned them over to the S-2 representative who had jumped with us.

Back to my panels I watched the Rakkasans from successive serials land, flip out of chutes and hurry to their respective assembly areas in the four directions of perimeter security. It looked terrific. As the riflemen assembled in my section I directed them to their company departure points, as a fire fight began building up in the Third Battalion sector, a ridge on the left flank of the DZ."

The maneuver apparently caught the enemy by surprise. Sniper fire only was received on Drop Zone William. Individuals formed quickly into small units of squad and platoon size heading for the high ground overlooking the drop zone. The first serial had landed at 1405 hours. The second, under the command of Lt. Colonel Gerhart, comprised 17 C-119's lifting the First Battalion, Regimental Headquarters, Support Company, Company A 127th Engineers, Medical Company and Service Company. These elements dropped southeast of Sukchon.

Accompanying the First Battalion as a member of a recoilless rifle section attached to B Company was Master Sergeant Kenneth E. Ryals, Support Company gunner: "On the twenty minute warning we moved our 75 mm RR to the door. Our platoon leader gave the normal jump commands and the door bundle fell out leaving us with no gun. I took over as jumpmaster and quickly scanned the ground for check points. The first one came up as we crossed the coast line, then there appeared a series of crossroads seven minutes out, the edge of Sukchon village and a road net, running north to south. Our last check point, thirty seconds out, was a high tension line across the base of the DZ. Lieutenant Webber, Third Battalion Adjutant, was to have jumped with the pathfinders and cut the power lines. I remember hoping that he had succeeded in his mission. (Later I learned that Webber had landed ahead of us and clipped the lines with rifle fire) As our aircraft approached the DZ, U S Aircraft staffing the area pulled up to 5000 feet to form an umbrella of overhead cover. There was a little ground fire as we came in. I leaned back to shout 'DZ coming up' then, as we crossed a railroad track, the green light came on, I stepped out the door.

On landing I broke the stock on my M-1. Searching for something better than a club I located a 25 caliber Korean rifle but it was dangerously rusty so I headed for the edge of the DZ. Without my 75 and with no rifle, I joined a machine gun squad and headed into the edge of the mountains on the southwest to cover the area with fire."

The first Battalion, reinforced, was assigned the mission of clearing Sukchon of enemy forces, securing the high ground north of Sukchon, and of establishing a road block to prevent enemy withdrawal to the north. Patrols were sent north to the river in the vicinity of Naeman-ni and the Battalion was prepared to move south toward Pyongyang on order.

On assembly Companies A and B pushed Northwest to take Hill 104 overlooking the town of Naeman-Ni. There were approximately 1800 enemy in Sukchon and in the vicinity north of the town. Company C took Hill 97 after a delay caused by a preplanned air strike. Company C then reverted to Regimental Reserve and remained on the hill north of Chang-ni. The first platoon of the Engineers reached the town of Songnani-ni at 1530 hours where they were delayed 45 minutes by enemy fire. Fifteen prisoners were taken by SFC Marcuso and his squad and these were impressed as porters to move the Engineer equipment on handcarts. The platoon was ordered to join Company in at Poegun-san at 2130 hours.

At 1410 hours the 187th RCT Headquarters Company assembled at the dykes along the Cn'ceryong River and the CP was established at Chany-ni on Hill 97. Recovery details were dispatched to the DZ to collect bundles and, by 1700 hours, the CP was dug in and the perimeter established.

Other members of the air armada were having their own troubles.

"On stepping out over Sukchon" Gasperimi continued "I saw a crashed and burning Air Force fighter northeast of the city. This plane was to cause me considerable sweat in the next few hours. I remembered that this day was my twenty-first birthday and thought what a hell of a way to celebrate my coming of age.

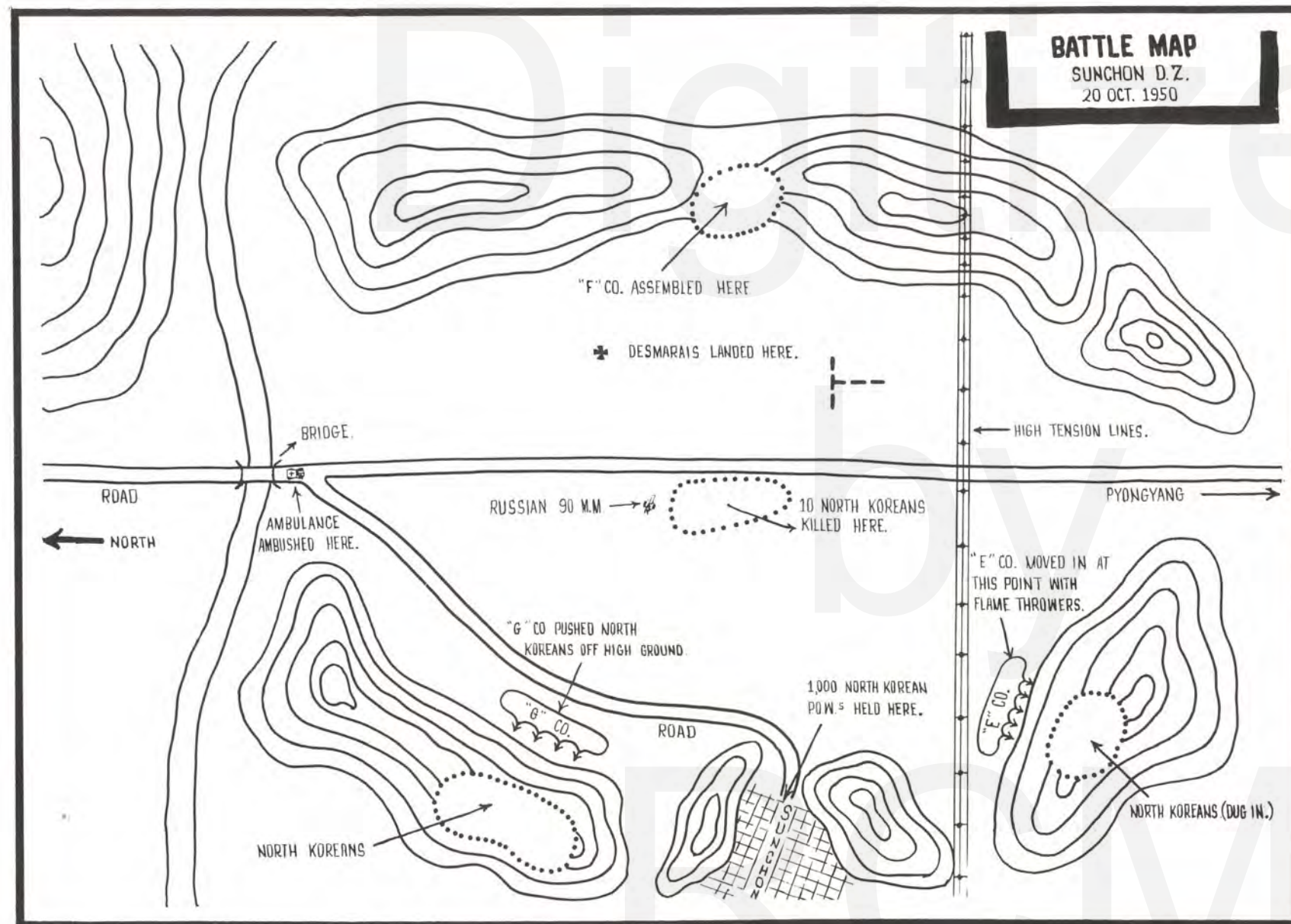
I hit the ground hard about four hundred yards from the town and a man began screaming nearby. He had broken his back on landing. In a few moments the platoon leader, Lieutenant Coleman, wearing a white panel on his back, came running back down the line of jumpers rolling up the stick. All were accounted for. Grabbing our bundles we tore out the weapons and had a light "thirty" firing within thirty seconds. As the situation seemed loose on the DZ Lieutenant Coleman directed six of us to trot over to the burning US plane and look for the pilot. About halfway to the area we saw the pilot. He had crawled about a hundred yards away from the plane and was lying in an open field. Four North Koreans, some distance to the rear, had him under their guns. We were caught for a moment in indecision for it looked like the Reds would shoot the wounded man if we continued our advance. No fire was exchanged at this point, so we decided to edge into the field. Creeping and crawling we started forward when suddenly there was considerable rifle fire from our left flank. More of the buggers were hidden behind stacks of corn stalks. We had reached a stalemate.

This frozen, watchful action lasted until sundown when we again started forward under cover of the approaching dusk. Seeing our movement the Communists shot and killed the pilot and then ran off into the hills.

On our return route we once more came under rifle fire, perhaps from some of the same Koreans. Firing a burst from our BAR we flushed three enemy who came out of the dusk with their hands up. Upon shaking them down two tried to escape and we shot them down. By this time it was dark and we had become somewhat lost in our wanderings. Disposing of the third Communist we finally found our Company at 1000 hours the next morning—just thirty minutes before an attack. Cramming K rations into our mouths we drew ammo and rejoined the platoon."

While the Rakkasans who jumped DZ William were developing their situation, Sunchon came under the force of elements of the Regiment who landed on DZ Easy. The Second Battalion, with the second platoon of A Company, 127th Engineers, the 4.2 inch mortar platoon of Support Company, one section of 90mm anti-tank guns, B Battery of the 674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion, the Second Pathfinder Team and one Forward Air Control Party, hit Sunchon at 1420 hours. This combat group made contact with the enemy and moved out to secure its objectives with marked success.

Sergeant First Class Arron D. Kirksey, a member of the mortar section attached to F Company recalls the combat load carried into the drop. "I had my M-1, a 45, binoculars, three grenades in a pouch, a combat roll, 21 round of 45 ammunition and nineteen clips of M-1 ammo. Captain George E. Pickett IV was in command of the lead plane. On the flank rode the staff, including Colonel Conners, the Battalion CO. All of



the men had made a two AM revielle and most of the men slept during the two hour plane ride in. All but one man. He had made three combat jumps in World War II and he was sweating blood. On turning east at the coast twenty minutes out, we opened the doors and I could see that we were flying at about 600 foot altitude, directly over a north-south dirt road below. We learned later that this road was lined with North Korean anti-aircraft guns. None fired at us on the flyover, however. In the distance F51's were straffing the landing zone while Air Force F80's flew protective cover overhead. Four minutes out the monorail belly doors opened and dust blew up looking like a flac hit. I looked down through the opening to see the dirt road leading into Suncheon and the stream which was our jump point. Morale was good. All of us were yelling and happy. I didn't see the green light go on, being the fifteenth man in a twenty-three man stick, but suddenly the bundles

started dropping through the monorail well and I knew that the first man was out the door. There was a surge forward. It looked as though everybody was trying to get out the door at the same time. Suddenly I found myself standing in thin air then my chute popped open and, at the same time, I heard burp guns yammering on the ground below me. I felt certain every one of them was shooting straight at me. A few enemy soldiers were scurrying around, some partly dressed in civilian clothing.

In the few seconds in the air I was able to locate the general direction of my assembly point, a little cave on the northeast corner of the drop zone. Pulling away from the other jumpers, which I found out was a foolish thing to do on a combat jump, I slipped into the ground and landed in grass over my head. At the same time I heard a call for "Medic."

Attending to first things first, I laid my pistol on the ground within

easy reach and got out of my chute in a kneeling position. Then I ran out on the DZ and back down the line of flight to join the other members of my stick and recover the bundles. Moving off the DZ I found Major Lyle, the Battalion Executive Officer lying on the ground pretty well smashed up. He had tangled with a monorail bundle on the way down. This accident had collapsed his chute and he fell free from about one hundred feet. His back, both legs, an arm and ribs were broken. The medics recovered him as we set about our mission.

The DZ came under considerable harassing fire as we made our bundle recovery and moved to the assembly area. We were pinned down briefly by a NK machine gunner who went to glory on a round from one of our 57's.

Within minutes the heavy drop came in bringing B Battery's 105 Howitzers. Well, almost, anyway. Two guns were pulled free by the extraction chutes and, as we watched fascinated, one rolled slowly over in the air, snapped its harness and plunged 600 feet to land, muzzle first, in a rice paddy. We just shoveled dirt in on top of it. The Second gun came out in good order but the third had a delayed extraction and we watched it float, swinging lazily on three one-hundred foot chutes, into the waiting hands of the North Koreans ringing the DZ. That was that. We had a firing battery of one gun.

Arriving in the assembly area we found that the men ahead of us had collected and stripped a few prisoners. Stragglers trickled in with their hands up. In a very few minutes we moved out to a wooded hill overlooking Suncheon. The town was burning from air strikes and South Korean flags were hung at every window and gable. As our section set up light machine guns and 60mm mortars to support the infantry entry into town, the civilians, practical minded as always, rushed out on the DZ to recover our silk parachutes.

As the Rakkasans marched into Suncheon in a column of twos the Koreans tossed rifles and other weapons out onto the street. The din was terrific.

Seeing that there was no opposition to speak of we broke our position on the hill and joined the tail of the advancing riflemen. Crossing a culvert on the outskirts I told one of my ammo bearers to check it for enemy personnel. He came running back to say that the culvert was full of 'gooks' but that they were all right, they spoke English. This was just what we needed. A bunch of armed, English speaking Koreans to our rear. Our platoon Sergeant, Sergeant Jackson, took a BAR and hurded a gaggle of nondiscript people out on the road. With them were six North Korean soldiers armed to the teeth.

As our bunch entered the town from one end three South Korean jeeps tore in from the other—an advance party ahead of schedule. They got excited and began firing at us. To keep up the game, we fired back at them. This cooled them off somewhat so that we could establish better working relations. We then learned that the town was in mass confusion. The Sixth Regiment of the 7th ROK Division had been fighting us and each other for thirty minutes before identities were established. We set the matter straight and the surviving ROK's cleared the town of remaining North Koreans and Communist sympathizers."

Company E seized objective Easy, the town of Changsan-ni, and proceeded to establish a road block on the bridge across the Kumchon River. The Second Battalion Command Post was located in the small village south of Chung-ni where G Company remained in Battalion reserve, less one platoon which secured the road blocks on the bridge crossing the Kumchon River west of Toran-dong.

B Battery, less two guns, part of its fire-direction equipment and several officers whose plane aborted, set into position and was ready to fire in fifteen minutes. Two Artillery jeeps were recovered more or less intact and the Battery was able to move its gun and ammunition at will.

The Engineers were unable to prepare the Kumchon River bridge at Sinhung-ni for demolition because of intense enemy fire. E Company was advancing under heavy fire so the platoon of Engineers was ordered to accompany F Company to Sunchon to reconnoiter a railroad bridge where it, too, was pinned down by the fire of the 6th ROK Regiment at 1730 hours until contact was made.

As D-Day drew to a close General Bowen (he was advised of his reappointment to General rank shortly after landing) and the men of the RCT could appraise an eminently successful operation. All initial objectives had been secured, roadblocks established and the immediate area placed under control. By surprise and dash all D-Day missions were successfully completed with relatively small loss in men and material. No one was lulled into a false sense of security, however, for the main enemy forces were rolling north and would soon be smashing against the road blocks and tactical hill masses that barred his retreat to the Communist Yalu River sanctuary.

Except for intermittent shelling the night passed quietly for the waiting paratroopers.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the remaining assault elements and Battery A of the 88th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion loaded equipment for the D+1 landing. Among the follow-up echelon was Master Sergeant William F. Pajak, 75mm Recoilless Rifle Section Leader, attached to H Company, who jumped in on the twenty-first. "I was surprised to find such a large DZ," Pajak said. "Colored chutes littered the field from the jumps and drops the day before. There was some mortar fire coming in but the Korean farmers were working in their paddy fields all unconcerned. On landing I put in a radio call to Lieutenant McGovern, my platoon leader. As I was fiddling with the set General Bowen strolled over and pointed out my platoon assembly area and directed clearing of the field for the arrival of the heavy drop serial which was due in fifteen minutes."

At 0700 hours on the 21st the First and Third Battalions moved out to continue the attack. The enemy still had shown no organized resistance. Fortunately the 187th had dropped across one of the enemy's major defense lines as was shown by the extensive dug in positions and large quantity of military store discovered.

As the first Battalion moved toward the high ground north of Sukchon, A Company captured hill 142 against light resistance. B Company seized Hill 126 at 0830 and A Company took hill 73 before being stopped by stronger forces. Air strikes were called in against stiffening resistance in the surrounding hills. Artillery fire was also placed on Tojang-ni, source of irritating enemy tank fire. As the fire fight developed into a pitched battle a platoon from C Company was dispatched to make contact with the combat group at Sunchon. This was accomplished at 1830 hours.

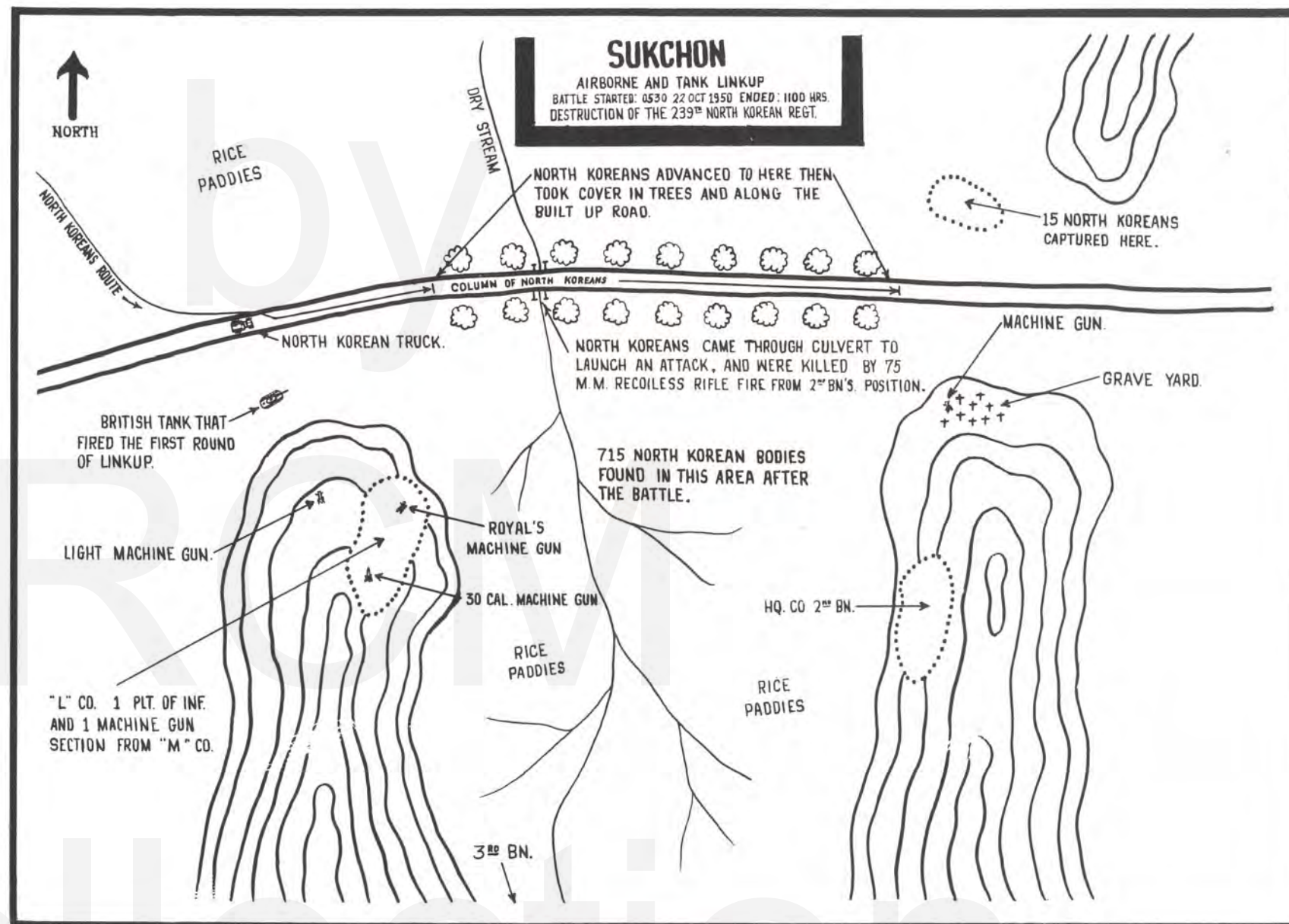
At 0900 hours two company combat teams moved south along the railroad and along the road to the railhead, while K Company was to clear the road. I Company proceeded without opposition to Opari where it was attacked at 1300 hours by an enemy force of one battalion reinforced with heavy 120mm mortars and 40mm guns. A brutal pounding was absorbed by the Rakkasans in a two hour long engagement during

which two of the platoons were over run by superior forces. The survivors were forced to withdraw to the high ground along hill 281. Ninety men were missing. Failing to press their advantage the enemy withdrew to their former positions on the high ground around Opari and Sinopa.

It was in this action that Private First Class Richard G. Wilson, Medical Company, earned the first of three Congressional Medals of Honor to be awarded members of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. PFC Wilson paid the supreme sacrifice in attempting to evacuate a wounded comrade.

Company K proceeded down the main road with only harrassing fire from the enemy to a point about 1500 meters from Yongyu. Here they encountered an enemy force numbering about three companies. Engaging in a sharp fire fight they forced the Reds to withdraw south and east of Yongyu.

Continuing into the town the company took up positions on the high ground on hill 163. During this period the enemy was apparently reconstituting his forces in the area. Convinced that both routes to the north had been blocked by the airborne forces, he prepared to make one last attempt to push through in an effort to regain contact with other North Korean Forces which had infiltrated northward. Severe enemy casualties had already been sustained and large quantities of ammunition and supplies, many of the weapons in mint condition, had been left behind in the hasty evacuation. At 1845 hours Company K made contact with a lieutenant and a sergeant of the United Kingdom 27th Brigade in Yongyu. Contact with the British was expected since the RCT was aware that elements of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade were south of Yongyu. Aerial supply and build up continued throughout the day with the artillery being beefed up with two more howitzers and





SUKCHON, KOREA. Ripped parachute still holds enough air for piece of Heavy Equipment to drop safely. 20 Oct. 50
—Reprinted courtesy of Life Magazine

KOREAN CONFLICT: 20 Oct. 50. Evidence of the extensive planning and preparation by the 187th RCT, 11th AB Div., is the 105mm howitzer which was successfully air-dropped by FEAF Combat Cargo Command in the Sunchon drop zone to support the "Angles" of the 187th RCT to seal the North Korean's escape route from their fallen capital of Pyongyang approximately 25 miles away.

equipment. The Red Legs, spotted by forward observers, broke up numerous concentrations of North Koreans and shelled hills holding up advancing infantrymen. The enemy continued his probing activities in a frantic effort to break out of the trap but no large scale attacks were to be made this day.

Medical Company carried on evacuation by helicopter and L-5 aircraft throughout the day and Clearing Platoon moved twenty patients to a hospital in Sukchon. During the night Medical Company men killed several infiltrating North Koreans and took three prisoners. Corporal Carver, hospitalized after his encounter with the high tension lines, decided at this time that the rear area was getting too rough for the infantry. He took off AWOL and reported back to his Pathfinder platoon on the DZ where he used his rifle to good advantage against Communists attacking the stores there.

Little change was recorded in the positions of the Second Battalion Companies at Sunchon. However, at 1000 hours a patrol from F Company discovered near Myonguch'am, the bodies of seventy-five American prisoners of War murdered by the retreating North Koreans. From interrogation of the eighteen wounded survivors it was learned that they had been shot at 1000 hours on 20 October. Had bad weather not delayed the jump it is highly possible that all might have been saved. The pitiful survivors of this brutal act by the Communist were evacuated by helicopter under the supervision of Brigadier General Allen. Fifteen

POW's and five escapees were returned to friendly lines. Sergeant First Class Antonia G Maria, A Battery Section Chief at Sunchon, hearing of the American POW's, collected parachutes from the drop zone and, with C rations stowed in his jeep, hurried to the "hospital" to help where he could.

"Those guys were in very bad shape" he recalls, "they were wearing uniforms and parts of uniforms. All in rags. Wounded and bloody they looked like walking skeletons." When his gun was lost on the heavy drop Sergeant Maria and his people became Infantrymen until another gun arrived the following day.

Deep in enemy territory the Rakkasans waited for the pay-off they knew was fast approaching. Sporadic fire fights continued throughout the day. The RCT continued to receive reinforcements and resupply by air—and the Communists assembled their scattered forces in the hills surrounding the UN forces to the south.

The final spasm of the broken backed North Korean snake began at 0200 hours on the 22nd. The first probing attack was leveled against the First Battalion ammunition dump on the DZ. Forty enemy, armed with submachine guns, and rifles, attempted to destroy the supplies but were repulsed with heavy losses. Company K, on the high ground north and east of Yongyu, was attacked by an enemy force estimated at two battalions of the 239th NK Regiment, one of the last completely organized units to withdraw from Pongyang. A small group succeeded

in infiltrating the Command Post, wounding the Commanding Officer and Executive Officer. After a sharp fire fight they too, were repulsed. A second and third attack at 0230 hours was thrown back with heavy losses to the Reds. Forced to withdraw when ammunition was expended K Company again came under attack as the enemy moved north along the road arriving at a point 1000 yards south of the Third Battalion CP at about 0500 hours. Here the enemy stopped to reform not realizing that L Company and Headquarters Company were in position along the road.

"A column of singing Koreans approached our position just before dawn," said Specialist Gasperini, L Company machine gunner. "They were marching cross-country toward the road which was directly under our guns. The Third Platoon was dug in on the forward slope, facing the road, with rice paddies in front offering a fine sweep of fire. A line of trees fringed the raised road. Johnson, the gunner, and I were in a two-man foxhole. As the First Platoon and Headquarters people fired a few bursts the Koreans yelled that they were Republic of Korea troops. Our platoon held fire for about twenty minutes to give these people a chance to identify themselves. By that time the light became strong enough to dispell all doubt. We opened fire with all weapons. A 57mm Recoilless Rifle knocked out a Russian truck which headed a column coming up on the road. Meanwhile the enemy had dispersed and sought defilade behind the raised road. The Reds brought up a Russian machine



gun but we kept knocking out the gunners as fast as they brought them up. Repeated rushes by the Reds ended in the open rice paddies in front of our guns. None made it back to the road. Sergeant Martin, on a heavy machine gun on the military crest, kept up a stream of fire over our heads."

The enemy was momentarily stunned by the volume and severity of our fire and the casualties suffered because of it. It took them about an hour to reorganize and deliver any type of organized attack upon the positions held by L Company and Headquarters Company. Another group of about three hundred fifty enemy engaged Company L and attempted to infiltrate the lines. About four hundred fifty other enemy engaged in a fire fight with Headquarters Company. The enemy fire became exceedingly accurate as the fight progressed.

Awarded the Silver Star for his action in the fight, Master Sergeant Ryals manned a machine gun single handed at the base of the slope after three previous gunners had been knocked out. "When Captain Waldo W. Brooks, the Company Commander gave the order to fire," Ryals said, "we opened up with everything we had, including fifty caliber machine guns. We trained a 3.5 inch bazooka on a culvert through which the Gooks tried to rush our position. When it filled with enough of them we would give them a round from the 3.5 and blow them out the other end. This went on for some time.

A little further down the slope I saw that one of our guns was having a bad time of it. Three gunners were hit in rapid succession. Though in an exposed position this piece was placed just fine for killing Reds. When the last man went down I ran down the slope with lead flying around my head and got behind the gun and began hosing the jack-rabbit North Koreans."

About this time it was requested that an armored element from the 27th United Kingdom Brigade be sent up the road to help dislodge the enemy. Around 1030 hours the leading elements, consisting of a company of tanks followed by the Australian Battalion, was sighted by our forces. They were unable to advance immediately because of the enemy position but after about an hour of close combat they were able to relieve the Battalion CP of pressure. They then pursued a badly disorganized and retreating enemy to the west.

"We ran out of targets about eleven o'clock," Ryals said. "About that time a British tank came up the road from the south and fired a white phosphorous shell into a small group of Reds burning them to cinders.

We counted seven hundred thirteen North Korean dead in front of our position. Eighteen prisoners were taken by our Company."

The 239th North Korean Regiment ceased to exist and I Company was avenged. The force which attacked the Third Battalion was over 2,500 men. Of this number the Battalion killed 805 and took 681 prisoners.

Fighting was continued at a tremendous pace. Medical Company had its busiest day on 22 October. The Enemy attacked all positions and many infiltrated the lines of the Battalion.

Prisoners of War proved a difficult problem for the 187th. After being cut off, the enemy troops would change into civilian clothing, stand in front of houses in Sukchon waving South Korean Flags. Sometimes

SUKCHON, KOREA. A paratrooper writes end to Red Premier. 20 Oct. 50
—Reprinted courtesy of Life Magazine

the evaders would hide in the homes while women and children of the town waved the flags. At night the 187th had to dodge the bullets of these "civilians." The MP's had the job of mopping up and rounding up the North Koreans. A total of 3,818 prisoners were taken.

The RCT was involved in minor skirmishes on the twenty-third while reorganizing for the move to Pongyang. Gasperini, with L Company, established a perimeter on the rail road where they captured fifteen prisoners, survivors of the 239th North Korean Regimental units that had wiped out I Company at Opari. "These people, 'Gasperini said' were wearing pile jackets and jump boots taken from the I Company dead. We stripped them, shooting two who tried to escape. One of them was found to be wearing the clothing of PFC Wilson, I Company's medic. He, too, was shot while trying to escape. Later we found fifty North Korean uniforms discarded by the Reds who had donned American clothing."

On the twenty-fourth the Rakkasans moved into Pongyang. The Sukchon-Sunchon Operation was closed.

Across the Yalu a new war was in the making as tens of thousands of Chinese prepared to enter the conflict and turn the bitter Communist defeat to a near victory.

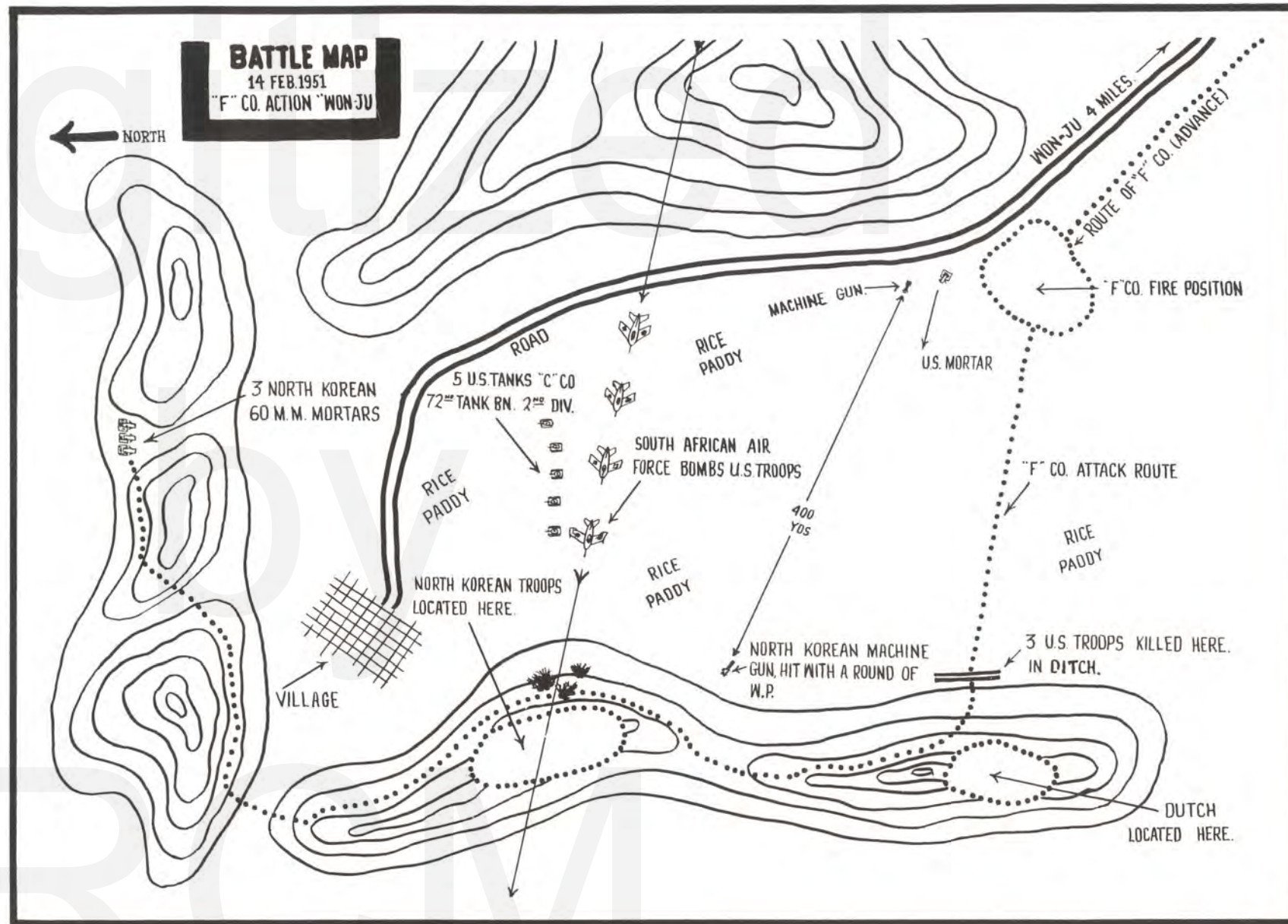
Roving RCT patrols policing the area reported increasing evidence of Chinese activity as infiltrating North Koreans began to gain courage. While some of Rakkasan patrols moved to within thirty miles of the Yalu during early November, stelthy bands of Communists began entering Pongyang in civilian clothing. Intervention cast its shadow before.

CHINESE COMMUNIST INTERVENTION

The situation became critical in North Korea with the entry of identified Chinese Communist forces fighting at Unsan on 4 November. The 187th, charged with the control of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, continued to receive report of sabotage and guerrilla warfare. A large building housing eight thousand POW's was burned and the saboteur, a North Korean Lieutenant, was caught. The number of refugees entering the city increased. Units on the line reported little contact with Chinese Communist forces but guerrilla activities continued. On the seventh it was decided to commit the 10th Philippine Battalion Combat Team against the enemy troop locations reported in their area. The First Battalion was sent to Kuwol-san where air observation had located considerable activity. By the middle of November the North Korean enemy, encouraged by the success of the Chinese Communist Forces in the north, had regrouped into large organized troop concentrations. In view of the large forces engaging the US 25th Infantry Division and the 17th Republic of Korea Regiment in the Ichon-Pyongyang-Chorwon-Yonchon-Kaesong-Kumchon area, the zone of responsibility of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team was extended to include the entire Army service area with particular emphasis on securing Pyongyang, Chinnampo, the airfield and the main supply route.

The enemy continued to build up on the east. One report stated that a regiment had infiltrated from the north and was reforming in the vicinity of Yankdok. The existing NK Peoples Army Troops in the area were living off the land and sacking the villages thus arousing the ire of the local inhabitants.

By the 21st of November the RCT had under its operational control the 10th Philippine Battalion Combat Team, the 29th British Infantry Brigade and the 5th Republic of Korea Division. The Thailand Ex-



peditionary Force was added on the 25th. The Pyongyang airfield came under the enemy air attack at 0130 hours on the 28th. A single bi-plane made two passes dropping six bombs. One US airman was killed, and the mess hall was damaged. Six friendly aircraft were damaged.

This weak show of air strength was but a prelude to the deluge. A few hours later the RCT attacks to the north were disrupted when 34,000 Chinese troops broke through the Republic of Korea II Corps at Tokchon. Two complete Chinese Field Armies were in the vicinity of the Chongchon River. The estimated enemy strength was set at two hundred thousand men. The mass retrograde movement began as the Rakkasans were set to guard the rear and flank of the withdrawing Eighth Army. The units facing the 187th were identified as the Fourth Chinese Field Army consisting of the 39th, 40th, 50th and 66th Armies. By the thirtieth of November the 187th was under full attack.

SINMAC

At Sinmac a reinforced platoon patrol from G Company was hit and pinned down by a superior force. Sergeant First Class Emil L. Desmarias, a 60mm mortar crew member, continued the narrative. "Company G had moved out leaving us as a rear guard. About three miles from the city we dismounted from our trucks. Immediately we were hit, front and rear, by a force of about 400 yelling North Koreans. My jeep driver and a sergeant nearby were killed at once. We disengaged and withdrew about a mile to better defense positions and held on to fill our mission as rear guard. We stayed in this position for about seven days and nights fighting off infiltrators and repelling four major attacks by the Communists.

When the Gooks attacked it sounded like the cheering section of the Army-Navy game. They would come at us rushing, shouting, and

blowing horns and whistles. At night they would recover their dead and wounded. Our resupply came in from the rear at daylight. On the second night I was in my sleeping bag, we were resting 50 percent of the command at a time for it looked like a long hard winter, when small arms fire and mortar shells started coming in. Jumping into the mortar position we fed forty-five or fifty rounds in rapid order to eight previously zeroed in concentrations. No Communists got through those approaches. We suffered no casualties that night at all. This attack continued for about an hour and a half—some elements getting to within fifteen feet of our machine guns. All were beaten back with severe losses. We were reinforced by elements of H Company the next day and continued to hold. On the seventh day we went into the attack and hit the rear of a seven-hundred to one thousand man force. When they scattered to the hills we returned to Sinmac.”

The pressure continued to build . . .

PYONGYANG

On 1 December 1950, the 187th ARCT was located at Pyongyang with the mission of securing the EUSAK main supply route, the cities of Pyongyang, Chinnampo, Haeju and a zone of responsibility extending from Sukcon and Sunchon to Seoul. The CCF which had been following a policy of evasive contact suddenly switched tactics and hurled heavy counterattacks on friendly elements in the northern sector of Korea. The sudden reversal in enemy maneuvers and overwhelming superiority of numbers, caused the United Nations offensive to stall, stop and put into effect a series of retrograde movements designed to allow friendly forces to withdraw in good order. It also permitted our forces to retain as much of their equipment as possible and prevented the enemy from carrying out his plan to cut off and annihilate the EUSAK forces.

The United States Second Division began withdrawing through Pyongyang to its re-assembly area at Changhwa. The 187th RCT was assigned the mission of adopting successive delaying positions to cover the general withdrawal of Eighth Army, securing the line of communications to the south of the EUSAK main line of resistance, continuing to occupy Pyongyang and Chinnampo until relieved and of initiating movement

KOREAN CONFLICT: 1 Feb. 51. PFC H. E. Bowman of Whitfield, Va., tank driver, Spt. Co. 187th ARCT, US 8th Army, peers down the roadway, as U. N. Forces advance against the Chinese Communist forces, north of Tan-yang, Korea.
—US Army Photo



CAPTURED ACK-ACK GUN. 4 February 1951. Paratroopers of the 187th Airborne RCT, advancing in the WONJU, Korea area, inspect captured Russian-made 85mm anti-aircraft gun.
—US Army Photo

CONFLICT IN KOREA: 6 February 1951. Elements of Co. "C", 187th Airborne RCT cross river bed near Chudong-ni, Korea, as they prepare to attack enemy held Hill 498.
—US Army Photo





CONFLICT IN KOREA: 6 February 1951. Lt. Col. Arthur H. Wilson (right) CO 1st Bn., 187th Airborne RCT and Capt. Melvin (center) CO "C" Co., 187th Airborne RCT direct Mortar fire on enemy positions on south ridge of Hill 488 at Chundong-ni, Korea as UN Troops await orders to move forward against the Chinese Communist Forces.



CONFLICT IN KOREA: 6 Feb. 1951. Elements of 3rd Platoon, Co. "C", 1st Bn., 187th Airborne RCT climb ravine on south side of Hill 493, to escape enemy machine gun fire, during action against the Chinese Communist Forces near the front lines in Korea. U.S. Army Photo

to the south, phasing its movement to protect the lines of communication as dictated by the situation.

At 0600 hours the RCT closed out at Pyongyang and established its headquarters at Sohung. Corporal Joyce was a member of a five man detail which stayed in Pyongyang to destroy stores. "We went on a real tear, 'he said' setting fire to large stores of Russian supplies and equipment captured by the Regiment. We set explosions all over the city, blowing up ammunition and other supplies. On the 18th we confiscated a Korean jeep and headed south. Before leaving we blew up the Russian Embassy. We hit the bridge a few hours ahead of the advancing Chinese who occupied Pyongyang at midnight of the day we left."

On 12 December orders were received outlining the withdrawal from Seoul, and the Northern sectors, by the Eighth Army. The plan assigned the 187th ARCT the mission of moving south of the Han River to act as a unit of the Eighth Army reserve, and ordered it to prepare to execute one of the following missions: To utilize the necessary forces to provide security of the Han River crossing and insure uninterrupted flow of

traffic in the Seoul area until the combat units of the I and IX Corps could withdraw. Conduct operations in the Hoengsong, Wonju, Chechon and Chungju area, and to provide protection and assistance in the evacuation of the Kimpo airhead and Inchon as required. Elements of the RCT continued to move south in combat groups, first to Munsan-ni, (which was to become the Drop Zone for the second Combat Jump of the Korean War) then to Suwon.

Specialist Gasperini, with L Company, had the unique experience of digging in at Munsan-ni during the retrograde movement. When making the Combat Jump the same hole became his foxhole after the jump when L Company was assigned to the same area in perimeter defense.

WONJU

Commencing about 15 December the enemy offensive which had reversed the entire United Nations attack in the north and caused withdrawals back across the 38th Parallel, apparently ceased and contact with the enemy became negligible. The First Marine Division, Seventh

KOREAN CONFLICT: 7 Feb. 1951. Members of the 3rd Bn., 187th ARCT move up east of Pambol-ni, Korea, 25 miles northeast of Wonju to head off flanking movement by Chinese Communist troops.





FREE RIDE: 8 February 1951. 1st Plat., F Co., rides on second tank of the 3rd Plat., C Co., 72nd Heavy Tank Bn., 2nd Div. Riding on the side of the tank is Lt. Daniel L. Baldwin (Elk Mills, Md.), Plat. Leader, F Co., 187th Airborne RCT, crossing Sonshion River, Korea.

KOREAN CONFLICT: 11 Feb. 1951. Men of an I&R Plat., 187th ARCT, move into mountains to reconnoiter Chinese Communist positions near Ultun-ni, thirty miles northeast of Wonju, Korea.



CONFLICT IN KOREA: 15 Feb. 1951. Men of the 3rd Bn. Motor Pool, 187th Airborne RCT, X Corps, carry rations and ammunition to supply others of the 187th holding positions atop slippery ice and snow covered Hill 324 North of Wonju, Korea.
U.S. Army Photo



KOREAN CONFLICT: 15 Feb. 1951. Men of K Co., 3rd Bn., 187th ARCT, X Corps moving along a mountain ridge near Wonju, Korea.





PRISONERS RELEASED BY COMMUNISTS: 16 February 1951. Sgt. Robert Fldridge (Rhodell, W. Va.) (left stretcher) and Pfc. Frank J. Eckel (Rutherford, N. J.) are placed in ambulance near Wonju, Korea, after being picked up by men of the 3rd Bn., 187th Airborne RCT, X Corps, following their release by Chinese Communists who had held them prisoner for four days. —US Army Photo

CONFLICT IN KOREA: 17 Feb. 1951. Cpl. Edward R. Veronenu (Southridge, Mass.) member of Anti-Tank Mine Platoon, 187 Airborne RCT, lay anti-personnel mine across valley north of Wonju, Korea.



Infantry Division and Third Infantry Division were cut off in the northern sector, mainly around the Chosin Reservoir, necessitating these units to drive to the eastern coast for evacuation. A profusion of air-strikes were inflicted upon the enemy rear areas but ground contact remained limited to small patrol skirmishes. It was realized that the enemy was regrouping, resupplying and preparing for another large scale attack, probably across the 38th Parallel, in a two pronged drive to strike the EUSAK western and eastern flanks simultaneously. The expected invasion was not long in coming.

The 674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion, with firing batteries attached to battalions, was scattered over a wide area with the Infantry. At Wonju B Battery was in the forefront of the action that stopped the Chinese for a little while. "The Battery had begun to displace in successive moves to the rear shortly after Christmas, 'Sergeant First Class Antonio G. Maria recalls. "There was heavy traffic of all kinds on the roads making our moves very difficult. Masses of civilians, loaded with all they could carry or load on hand carts clogged the roads. Many military convoys were headed south. Near Wonju we set up the battery in a level area surrounded by hills as the Chinese 4th Field Army moved in on the UN positions. We gave continuous fire missions, firing all day as fast as we could open the ammunition cases. In one twenty minute



CONFLICT IN KOREA: 17 Feb. 1951. Truck of the 7th Inf. Div. that was razed by North Korean Enemy Troops, on roadway north of Wonju, Korea. U.S. Army Photo

period my gun fired eighty rounds of high explosives, burning the paint off of the tube in the process. Our forward observer told us that our fire caught thousands of advancing Chinese in the open, killing hundreds and breaking up many attacks.

Sergeant Kirksey spent New Years on the line at Wonju. "Small arms fire got me out of the sack at daylight," he recalls. "Hurriedly dressing I saw thousands of CCF coming down the valley and down both ridges toward our position. They looked like columns of Army ants. The ROK's with our units tried to bug out through F Company but were turned back at gun point to meet the first big CCF breakthrough. Falling back about 200 yards to a better position we set up a 60mm mortar section behind a rock pile and began feeding in shells. Everything that could throw lead at the enemy was brought to bear on the advancing Chinese. The 96th FA Battalion, nearby, fired their eight inch howitzers at point blank range.

The savage concentration of fire momentarily stopped the advance but there were just too many for us. Our explosives and automatic weapons fire tore great gaps in the line but the Reds just closed up and kept coming. Unable to continue in the face of such heavy losses the enemy finally withdrew but we knew it was just a respite. At nightfall we started walking back to Wonju. Here we established defensive



KOREAN CONFLICT: 17 Feb. 1951. 187th Tank crew in an M-24 tank after a firing mission against Communist forces near Wonju, Korea. PFC Daniel Serik, Jr., throws out an empty shell, PFC George F. Gentry of Indianapolis, Ind., sits behind a 50 cal. machine gun waiting for a fire order, and Cpl. Pryce E. Jeffeys of Town Creek, Ala., calls on the phone for further instructions.

CONFLICT IN KOREA: 24 Feb. 1951. Mr. Cyrrl Hannhson (Santa Barbara, Calif.) (right) Red Cross, talks to "Johnny," mascot of the men of Co. G, 187th ARCT, 8th U.S. Army, during his visit to the 187th RCT Hqs., northeast of Wonju, Korea. U.S. Army Photo



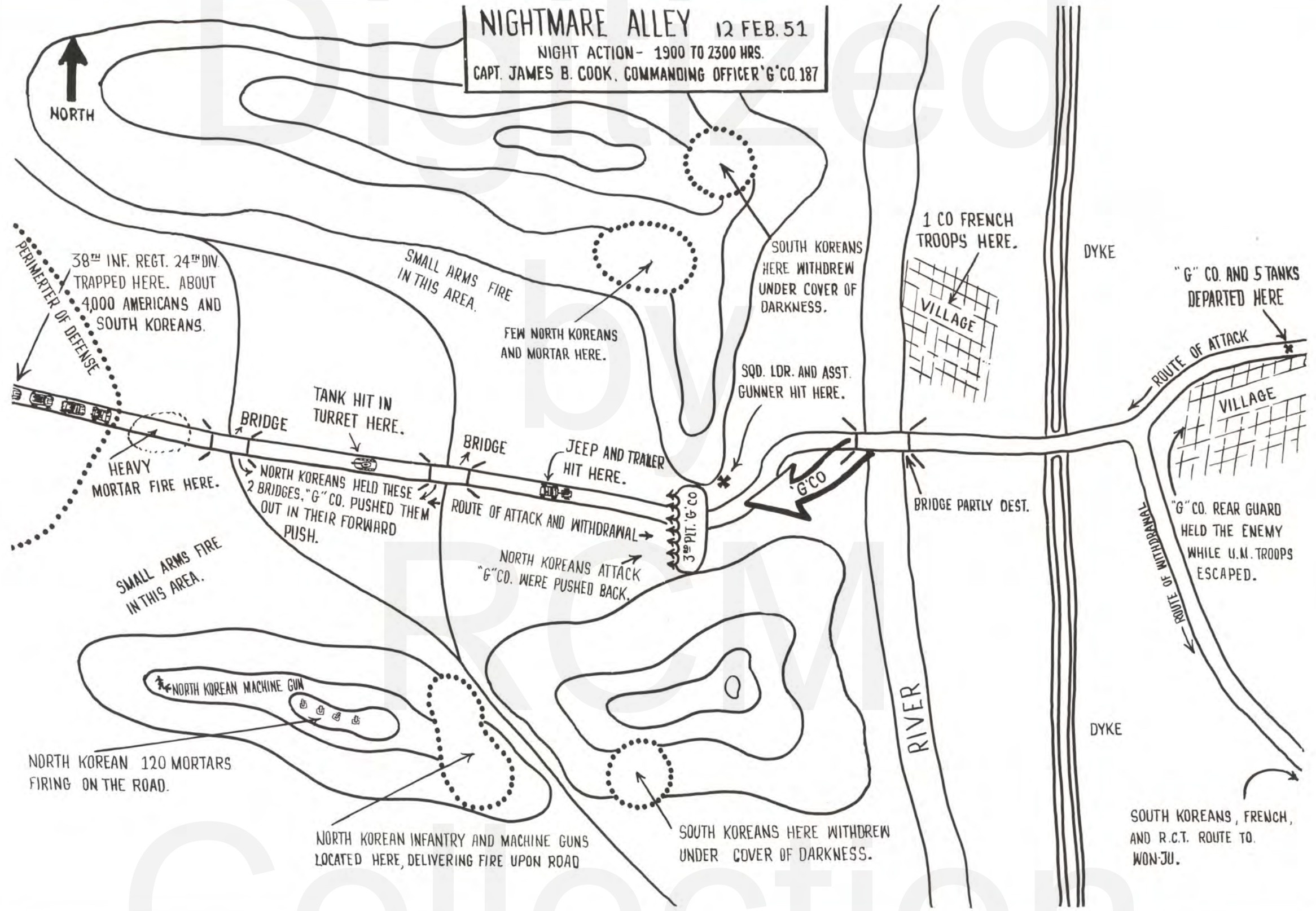
MEN TO BE DECORATED AT THE A.P.C. 25 February 1951. Chechon, Korea.

—US Army Photo

KOREAN CONFLICT: 5 March 52. Brig. Gen. Bowen, CG, 187th ARCT (left) and Gen. of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief, UN Command, at Wonju, Korea. 20 Feb. 51



NIGHTMARE ALLEY 12 FEB. 51
 NIGHT ACTION - 1900 TO 2300 HRS.
 CAPT. JAMES B. COOK, COMMANDING OFFICER 'G' CO. 187



positions in the hills and, on the fourteenth, the Second Battalion jumped off in a counter attack. Three or four miles north of Wonju we came under small arms and machine gun fire with some light mortar rounds landing in the F Company area. I set up my mortar and was able to knock out one troublesome machine gun with one round of white phosphorous. Crossing a paddy field we lost some men crowded up in a ditch when a mortar shell landed among them. Taking the left flank hill we started toward the second when we came under attack by four South African planes. They made repeated passes at us dropping napalm and firing rockets and 20mm cannon. Finally one of the tank gunners who were accompanying us in the mission, fired his fifty caliber at the planes and they went away.

On the morning of the 19th of January the 38th Infantry Regiment relieved us and we moved to another, though no less quiet sector."

Following successive moves to Ichon, Kyongan-ni, Chonsen and Yoju in order to establish blocking positions, the RCT, on 13 January, moved the CP to Punggi to defend the Tanyang-Punggi pass and to annihilate the enemy in its zone of responsibility. Third Battalion of the 8th Cavalry Regiment was attached to the Regiment and the RCT came under IX Corps control. Temperatures continued to drop until the Rakkasans were operating in below zero weather.

On 14 February 1951 the Second and Third Battalions were ordered to sieze Hill 342. At 2210 hours the Third Battalion reported their objective taken.

One Rakkasans' experience is typical of the RCT attack. At Hoensong, eighteen miles north of Wonju SFC Ignatz, Pathfinder on the Sukchon drop, was on line with K Company when the first Chinese Communists began breaking through the UN units to the north. "Fighting a delaying action for several days we were finally pushed back to Wonju where we dug in a defense position."

General Bowen said that the 187th would hold Wonju. Attack being the best defense the Regiment jumped off to stop two hundred thousand Chinese.

"K Company departure point was Hill 339, Ignatz continued, with the immediate objective to take Hill 342 several hundred yards to our front. With the Turks on our right flank we pushed off at 1600 hours on 13 February. The hills were ablaze with rifle, machine gun, mortar and artillery fire, both theirs and ours, as we walked down the first slope in platoon wedges with marching fire. We crossed about three ridges, with the Chinese slowly retreating and firing. Men were falling all about me, some were casualties from our own artillery. Creeping and crawling in the snow we made it to hill 341 where some CCF were still burning from Napalm air strikes. Explosions from artillery and mortar fire increased as we started down the reverse slope. The Chinese caught us on the skyline and raked our people with automatic fire. We rode to the bottom sliding on our backsides with the ground erupting all around us. This system looked so good to Corporal E. J. Putt, the squads' light machine gunner, that he deliberately sat down at the top of the next ridge and slid all the way to the bottom screaming and cursing and firing his gun all the way.

In the fourth hour of the attack the CCF pinned us down on a forward slope with extremely heavy fire until I Company brought up a 60mm mortar. By this time night had fallen. A bright moon, reflected on the white snow and flashes of exploding incoming rounds lit up the hills as tracers criss-crossed overhead. As we pushed forward under a hail of bullets the CCF began grenading the advancing men. On top of Hill

340 we hit well dug in Chinese. We fixed bayonets and started clearing foxholes.

The place was lousy with Chinks. Directly in front of me loomed a hole with two Chinese in it. One was apparently dead, the other firing at a K Company man to my left. The Chinese saw me moving toward him out of the corner of his eye and started to bring his weapon around when I caught him in the face with a vertical butt stroke and followed through with a bayonet thrust in the neck. Just to make sure I placed a round in his head.

Twenty yards further on a K Company man and I converged on a foxhole containing two enemy. One jumped out and started toward me with fixed bayonet. I fired at him but he kept coming. I side-stepped his rush and smashed his head with my rifle butt then bayoneted him

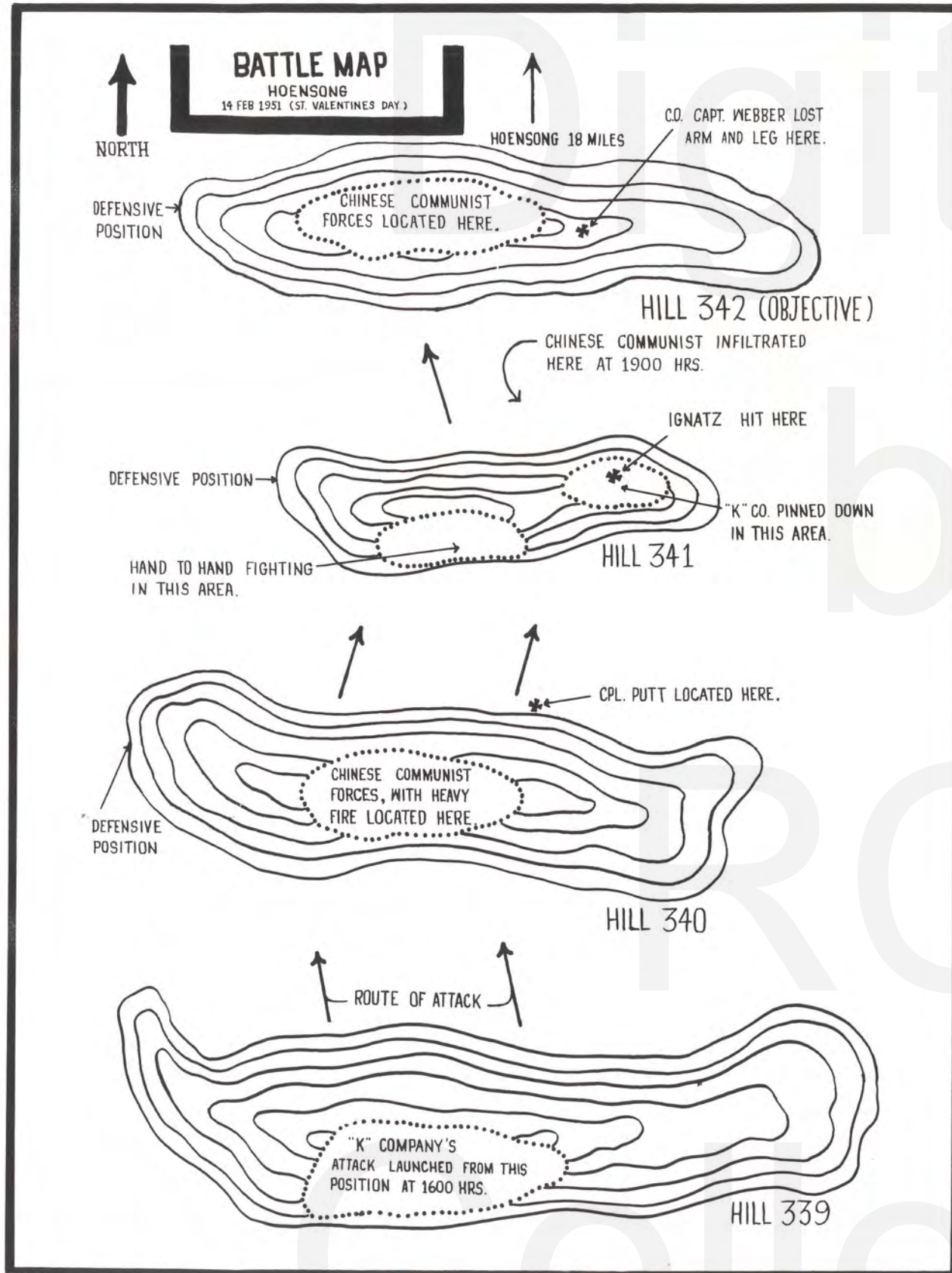
in the back of the head. I tore the machine gun out of the hole in a frenzy and threw it over the side of the hill. All of us were acting crazy. Yelling and cursing and stabbing Communists.

Clearing the ridge we started down the slope when I was hit by two machine gun slugs in the right leg. Grenades landed nearby and fragments struck me in the head, legs, and back. The platoon leader, Lieutenant Rush, came over and told me to lie still. Pretty soon Corporal Charles T. Wood, our medic, finished with a man next to me and gave me a shot of morphine, applied a tourniquet to my leg and bandaged the worst wounds. About five of us, hit in the attack down the reverse slope, stayed in position firing toward the enemy until we ran out of ammo.

Minutes later a bunch of Chinese came into view poking bodies for

PARACHUTE JUMP: 7 March 1951. Men of the 1st Bn., 187th ARCT move off the Drop Zone to an assembly area, after completing practice parachute jump near Taegu, Korea. —US Army Photo





KOREAN CONFLICT: 23 Mar. 1951. Paratroopers of the 187th ARCT float earthward from C-119 planes to cut off retreating communist units, south of Munsan, Korea.

MUNSAN NI, KOREA: Before take off men let some of the 100 lb. load rest on the ground. Each jumper carries main chute on back, emergency chute on chest. They weigh 40 lbs. Other equipment weighs about 60 pounds. 12 Mar. 1951
Reprinted courtesy of *Life Magazine*



signs of life. I told our people to crawl under the Chinese dead which littered the field and to keep still no matter what happened. The enemy failed to find our little group although they bayoneted many American bodies around us.

Two hours later I Company came up and we were evacuated by litter to the Battalion aid station. I came to on a hospital train to Pusan. Looking around I saw most of K Company on the same train—all hospital bound . . .”

On the twelfth of February, while Ignatz with K Company was preparing for the Wonju battle, Desmarais and Company G became engaged in one of the most remarkable rescues of the retrograde operation.

Notified that the 1st ROK Division was heavily engaged with CCF in a valley north of Hoensong the Company started out to relieve them. Attached was a platoon of tanks. Arriving in a small village fifteen miles north of Wonju the tiny combat group found that the 38th Infantry Regiment and part of the 1st ROK Division, about four thousand men, were trapped in a snarled column of vehicles and equipment at the northern end of the valley. CCF forces held the high ground on both sides and controlled the road leading south. A party of ROKs held part of the eastern flank but they fled in the night shortly after the Rakkasans arrived. A company of French holed up in a small town at the mouth of the valley were preparing to move south.

Key to the effective relief action were three partly blown bridges held by roadblocking Chinese supported by 120mm mortars and automatic weapons. Sizing up the situation G Company pushed off with the tanks leading and troops, in platoon formation, following. The first partly demolished bridge was negotiated successfully and, under a rain of steel, the enemy holding two successive crossings were killed. Reaching the stalled column about midnight G Company effected extrication of the trapped regiment and ROK forces by leading the column back down that same terrible gauntlet of fire to safety. Acting as rear guard the paratroopers held open the escape route to Wonju until all United Nations elements had cleared the mouth of the valley.

The G Company survivors recall this action as the “Nightmare Alley Operation.”

Moving from Wonju to a new location three miles northwest of Chochon the RCT passed to the operational control of X Corps. On 28 February the entire 187th closed in at their rear assembly area at Taegu. Ahead was the combat jump at Munsan-ni.

MUNSAN-NI

Throughout the first half of March the Regiment remained in administrative bivouac at K-2 Airstrip near Taegu. A basic airborne class was initiated to qualify nonjumpers as parachutists. The Second and Fourth Ranger Companies were attached to work with the Rakkasans in advance of the next combat mission.

Parachute training jumps were executed on the 8th and 9th in which four-thousand thirty-three personnel participated. One man was killed in the exercise.

Highlight of the two week period was an RCT review for General Ridgeway, Eighth Army Commander. Many awards were made to Rakkasans who had demonstrated outstanding valor in engagements from

Taegu, Korea, 23 Mar 51—Paratroopers of the 187th ARCT prepare to load aboard waiting C-119 aircraft for combat jump at Munsan-Ni.
Reprinted Courtesy Life Magazine



Kimpo, Sukchon-Sunchon to Teague. Many members of the RCT, living and dead, were represented in this ceremony.

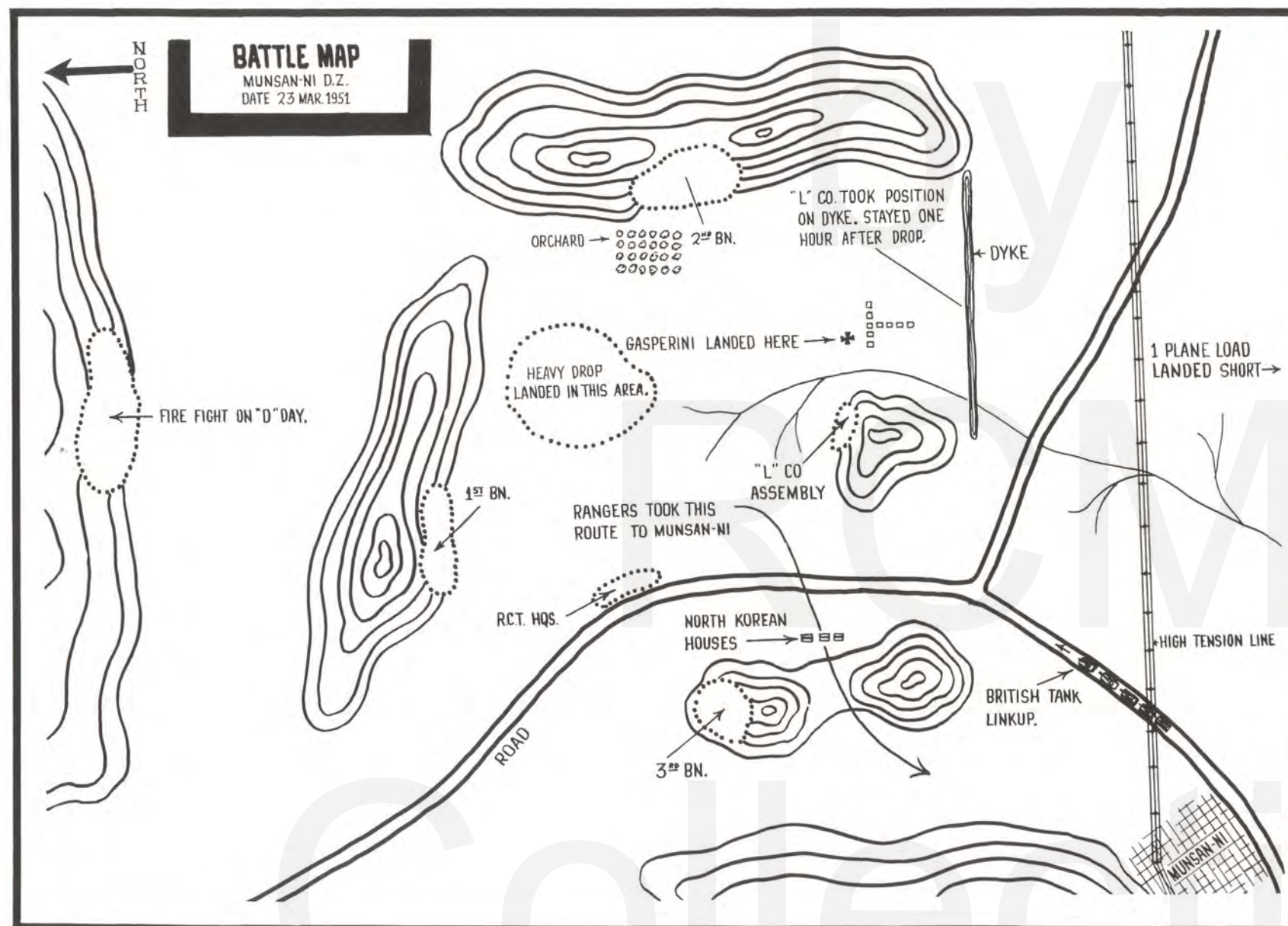
The Combat Team, however, was not to rest for long. At this time it was believed that the CCF III Field Army was located south of the 38th parallel and had established concentrations around the Uijongbu area. These elements were capable of immediate action. In a somewhat unstable situation that was muddled by conflicting reports of enemy advances and enemy withdrawals, the RCT was placed on alert for a combat drop in one of two locations. It was felt that the Reds were trying to gain time in which to launch their forth phase offensive.

Initial plans envisaged a vertical assault at Chunchon to throw the Communists time table off schedule and rock him back across the 38th Parallel. A terrain analysis and study of the enemy capability in that area was begun.

The intelligence summary indicated that enemy strength in the Chunchon was about one regiment of CCF. The greatest immediate threat appeared to be strong troop masses north and west of the proposed drop zone. Final preparations were in progress for this airborne operation when, on the 19th, EUSAK cancelled the Chunchon jump and directed that the alternate drop area near Munsan-ni be selected. Aircraft from Brady and Ashyai, the same Troop Carrier Wings that had airlifted the Rakkasans to Sukchon-Sunchon, arrived the same day.

The enemy was withdrawing to the north in the proposed target area and Chinese and North Korean troop columns were crossing the Injin River where they were establishing defense-in-depth positions near Munsan-ni.

Mission of the 187th was to destroy the enemy at the restricted withdrawal route of the Injin River crossing and to smash elements of the



MUNSAN NI, KOREA: Stepping into space, the last paratrooper of the 42 aboard plane starts his drop. Below him are rice fields and dikes which form the drop zone and the narrow dirt road which twists and bends on its way back to Seoul. At the upper left is an empty C-119 trailing the static lines of the men who have already jumped. 23 March 1951. (Note static line under arm. This man survived exit.)
Reprinted courtesy of *Life Magazine*

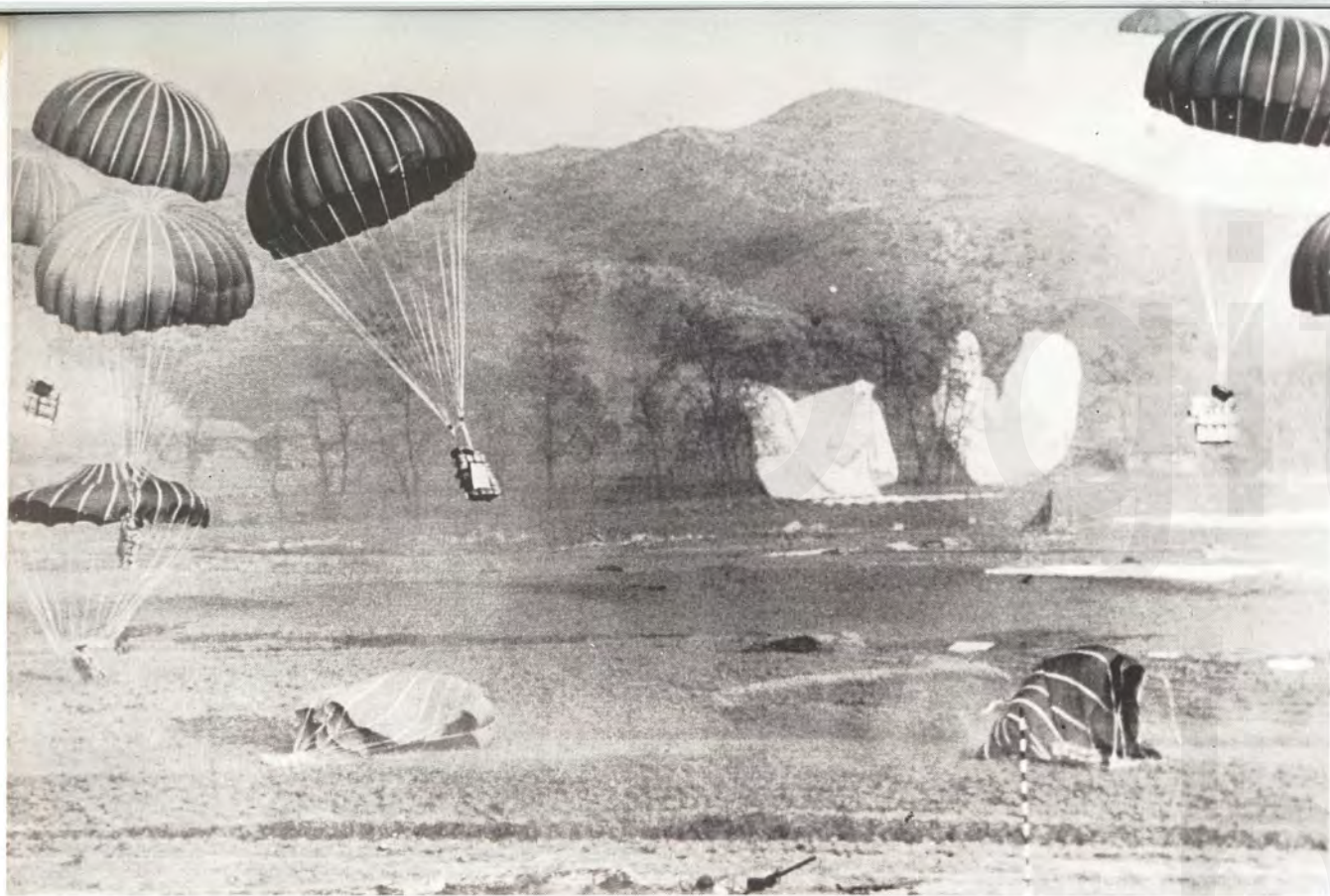
19th North Korean Division. The drop would be made concurrently with the departure of a column of US tanks which would effect link-up within forty-eight hours. The advancing armor was to be the anvil on which the RCT hammer would crush the retreating enemy. Those who might escape would be caught like rats at the waters edge.

"I felt a little better about the second combat jump," Specialist Gasperini said. "At the briefing by our platoon leader he told us that we were going to jump at Munsan-ni, the same area where we had dug in on 15 December in the retreat south. That 48 hour link-up plan sounded good to me."

Sergeant First Class Ignatz, Hospitalized since the Wonju action reported back for duty on 19 March just in time for the Munsan-ni operation. "Our pathfinder Team Leader, Lieutenant Maloney, put me in the first wave," he said. "I had the same beat-up white panels and a supply of colored smoke grenades. This was Sukchon all over again."

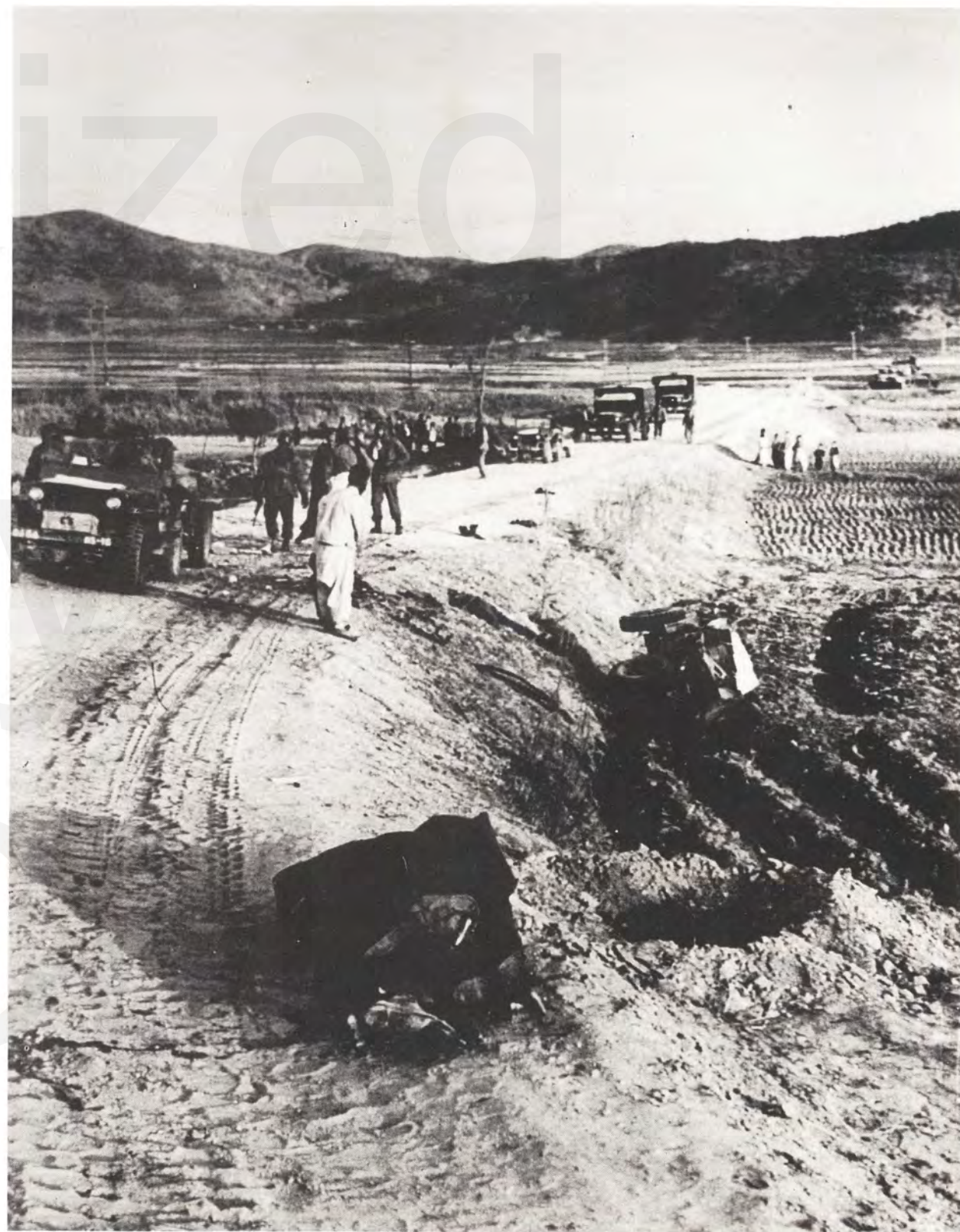
The Rakkasans were old pros by this time and attracted a great deal of military attention. Shortly after the first serial landed Lieutenant General Ridgway, the Eighth Army Commander was to land by light aircraft on a roadway bordering the DZ and watch the initial stages of the drop and assembly.

"I went back to Fukuoka to secure heavy drop packing and equipment from the Parachute Maintenance Company," Sergeant Ryals stated.



MUNSAN NI, KOREA: At the drop zone rations and ammunition come down to troops. Big white chutes (background) carried heavier equipment. The striped pole (foreground) is aiming stake for guns already in action. 23 Mar. 1951 Reprinted courtesy *Life Magazine*

MUNSAN NI, KOREA: Mortarmen fire into the hills with weapons and ammunition dropped to them shortly after jump. 23 Mar. 1951 Reprinted courtesy *Life Magazine*



MUNSAN NI, KOREA: Death on the road came in the crash of an exploding box mine. The covered body of a mortar sergeant lies on a stretcher, his twisted jeep in the ditch. 23 Mar. 1951 Reprinted courtesy *Life Magazine*



MUNSAN NI, KOREA: The link up between airborne and armor is made at the edge of the drop zone where parachutes still lie scattered on the ground (upper right). When they saw this was the only tank to come up, the paratroopers faces fell. But they felt a lot better when he tankers told them that the rest of the column was close behind. 23 March 1951
Reprinted courtesy of *Life Magazine*



29 March 1951. Men of Co. "B," 187th Abn. RCT cross a stream north of Inji, Korea, under sniper fire from the enemy.



MUNSAN NI, KOREA: Helicopter ambulance takes off on 20 minute flight to Seoul with two enclosed stretchers lashed to each side of the fuselage. One hundred and two men were injured in the drop, only 10 seriously. 23 March 1951
Reprinted courtesy of *Life Magazine*

MUNSAN-NI, KOREA. Indian Army doctor, Lt. Colonel Rangara, jumped with surgical teams, treats wounded. 23 Mar. 51

—Report courtesy of *Life Magazine*



MUNSAN NI, KOREA: Patrol moving north looks down at Imjin River and at village set fire by U.S. artillery. 29 March 1951

"Some Quartermaster people had recovered my lost 75, and I was in business again."

"On this second drop we planned to jump light machine guns tied to the individual parachutists. Each man would also carry two cases of ammunition strapped to pack boards which were to be slung over our combat packs at the knees. My section had two 75mm recoilless in door bundles, and jumped in four light machine guns, several rocket launchers and a considerable load of ammunition for all weapons. On getting in the aircraft I had the door-loaded 75, a pack board with two boxes of ammo, a 3.5 rocket launcher, five bandoleers of 30 caliber ammo, combat pack and T-7 parachute assembly. I must have weighed 300 pounds."

"My serial was airborne at 1000 hours," Ryals continued, "one plane had engine trouble and crashed into the sea during the flight. Another was lost from the preceding serial."

"We flew out to sea for our rendezvous then flew north in column. Crossing the coast I could see Chinese Communist Forces dug in in trenches surrounding the DZ. The Air Force, prior to the jump had reported the enemy, in groups of one thousand men, moving in on Munsan-ni valley. USAF pilots called Munsan-ni, 'Holiday Valley,' because of the large number of targets. I remember that it was a clear, sunny day. Below my plane small bunches of our people were moving out to the assembly points with scatterign rounds coming in around them. The village of Munsan-ni was burning in the near distance. Farm houses ringed the drop zone."

CONFLICT IN KOREA: 24 April 1951. Tanks of Support Co., 187th ARCT, are ready to roll at Yong-dong-po; this is the first AB outfit to have its own tanks. U.S. Army Photo



CONFLICT IN KOREA: 24 April 1951. Men of the 1st Bn., 187th ARCT take a break in an old bombed out building in Yong-dong-po, before being sent out to the front lines. —US Army Photo

"In some amazement I saw that the green light had flashed on."

"Flipping out my 75 mm door bundle I followed after. As the engine noises subsided I could hear a considerable amount of small arms fire below. Landing in soft ground I cleared my parachute harness and headed for my assembly area on the southwestern section of the DZ. A few minutes after we had secured the high ground in our sector the heavy drop arrived and, with it, the attached Medical Battalion from India."

"All but three or four men were veterans of the Sukchon drop," Gasperini said. "Morale was very high. We had a routine two hour flight north. Lieutenant Granger, our jumpmaster, checked us out at the four minute warning. With the doors open we could see check points one and two; first a high tension line, then a road junction, coming up. As our plane passed over a bridge I led by right door stick out into the slip stream."

Searching for our objective in the air I remembered that L Company missions included taking a hill in the southwest corner of the DZ and opening the way for one of our Ranger Companies to sieze Munsan-ni. The Pathfinders had landed minutes ahead of our serial and there, below me, was a nice white tee with green smoke floating lazily above it. The field was receiving occasional mortar strikes and some automatic weapons

fire raked the ground from time to time, but I felt no particular concern over it.

"Coming in near the tee I raced to our white assembly panel on a ridge to the left of the drop zone where one of our guides directed me to a knoll on the west edge. Arriving at the L Company sector I set up my machine gun—in the same hole I had dug the previous December."

Resistance in the drop zone was considered moderate. Enemy artillery and mortar fire were the outstanding resistance factors. It appeared that the enemy was forwarned of a possible airborne assault but did not know in what sector the paratroopers would drop. The Third Battalion of the 36th Regiment, 19th North Korean Division had approximately 400 troops dug in the vicinity, well armed with light and heavy machine guns. These troops arrived from Kumchon on the 23rd and had the objective of securing the main highway leading to Kaesong. One company had arrived as early as the 22nd of March."

"L Company," Gasperini continued, "quickly organized its perimeter within the Third Battalion sector on the high ground over looking Munsan-ni village. All of our company landed safely and arrived at the assembly point except one man. The same man who had sprained his leg on the first Combat jump, broke it at Munsan-ni."



"While waiting for the Ranger Companies to attack through our position to seize the village we went down to the edge of town and erected a little sign, 'Welcome to Munsan-ni. Courtesy of Company L.'"

The assault elements of the 187th parachuted in on two drop zones in the Munsan-ni area. The First Battalion, with the exception of Colonel Wilson and the command group, dropped on the north DZ. The First Battalion had been scheduled to land on the south zone but during the flight Colonel Wilson's plane dropped out of formation because of engine trouble and the flight erroneously continued its flight pattern to the north where the paratroopers exited over the further zone. "B" Company of

the first Battalion later escorted the Commander and his staff through the lines to the Battalion area without incident.

Tasks included in the First Battalion mission included the capture of Hills 228 and 229.

Sergeant Alexander, rifleman with "A" Company said, "The Munsan-ni jump was a much more difficult operation, initially, than the one at Sukchon. On landing on the wrong DZ we jumped into an area occupied by strong enemy forces and these people had us under fire from the moment we hit the dirt. The RCT lost 782 men the first day of combat. The First Battalion marched all night to reach the Second Battalion

GEN. BOWEN GREETSS REPLACEMENTS: 4 May 1951. Brig. Gen. Frank S. Bowen, Jr., CG, 187th ARCT (center) greets replacements from Fort Bragg, N. C., at Okchon-ni, Korea, east of Seoul. —US Army Photo



CAMPING: 17 May 1951. Men of L Co., 3rd Bn., 187th ARCT camp on a hill near Chon-ni, Korea. U.S. Army Photo

CHOGUT-AN: 22 May 1951. D Co., 1st Bn., 187th ARCT moves up a hill near Chogut-An, Korea into action with the enemy. The climb was made more difficult by the steep sides of the ridge and the humid weather. U.S. Army Photo





LEFT BEHIND: 22 May 1951. Cpl. Robert L. Hanson, (Birmingham, Ala.), C Co., 38th Inf. Regiment, 2nd Inf. Div., wounded in both legs during the assault on the enemy near Chogut-An, Korea, was left behind by the enemy when they retreated from the area. Men from A Co., 187th ARCT found him and brought him back for airvac. U.S. Army Photo

TAKING COVER: 26 May 1951. C Co., U.S. Army, 187th ARCT, files along ditch beside road in a drive to encircle retreating reds near Umyong-ni, Korea. U.S. Army Photo



GUN CREW IN ACTION: 26 May 1951. The 6th section gun crew of the 88th AAA Battery 187th ARCT, peppers a ridge line north of Umyong-ni, Korea. —US Army Photo

ATTACK: 26 May 1951. Men of the 187th ARCT spread out as Chinese Mortars zero in on a friendly tank near Umyong-Ni, Korea. The paratroopers were rushed to the East Central front to help close a trap on retreating Communists in the Inju area. U.S. Army Photo



CUT-OFF STRATEGY: 26 May 1951. (L-R) Brig. Gen. Frank S. Bowen, CG, 187th ARCT, Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond, CG, U.S. X Corps, and aide map out strategy to cut off retreating reds near Umyong-ni, Korea. U.S. Army Photo





29 May 1951. Chinese Communist vehicles destroyed by 187th Abn, RCT near Inji, Korea.

SAFETY FROM SNIPERS: 29 May 1951. A man of the 1st Bn., 2nd U.S. Inf. Div. keeps close to the high grass and heavy brush for safety from enemy snipers at Inje, Korea.



CAPTURED ENEMY: 29 May 1951. Two men from B Co., 187th ARCT, 2nd Inf. Div., guard captured chinese troops north of Inje, Korea.

—US Army Photo

29 May 1951. An enemy soldier waves a white cloth to surrender and is brought forward by a man from B Co., 187th ARCT, 2nd U.S. Inf. Div., in Inje, Korea.

U.S. Army Photo



PREPARING TO FIRE: 29 May 1951. Men of the 1st Bn., 187th ARCT, 2nd U.S. Inf. Div. prepare to fire on enemy soldiers north of Inje, Korea.

U.S. Army Photo



which was heavily engaged. We immediately went into the attack and took the critical terrain to establish blocking positions to cut off the retreating Chinese and North Korean Forces."

"The Enemy was well dug in around Munsan-ni. It was later learned that the CCF were withdrawing in that sector in order to draw the United Nations Forces North, so that an envelopment by enemy forces could be accomplished and thereby cut off friendly units. Later reports revealed the Chinese Communist Forces had been in the area for two or three days before the drop.

The enemy was determined to make a firm stand along a general line running north east, and particularly through the 187th RCT zone from Hill 178 on the west to Hill 208 on the east. The Reds possessed artillery and mortars and were well supplied with small arms and hand grenades.

"B" Battery of the 674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion landed at Munsan-ni with 75mm pack howitzers to facilitate mobility in support of the fluid infantry situation.

"There were many Chinese dead on the DZ when we landed." SFC Maria recalls."

At 1450 hours on the 23rd it was reported that Task Force Crowder, comprising the main body of the link-up armor force was approximately fifteen road miles south of Munsan-ni and had made contact with patrols of the 187th ARCT by 1855 that same day.

There was no significant enemy activity during the night. At 1245 hours on the 24th the Regiment was alerted to move to the east and north of Uijongbu to carry out the second phase of the operation and squeeze the enemy into a tight pocket for annihilation. Advance units reported that an estimated enemy battalion was dug in approximately 600 yards north east of Uijongbu and was offering stiff resistance.

Periodic information had been received through the day of enemy movement north in various size groups.

"On the second day," Maria continued, "Battery B went into the hills to the east of the DZ in support of the Second Battalion attack. Within hours the Chinese had infiltrated the perimeter defense and cut the Battery off from the infantry. We dug in, held on, and continued to give supporting fire to the advancing paratroopers. Radio contact was established which permitted resupply of ammunition by parachute drop. Alternating as artillerymen and riflemen in our double mission we broke up repeated enemy attacks and when the main Communist effort was smashed, we rejoined the regiment in the move to the north.

United States tanks entered the RCT Headquarters area about 0400 hours on the twenty-fourth. Establishing a tank-infantry shuttle the RCT prepared to catch the retreating main body of Reds in the vicinity of Uijongbu. The chase would be twenty-six miles long.

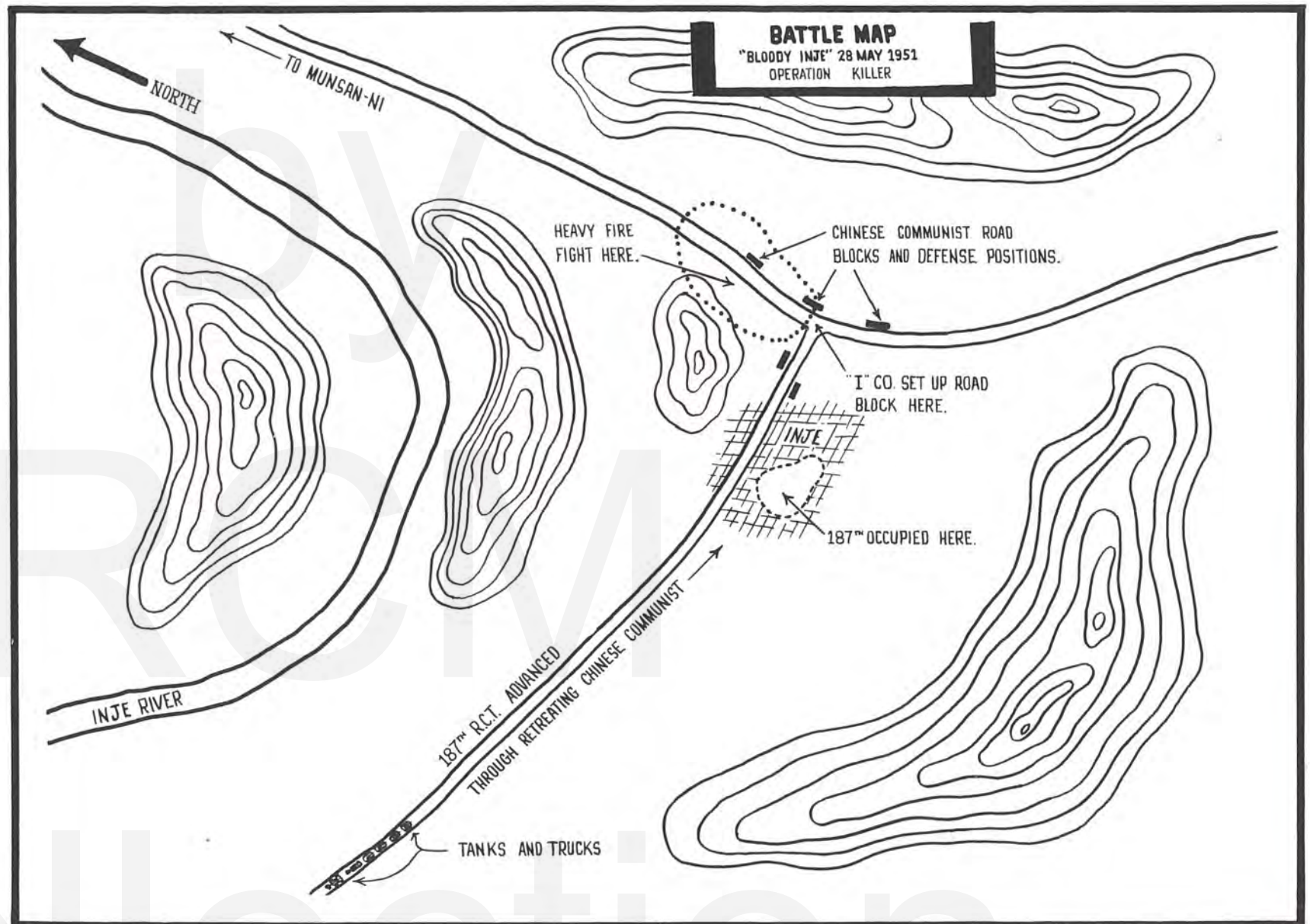
"L Company," Gasperini noted, "climbed aboard the tanks in a driving rain. Shuttled up the road for several miles we would dismount, march for a few hours, then be picked up again for another spurt forward. The whole Regiment was hurried forward in this manner over roads that had become rivers of mud in a cold driving rain that soon soaked the paratroopers to the skin. I didn't have a dry cigarette to my name. This forced march lasted all afternoon and throughout the night. By the morning of the 25th, L Company, strung out on both sides of the road, was approaching Paron-ni, the new RCT Command Post. Chaplain Hope, the Regimental Padre, came up the line of men in an I & R jeep. In the middle of the column there was a loud explosion and the jeep flipped over, throwing the Chaplain into a ditch. He survived this close one but was evacuated temporarily with a back injury.

About 0900 the Company came under heavy mortar fire. Spreading out we moved forward in attack formation. It was still raining. Overwhelming the moderate resistance we moved into the Uijongbu valley and went into RCT reserve while the Second Battalion continued the advance in the face of heavy fire from the ridges. While observing severe hand to hand fights from my position on the knoll the Third Battalion came under concentrated Mortar fire. We just sat there and took it for three hours. About 1530 the barrage seemed to be lifting when I heard a very close one start whistling in headed in my direction. Yelling to Snook, my BAR man, to hit the dirt, I felt a sudden kick in the tail, like being hit in the rump with a baseball bat. As our medic came running up to stitch the pieces together again, I realized I'd "had" that particular campaign."

Evacuated to Nara, Japan, Gasperini rejoined the RCT at Beppu in May.

The Third Battalion jumped off in the attack to the east on 26th March. Initial objective was secured with minimum enemy resistance. Final objective was Hill 228 which Company I assaulted late in the afternoon. Enemy resistance encountered was extremely heavy. The enemy had constructed an elaborate system of entrenchments and extremely deep bunkers. In some cases holes were as much as fifteen feet deep. Firing steps were constructed to facilitate bringing fire on our troops. The enemy seemed to possess an almost limitless supply of grenades. Since each position had to be taken by hand to hand combat the RCT casualties were heavy.

Company K moved up and tied in with I Company to consolidate the portion of the objective that had been taken. At daylight of the 27th K Company moved out in an attack on the remainder of Hill 228 and quickly mopped up all remaining enemy.





CHECKING THE BUNKER: 1 June 1951. A man from E Co., 187th ARCT checks the bunker which was demolished by a white phosphorous hand grenade on Hill 451 north of Inje, Korea. While it was still burning a Chinese ran out of it and was shot down by the G.I.

Rakkasans re-supply drop near Umyang, Korea.

U.S. Army Photo



1 June 51. Rakkasan 75mm recoilless rifle team train their weapon on retreating Chinese Communist forces North of Inje, Korea as paratroopers push North.

GIVING INSTRUCTIONS: 1 June 1951 (with phone) Brig. Gen. Frank S. Bowen, Jr., CG, 187th ARCT gives instructions by radio to his tank patrol during the time F Co., 187th ARCT was taking the opposite ridge north of Inje, Korea. On Gen. Bowen's right is Lt. Col. Paul O'Connor, CO, 2nd Bn., 187th ARCT.

U.S. Army Photo



BLOODY INJE: 1 June 1951. Members of the 187th ARCT bypass two surrendering Chinese north of Inje, Korea, while attempting to cut off retreating communists north of the city.

U.S. Army Photo



RECEIVING MAP: 5 Aug. 1951. President Syngman Rhee of Korea, receives Situation Map of the 187th while fighting in Korea. L-R, Capt. C. W. Watters, President Syngman Rhee, and Mrs. Syngman Rhee and Naval Attache Peter Swifert.
U.S. Army Photo

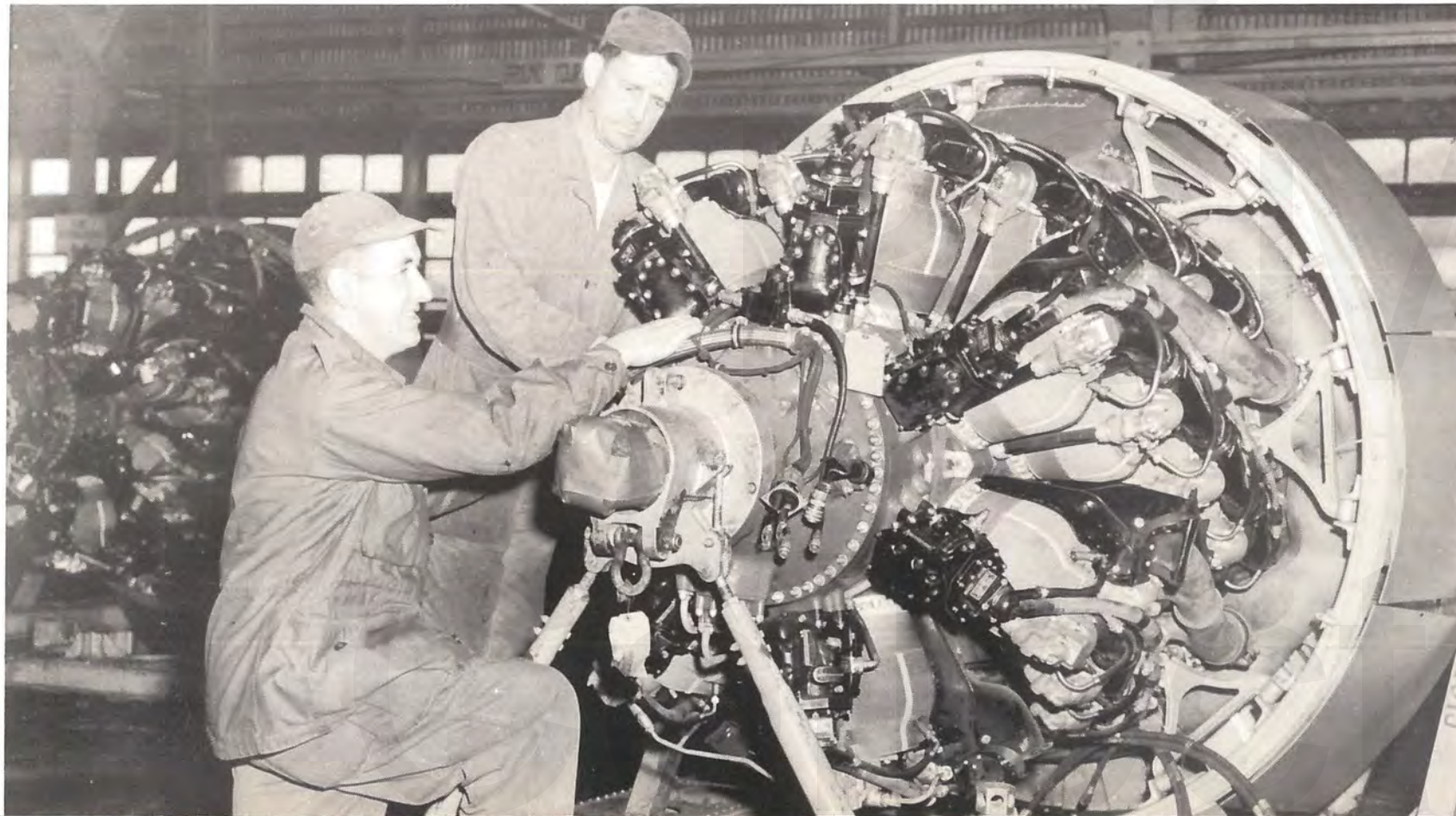


PINNING THE STARS: 11 Oct. 1951. Colonel Donald C. Clayman, Deputy Commander, 187th ARCT, pins the stars of a Brig. Gen. on Colonel Thomas J. H. Trapnell, Commanding the 187th ARCT at a reception at Camp Chickamauga Officers Club.
U.S. Army Photo



A DROP: 13 Nov. 1951. Shots taken from the Command Plane showing the 187th ARCT jumping on the DZ in Korea, in Operation Show Off.
U.S. Army Photo

CHECKING ENGINES: 13 November 1951. Checking on one of the C-119 Plane engines that carry the Airborne personnel to the DZ, are left to right: M/Sgt. Wilbar P. Phillips, aircraft welder and mechanic, and T/Sgt. Glen Bradberry, Crew Chief in Engine Build-Up, both men are at Ashiya Air Force Base.
—US Army Photo



SLEEPING IN FLIGHT: 13 Nov. 1951. Men of the 187th ARCT are shown catching up on some of their sleep while in flight to the DZ in Korea where they made the drop. The drop was a practice one named "Operation Show Off."
U.S. Army Photo

As the situation progressed on 27th March, with Paratrooper forces attacking against fanatical resistance, the RCT steadily advanced. Supported by accurate artillery fire the enemy counter attacked, blowing horns and firing colored flares. Fanaticism, however, was no match against the ferocity of the paratroopers. Chinese dead littered the wake of the Rakkasan advance.

The enemy fought furiously during the daylight hours but when darkness descended he would withdraw to higher ground, if permitted. Night attack had become a speciality to the men of the Combat Team and they launched highly successful slashing attacks against these positions.

Aerial observation by the Artillery liaison planes revealed many enemy trenches, each containing eight to ten Chinese, dug in along a ridge northeast of Hill 507. Utilizing this information the Second Battalion advanced on Hill 507 forcing the enemy to withdraw. The attacking

force destroyed the 234th CCF Regiment on Hill 507 and, with this dominate terrain feature in friendly hands organized resistance in the area collapsed. Link up from the south with elements of the United States Third Division cleared the last vital approach north along the Iujongbu-Chapmon axis. On 29 March the Third Division took over the positions of the 187th.

General Bowen moved his paratroopers back to Taegu.

BLOODY INJE

With his supply lines smashed and his infantry decimated by United Nations attack, a demoralized and beaten enemy began a mass withdrawal that became a rout as the Communists made a frantic effort to reach the safety of the Manchurian sanctuary. Relieved of aggressive patrol missions, then in progress, the men of the Rakkasan Team were assembled

at Taegu to launch a spearhead attack through the retreating Communists to seize the strategic cross-roads at Inje. Here, the moving Red columns converged in the northward line of march—and here, it was decided, the 187th would “disrupt and destroy” the last remaining organized elements of a once mighty Chinese juggernaut.

General Bowen, at the direction of the Eighth Army Commander, assembled a formidable Task Force, the RCT reinforced with tanks. A fast moving, hard punching column of men and steel that would race up the backbone of Korea, smashing pockets and columns of Chinese enroute.

On 25 May 1951, the United Nations Forces rolled north in “Operation Killer.” “Task Force Bowen” was tipped with the paratroopers of the Third Battalion riding tanks like war elephants.

Pathfinder Ignatz found himself a rifleman attached to I Company, vanguard of the RCT invasion.

“The roads were a morass of mud and the fields were worse” he said. “Throughout the five day advance we encountered groups of retreating Chinese. In some places we smashed through their defense positions. Nothing stopped us. When the Communist resistance stiffened we would dig in for a few hours, plaster them with mortar and tank fire, then rush the strong points with rifle and bayonets.”

The slashing, smashing advance continued right through the fleeing enemy, over running resistance and running down stragglers on the road. Accepting heavy losses at Bloody Inje the paratroopers destroyed dogged resistance at this vital crossroad, eliminating Chinese fortifications and roadblocks.

Sitting astride the route of northern retreat as April came to a close, the Rakkasans were soon to depart Korea as a wily enemy negotiated for delaying tactics in armistice talks at Panmunjon.

Before departure for Japan Corporal Rudolfo P. Hernandez, G Company rifleman was to launch a one man blitz that would result in the award of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the second Rakkasan so honored in Korea.

With his platoon in a defensive position on Hill 420 near Wonton-ni Corporal Hernandez delivered deadly fire into massed Chinese attacking the platoon position. Though wounded he continued killing CCF until his gun jammed. Fixing his bayonet he jumped from protective cover and charged the foe, killing six more before falling, seriously wounded. Hernandez’ charge so unnerved the enemy that the advance was halted and G Company was able to counterattack and retake the lost ground.

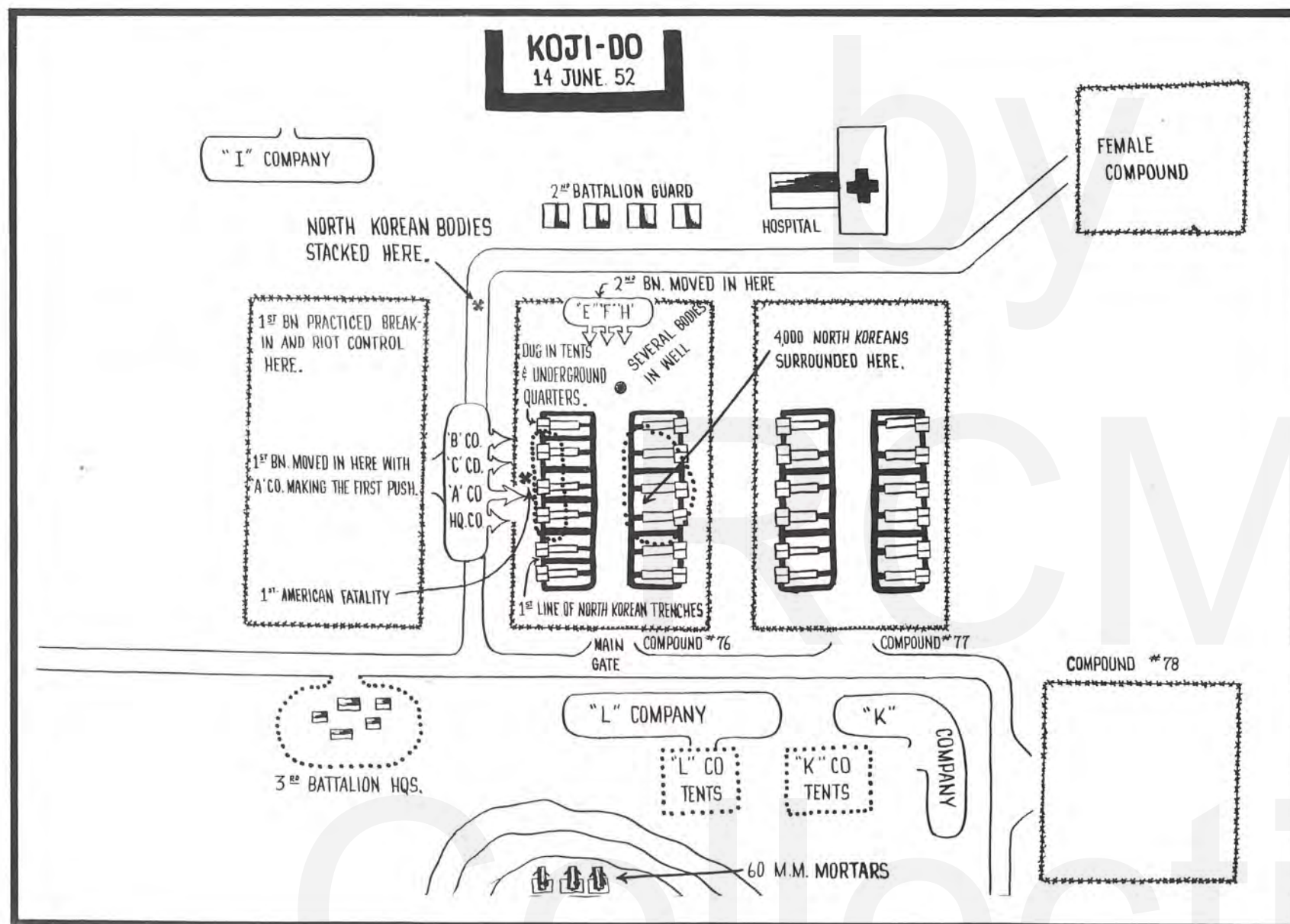
Corporal Hernandez, now discharged from the Army and living in California, is the only living Rakkasan Medal of Honor winner.

In an over water move the RCT returned to Japan where, assembling at the three Japanese camps at Chickamauga, Wood and Kashii the Rakkasans embarked on tactical training which would temper the many new replacements and fit the RCT for further combat in Korea.

General Bowen, survivor of over eight months of the bitterest kind of combat was assigned to a staff job in Japan following a training accident.

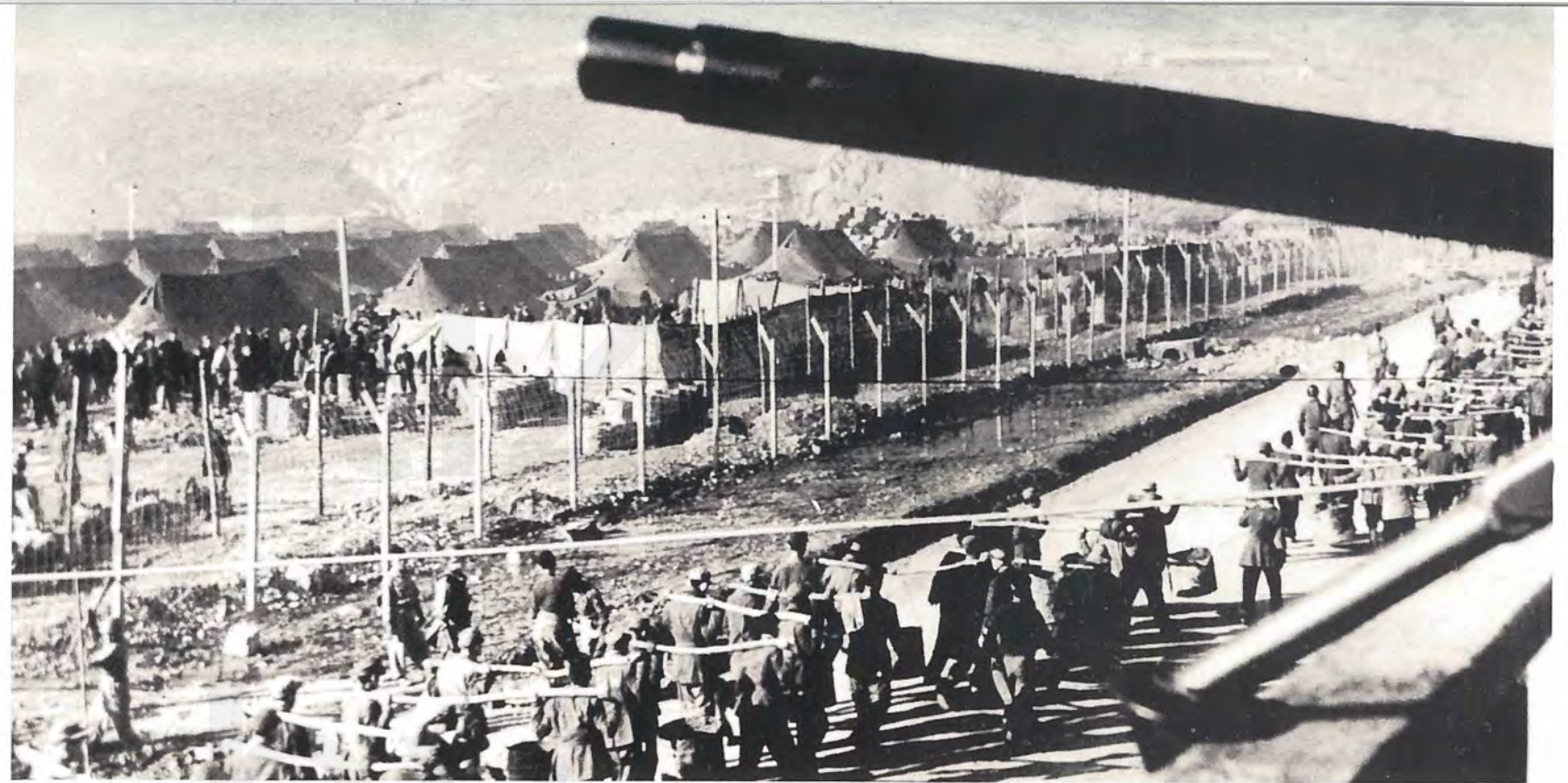
“In a routine training jump at Kashii,” Ignatz said, “I watched a paratrooper, caught in a sudden gust of wind, start swinging violently a few feet above the ground. He landed with a crash and lay still. Running over I lifted his helmet to begin removing his parachute harness and saw that it was General Bowen. He had broken his leg.”

Colonel Thomas J. H. Trapnell assumed command in July to institute a rugged training schedule of all elements of the command. Mori and



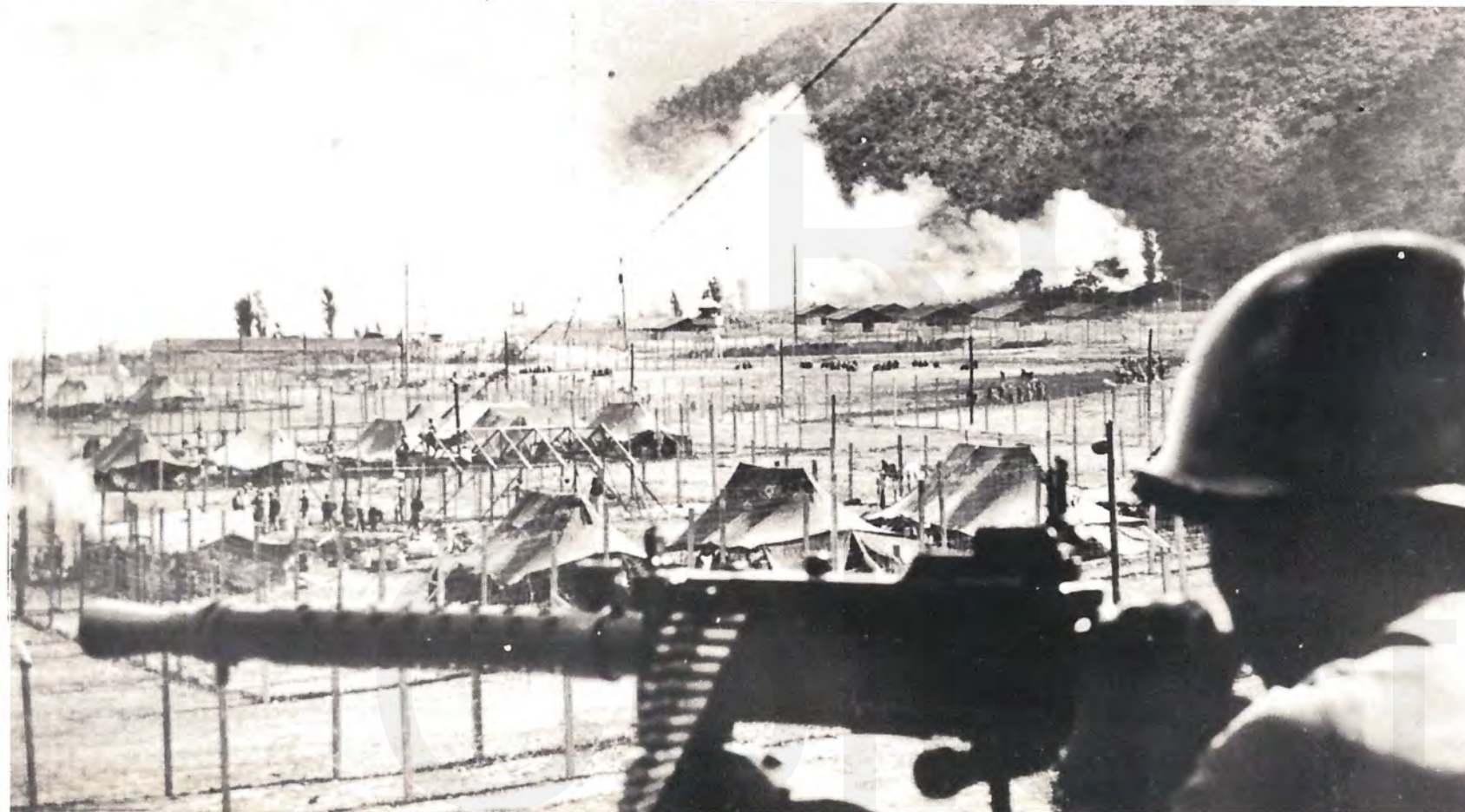


In the movement of the RCT to the ill famed prisoner of war camp at Koji-Do Island, Korea on the 20th of May 1952 the 187th Abn. RCT used three methods of transportation, Trucks, Planes and LST's. Pictured is one of the LST's that moved the troopers on its last leg from Pusan, Korea to the P.O.W. Camp. 21 May 1952



KOREAN CONFLICTS: 5 March 52. Chinese Communist forces internees at the UN POW Camp, Koji-do, carry fuel drums of waste disposal from the camp which will be dumped in the ocean nearby. There are 170,000 captives in the camp's thirty compounds.

KOREAN CONFLICT: A U. S. guard with a loaded machinegun stands by POW camp, as surrounding villages are burned to prevent exchange of information between villagers and POW's, and to dissolve thriving black market activities. 18 July 52



Brig. Gen. (now Maj. Gen.) T. J. H. Trapnell, Commander of the 187th Abn. RCT directing the Regt. on Koji-Do during the smashing of ill-famed compound No. 76 where communist leaders seized command defied the U.N. Command in an effort to embarrass the United Nations side. 10 June 1952



STARS AND STRIPES **Special Edition** KOREA

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AP, UP, INS

Yanks Clean Out Compound 76

Hot Dog, Look At Them Go!

PWs Flee Hiding Places

30 Snarling Reds Meet Death In Clash With U.S.

By Sgt. Murray Fromson
KOJE ISLAND (Pac. S&S)—Hard core Communist prisoners of war in Compound 76 were whipped into submission Tuesday morning by an overwhelming force of American infantry and armor.

In his 8 o'clock briefing to higher headquarters at 2d Logistical Command, Brig. Gen. Haydon L. Boatner, Kommandant of the island, reported that the

company from the 9th Infantry Regiment and three platoons of the 64th Tank Battalion rushed into and around the compound. The final ultimatum was ignored by Communist leaders after 20 minutes and a terrific barrage of tear gas and concussion grenades was loosed on the area.

At 6:25 a.m. the searing sting from tear gas became too much for the "hard prisoners. They fled from their

best known ranking Communist officer on the island, to report just outside the gate where Brig. Gen. Francis Dodd was seen on May 7.

"THIS IS A LEGAL order," Boatner told Lee, "for you to prepare prisoners of war of Compound 76 to move into newly constructed compounds at 6 a.m."

At 6 a.m. the searing sting from tear gas became too much for the "hard prisoners. They fled from their

KOJE ISLAND (AP)—Tough American paratroopers cleaned out bloody, defiant Red prisoner of war Compound 76 Tuesday, burning it to the ground and clapping its leaders in solitary confinement.

The snarling 6400 Communists resisted stoutly with homemade arms. They lost an estimated 30 killed and 136 wounded in a futile show of bravado against the bayonets, concussion grenades, tear gas and fists of a determined band of 750 men of the U.S. 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team.

THE AMERICANS lost one man killed by a submachine gun grenade that fell short and 14 wounded. One American was reported to have died later.

Inside the wrecked and blood-soaked camp U.S. intelligence officers found a master plan to liberate all of the 80,000 Communist prisoners of war on this island of hate and death. The plan included seizure of the

KOJE ISLAND (AP)—Brig. Gen. Haydon L. Boatner said at noon Tuesday that unofficial figures showed between 24 and 30 Communists killed and 136 wounded in the battle for Compound 76 Tuesday morning. American losses stood at one dead and 13 wounded.

island, about the size of Oahu, a Hawaiian island, and firing guns on their captives.

NOT LONG tunnel, and undigging to which ad-

paravely uses job rom road

ers bel d 76 en n

THE COMPOUND adjoins which was emptied earlier in the day with much fighting. Compound 78 housed many North Korean Communist

Boatner Satisfied As Compound 78 Empties Smoothly

KOJE ISLAND (AP)—Communist prisoners of war in Compound 78 Tuesday offered no resistance when they were marched out of the camp to new quarters.

The prisoners lined up at the compound gate and marched out of the camp with their belongings when ordered to at noon.

There were 6800 of them. They moved in squads of 200. By 12:20 p.m. about a third of the 6800 Reds had been moved. The operation moved smoothly.

THE COMPOUND adjoins which was emptied earlier in the day with much fighting. Compound 78 housed many North Korean Communist

Oyanohara, field training areas and Kumamoto, became intimately familiar to the Rakkasans, as did the drop zones at Oita, Wood and the golf course at Kashii, near Fukuoka.

At Camp Wood the paratroopers moved into the site of a former Japanese Military Cadet School and at Camp Chickamauga, the troopers occupied the former quarters of the "Rock of Chickamauga" Regiment, the 38th, and came to know the hot springs Japanese resort area of Beppu on the Inland Sea.

KOJI-DO

While peace talks lagged at Panmunjon the Communists instigated riots and disorders at the United Nations Prisoner of War stockades on Koji-do. In a futile effort to gain international sympathy the thousands of prisoners were whipped into a frenzy of excitement and began systematic sabotage, murder and arson calculated to invite retaliatory action.

When the situation got out of control the tough paratroopers of the 187th were alerted for a new kind of mission. On 15 May 1952 General Trapnell led his Rakkasans in the move back to Korea to quell the rioting Communists. Air landed at Pusan the sky commandos were hurriedly shipped by LST to the island prison.

"I was a squad leader with L Company at the time," Sergeant First Class Anthony S. Fiore, recalls, "I remember that, on the fifteenth our platoon sergeants had a sudden emergency huddle in the old man's office. Minutes later they called the men together to tell us we had four hours to get ready to move back to Korea. I assumed we were going to make a combat jump. Koji-do was the last thing on my mind. At Ashyia we were issued jump scarves and boarded C-119's, combat loaded. We were all chagrined when, at Pusan, we were issued a basic ammunition load and shoved aboard LST's. On the overnight water movement we learned that our target was the Compounds.

Landing at about 1000 hours we pitched our pup tents across the road from Compound No. 76, focal point of most of the trouble and later found to be the headquarters for the underground enemy operation inciting armed resistance. The camp was filthy. The North Koreans immediately began yelling at us and throwing rocks. However we were ordered to make no overt act until ordered to do so."

"My first impression of Koji-do was one of indignation" reflected Master Sergeant David H. Carter. "All compounds were flying North Korean, Chinese Republic and Russian flags. The barbed wire fences were strung with imprecations in English and in each compound, the Reds had constructed a reviewing stand plastered with prominent Red Stars." Carter an A Company rifleman, was to be in the lead element of the American force that broke the back of the resistance at Koji-do less than a month later.

"Relieving the 38th Infantry," Sgt. Fiore continued, "we assumed the mission of breaking up the mass, 4,000 to 6,400 man compounds into smaller controllable units. To accomplish this we first had to build 2,000 man compounds divided into four sections holding not more than five hundred prisoners each. The sections that came under our control were compounds 76, 77, 78, 80 and a female compound, totalling about 20,000 North Korean and Chinese prisoners.

Compound 76 was the headquarters of the island. Tunnels linked all surrounding compounds and messages were impertinately sent between camps by wig-wag signals. The POW's were completely out of hand.

Establishing a patrol of the roads between compounds, while the rest of the RCT set about constructing new compounds, we held the POW's at bay for weeks while the plans were taking shape. During this time



Flame thrower in operation Koji-Do compound 76. 10 June 52

the Reds attempted several rushes at the wire in efforts to break out. We discouraged this tactic. At night we could hear new tunnels being dug and an arms factory humming as the busy Reds turned out spears, guns, knives and other armaments.

Every morning the company fell out for physical training and runs up and down in front of the compounds. The Chinese and North Koreans would call out cadence with our runs. During riot control drill they would use broom handles and accompany us in a mock drill."

While the paratroopers prepared for the showdown a tight security watch was maintained reinforced with armored cars. Several attempts were made by individual prisoners to escape the hell of Communist murder squads. When these people attempted to reach the safety of the United States Forces North Korean Guards would capture and kill them. Daily spear drills and break-out tactics were practiced and regular review parades were held by the prisoners. Uniformly armed and outfitted in distinctive battle dress which was manufactured within the compounds, the Reds prepared to resist with force their physical removal from the stockades.

On the 13th of June the Rakkasans were ready. The Third Battalion was drawn up facing the entrances to the compounds with special attention to Compound 76. The Second Battalion was alerted to support the removal project by a break in from the rear; and First Battalion was poised to enter by force if necessary, to move the 6,400 prisoners to new quarters. General Boatner, United States Commander, notified Colonel Lee, leader of the POW revolt to ready prisoners, in groups of fifty, for transfer the following day.

"At 0400 hours on the 14th we drew ammunition, gas masks and concussion grenades" Carter continued. "All riflemen were ordered to fix bayonets but were cautioned to withhold fire except in the protection of our own lives. Marched to the side of compound No. 76, the center of hard core resistance, we drew up on line by companies and waited."

When the Communists refused to take action in the morning General Boatner served a thirty minute ultimatum to the defiant Reds.

"Shortly after daybreak, Carter said, "the engineers neatly clipped the barbed wire on our side of the enclosure and A Company moved forward as elements of the First Battalion made the initial break through of Compound No. 76. I had twenty nine men armed with rifles, and two flame thrower men. When the paratroopers actually moved in through the wire fence the surprised North Koreans jumped into their first line of trenches running parallel with the fence. Others fled to dug in tents and barracks to make a fight of it. All were wearing uniforms, carrying spears made from tent poles with metal knives strapped to their belts. I saw that they had contrived home made gas masks. These masks had eyepieces made from cigarette packages. Air was filtered through tin cans filled with sugar and charcoal. The spears were four to six feet long with blades up to fifteen inches. Others carried flails made from barbed wire.

Throwing in a few concussion grenades A Company pushed through the first skirmish line to the first line of trenches about ten feet inside the fence. At this point a North Korean speared one of my flame thrower men in the groin. He died minutes later before we could evacuate him from the compound. One of the riflemen seized the flame thrower and we moved to the first tent and quarters. These tents were well dug in and, behind them, extended long corrugated metal—roofed, sunken burrows with mud and stone walls about three feet high. These proved to be the strong points from which the POW's made their most determined stand.



A 40 pound, full grown, Korean buck shot in front of the Main Line of resistance just north of the demolished city of Kumwha by members of I Co., 187th Abn. RCT. 10 Aug. 1952



An outpost of the 187th Abn. RCT, located on "Yoke Major" north of Kumwha, Korea. Troopers are trying to spot a "Roving" 57 mm recoilless rifle that had been firing on nearby positions. 15 Aug. 1952

Members of the AT&M Plt., 187th Abn. RCT lay mines on the forward slope of a hill near Kumwha, Korea. 1 Aug. 52





KUMWHA . . . June 1953

"One round on the way," from the 674th Abn. FA Bn. straight into communist lines just north of the demolished city of Kumwha, Korea. 22 June 1953



187th RCT Medics administer Plasma to a wounded trooper near Kumwha, Korea on June 16 when large communist forces attempted a break through allied lines. 16 June 1953



Confusion grew as we attacked the tent to collapse it. The North Koreans were thick in the building and trench surrounding it. As we approached the prisoners stabbed at our people with their long spears and threw molotov cocktails into the midst of the moving squads. Retaliating with thermite grenades and flame throwers the building was soon ablaze. Our people risked their lives diving into these burrows to rescue screaming, slashing, fighting Koreans. We pulled out about two hundred men from the first building. As quickly as the Reds were subdued they were hustled to the rear and immediately moved to the new enclosures. This same action was occurring all through the camp."

Meanwhile the Second Battalion had entered the stockade from the rear and, placing pressure on the Reds, forced them to bunch up toward the center of the enclosure. Within ten minutes the American advance was halted on the first phase line, phase line Baker, and tanks moved in to the rear of the line of infantry. Tear gas was thick inside the compound. In forty minutes the North Koreans had massed a group of about 4,000 prisoners and began working themselves up for a second attack. Wild, yelling leaders, waving flags, attempted to exhort the cowed masses to Banzai attacks. Chanting and waving spears these people worked themselves into a frenzy. Some had had enough and tried to break away from the main body. They were dragged back and killed by the fanatics.

"One of our aid men went out into the open space between forces," Carter remembers "and began treating fallen North Koreans. Seeing this action NK medics, wearing Red Cross arm bands, came out of the crowd and moved up and down the line of injured."

Seeing their position hopeless the prisoners reluctantly threw down their arms and, in docile surrender, walked to the gates to be moved to the new areas. At the main gate they were stripped to their socks and marched, in groups of fifty, to the 2,000 man compounds.

Issued a set of fatigues and a rice bowl they offered no further resistance as the stockades filled up. Profiting by the mistake of the first compound all the others complied with General Boatner's orders and were moved quietly to the new quarters. G-2 teams began an immediate search of Compound No. 76. Radios and a master plan to liberate all 80,000 prisoners on Koji-do were found. Hundreds of bodies, North Koreans murdered by their own men, were found in wells, trenches and shallow graves during the search.

After destroying the big compounds the Rakkasans were relieved and moved back to the mainland of Korea and shortly thereafter, committed to the Iron Triangle sector.

IRON TRIANGLE

On 29 August 1952 the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team took over full responsibility of the outpost line and the main line of resistance in the vicinity of Hanton-Chon and Namdae river valleys on the central front and established aggressive patrols. A total of forty-six ambush patrols and sixty-one reconnaissance patrols were carried out during September. These operations were largely the mission of the Second Battalion, which by aggressive action in a static front, extended the main line of resistance to the former outpost line.

"Several large patrol parties were in action at Kumwha," Carter said. "In one of these an A Company platoon became trapped between the lines when heavy Chinese artillery fire pinned them down. The Second platoon was sent out to extricate the trapped men, who were in an exposed position about 5,000 yards in front of the main line. We got to

within one thousand yards of the First Platoon when we too were pinned down and headed for defilade in the ditches. The temperature was 102 in the shade and I knew that the First platoon was suffering."

It was at this point that Corporal Lester Hammond, radio operator, saw a large body of Chinese closing in on the trapped platoon. With total disregard for his own life he called for artillery fire on his exposed position in advance of the platoon position. Struck several times Hammond continued to direct the friendly artillery fire until the enemy was broken up.

Mortally wounded in action Hammond was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the third 187th RCT paratrooper to win the coveted medal. "Sergeant Henderson of C Company took a tank into no-mans-land to recover Hammonds body late that same afternoon" Carter recalls.

Chinese artillery and frequently infiltration attempts continued throughout the month. In an effort to bring in Chinese prisoners of war, a psychological warfare program was utilized in the valley floor to the front of E Company positions. Broadcasts were directed against the enemy held Sugar Loaf Hill. Although results were negative this effort may have had some results in the arrival of prisoners after relief of the RCT was affected. Building and reconditioning of bunkers was the daily chore of all those not engaged in patrol work. The new main line of resistance positions were constructed and a new out post line established across the Hanton-Chon valley floor then occupied by E Company.

Throughout the stalemate and wrangling at Panmunjon during this period the RCT maintained a high state of readiness for a possible move north. As the talks sputtered and the Chinese Communists delayed to save face the RCT was host to many VIP's including a visit by General Jenkins and General Smith on the 24th. Many high ranking American and foreign political figures visited the command.

"The Iron Triangle was largely a static situation marked by patrol action," said Sgt. Fiore. The RCT relieved the ROK Marines on line and were themselves relieved by the 17th Infantry Regiment to return to Pusan and, by boat, to Japan.

KUMWHA

Colonel William C. Westmoreland assumed command of the Rakkasans in July, 1952 and led the troopers back to Korea in the last days of the conflict.

On 20 June 1953 the Rakkasans were again alerted for the "big lift." Airborne to Korea the 674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion and Support Company were committed to action on the 22nd. The entire Regiment, shortly after, moved into position at Kumwha astride Route No. 3, the "Bowling Alley" leading to Seoul. It was here that the Chinese launched their final offensive—but not through the 187th.

"Company L trained at Chiperi for about three weeks," Fiore stated, "then moved by truck to the MLR. Here we relieved the 6th ROK Division. Our positions came under immediate artillery fire. My hedge-hog, a forward point on the MLR, was overrun by Chinese about 0800 two days later. I ran back to the squad area to find two Chinese standing on my bunker. I shot one and Lt. Osburne, my platoon leader, got the other. Jumping into the trench I saw my machine gunner lying dead over his gun and the BAR man dead in front of the CP. Two walking wounded were staggering up the hill to the rear. I had three men left in my squad, including myself. I threw five CCF bodies out of the trench and prepared

to hold against further infiltrators. Chinese patrols hit our outpost positions repeatedly in the next few days but none got through.

Meanwhile the armistice talks appeared to be making progress. United Nations Forces on line watched the daily communiques with a critical eye, at first skeptically and, then as the discussion took a more positive turn, with rising hope that the Korean Conflict might be closed.

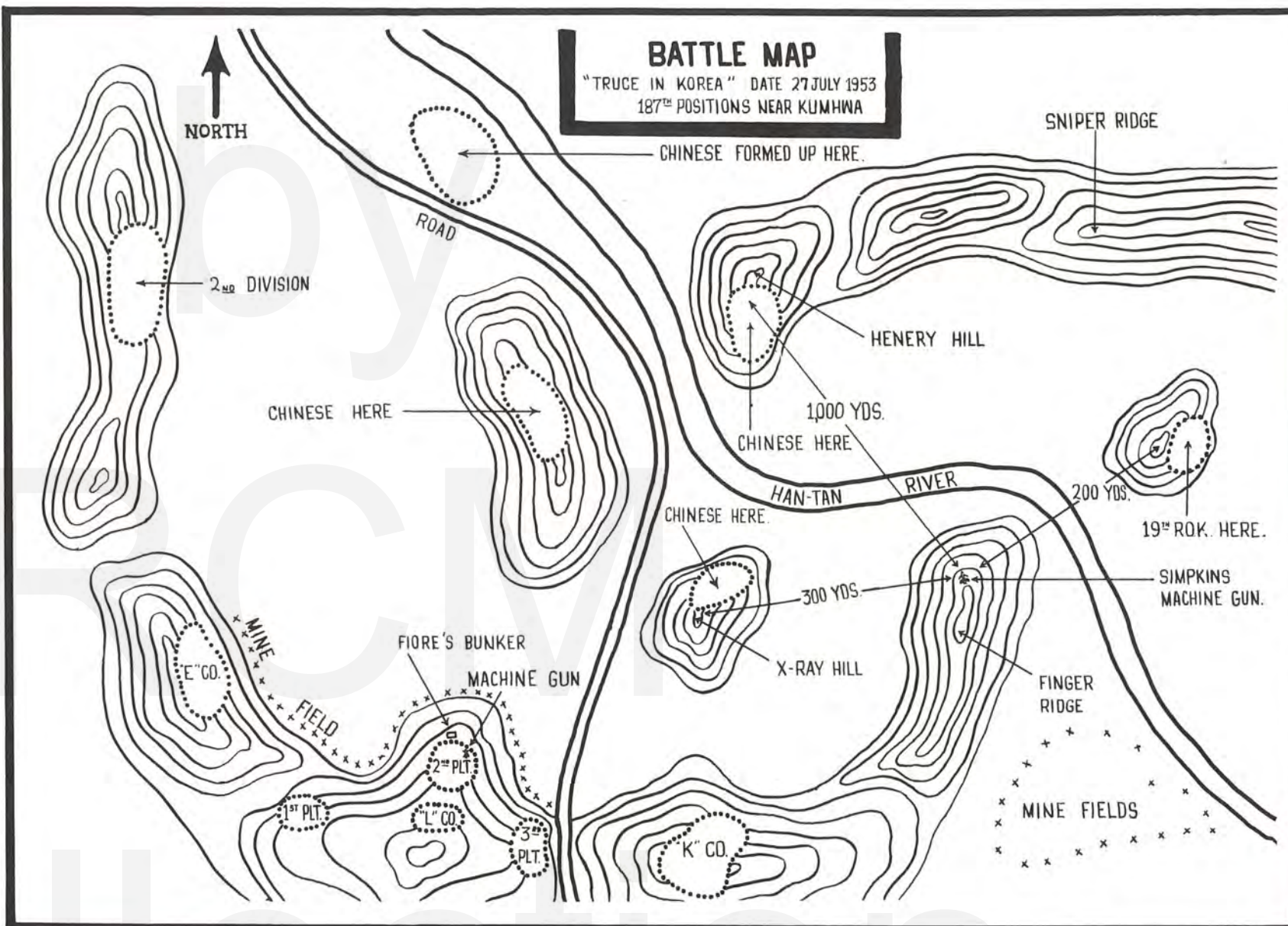
"My squad was set up in an outpost position at the base of X-Ray Hill," Specialist Third Class Richard E. Simpkins, M Company machine gun squad leader, recalls. "The Chinese outpost was directly in front of our area on Henry Hill. At night the Chinese would infiltrate and cut our barbed wire. Occasionally small groups would raid our trenches for prisoners. Skirmishes and fire fights continued as the armistice looked more and more promising. On the twentieth of July the CCF made a limited advance under artillery and small arms fire, flanking and seizing

a hill occupied by ROK troops. In the afternoon a large body of Chinese began an attack on our position on Finger Ridge. Machine gun and Rifle fire broke up this play and no further effort was made.

On the 27th we were advised that the truce would become effective at 2200 hours. Orders were to clear our weapons at 1800 hours so as to prevent any incident that might compromise the truce order.

At 1900 hours one of our jeep drivers was killed by a burst of machine gun fire.

We had heard truce negotiations so many times that I doubted that the cease fire was actually going into effect. I remember a full moon, as we sweated out the hours until 2200. We could hear fire above Sniper Ridge until about 0300 in the morning. Artillery and 90mm fire continued throughout the night. The ROK soldiers were singing in their bunkers. The next morning the line was strangely quiet," Fiore noted.



"At the first light of dawn the Chinese came out of their holes and stood on the ridge lines looking toward the UN lines. One SOB, a sniper who had been giving us trouble for days, stood up 150 yards in front of my position."

All along the line Americans began the prosaic job of policing up and preparing to leave the area.

"We picked up cigarette butts and old paper, cartridge cases and other rubbish and tossed it into the river separating the forces," Simpkins said. "The CCF looked like ants crawling all over Sniper Ridge. Two of my MG squad crossed the line with C rations to use as trading material for souvenirs. They got to the enemy trench line when two Mongolian types stood up and waved burp guns at our people. They came back crest fallen by this unfriendly treatment."

Within three days the Rakkasans had dismantled or blown up the old MLR, destroying bunkers and strong points. By 1 August the RCT had moved back to the former Nebraska Line and began construction of "Blackjack Bastion," a system of bunkers and trenches straddling the "Bowling Alley" route to Seoul, capital of South Korea.

Work on this ambitious project continued through August and September broken only by an RCT training jump on the Han River Sand bars at Seoul, sixty miles south.

By the first of October 1953 the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team prepared for its final leave-taking of the rock-ribbed hills of Korea. On 3 October the RCT moved from the Kumwha area to Inchon where the troopers boarded the Military Transport Ship, USS General Pope for the journey across the Yellow Sea and the Korean Strait to the Rakkasan "home" in Japan. During the trip the "de-tigerization" of the "lean and mean" paratroopers was started. A reorientation program to review conduct with civilians and Japanese-American relations was initiated that was to effect all the paratroopers.

JAPAN AND ZONE OF INTERIOR

On 5 October the General Pope docked in Moji Port, Kyushu, Japan, and on the following day troops assigned to Camp Chickamauga units proceeded to Beppu by train. Met with a thunderous "Welcome Home" reception given by the local merchants, political figures and townspeople, the Rakkasans staged an impressive "combat dress" parade up "Broadway" to the camp. Camp Wood troops continued by water to Sasebo arriving there on 7 October.

Starting on 12 October training was conducted with the aim of completing the transition from field to garrison life.

On the 19th of October Brigadier General Roy E. Lindquist assumed command of the Regiment and the RCT embarked on a training schedule that was to encompass parachute operations throughout Japan and Okinawa. Repeated combat type exercises, including combined exercises with Marine, Cavalry, Navy and Air Force units were interspersed by field training problems from squad to RCT size problems.

Despite a rigorous professional schedule, the Rakkasans enthusiastically supported an ambitious sports program and contributed substantially to Japanese-American relations as evidenced by the many orphanages, schools, churches, and Japanese community improvement projects undertaken by members of the Regiment at the three camps on Kyushu. The day by day activities reflected military competency tempered by a healthy competitive spirit in sports and a sincere interest in the military and civilian communities.

Meanwhile events in the United States were shaping up that would

whisk the 187th back home in a giant airlift called "Gyroscope." Eighteenth Air Force C-124s were scheduled to bring the Rakkasans home. Camp Hakata became the marshalling area and Itazuke Air Force Base the departure airfield.

On July sixth the RCT closed in, 3,000 strong, to prepare for the final stage of the biggest airlift in military history. As the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team arrived and were shuttled to Camps Wood, Kashii and Chickamauga to assume the RCT Far East duties and missions, the 187th phased out of Japan on the return journey on the same aircraft.

On July 12 the first plane carrying members of the Rakkasan main body taxied down the runway and was airborne at 1000 hours. A few minutes past Wake Island Colonel Curtis J. Herrick, former Deputy Commanders, assumed command of the RCT.

On hand to greet the arriving paratroopers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina were three former commanders of the Combat Team; Major General Thomas J. H. Trapnell, Major General Frank S. Bowen, and Brigadier General William C. Westmoreland.

In nearly five years service in the Far East the Rakkasans had compiled as glorious a record as any in the annals of Airborne History. It was their privilege to still the forces of aggression and, by example, awaken the spirit of democracy in a foreign land. These accomplishments, like the battle streamers carried on her colors, are banners of achievement. This heritage of valor and self-sacrifice is testimony to future accomplishment of the 187th what ever the mission and circumstance.



1954

Main Gate . . . Camp Chickamauga



RAKASANS

CAMP CHICKAMAUGA 187th AIRBORNE R.C.T. CAMP WOOD

VOL. III NO. 17 MONDAY May 31, 1954

187th Awarded Korean PUC

Prov Corps Hq Directs Redesignation Of Units

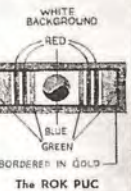
Provisional Corps General Orders 23 received here recently direct redesignation of three previously unnumbered RAKASANS units, effective June 2, 1954.

The new designations are 2nd Abn. Engr. Co. to remain Engr. Co., 15th Abn. AAA Btry, instead of AAA Btry, and 15th Abn. QM Platoon (Dist. Maint.) replacing the Platoon, Maint. Platoon. It is understood that the redesignation could not be given Engr. Co. as that number is already in use.

These units had at one time been part of the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. As such they carried the numerical designation of their parent battalions or units.

When the 187th Abn. RCT was formed in 1953 three units from the 11th carried their designations as A. Co., 127 Abn. Engr. Co., 1st Abn. AAA Btry, and 11th Abn. Div. QM Platoon.

They carried these designations with them until the redesignation of the 11th Airborne Division when the unit numbers were returned to the parent organizations at Fort Campbell. From then until the redesignation of the units their readiness of the units was unsatisfactory of low level.



Rhee Cites Kumhwa, Iron Triangle Actions

"For exceptionally meritorious service to the Republic of Korea during the period of August 1, 1952 to September 30, 1953," the 187th Abn. RCT has been awarded the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

This award was presented to the 187th RCT by Syngman Rhee, President of the Republic of Korea, on October 18, 1953. Confirmation of the citation was announced by General Order 23, Department of Army, on March 21, 1954.

During the time of the citation the 187th played a variety of roles. In early August, 1952, under the command of Brigadier General (then Colonel) W. C. Westmead the RAKASANS replaced the 17th Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division in the "Iron Triangle" in the critical Kumhwa Sector.

First Treks To Oyanohara After Sunday Jump At Wood

Taking to the field after a weekend spent in marshaling areas and jumping the Paratroopers of the 1st Battalion returned to the all-familiar proving grounds of Oyanohara. Arriving at the training area Wednesday evening, the Battalion began an exercise which ran for 36 continuous hours.

Arriving at the training area Wednesday evening, the Battalion began an exercise which ran for 36 continuous hours. Troopers from the Second Battalion dropped on Oita Ridge. Their superior jump maintained a workability to cope with all usual preparation for the major unusual situations as they formed at the DE they moved completion of the exercise out on foot for Oita Ridge. Wood fully confident that the jumping tests would last.

In preparation for the jump the troops for the night of the 187th.

Third Travels To Mori-Land

Mori called to the members of the Third Battalion this week as they went to the field for Battalion Landing training in preparation for the Army and Air Force Battalion Tests coming up in June.

The Troopers left Camp Chick on foot early Monday morning. After stopping for the noon meal they continued to march to Mori, returning to the usual camp on Wednesday.

Second Hits Missile Sites

Advanced missile sites received a "triple" workout Thursday, May 27, as 250 Troopers from the Second Battalion dropped on Oita Ridge. Their superior jump maintained a workability to cope with all usual preparation for the major unusual situations as they formed at the DE they moved completion of the exercise out on foot for Oita Ridge. Wood fully confident that the jumping tests would last.



FOR VALOR ABOVE AND BEYOND: Three RAKASANS salute as they prepare to receive medals from Brig. Gen. Roy E. Lindquist, CG of the 187th. Receiving the Bronze Star are 1st Sgt. V. Ramirez, L, and Capt. J. E. Hagan (C.). Lt. H. R. Schaefer (R.) was awarded the Purple Heart. Behind the RAKASANS stand the Regimental Colors, just returned from the States. (Photo by Hagan.)



Members of the 3rd Bn., 187th ARCT get a ride on a tank during Operation Fuji Blue. 23 April 54

HEART BREAK BLOODY INJE VASSERINE PASS WOODLAND, SICILY SAN JUAN HILL

"...lest Memorials"

FILE COPY APRIL 17 1954

RAKASANS

CAMP CHICKAMAUGA 187th AIRBORNE R.C.T. CAMP WOOD

VOL. III NO. 11 SATURDAY April 17, 1954

RCT Makes Historic Bridge Drop

Batt Battles Winds, Rains In Mori Storm

Mori the treacherous proved again this week that it was the severe enemy of all RAKASANS as nature unleashed a two day series of blows against 2nd Battalion units conducting exercises in the field.

Strong winds that sprang up Saturday evening and continued through early Sunday, coupled with a hard wind-driven rain made the week-end anything but pleasant for the Troopers.

Some of the gusts of wind were estimated to be near 50 miles an hour in strength and were described as being "strong enough to blow a man off the ridge line" and "strong enough to push a man up a hill."

In one area four of six hexagonal tents were blown down and it is estimated that 60 percent of the square tents were leveled. An estimated 70 percent of all hexagonal tents were damaged by the severe winds.

One of the bright spots was the stability of the mess tents. As most of these were still standing when the storm ended, as tents were either leveled or struck, RAKASANS were exposed to a heavy rain that made roads almost impassable and added to the discomfort of the tired men.

For Company, having one of them to MORI. Page 8:

Engineers Cross Oita River In 2nd Far East Span Use

The second and largest air drop of a bridge ever to be made in the Far East was completed yesterday as the 187th Engineer Company, the 8001st Aerial Resupply and Packaging Unit and the 133rd Troop Carrier Wing of the Air Force teamed up to drop a 476 1/2 foot long Infantry foot bridge at the Oita Drop Zone.

From the time the first section hit the ground until the foot bridge was assembled across the Oita River and had troops making a crossing took the RAKASANS Engineers approximately one hour.

Not only was this one of the initial bridge drops to be made in this area, but the bridge was the longest ever to be dropped in the Far East. In addition it was the first time this particular type of bridge has been air-dropped in the area.

The first and only other time a bridge was dropped was during the Korean War when a trestle bridge was dropped to the Marines in the Chosin Reservoir shortly after the Chinese intervention. The bridge dropped to the Marines weighed 32 tons and was 18 feet long. Six C-119's were used to transport it.

Stimulating the second phase of an assault over crossing, the Pathfinder team jumped in at 0900, followed by the entire Engineer Company at 0915. One half hour later three C-119's moved across the drop zone to make two passes at members of the 187th paratrooper sections of the 8001st Resupply and Packaging Unit foot bridge.

Only two major failures developed during the operation.

Turn to BRITAIN. Page 8

Battalion Proficiency Test Winners For Chickamauga

The lead men in the Individual Proficiency Testing of the Camp Chickamauga element of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, have been announced by the Regimental Sergeant Major, Pfc. Donald L. Music of the 187th.

From the Second Battalion, the winners were Pvt. Donald L. Music of the 187th; Green of Headquarters Company; Pfc. James M. Ingram of the 187th; Sgt. William J. Howell of Fox Company; Cpl. Donald L. Music of the 187th; Sgt. George Company, and Cpl. Fred E. Downey of Hog Company.

In the Third Battalion the top scores were: Pfc. John E. Morris of Headquarters Company; Cpl. Louis H. Wastel of the 187th; Pfc. Alfonso M. Casanova of King Company; and the in Love Company between Pvt. Glen D. Roberts and Cpl. Waylong L. Martin, and 1st Sgt. Carl W. Hagan took top honors in his company.

For Separate Companies Cpl. Levern G. Hansen took top honors in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, while Medical and Service Companies are at present time not complete in their testing. The status of the units at Camp Wood is as yet unreported.

Our Special Thanks to 187th AIRBORNE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM for a job well done!

SCOUT HONOR: For the 187th's achievements in the 1954 Scout Fund Drive, the RCT has been awarded this "Thank You" certificate signed by Gen. John E. Hull, Commanding General of the Far East Command. Accompanying the certificate was a letter in Brig.

SFC Pays \$1,000, Travels 7,000 Miles to Rejoin 187th

BEPBU, Japan, June 14 (187thRCT) — It cost him \$1,000, but SFC Edward M. Reeder is back in B Co., 187th Airborne RCT, with his stripes intact.

Reeder had been rotated to the U.S. and received his discharge at Ft Sheridan, Ill. A short time later he decided to reenlist but found that if he did so in a Stateside recruiting office, he would not rejoin his old outfit.

Army regulations require that a reenlistee spend 18 months on other duty before returning to an area in which he previously served unless he signs up directly into his old outfit.

So Reeder, determined to rejoin the 187th, took a train

from his home in Mansfield, Ohio, to the West Coast, and came by airline to Tokyo. Another train ride took him to Kumamoto, near Camp Wood, where part of the 187th is billeted.

The Ohioan was nearing the end of the 90-day period the Army allows for a man to reenlist in his former rank, so he was rushed through processing.

Reeder was sworn in by Brig. Gen. Roy E. Lindquist, 187th commanding general, in a special ceremony.

Pacific Stars & Stripes 7

May 1st has been set as the date to begin wearing the summer or winter uniforms of the 187th MEN RCT according to information received early

700 Leap in Testo-White Games

Biservice Coordination Tested as Rakkasans Jump to Oita Exercise

BEPPU, Japan, July 24 (187thABN)—More than 700 troopers of the 2nd Bn., 187th Airborne RCT, jumped yesterday at Oita in Operation Testo-White. The third parachute drop in a series designed to test the effectiveness of Army-Air Force airborne operations. The drop originally was scheduled to take place at Kanoya, but plans were changed after Pathfinders jumped in a heavy rain. When the main body was three minutes from the drop zone, the Pathfinders sent word that conditions were too hazardous for jumping.



RAKKASAN RIG—When Rakkasans of the 187th Abn. RCT jumped yesterday in Operation Testo-White they wore

Site Switched
The planes then headed for Oita, where at 1:35 p.m., the Rakkasan parachuted from 18 C-46's of the 315th Troop Carrier Wing at Brady AB and six C-119's of the 483rd Troop Carrier Wing at Ashiya AB.

Following the personnel drop by several minutes was a monorail drop of equipment from the six C-119's.

Nearly 100 U.S. sailors from ships anchored in Beppu Bay witnessed the operation. For many of them, it was the first drop they had seen.

In the words of one petty officer, "What a way to make a living."

a lot more equipment battle. PFC John C trooper outfit. (1) activated by a staff 15 to 20 feet depending on type harness (5) the event of a malfunction his reserve (4) line (7) enables the distance above the landing tool (6) and a



VOL III NO. 31 MONDAY September 6, 1954

RCT Sets Tentative AFCE Record For Reenlistments During August

Fuji Drops Planned For RCT

Possible New Regt. Record For Reups

Two new All-Japan recruiting records and possibly one Far East record were set in August by the 187th Airborne RCT and Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 187th Airborne RCT. AFCE Headquarters announced that twenty reenlistments and extensions in one month for a company-sized unit is possibly a new record for the entire Far East area.

A deep feeling of pride and esprit de corps, coupled with the fact that the RAKKASANS are the only airborne unit in the Far East, appears to be the foremost reason for the record-breaking figures.

Sgt. Rodney G. Bear, RCT Recruiting NCO, was informed by SWC recently of his accomplishment. This is the second notable achievement this year for Sgt. Bear, who was recently named Recruiter of the Month for the month of May when 104 reenlistments and extensions were obtained that month.

Third Jumps Takes Classes

Members of the Third Battalion hit the silk over Oita, Thursday to feature the organization's training activities of last week, while word was received that companies set up on Pacific Field. Trigger spools, position streamers in recognition of their drop at Sukchon-Sung in Korea.

Classes in bayonet training, CBN warfare, supply economy, and dismounted drill also consumed much time with the battalion last week along with



WHO SAYS JUMP SCHOOLS TOUGH? On completion of his fifth parachute jump, qualifying him as a RAKKASAN, the jumping rat thanks Lt. Izack Hutcheson (helicopter pilot) and Cpl. Charles J. Yates (post crew chief) for their work. "Could hardly feel the prop blast and almost no opening shock." He was taken up and dropped during routine test flights of the helicopter. (Photo by Robertson)

Air Transportability, Rifle Practice Occupies Redlegs

Preliminary Rifle instruction and Air Transportability topped the Redlegs' training at Wood last week. PFC team drill completed the schedule.

Gen. Lindquist Inspects First To End Week

A command inspection by Brig. Gen. Roy E. Lindquist, Friday, climaxed last week's training for the First Battalion at Camp Wood. The inspection covered everything from individual equipment, weapons, kitchen field equipment and motor pool.

Monday through Thursday more than 200 Troopers furnished a preview of general subjects, from a C-47 in ten-min attacks (two sticks per lift) in amphibious rehearsal Wednesday morning.

All BCT's And Artillery To Participate In Program

For the next three months units of the 187th Airborne RCT will be busy engaged in joint exercises in the Fuji-McNair Maneuver Area in conjunction with units of the 3rd Marine Division. The RAKKASAN Regiment will be divided into reinforced BCTs and used as aggressors against

Second Preparations For Fuji Jump Operations

Preparations for Operation Testo-White highlighted activities of the Second Battalion this past week along with the administering of shots to the entire battalion.

Afternoons were used mainly for organized athletics with all companies participating in both softball and volleyball contests. The volleyball team is currently maintaining its lead in the former sport, while Goal Company continues to dominate the volleyball.

The Battalion also viewed films on tank and infantry training and saw films of the 187th's jump introduction in four phases or phases. This information, the first of which was all coordinated with the forthcoming operation at Mount Fuji.



IT KEEPS THE RAIN OFF—Recently completed at the Camp Chickamauga main gate, this sign and use MP next went into immediate service at the Camp



VOL III NO. 27 MONDAY August 9, 1954

Melon Incident Causes Uproar

Fire Razes NCO Club

Fire of undetermined origin swept through the Camp Chickamauga NCO club last Thursday morning, causing damage estimated at more than ten thousand dollars.

The blaze was first noticed at approximately 0500 and a report immediately turned into the Camp Chickamauga fire department. At once they were met by two trucks from the Beppu City Fire Department. Together the two fire departments fought the blaze.

Meanwhile the company on fire alert, Mighty Mike, had been roused from its beds and promptly double-timed to the NCO Club where they formed into salvage groups and proceeded to empty the club of all the equipment and supplies they could save. After the blaze was beaten they remained on the scene to guard the (Continued Page 8)



CLOSED FOR REPAIRS: Despite prompt action by the "M" Co. fire alert team, Camp Chickamauga and Beppu fire departments, the Cp. Chick NCO club suffered severe damage last Wednesday morning when it caught fire. (Photo by Humke)

World-Wide Looting Reports Damage Reputation of 187

The news of the plundering of local farmers' watermelons by a handful of Troopers during the Second Battalion's jump of July 23 at Oita may well have provided many a chuckle throughout the RCT, but it is more than evident now that this incident has brought forth serious repercussions all over Japan.

Service Named Best Battery

Service Battery was awarded the Redleg's "Best Battery Streamer" for the second consecutive month during last week's light training at Camp Wood. Specialist training and intramural athletic eliminations followed Monday's training holiday.

Elements of 2nd Batt Strike at Okinawa

A reinforced company from the 2nd Battalion, commanded by Major Fredrick Kroesen, hit the DZ at Okinawa at 0750 last Friday morning, August 6, 1954.

The mission being to seize the Ken Airstrip in support of the 4th Marine Regimental Landing Team, the RAKKASANS had captured the airstrip and had taken the high ground behind it in time to welcome the Marines as they hit the beaches.

Third Prepares For Inspection

The Third Battalion spent most of its time preparing for the coming Command Inspection. The mornings were taken by ordinary general subjects such as bayonet drill and character guidance.

In order to become better acquainted with a soldier's rights the Battalion took a four hour course on Military Justice. Now each member of the 3rd Battalion should know what his basic rights as a soldier consist of.

Thursday night the boxers of the Third had a chance to prove what they have and they did. A card of seven bouts was held with "K" Company finishing with the greatest number of winners.

First Taking Things Easy

A training holiday, small unit tactics and Airborne training characterized the First Battalion's training at Camp Wood last week. The light training schedule also included Military Justice and Character Guidance lectures and organized athletics climaxed by a Battalion run to Area Three.

Following a ten-day exercise at Oyanohara the Battalion took Monday off then swung into the week's activities with aquad training and a Communications CPX Tuesday.

Four hours of Airborne training on the Canadian Swing Trainer, mock doors and PLF Platforms filled Wednesday morning with the afternoon devoted to organized athletics.

Platoon-level problems and organized athletics were held Thursday. Maj. Tom Reid, newly assigned Bn. Executive Officer, conducted a class in (Continued Page 8)



GET THAT SHOT: A movie photographer from the Japanese Broadcasting Corp. takes movies of Hq. Sect., 674th Abn. FA Bn. 187th ARCT as they board a C-119 at Ashiya AFB June 31, 1954 for the conclusion of Operation Testo Firepower. (Photo by Robertson)

all the way RAKKASANS

CAMP CHICKAMAUGA 187th AIRBORNE R.C.T. CAMP WOOD

VOL III NO. 36 MONDAY October 11, 1954

JAPANESE COMPLETE 187 JUMP SCHOOL

187th Falls To Marines

A highly polished squad of Leathernecks, functioning with clock-like precision, rolled over a game, but outclassed RAKKASANS eleven by a 25-17 score Saturday before about 2,500 cheering spectators at Camp Chick's Chapman Field. Among the avid fans at the game were Provisional Corps Commander Maj. Gen. James T. Riskey and Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Roy E. Lindquist.

The 9th Marine Regiment, boasting a galaxy of former college stars including a pair of former All-Americans, encountered stubborn opposition in the determined Troopers, but went on to display a brilliant brand of football from start to finish.

With Quarterback John Fry, an ex-Baylor University standout, piloting the visitors from four different offensive formations, the Marines hit paydirt on an aerial flippin' by Fry from the RAKKASANS 41 yard marker midway in the opening period. John Phillips, an All-American halfback with Nears Darnie, snared the toss on the Troopers 12 and scampered into the end zone. The placement for the point-after was missed and the Marines lead 6-0.

(Continued Page 7)

Redlegs Stand Inspections

A Command Inspection Area rehearsal Friday and a training holiday Monday highlighted the 67th Air Force's activities at Camp Wood last week.

Training for the cannoneers included a review of the maintenance of the piece and functioning. Team Drill was conducted by FDC while the Company Sections covered radio and wire communications. Heavy personnel did practical work in the classroom and on the ground.

Saturday morning was devoted to a convention of detachments. The 11th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, which will be replaced by the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, is presently stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.



RAKKASANS Train First Japanese Paratroopers

Japanese paratroopers hit the air for the first time since the end of WWII last week at Camp Wood as they entered and completed their week of airborne training with few jumps to the Camp Wood DZ to gain the coveted jump wings which are the symbol of the airborne soldier.

Col. Stanley Assg'd Wood

As the First Japanese Self Defense Force personnel to graduate from the jump school, the few hand-picked men will become the nucleus of very further airborne developments.

Col. Thomas J. H. Stanley, recently assigned to the 187th Airborne RCT from the 15th Airborne RCT at Camp Wood, will assume duties this week. He attended the Airborne School at Fort Benning in 1941, the first year of the school's operation.

ONE MORE - THEN A TROOPER

Major Charles Vandervort, Jump School Commandant and Lt. Gen. Sugiyama, Sub Chief of Staff, Japanese Self Defense Force, speak to two Japanese Officers preparing to make their fifth and qualifying jump at the RCT's jump school at Camp Wood. (Photo by Robertson)

Second Batt Hits Oita; Third Preps For Fuji

Troopers of the Mighty Second, Preparations for Operation hit the last Thursday morning Fall Blue occurred the men in a mass jump as 175 members of the Third Battalion from the five companies part last week as plans were made to move to Aburatsubo AFB to Oita DZ. Thursday evening the complete new-jump organization men left for Aburatsubo for the jump into the Fuji training area by air as they jumped at approximately 0900 hours.

First Takes Orientation

The Third BCT will board trains Wednesday, October 13 at Beppu and move directly to the training area at Aburatsubo AFB where they will prepare for the week of training. Monday through Thursday, using many aggressive units and bladders. The Third BCT will board trains Wednesday, October 13 at Beppu and move directly to the training area at Aburatsubo AFB where they will prepare for the week of training. Monday through Thursday, using many aggressive units and bladders. The Third BCT will board trains Wednesday, October 13 at Beppu and move directly to the training area at Aburatsubo AFB where they will prepare for the week of training. Monday through Thursday, using many aggressive units and bladders.

Week Packing Chutes

Packing the chute was the subject of the second week of training as students were given a thorough understanding of the jump. The five jumps on the Camp Wood course during the week of the school ended the preparation of the jumpers as they received their wings on Saturday, October 9 become members of that most elite branch of any army, the airborne.

High Officials Attend

Attending the graduation ceremony were many high ranking Japanese officers, including Lt. Gen. Sugiyama, Sub-Chief of Staff, and Lt. Gen. Matsuzaki, CG, SDV 8th Division. Brig. Gen. Roy E. Lindquist, Commanding General of the 187th, had intended to deliver the graduation address to the new jumpers, but inclement weather prevented him from making the trip. It has been also tentatively planned to enlarge the next course to include such subjects as administrative and parachute packing, aerial delivery, and jumpmaster duties.

EM arrive from the states at Beppu train station as replacement to the 187th ARCT. 16 Oct. 54



all the way RAKKASANS

CAMP CHICKAMAUGA 187th AIRBORNE R.C.T. CAMP WOOD

VOL III NO. 38 MONDAY October 25, 1954

RAKKASANS Going Home

New SWC CG To End Five Year Stay In Far Eastern Theater

187th Abn. RCT to Move to U.S. In '55 as Army Begins Unit Shift

Operation Gyroscope—Rotation with Stability—the new rotation system devised by the Department of the Army will soon go into effect and take one of the veteran combat units from the Far East Command when the RAKKASANS of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team are replaced by the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, which is presently stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

In early 1950 the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment was detached from its parent organization, the 11th Airborne Division of World War II fame, along with such units as Company "A" of the 88th Airborne AAA Battalion, and one platoon of Parachute Riggers from the 11th Airborne Quartermaster Parachute Maintenance Company, and the 674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion, to form the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team.

The newborn Airborne Regimental Combat Team departed from Fort Campbell, Kentucky on 30 August 1950, committed to combat in the Korean Theater.

In the course of their fighting in Korea the 187th Airborne RCT made two combat jumps, one at Sukchon-Suncheon, the other at Munsan-ni. The ARCT played an important role in the fighting near "Bloody" Inje, fought in the Iron Triangle, and the Kumwha Valley, cleaned up the prisoner outbreak on Koje-do after it had been lost by another American unit, finally rotating to Security Duty in Japan for the remainder of their stay in the Far East.

To replace this veteran combat outfit is still another Airborne Regimental Combat Team, the 508th ARCT which saw service in World War II when it was a Parachute Infantry Regiment attached to the 82nd Airborne Division for the combat jumps into Normandy and Holland. The 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team was commanded throughout World War II by Brig.

Ft. Campbell To Be Station

Lindquist, Commanding General of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Roy E. Lindquist, Commanding General of the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Redlegs Train, Normal Duties

Two half-days Battalion exercise featured the Redleg training at Camp Wood last week. Individual instructions were given to cannoneers, survey section, and FDC personnel.

A half hour of physical training was conducted by the individual batteries each morning. The second half of the Battalion intramural program got underway with football and basketball in the spot-light.

Tuesday morning the battalion trekked to Kum DZ for an RSP and CPX. A similar problem was held Tuesday morning with the Batteries operating independently.

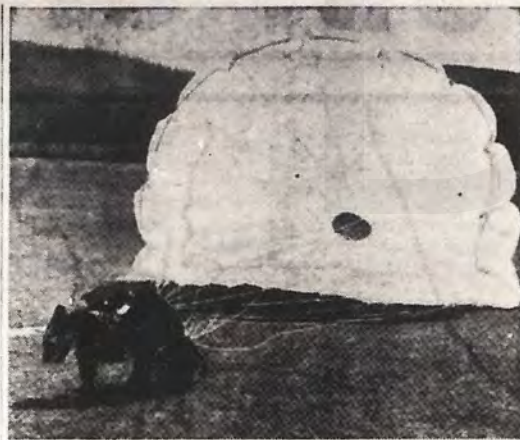
Training for the Cannoneers included such subjects as service of the piece, use of the sight, and "action and march." Survey personnel had practical work on connected with FDC covered.

Parade with RAK-Rugle

Parade with RAK-Rugle on the 25th.

Parachuting Bear Compiles Heroic Record With 187th Airborne RCT

Story and Photo
By Cpl. Don Towles
KUMAMOTO, Japan, Apr. 7 (S&S)—The Army's youngest and most unusual parachutist is stationed at Camp Wood.



A member of AAA Btry., 187th Airborne RCT, "Rocky" is a year-old female Hokkaido bear who has two jumps toward earning her Parachutist Badge. She holds the Purple Heart and has her own service record, which is kept in the unit. Rocky also has several entries in the company punishment book.

The little brown bear was born in Hokkaido last Apr. 1 and bought by the silk-hitting troopers when she was five days old.

She accompanies the outfit everywhere it goes, jogging along with a somewhat lopsided gait taking in everything of interest.

On some occasions she scrambles into the back seat of a jeep and rides in style. When the convoy stops and the Rakkasan mascot gets impatient she simply leans over the front seat and blows the horn with her muzzle or paw until somebody pays attention.

Hit by Mortar Burst

When the 187th was in Korea for four months last summer, Rocky earned the Purple Heart. She was waiting outside the mess hall, one of her popular hangouts, when an incoming Chinese mortar round landed nearby. She suffered a shell fragment hit under the chin and was awarded the Purple Heart.

At Camp Wood, she loafs around the orderly room, where she has a special cage for sleeping quarters. However, it is not uncommon for her to wander into the barracks and plunk herself down in the nearest empty bunk.

Sometimes she crawls into the first sergeant's chair,

RUGGED RAKKASAN—Rocky, the parachuting bear of the 187th Airborne RCT at Camp Wood, lands from a drop just like a veteran Rakkasan. The fuzzy little mascot has two jumps to her credit and holds the Purple Heart for a wound received in Korea last summer. (S&S Photo)

sprawls out, and snoozes the afternoon away. She also attends all the unit functions and never misses a party.

When asked how she liked jumping out of airplanes, Rocky gave two snorts, a grunt and winked one eye. This was interpreted by a member of the 187th as meaning, "There's nothing to it."

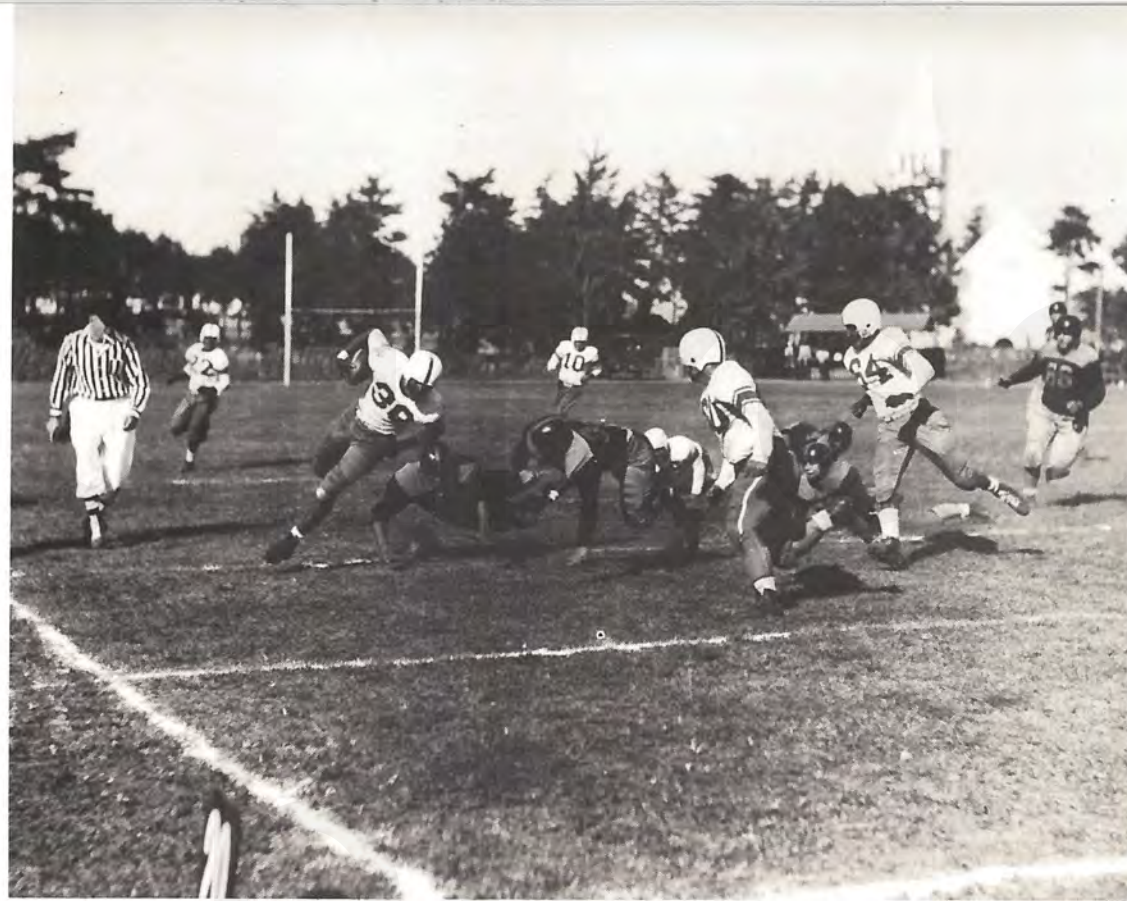
She has a special parachute harness and when the outfit jumps, along comes the little bear, floating down with the ease and grace of an experienced trooper. Like her fellow Rakkasans, she gets extra duty pay too—hers an extra ration of honey.

Rocky is destined to be a permanent Pvt. E-2 due to her somewhat unsoldierly actions. She has one record of AWOL, missed bed check and in a fit

of anger, one day bit the first sergeant. Warned about such action unbecoming a soldier, Rocky shrugged and ambled away with an attitude of indifference.

Members of the AAA Btry. say they will match their mascot up against any in the Far East.

Rocky's tour is about up and before too much longer she is destined to meet new friends at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.



Pfc. James A. Robinson, Hq. & Hq. Co., 187th ARCT break away round right end in the games between Marine and Rakkasan at Camp Chickamauga Chapman Field, 30 Oct. 54



USA Photo
CHAPLAIN (CAPT.) J. ROWAN

Chaplains Lead Troops In Jumps

BEPPU, Jap. When Rakkasans problems to t can be sure hearing from stand paratro troubles.

Chaplains (I Bell and (C Rowan are at the 187th Ab three jumps the average

Chaplain B the 187th num with a total of Chaplain Row his 65th jump Parachutist B

The chaplai RCT in the fi in the air—m all mass train



USA Photo
CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) R. BELL

Keeping themselves in close contact with the men means aight services in marshaling before a large drop and when the troopers are the ground.

Bell took jump t. Benning, Ga. h the 82nd Abn. 11th Abn. Div. e 187th. He has



熊本少年の町訪ねて

お祈りに真剣な眼

国際愛にすくすくと育つ孤児

お祈りに真剣な眼
国際愛にすくすくと育つ孤児
孤児院の子どもたちは、毎朝、真剣な眼差しで祈りを捧げている。彼らは、国際愛の中で、すくすくと成長している。孤児院の職員は、彼らの成長を喜び、彼らに愛情を注いでいる。彼らは、将来、社会に貢献できる人材になることを目指している。孤児院の子どもたちは、毎朝、真剣な眼差しで祈りを捧げている。彼らは、国際愛の中で、すくすくと成長している。孤児院の職員は、彼らの成長を喜び、彼らに愛情を注いでいる。彼らは、将来、社会に貢献できる人材になることを目指している。



●小さい胸に祈りまごめる子供たち●ベトナム戦争で孤児になった子供たち●お祈りに真剣な眼差し



Brig. Gen. Roy E. Lindquist, CG, 187th ARCT, watching Troopers of the 187th ARCT on the firing line at the rifle range in Oita. Nov. 1954

Who: Lt. Kelly, the instructor; two commo men demonstrators.
 What: Communication Class for the (JN) troopers.
 When: 1 December 1954.
 Where: Camp Chickamauga.
 Why: To inform the (JN) troopers the methods a RCT commo platoon.



Operation Climax, PFC Alfred J. Minezzi and PFC James Robinson, both of "M" Co. 187th ARCT set up a 75 mm Rec. rifle in Mori Training area. 14 Dec. 1954

Capt. Victor K. Harwood, "H" Co. a ARCT and CO of the Honor Guard. General Maxwell D. Taylor, CG, 8th Army in Korea. Brig. Gen. Lindquist inspects the Honor Guard from 2nd Bn., 187th ARCT, Dec. 54





Lt. Gen. Hayashi and Brig. Gen. Roy E. Lindquist, CG, 187th ARCT inspect 3rd Bn. Honor Guard. Regt. Hqs. Cp. Chickamauga. 3 Dec. 54

Sgt. Mitchell Maples, Camp Wood and WOJG Victor S. Strubilla, Officer in charge are shown in Ration Point Class I. 14 Dec. 54. Mori Training Area. Operation Climax.



Japanese To Jump With 187th

CAMP WOOD, Japan (187th RCT) — Parachuting members of the Japanese Self Defense Force will join 400 Rakkasans when the 187th Abn. RCT hits the silk Friday over the Kum Drop Zone near here. The paratroopers will be taking their heavy ordnance along with them. Six 105-mm howitzers of the 674th Abn. FA Bn., be dropped in padded pallets, will they hit the ground. The 20 Japanese troopers participating in the exercise in a three-week training fit and the airborn Me

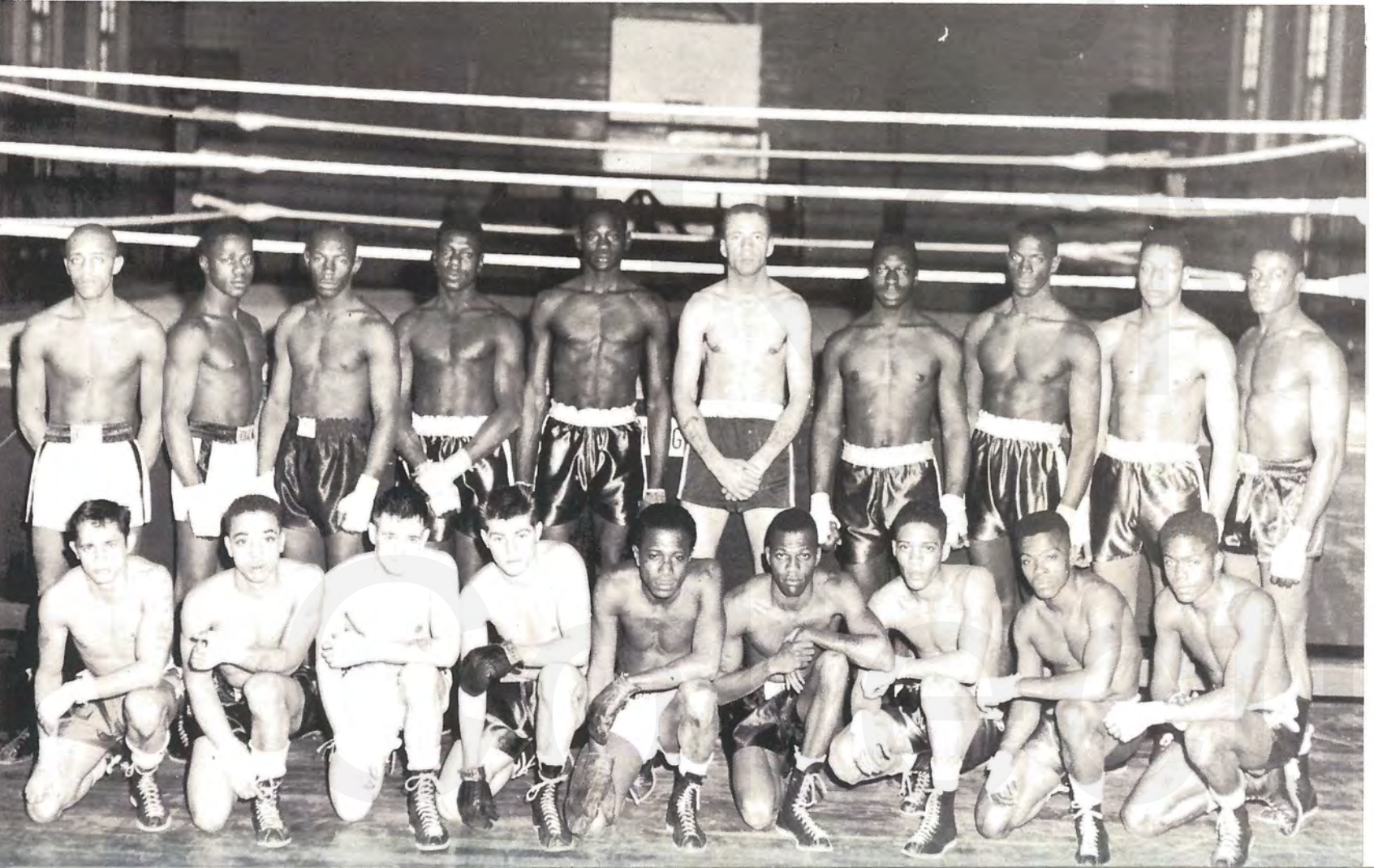
1955

Members of D Co., 187th ARCT: Instructor PFC Paul McKibben, 22nd Engr. Co., 187th ARCT teaching a class on Flame Thrower, at Camp Wood, Japan. Feb. 1955
U.S. Army Photo



2nd Bn., 187th ARCT firing the Carbine on a Rifle Range at Mori. 18 Jan. 1955 —US Army Photo

187th ARCT Boxing Team at Post Gym at Camp Chickamauga. 19 January 1955 —US Army Photo





MONKEY MOUNTAIN: L-R, Fred B. Dean, 8021st AU; Pfc. Rufus McClain, "I" Co., 187th ARCT are touring Monkey Mountain, Beppu, Kyushu, Japan. 16 Feb. 55
—US Army Photo

HEAVY DROP: 16 February 55. Members of 22nd Engr. Co., 187th ARCT gather up a canopy after a Heavy Drop at Oita DZ, Japan.
—US Army Photo



ANTIQUe SHOP: 16 Feb. 1955. L-R, PFC Rufus McClain, I Co., 187th ARCT, CPL Fred H. Dean, 8021st AR visit an Antique Shop in Beppu, Kyushu, Japan.
U.S. Army Photo

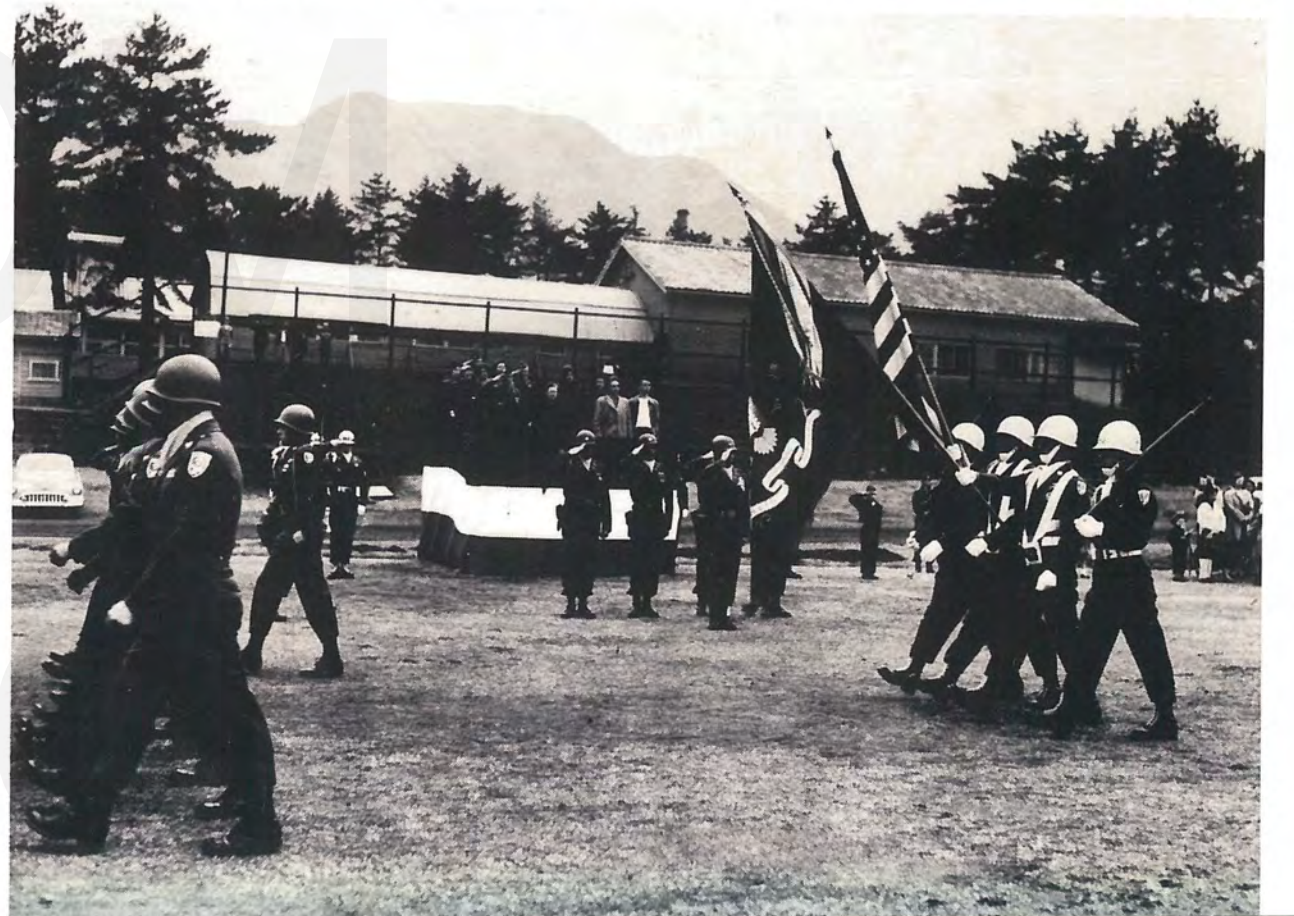


JAPANESE JUMP STUDENTS:
26 February 1955 Japanese students get into parachute harness at Itazuke AFB prior to making their 5th jump. These students attended the jump school conducted by 187th ARCT.
U.S. Army Photo



187th ARCT vs. Camp Hakata in a Basketball game at Post Gym at Camp Chickamauga.
U.S. Army Photo

REGIMENTAL REVIEW: 12 Mar. 1955. Honor Guard from the 2nd Bn., 187th ARCT pass in review at the RCT Parade held at the Race track, Camp Chickamauga.
U.S. Army Photo





RETREAT: 18 Mar. 1955. L-R CPL William L. Vandervere, CPL Ronald Schaffer "Stand at Attention" during 2nd Bn., 187th ARCT Retreat Parade at Racetrack, Camp Chickamauga. U.S. Army Photo

REPAIRING A CHUTE: 31 Mar. 1955. PVT Richard Miller, PM Plat., 187th ARCT here repairs a damaged side flap on a T-7 back pack assembly. U.S. Army Photo



CREW CHIEF: 22 Mar. 1955. SFC Milton O. Lyle, Hq. & Hq. Co., 187th ARCT in door of a helicopter during a flight at Camp Chickamauga. U.S. Army Photo

"LOAD UP": 6 Apr. 1955. Troops from the 1st Bn., 187th ARCT and 674th Abn. FA Bn., loading on a C-47 Aircraft, to jump a T-10 parachute for the first time, they had to have a different anchor line, and a five foot extension on the static line, in order to jump the T-10 from a C-47. U.S. Army Photo





RIFLE & PISTOL TEAM: Members of the 187th ARCT Rifle and Pistol Team. Back row, left to right: SGT L. Keatons, A Co.; SFC W. Peacock, Hq. Co., 3rd Bn.; SFC D. White, Spt. Co., PFC E. Van Voris, Jr., A Btry. Front row: Capt. T. Rousell, Hq. Co. 3rd Bn.; M/SGT Charles McGuire, B Btry.; 1st Lt. E. C. Dickey, Jr., Rifle Team Captain from B Co. U.S. Army Photo

INSPECTION: 21 May 1955. Visitors inspect 105 mm Rifle mounted on Jeep. Armed Forces Day. U.S. Army Photo



EATING SUPPER: A group of Japanese Nationals at Kumamoto Boys Town eating their supper, 10 May 1955 U.S. Army Photo

MOVING OUT: 5 July 1955. 2nd Bn., 187th ARCT move out of the Main Gate of Camp Chickamauga, Beppu, Japan to parade down Main Street of Beppu, to depart for Camp Hakata. U.S. Army Photo





2nd Bn., 187th ARCT parade down Main Street of Beppu, enroute to trains. 2nd Bn., 187th ARCT wait at train station in Beppu, Japan prior to starting for Marshalling Area and Operation Gyroscope. 5 July 55 —US Army Photo

12 July 1955. VIP's attend informal ceremonies prior to takeoff of first gyro planeload from Itazuke. —US Army Photo



10 July 1955. Larry Shaw, *Clarksville Leaf*, Dave Linton, *Time Magazine* Photog.; Brig. Gen. Roy E. Lindquist, CG, 187th ARCT, Brig. Gen. Zwicker, wait for the plan to land and carry Lt. Gen. Hickey, CG, 8th U.S. Army & AFFE to Brady AFB, Japan. U.S. Army Photo



Col. Tipton, Gen. Lindquist and Captain Meyers troops the "line." 10 July 1955

U.S. Army Photo

16 July 1955. PFC Robert Quisley, PM Co., 187th ARCT receives a donut from Red Cross workers (L-R) Mrs. V. C. Swanson and unidentified RC worker at Camp Mackall coffee and donuts were served for all the troops as they arrived on operation Gyroscope.

U.S. Army Photo



L-R: Maj. Gen. Chester A. McCarty, CG 18th Air Force. Col. Curtis J. Herrick, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. A. Trapnell, Brig. Gen. Frank S. Bowman, Brig. Gen. William C. Westmoreland, review troopers of the 187th ARCT during first parade of the 187th ARCT at Fort Bragg, N.C. 19 July 1955

U.S. Army Photo



Armored,
Airborne
Link-Up
May 1-3

Published Weekly
For Campbell Personnel

The Courier

Smart Money
Savings Bonds

In Its 7th Year of Service To The Personnel of Fort Campbell
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1956

RAKKASAN CHRONOLOGY 55-56

187th-Inspired Boys' Town Growing Bigger In Japan

Kumamoto's Boys' Town
famed Boys' Town in Neb
Japanese orphans through
Field Artillery Battalion,
it was learned here.

In a letter of appreciation a
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George Bellas, direct
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doubled its capacity to take in
dollars from the 674th Airborne
VOL. CXXXIX—NO. 95

First Major 187th Units Arrive At Campbell Today

CAMPBELL, Ky.—The first major units
Airborne Regimental Combat Team ar
to start p
Met. Air-

Rakkasans Plan Yule Celebration With 45-Ft. Tree

187th RCT Men Appear On Local TV Station

ns of the Airborne Sol-
irty minute TV program
members of the 187th
Regimental Com bat
Rakkasans manning the variou
weapons described the general ca
pability and combat employmen
as Belche and Capt. Reichert ex

2,000 Attend Party Welcomin 187th RCT To Community

Approximately 2,000 military
units and civilian hosts attended
the "Top Three Graders" barbe-
que and entertainment at the Army
Thursday night. The event was
sponsored by the Chamber of Com-
merce and opened with a barbe-
que and closed with a dance. It
was for the purpose of welcoming
the top graders of the 187th Regi-
mental Combat Team.

Sherbourne To Lead Crack Outfit

Atomic Weapons To Replace Howitzers;
To Be Like 'Air Cavalry' Unit

Korea War Dead Honored By 187th At Grave Service

Veterans Day
Ceremony Held For
Lone Rakkasan

Sgt. Jesse Lee Mer
chison, a casualty of U
first 187th Airborne R
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mann in Korea, the Su

Gen. Adams Disc





AIRBORNE REGIMENT ARRIVES IN U. S.: Col. Curtis J. Herrick, right, of 410 Prospect Street, Alton, Ill., Commander of the Army's 187th ARCT, is greeted at Travis AFB, Calif., on July 13, 1955 by former Cpl. Rodelife P. Hernandez, 2712 Cornell Street, Fresno, Calif., who won the Congressional Medal of Honor while serving in Korea with the regiment in May 1951. The regiment returned to US as part of the Army's "Operation Gyroscope" and will be stationed at Ft. Bragg, N. C. It was relieved in Japan by the 508th ARCT.

AIRBORNE REGIMENT ARRIVES IN U. S.: Men of the Army's 187th ARCT are shown alongside an Air Force C-124 Globemaster plane in which they were flown from Japan to Travis Air Force Base, Calif., as part of the Army's "Operation Gyroscope." From Travis the men were flown to their new home station at Fort Bragg, N. C. The Regiment was replaced by the 508th ARCT.



THE RAKKASANS 1955-1956

From the land of Fujiyama with its snow capped mountains and fragrance of Cherry Blossoms to the sun-kissed shores of California; across the Rocky Mountains and the turgid Mississippi, down to the shadowy pinehills of North Carolina, they came by the thousands; the return of the mighty and powerful Rakkasans, Home, at last, after five history-making years in the Far East, Veterans of Korea, guardians of Japan and the most mobile striking force in the Pacific; the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team with its proud Paratroopers had returned victorious from a job well done.

What is a Rakkasan? You've seen him. He frequented small town and large city establishments, he's visited the most magnificent Cathedrals ever conceived. He's a soldier with a special kind of pride and wherever he goes, people notice that he's a particular brand of soldier. Of course, underneath it all, he's the boy next door.

In fact, a few years ago he was a boy but then, a conflict erupted in Korea. It was then that he "joined up" and the training that followed completed his transformation from the boy next door into America's number one fighting man.

Remember, he left home early one morning and the next time you saw him he was standing tall and erect, wearing a pair of highly polished boots and a neatly tailored Army uniform. On his chest he displayed a silver badge. A parachute it was, enclosed within a pair of wings. He mentioned a school at Fort Benning where he earned the distinctive insignia by completing the Basic Airborne Courses. Fort Campbell was his next station and there he joined the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, organized and sped to Korea in a flurry of excitement.

He moved right on line in Korea and was often far ahead of his own supply line. Here he started making history, but above all else, he started protecting his own right to self government.

His first stop in Korea was a place called Inchon where he was first committed to Combat. Eliminating Communist Aggressors there started preparation for the first airborne assault since World War II. It was in October 1950, a little over a month after his arrival, that the "big leap" occurred.

He took to the skies over Korea and triggered the Sukchon-Sunchon trap. In this single engagement he and his fellows killed or captured more than 8,000 enemy soldiers and seized enough equipment to outfit a combat team.

Fighting on, he hit Wonju in February and later earned the Distinguished Unit Citation for his outfit; a citation for valor.

The enemy on the run he took to the sky again and this time struck hard at Musan-ni. Without warning he hit the retreating commies and trapped them for the kill. Then linking with an Armored force, he slashed forward 26 miles to Uijongbu where he cut off the main communist supply route and wiped out all resistance in the area.

His next job was at Inje-"Bloody Inje" its called now, where the roads were mud rivers and the surrounding fields even worse but nothing stopped his advance. Through his own and the blood of his fellow troopers he trudged on to win one of the bitterest battles of the Korean Conflict.

His battle history in Korea continued until, abruptly as it started, the fighting stopped and he was pulled back to the de-militarized zone, then to Japan.

He'll tell you all about Blackjack Bastion, Route 3 bowling Alley, the Kumwha Valley, and a host of skirmishes are among his battle memories.

He knows these places because he fought in them to stop Communist



Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, Calif.



Fort Bragg sign on Bragg Blvd. at traffic circle in Fort Bragg, N. C.

—US Army Photo

Aggression where it started. He can tell about peace time duty in Japan and about the air lift home. Operation Gyroscope it was called and his was one of the first units to take part in it.

Our Nation's biggest air lift and he was right in the middle of it.

For almost five years he was away from home and during that time he became quite a man. He earned Three Medals of Honor, 20 Distinguished Service Crosses, 164 Silver Stars, five Legions of Merit and many other decorations. The wings he wears now bear two stars of gold, evidence of his jumps into the thick of Korean fighting.

If you thought he was proud before, look at him now. He's really "cocky" if you can call it that but perhaps he has earned the right to be. He's a RAKKASAN, a member of the only unit to twice confirm the principles of vertical envelopment in Korea.

What's his job now?

The Rakkasan with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team arrived at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a unit of the XVIII Airborne Corps.

As the C-124's roared into Camp McKall and Fort Bragg, mixed emotions were exhibited by many of the troopers, the difficult good-byes to friends in Japan and the anxiousness of greeting loved ones in the States. Old jumpers got together and swapped tales of hither and yon; relatives and sweethearts were on hand to greet the Regiment; but, finally all planes were home and the well-wishing had ended.

For many of the Regiment a stateside leave consumed the remainder of August and part of September, 1955. However, certain events did take place that are well remembered.

On July 19, two days after the final plane arrived at Camp McKall, the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team staged its first Stateside review as Major General Thomas J. H. Trapnell, Major General Frank S. Bowen, and Brigadier General William C. Westmoreland, all former commanders of the Combat Team, shared the reviewing stand with Major General Ridgely P. Gaither, Commanding General, XVIII Abn Corps, Major General Chester E. McCarty, Commanding General, Eighteenth Air Force, and Colonel Joseph R. Russ, former RCT Deputy Commander.

During the 187th's initial review, which was led by Colonel Curtis J. Herrick who assumed command of the Rakkasans in mid-Pacific, two outstanding troopers, First Lieutenant Charles O. Ashley and Sergeant First Class Carl J. Sheets, were awarded the Commendation Ribbon for "outstanding devotion to duty and intense loyalty" in their handling of a threatened disaster during the air lift from Japan. As their aircraft developed engine trouble enroute from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, to Travis Air Force Base, California, a few minutes past the point of no return, the two Rakkasans directed a calm ejection of baggage and other weight and kept the paratroopers alert for possible ditching procedures for hours before touchdown was made in California.

Col. Curtis J. Herrick, 187th ARCT CO addresses the Officers and Men of the 187th ARCT prior to departing the 187th

U.S. Army Photo



AUGUST • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER 1955

On August first, Colonel Herrick, having brought the command safely home after relieving Brigadier General Roy E. Lindquist, moved to his new assignment as Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps.

Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska assumed command and brought a wealth of experience to the RCT. The new CO received a BS and a commission when he graduated from North Carolina State College in 1937. He was assigned in 1940 to the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Bragg and, in 1941, joined the 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. He rose from platoon leader to Battalion Commander in the "Wolfhounds" and fought at Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Bougainville, and the Philippines. In June 1944 he was a Regimental Commander in the American Division.

Colonel Ryneska attended the Command and General Staff College in 1948 and a tour at Department of the Army, GI, Military Personnel Division, followed. In 1950 he became airborne qualified at Fort Benning and joined the 82nd Airborne Division in August of the same year. He joined the 504th AIR, was progressively Battalion Commander, Regimental Executive, and commanded the Regiment for three months in 1952. The same year he joined the Turkish Military Mission and stayed there for twenty-two months. Upon his return to CONUS he became Deputy Chief of Staff, G4, XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. He held this position until assuming command of the Rakkasans.

On the 6th and 7th the RCT moved from the Division area to the RTC area. Troops from Support and Engineer Companies and the Triple "A" Battery supported CONARC Board No. 5 in tests of the C-123 Aircraft. Meanwhile the Regiment was beginning to do quite a bit of jumping; battalion increments made tactical drops on Salerno and Sicily North Drop Zones. Major Thomas E. Waldie was assigned as RCT Catholic Chaplain and immediately his presence was felt in the jump formations.

Yes, we saw these, and many other staff assignments and changes; Captain Clarence McChristian became the Regimental assistant S-3, and Captain Joseph Castelli took over as Operations Officer for the Third Battalion, and our old friend Captain Jim Watkins moved from "Easy" Company to "Love" as the new Honcho.

This indeed was a period of movements, changing homes and the beginning of planned beautification for the RTC billets.

It was also a period of increased responsibility for the Rakkasans who assumed Post wide Missions and duties in the absence of the 82nd Airborne Division which was involved in Operation Sagebrush in Louisiana.

As the Indian Summer weather departed and the cool autumn of October entered, we witnessed many activities of the Regiment. The 674th Field Artillery Battalion collected another one hundred dollars for Boys Town to add to the amount originally given in December 1953 and which reached a climax in May of 1955. The Boys' Town is fashioned after the famous Father Flanagan Boy's Town in Nebraska and has been a

a Rakkasan sponsored project since its conception. Upon initiation of Operation "Gyroscope," the project was adopted by the 320th FA Battalion of the 508th ARCT. The Rakkasans have not forgotten their Japanese friends and are still engaged in supporting such worthy causes as the ever growing Boy's Town.

Also in October, Lieutenant Len Hanzer assumed duties as the Assistant One in the Regiment replacing Lieutenant Dick Miller. Meanwhile in the First Battalion Recreation Hall, seventy selected enlisted men were gathered to discuss Operation "Gyroscope" with the Commanding General of the XVIII Corps, Major General Paul D. Adams. To reach a cross section of the opinions regarding "Gyroscope" five men from each of the seven pay grades who had signified their intention to remain with a Gyro unit, and another five from the various pay grades who state they would not remain, were assembled for this occasion. During this informal discussion the troopers gave and asked countless

1st Lt. Norman D. Clark (center) instructs a group of men from Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., in the use of a gas mask. U.S. Army Photo



L-R: 1st Lt. James E. Ray, QM Plat.; 1st Lt. Edward C. Stiles, Hq. & Hq. Co.; Lt. Gen. Makoto Matsutani; 1st Lt. Herbert J. Erb, 187th ARCT Pathfinder; Lt.'s Ray, Stiles and Erb met General Matsutani as he and party observed the Rakkasan of 2nd Bn. make a Tactical Jump on DZ Sicily North. U.S. Army Photo

questions relative to the controversial subject. In conclusion, General Adams said, "The purpose of Gyroscope is to instill in the hearts and minds of Regular Army Soldiers a pride in their outfit and to have them maintain that pride by remaining in the same unit throughout their Army careers."

Over in the Second Battalion, eight Officers and Enlisted personnel

4-H Clubs of N.C. watch an Airborne Display of the 187th Abn. RCT at Sicily North Drop Zone, Fort Bragg. U.S. Army Photo





Troops of the 187th ARCT pass in review on Hay Street, Fayetteville, N.C. during U.N. Day parade where the famed 187th ARCT represented all of Ft. Bragg for the occasion
U.S. Army Photo

Sp-2 West, P.M. Co., 187th ARCT, 1st Lt. James E. Ray, P.M. Co., Mr. Bill Belche, Radio-TV announcer for WFLB TV Station, Fayetteville, N.C. and TV Cameraman. Lt. Ray is explaining how to pack a T-10 type chute while Sp-2 West is doing the packing, this was a rehearsal for a TV show the next day.
U.S. Army Photo



Thousands of Fayetteville citizens line Hay Street as 2,000 proud 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team Rakkasans preceded by flags of sixty nations, carried by members of Medical Company, 187th ARCT, honor United Nations Day, 24 Oct. 1955.

returned from completion of the Mountain and Cold Weather Instructor Training Course in Fort Carson, Colorado. Speaking of Cold Weather, the 22nd Engineer Company was busy giving Basic Arctic Training to members of the Regiment; and the Airborne Quartermaster Parachute Packing, Maintenance and Aerial Delivery School at Fort Lee, Virginia. The students were Sergeant First Class Ray Ward, Corporal Kenneth Carr, Specialist Third Class Ralph Bunch and Private First Class Ralph Cole. Also the Quartermaster received a new Company Commander, Captain Clyde Gregory by name. He relieved Major Stroud who went on to bigger things. October saw the Regiment begin Recruit training for 350 trainees, the first of a contingent of 1749 Regular Army Airborne volunteers slated to receive eight weeks advanced individual training. The beginning of this recruit training cycle marked the first such training conducted by the 187th since its activation as a Glider Infantry Regiment in the days of World War II. Upon completion of this training, the young Airborne aspirants were slated to undergo further training with the Airborne School, leading to award of the coveted paratroopers wings.

Selected for the training of these recruits was the First Battalion and the 674th Field Artillery Battalion.

During this month the ARCT was visited by Major General Eugene M. Gaffey, Department of the Army Judge Advocate General.

Over in the Third Battalion, there were several personnel changes. Captain Cook assumed command of "I" Company and "Ish" Pack



UNITED WE STAND—The 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team color guard, carrying the flag of the member nations of the U.N., marches briskly past the reviewing stand in front of the post office during Monday's parade in Fayetteville marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the world body.

Thousands View Rakkasan 'N. Anniversary Parade

switched over to the Post of Assistant three. Captain Rosell became the Four and Captain Daoust was transferred from "Lion" Company to Headquarters Company.

As the United Nations celebrated its tenth anniversary, the 187th ARCT participated in a parade to commemorate this occasion. Led by the RCT Commander, Colonel Joseph Ryneska, the Regiment moved quickly onto Hay street in Fayetteville amid the cheering of thousands of citizens. This was the first time that the entire 187th had paraded off post since the Regiment's return from Japan. Service and Engineer Company Mess Halls welcomed the arrival of 190 4-H club members who were visiting Fort Bragg.

Meanwhile, the Second Battalion was given Mine Warfare Tests conducted by the 20th Engineer Battalion and the First Battalion celebrated with a training holiday.

The football season was in swing and one of the big highlights was a trip to the United States Military Academy by the Rakkasan gridders. Five hundred screaming Cadets and visitors watched a hard fighting Army Junior Varsity lose its second home game in three years of play as the underdog 187th Rakkasans from Fort Bragg punched through a slim 8 to 7 victory. The victory margin was provided when Dan Owsley, hard charging, right guard of the Raks blocked an Army kick that spun into the end zone for 2 points. Other 187th players who did an outstanding job were Dale Randels and Tom Ingram.

NOVEMBER 1955



M/Sgt. Raymond E. Ashmore, 1st Sgt. M Co., 3rd Bn. and Col. Joseph F. Ryneska, CO, 187th ARCT. Sgt. Ashmore is relating his experiences while serving with the 101st Abn. Div. at Ft. Campbell, the occasion was the unexpected plan for the 187th ARCT to move to Ft. Campbell in Feb. 1956. U.S. Army Photo



101st vets sew on new patch of 101st.

U.S. Army Photo

187th AIRBORNE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA: 30 November 1955. L-R, Top Row: 1st Lt. William J. Harrison, officer-in-charge; Adrames Koutrumbas, Welterweight; Alonzo Swinson, Light Middleweight; Yvonne Kirk, Middleweight; Paul Goodwin, Light-heavyweight; James Pehrson, Middleweight; John E. Cravens, Heavyweight; Rodney J. Trahan, Coach. Middle row: Richard E. Dunham, Manager; James Thompson, Lightweight; Howard Moore, Lightweight; Novie Woods, Light Welterweight; Carl Bryant, Light Welterweight; Albert Olayvar, Medic. Bottom row: Melquidas Torres, Trainer; Bobbie Gates, Flyweight; Bobby Stice, Bantamweight; Harry Truly, Bantamweight; Joseph Mazon, Featherweight; Samuel Hodgetts, Featherweight; Rubin Burns, Training. —US Army Photo



October disappeared into November and the RCT was presented in many colorful events. At retreat ceremonies held on November 4th, five troopers received decorations and commendations for outstanding service. Receiving the Bronze Star with Valor device was Sergeant First Class Louis Montoya of Easy Company. Others decorated were 1st Lieutenant George D. Hardesty who was awarded the commendation medal by the Air Force for the period February, 1954 to May, 1955. Two high Korean decorations were also given deserving Rakkasans. Receiving the Wharang Distinguished Military Service Medal was Master Sergeant Ralph E. Phillips, Hq Btry, 674th Field Artillery Battalion. Master Sergeant Paul E. Blenis, "K" Company was awarded the Wharang Distinguished Military Service Medal with Silver Star. The final award was made to Master Sergeant Leonard R. Axtman, Hq Btry, 674th FA Bn. This was a letter of Commendation from the Commandant of the NCO Academy honoring Master Sergeant Axtman as the honor graduate.

We received the first announcement in November that the 187th ARCT would be transferred to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to form the nucleus of a new Airborne Division for the Army. This information was received from Third Army and XVIII Airborne Corps Headquarters. Military officials stated that the new division would be formed by consolidating existing separate regiments.

This month was a period of parades and ceremonies including a reviews to honor the retirement of four Fort Bragg Officers and Enlisted men.

Those being honored were Colonel George S. Garde, Major F. L. Fernandez, Master Sergeant Floyd Jennings and CWO Clyde J. Phillips. Leading the ARCT in review was the combat head of the combat band of the 187th led by CWO Nathan Cammack and the Famed Honor Guard commanded by 1st Lieutenant Phil Miller.

At Veteran's day remembrances the 187th honored it's war dead; services were conducted by Major Richard R. Bell, RCT Protestant Chaplain and a rifle salute with taps was played over the grave of Sergeant Jesse Lee Menacha, the only Rakkasan buried at Fort Bragg. A wreath was laid in memory of the sergeant, a casualty of the first combat jump in Korea; the Sukchon-Sunchon operation.

Meanwhile, the Fort Bragg Boxing season kicked off with matches between the 187th and Pope AFB in the Fort Bragg Main Post Field House. These were the first matches that the Rakkasans had participated in since their return from the Far East.

Later in the month another retreat review was held at Chapel Field in honor of Brigadier General Ernest A. Bixby, Commanding General of the 1st Logistical Command who retired after 37 years of distinguished service.

Two 674th top Three Graders came on active duty as Second Lieutenants during the month. Master Sergeant Alva L. McWilliams and Master Sergeant Ralph E. Phillips bid "Sayonars" to Olive Drab and doffed the Pinks and Greens of the Officers' Corps.

Rakkasan Troopers Receive Awards For Korean Action

For outstanding service and devotion to duty extending from Japan and Korea, across the Pacific, to Fort Bragg, N. C., five members of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team received awards ranging from Letters of Commendation through the Bronze Star at colorful retreat ceremonies held on November 4th.

Presented by Col. Joseph F. Ryneck, RCT commander, the awards came as official recognition for jobs well done both in war and in peace.

The Wharang Distinguished Military Service Medal, a Korean Award "In recognition and appreciation for gallantry in action against an armed enemy in Korea", one of the wartime awards, was presented to M-Sgt. Ralph E. Phillips, a member of Headquarters Battery, 674th Abn. FA Bn.

Citing devotion to duty, courageous leadership, and aggressiveness contributing to successful accomplishment of the United Nations' efforts against Communist aggression in Korea, the letter accompanying the award was signed by Sohn Won Yil, Korea's Minister of Defense.

The Bronze Star with Letter "V" Device for valor was another of the three wartime awards and it was received by SFC Louis Montoya, Company E, 187th ARCT.

In recognition of his performance in "Maintaining the combat effectiveness of the Airborne striking force of the Far East Command" while serving as Liaison Officer with the Air Force in Japan, 1st Lt. George D. Hardesty was awarded the Commendation Ribbon by order of the Air Force. This commendation originated in the Headquarters of the Far East Air Forces and covered the period February 15, 1954, to May, 1955.

The final wartime award presented during the colorful ceremony was South Korea's highest decoration for Foreign Soldiers, the Wharang Distinguished Mil-

Star.

The award was a result of action by M-Sgt. Paul E. Blenis, Company K, 187th during a patrol mission in Korea when the success of planned operations depended largely upon the capture and interrogation of an enemy soldier who could provide much needed information.

Despite the danger and personal risk involved, Blenis undertook the job and carried it through to the desired end, greatly increasing the chances for success in operations immediately following.

The lone award for accomplishments since Gyroscope went to M-Sgt. Leonard R. Axtman, top man in a recently graduated class from the Fort Bragg NCO Academy.

Sgt. Axtman's award was a letter of commendation from the commandant of the School citing him for an excellent scholastic record, his personal appearance, and his assumption of command responsibility. The Sergeant was previously commended by the XVIII Airborne Corps and commanding general Fort Bragg, Maj. Gen. Paul D. Adams, and received a plaque suitably engraved with his accomplishment.

Sgt. Axtman was chosen top man in a class of 74 NCO's in Class Number 18, Fort Bragg NCO Academy. He is a member of Headquarters Battery, 674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion where he is the Battalion Sergeant Major.

Bugler, Cpl. Pasquel P. Vela, RCT Band, sounds taps over the grave of Sgt. J. L. Menchaca the only 187th ARCT Rakkasan buried at Fort Bragg Cemetery, while the 674th FA Bn. Firing Squad presents arms. (Front to Rear) Pfc. Joseph Arel, Sp3 Peter H. Singel, Sp3 Donald N. Lister, Sp3 Jessie E. Key, Sp3 Donald W. Parrish. U.S. Army Photo



Vet paratroopers of the 101st Abn. Div. SFC Rea looks at a yearbook of the 101st showing Bastogne. U.S. Army Photo



NOVEMBER 1955



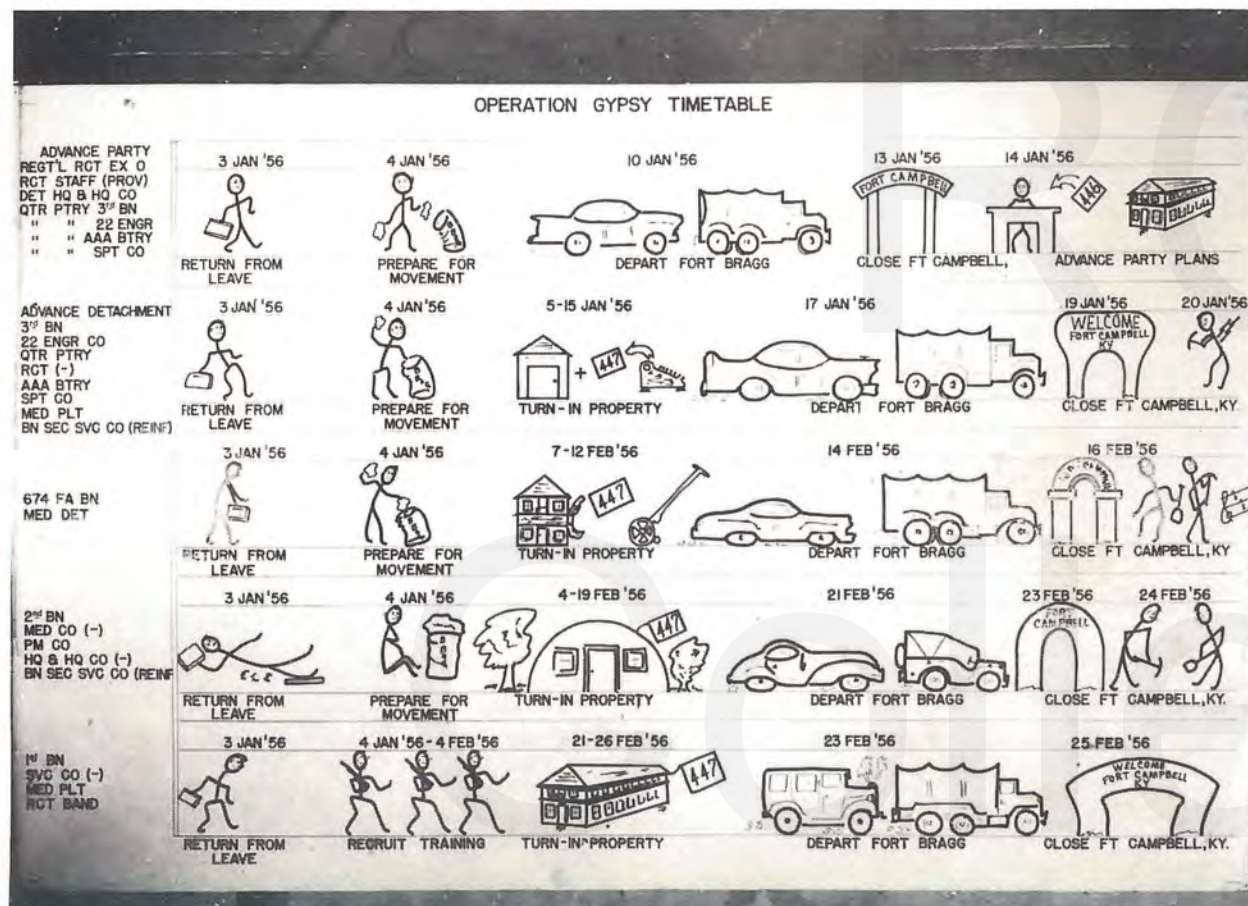
L-R: Leo H. Zellman, PFC; Russel E. Hack, Sgt.; Donald E. Vitullo, Pvt.-2; Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Recruit Training Demonstration, 11 Nov. 1955



L-R: After preparing the gun for firing the crew sets it at base deflection. In this operation are (L-R) Sp3 Yvonne Kirk, ammo Handler; Sp3 Robert Norris, loader; Sgt. Fred Walker, gunner; Cpl. Wormie Cherry, asst. gunner; and SFC Pedro Alvarado, Chief of Section; all men are from "C" Btry, 674th F A Bn., 187th ARCT. —US Army Photo

Copy—Chart of S-3, 187th ARCT Operation Gypsy.

U.S. Army Photo



Col. Joseph F. Ryenska, CO, 187th ARCT, Capt. Oscar E. Holtz, CO, Hq. Btry. 674th FA Bn. Col. Ryenska is presenting Capt. Holtz a plaque for the best TI&E Board in the RCT. —U.S. Army Photo



DECEMBER 1955



Pvt. Henderson Ellis, F Co., and Sp3 Dempster McPherson, Med. Co., 187th ARCT, a two man comedy act in the talent show "Bop Cafe," which performed at all of the Svc. Clubs at Ft. Bragg, and at the Red Cross Lounge at the Station Hospital, Fort Bragg, N. C. —US Army Photo

Specialist Second Class Melquidades Torres, Jr., Company Aidman of Medical Company, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, being interviewed by staff announcer Bill Belche of WFLB-TV, Fayetteville, North Carolina.



9 Dec. 1955. Troopers representing all companies of the 187th ARCT gather around the desk of Miss Jo Ann Walters, teletype operation prior to adopting a needy family of Fayetteville from *Fayetteville Observer*. U.S. Army Photo



As the month of December crept in and November became memory, command changes were being effected in the Third Battalion. Lieutenant Ernie Johnson departed "K" Company and Lieutenant George Grayeb took over the reins. Big Ronnie Zahm of "I" took the Big Step of commanding Headquarters Company.

The Big story in December that received national coverage was the bail-out parachute jump of Sergeant John Horan of Company L. Here is the way one of the large West Coast dailies printed the story:

Sergeant John Horan's feet were blistered and swollen. He was weary and cold beyond belief, but there was the road and the Inn and two men. "They looked up and I knew everything was going to be all right." And that was the way the 25 year old paratrooper from Maynard, Mass., described the last moments of the longest four days he ever spent—four days in the snow-clad Cascade Mountain foothills into which he plunged on a parachute. The story he told of his fight for survival was an epic combination of plucky luck and training. Plus a determination to see again his Japanese wife Teruko and their three small children, who landed in Seattle Tuesday from Japan. She had been waiting at Ft. Lawton in Seattle since being told her husband was missing. At about 1:30 p.m. last Sunday he jumped from an Air Force C-46 on the pilot's orders. The plane had gone into a flat spin at 12,000 feet. Horan bailed out at 10,000 and the plane righted itself before others had to jump. "I saw a small clearing," he recounted from a cot in a roadside inn 75 miles east of Seattle. "It was covered with deep snow. I landed very good." He began hiking, sinking to his hips time after time in snow eight feet deep. All night he floundered through the drifts until he spotted a cabin in the woods, "My legs ached. My feet were numb. And I was hungry."

Inside the cabin he found some matches and started a fire. He found some Cocoa, the only food in the place, and melted snow to make himself a drink. Warmed and strengthened, he thought of getting out of the woods—encouraged by the distant roar of trucks winding through the steep Snoqualmie Pass Road. He started out on rude snowshoes made of shingles and got only five hundred feet before his feet and snowshoes gave out. Back to the cabin and a nights sleep. Tuesday his luck was no better, the distance traveled no greater before his tortured feet gave up and he went back to the cabin. The third day he knew there could be no turning back. He wrapped his feet in parts of a parachute, cutting his boots so he could get them on. From a refrigerator in the cabin he took two small shelves and fastened them to his feet with parts of his parachute. Then he struck out again. All afternoon and night he floundered along. An ice cold rain soaked him to the skin. Toward midday Thursday the truck noises began getting closer and louder. "Then," he said, "I knew I was going to make it. The rain got worse and I got colder but my hopes were rising. I dropped over the rim of the hill and I could hear cars on the highway and people talking." Around a bend and there was the men and the inn, and by chance a doctor who had stopped to fix some broken tire chains. The inn was three and a half miles south of the cabin in the woods. After emergency treatment for frostbite, a rest and some food, the sergeant talked by phone with his happy wife. Later an ambulance took him to the Army Madigan General Hospital at Ft. Lewis 40 miles southwest of Seattle. His wife and children were later taken to his bedside. Certainly Horan's achievement was indicative of excellent training and physical preparedness.

U.S. Trained Japanese Paratroopers Play Role In Japan's Ground Forces

American-trained Japanese paratroopers are becoming an important part of Japan's growing Ground Self Defense Forces.

This was indicated in an article in the winter issue of Airborne Quarterly, out this Saturday on the new Japanese Basic Airborne School now operating near Tokyo. The school is patterned after the American airborne course at Fort Benning, Ga., according to the article, which traces the origins of Japanese airborne planning and student training.

"Historically Significant and perhaps a precedent in United Nations Military planning," the article stated, "this international airborne effort was the product of the closest coordination between the offices of Maj. Gen. Gerald J. Higgins, Chief, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Japan; Gen. Takeo Tsutsui, Chief, Ground Self Defense Forces, Japan; and Brig. Gen. Roy E. Lindquist, then Commanding General, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team."

were screened to select the airborne trainees who were to become instructors at the school.

Chosen for physical and mental stamina, the candidates entered the 187th Airborne RCT Jumpmaster school at Camp Kashi, Kyushu, Japan for five weeks of instruction in the techniques of parachuting.

"Quick to respond and eager to learn, these Japanese Rakkasans proved highly adaptable to the new environment and spirit of sky troopers," the article went on. "The attentive students were instructed in classroom work through Japanese interpreter assistant instructors."

Outlining the physical aspects of weeks of ground training and a week of parachute jumps, the Airborne Quarterly feature stated that "members of the Japanese Finance Ministry are currently investigating the national potential for supporting a Japanese airborne effort."

"At present the Japanese Self Defense Air Force has sixteen troop carrier aircraft, C-46's transferred from American reserves. This number they believe is adequate for trainings purposes. Japanese transport pilots, now undergoing training with American pilots, will be prepared, it is held to provide air-lift for Airborne School."

"The Japanese-American agreement provides for U.S. Force technical and equipment. Government

aries, replacement parts and airborne equipment.

"Initial equipment for the Airborne SDE will probably be purchased from American stocks and be replenished from Japanese sources as manufacturing facilities are activated" the article noted.

Addressing the graduating Japanese Airborne Students in a ceremony at Camp Kashi, General Takeo Tsutsui, Chief, Ground Self

Defense Forces, is quoted as saying in part:

"Remember that you are going to be the foundation stones of the future Ground Self Defense Forces Airborne unit in Japan. I hope you realize this responsibility and will conduct yourselves most carefully, with determination and in the spirit of harmony and cooperation for the cause of our fatherland."



Passing ammo from underground storage pit to No. 3 gun. Recruit George J. Deveau, left, hands 105mm round to Bill White, right.

U.S. Army Photo

L-R: SFC. Roy E. Ward, QM Co., 187th ARCT, shakes hands with CWO Billy C. Lawson, QM Co. Both men are honor graduates of Abn. QM School at Fort Lee, Va.

U.S. Army Photo



Sgt. Ray Rogers, L Co. 187th ARCT Bowling at Post Bowling Alley, he won the high average in Individual Matches, his score was 233.

U.S. Army Photo



Rak Boxers In Fla. For AAU Ring Wars

By ED MAJORS

CORAL GABLES, Fla.—Eight ring-wise veterans of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team today entered their third day of competition here in the Amateur Athletic Union boxing tournament. The Rakkasans, only Fort Bragg glovers entered in the tourney, earned observer's consideration as dark horses on the strength of their early showing in the four-day ring rendezvous at the Youth Center Rrena.

Tomorrow's opening night competition found the hard-hitting Rakkasans sweeping through four straight bouts undefeated. Flyweight Bobbie Gater, a cagey New Jerseyite, handily decided Vir Peres, a scrappy sailor from Des Lant Naval Base, Norfolk, Va.

"Jollin' Joe" the Rakkasan featherweight hope, slugged his way to a decision over Tony Bobbes of

1934. All Far East Command in 1935 and San Antonio Intra-service tournament in 1935.

SFC Rodney C. Trahan, Rakkasan coach, also lists the following 187th men on his team.

Yvonne Kirk, middleweight from Oklahoma City, Okla., who started boxing in 1933 and won the Southwest Command title in Japan early this year.

Herbert G. Delaney, welterweight who started boxing in 1949 and in 1951 won the Golden Glove Novice Welterweight title in his native Washington, D. C. Boxing

two more years for the D. C. Boys Club, Delaney capped his welterweight crown for 1951 in Southwest Command competition in Japan.

Joseph J. Mason, featherweight from Tucson, Ariz., who began boxing in 1951 and has won four championships.

Bobbie Gater, flyweight from Patterson, N. J., who started boxing in 1953 and won Southwest Command Flyweight championship in Japan for 1954.

Harry O. Truby, bantamweight from Buffalo, N. Y., who began



A ENOUGHT — Herb Delaney, Rakkasan welterweight sock artist and former Golden Gloves novice welterweight champ of Washington, D. C., who gained his first victory in the Florida State AAL tournament now being held at Coral Gables, Fla. The 187th ABCT squad are considered the dark horse team of the tourney. At the bottom in the lower (Photo by Lewis)

Fort Bragg, Co. Carl Brown of Atlanta scored a 12-11 win over the Rakkasan opponent in the opening round of the tourney. At the bottom in the lower (Photo by Lewis)

1st Lt. B. C. Brown, Cpl. Gary Kruman, Capt. T. E. Whalen, "Honcho" the Mexican Burro mascot, and Sp-2 James W. Willis, with Honcho's leading Spt. Co. in their daily P.T. U.S. Army Photo

Acting Squad Leader from 3rd Training Co., 4th Plat., Pvt. Henry J. Wallace, briefs his squad prior to moving out on a Platoon night attack. U.S. Army Photo



187th Trooper Saves Fellow Jumper With Tangled 'Chute

Split-second thinking by Specialist 3rd Class James R. Wilson, Support Company, 187th Airborne Regimental Team, saved a fellow paratrooper during a parachute jump one thousand feet over Sicily Drop Zone at the military post last week.

Leaping simultaneously from opposite doors of a speeding C-119 (box-car) aircraft, Wilson and Specialist 2nd Class Kenneth D. McGraw had just cleared the plane when one of the rare accidents in airborne procedure whipped the silk of McGraw's chute through the suspension lines of Wilson, whose parachute had begun to deploy at a slightly higher level.

"I had just counted to three thousand" Wilson said afterwards, "when a sudden smother of green silk wrapped around me".

As both men continued to fall Wilson, reacting to airborne training, clawed in armfuls of parachute canopy to save the man he knew was below him.

"I managed to get a good bunch of silk in both arms" Wilson continued, "before the full weight of McGraw's falling body hit the end of his suspension lines".

Stopped in mid-air, McGraw dangled like a pendulum below Wilson, who strained to hold the weight of the paratrooper below him. Blinded by the silken parachute, Wilson was unable to check his own canopy which was supporting double weight in the continuing descent to the ground.

Meanwhile McGraw found that entangling suspension lines had wrapped around his neck and right arm, raising it above his head and making it impossible to pull his chest reserve parachute.

Realizing that he was wholly dependent on the man above keeping a grip on his parachute, McGraw yelled, "Hang on!"

By this time other Rakkasans who had jumped from the same aircraft and were descending close by saw the situation McGraw was in and shouted to Wilson "Don't let go!"

"I could hear men shouting" Wilson said, "and I didn't know how close we were to the ground." I had no intention of letting that canopy go. Suddenly I heard the man below me hit. The weight on my arms relaxed and almost at the same time I landed with a teeth-jarring crash. Clearing the silk I ran over to the man who had been dangling below me. He was tangled in suspension lines and a little dazed but there were no broken bones or other injury that I could see."

McGraw rolled over, sat up and

sighed as he reached for a cigarette.

Shucking out of his harness, Wilson turned to McGraw and asked "What have we got for lunch?"

"Stew!" said McGraw, Support Company mess sergeant.

Specialist 3rd Class James Richard Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Wilson, Rt. 2, Murcie, Indiana, is a graduate of Basic Airborne Training, Fort Benning, Georgia, February 20, 1954. He has a total of 20 jumps.

He and his wife Geraldine reside in Fayetteville.

Wilson joined the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Japan in October 1954 and returned to the States with the Regiment in July 1955.

Prior to entering the service he

was employed by Indiana Bridge Works as assistant layout man in Muncie.

Specialist Second Class Kenneth D. McGraw, son of Mrs. Clare McGraw, Valley Park, Missouri, is a graduate of the 82nd Airborne Division Basic Airborne Course, June 2, 1950. He has a total of 57 jumps.

He and his wife Mariam, with their three children, Jacqueline, David and Dennis, reside at 40 McNair Loop, Fayetteville.

McGraw joined the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Japan, January 18, 1953 and returned to the States with the Regiment in July, 1955.

Prior to entering service McGraw was a professional boxer. Specialist McGraw re-enlisted on Dec. 19, 1955 for six more years of airborne duty.

Pfc. Enrique Rico, 22nd Engr. Co., 187th ARCT descending in a T-10 parachute on DZ Salerno, last jump 187th, Fort Bragg, N. C. U.S. Army Photo

Support Co. E. M. saves a buddy during a parachute jump. 5 Jan. 56 U.S. Army Photo



JANUARY 1956

On the fourth of January, personnel of the Third Battalion participated in a tactical airborne exercise on DZ Normandy. The next day, a movement directive from Headquarters XVIII Airborne Corps was received and the RCT made plans to convoy the advance party to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It was about this time that one of the rare events in parachute jumping took place.

In a drop at Sicily North Drop Zone, split second thinking by Specialist Third Class James R. Wilson, Support Company, saved a buddy from the same company. Leaping simultaneously from opposite doors of a speeding C-119 aircraft, Wilson and Specialist Second Class Kenneth D. McGraw had just cleared the plane when one of the rare accidents in airborne procedure whipped the silk of McGraw's chute through the suspension lines of Wilson, whose parachute had begun to deploy at a higher level. "I had just counted to three thousand" Wilson said afterwards, "when a sudden smother of green silk wrapped around me." As both men continued to fall, Wilson, reacting to airborne training, clawed in armfuls of parachute canopy to save the man he knew was below him. "I managed to get a good bunch of silk in both arms," Wilson continued, "before the full weight of McGraw's falling body hit the end of his suspension lines."

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Again here was a clear cut case of instinctive type training that paid big dividends.

On the ninth of January the Third Battalion received a new Sergeant Major. Master Sergeant Jack B. Moore, former First Sergeant of "D" Company. Sergeant Moore a veteran of two combat jumps with the 187th has had a colorful military history. He fought with rangers in Italy and into the mainland of Europe. A capable administrator and a strong leader, Sergeant Moore is a fine example of an Airborne soldier.

At this time the Psy War Center was honored with the visit of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, The Honorable George Roderick, Secretary of Civil Affairs. Battery "C" of the 674th FA Bn fired a seventeen gun salute to welcome the Secretary to the Post.

Three hundred fifty-six Rakkasans began their airborne training on this date. These men had just completed their eight weeks of advanced

49 Volunteers Launched Airborne

First Jumpers Sometimes Wore Tennis Shoes; Rope Kept Man From Losing '03 on Way Down

FORT BRAGG, N. C.—Three original members of the Parachute Test Platoon, nucleus of all American Airborne forces of War II and predecessors of today's Army paratroopers, are still on jump status here.

Pioneers in the technique that has produced hundreds of thousands of parachutists, these three sergeants share a distinction claimed by only 47 men and two officers in U. S. Airborne history.

MSgt. George W. Ivy, RCT S-2 Section, Hq. and Hq. Co., 187th Abn. RCT; MSgt. Thurman L. Weeks, first sergeant of QM Co. 82d Abn. Div., and SFC Lester C. McLaney, parachute rigger, 623d QM Co., were among the small test group of volunteers, who were recruited from the 29th Inf. Div. at Fort Benning, Ga., in which 1940, to form the Parachute Test Platoon.

Meeting at Headquarters, 187th Abn. RCT recently, the three originators of the earliest airborne traditions recalled their experiences with the embryo parachute forces.

"One May afternoon the company commander had everyone assembled in our L. Co. dayroom," Ivy said, "and told us that the Infantry School Board had received orders from Washington to form a parachute test platoon of 48 enlisted men and two officers. Volunteers would be accepted. There wasn't exactly a rush for this assignment but of the men who lined up in front of the orderly room, four, including myself were selected to go."

THE FIFTY VOLUNTEERS, including Pvt. Ivy, Weeks and McLaney, were organized into a test platoon July 3, 1940. Their mission was to determine if the U. S. Army could use parachute jumpers and whether the parachute could be employed to deliver troops into battle.

First Lt. (later Col.) William T. Hester and 2d Lt. (later Col.) James E. Bassett, who was killed in a helicopter crash at Fort Bragg, later headed the group.

The two and a half months the test platoon, assisted by three Air Corps parachute riggers led by Capt. "Doc" Wilson, experimented with whatever equipment available and incorporated physical conditioning.

"One morning," Ivy said, "conducted at Fort Benning around Lawson Field, we practiced with dummies, parachutes and other strenuous activities."

"In the afternoons we practiced packing parachutes and made jumps from B-18 bombers and C-39 transports parked on the runways. This gave us experience in squeezing out the small doors and strengthened our legs for the day we would make our first jump."

ON DAYS WHEN there was a strong wind these pioneer paratroopers would line up on the airfield and, as the wind inflated their modified Air Force T-3 free-fall parachutes, practice recovery from the drag and try various methods of collapsing the canopy. No method had yet been devised to provide ground training in control of the parachute. As an experiment, the men were flown to Fort Dix, N. J., where for seven days they practiced parachute control and landing from a 125-foot Navy balloon tower.

"These towers," Ivy recalls, "were similar to the 250-foot practice towers now used at Fort Benning, but half the height. A steel ring spread the silk, and on being hauled to the top, we were released to float down again. The distance was so short that many times we would land before being able to stop the pendulum effect, and hit the ground flat on our backs."

"We were pretty beat when we returned to Fort Benning in August."

AT BENNING the platoon rigged dummies and test-dropped 12 T-4 parachutes over Lawson Field to study the characteristics of the chute. Three chutes streamered in without opening.

Ivy, Weeks and McLaney, who now have 290, 20 and 350 parachute jumps respectively, draw lots for their first jumps in early August. Ivy drew number six position, Weeks number 15 and McLaney number 14.

The first U. S. Army parachute jump was scheduled for Aug. 14 with the remainder of the test platoon to jump on Aug. 15. Six jumps for each man were planned.

Ivy said, "We jumped without heat-gear of any kind. The jump boot was the artillery boot cut down to 10 inches in height with



THREE OF THE Army's pioneer paratroopers recall their experiences with the Parachute Test Platoon at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1940. All Master Parachutists on jump status now at Fort Bragg, N. C., they are, from left, MSgt. Thurman L. Weeks, 82d Abn. Div.; MSgt. George W. Ivy, 187th Abn. RCT, and SFC Lester C. McLaney, 623d QM Co. They hold a photograph of the original 48 men and two officers who proved the practicability of delivering U. S. troops to the battlefield by parachute. Plaques in background are shoulder patches of the 187th Abn. RCT, the 101st "Screaming Eagle" Abn. Div. and the 18th Abn. crest.

an ankle brace tied around the instep."

The first plane, a C-33 with 12 men aboard, including Ivy, took off on Aug. 14 as scheduled. When the aircraft reached an altitude of 1500 feet the number one man hooked up his 12-foot static line to a short cable near the door, looked out at Fort Benning below him, and promptly passed out. Ivy moved up to become fifth man to jump.

Lacking present day Airborne refinements — no ground panels, smoke, or ground-to-air radio — the test platoon made its jumps using the Chattahoochee River, on the edge of Lawson Field, as an exit point.

AS IVY CROUCHED in the small door of the C-33 transport, CWO Wilson stuck his head into the slip stream to check landmarks. Directly over the Chattahoochee Wilson slapped Ivy on the buttocks, hard, and Ivy was on his way to make Airborne history.

Weeks and McLaney, riding the same plane together, made their first jumps on the 15th.

The test platoon executed two individual jumps per man and four, six man jumps to qualify. Some of the mass jumps were made from

said, "and really scared off even after our chutes opened. This excited the people at the fact who thought we were being killed as we were told to keep it quiet in the air."

Still experimenting, the men jumped wearing coveralls, sometimes wearing low quarter shoes and sometimes tennis shoes. Later in the early jumps they wore issued cloth Air Corps helmets. Individual weapons, M1 rifles, were held in both hands or over the side to prevent loss of equipment. The rifle was tied to the jumper with a piece of rope.

On completing the six jumps per man the platoon continued jumping for combat test purposes.

THEY WORE NO parachute wings and received no jump pay. Each man was rated at least a PFC, Second Class Specialist to bring his pay up to a minimum of \$54 per month. Better than the \$21 for the average private!

The first ground problem, held Sept. 4, was a platoon assault, to secure and hold Lawson Field. This first Airborne assault problem was executed without a hitch.

Jumps were continued through September, including some far magazine stories and civilian and Army newsreel crews. Most of the men in the test platoon had, by early October, a total of 20 parachute jumps to their credit.

ON OCT. 10, 1940, Secretary of War Stimson, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Marshall and other military and civilian dignitaries, officially observed the new found capabilities of Army paratroopers at Benning.

A tactical mass jump from 400 feet was executed by three planes carrying the entire personnel of the test platoon. Making a low formation pass at Lawson Field, America's first paratroopers landed into the prop-blast as the aircraft on the ground observed the new concept of "attack from the air". As each man jumped, he pulled the pin on a smoke grenade, thus fired all the ammunition in his weapons during the short descent to the ground. Racing to pre-arranged key points, the new force Army troops quickly secured their objective.

THE ARMY would have paratrooper PFC's with second class specialist ratings. Ivy, Weeks and McLaney received their jump wings in the first ceremony of its kind, on Dec. 20, 1940, officially pinning the Airborne wings on the 49 test blazers of Army paratroopers were Col. (later Maj. Gen.) William C. Lee, and Col. (later Maj. Gen.) William M. Hester.



Lee County Hospital, L-R: Lillian Sawyer, Sp2 Roy Calnut, Sp3 Charles West, M/Sgt. Manning and Sp2 Kenneth Young, Sp2 Geoffrey Aris lies on table as whole blood is withdrawn by partial vacuum in bottle, top left. These EM gave blood to Reverend Leonard M. Dixon of Spring Lake Baptist Church. U.S. Army Photo

Sp2 Joseph Jaroshy-Rigger, PM Co., 187th ARCT adjust chute of Cpl. Allan Curtis, E Co., 187th ARCT in marshalling area at Pope AFB prior to a jump on DZ Sicily North. U.S. Army Photo



THIS PHOTO of the original Parachute Test Platoon was made shortly after the unit was organized July 3, 1940 at Fort Benning. Standing, from left, are: E. K. Patti, Jr., B. C. Kester, M. Gilbey (deceased), A. F. Robinson, L. T. Feltz, F. Anderson (deceased), J. E. Dewart, J. A. Egan, W. T. Evans, T. P. Schmitt, J. A. Bassett (deceased), T. Wilson, S. C. Kerley, Wallace J. Harris, A. Elberhardt, H. B. Wade, Thurman L. Weeks, J. F. Parley, Jr., J. E. S. ... (names partially obscured)

individual training. These airborne aspirants comprising the First Basic Airborne Company, 187th Airborne RCT, heard Lieutenant Colonel LeRoy D. Brummitt, combat team Executive Officer, who opened the two hour briefing with the warning, "To become a part of America's elite Airborne Force, you've got to push yourself until you drop. Some of you might wash out. But, all of you can make it if you never quit." Concluding the Colonel said, "For each of you I wish God's speed and Happy Landings."

At this time the 187th Advance Party began their trek to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel LeRoy D. Brummitt, the party departed in the early hours for the long overland journey. It was expected that the entire 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team would be solidly entrenched at their new Fort Campbell station by February 27th.

Moving out in pre-dawn darkness, the 15 truck convoy, carrying 114 Officers and enlisted men, was sent on its way by Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska, Commanding Officer of the 187th, and the Rakkasan band. These advance elements, upon reaching Fort Campbell, would pave the way for the reception of the remainder of the 187th Troopers, who would take leave of Fort Bragg in three separate movements. The first of these, a group of some 800 troopers, was scheduled to depart January 20th. The 187th would act as cadre in assisting in the formation of the re-activated 101st. The Rakkasans would be joined later by the 508th Airborne RCT, the nstationed in Japan.

The New Year saw the 674th Field Artillery Battalion become the first Battalion sized unit in 1956 to obtain membership of one hundred percent of eligible personnel in the Airborne Association. Three hundred seventy four members of the 674th, all of the qualified Airborne personnel in the Battalion, joined the newly formed association in the drive led by Major Edgar M. Sinclair, commanding officer. The Airborne Association was formed in 1954 for the purpose of uniting "fraternally all men . . . who are now or have been, qualified airborne troopers in a unit of the United States Armed Forces."

On the seventeenth of January, the first increment of the 187th ARCT left for Campbell. They were, the Third Battalion, under command of Major Henry F. Rouse, Engineer Company, Support Company, AAA Battery, Bn Sec Svc Company (Reinf), Med Platoon, Medical Company and Quartering Party RCT (—). This increment closed into their new home on the 19th with no unusual incidents or accidents to mar the trip.

January was a big month for 303 Basic Airborne Volunteers who, after five qualifying jumps, joined the elite circle of the Parachutists Corps. All of the volunteers had recently completed eight strenuous weeks of advanced individual training under the excellent guidance of 187th ARCT instructors. All presently are assigned to the RCT and will help cadre the newly activated 101st Airborne Division. Speakers at the impressive graduation exercise included Major General Thomas B. H. Trapnell, Commanding General, 82nd Airborne Division and Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska, Rakkasan Commander. Also during the month, the 7th and 8th Recruit Training Companies graduated from the eight week advanced infantry training cycle. Outstanding trainees for the companies were Pvt. James R. Hayes and Pvt. Harry L. Van Thorn.

January vanished in the coolness of Winter and the ground hog month of February was upon us. This period of the year, marked a special occasion. The 187th ARCT was to close with all increments into Fort Campbell.



PFC Enrique Rico, 22nd Engr. Co., 187th ARCT rolls up his chute after a jump on DZ Salerno in last unit jump at Ft. Bragg. U.S. Army Photo



L-R: WFLB TV Station. 26 Jan. 1956. SFC Lester C. McLaney, 623rd QM Co.; M/Sgt. Thurman L. Weeks, QM Co., 82nd Abn. Div.; M/Sgt. George W. Ivey, Hq. & Hq. Co., 187th ARCT. Mr. Bill Belche, TV Commentator, discuss how these 3 EM helped form the 1st Abn. Test Plat. at Ft. Benning, Ga. in 1942. U.S. Army Photo

Col. Chase inspects 187th Honor Guard at Fort Bragg, N. C., 28 Jan. 56, prior to assuming Cmd of 101st Abn. Div. (Adv) at Ft. Campbell, Ky.





Col. Joseph Ryneska, CO, 187th Abn. RCT, talks to Honor Guards, Sp3 Alberto Valesquez, PVT George Kallison, PFC Pelham Wagner, SP3 Donald Christensen. The Honor Guards are dressed in new Dress Blues. 12 Jan. 56

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Col. Joseph F. Ryneska, CO, 187th ARCT speaks to the officers and men of the 187th ARCT on their departure to Ft. Campbell, Ky.
U.S. Army Photo



PFC David Augustine, Hq. Co., 3rd Bn.; PFC James Pehrson Hq. Co., 3rd Bn. and SP3 Robert Pea, K Co., 3rd Bn. These men are of the first group to arrive at Fort Campbell, Ky. with the advanced group.
U.S. Army Photo

Rakkasans Form Chapter Of Airborne Association

M-Sgt. Leonard Axtman, the sergeant major of the 674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion and M-Sgt. Charles McGuire, 1st Sgt. of "B" Battery 674th were selected last week as President and Vice-President of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team Chapter of the Airborne Association.

The Chapter is at present in the planning stage. This was their second meeting since their return to the states. They have adopted a goal which is 100 percent membership in the association.

When this goal is reached the chapter will submit its application to association headquarters for official recognition as a separate and complete chapter.

M-Sgt. Axtman and M-Sgt. McGuire are working on the chapter constitution which when completed will be submitted to the members and then to the association for approval.



6 Jan. 1956. 674th FA Bn. joins Red Cross 100%
U.S. Army Photo

RAKKASAN BASIC AIRBORNE TRAINING

FORT BRAGG, N. C.



Basic Airborne Training Platoon, part of 700—187th ARCT men undergoing Parachute training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, report for landing fall exercises on Swing Trainer, out of picture to left. 82nd Airborne Division instructors, left, wear soft caps. U.S. Army Photo



Basic Airborne trainees learn technique of recovery from drag. Men in foreground recover deflated chute. —US Army Photo

Learning to 'recover from the drag,' the trainee will be held until wind machine (foreground) produces enough air to drag him.

—US Army Photo



187th ARCT fledgling paratroopers learn the technique of making a parachute landing by controlled drop from swing trainer. Rakkasan in harness will be released by instructor holding rope, right. U.S. Army Photo

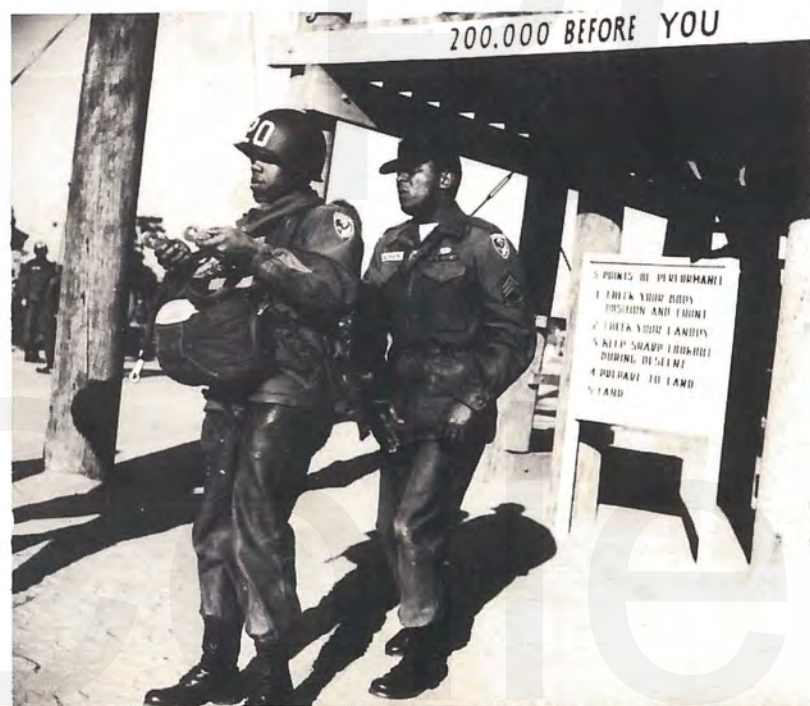
Rakkasan Commander, Col. Ryneska observes airborne student training.





Recovery from parachute drag mastered by 187th ARCT Basic Airborne Trainees at 82nd Airborne Division School. Wing machine, motor powered propeller, background, inflates parachute canopy, out of picture right, trainee, center, must flip from back to feet and run around canopy to collapse parachute. School instructors without head gear, correct faults as trainees wearing T-10 parachute assembly, rear, await turn. U.S. Army Photo

187th ARCT instructors, soft cap, examine harness of Basic Airborne trainee prior to exit from 34 foot tower, background. Sign refers to action paratrooper takes from moment of exit to landing. Paratrooper begins count at moment of jump. If main parachute fails to open at "Three Thousand," trooper pulls rip cord of his reserve. U.S. Army Photo



Practicing individual exits, 187th ARCT trainees are checked for proper procedure by instructor, left, prior to mounting 34 foot tower, background, for free fall training. Arms are held in high position simulating grasp of static line in aircraft. Harness will be attached to cable which will halt free fall of fifteen feet. U.S. Army Photo

Proper exit from an aircraft in flight is practiced by 187th basic Airborne trainee in leaps from 34 foot tower. Harness will stop free fall and trainee will slide to mound in background on steel cable. U.S. Army Photo





187th ARCT Airborne Trainee exiting from the 34 foot tower.

U.S. Army Photo

82nd Airborne Division instructor, on platform, grades 187th ARCT parachute trainee after jump from 34 foot tower. Rakkasans, awaiting turn on training aid, sit on benches in rear observing technique of men exiting



BASIC AIRBORNE TRAINING



Braced for impact, 187th Abn. Trainee Charles Bank prepares to strike earth mound ending long cable ride from 34 foot tower in background. Standing trainees, right to left, will catch and unhook Bank who will report to instructor, on stand far left rear, for grading on exit procedure. U.S. Army Photo

A 187th ARCT Airborne School Instructor shows Airborne trainee the correct way to do a Parachute Landing Fall.

—US Army Photo





Suspended harness helps teach 187th ARCT Airborne trainee Emery M. Phillips technique of controlling parachute in air. Instructors, SFC William V. Moore on platform, and SFC Willie Jones, steadying Phillips, both of the 187th ARCT, guide trainee in proper body position during free fall as trainee George J. Devear, right, awaits turn. U.S. Army Photo

Arms weighted with T-10 parachute assembly, including main and reserve parachutes, Private Harold J. Poulin, 187th ARCT paratroop trainee from Waterville, Maine, is issued Greswald Container for rifle slung on right shoulder, by 82nd Airborne School Instructor SP3 Maxie M. Frequez, Rosewell, New Mexico. Poulin, among three hundred Rakkasans undergoing parachute training, made his second of five qualifying parachute jumps shortly after picture was taken. U.S. Army Photo



Rakkasan parachute trainees practice exit from mock-up simulating fuselage of C-119 aircraft, under watchful eye of 187th and 82nd instructors. Static line, which rips parachute from back pack during free fall, is attached to anchor line cable running length of ship. U.S. Army Photo

Getting riggers check before enplaning for a parachute drop.

U.S. Army Photo





Kneeling Basic Airborne trainees front to rear, Privates Conrad P. Kennedy, Jr., Gene C. Deblok, Francis P. Conner and (partly hidden) Harry V. Dvorak, all of Quartermaster Company, 187th Airborne RCT, observe C-119 (Flying Box Car) which carry fellow students, taxi to Pope AFB runway. Soldiers donned parachutes, front, shortly after picture was taken to make first of five parachute jumps to qualify as Army Parachutists.
U.S. Army Photo



187th ARCT paratroop trainees getting names checked off roster before enplaning.

U.S. Army Photo

BASIC AIRBORNE TRAINING

Before take-off, co-pilot, 2nd Lt. Wilson C. Cooney, standing, 777th Troop Carrier, Pope AFB, briefs novice 187th ARCT paratroopers on emergency procedures as they prepare for first parachute jump. Seated students, left nearest camera, are Privates Merlin L. Boley, Salvador M. Romero, Charles F. Grinnell, Max G. Hall and Merle E. Miller. On right, nearest camera, are John A. Smith, Gene C. Deblok, Harry V. Dvorak and Joseph B. Glasgow. Trainees will make twenty minute plane ride, some for the first time, then exit through doors in rear 1200 feet over Normandy Drop Zone. Aircraft held 34 students on this lift.
U.S. Army Photo



Twelve hundred feet over Normandy Drop Zone, Fort Bragg, 187th ARCT novice jumpers leap into prop blast in first of five parachute jumps to qualify for jump wings. Following Merle E. Miller, whose static line appears in door corner, number two man, Max G. Hall, spins in door for crouching leap as Charles F. Grinnell and Salvador M. Romeo follow. Static lines, hooked to steel anchor line cable extending length of ship, will pull parachute bag from back pack and as trooper continues to fall, parachute will open about eighty-five feet below aircraft. 82nd Abn. Div. Jumpmaster Sgt. Richard E. Smith without headgear, clears each static line to prevent fouling as he signals each man's exit by sharp slap on buttocks. Helmets in foreground are of men who are making simultaneous exit from door on right. Assisted by Jumpmaster Sgt. LeRoy Kuykendall, 187th ARCT.
U.S. Army Photo



PVT Coy G. Housley, "C" Battery, 674th FA Bn., 187th ARCT, last of 20 novice jumpers, exits 1200 feet over Normandy Drop Zone in first of 5 basic parachute jumps requisite to earning Parachute Badge. Static line has ripped parachute bag from back pack as suspension lines begin to play out. Parachute canopy of preceding jumpers, in various stages of inflation are in background. White area is ploughed sand of Drop Zone which parachutists will reach 40 seconds after exit. Body falling free from 1000 feet will strike earth in eight seconds.
U.S. Army Photo





"Parachute Landing Fall" the technique of rolling into ground to absorb the shock of landing over the entire body, is made by James M. McKeever, H Co., 187th ARCT novice jumper during jump week at 82nd Abn. Parachute School, Fort Bragg . U.S. Army Photo

Hastily gathering his chute in a "rigger roll" PVT Lee R. Altum, Sbc. Co., 187th ARCT, Airborne trainee, prepares to place parachute in kit bag and join fellow students at assembly point. Students, returning to Pope AFB by truck, made second parachute jump same day. U.S. Army Photo

Pvt. Richard H. L. Young, 187th ARCT graduate paratrooper from Fallston, Maryland, received Parachutists Badge from Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska, Rakkasan Commander in formal ceremonies which graduated 296 187th ARCT men at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. 30 January 1956 —US Army Photo



Excellent "prepare to land" attitude is assumed by 187th ARCT novice Jumper as he comes in for touch-down on first parachute jump. Other members of same "stick" run around silk canopies to collapse parachutes inflated by stiff breeze. Instructors on ground direct jumpers in the air to correct faulty "attitudes." U.S. Army Photo

FEBRUARY • MARCH 1956

On the 4th of February graduation ceremonies were conducted for the 9th and 10th Recruit Training Companies. Colonel Ryneska was the featured speaker and he presented letters of commendation to the outstanding trainees, Pvt. Ted Freeze and Pvt. Alex Noftsgar. With the graduation of these two companies the First Battalion concluded their phase of the training cycle for recruits. From the period 17 October 1955 through 4 February, 1956, 1838 recruits were administered eight weeks of advanced individual training.

On the sixth of the month "L" Company began their portion of the recruit training program at Fort Campbell. Two hundred fifty-one trainees assigned to this company were scheduled for graduation 31 March. 1557 recruits were assigned to the 187th on the sixth to complete their basic training.

A story of interest appeared in the *Fayetteville Observer* about this time that concerned the movement of the Rakkasans. It said that Headquarters of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, Gyroscoped from Japan in July, 1955, will close at Fort Bragg, February 17th to complete six months duty at the military post. Scheduled to cadre the reactivated 101st Airborne Division of World War II fame at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, this year, the Rakkasans had for five years, been the only airborne unit in the Far East.

Activated at Fort Bragg in the early days of the last war as part of the 11th Airborne Division, the 187th was committed to combat in the Pacific Theatre. On occupation duty in Japan after the war, the 187th was activated as a regimental combat team after returning to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Rushed to the Far East at the outbreak of hostilities the regiment made to combat jumps in Korea and later broke up the infamous Koje-do, POW riots.

Occupying part of the United Nations lines near Kumwha in North Central Korea at the armistice, the Rakkasans returned to Japan in October, 1953. Relieved by the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in July, the 187th will be joined by its sister unit when the 508th returns from Japan in June to become part of the new "Screaming Eagles" Airborne Division.

Colonel Joseph Ryneska, 187th commander, departed Fort Bragg on February 20th with most of the remaining command. Some rear elements would remain at Fort Bragg to complete advance individual and basic airborne training to be conducted. It was expected that all personnel of the 187th would close in at the new station by early March. Members of the 3rd Battalion and other advance elements had initiated ground and airborne training at Fort Campbell and were planning new concepts of airborne organization for the groups of the 101st Airborne Division.

On the 11th of February rehabilitation of the Jump School at Fort Campbell began under the command of Captain Vranish. The 22nd Engineer Company was responsible for all work needed at the school. Under the leadership of 1st Lieutenant James P. Smallwood, the Engineers did their usual superlative job.

The 2nd increment of the move of the 187th departed for Campbell

on the 14th. The 674th FA Battalion and attached units satisfactorily completed this move on the 16th.

Three predecessors of today's Army paratroopers still on jump status joined the Airborne Association Century Club in recognition of over 100 parachute jumps made by these members of the Original Test Platoon. Colonel Edson D. Raff, vice president of the Airborne Association presented gold wings and lifetime membership cards to Sergeant First Class Lester McLaney, 623d QM Co., Master Sergeant George W. Ivy, Hq & Hq Co., 187th ARCT, and Master Sergeant Thurman L. Weeks, 1st Sgt, QM Co., 82nd Abn Division.

Down in Head Second, Sergeant First Class Stanley Wehlman was selected to participate in Arctic training at Thule AFB, Greenland. He was in Greenland for approximately two months and became thoroughly indoctrinated in all phases of survival and operations in extremely cold weather. Upon return to his unit he became an invaluable asset in teaching other Rakkasans to function in the Arctic in case they are ever called upon to do so.

During the month 1st Lieutenant "Ish" Pack, Adjutant of the Third Battalion was selected as administrative assistant to Colonel Charles Chase, CG, 101st Abn Div (Adv). His replacement was 1st Lieutenant George W. Gaspard, Jr.

Convoys were still moving through the Great Smokies as the 3rd Increment consisting of 2nd Bn, Med Co. (—), PM Co, Hq and Hq Co (—), and Bn Svc Co (Reinf) departed for Fort Campbell on the 21st. The next day, the 4th Increment consisting of the 1st Bn, Svc Co, Hq and Hq Co (—), and "A" Btry, 674th FA Bn bid adieu to Fort Bragg. Both units were roundly welcomed to Fort Campbell by members of the 187th who were already present.

Also on the 23rd 1st Lieutenant Robert K. Mosier was appointed as 3rd Bn S-4 and Major Robert H. Phillips took over as Executive Officer of the Third Battalion. The RCT greeted the XVIII Airborne Corps Commander, Major General Paul D. Adams to the Post, on an inspection visit.

On the 26th of February the annual Red Cross Drive got under way in the RCT under the capable guidance of Capt. Richard O. Jett, RCT S-2. "K" Company picked up 199 recruits on the 27th to begin eight week individual training. First Lieutenant Leonard M. Hanzer, Captain Clarence E. McChristian and Captain Francis L. Champoux were designated as RCT Adjutant, S-3 and S-4 respectively.

Toward the end of February, the RCT formally welcomed the arrival of Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska, CO of the Rakkasans at Fort Campbell. Since the departure of the advance party in January from Fort Bragg, the RCT had been under the command of Lieutenant Colonel LeRoy Brummitt, Regimental Executive Officer.

At Fort Campbell, Colonel Ryneska headed the Combat Team during the early formative action taken in the reactivation of the 101st Airborne Division slated for later this year.

A new nickname was heard throughout the RCT; "Rouse's Motel," as the Third Battalion and particularly Head Third, housed separate



L-R: TE/Z James Hanson, U.S. Navy, PFC Bernard W. Jacobs, 187th ARCT, PFC M. D. Shivers, U.S. Marines, SP3 Donald E. Wilcox, Med. Sect, 27th Engr. Bn., PVT Berthan Hassett, 127th Abn Engr. Bn., 11th Abn. Div. and A/1st Cl. Delbert Martin, Air Force, these men represent all the Military units in the Clarksville area, at a party at the USO Club in Clarksville.
U.S. Army Photo

5 March 1956. Importantly cast in the ceremonies marking General Johnson's arrival and departure were the 60-man honor guard of the 187th ARCT commanded by First Lieutenant Phillip C. Miller and the unit's celebrated Rakkasan Band directed by Chief Warrant Officer Nathan A. Cammack.
U.S. Army Photo



units and detachments. The 7290th Guidance Unit pitched billets with Lieutenant Zahm's Headquarters Company and 1st Sgt. Jim Bryan was anxiously trying to find the 600 odd men carried on the morning report. These men were casuels attached for administration.

A Planning Staff Group was formed and Major Myers immediately began to set up the Operations Center.

The Airborne and the Air Force got together on the 28th to collaborate in a special jump in commemoration and celebration of 1,000,000 jumps from 18th Air Force Aircraft since the inception of the Troop Carrier Air Force in 1951. A flight of C-119 "Flying Boxcars" from Sewart AFB, crewed by combat tested personnel, carried out the special mission with 12 paratroopers of the 11th Airborne Division and the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team.

Jumpmaster for this historic operation was Master Sergeant William L. Reed, personally selected by Brigadier General Joseph W. Stilwell, Jr., who commands those elements of the 11th Airborne Division still at Fort Campbell. Sergeant Reed has served in all units of XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 11th Airborne Division and the 187th ARCT. He rejoined the 187th prior to his historic jump.

February was filled with memories of firemen details, post guard, regimental guard and many, many working parties. It seemed as if the Rakkansas were to guard, clean, repair or heat every building at Fort Campbell. It just seemed as if there were not enough breathing bodies to fit all the committments. However, somehow this hurdle was leaped and February became part of the distant past.

March roared in and many radical changes which began to affect the organization of the 187th. A Test Battle Group "Neptune" was formed, composed of the Second Battalion, "A" Company, "B" Btry and several special platoons. Major Sheldon Thompson assumed command of Neptune and training in the principle of the Battle Group Concept was begun.

On the 8th the 101st Airborne Division Planning Group (Adv) was organized with the following personnel; Lieutenant Colonel LeRoy Brummitt, Chief of Group, Captain Charles G. Prather G-3, and 1st Lieutenant George S. Guy and 2nd Lieutenant Herbert Reuter, Jr. Another important personnel change was the assignment of Lieutenant Colonel Johnson G. Lemmon as Commanding Officer of the First Battalion relieving Major Jack Belford who became Executive Officer of the Battle Group Neptune.

One of the RCT separate units, the 22nd Engineer Company, certainly carried more than it's share of the work load during the months of February and March. This sterling unit had many varied assignments and performed all of them well. The motto of the Corps of Engineers "Essayons," a word meaning "We Will Try" is being fulfilled by the Airborne Engineers of the 187th ARCT. The Rakkasans of the 22nd Engineer Company, one of the most versatile companies of the Regimental Combat Team are experts in construction, demolition, battle, and the laying or removal of mine fields. For five years this was the only

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In Its 7th Year of Service To The Personnel of Fort Campbell
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY—TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1956

Historic One Millionth Jump Commemorated

Reed Selected As Jumpmaster; 12 Paratroopers In Jump

Army And Air Force Get
Together In Ceremonies Here



March 8, 1956—100% contributed. Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska, commander of the 187th ARCT, here commends First Lieutenant Alvah C. Monshower (center) Medical Company Commander and First Lieutenant Grady A. Culpepper, (right) AAA Battery Commander, on their individual units becoming first in the RCT to reach the 100% mark in the current Red Cross Drive. U.S. Army Photo

CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE—SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 24, 1956

101st Division To Have 'Honest John' Rockets

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In Its 7th Year of Service To The Personnel of Fort Campbell
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1956

"RAKKASANS" LEAD RED CROSS DRIVE

"More Blessed To Give..."

'Rakkasan' Paratroopers Repay An Old Debt With Their Blood

By PEC Bob Geddy

A debt was paid last week by the paratroopers of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. It was a debt paid in human blood to the American Red Cross Bloodmobile from Nashville, Tenn. Here for its regular monthly visit, the unit, staffed by seven trained nurses and civilian volunteers set up headquarters at the post's Recreation Center.

Two hundred fifty rugged, fighting men of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team came to greet them. Sleeves rolled up, these Rakkasan paratroopers cheerfully prepared to donate a pint each of the precious sustaining human blood.

Gave With Smile

They stepped forward with a ready and willing smile. The line of volunteer donors was long, and there was a time of waiting before each man could give the required pint of blood. Some of the troopers joked and laughed in the easy way that young men do, but there were others, a bit older, with more stripes on their sleeves and ribbons on their chests, who were quiet.

The quiet men in the long line were thinking of the days of terrible action in the past. The memories of some went back as far as World War II, others thought of Korea.

Some of the silent men were remembering the bitter Leyte campaign of the Second World War, when the Japanese, fighting for every inch of the steaming jungle they defended, inflicted heavy casualties on the American force before being completely destroyed. The air had been filled with the cries of wounded men as they called for the medic and his life saving plasma. Men died in this fierce combat, but many more, wounded, bloody and torn, were brought back from the brink of death by the freely donated human blood of their fellow Americans.

There were paratroopers in the blood donor line who had seen combat with the great Airborne divisions of the American Army. There was evident the All-American patch of the 82nd Airborne Division, the Screaming Eagle of the 101st Airborne Division, the blue and orange dragon of the 13th Airborne Division, the grasping claw of the 17th Airborne Division, and the silver winged insignia of the 11th Airborne Division.

In Remembrance

These troopers were giving blood in remembrance of the wounded of Sicily, Salerno, Normandy, Holland, the jump across the Rhine, and the combat air assault on the rock of the Pacific, Corregidor. They realized the importance of their donation from personal combat experience. In line was a tough, grizzled Master Sergeant who, re-



BLOODMOBILE VISITS FORT — Sergeant Robert Stouff, a member of the 674th Artillery Battalion of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, rests easy as he donates the monthly visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile. Nurse Jewel Clarke of Nashville cheerfully and equipment to make sure that every thing is in order.

his own personal reminder of the importance of human blood in a crisis. On his jacket was the ribbon of the Purple Heart.

Not all of the men who gave their blood had such personal combat reminders of the importance of regular blood donation, but they did know of friends and relatives who only recently had been helped by the American Red Cross blood bank. People they knew, who had been mangled and crushed in the wreckage of automobiles, who had suffered from blood destroying maladies, and who had undergone dangerous and prolonged surgery, had survived only because blood and plasma was there, ready and waiting.

The most prevailing necessity of a reserve human blood is for the 187th the recent combat. In the desperate hills and ridges of the young men, with a patch on their shoulder, ten the call for plasma never forgot.

Need Was

Committed to month after mental C...

The American casualties were heavy and the need for blood was desperate. Men lived only because they received this fluid of life in time, and in sufficient quantity.

The paratroopers soon found out from terrible experience that victory in battle is too often won only with a heavy price in men and material. Blood had to be ready to be used.

ARCTIC... quickly... necessary... and per... cheer...



Blood donations by the Rakkasans, 14 Mar. 56

Returns Swell To \$5,209

937th Banks Next In Drive

937th Engineer Group — 100% of personnel...

101st Airborne Division — 100% of personnel...

101st Airborne Division — 100% of personnel...

101st Airborne Division — 100% of personnel...

101st Airborne Division — 100% of personnel...

101st Airborne Division — 100% of personnel...

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101st Airborne Division — 100% of personnel...

101st Airborne Division — 100% of personnel...

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group of airborne engineers in the Far East Command and during that time, they became the first and only airborne unit to drop and construct two complete bridges during training in Japan after a similar mission had been accomplished in Korea.

The first bridge drop occurred in the Chosin Reservoir sector shortly after the Chinese intervened in that conflict. This bridge weighing 32 tons was 480 feet long and required six C-119's for air transportation. It was subsequently used in support of Marine activities in that sector. The second "Operation Bridge Drop" was the largest attempted. Teamed with members of the 81st Aerial Resupply and Packing Unit and the 483rd Troop Carrier Wing, the 22nd Airborne Engineer Company dropped, secured, and erected a 486 foot infantry foot bridge on April 16, 1954 as part of regular training. A third such drop and construction was carried out during February 1955 when the Rakkasans Engineers dropped, under combat conditions a 350 foot aluminum span at Oita Drop Zone and erected it over the treacherous Ura Kawa river. A timed operation, it took the Engineers 31 minutes from the time the bridge was dropped to place it across the river. The most important mission carried out by the 22nd since their arrival at Fort Campbell was the complete renovation of the Jump School.

In March, six men from the 187th were awarded the gold wings of Airborne Association Century Club. Those receiving their gold wings were, 1st Lieutenant Donald D. Dowie, 215 jumps, Master Sergeant James M. Thomas, 124 jumps, Master Sergeant James A. Williamson, 124 jumps, Master Sergeant James A. Franklin, 138 jumps, Master Sergeant William P. Riebsame, 115 jumps, and Sergeant First Class Robert H. Isenbath, 117 jumps. All are members of the Regimental Airborne Association in making the presentation said, "Of the million paratroopers who have completed airborne training very few have the honor of making one hundred parachute jumps." At present less than one hundred paratroopers are members of the gold parachutist wings club.

Medical Company commanded by 1st Lieutenant Alvah C. Moshower, and AAA Battery, led by 1st Lieutenant Grady A. Culpepper, were the first two units of the 187th ARCT to reach 100 percent membership in the annual Red Cross Drive. Both CO's were commended by Colonel Joseph Ryneska.

Formal dedication ceremonies were held at Fort Campbell on March 6th marking the official assembly of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team at Fort Campbell. Headed by Colonel Charles H. Chase, commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Adv) and Fort Campbell, the colorful ceremony included an Invocation by Chaplain (Major) Franklin T. Gosser, and address by Colonel Chase, and a brief resume of Rakkasan accomplishments by Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska. In the opening moments of the formal ceremony Colonel Chase said, in part, "The 187th ARCT is now officially home and with its historical record of achievement during the fighting in Korea as a basis, can be depended

upon to add much to the future development of the 101st Airborne Division.

Before assembly Rakkasans which included the RCT staff and with representative officers and non-commissioned officers of the First, Second and Third Battalions, the 674th Field Artillery Battalion, and all separate companies, Colonel Ryneska remarked, "It is with reverence to the memory of our departed comrades whose blood was the price of freedom and dedication for the Airborne Code-of-honor in our continuing fight for peace, that we gather here today."

Continuing, the RCT commander reminded the assembly that on August 27, 1950, the 187th Airborne RCT was organized at Fort Campbell and sped to Korea to help in the fight against Communist oppression. Further, that for five years the 187th was the only Airborne Unit in the Far East Command. "Now," he said, "the cycle is complete; the RCT is officially back home . . . back where it started nearly six eventful years ago."

Following Colonel Ryneska's remarks was the official unveiling of the redesigned Headquarters sign by Colonel Chase. At this point the Rakkasan Honor Guard and the entire military assembly came to rigid attention at the command of 1st Lieutenant Phillip C. Miller, the Guard Commander. Then, with Chief Warrant Officer Nathan A. Cammack directing the RCT band through the National Anthem, the Rakkasans and attending guests rendered appropriate honors.

Closing the ceremony, Chaplain Gosser offered prayers for peace in the name of Rakkasan's honored dead.

On the 21st of March the Basic Airborne School was formally organized and instructor training was begun. Airborne Combat Group Neptune made a tactical drop on the 27th under the watchful eye of Major General Paul D. Adams, XVIII Airborne Corps Commanding General. The troopers were led by their CO, Major Sheldon Thompson. It was the first such airborne exercise for the unique test group. At 1630 hours on the same day, the 187th ARCT conducted a Retreat parade in honor of General Adams. One of the interested spectators at the parade was Major General Thomas Sherburne who was slated to become the Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division.

Between the 27th and 30th of March the Regiment jumped a total of 3149 personnel, who will remember these days as very windy. Many a trooper made a tree landing.

"L" Company graduated 239 recruits on the 30th at a Battalion retreat ceremony. Under the guidance of Captain James Watkins, who acted as Troop Commander, selected trainees were picked as student officers for this occasion. Officer and enlisted instructors were formed in a spectator group to witness the parade. Acting as Adjutant was First Sergeant Hamberlin. The 187th Band played appropriate honors. Reviewing the graduating recruits were Colonel Joseph Ryneska and Major Henry F. Rouse. Colonel Ryneska congratulated the trainees and instructed them in the importance of joining the Airborne Team.



FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMPETITION — Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska, commanding officer, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team (kneeling) examines the collective trophies and awards of (from left) Sergeant Lafayette Keaton, Captain Thomas G. Rosell, and Master Sergeant Charles McGuire after awarding them the Excellence in Competition Award as a result of their participation with 1-year's AFPE Eight Army Rifle-Pistol Team. (Photo by Robertson)

Three Rakkasans Get Outstanding Marksmen Awards At Fort Campbell

The Excellence in Competition Award for outstanding marksmen of each competition was received by three Rakkasans who as members of the 1950 AFPE Eight Army Rifle-Pistol Team, snatched up victories throughout the Far East and the United States. At Fort Campbell, the three Rakkasans were awarded the Excellence in Competition Award as a result of their participation with 1-year's AFPE Eight Army Rifle-Pistol Team. Five days later, on a whirlwind in them to four additional stations and pick some of the best and civilian marksmen circles. At Fort Campbell, the three Rakkasans were awarded the Excellence in Competition Award as a result of their participation with 1-year's AFPE Eight Army Rifle-Pistol Team.

15 March 1956. L-R: 1st Lt. James P. Smallwood presents S-3 Nathaniel R. Davis a three-day pass, \$10.00 and a letter of achievement for being chosen outstanding driver in 22nd Engr. Co., 187th ARCT.

U.S. Army Photo



One Day Of Advanced Infantry Training

187th Trains Recruits To Be World's Finest Soldiers - Paratroopers

By BEN TALLEY
 Editor's note: Advanced Infantry Training - eight week course - 187th ARCT - Fort Campbell, Ky. - 1956. Recruits are trained for that darkness. Branch of Army - 187th ARCT. Training at 187th ARCT. Camp C. Recruits are trained in all phases of infantry combat. Recruits are trained in all phases of infantry combat. Recruits are trained in all phases of infantry combat.



SFC David White, Support Co., 187th ARCT teach recruits how to be forward observer for 4.2" mortar at OP No. 8, Fort Bragg, N.C. U.S. Army Photo



PRE-FIRE INSTRUCTION: 8 Feb. 1956. Before the actual firing the entire class received instruction on functioning, nomenclature, assembly, and disassembly of the weapon. M/SGT Gene A. Hines (on platform) explained much of the weapon to the aspiring troopers and here he conducts a class on the functioning, explaining thoroughly the work of each individual part. As SFC John Dawkins, Co. L, walks up and down line of trainees to give aid where needed. U.S. Army Photo



THE AUTOMATIC RIFLE: Privates Leland D. Downing and Thomas Cunningham here use the "coach and firer" method in firing the Automatic Rifle. With Downing in the firing position Cunningham became the coach and made any corrections necessary during the firing. Both of these men are Airborne volunteers and, upon completion of the eight weeks Advanced Infantry Course, will graduate to Airborne Training to earn their parachute wings. U.S. Army Photo

PVT Ishmael Maldonado, assistant gunner on 60 mm Mortar—K Co.—187th ARCT prepares mortar round for firing.

L-R: PVT Peter L. Larcone, CPL James Steele, PVT Michael S. Dendrid, prepare to fire 60 mm mortar. All 3 EM are from K Co., 187th ARCT. U.S. Army Photo



**187TH
 ADVANCE INFANTRY
 TRAINING
 FORT CAMPBELL, KY.**



PVT Jessie Underwood, standing with 30 cal machine gun prepares to set it up with the help of PVT Larry Heft, on ground, both of L Co., 187th ARCT during recruit training with L Co. in the field. U.S. Army Photo

L-R: CPL Louis Nieves, Asst. Gunner, CPL James Steele, Gunner—60 mm Mortar fire while observers on hill observe when round hits—all EM are from K Co., 187th ARCT. U.S. Army Photo

PVT Harry Meyer, L Co., from Chicago, Ill., fires a grenade from an M-1 rifle during recruit training with L Co., 187th ARCT in the field. U.S. Army Photo





SP-2 Robert E. Jones, Svc. Btry., 674 wheel vehicle mechanic repair a drive shaft on a 674th truck.



Radio Section of Commo, Platoon, Hq. & Hq. Co.—checking out radio and/GRCB.

L to R, SP-3 James Cumliffe and Sgt. Clyde Williams directing traffic at Gate No. 4 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.



187th QM Parachute Packing Sheds. Members of the Co. are repacking and inspecting T-10 parachutes prior to their being jumped by members of the RCT.



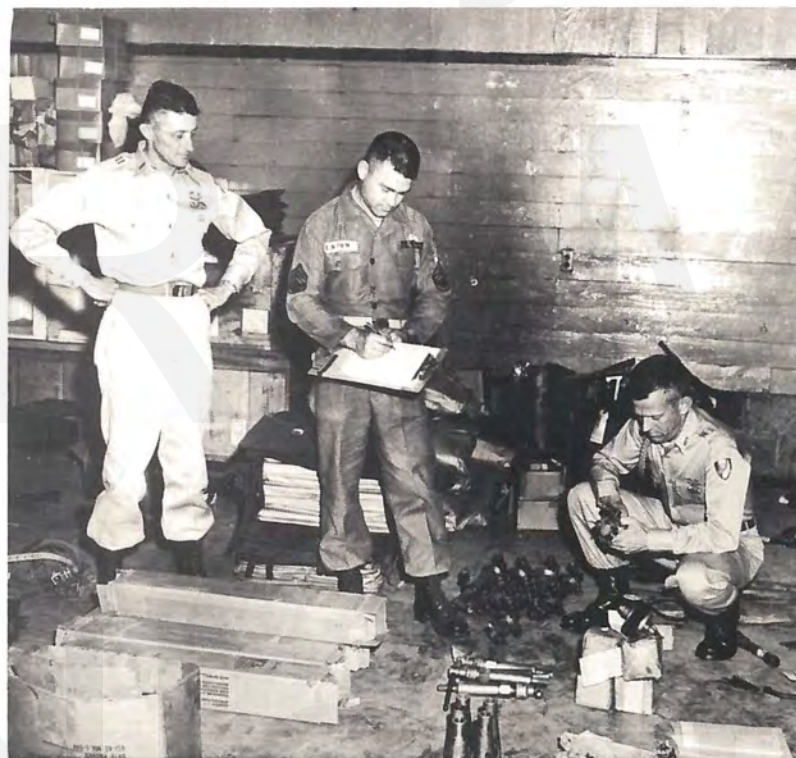


Parachute Maintenance Building.



Left to Right: Pfc. Donald Whalen, Med. Det., receiving his shots from SP-2 Robert Vandergriff, 187th Med. Co., SP-2 Dale Hosteller, Med. Co. 187th, SP-3 Nelson Smith, Med. Co., 187th Band and Sgt. Guddalupe M. Rodrigues, 2nd Bn. awaits their turn.

PVT Frank Mitchell, Supply Clerk, SGT James R. Harris, Supply Sgt., AAA Btry., equip a dummy with field equipment.



L-R: PFC Joseph Higgins, Svc. Co. (Re-enlists for 6 years), SFC John T. Diffin, Recruiting Sgt., PVT Claude Hudson, Svc. Co., Reenlisting Clerk, PVT Joseph B. Glasgow (re-enlist for 3 years from US to RA).



Read The First Installment Of The 101st Airborne Division's History - Pages 8, 9

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In Its 7th Year of Service To The Personnel of Fort Campbell
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY, TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1956

BATTLE GROUP IN HISTORIC MASS DROP

Neptune review for presentation of Gold Wings of Century Club Members and Cert. of Achievement for Photo Contest, 13 Apr. 56



APRIL 1956

With the arrival of Easter and the showers of April, the presence of the 187th ARCT was very well known. Taking the cue from the Rakkasans, other units on Fort Campbell were beginning to spruce up their areas. The regiment had come a long way in the improvement of grounds and police. Whitewash and paint was in evidence everywhere and the drive down 42nd street from Indiana through Kansas was a scenic wonder. Unit signs, freshly ornamented, sprung from the ground. The gamut of originality expressed itself in identification with "Mighty Mike," "Ibu," "King Kong" and "Lion Co." Flowers appeared as if by magic and many green thumbs were busily sowing grass seed and planting shrubbery. Even the Division Headquarters acquired a fresh coat of white paint as if in defiance of the activities of the Rakkasans. The wonder of Spring with its feeling of aliveness had replaced the drab coloring of the past winter. Many can remember the early morning PT runs down Indiana to the Air Force Base as Captain "Joe" Castelli would avidly count off the names and characteristics of birds, feathered ones, along the roadside.

The Raks will also remember the warm hospitality of the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce as they gave a mammoth barbecue, talent show and dance, as a greeting to the 187th ARCT. Approximately 2,000 military guests and civilian hosts attended the "187th Top Three Graders," welcome at the Clarksville Armory.

Back at the Post, the 601st Aerial Supply Company, commanded by 1st Lieutenant Jack E. Angel, a former Rakkasan, made a spectacular tactical heavy drop on Los Banos Drop Zone. A composite 8,000 pound payload was dropped under simulated battle conditions. Utilizing three C-119's aircraft, two carrying 1,000 pound loads and a third with a gigantic 6,000 pound bundle, the men of the 601st realistically insured the success of their mission. These men packed the heavy drop chutes, prepared every bundle and secured it to the heavy drop platforms, loaded and air dropped the supplies and jumped themselves afterward to supervise the recovery of the supplies and secure their paratroop equipment.

Turning to lighter things, a soldier from "F" Company was selected by the Department of the Army to compete in the Olympic trials at San Francisco. For the past ten years Sergeant Roy I. Barnes has competed in cycling from the British West Indies to Japan where he served with the 187th since May 1953. Sgt. Barnes won the Sam Myers Memorial Cup in 1947, and won third place honors in the Governor's Cup race, also held in Jamaica in 1948.

A new distinguished unit insignia designed by the Rakkasan Artillery Commander, Major Alvin K. Charles, became the official coat-of-arms for the 674th Field Artillery Battalion in an impressive ceremony. Colorfully designed, the new crest depicts a howitzer on a heavy drop platform suspended by a descending inflated parachute. A brass tab at the Crest's base is inscribed "Thunder from Above," the Battalion motto. The Artillery Battalion of the 187th Regimental Combat Team was highly commended by Colonel Joseph Ryneska, who headed the ceremony. "I'm proud of the 674th Field Artillery Battalion," the Colonel said, "Since I have been the Combat Team's Commander, you have carried every assigned mission to a successful close. I know," Colonel Ryneska concluded, "that any commander would be just as proud of this unit as I am. You and your outfit are top-notch and I am pleased to be present with you on this occasion." Colonel Ryneska then pinned the new



Saturday morning Review. 14 Apr. 56

Colonel Joseph Ryneska, CO 187th looks at a Robins nest on steps of RCT Hqs. 18 Apr. 1956



Members of the 22nd Abn. Engr. Co., 187th ARCT load tree stumps, logs and other debris from the 187th DZ while they had the task of clearing the DZ for safer jumps in the future.

General Hickey arrives at Fort Campbell. 28 Apr. 1956



crests on the shoulder of Major Charles, The Arty CO, and on Master Sergeant Leonard T. Axtman, Bn Sgt. Major, and on Assistant Arty Sergeant Major, Henry Bishop, a veteran artilleryman who joined the 674th upon its activation in early 1943. Closing the ceremony, each man of the 674th pinned the new crests on his buddy's shoulders while the Rakkasan Combat Band played the popular Carmichael tune, "Stardust."

A majority of the Regimental Activity was taking place in the Fort Campbell Jump School during the month of April. The school opened its first class with graduating recruits from "L" Company and other individuals in the Regiment. The school is commanded by Captain Robert L. Vranish and consists of four officers and seventy-two enlisted men.

The Jump School, has as its mission the task of making paratroopers. Its no easy job. The Instructors are carefully chosen from the ranks of the combat tested 187th ARCT. Fully aware that the sky can be terribly unforgiving of the slightest mistake, these competent instructors teach fledgling paratroopers to react accordingly. Nothing must be left to chance. All training must be directed toward the fact that mistakes in jumping often exact payment in life or serious injury. As the young future jumpers rush through the PLF platforms, Mock doors, 34 foot tower, Swing Landing trainers, suspended harness and the wind machine

drag, they are constantly being observed. Repetition is the keynote and the student begins to react immediately. From the many hours of excellent airborne training and controlled supervision and with the desire to be a member on the Airborne Team, the novice jumper will become part of the elite parachutist organization.

Attachments from Fort Bragg, North Carolina were seen in the area of Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, as five officers and sixty-five enlisted men of "A" Company, 44th Tank Battalion arrived to start training for an Airborne-Armored demonstration held on May 2nd. Speaking of visitors, Fort Campbell was host to approximately 100 ROTC seniors and juniors from surrounding colleges and universities. The cadets were escorted through several post activities and witnessed a jump by the Rakkasans. The future officers were billeted and messed with "I" Company of the Third Battalion.

The communications Platoon of Headquarters Company, Third Battalion departed for Fort Benning for an exercise. The platoon is commanded by 1st Lieutenant Hollingsworth who recently joined the Regiment and Master Sergeant Constantine is the platoon sergeant.

One of the most stirring and heart rending stories of April was the unselfish devotion of a Rakkasan toward a critically ill girl in a Nashville

Hospital. PFC Gene E. McDowell of "M" Company, after hearing of the tragic burning of seven year old girl, gave 44 square inches of his skin for a graft in an attempt to save the life of Deltina Norvall. The operation became necessary after the child was critically burned over sixty-five percent of her body when her dress went up in flames on March 27th. The donated skin was necessary to help form tissue and aid the healing of the burns. Unfortunately, although the operation was repeated twice, young Deltina's body could not cope with her misfortune and she succumbed.

The Airborne School graduated its first class as 196 new paratroopers received their wings. Led by Private William F. Burke, Honor Graduate, the proud parachutists, were reviewed by recently promoted Brigadier General Chase and Colonel Joseph Ryneska in an impressive formation. A wing pinning ceremony, always a highlight in an airborne graduation, was carried through by high ranking officers of the Post and the 187th.

One of the new jumpers was Captain Dave Dial, one of the fearless aviators of 187th Aviation Section affectionately known as the "Teeny Weeny Air Line." Captain Dial looked mighty trim after three weeks of constant physical activity.

Boxing, K Co. vs. L Co. 19 Apr. 56



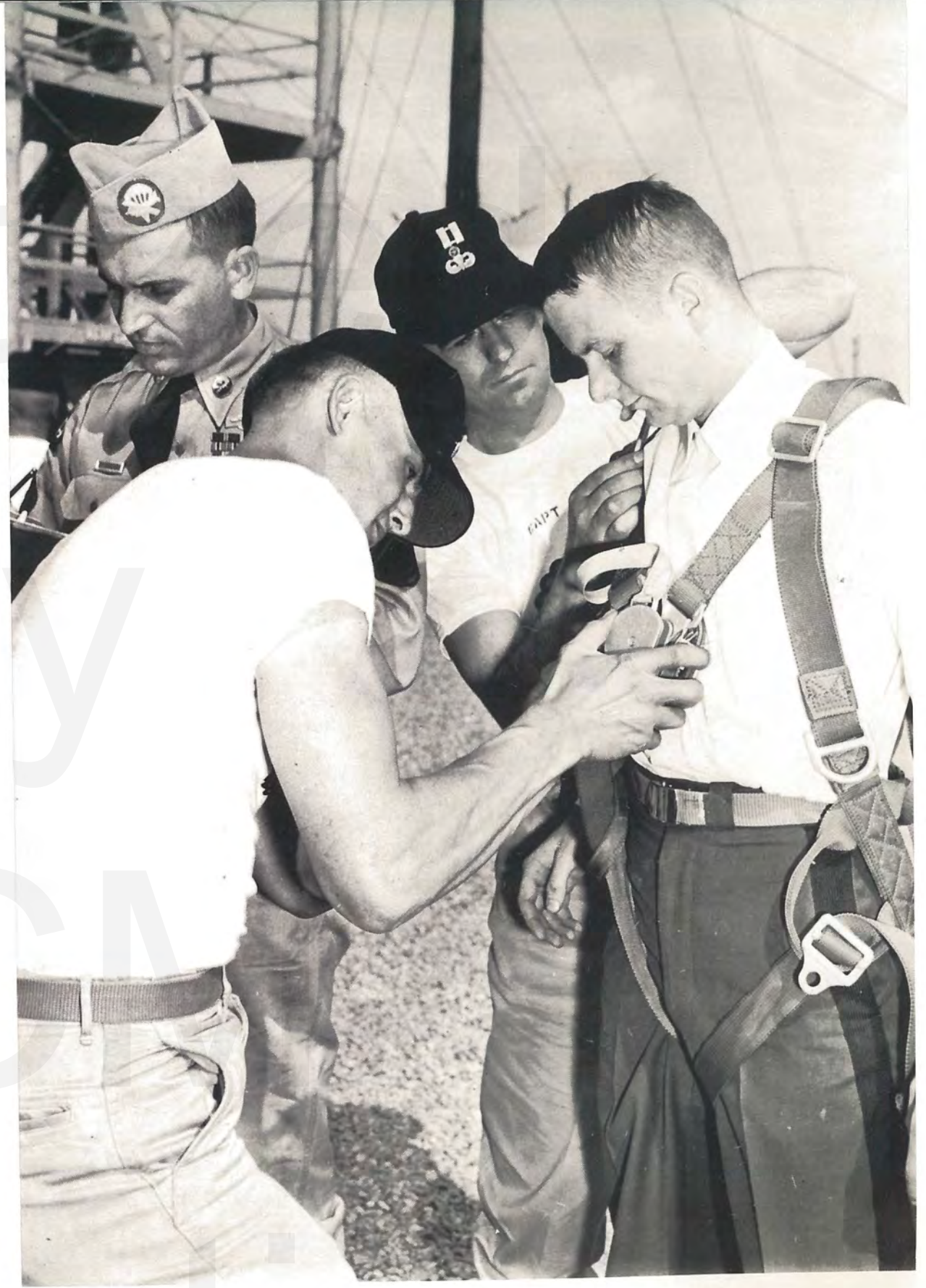
Paris Tennessee Fish Fry with 187th Honor Guard—Tennessee beauty queen inspects rifle. 27 Apr. 56





L to R, SFC. Robert Hobbs of Company "C" receives Letter of Commendation for honor graduate of NCO School at Fort Benning from Coloney Brunnitt, 18 Apr. 56

L to R, Colonel Joseph Ryneska, CO, 187th Abn. RCT pins new crest of 674 FA Bn. on Major Charles, CO of the 674th FA Bn. 21 Apr. 56



ROTC students volunteer for 34 foot tower jump. 26 Apr. 56

Published Weekly
In the Interest of
Ft. Campbell Personnel

The Courier

Smart Money
Savings Bonds

★ ★
Volume 7

In Its 7th Year of Service To The Personnel of Fort Campbell
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY, TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1956

★ ★
NO. 14

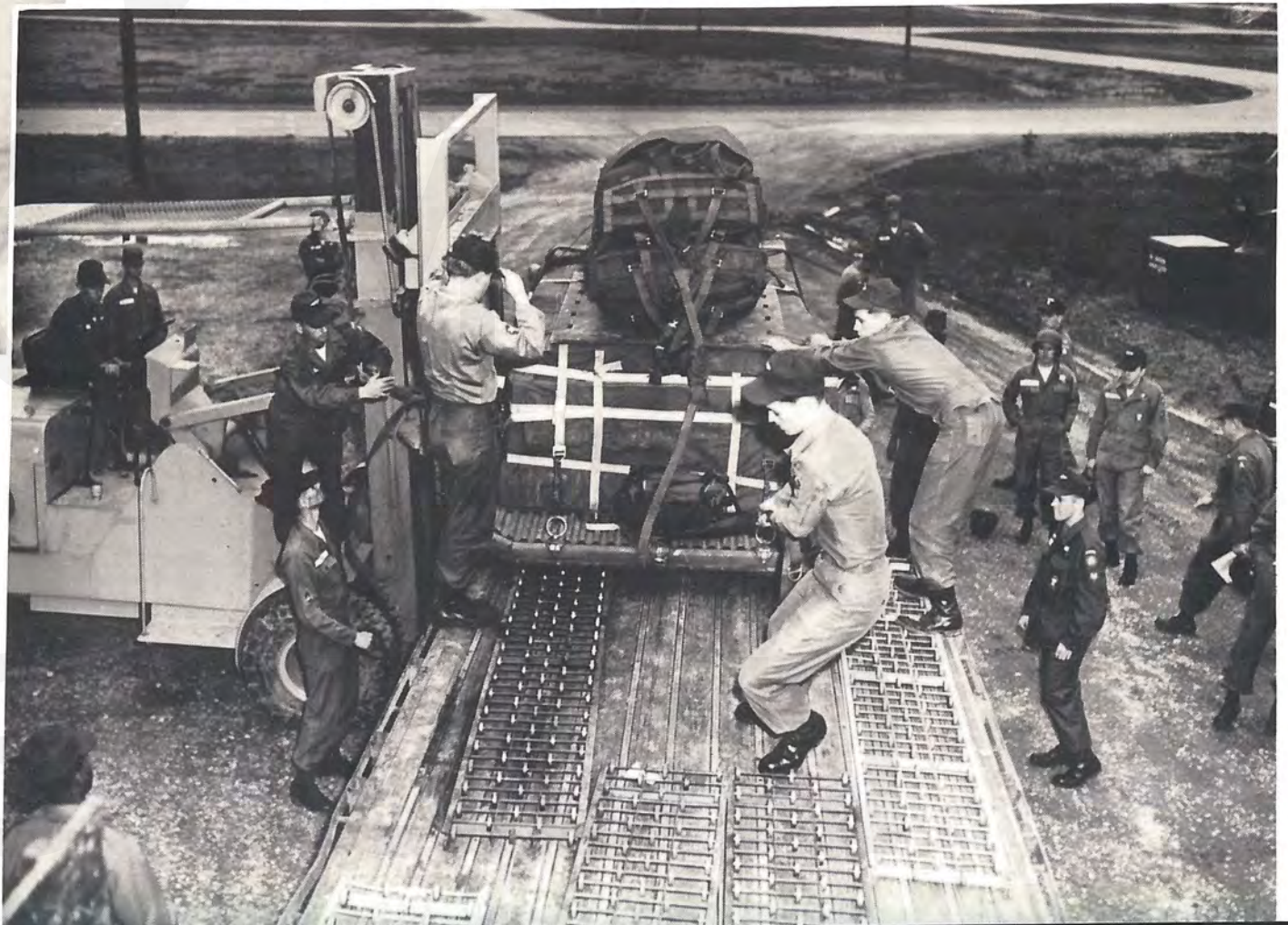
601 IN SPECTACULAR LOS BANOS DROP

Tactical
Heavy Drop
Successful
Involves 3,000
Pound Payload

(See Picture Page 4)
By Sgt. Ben Talley
Los Banos Drop Zone,
within the confines of
Campbell, was the site
of a spectacular ex-
ercise as men of
the Supply Com-
mand heavy
equipment
unit under
command



L to R, SP-3 John T. Coffey, Forklift operator, Sfc. Robert L. Lawrence, standing on Forklift; standing on platform are from left to right, SP-3 Donald H. Head, SP-3 Ronald E. Graffam and SP-3 Harvey J. Uhlenberg.



L to R, Sp-3 Ronald E. Graffam, Sp-3 Charles Shannon, Pfc. Lebearon D. Jones, and working in the rear is Walter S. Roberts rigging equipment on platform for heavy drop.

HEAVY AIR DROP



SFC Robert D. Blair, left, and SFC Robert L. Lawrence check manifest prior to loading aircraft.

SFC Robert D. Blair, left, and M/SGT Eldon R. Lyon prepare for a heavy drop.



Pfc. Andrew Stewart, left, and Pfc. Robert, loading aircraft for heavy drop.

HEAVY DROP: 6,000 pay load leaving aircraft.





Jump School Cadre lined up preparing to inspect BasicAbn. Class No. 1 on 1st day of jump training. 2 Apr. 56

BASIC AIRBORNE TRAINING • FORT CAMPBELL

First day of 187th jump school, Fort Campbell, Ky. SGT Jensen chews out trainee. 2 Apr. 1956



Day of new Jump School, Basic Airborne Class No. 1 (PLF). 2 Apr. 1956



Jump School Class No. 1, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. 13 Apr. 1956. Capt. Richard Dial, 187th Pilot prepares for 1st 341 tower jump.

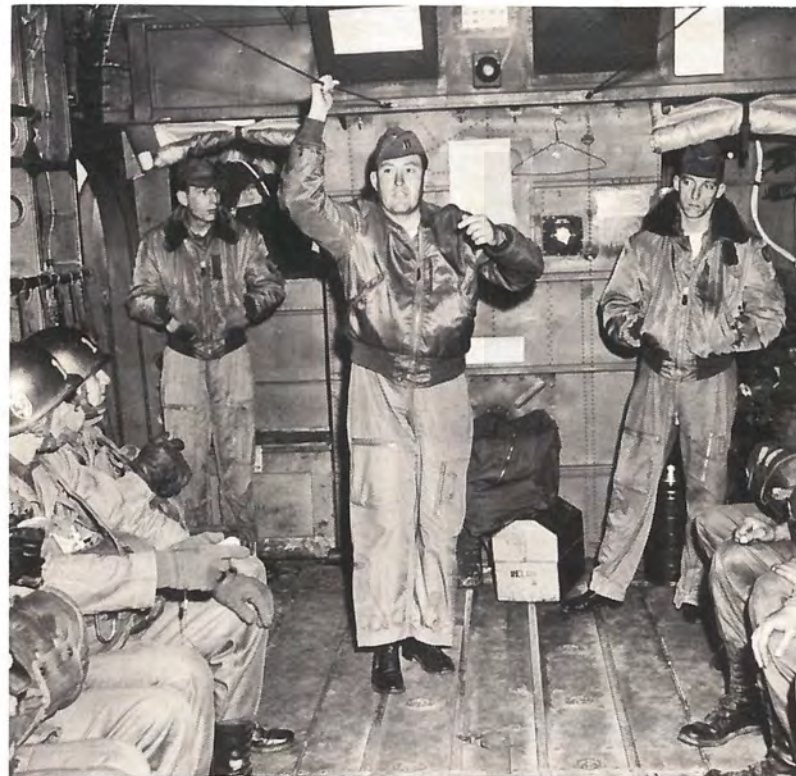
Recovery from the drag—1st day of Basic Abn. Class at Jump School at Fort Campbell. 12 Apr. 1956





Airborne Class No. 1 gets briefing in marching area prior to first jump. 17 Apr. 1956

Col. Joseph Ryneska, CO, 187th make a jump with Abn. Class No. 1. 17 Apr. 1956



Jump School Class No. 1 gets pilots briefing prior to taking off for first jump. 17 Apr. 1956



Jump School Class No. 1 makes first jump at Fort Campbell. 17 Apr. 1956

Jump School Class No. 1 graduates, Fort Campbell. 20 Apr. 1956. SFC Cecil Robertson, PIO photographer, right, covers for TV.





L to R, 1st Lt. Robert F. McKee, Mess Officer, I Co., SP-2 Leo Roberge, 1st Cook, Sgt. Patrick M. Farrell, Mess Sgt. I Co., check pies just baked for I Co. party.

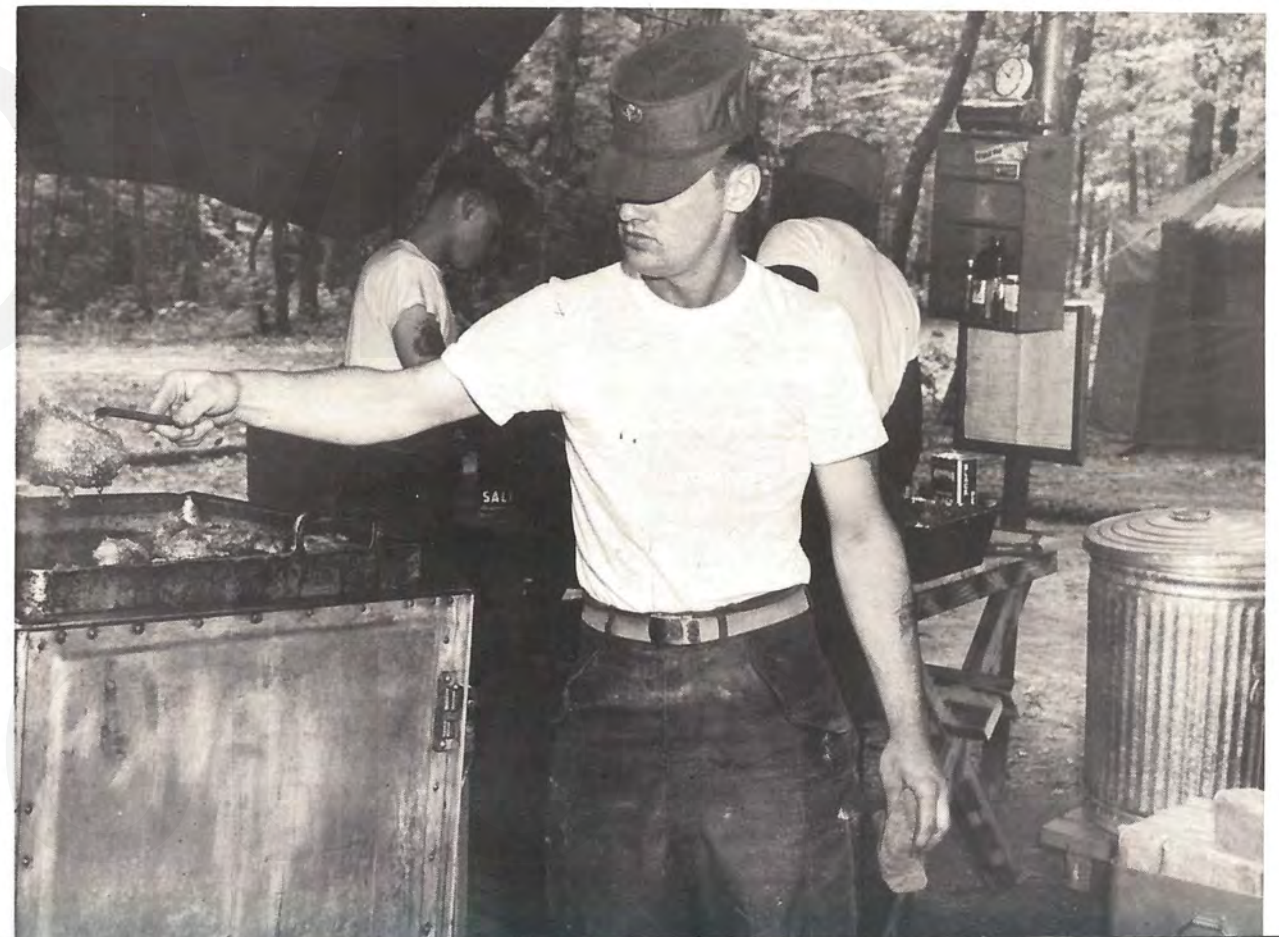


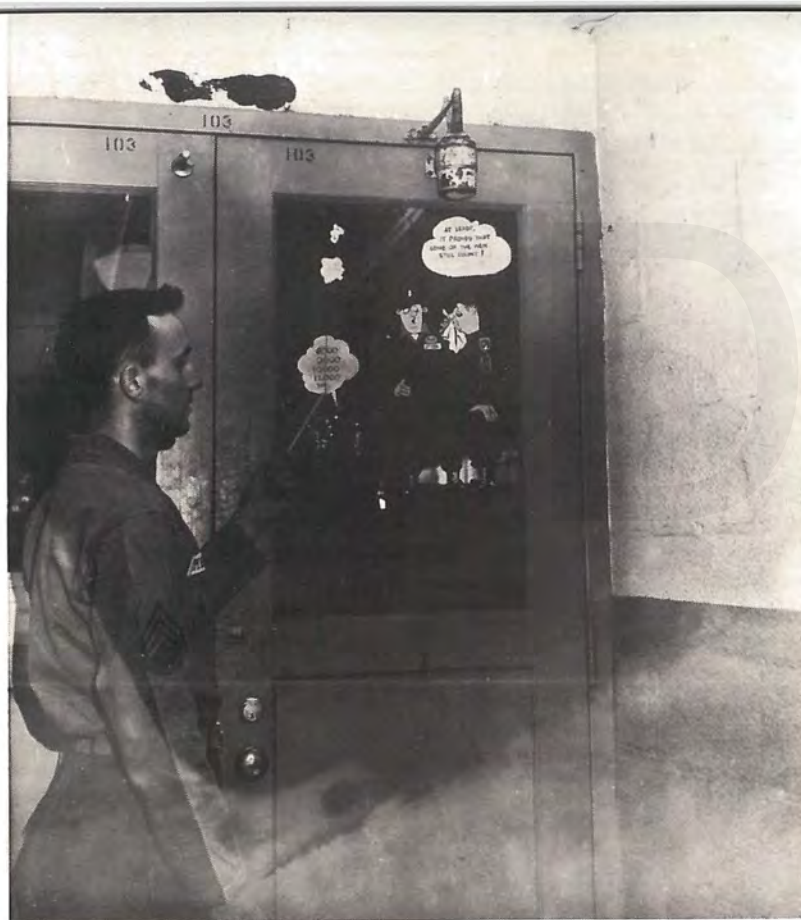
1st Lt. Jack Hutchinson and Sfc. Milton O. Lyle, Crew Chief 187th Air Section, checks a pre-flight check list prior to Lt. Harrison taking off on a trip.

Sgt. James E. Messick, Commo Chief, Hq. Btry. gives a class on Commo to the Commo Plt., of the 674th FA Bn.



Pfc. Harold Lilya, 2nd cook, "C" Co. fries steaks while on field problem at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.





SGT Donald E. Emmelk, I Co. artist, touching up a cartoon on a door leading to I Co. day room.

L-R: SGT Joseph F. Marks, 105 mm Howitzer gunner assists 2nd Lt. Robert B. Vasser, Supply Officer in counting while SGT Antinio Maria, Chief of firing battery, carries out a foot locker, they are clearing out the building for 2nd Bn. combat Group to move into.



L-R: Capt. Harry B. Harris, CO M Co., SGT John W. Price, Supply Sgt., PVT John J. Sencik, Sqd. Leader, and PFC Bruce R. Marshall, Company Armorer. Capt. Harris and SGT Price check cleaning of 45 cal pistols outside of M Co. Supply Room.



"G" Company Neptune, Cook inspects Field Mess Equipment with KP's.

L to R, SP-3 Richard L. Pennington and Sgt. Robert Watts, 187th QM Co. are making final inspections of T-10 parachutes after they have been repacked.





Program for Armored students in Theatre No. 1. 26 Apr. 56

OPERATION RAKKASAN

2 May 1956. Fort Knox Armored School, 187th QM Heavy Drop 100 foot parachute.
U.S. Army Photo



2 May 1956. Fort Knox Armored School, Advance Course, Officer Students visit 187th QM, Heavy Drop, during "Operation Rakkasan" at Fort Campbell. 123 Officers including 23 foreign students inspect 100 foot canopy after heavy equipment drop.
U.S. Army Photo



Armored Students volunteer for 34 foot tower jump and get into harness.
26 Apr. 1956

Airborne-Armored link-up rehearsal, aggressor forces attack U.S. forces.
26 Apr. 1956





PFC Roaland Lammerson, assistant gunner and PVT Eugene Richardson guard a road intersection during operation "Rakkasan."



Armored Airborne Link-up, two infantry men protect road intersection, 26 Apr. 1956



Armored-Airborne Link-up rehearsal, 26 Apr. 1956

A group of tanks of the 44th Hvy. Tank Bn., Fort Bragg, N.C. advance down a road during Operation "Rakkasan."



Airborne-Armored Link-up rehearsal, 26 Apr. 56





Mid-air collision of two jeeps during Operation "Rakkasan."



A Group of armored Officers from Fort Knox, Ky. observe members of Battle Group Neptune jump over 137th DZ during operation "Rakkasan."

L-R: Capt. D'Astory of the French Armored Corps with a group of Armored Officers from Fort Knox, Ky., observe a jump demonstration by the Neptune Battle Group during operation Rakkasan, while MP, SP3 Mert Francis stands by.

Equipment of BG Neptune landing on 187th DZ during Operation "Rakkasan."





Top to Bottom: SGT James West, Chief Computer; PVT Weldon Bridges, horizontal control operator, and CPL Daniel Reed, horizontal control operator, working in FDC (fire direction center), "B" Btry. Neptune.

L-R: PVT John Croft and CPL Joe Islos, 1st Sqd., 4th Plt., "H" Co., Neptune charge with fixed bayonets.



L-R: PVT Harry Cousins, ammo bearer; PVT William Draper, assistant gunner, digging a hole for their gun as PVT Jean Cabera, ammo bearer, SGT Charles Anderson, gunner, on the phone to go through a practice fire mission.

NEPTUNE FIELD TRAINING

SFC Charles I. Dobbs, 2nd Plt., G Co., Neptune, and men return from "Front Lines" in Jeep, to the rear Command Post.



L-R: PVT Patrick Hosler, Driver (partially hidden); SP3 Erwyatt Franks, Gunner; PVT Robert Rojas, assistant gunner, PVT George Hermrick, ammo bearer; SGT Kenneth Schmidt, section leader, on phone), during Neptune field training program.

PVT Roger Gallant firing at the aggressors as the attack from the trees in background.



MAY 1956

The arrival of May coincided with a visit by the Commanding General of Third Army, Lieutenant General Thomas F. Hickey, and the Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps, Major General Paul D. Adams. The General Officers were on hand to observe activities of the 187th ARCT and to witness the Airborne-Armored link-up demonstration.

Under close scrutiny by General Hickey was the Airborne School, its facilities, and the training in session. Captain Vranish, School Commandant, led the inspection tour through the "Mock-ups," Thirty-Four Foot towers, PLF platforms, Swing trainer and other items of interest.

The General was able to observe 150 fledgling troopers eagerly training in the school.

Coupled with the visit of these dignitaries was an Armored-Airborne link-up demonstration. This demonstration was staged for the Advance Class of the Armored School, from Fort Knox, Kentucky. Participating in the exercise was "A" Company of the 44th Tank Battalion from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Army Battle Group "Neptune" of the 187th ARCT.

The three day demonstration known as Operation "Rakkasan" was designed to demonstrate the tactical operations which combine the employment of Airborne and Armor units to increase the momentum of the ground offensive, and to emphasize the importance of close coordination between the two combat arms to ensure an efficient link-up and maximum assistance to the overall ground effort.

Included in Operation "Rakkasan" four phases and several parts were: an orientation skit, "Combined Planning for link-up"—Prologue to the three day event; a demonstration of loading techniques, personnel and supply, at Campbell Air Force Base; execution of the Airborne Assault, followed by aerial supply, 187th Drop Zone, and the climactic link-up itself.

The Armored students were guests of "I" Company during their stay.

The Airborne School graduated Class No. 2 consisting of 124 trooper students, during the month. Private First Class Guy Dearmon, Jr. of "K" Company was Honor graduate for the class. Brigadier General Chase led the wing pinning ceremonies after extending his personal congratulations to the new parachutists. These men were assigned to various units in the 187th ARCT and will take an active part in the reactivation of the 101st Airborne Division.

Many officers and Enlisted Men in the 187th ARCT followed the sports activities of their sons as the Little League Baseball season got underway. Much time and effort was donated by Lieutenant Colonel Brummitt and other Rakkasans to insure the success of the worth while venture. Here is found the talent for the future DiMaggios, Gehrigs, and Fellers.

Speaking of baseball, the Post Baseball League also got underway with Battalion sized teams. The first game was played between Neptune and the First Battalion with the Battle Group team winning 18-4.

With sunny skies and excellent track conditions in evidence, the Third Army Track, Field, and Triathlon championships got off to a fast start on 18 May.

All eight teams in the Army command reported in top physical condition and the results ended with several all Army records being broken. Fort Campbell's team entry finished fourth in the fierce competition. Private Henry Jones of the 674th FA Battalion and Private Edgar



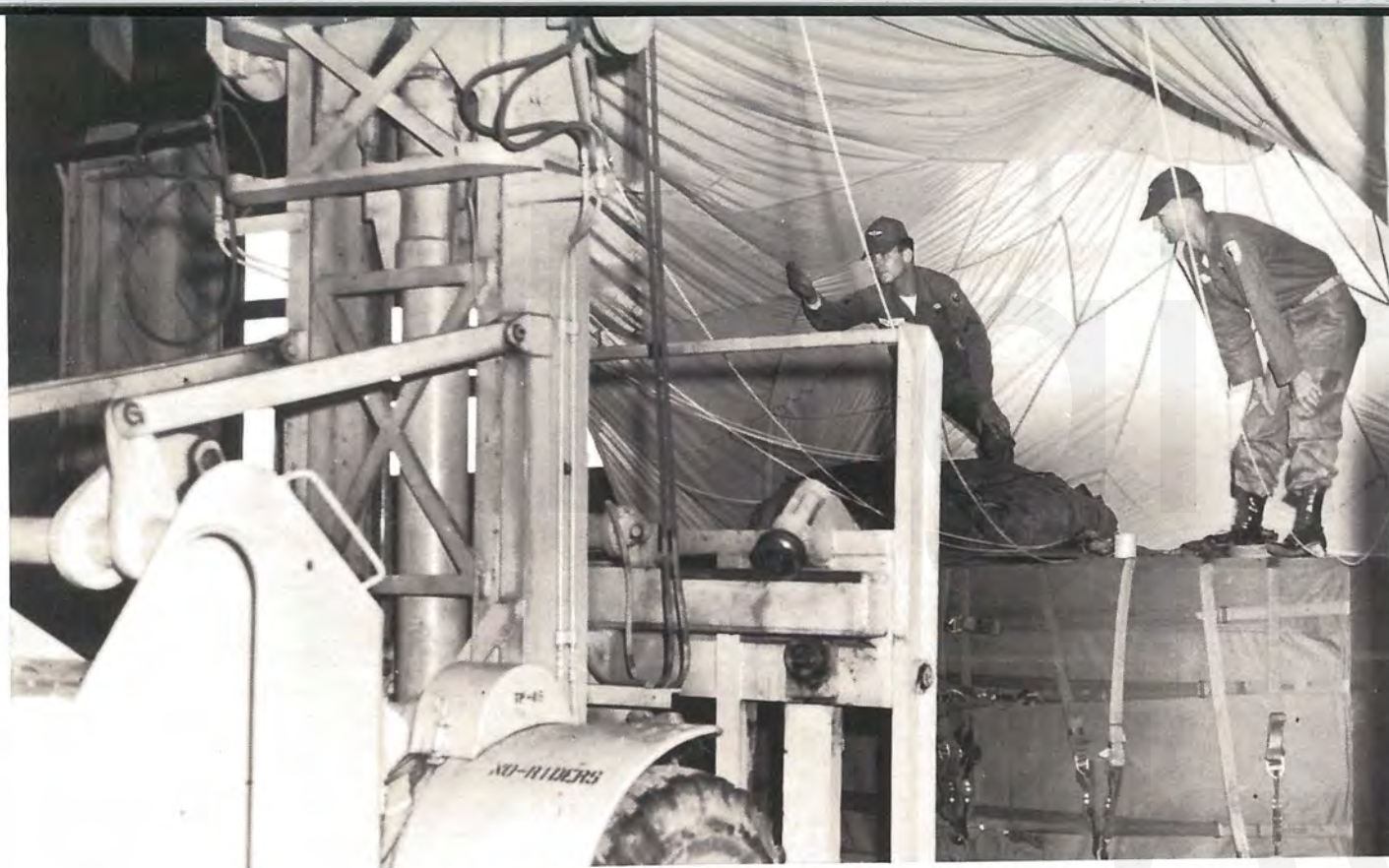
Five outstanding soldiers of the month get a farewell message from Colonel Ryneska prior to departing to New York for 5 days. Left to right: Sp-3 Theodore J. Leaper, Sp-3 Charles Callis, Cpl. Gilbert Kaer, Pvt. 2 Alex B. Noftis, and Cpl. Charles Peeler.

PVT Henry Jones winning the 100 meter dash in 10.4 seconds establishing a new Fort Campbell record.



PVT Edgar Murrell accepts trophy from Gen. Chase after winning the 400 meter run in Third Army Track Meet.





Preparing to display a 6,000 pound heavy drop load for display on Armed Forces Day.



SFC Martin Walker accepts trophy from Senator Estes Kefauver for drill competition on Armed Forces Day.

Visiting 187th Jump School, Senator Kefauver inspects equipment of SFC Joseph Lynsky, Jump School instructor.

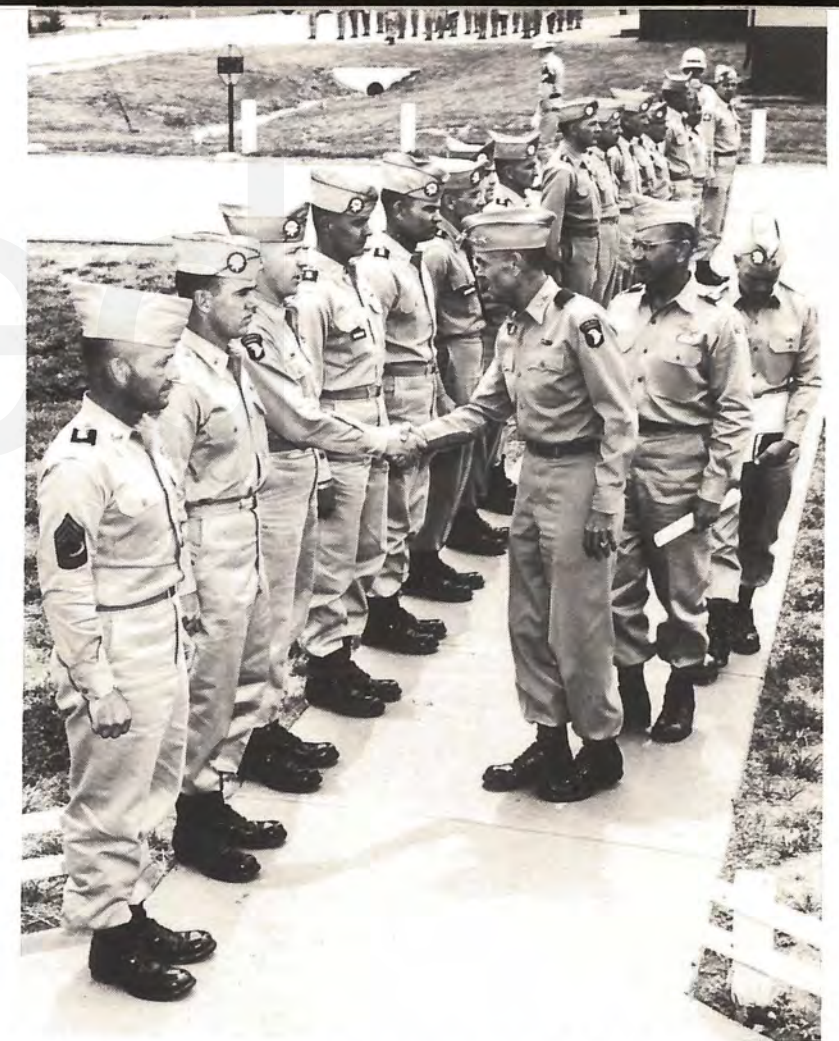
Members of 674th Airborne Field Artillery Battalion demonstrate firing technique as part of sixty minute Rakkasan Noel Ball TV Show over WSIX-TV, Nashville, Tenn. 187th production included interview with Colonel Rynessa, and Honor Guard, Combat Band, Jump School commentary and film and a brief history of the 187th Abn. RCT.





Senator Estes Kefauver enjoys lunch at the 22nd Abn. Eng. Company.

A STRAWBERRY FROM THE QUEEN. Sfc. Donald Ayers, a member of the crack 187th ARCT Honor Guard, steals the limelight as he is offered a strawberry from Miss Cheryl Hester, Senior Queen of the annual Strawberry Festival, held at Portland, Tenn. Enviously looking on are Cpl. James Dennis, Sgt. Grady Miles, Cpl. Robert Rarrick, and Cpl. Melvin Burghart, also members of the Honor Guard.



Major General Thomas L. Sherburne, accompanied by Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska, meets members of the "Rakkasan" staff.

LITTLE LEAGUE
Rakkasan Team



Murrell of "G" Company won individual first places in the meet. Jones's 10.6 time for the 100 meter dash set new All Army and Inter-Service records.

The 187th ARCT Band and Honor Guard were in their usual dazzling style as they paraded for the many spectators. Throughout the three day event, the visiting track squads were housed and messed by "I" Company.

Thousands of citizens of surrounding communities and military personnel and dependents of Fort Campbell Air Force and Clarksville Base heard the Honorable Estes Kefauver, United States Senator, Tennessee, praise the quality of men and women serving the Armed Forces noting that, "the finest of our youth wear the uniform of our country and wear it proudly and well," in an Armed Forces Day address on Sunday at Fryar Field.

Senator Kefauver, a member of the Senate's Armed Forces Committee, was introduced by Brigadier General Charles H. Chase, Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Advance) and Fort Campbell.

The Senator had also high praise for Fort Campbell which he noted is regarded as one of the very finest of all military installations in the Armed Forces.

Prior to the Senator's Armed Forces Day address, the vast throng witnessed platoon drill competition tests which were won by the Combat Group (Neptune), 187th Airborne RCT, with second place going to the Marine platoon of Clarksville Base.

Other main events of the day included demonstrations and parachute operations at Yamoto DZ. It was estimated that approximately 30,000 persons visited the post in what was believed to be the most successful Armed Forces Day open house ever held at Fort Campbell.

Flow of traffic in the Armed Forces Day rush was heavy but smooth as the members of the 187th MP Platoon and the Military Policemen of the 553rd MP Company were on hand to facilitate the visit of the thousands of visitors. Jeep and foot patrols of MP's were also on duty to assist visitors during the day.

The latter part of May saw the Travelling Third Battalion trek once again in its quest for a permanent home. The wandering nomads this time settled in the old Separate Company billets.

Purpose of this move was a consolidation of units within the battalion. In as much as the Third Battalion is to provide the nucleus for the next Battle Group, Company "D" and AAA Btry were attached in May to bring the Battalion up to a seven company size.

"D" Company commanded by 1st Lieutenant Paul Balcavage immediately began the training of 250 recruits who will become part of the new battle group.

AAA Battery under the supervision of 1st Lieutenant Talbott Barnard reorganized and instructed in the 4.2 inch Mortar. Triple "A" will become the Mortar Battery of the battle group and will train with 4.2 until the arrival of the new 105 mm. mortar.

The Third Battalion was still commanded by Major "Hank" Rouse, veteran paratrooper.

Life Magazine paid a visit to the Rakkasans in preparation of a story and pictures covering the formation of a battle group. All personnel and vehicles were made available to completely bring up to TO&E Battle Group Neptune.

The 187th ARCT welcomed the Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division to the Post when Major General Thomas Sherburne officially assumed command.

Thus the pages of the history book slowly flutter to a close as 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team prepares to make the change into a Battle Group. The Rakkasans will take its place along side of other famous units when it becomes a part of the mighty 101st Airborne Division.

But new history is continually being made and it is understandable why a fighting team such as the 187th was chosen to initially give the new life to an old and famous Airborne Division.

And why not—the formation of a new concept, an "Atomic Division," certainly is an indication that the United States Army is keeping pace with scientific development; and what unit could best be the nucleus of such an Atomic Division, of course, the fighting RAKKASANS.

Let us take a look at this new battle design and discuss the structure of its being.

The Secretary of the Army, Wilber M. Brucker, announced that the

101st Airborne Division will have five battle groups, using the pentagonal principle and breaking away from the triangular organization of three regiments in a Division.

Also that this Division will only have 11,500 officers and men as opposed to 17,300 men in the old Airborne Division. With approximately 6,000 fewer personnel, and by utilizing equipment that is being developed, the 101st can be air transported with approximately half the aircraft used in lifting the conventional airborne division.

The 101st will be supported by the "Honest John" rocket units capable of firing atomic warheads.

Phasing out as a Regimental Combat Team, the 187th will become the 187th Combat Group in the new 101st Airborne Division. Carrying on the tradition and Airborne Spirit of the Rakkasans will be the men of the RCT—the boy next door who became a paratrooper and proudly wears the silver wings on his chest.

Combat Group "Neptune," first Unit of 101st Abn Div. formed by 187th Abn RCT personnel, form in 1566 man strength at Ft. Campbell. Reviewed by Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska, "Neptune" will become 187th Airborne Combat Group upon activation of new division. Photo Courtesy *Life Magazine*





L-R: SFC Edward W. Valentine, Operations Sgt., SGT Richard K. Gambill, Ast. Opns. Sgt.; M/SGT Jessid D. Powell, 1st Sgt. Hq. & Hq. work on a chart for operation of Hq. & Hq.

L-R: CPL Richard A. Brunflodt, Sqd. Leader, Hq. 3rd Bn; SFC William C. Osborne, Plt. Sgt.; PVT Hohn M. Loveter, all EM are from P&A Platoon. Inspection prior to Command Inspection.



L-R: SGT James Linton, SGT Roland Pierce, and PFC Donald Bolter. SGT Linton logs in material in Msg Center and PFC Bolton signs out distributions to SGT Pierce, CRT Plans Section.



PFC Harold F. Swaggard and SGT Leslie L. Martin inspect weapons in Arms Room.

"A" Company prepares for inspection after returning from the field.





L-R: SGT Duane R. Brooks, SGT Charles B. Christian, and SFC Dick C. Walker discussing area beautification at B Company, 1st Bn.

SGT Billy G. Dobbins and PVT Clifford C. Dunn relax after returning from the field with George Company.



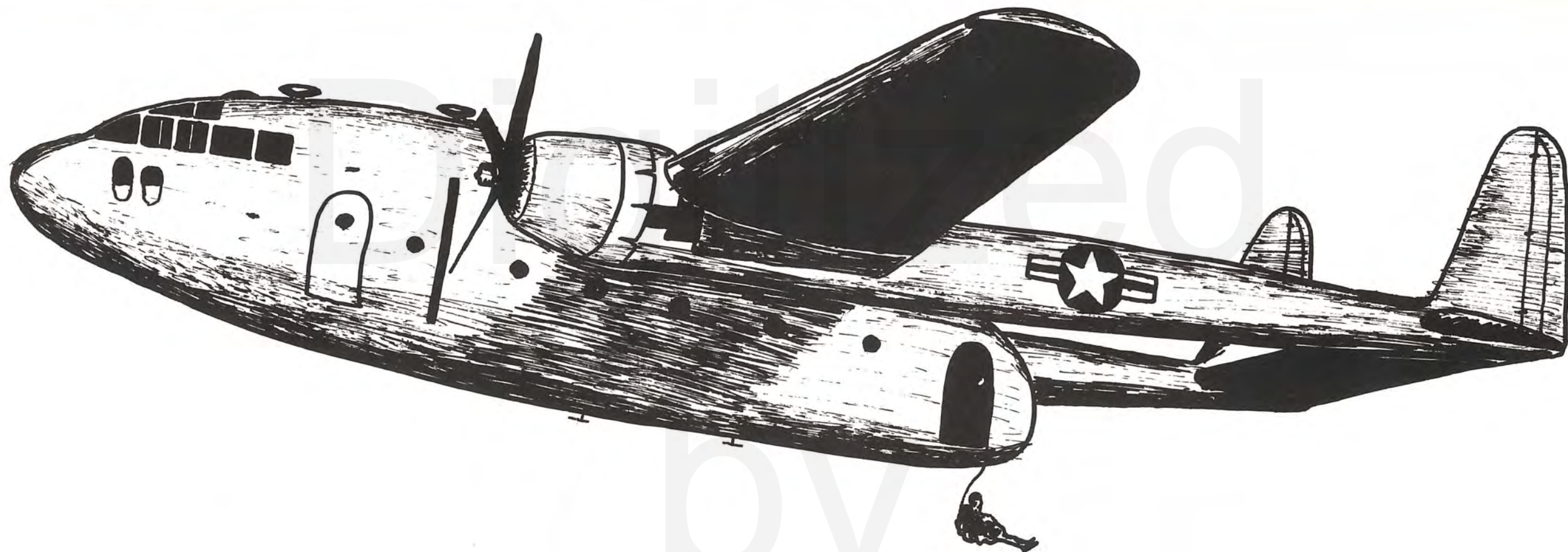
L to R, Pvt. Jack Billings, Pvt. Vance Smith and Pvt. Rowell Trout cleaning barracks prior to inspection, men are from "A" Company Neptune.

"A" Company Neptune, PVT Huey L. Hissell, PVT Edward F. Arndt, PVT Lupez Gonzales, and PVT Willie F. Randolph cleaning up field equipment after returning from field.



L-R: PFC Willie Ferguson, Armorer Company "C," receives SP3 Allen Phillips rifle as he has just been chosen Generals Orderly for the 11th time in two months.





**“ THE SKY,
EVEN MORE THAN THE SEA,
IS TERRIBLY UNFORGIVING
OF EVEN THE SLIGHTEST
MISTAKE.”**

— author unknown

The 187th AIRBORNE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, dubbed RAKKASAN by the Japanese and feared by Communist aggressors in the Korean Conflict, formed in a final review parade on 20 June, 1956, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, after five years, eleven months and twenty-one days of distinguished active Federal Service.

Famed for two combat jumps behind enemy lines in Korea and for quelling Prisoner of War riots on Koje-do Island, the Rakkasans are remembered for their fierce engagements at Wonju, Kumwha, "Bloody Inje," Chorwon and many other unnamed foreign fields that felt the weight of paratrooper boots in the United Nations fight for freedom.

Headed by Colonel Joseph F. Ryneska, the Combat Team Commander, the paratroopers heard Colonel Curtis J. Herrick, a former 187th Commander, laud the accomplishments of the Regiment in a deactivation speech which pointed up the new mission the Regimental Combat Team has in forming the "new" 101st Airborne Division under the command of Major General Thomas L. Sherburne.

"As the 187th makes this final formation," a summarizing address noted, "it is well to remember that, standing in spirit beside every Rakkasan today is a combat paratrooper who, by his courage, stamina and his very blood, made the name RAKKASAN synonymous with resolute determination and fighting skill."

The men who have worn the shoulder patch of "Wing and Flame" are a special breed of soldier. They—and you—represent, in the finest sense, the sky-tested esprit of America's elite fighting man—the United States Paratrooper. The paratrooper of the 187th, merging his skills and experience with a new airborne division, will carry forward the heritage of a proud and honored Regiment.

The 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team was designated as the cadre unit for the 101st Airborne Division on 1 December 1955 and returned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky to form the hard professional core of the new organization.

The retirement of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team closes a distinguished and honored chapter in the annals of the United States Military Establishment. The esprit, the prestige and the honor of the 187th ARCT will never die. They will live forever in the hearts of Rakkasans past and present and on the pages of history so brilliantly compiled by the paratroopers of the Rakkasan Team. These attributes of resolute courage and professional skill will infuse the new organization when the RCT becomes the 187th Airborne Combat Group of the 101st Airborne Division.

ROSTER

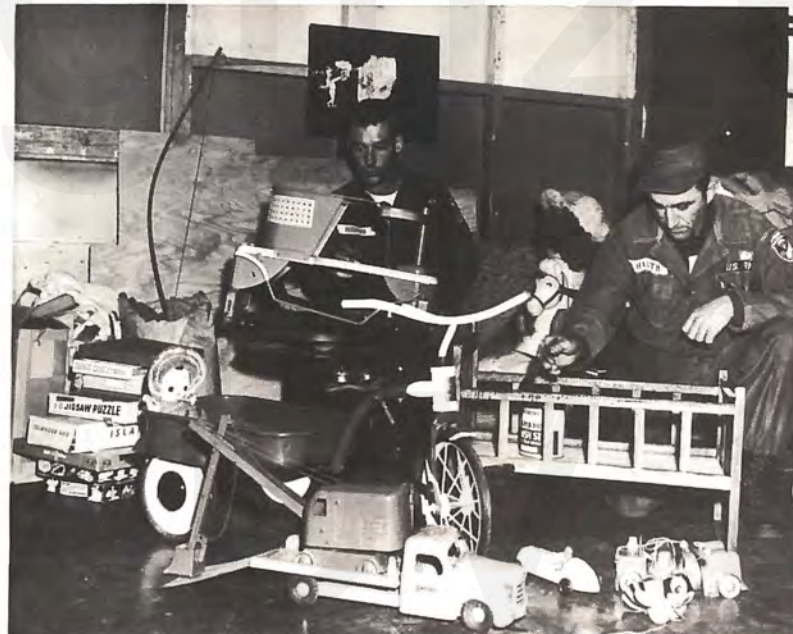
187TH ARCT

FORT CAMPBELL, KY.

FIRST BATTALION 187TH ARCT



LT. COL. JOHNSON G. LEMMON
1st Bn CO



SFC Husband and Pfc Raugh P&A Plat, Hq Co 1st Bn, repairing toys for needy children in Fort Bragg, N. C.



Left to Right, Lt. Col. J. Grant Lemmon, 1st Bn. CO, congratulates "D" Company cooks upon winning best mess three times in a row, they are from left to right, Mess Steward, Sfc Wayne Smith, SP-3 Armand Lorranger, SP-3 Harry Evens, and Sgt. Albert Lippon. They each received a 6 day leave.

1st Battalion Staff, Left to Right, Capt. Gilbert Procter, XO, 1st Lt. Kenneth N. Good, S-1 and S-2, Capt. Dalton O. Carpenter, S-3, 1st Lt. Gordon D. Wilson, S-4, and M/Sgt. Beckett G. Mitchell, Sgt. Major.



Left to Right: Sp-2 Joseph Jaroshy, PM Co, help SFC Martin Walker-Plat, Sgt. A Co. into a T-10 parachute prior to making one of the last jumps of the 187th at Ft. Bragg.



Opener, baseball season, Neptuners, 1st Battalion

The First Battalion, upon returning from Japan, had the enormous task of billeting, messing, supplying and training, all personnel fresh from Basic Training. It was our job to drive into the minds and souls of these future airborne troopers the basic fundamental of the Individual Infantry Soldier. Before the eight weeks terminated the vast majority of trainees readily understood the mission of the Infantry soldier in combat.

The cadre, composed of officers and EM of the first Battalion, passed on the knowledge they had learned in the Korean Conflict and the Hills of Oyanahara. The trainees learned squad, platoon, and company tactics, map reading, the employment of field fire, the importance of first aid, and above all else, that "the best friend of an infantry soldier is his weapon."

The major portion of October was spent by the personnel of the First Battalion preparing for the arrival of the newly assigned trainees.

The activation of the 1st and 2nd Training Companies of more than 200 recruits concerned the Advanced Infantry Training Cycle, conducted by the cadre of the First Battalion.

Throughout the remainder of October and the first part of November more trainees moved in, eager and willing to learn. The first seven weeks consisted of class work. During the eighth week the Training Companies moved out to the field, so that they could more readily adapt themselves

to conditions similar to that of actual combat. In order to make the simulated combat conditions more realistic, members of the First Battalion acted as aggressors. The trainees were subjected to day and night attacks. The capturing and interrogation of prisoners was a vital part of their training. They were also taught the value of a well dug-in position. Many of the trainees actually participated in hand to hand combat with the aggressors. Their physical and mental stamina was tested through constant harassment by the cadre and members of the aggressor forces.

A group of officers of our Battalion conducted a reviewing board once a week in order to select the outstanding recruit of the week from companies that were participating in their seventh week of training. Selection was based upon:

1. Neatness of appearance
2. Ability to adapt readily to given situation
3. Co-Operation with cadre and trainees
4. Military courtesy
5. Knowledge of individual weapons

The 1st and 2nd Recruit Training Companies completed their Advanced Individual Training on the 10th of December. In their honor the remainder of the Training Battalion paraded. Col. Joseph F. Ryneska

spoke of their achievements and congratulated each man for his contribution toward a job well-done.

Members of the First Battalion trained more than 1880 trainees. At the conclusion many of them underwent three weeks of rigorous Basic Airborne Training conducted at Fort Benning and Fort Bragg Jump Schools. Graduation from these schools qualified the men as "Troopers of the Sky."

Prior to our departure for Fort Campbell, our Commanding Officer, Major Ray B. Stroup, was re-assigned to Post G-4, and Major Jack F. Belford assumed command of the "Always First," First Battalion.

With the news that the 101st was to be re-activated our mission multiplied; we not only had the Recruit Training Program, but we also had to secure the closing out of Fort Bragg.

The training company graduated on the 4th of February and the personnel of the First Battalion departed Fort Bragg on the 25th of the month. This closely co-ordinated move was effectively planned by the staff of the First Battalion.

Major Jack F. Belford assumed duties as S-3 for the newly formed Battle Group. Lt. Col. Johnson G. Lemmon took over as the First Battalion Commander.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY



SEVENTH ROW

PFC F Mariscal
Pvt-1 L L Burns

SIXTH ROW

Sp/3 J McCluskie
Sp/2 G Pierce
Pvt-2 R Muscha
Pvt-2 C Hand
Pvt-2 A Norman
Pvt-2 J Knight
Pvt-2 J Hadsock
Pvt-2 D Arnold
Pvt-2 D Ritchie

FIFTH ROW

Sp/3 A Broussard
Pvt-2 T Duda
Sp/3 D Grimm
Sp/3 T Rauth
PFC D Thayne
Pvt-2 J Barno
Pvt-2 D Garcia
Pvt-2 M Hill
PFC E Valdez

FOURTH ROW

Pvt-2 C Lawter
Sp/3 J Ditch

Sp/3 W Lewis
Pvt-2 A Wright
Sp/3 H Schoolerman
Pvt-2 H Bond
Pvt-2 J Pusateri
Pvt-2 M Espinoza
Sp/3 G Schmidt

THIRD ROW

Pvt-2 D Pitts
Sp/3 J Redmond
Sp/2 T Nash
Pvt-2 J Walker
Pvt-2 W Auty Jr

Pvt-2 F Satorius
Pvt-2 E Riser
Sp/3 H Northrup
Sp/3 W Clark

SECOND ROW

SFC L Smith
Sp/2 K Gregory
Sp/3 C Clifton
Sp/3 R Patterson
Sgt F Cordova
Sgt R Gould
Sgt A Leon

Sgt W Cherry
Sgt C Campen

FIRST ROW

Sgt F Korom
Sgt W King
M/Sgt O Chesney
Capt H Short
M/Sgt N Robinson
SFC A Gonzales
SFC G Bandolas
1st Lt N Clark
SFC W Smullen

Those Not Pictured:

M/Sgt J Smith
Sgt A Williams
Sgt P Savage
Sp/3 P Freeman Jr
Sp/2 R Hawkins Jr
SFC J Anderson
Sp/3 J Park
M/Sgt G Park
Sgt W Jones
M/Sgt R Holappa

1ST LT. ALFRED BURKHARD
CO Hq. Co. 1st Bn



The P & A Communication Platoons were placed on the Recruit Training Committee to furnish instructions in their respective fields during the months at Fort Bragg, N. C.

A few days before our departure from Fort Bragg to our second PCS that year, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, our CO, Capt. James P. Igoe, was ordered to school at Fort Benning, Georgia. Our new CO became 1st Lt. Gordon D. Wilson, former pathfinder Platoon Leader in Japan and Korea for the Rakkasans.

Upon arrival at Fort Campbell, the unit was assigned the temporary mission of supporting the Post Guard and details. Quite an undertaking to take over where the 11th Airborne Division left off, but the Rakkasans did it.

At Fort Campbell, we were once more assigned a new company commander; Hardin C. Short, Capt., formerly with the 11th Airborne Division G-3. Our Ex-CO, Lt. Wilson, took over the Bn S-4 slot. On 26 April, the company furnished ten fully equipped jumpers to demonstrate Airborne Techniques to ROTC Cadets.

Having given up many fine NCO's to the newly formed Battle Group "Neptune," the Hqs. Company looked forward to forming the next Battle Group.



CAPT. ELMER H. GRAHAM
CO A Co.

On 14 July 1955 the first two C-124 Globemaster troop carrier transports landed at Camp McCall, North Carolina carrying the men to Company "A" back to the states after five years in the Far East. The troops were home again after playing a major part in the Korean Conflict by making two combat jumps against the Communists.

Under the command of Captain Elmer H. Graham the troopers of Alpha Co. were busy getting organized after the big gyroscope move from Japan. Many of the new troopers who were trained by the men of Company "A" under the Recruit Training Program are now assigned to units within the RCT and will Always remember those days in the cold winter when they were being given the best training that was possible, by the men of Alpha Company.

On 22 February the main body of Alpha Company along with the rest of the First Battalion moved out by convoy to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. All that remained behind were the men of the Provisional Company carrying out the final mission of closing out the unit at Fort Bragg.

By the 18th of March the entire Company had arrived at Fort Campbell, and the business of setting up quarters confronted the troopers of Alpha Company again. It was decided at the end of March by higher headquarters that Company "A" would be attached to the Second Battalion of the 187th to take part in a test group known as, "Combat Group Neptune."

Pvt G Boggs
Pvt L Berg
Pvt L Gonzales
Pvt G Hallums
Pvt C Handensud
Pvt M Ference
Pvt F Holden
Pvt H Hisel
Pvt C Whitemen
Pvt J Sulkowski
Pvt J Bunn
Pvt H Bellamy
Pvt C Johnson
Pvt D Kessler
Pvt E Wilson
Pvt W Holland
Pvt A Chisholm
Pvt W Yates
Pvt J Youngblood
Pvt D Delong
Pvt L Wright
Pvt R Schmidt

Pvt H Walker
Pvt W Gilbert
Pvt J Maklary
Pvt W Guy
Pvt S Garcia
Pvt P Lopez
Pvt J Woods
Pvt L Lara
Pvt J Alexander
Pvt L Richardson
Pvt T Reeves
Pvt P Burba
Pvt R Hernandez
Pvt C Whiteman
Pvt E Delaney
Pvt R Sutton
Pvt J Russell
Pvt R Baker
Pvt W Grice
Sp/3 T Arthur
Pvt C Hargis
Pvt R Watson

Pvt M Enos
Pvt R Arrenella
Sp/3 H Lindstrom
Sp/3 J Konrath
PFC R Howe
Sp/3 E Claycamp
PFC V Smith
PFC C Morales
PFC J Sciarretti
PFC W Smith
PFC J Vlasak
Sp/3 D Burke
PFC A Brown
PFC R Roethlisberger
PFC J Wilkerson
PFC L Picini
PFC E King
PFC L Harris
PFC M Rider
Sp/3 J Spencer
Sp/3 J Smith
Sp/3 D Felger

Sp/3 R Mosley
Sp/3 D Bynum
Sp/3 D Bruno
Sp/3 L Grav
Sp/3 W Ball
Sp/3 R Ryan
Sp/3 W Whitley
Sp/3 E Deremer
Sp/3 L Segovia
Sp/3 R Jones
Sp/3 L Capuldo
PFC R Wisotzke
Sp/3 E Davenport
Sp/3 E Gasperini
Sp/3 W Skinner
Sp/3 J McRae
Sp/3 R Calderon
Sp/3 E Miller
Sgt S Russev
Sgt D Dubose
Sgt J DeCanto
Sgt D Hahan

Sgt R Quesai
Sgt A Bradigan
Sgt B Ballew
Sp/3 B Standley
Sp/3 C Barkman
Sgt R Strauser
Sgt J Alexander
Sgt G Tyner
Sgt R Murphy
Sgt J Kimberlin
SFC O McKnight
Sgt R Sechler
Sgt A Ely
Sgt L Newman
Sgt V Hirzin
Sgt R Boone
Sgt J Sterling
SFC W Goodwin
M/Sgt E Garner
SFC M Walker
SFC N Davis
SFC E Shepard

SFC E Desmarais
SFC J Taylor
SFC F Bowers
Capt E Graham
1st Lt E Vallejo
2nd Lt G Winston
1st Lt M Hicks
M/Sgt F Melure
2nd Lt W Missildine
2nd Lt L Beaton
1st Lt Baker
Sp/3 J Moon
Not Pictured
SFC H Davis
SFC B Evans
SFC T Phillips
SFC H Sherer
Sp/2 A DeLuna
Sgt J Holifield
Pvt S Gacia
Pvt D Jones
Sgt R Lord



A COMPANY

TOP ROW

(left to right)
Pvt-2 W Webb
Sp/3 C Wolf
Pvt-2 T Meko
PFC L A Barner
Pvt-2 A Owens
Pvt-2 R Crees
Pvt-2 B Fugate
Pvt-1 J J Knight Jr
Pvt-1 J J McNeese
Pvt-2 G C Bliss
Pvt-2 P B Rann
Pvt-2 T Davis
Pvt-2 W Aquilar
Pvt-2 C C Wicox
Sp/3 W A Stanley

FIFTH ROW

PFC E Roberts
Pvt-2 W Grady
Pvt-2 J Spitalne
Pvt-2 J B Karnes
Pvt-2 C Dobbs
Pvt-2 J Lanham
Pvt-2 R Wells
Pvt-2 J C Roberts
Pvt-2 W Ashton
PFC J Summers
Pvt-2 W Dolby
Pvt-2 B Rice
Sp/3 G Salazar

FOURTH ROW

Sp/3 D C Davis

Pvt-2 C T McGinnis
PFC R Traynahm
Pvt-2 R L Miles
PFC E A Smith
Pvt-2 W G Perdue
Pvt-2 J Dowling
Pvt-2 W Dennis
Pvt-2 A Dantzler
Pvt-2 L A Mifflin Jr
Pvt-2 R Sankey

THIRD ROW

Pvt-2 S Veselovec
Sp/3 T Batterton
Pvt-2 I Mora
Pvt-2 W Shannon
Pvt-2 W Hayes

Pvt-1 H Wallace
Pvt-2 C Wheller
Pvt-2 R Maxwell
PFC H O Truly
Pvt-2 J Servizio
Pvt-2 E Woodward
Pvt-2 M A Martinez

SECOND ROW

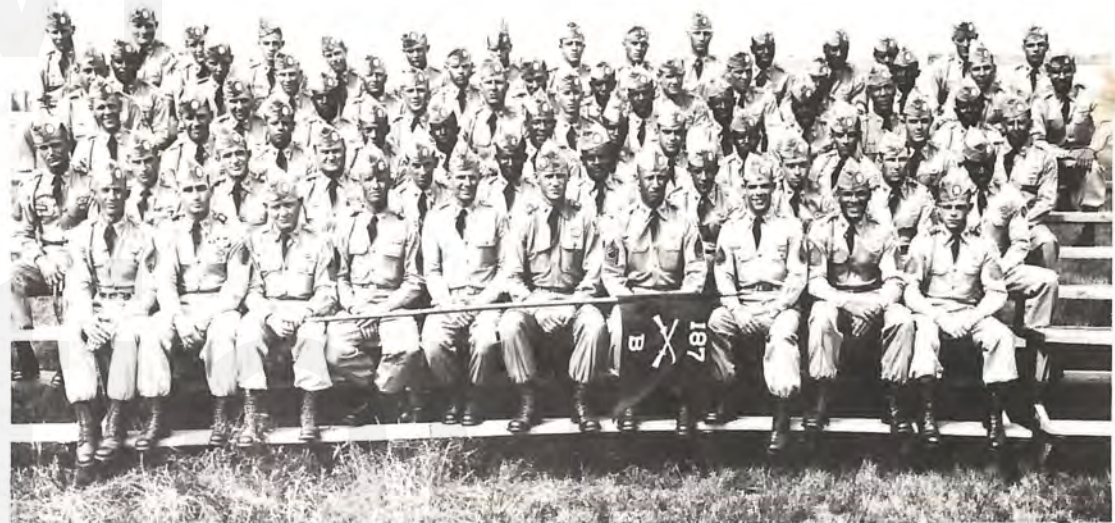
SFC C Crist
Sp/2 S Popp
SFC D C Walker
Sp/2 J L Philipps
Sp/3 H J Tanner
Sp/2 J Sawyer
Sp/3 W W Bush
Cpl E K Miller

Sp/3 R M Clark
Sgt C Seago
Sp/3 W Lucas

FIRST ROW

Sgt B L Mahaffey
Sgt L Kuykendall
SFC R C Gunter
SFC J F Sullivan
1st Lt R Heagy
1st Lt R W Girdner
(CO)
M/Sgt H Woodman
(1st Sgt)
Sgt G W Reynolds
SFC P Grimes
Sgt C B Christian

B COMPANY



1ST LT. RALPH W. GIRDNER
CO B Co.



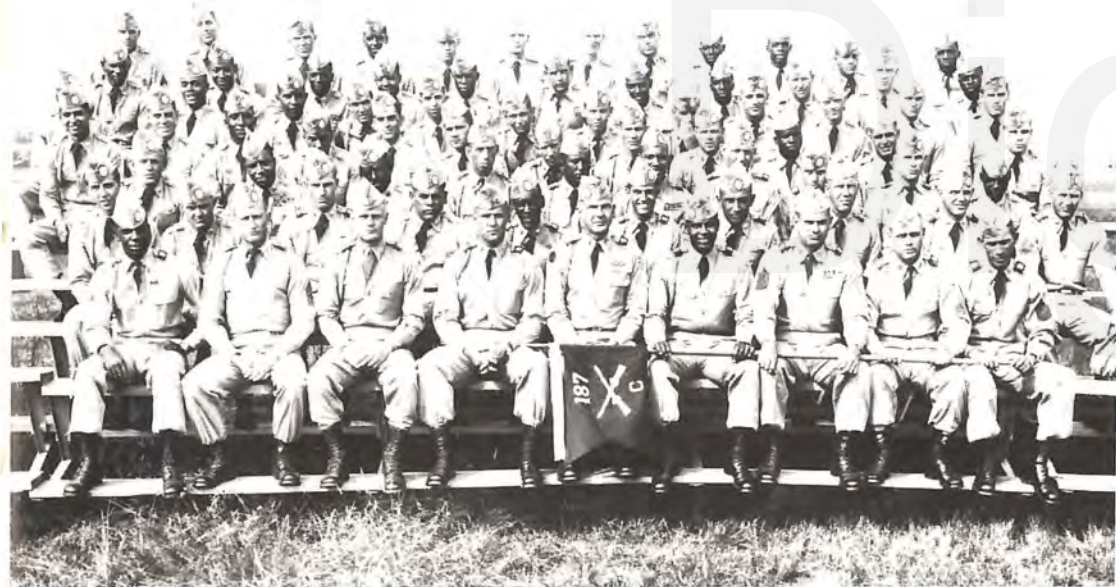
Welcoming Capt. Donald Roberts as our new Company Commander "B" Company men marked Activation day for the RCT as Pvt. Leroy Mifflin won the M-1 Rifle competition against men picked to represent all units of the Combat Team.

During the months of October through January the men of Baker Company performed one of their finest jobs in turning out fledgling soldiers. Baker men not only formed the cadre for the 460 recruits combined strength of the 3rd and 7th Recruit Training Companies, but also named the BAR, Dismounted Drill, M-1, and Squad Tactics Committee. Outstanding work by SFC Sullivan, M/Sgt. Kulbeck, SFC Phillips and M/Sgt. Pajak was not the exception but the generally accepted practice of Baker's NCO's and men. January brought a new CO with the new year in 1st Lt. Ralph W. Girdner.

February saw CYROSCOPE scrapped for the new Airborne concept to be realized in the re-activation of the 101st Airborne Division.

We all enjoyed a company party at Lake Taal with plenty to eat and lots of beer to drink. All hands enjoyed seeing the Platoon Sergeants pull the Company officers through an icy, waist-deep stream in a tug of war, not once but twice.

We were all sorry to see M/Sgt. Kelly Guerin leave to become Honcho/Major of the Jump School but we welcomed a fine soldier in his replacement, M/Sgt. Bradford Reed.



C COMPANY

SIXTH ROW

Cpl R Penman
Pvt-2 D Satterfield
Pvt-2 J Gruesser
Pvt-2 S Sullivan
Pvt-2 J Edwards
Pvt-1 R Hood
Pvt-2 E Walston
Pvt-2 R Loughbom
Cpl E Wheatfall
Sp/3 A Phillips
Pvt-1 W Wagner
Pvt-1 R Lee

FIFTH ROW

Pvt-2 W Cain
Pvt-2 W Daniels
Pvt-2 C McFall
PFC C Owens

Pvt-2 C Curtis
Pvt-2 P Hernandez
Pvt-1 E Archie
Pvt-1 P Lamar
Pvt-1 J McGough
Pvt-2 J Talbot
Pvt-2 L Matthews

FOURTH ROW

Sp/3 R Gates
Pvt-1 J Groves
Pvt-2 A Rideau
Pvt-2 D Heath
Pvt-2 J Agoita
Pvt-2 M Jackson
PFC W Ferguson
Sp/3 C Ford
Pvt-2 W Breen
Sp/3 B Marlow
Pvt-2 D Carpenter
Pvt-2 W Ireland

THIRD ROW

Pvt-2 E Garza
Sp/3 C Osgood
Pvt-2 A Smith
Pvt-2 E Hollister
Sp/3 L Jackson
Pvt-2 R Ruiz
Sp/3 J West
Sp/3 L Stafford
Pvt-2 W Johnson
PFC G Granger
Pvt-2 R Russo
Pvt-1 W Day

SECOND ROW

Sp/3 J Shew
Sp/3 F Carter
Pvt-1 W Hall
Sgt W Hommas
Sgt D Richmond

SFC P Johnson
SFC J Kelley
SFC B Teague
SFC W Grooves
Sp/3 J D Franklin

FIRST ROW

Pvt-2 C Miller
Sgt M Wear
Sgt H Lowery
Sp/2 G Hernandez
Sgt R Henerson
Sgt R Ortiz
SFC A Sturba
SFC H Egelston
Sgt R Williams
Sgt P Preskitt

FRONT ROW

Sgt E Jenkins
M/Sgt O Wadsworth

1st Lt H Hirth
1st Lt K Good
Capt A Park (CO)
1st Lt R Gee
M/Sgt B Seago
(1st Sgt)
M/Sgt G Odum
SFC C Wallen

Not Pictured:

SFC J Felos
SFC R Hobbs
SFC C Orlando
Sgt J Flowers
Sgt D Murdock
Cpl R Hogwood
Sp/3 L Barfield
Sp/3 L Jackson
Sp/3 G Rowland
PFC T Chambly



CAPT. ALTON E. PARKS
CO C Co.

PFC E Menchaca
PFC R Rivenback
PFC J Warren
Pvt-2 J Agoita
Pvt-2 R Bigler
Pvt-2 A Buckner
Pvt-2 R Gall
Pvt-2 D Hart
Pvt-2 M Kenney
Pvt-2 C Mayfield
Pvt-2 M Pryor
Pvt-2 T Rains
Pvt-2 A Speer
Pvt-2 P Talanay
Pvt-1 G Gomillion
Pvt-1 J Davis
Pvt-1 A Hartman
Pvt-1 J Krumel
Pvt-1 O Richard



D COMPANY

SEVENTH ROW

Pvt-2 R Persall
Pvt-2 J Roquemore
Pvt-2 J Kelly
PFC E Hobbs
Sp/3 H Owens
Sp/3 M Baker
Pvt-1 C Moriarity
Sp/3 P Jumbelick
PFC P Lanning
Pvt-2 B Hempel
Pvt-2 R Turner
Pvt-2 J Stoddard

SIXTH ROW

Pvt-2 A Foster

Pvt-2 A Childers
Pvt-2 H Hayes
Sp/3 T Threatt
Pvt-2 H Buck
Sp/3 D Seckinger
Sp/3 A Lawrence
Sp/3 D Casteel
Pvt-2 F Crippin
Pvt-2 C Cichon

FIFTH ROW

Cpl H Peacock
Cpl R Carey
Sp/3 R Linzing
Cpl D Griffin
Pvt-2 D Broderick
Pvt-2 T Crutchfield

Pvt-2 C Janis
Pvt-2 J Brucato
Pvt-2 G Voter
PFC N Thibault
Sp/3 E Webster

FOURTH ROW

Cpl F Wohlgenuth
Sgt H Dray
Sgt R Neely
Sgt A Thomas
Sgt W Barrett
Sgt K Anderson
Cpl D Beams
Cpl W Kondos
Sp/3 J Keese
Sp/3 A Glover

THIRD ROW
Sgt M Duffell
Sgt J Hancock
Sgt R Hallford
Sp/2 C Sparno
Sp/2 A Tippin
Sgt J Holt
Sgt P Isaac
Sgt F Cozzolino
Sgt D Casey
Sgt D Scott

SECOND ROW

Sgt R Goggia
SFC C Lively
SFC J Stewart
SFC C Palmateer

SFC F Williams
SFC R Morgan
SFC D Goroves
SFC H Dingler
SFC W Calvert

FIRST ROW

2nd Lt E Hollowell
2nd Lt R Cairns
1st Lt M Colvin
M/Sgt T Pulliam
(1st Sgt)
1st Lt P Balcavage
(CO)
1st Lt C Coverdale
(Ex O)

2nd Lt Y Kakazu
Company Mascot
Butch

Not Pictured:

L Kelly Jr
C Burris
V Myers
L Rose
W C Smith
R Aguirre
C A Berrious
R M Burnette

With the call of the Red Feather Drive in October, the men of Dog Company quickly donated 100%. With the call to join together in the Airborne Association in the month of February brought Dog Company to the 100% mark.

The Christmas season again brought forward the co-operation and support to help the needy as a Fayetteville family was adopted and assisted that all might have a merry Christmas. With the Easter season came a need for life saving donations to the Red Cross and as always Dog Company met with wholehearted response.

In the month of April the Dogs again showed their leadership ability by leading the Battalion with the best mess for three consecutive weeks. The exemplary performance over the past year was achieved by the men and by the leadership of the two company commanders, Captain Gilbert Proctor and the present Commanding Officer, 1st Lt. Paul A. Balcavage.

Only in a top flight organization will you find personnel re-enlisting for their own vacancies. This was evident by nine men re-enlisting, including M/Sgt. Kelly (1st Sgt.), M/Sgt. Pulliam (Fld First), and SP-3 Webster.

1ST LT. PAUL A. BALCAVAGE
CO D Co.





MAJOR SHELDON L. THOMPSON
2nd Bn CO

SECOND BATTALION 187TH ARCT



Front to rear, Pvt. Teddy Przybysz, Pvt. Salvadore Schersber, Pvt. Donald Seach, Pvt. Richard Salsbury, Pvt. William Smith, and Sgt. Gregoris Garcia, Asst. Squad Leader with Sgt. Paul Larson, Squad Leader, (rear), 2nd Sqd, 4th Plt., "H" Co. going through Squad in the Attack.



Sfc Letter Driggers critiques "H" Co. Neptune after they carried out "Platoon in the defense and withdrawal," problem.

Second Battalion Staff, Left to Right, Major Jack Belford, XO, Lt. Richard Miller, S-1, Lt. Richard Rainey, S-2, Capt. Thomas Whalen, S-3, Lt. Boyd Parsons, S-4, and M/Sgt. Ambry Kidd, Sgt. Major.



Capt. Richard T. Pumphery, CO "F" Co. gives Machine Gunner, Pvt. John Wingate instructions as 1st Lt. Donald Curtis, Plt. Ldr., and Brig. Gen. Chase stand by.



Standing Left to Right: M/Sgt. James Thomas, 1st Sgt. Hq. 2nd Bn; M/Sgt. Wilbur Matheny, Act 1st Sgt. E Co.; M/Sgt. Billie Barber, Act 1st Sgt. F Co.; and M/Sgt. James Raubach, 1st Sgt. G Co. Kneeling Left to Right: M/Sgt. Aubrey Kidd, 2nd Bn Sgt. Maj.; M/Sgt. Eugene Mann, 1st Sgt. H Co.—100% membership in the Abn Association 2nd Bn, 187th ARCT.

It was just short of one year ago that the mighty Rakkasans of the Second Battalion departed the "Island of Sunshine" and fragrant memories that will come again, refreshed in our moments of drowsy lassitude.

July 13th was, to some of us perhaps, a seemingly unlucky day—for it was early that morning that the giant war birds of the 115th Troop Carrier Wing motored down a short ribbon of asphalt and up and away right into the sun. There were solemn faces, indifferent faces, blurred and lonesome faces, but we were proud to say in majority there were more smiling faces and happy faces than others. Then before Wake Island, every body was smiling—for deep down inside the "Going Home Spirit" was beginning to take hold—to even a greater paradise.

No one was blue any longer, but had assumed the air of great expectation that lay at the end of the road, for each and everyone of us as an American. American citizen and Soldier.

For those coming back home to America, there are two markers that stand as symbols to this great land they seem to say in unspoken words; ("Ours was the Golden Gate Bridge—the counter to the Statue of Liberty—seeing it gives you a close and deep appreciation to be back")—a few minutes past either of these points, envelopes you in the busy, calamitous, great American way of life.

On July 15, we arrived at our initial destination and new home, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; a hundred and five miles inland from the Eastern Seaboard. We turned our backs to Japan after a million "Sayonaras" and began a new slang of "Hi Yall's" for quite a few of us. The change came easy, for our Battalion boasted quite a few of the Southern gentlemen, who were aware of the lingo and had practiced its southern comfort. During our short stay at Fort Bragg, North Carolina we inhabited two areas. The new division area, our first home, and the old RCT area. During July and August the activities were confined mostly to "Operation ReAcquaintance," leave, a few administrative jumps, and PT.

September came with a notice of eviction to a different area. The old RCT areas down past Smoke Bomb Hill, near Route No. 87.

The balance of the month found us all in a very necessary operation of rehabilitation. October tapped us on our shoulder in the midst of our fray, to check for progress (Inspection), and remind us to take a breather for the "October Feast" (THANKSGIVING), and to be thankful for all the things we didn't take time out to give thanks for the other 364 days of the year.

January 1956 is the greatest Airborne month for the "Thompsons' Tigers" participating in six (6) Airborne Operations. The Second Bat-

talion Advance Party departed Fort Bragg for Fort Campbell.

February was the big month. The move began for Fort Campbell and all the troops were anxious to arrive at their new home base. The move began on the 21st of February and ended on 23 February 1956. Camp Gordon and Ringold, Georgia were sited for layovers. During this move vehicles of the 2nd Battalion traveled a total of 33,437 miles.

In March the excitement of the move to Fort Campbell the 2nd Battalion was selected to be the first organization to form and test the TO&E for the Airborne Combat Group. In order to accomplish this mission, the "Tigers" had attached to it one FA Battery which was Battery "B" of the 674th Abn FA Bn and Company "A". With these units attached the Group was formed and received its name of "Neptune Airborne Combat Group." Since the forming of this Group training exercises and Airborne operations have been a major portion of the Group Activities.

Group was also selected as one of the major figures in the Airborne Armored Operation "Operation Rakkasan," which was conducted on May 2-4, 1956. Performances such as exhibited by troops and leaders of "Group" is what encourages commanders of higher headquarters to call on "Group" on any occasion requiring high performance of troops.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| TOP ROW | Pvt-2 J Oliveria | Sp/3 N McDonald | Pvt-2 W Alcorn | Sp/2 G Myrick | Lt R Bonifacio | SFC R Serrano | PFC R Bryant |
| Sp/3 D Moore | Sgt C Willis | Pvt-2 C Bryant | Pvt-3 A Greenwald | M/Sgt J Thomas | M/Sgt J Thomas | SFC J Tober | PFC J Bugg |
| Pvt-2 J Falkner | | Sp/3 W Duffin | Pvt-2 T Sternal | Lt P Petro | Lt P Petro | Sgt J Baxley | PFC R Garrity |
| Pvt-2 C Smischyn | EIGHTH ROW | Pvt-2 E Waukazo | Pvt-2 D Tinnes | M/Sgt H Singley | M/Sgt H Singley | Sp/2 C Brewer | PFC B Hubbard |
| Sp/3 R Sass | Pvt-2 J Shabdue | | Pvt-2 E Devine | Pvt-2 T Dick | M/Sgt R Mitchell | Sgt H Claytor | PFC B Kaley |
| Sp/3 F Baria | Pvt-2 J Parker | SIXTH ROW | Pvt-2 R Hall | Pvt-2 D Lathrum | SFC J RABER | Sgt D Coen | PFC R Legel |
| Pvt-2 T Freeman | Pvt-2 J Wolke | Pvt-2 T Diggs | Sp/3 G Blakely | SFC W Farrar | SFC W ALLEN | Sgt E Colwell | PFC R Maule |
| Sp/3 C Lenhardt | Pvt-2 B Spencer | Pvt-2 E Comstock | | SFC E Judd | SFC W ALLEN | Sp/2 H DeJerinett | PFC H Noah |
| SFC J Fisher | Pvt-2 J King | PFC T Heath | FOURTH ROW | | Not Pictured: | 1st Lt L Beaton | Pvt-2 G Beckler |
| Pvt-2 C McKinley | Pvt-2 E Jenkins | Sp/3 L Titman | Pvt-2 D Knauss | Pvt-2 D Treadwell | 1st Lt L Beaton | Maj J Belford | Pvt-2 J Brandenburg |
| SFC L Fisher | Pvt-2 K West | Sp/3 J Nestor | Pvt-2 J Chilcote | Pvt-2 J MacMillian | Lt R Crooks | Lt R Crooks | Sgt V Rucker |
| Pvt-2 J Owens | Pvt-2 W Post | PFC K Cubberly | Sgt R Hudson | Sp/3 P Maccini | Lt Col J Lemmen | Lt Col J Lemmen | Sgt W Talley |
| Pvt-2 G Zant | Pvt-2 D Anderson | Pvt-2 E York | Sp/2 D Treadwell | Pvt-2 L Goosby | Lt R Miller | Lt R Miller | Sgt R Whitney |
| Sp/3 L Britt | Pvt-2 M Lambeth | Pvt-2 T Duncan | Pvt-2 J MacMillian | Pvt-2 J Anthony | Lt B Parsons | Lt B Parsons | Capt R Pumphrey |
| PFC A Sheffield | Pvt-2 W Naus | Pvt-2 E Hunt | Sp/3 P Maccini | PFC C Davis | Capt R Pumphrey | Capt R Pumphrey | Lt R Ray |
| M/Sgt J Williamson | Pvt-2 H Hussey | Pvt-2 B Dodson | Pvt-2 L Goosby | Pvt-2 H Begley | Lt R Ray | Lt R Ray | Lt E Prosser |
| | Pvt-2 E Franklin | Pvt-2 F Drage | Pvt-2 J Anthony | Cpl A Paquette | Lt E Prosser | Lt E Prosser | Lt L Stinson |
| NINTH ROW | Pvt-2 G Livingston | Pvt-2 D Walker | PFC C Davis | Sgt W Mulvihill | Lt L Stinson | Lt L Stinson | Lt L Vance |
| Pvt-2 L Skinner | Pvt-2 D Holzberlein | | Pvt-2 H Marange | Pvt-2 H Marange | Capt T Whalen | Capt T Whalen | M/Sgt A Franco |
| Pvt-2 F Krummick | | FIFTH ROW | Sp/3 H McAlister | Sp/3 H McAlister | M/Sgt J Franklin | M/Sgt J Franklin | M/Sgt J Gibney |
| Sp/3 W McClain | SEVENTH ROW | Pvt-2 G Hopper | Pvt-2 H Meyer | Pvt-2 H Meyer | Sgt J Thornton | Sgt J Thornton | Sp/3 P Harvey |
| SFC N Wimberly | Pvt-2 G Durborow | PFC D McDaniels | | | Pvt-2 R Paulson | Pvt-2 R Paulson | SFC J Beers |
| PFC H Ellis | Pvt-2 G Bass | Pvt-2 C Strong | THIRD ROW | | | | SFC T Bolduc |
| Pvt-2 J Tomek | Pvt-2 L Alfred | Pvt-2 B Posey | Sp/2 J Garrigan | | FIRST ROW | | SFC W Greenwade |
| PFC B Jacobs | PFC E Beck | Pvt-2 H Williams | Pvt-2 F Novosel | | SFC H Davis | | SFC C Hillis |
| Pvt-2 K Maynard | Pvt-2 R Jones | Sgt J Anderson | Pvt-2 J Jollay | | SFC C Lojeck | | SFC B Horne |
| Pvt-2 R Baker | Pvt-2 A Brown | Pvt-2 F Villafranca | Pvt-2 A Black | | Sgt G Maurer | | SFC S Mitchell |
| PFC L Van Arsdale | Pvt-2 R Gift | Pvt-2 J Robinson | Sp/2 R Roach | | M/Sgt A Kidd | | SFC D Morton |
| Pvt-2 G Hoffee | Pvt-2 J Lebens | | | | Lt J Davis | | SFC M O'Connor |
| Sgt E Fricke | Pvt-2 A Guilbuealt | | | | Lt F Walton | | |
| Sp/3 B McLeskey | | | | | | | |

After the completion of Operation Gyroscope, it seemed that everything else would be an anti-climax to the members of Head-Second. However soon after the arrival of the company at Fort Bragg, the word started getting around that the whole Regimental Combat Team was going to be moved to another post to commence work on another "first" in the annals of the 187th's history.

This turned out to be a fact, and in February of this year, the RCT made the move to what is generally regarded as its real home, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The old Double Header of the 187th Airborne RCT is being transformed into Headquarters and Service Company, Airborne Combat Group Neptune. Difficulties are being ironed out and planning boards and in the field, by both experience and training, most of our young soldiers, who have been in the Army only a short time, are getting their first taste of field duty with a tactical outfit, and a lot of experience of being picked up by all concerned. Upon completion of this training cycle, the men of H&S will receive a short respite and will resume training and will come through with flying colors as the men of Double Header have always done in the past.

1ST LT. ROBERT A. BONIFACIO
CO Hq. Co. 2nd Bn





CAPT. DAVID M. PETERS
CO E Co.

SFC Hickey
SFC Montoya
M/Sgt Matheny
M/Sgt Runyon
Lt Garner
Capt Plosay
Lt Swink
Lt Martin
M/Sgt Perrine
SFC Quintana
SFC Fougherty
M/Sgt Wagoner
Cpl Hill
Cpl Williams
Sgt Payne
Sgt Rutherford
Sgt Martin
Sgt Pompon
Sgt Johnson
Sgt Churchwell
Sgt Stagedill
Sgt Parrish
Sgt Elish
Sgt McCary
Sgt Sheepley
Sgt Gaylord
SFC Gongalas

SFC Tooks
SFC Hobbs
SFC Coursey
Sgt Bustamante
Sgt Franslin
Sgt Key
Sgt Steel
Sgt Coleman
Sgt Smith
Sgt Owens
Sgt McCullough
Pvt Williams
Pvt Snidek
Pvt Smith
PFC Swassard
Pvt Fulgeg
Pvt Ray
Pvt Roderguz
Cpl Joyce
Pvt Bailey
Pvt McCarry
Pvt Smith
Pvt Montouth
Cpl Grider
Pvt Stakor
Pvt Washburn
Pvt Fulser

Pvt Robbison
Cpl Smith
Pvt Nelson
Pvt Cladwell
Pvt Reickfler
Pvt Wiseman
Pvt Wickman
Pvt Adams
Pvt Youngblood
Pvt Hickman
Pvt McGee
Pvt Toffines
Pvt Readon
Pvt Schnell
Pvt Gannon
Pvt Marshall
PFC Bennett
Cpl Bennett
Pvt Mitchell
Pvt Jones
Cpl Schneider
Cpl Keith
Pvt Curringhan
Pvt Schneider
Pvt Maldanado
Pvt Piospeie
Pvt Dulangy

Pvt Cunningham
Pvt Petts
Sp/3 McCall
Sp/3 Young
Pvt Johnson
Pvt Schoill
Pvt Abel
Pvt McAlliator
Pvt Coburn
Pvt Harrison
Pvt Biggs
Pvt Lee
Pvt Randall
Pvt Windhan
Pvt McCarty
Pvt Williams
Pvt Cano
Pvt Reidman
Pvt Schaffer
Pvt Dadderio
Pvt Smith
Pvt Moll
Pvt Couther
Pvt Youngblood
Pvt Lee
Pvt Wilcox
Pvt Turner

Pvt Underwood
Pvt Bogan
Pvt Newell
Pvt Pouffiry
Pvt Schug
Pvt Brown
Pvt Jeffers
Pvt Beard
Pvt Litman
Pvt Brown
Pvt Konock
Cpl Asby
PFC Derrman
Pvt Pridgen
Pvt Harper
Pvt Wilson
Sp/3 Dvorac
Sp/3 Bebrs
Pvt Rathburn
Pvt Short
Pvt Drake
Pvt Mansperger
Pvt Craig
Pvt Bohn
Pvt Curley
Pvt Gray
Pvt Wilson
Pvt Boyd

Pvt Brindly
Pvt Bruce
Pvt McFadden
Pvt Anderson
Pvt Johnson
Pvt Sherman
Pvt McGee
Pvt Pollock
Pvt Kosloff
Pvt Ramey
Pvt Williams
Pvt Hadden

Not Pictured:
Lt Brown
Lt Negard
SFC Coleman
SFC Rhodes
SFC Chapa
Sgt Nelson
Sgt Reid
Sgt Harbony
Sp/3 Feick
Sp/3 Foots
Sp/3 Smart
PFC Peables
Pvt Bjorco
Sp/3 Wilson

In August Eagle Company received a new Company Commander, Capt. David M. Peters. Under his command the Eagles have been soaring high in everything that they do.

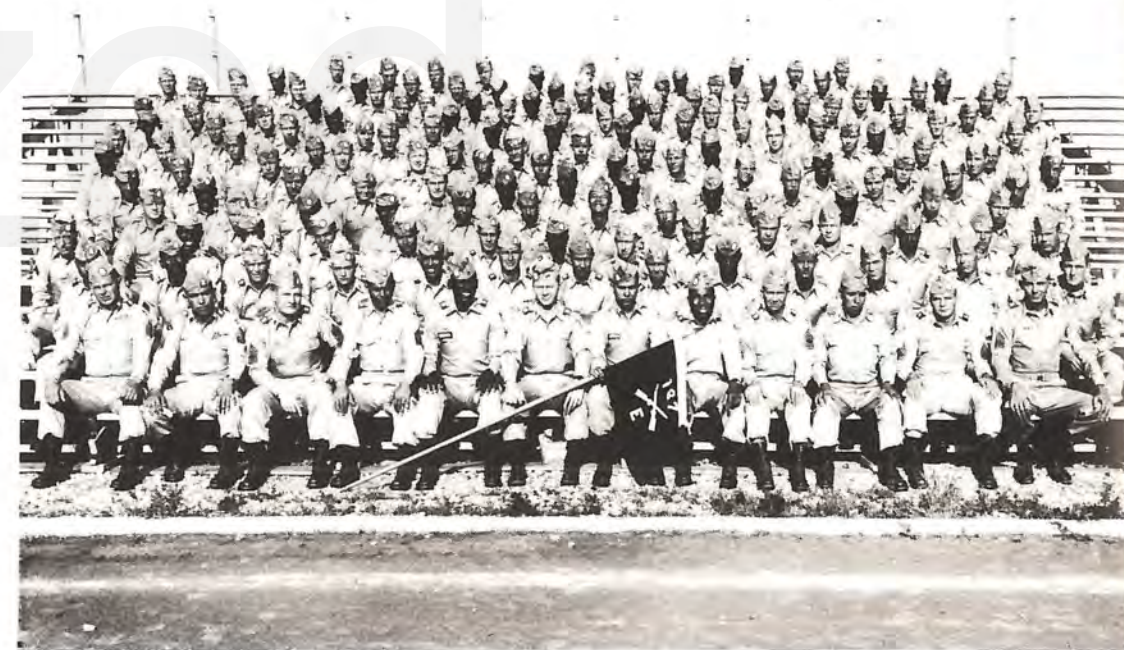
M/Sgt. Williamson moved up to the Battalion Staff and M/Sgt. Kalakauskis from Hawg Company stepped into the First Sergeants slot. M/Sgt. Matheny reported to the Eagles and begun leading the men out to training.

Once again the First Sergeants slot became open when M/Sgt. Kal transferred to Special Forces. We were very fortunate to have M/Sgt. Runyon return to that job. Eagle Company has been running smoothly ever since.

The Eagles had a platoon testing Land Mine Warfare for the Engineers. Sfc. Goldsberry and Sfc. Gonzaled turned out a platoon of experts. The men layed mines so well that inspectors in the area were unable to detect them. Sfc. Coursey had the honor of being the first "killed" in the tests by setting off the first mine on the first day.

In November Sgt. Eslick and his crew served one of the best Thanksgiving dinners that the company had ever had.

All of the little eaglets enjoyed the Christmas party given by the Regiment for the children.



E COMPANY

TOP ROW
Pvt-2 J A Johnson
Pvt-2 G E Pruess
PFC Scharninghausen
PFC R Maxwell
Pvt-2 M H Kirby
Sgt S J Gutierrez
Pvt-2 W F Lowhorn
PFC A G Vaughn
Pvt-2 R L Smith
Pvt-2 G E Pitts
PFC L Graves Jr
Pvt-2 A K Brooks
PFC G A Shamley
Pvt-2 B J Craig

Pvt-2 R E Graff
Pvt-2 B J Smith
PFC D H Tansell
Pvt-2 F Connor Jr
Pvt-2 D Shirey
Pvt-2 J C Lopez

EIGHTH ROW
Pvt-2 W M Siemon Jr
Pvt-2 R A Gonzales
Pvt-2 C G Cantu
Pvt-2 R Green
Pvt-2 E Neuman
Pvt-2 W C Brown
Sp/3 J Brundage
Pvt-2 E Majure
Pvt-2 C K Orr
Pvt-2 L L Bradford
Pvt-2 E L Engebretson
Pvt-2 J A Walden
Pvt-2 J V Zagorski Jr
Sp/3 J L Wingate
Pvt-2 B R Tuby
Pvt-2 J Stafford
Sp/3 G Simpson Jr

SEVENTH ROW
Pvt-2 W J Grant

Pvt-2 N P Wentz
Pvt-2 C P Williams
Pvt-2 C Graham
Pvt-2 E H Hansan
Sp/3 D David
Pvt-2 R F Drews
Pvt-2 C H Flores
Pvt-2 J R Heaston Jr
Pvt-2 A L Fridley
Pvt-2 J Gavetti Jr
SFC A A White
Pvt-2 H F Vetterly
Sgt B Parker

SIXTH ROW
Pvt-2 D A Knutson
PFC C Simpson
Pvt-2 L Harmon
Pvt-2 R N Labbie
Pvt-2 H F Martinez
Pvt-2 W W Walston Jr
Pvt-2 J B Ireland
Pvt-2 R L Sharlow
Pvt-2 D D Gordley
Pvt-2 E L Dressler

Pvt-2 W B Washington
Pvt-2 R C Gray
Pvt-2 J S Thompson
Pvt-2 F K Brown

FIFTH ROW
Pvt-2 F A Nelson
Pvt-2 D P Waldron
Pvt-2 J D Graham
Pvt-2 C C Russell
Pvt-2 F Skidmore Jr
Pvt-2 S Simpson
Pvt-2 H Perkins
Pvt-2 R V Zabroski
Pvt-2 H A Tabro
Pvt-2 J J Whitson
Pvt-2 W E Whitting
Pvt-2 J L Thornton
PFC R P Lamison
Pvt-2 P T Carter
Pvt-2 J T Rodriguez

FOURTH ROW
Pvt-2 E J Lenard
Pvt-2 J R Jones

PFC D A Henry
Pvt-2 J L Shivley
Pvt-2 A Campenella
Pvt-2 J R Griffin
Pvt-2 J M Pruett
Pvt-2 P S Packet Jr
Sp/3 H J Keener
Sp/3 O G Torres
Sgt L D Fulbright
Pvt-2 J H Staggs
Pvt-2 J C Taylor Jr
Sp/2 A Neves Jr

THIRD ROW
Pvt-2 G D Jones
Pvt-2 A H James
Pvt-2 H Coley
Pvt-2 K D Woodling
Pvt-2 R A Bonnell
Pvt-2 G R Hardin
Pvt-2 M A Peterson
Pvt-2 T Carter
Sp/3 R G Ross
Pvt-2 E Brown

Pvt-2 J W Queen
Pvt-2 J McMillion

SECOND ROW
Sp/3 F Briggins
Sgt L F Mielcarski
SFC T H Shuler
SFC W C Adams
Sgt J Majors
Sgt E H Fritzen
Sgt J Ventura Jr
SFC D H Hawk
Sgt W A Pochinski
Pvt-2 R M Campbell
Sp/3 J E Anderson

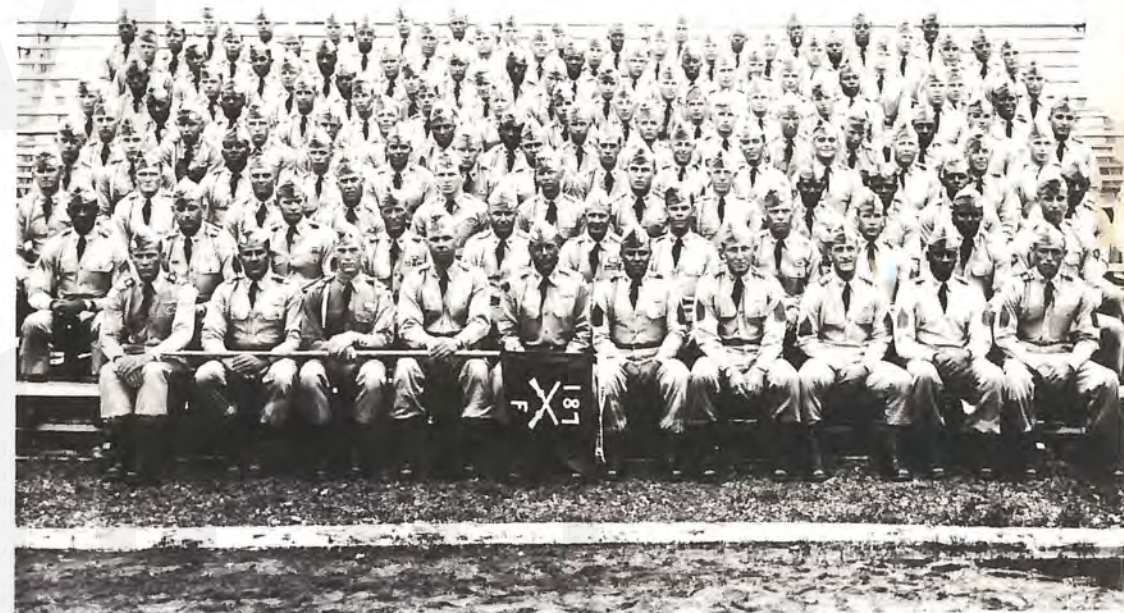
BOTTOM ROW
1st Lt D L Curtis
2nd Lt F R Bonella
2nd Lt N B McCurdy
1st Lt J H Bremer
Capt R T Pumphrey
(CO)
M/Sgt J F Vargas
(1st Sgt)

SFC D J Masciarelli
SFC A G Ponte
SFC G A Morris
SFC H V Rowe

Not Pictured:
1st Lt G D Jones
Pvt-2 C E D Allfrey
Sgt D A Anderson
PFC D L Carpenter
PFC J Clark
SFC A Cortez
Pvt-2 J F Davis
Pvt-2 C E Dyer Jr
Pvt-2 D L Glasier
Sp/3 J L Hamby
Pvt-2 J J Holey
Sgt W J Howell
SFC M Kalloch
Pvt-2 J C Landeros
M/Sgt C E Leal Jr
Sp/3 R A Lewis Jr
Pvt-2 S J Livingston
Sgt H L Long
Pvt-2 E E Madden

Pvt-2 R J Montenegro
Pvt-2 B Moore
Pvt-2 R I Moschetti
Pvt-1 J W Murphy
Pvt-2 C R May
Pvt-2 J J McBee
Sgt H Nakono
Pvt-2 J L Noblitt
Pvt-2 R D Noyes
Pvt-2 N D Pisonella
Pvt-2 R B Pruitt
Sgt D F Radmer
Pvt-2 E Richardson
Sp/2 G M Rodriguez
Pvt-2 J E Schartz Jr
Pvt-2 H J Taylor
Pvt-2 J L Thomas
Pvt-1 R Toney
SFC M E Turner
PFC J L Vance
Pvt-2 H P Vanicola
PFC J H Wagoner
Pvt-2 C H Warner
Pvt-2 O Williams
Pvt-2 J M Zepeda

F COMPANY



CAPT. RICHARD C. PUMPHERY
CO F Co.



The last plane had touched the ground at McCall. The last Fox had unpacked his bag and set up his bunk in the new barracks. We were home. After five years of foreign duty the Famous Fighting Foxes were back in the States.

In December we hit the trail for field exercises in the boondocks. This was no problem to the veterans of Mori's muck and mud. The weeks stay in the field of Fort Bragg was like a picnic.

As we returned to camp, via Corcoran, we were welcomed by the 187th Band who escorted us in with a very appropriate number, "When the Saints Come Marching In."

Late in December, we received news that we were going to get some help in our undersized company. Our new recruits began to pour in. We had to train these new men in the art of soldiering as only a Fox knows how, and to send them to jump school.

New Replacements joined us from the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky to help us rebuild the 101st Airborne Division and to train Officers and Enlisted Men in this new fighting technique. We got off to a fine start as we began our field exercises in April.

With the Company fully organized and functioning in a manner that is characteristic of the Foxes; we look forward to bigger and better things in the very near future.

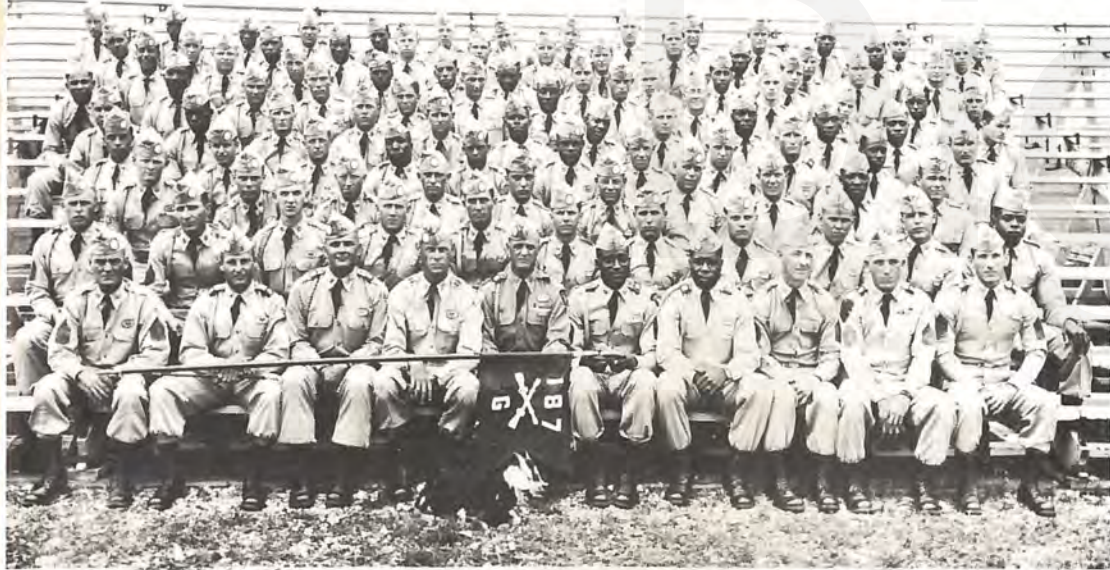


CAPT. GEORGE A. REICHER, JR.
CO G Co.

1956 greeted us with 25 hour days and 8 day weeks, but things like that are to be accepted and taken in stride for the "unexpected" is our business and way of life.

Sixty (60) new faces were greeted by the Company to assist the skeleton crew that represented the company. They were badly needed; also January was the kick-off month for the advance departure to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, our present home and incidentally, the original home of the Regiment before its departure overseas in 1950. 1st Lt. Charlie W. Brewington and a handful of men advanced on Campbell on 17 January 1956; the main body following and closing in 34 days.

On 21 February, "Georgette," our Company Mascot was dropped from the morning report and reassigned to civil authority of the Battalion Newspaper Boy. The next month was a long march of 31 days and out of it grew a new test group, which we are proud to be a part of—COMBAT GROUP NEPTUNE. April beckoned us to the field for four days, our initial field venture of the year of 56. Our new Company Mascot, Lil George V, made his debut. His age, 37 days old. He will be the Spirit Commander of this organization until relieved. After retirement he definitely is looking forward to doing 20 with all the benefits. As George butts into an expected long and diligent tour of leadership, he has behind him 240 Gallant, Obedient, Airborne Troopers.



G COMPANY

TOP ROW
Pvt R K Vince
Pvt L Middleton
PFC R Carter
Sgt B A Hinds
Pvt M Wesson
Pvt G A Tew
Pvt R L Martin
Pvt D W Smith
Sp/3 J Brooks
Pvt G A Dalrymple
Pvt W C Roach
Pvt G L Sheppard
Pvt S Lopez
Pvt P C Gallagher

EIGHTH ROW
Pvt J N Johnson
Pvt R Hamel
Pvt C C Dunn
Sp/3 A Tracy
PFC W Dailey
Pvt R P Monda
Pvt B R Boles
Pvt L A Kouwinski
Pvt O Porizo
Pvt N McWilliams

Pvt G Schulof
Pvt E O Merrell
Pvt C Mathis

SEVENTH ROW
PFC K Miller
Pvt C W Graves
Pvt E E Heisul
Pvt C Harris
Cpl H Lowe
Pvt L Lockly
Pvt J S Imbres
Sp/3 E C Shaut
Sp/3 T Sernil
Pvt J Ogara
Pvt W Ward
Pvt D Reynolds

SIXTH ROW
Pvt C Palmer
Pvt E Engel
Sgt B G Dobbins
Sp/3 W C Hinlos
Pvt M B Downing
Pvt R Raymond
Sp/3 T Freeman
Pvt J Pierce
Sgt B D Stowe

PFC G D Hoskins
Pvt M S Reitzel
Pvt R L Moseley
Pvt F A Collins

FIFTH ROW
Pvt P Rodriguez
Sp/3 J L Allen
PFC W V Ryan
PFC F S Lloyd
Pvt D E Vitulio
Pvt J L Kelly
Pvt M Miller
Pvt E Schoez
Pvt M Page
Sgt C Mitchel
Pvt G W Shafer

FOURTH ROW
Sgt D J Mengas
Pvt J P Allen
Pvt B Dalrymple
Sgt W W Lewis
Pvt O J Phillips
PFC W T Pridgen
Pvt D C Tomlin

Pvt R Mitchel
Sp/3 J C Iman
Sp/3 R W Wright
PFC G V Kruman

THIRD ROW
Pvt W J Recker
Pvt M D Baldassarri
Pvt R E Cottrill
Pvt E G Engel
PFC J Graves
Sp/3 A J Allen

SECOND ROW
Sgt D C Satterfield
Sgt M K Lewandowski
Pvt B Jefferies
Pvt E C Cole
PFC P Brown
Pvt A D Dowling
Pvt L J Sample
PFC C M Haines
Pvt P A Renslow

Pvt R B Bishop
Pvt M A Crowder

FIRST ROW
SFC H N Cody
2nd Lt J L Denman
2nd Lt T H Olsen
1st Lt H G Moseley
Capt J E Reichert
(CO)
M/Sgt C Watts
(1st Sgt)
1st Lt C W Brewington
SFC R M Rhodes
SFC C L Dobbs
M/Sgt J B Raubach

Not Pictured:
M/Sgt T L Moore
M/Sgt J A Rios
SFC D E George
SFC D G Gilstrap
SFC R L Joubert
SFC R A Leriche
SFC G M Martinez
SFC V E Miller

SFC M Paul
SFC J Ragland
Sgt E A Anderson
Sgt C H Clark
Sgt G S Godsey
Sgt J D Holt
Sgt M Milton
Sgt W F C Perkins
Sgt J T Robinson
Sgt T A Rogers
Sp/3 R Carreon
Sp/3 C Alphonso
Sp/3 R F Devane
Sp/3 R D Feazell
Sp/3 L R Hardee
Sp/3 G W Kirk
Sp/3 G E Kohler
Sp/3 H P Liljd
Sp/3 J C Saunders
Sp/3 P L Sims
Sp/3 D Vaughn
PFC A J Guerrero
PFC G P Horner
PFC L James
PFC N T Jefferson
PFC R Jones
PFC J C Kiss

PFC L Miles
PFC C D Owens
PFC E H Papelje
PFC C W Standford
PFC C D Straughn
Pvt J G Arentz
Pvt K Baglien
Pvt M B Bailey
Pvt J H Baldwin
Pvt R B Bates
Pvt R L Baggus
Pvt C H Bunton
Pvt R L Berynell
Pvt H W Christian
Pvt A L Coffey
Pvt R Cordeiro
Pvt G W Craig
Pvt M A Crowder
Pvt W J Dias
Pvt D R Douglas
Pvt J H English
Pvt J P Fecho
Pvt F Figueros
Pvt C W Graves
Pvt J E Greeley
Pvt J Hogan

Pvt D R Holland
Pvt V J Jefferies
Pvt R G Juliam
Pvt E P Kittle
Pvt J P Knight
Pvt G W Little
Pvt D C Mudrak
Pvt M Page
Pvt D Pierce
Pvt A J Rivellino
Pvt J Rodriguez
Pvt A Rednicki
Pvt G W Shaffer
Pvt C P Sheppard
Pvt S Calvin
Pvt L Spigner
Pvt H Sweet
Pvt D W Swing
Pvt J B Thompson
Pvt F Tjerine
Pvt G R Touris
Pvt P Waddington
Pvt J Walter
Pvt E G Whitebird
Pvt A F Wobig
Pvt M D Whities

H COMPANY



TOP ROW
Pvt C Bergemann
Pvt E Albinola
Pvt G Hahn
Pvt L Knight
Pvt E Duncan
Pvt G Buckner
Pvt B Tucker
Pvt J Emery
Pvt E Howley
Pvt T Przybysz
Pvt D Seach
Pvt S Schrieber
Pvt R Salsbury
Pvt D Desimone

TENTH ROW
Pvt R Rogers
Pvt G Fansler
Pvt A Godbott
Pvt J Alchin
Pvt C Bye
Pvt L Ulivarri
Pvt A Castillo

Pvt E Apodaco
Pvt L Nevels
Pvt J Skinkis
Pvt L Puterbaugh
Pvt J Wilhite
Pvt J Rebenzky
Pvt R Carizzoza
Pvt C Roach

NINTH ROW
Pvt B Adcock
Pvt G Ahlstrom
Pvt J Kondisko
Pvt J Nelson
Pvt J Bybee
Pvt H Rembert
Pvt C Christman
Pvt J Johnson
Pvt J Nash
Pvt R Poole
Pvt J Roman
Pvt W Smith
Pvt M Price
Pvt F Turner

EIGHTH ROW
Pvt G DeMallie
Pvt W Gibbons
Pvt E Terrazas
Pvt S Hollinsworth
Pvt I Sims
Pvt R Callant
Pvt W Tripp
Pvt E Mencer
Pvt R Mallicoaat
Pvt R Smith
Pvt A Blair
Pvt W Gholson
Pvt E Calderon
Pvt W James

SEVENTH ROW
Pvt R McCoy
Pvt D Dunn
Pvt C Peterson
Pvt S Hogan
Pvt W Fry
Pvt E Easter
Pvt L Adams

Pvt R Seibert
Pvt C Deatsch
Pvt J Carmichael
Pvt A Little
Pvt L Edwards
Pvt D Verdugo
Pvt W Eckstein

SIXTH ROW
Pvt J Dorsey
Pvt J Ford
Pvt W West
Pvt C Early
Pvt H Wilkinson
Pvt J Ambrose
Pvt E McFadden
PFC J Courts
PFC W McCoy
Sp/3 J Pitts
Pvt L Hodge
Pvt W Tyler
Pvt G Carter
PFC R Norris

FIFTH ROW
Pvt O Cantrell
PFC J Staton
Sp/3 A Butts
Pvt L Torres
Sp/3 V Aaron
Sp/3 D Bracey
Sp/3 D Washington
Sp/3 J Smith
Sp/3 P Scherer
Sp/3 M Hastcoat
Sp/3 B Crimes
PFC J Sherwood
PFC C Theabeau

FOURTH ROW
Sp/3 H Sturdvant
Sgt T Teer
Sgt R Angell
Sgt A George
Sgt J Vallerio
Sgt G Garcia
Sgt S Ippolito
Sgt R Goins

Sgt J Gomes
Sgt F Fulford
Sgt W Dearman
Cpl C Peeler

THIRD ROW
Sp/2 B Byrd
Sgt H Goodman
Sgt A Ronis
Sgt P Lawson
Sgt J Mayo
Sgt W Ackron
Sgt J Corderrio
Sgt D Shahan
Sgt M Grayson
Sgt P Garner
Sgt I Elam
Sp/3 J Islas

SECOND ROW
Sgt M Matteson
SFC F Brown
SFC J Townsend
SFC C Smith

SFC T Wyatt
SFC R Tindell
SFC A Fair
SFC W McKibben
Sgt T Redd
Sgt R McDonald

FIRST ROW
Sgt J P Taylor
2nd Lt M Oliver
1st Lt R Coleman
1st Lt W Flynn
Capt W Manderson
(CO)
M/Sgt E Mann
(1st Sgt)
1st Lt S Santory
2nd Lt L Lee
M/Sgt E Davis

Not Pictured:
Pvt J E Anderson
Pvt N Bowers
Sgt J Burton

Pvt D L Case
SFC A Chapman
Pvt T W Debardelaben
Cpl R R Enriquez
SFC H Ford
Sgt R Fryman
Sgt M Kreamer
Pvt R C Kenny
Pvt R P Kane
PFC R Legingood
SFC J McNeil
PFC J Moore
PFC E Moore
Pvt D M Rogers
PFC J Stafford
SFC E Sundie
PFC S Swann
SFC T Thompson
Sp/2 E Turner
Pvt J Veterano
SFC J Williams
Sgt D Worthy
Sp/2 E Youngblood

CAPT. WILLIAM T. MANDERSON
CO H Co.



Around the first of October part of the men went to Fort Campbell, Kentucky to bring back jeeps and trucks. The rest of the men started having crew drills to keep up their know how on the weapons.

During the first couple of weeks in December the company went on a lot of night problems to get the men used to the elements of night fighting. The men worked hard at their jobs.

After the holidays and the return to a full days training, a lot of new men were put into the company who had just finished jump school. With the announcement that the 187th was moving to Fort Campbell, Ky., to help re-activate the famed 101st Airborne Division, the company prepared for the move. Leaving Fort Bragg on the twenty first of February we arrived at Fort Campbell on the twenty fifth.

During the early part of March we moved again, to the 188th area to start forming the atomic battle group, named AIRBORNE COMBAT GROUP NEPTUNE and prepared to change from a heavy weapons company to a rifle company.



MAJOR HENRY F. ROUSE
3rd Bn CO

THIRD BATTALION 187TH ARCT

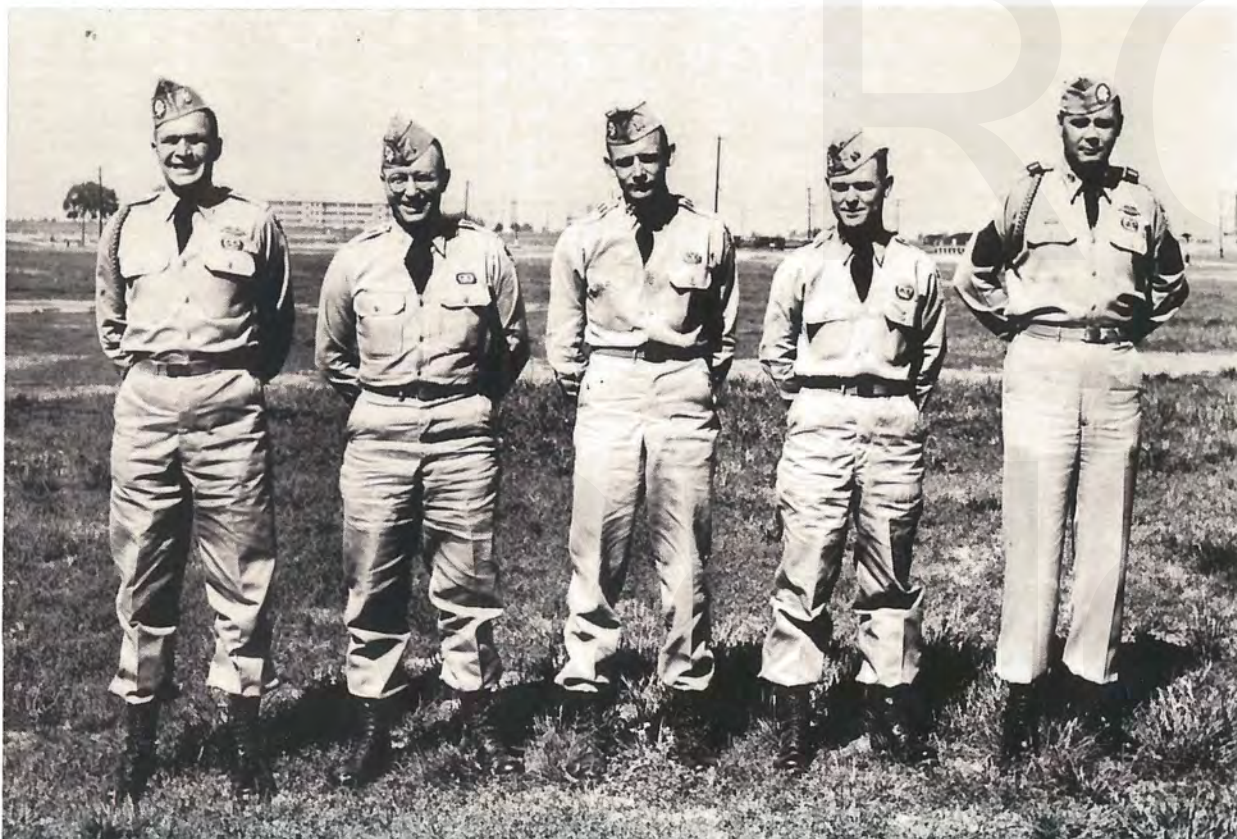


3rd Bn, 187th ARCT put up a Bn size sign, 19 Jan. 1956



3rd Bn jump on DZ Sicley North, Fort Bragg, N. C.

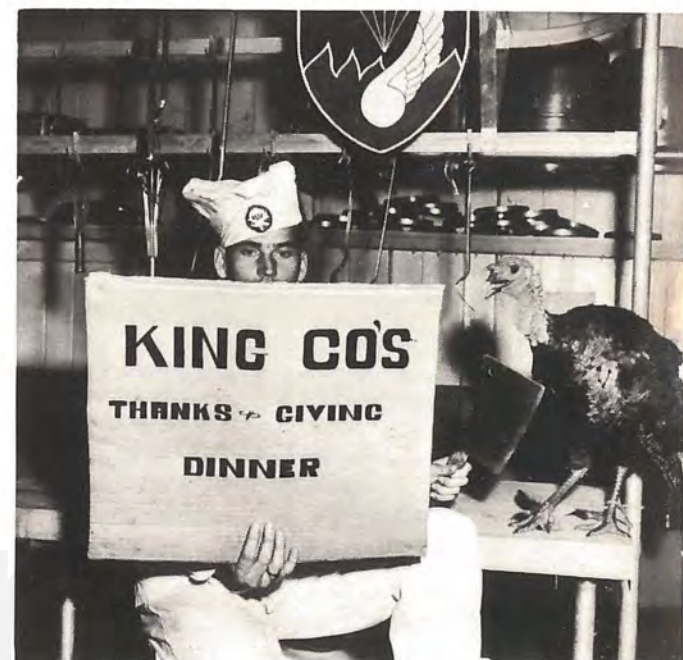
3rd Battalion Staff, Left to Right, Major Robert H. Phillips, XO, Lt. John O. Armm, S-2, Capt. Joseph R. Castelli, S-3, Capt. Gerald R. Tooner, S-4, and M/Sgt. Jack B. Moore, Sgt. Major.



Left to Right: Sgt's. William C. Leak, Nathaniel Rainey, and Kenneth K. Coffman serve as demonstrators and Instructors for the 3rd Bn during daily Physical Training Program.



SFC Hoover C. Moore, Mess Sgt. K Co., 187th ARCT contemplating Thanksgiving Day feast, the main dish for dinner looks over his shoulder.



With the arrival of the 187th Airborne RCT into the States from Japan, and the subsequent change of Station from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the Third Battalion underwent many changes of command, varied assignments and assumed many important responsibilities.

January of 1956, the Battalion was ordered to act as the first increment for the Regimental move to Fort Campbell. Attached units were added to the Battalion and under the leadership of Major Rouse, departed for Kentucky.

The Battalion assignments were many and included housing of attached personnel. The 7290th Guidance Unit and the Advanced Party of the 187th Airborne RCT. Recruit training was also a large responsibility and "L" Company, under Captain James C. Watkins was selected for this task. Plans were immediately drafted by Captain Joseph R. Castelli, and with the concurrence of higher headquarters, were placed into effect. A second recruit contingent arrived on the Post and they were

assigned to King Company for eight weeks advance individual training. At this time the Company was commanded by 1st Lt. George A. Grayeb, Jr.

In February, the Battalion changed location and moved to 42nd and Indian Street. The Battalion Staff received a new Officer in 1st Lt. George W. Gaspard Jr., who was assigned as Battalion Adjutant relieving 1st Lt. Ishmael Pack who became the Administrative Assistant to Colonel Chase and later aide-de-camp to Brigadier General Chase.

Improvements in the Battalion area were led by Captain Harry B. Harris of "Mighty Mike" Company and 1st Lt. "Ace" Burkhard of "Ibu" Company. Planting of grass seed and flowers and spring rains produced copious amounts of grass and many exotic colors graced the scene.

In April the housekeeping chores and the hotel business increased for the Third Battalion. 1st Lt. Ronnie Zahm of Head Third had guests in the form of Company "A" of the 44th Tank Battalion of Fort Bragg,

North Carolina. They were here on the post to participate in the Airborne Armored link-up exercise for the Armored Advanced Students of Fort Knox, Kentucky. While the tankers were training, the Third Battalion played hosts to the visit of 100 ROTC Cadets who inspected Fort Campbell.

April also saw the preparedness by the Third Battalion for the Annual IG Inspection. Major Robert Phillips, XO and 1st Lt. Robert K. Mosier, S4, were busily "birddogging" the Companies inspecting records and equipment. Sgt. Major Jack Moore acted for the S1 in readying the Companies for this important inspection.

The first class graduated from Jump School this month with L Company recently graduated recruits leading the way.

While speaking of jumping, the Third Battalion compiled the enviable record of dropping 2448 men with only one injury since 16 July 1955 through 22 May 1956.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

TOP ROW

Pvt-2 B J Harrison
Pvt-2 D Rasmussen
Sp/2 C Morgan
Pvt-2 H Carver
Pvt-2 F E Pierce
SFC J P Langwasser
SFC P Villaaflor
Sgt D E Conlee
Sp/2 R Nishiyama
Sgt J Flemming
Sp/2 W C Arneu
Sp/2 R W Anderson

SIXTH ROW

PFC H Parks
Pvt-2 N Silge
Pvt-2 D Ripplinger
PFC J T Glenn

Sp/3 R E Newman
PFC C E Helton
Pvt-1 F L Martin
PFC T Tobler
Cpl L W Koontz
Sgt J Pederson
Sp/2 M R Mizzels

FIFTH ROW

Sgt J Wilkins
Sp/3 L Majors Jr
Pvt-2 J Nance
Pvt-2 J P Gertie
Sp/3 M J Harka
Sp/3 J Simon
Cpl R A Bruflodt
Pvt-2 L W Riley Jr
SFC M Meredith
Pvt-2 E West

FOURTH ROW

Cpl M Robinson
Pvt-2 E Demicole
PFC M M Gueff
Pvt-2 A C Fallen
Pvt-2 C F Burton
Sp/2 R Slater
Pvt-2 G Palamer
Sp/3 A D Larez
Pvt-2 T Toloy
Sgt E R Holmes

THIRD ROW

Sp/3 R F Kotva
Sp/3 W E Bullock
PFC B G Gray
Sp/3 B R Ryan
Pvt-2 D H Paul
PFC R L Cain

Sp/2 W Pruitt
Pvt-2 C Espanoza
Pvt-2 W B Walston
Pvt-2 H B Leyva

SECOND ROW

SFC J J Jones
Sp/2 J H Mason
Sp/2 R L Cover
Sp/2 W Bietzel
PFC D G Bietzel
Pvt-2 J R Helton
Sp/3 G W Bryan
Sgt D E Callimore
Sgt H E Young

FIRST ROW

SFC W Osborne
M/Sgt O G Davis

M/Sgt J Constantine
M/Sgt J W Bryan
(1st Sgt)
1st Lt R J Zahm
(CO)
1st Lt C J Fulford
(ExO)
M/Sgt R Smith
M/Sgt E R Barnes
M/Sgt C E Holland
Sp/1 J E Frisbee

Not Pictured:

Pvt-1 W Anderson
M/Sgt D R Bullington
Sgt C E Clark
Pvt-2 A Elsner
Pvt-2 D L Funderburg
Sp/2 A E Hansen

Pvt J J Hassell
PFC C Herbert
Sgt B R Johnson
Pvt-2 J M Lovetere
PFC H McGavock
Pvt-2 C Neubauer
Pvt-1 B R Parker
Sp/3 J Pehrson
Sp/3 B J Rappe
Sp/3 R St Clair
Pvt-2 D Shepard
Pvt-1 K Smith
Sgt J C Spears
Sp/2 A Wiand
Sgt J Uselac
PFC R Welch
Sp/2 N Wessinger
Sp/2 C Tackett

1ST LT. RONALD J. ZAHM
CO Hq. Co.



From July 1955 through December 1955 the Company participated in various duties with the Regiment to include Static Line Test Jumps with Test Board No. 5 at Fort Bragg; conducted and participated in various Battalion and Regimental Reviews in honor of personnel being decorated and/or retired; conducted Battalion tactical and training jumps on Salerno and Sicily DZ's; trained in Land Mine Warfare Tactics and ended the year of 1955 with a bivouac in the field.

January of 1956 found the Unit moving TO&E to Fort Campbell, Kentucky to establish the new home of the Rakkasans and to replace the famed 11th Airborne Division which Gyroscoped to Europe. Once at Fort Campbell the Company did an outstanding job in becoming and operating the Replacement Company for Headquarters Fort Campbell and the 187th Airborne RCT at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In March 1956 the Company was relieved of the mission of operating the Replacement Company and began once more to support the Third Battalion in Garrison and in the field. The Company is under the command of 1st Lt. Ronald J. Zahm with M/Sgt. James Bryan as First Sergeant.



CAPT. HARDIN C. SHORT
CO I Co.

Many of the younger "Rakkasans" may not know of the source of the fierce pride of the men of IBU. The following account tells of its inception. The price and spirit of IBU Company had its beginning in Japan on a slope in Mori Valley late one evening when the company commander at that time, Capt. Robert I. Channon, encountered the now famous creature known as IBU. IBU desired to join the Rakkasans so Capt. Channon agreed to enlist IBU as the company mascot in return for the influence and good luck that IBU would bestow on the company. IBU was immediately accepted by the men as his fame spread rapidly throughout the Far East. His fierce lion's head with its moose antlers topped a powerful gorilla's body and a strong alligator's tail. As one can see the physical appearance of the IBU well represents the character of "I" Company; brave as a lion, strong as a gorilla, staunch as a moose, and tough as an alligator.

It is no wonder that a member of the IBU troops never forgets his old unit nor the spirit of comradeship and teamwork that makes IBU the "Pride of the 187th." It is the pride and spirit that IBU company will carry with it when it becomes an integral part of the new 101st Airborne Division this summer.

TOP ROW

Cpl J McLean
SFC J Slover
Pvt-1 R Tony

FIFTH ROW

Pvt-2 R Prickett
Pvt-2 A Curtis
Pvt-2 V Schligher
Pvt-2 B Likens
Pvt-2 A Tawney
Sp/3 I Gerringer
Sp/1 C Jones
Sp/3 A Braithwaite

FOURTH ROW

Sgt A Martin
Sgt J Conway
Pvt-2 W Pedrick
PFC F Forsyth
Pvt-2 R Bernhagen
Sp/3 M Pepper
Pvt-2 N Riffell
Pvt-2 D Short
Cpl B Pernol

THIRD ROW

Sp/3 R Grimm
Sp/3 J Calhoun

Sgt E Cartwright
Pvt-2 C Lee
Pvt-1 G Franklin
Pvt-2 B Sweeting
Sgt L Huff
SFC E Chastain

SECOND ROW

SFC T Boudoin
Pvt-2 A Solano
SFC C B Wheatley
Sgt P Gregory
Pvt-2 E Kurrelmeyer
SFC R Redmond
Sgt S Neff

FIRST ROW

1st Lt R McKee
2nd Lt G Chickalla
1st Lt J Williams
1st Lt A Burkhard
(CO)
M/Sgt J Smith
(1st Sgt)
2nd Lt D Reid

Not Pictured:

Sp/3 C Barkman
Pvt-2 C Broad
Sgt D Emel
PFC G English
SFC R Faircloth

Sgt P Farrell
SFC A Hall
Sp/3 J House
Sp/3 R McClain
Sgt R Meade
Cpl W Meehan
Sp/3 R Montano
Cpl F Montez
Sgt W Pauley
SFC W Peacock
Sp/2 L Roberge
M/Sgt M Searles
SFC L Smith
Sp/3 B Stanley
SFC J Taylor
SFC B Taylor
Sgt D Volk



I COMPANY

TOP ROW

Sp/3 J White
Sp/3 C Virden
Sp/3 J Woodward
SFC P Fink
Sgt W Blankenship
Sgt R Clarey
Sp/2 L Northcutt
Sp/2 R Corves
Sgt H Call
Sp/3 J McCallum

FIFTH ROW

PFC E Ehrhardt
Sgt W Poche
Sgt K Coffman
Pvt A Fox
Pvt J Lee

PFC B Jones
SFC B Tate
Sp/3 C Hawkins
Sp/2 F Maxwell
Pvt J Taylor

FOURTH ROW

Pvt J Johnson
Pvt R Peters
Pvt L Reynolds
SFC L Mills
Sp/3 F Gerage
Sp/2 H Helm
Sp/3 W Young
PFC B Cain
Sp/3 F LaMica
Cpl F Cota

THIRD ROW

Pvt M Murray
SFC A Bernosky
SFC W Ignatz
SFC A Bjornstal
Sgt A Rodriguez
Sp/2 R Hall
Sgt N Rainey
Sp/3 J Salerno
PFC R McKendrick

SECOND ROW

SFC W Rea
M/Sgt T Grove
M/Sgt T James
Sp/3 J Steele
Sgt W May
Pvt S Steele

Sp/3 H Haime
SFC S Taylor

FRONT ROW

M/Sgt J Tickle
2nd Lt Wolstenholme
M/Sgt P Mental
(1st Sgt)
Capt D M Peters
(CO)
1st Lt J Walls
2nd Lt D Pemberton
M/Sgt E Barkdull

Not Pictured:

2nd Lt J A Heyde
1st Lt J R Tippett

M/Sgt C J Cash
SFC R Harvatin
SFC R Ramos
SFC O Williams
Sgt H Stevens
Sgt R O'Mori
Sgt T O'Mara
Sgt B Allen
Sp/2 R Stahr
Sp/3 R Peay
Pvt T Freeze
Pvt L Downing
Sp/2 R Biegel
Sgt G Thomsen
Pvt R Manning
Pvt G Trapnell
Pvt C Williams

K COMPANY



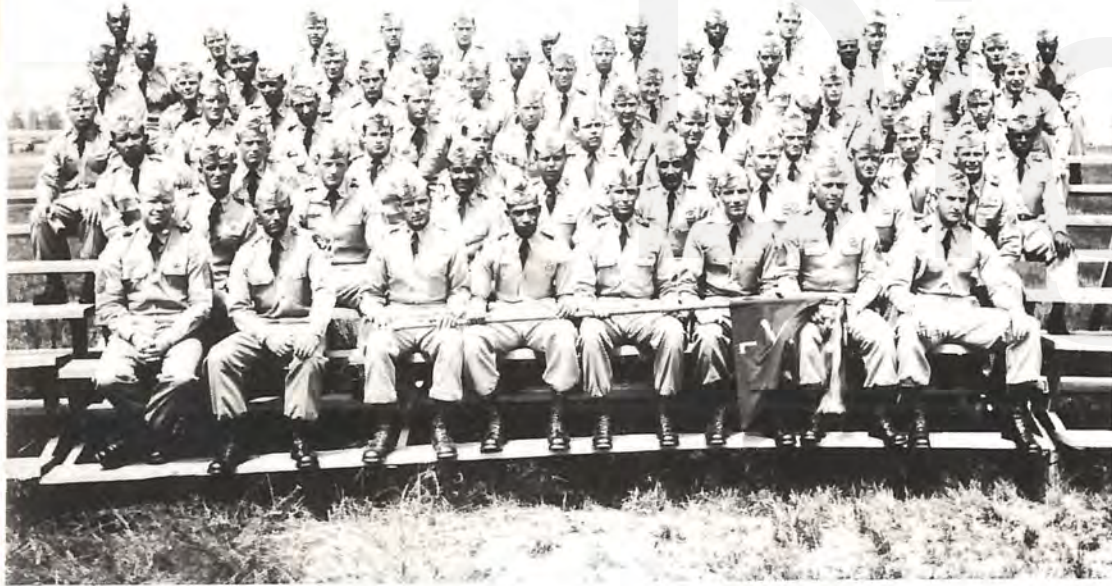
CAPT. DAVID M. PETERS
CO K Co.



Upon return to Fort Bragg from Japan, eager for work and curious to know what our next assignment would be, we soon found that being part of an elite unit is not easy; that we had to show our worthiness to such a title. Our day would begin with some of the most strenuous physical training we had ever encountered. After which we continually perfected the techniques of Infantry Tactics.

When the army needed a new system for Land Mine Warfare it was only proper that they should call on "King Kong" to do the job. We accepted our new responsibility with all the spirit we had shown throughout our stay in the Far East. The higher authorities had but one comment for our efforts, "Well Done."

Upon our arrival to Fort Campbell we were given the assignment of training basics, a job completely new to us. Due to the large number of men in our first group we found it necessary to divide the company into two recruit companies. This idea worked out well despite the necessity of having two complete staffs of cadre personnel.



L COMPANY

TOP ROW

Pvt-2 P L Dawson
Sp/3 J Bailey
Pvt-2 J M Postalle
Pvt-2 L D Simpson
Pvt-2 R Watson
Sp/3 W C Murphy
Sp/3 P Suber
PFC C Johnston
PFC J L Epley
Pvt-2 B C Thomas
Pvt-2 R Godek
Pvt-2 C Davis

SIXTH ROW

Pvt-2 A Meade
Pvt-2 W E Garcia
Pvt-2 B Wooten

Cpl G H Peterson
Sp/3 R Echevarria
PFC G L Mizer
Sp/3 J Balderrama
Pvt-2 G Janis
Pvt-2 J H Hover
PFC J P Rodriguez
PFC W B McLellan Jr

FIFTH ROW

Pvt-2 C Stevens
Pvt-2 D Duxburg
Pvt-2 J R Allen
Pvt-2 B Thomas
Pvt-2 E Peck
Cpl G Kaer Jr
Pvt-2 J W Quinn
Pvt-2 F Prades

Pvt-2 F V Nickels
Pvt-2 J Zancolich
Pvt-2 P Arzano

FOURTH ROW

Pvt-2 D Burros
Sgt B C Golding
Sgt D R Long
Sgt K H DeFer
Sgt W L Martin
Pvt-2 A Peterson
Pvt-2 N Durarte
Pvt-2 H R Puga
Pvt-2 T White
Sp/3 H Archuletta

THIRD ROW

SFC J Casers

Sgt T Peterson
Sgt J K Blackburn
Sgt W Shackelford
Sgt R Colvert
SFC J McKaskill
Sp/2 J R Conn
PFC F D Solomon
Cpl F D Taylor

SECOND ROW

SFC A S Fiore
Sgt C C Rolston
SFC W E Catus
SFC R O Cramer
Sgt F D Soto
Sgt W S Riley
SFC R D Nugent
M/Sgt J M Hulse

FIRST ROW

M/Sgt C L Hamberlin
(1st Sgt)
2nd Lt C E Hobson
2nd Lt E E Brant
1st Lt A Roper
Capt J C Watkins
(CO)
1st Lt D S Grosset
M/Sgt E H Bowyer
2nd Lt C Bliss

Not Pictured:

SFC H Buskey
SFC M Conarton
Sgt A Ford
Sgt J H Howard
PFC W E King



CAPT. JAMES C. WATKINS
CO L Co.

Pvt-2 G E Knight
Sp/3 C Shillings
Pvt-2 J Smith
SFC O L Piersall
Pvt-2 E H Shelton
Sgt S C Allen
Pvt-2 R Bingham
M/Sgt D H Carter
(CO)
Pvt-1 I S Davis
Pvt-2 W Garcia
SFC H B Kaim
SFC A B Kirksey
SFC C Pally
Pvt-2 A P Tompson
Sgt R B Wiley
Pvt-2 C Phillips
PFC R E Allen
Pvt-2 L Biggs



M COMPANY

SEVENTH ROW

Sgt A B Timmons
Pvt-2 E P Estrada
Pvt-2 W B Harper
Pvt-2 V Smith
Pvt-2 H Ray
Pvt-2 J J Sevick
Pvt-2 D D Miller
Sgt E L Guichard
SFC R A Breiling
PFC C Bolton

SIXTH ROW

Pvt-2 V W Bennett
Pvt-2 R Knapp

Pvt-2 W D Colbert
Pvt-2 G Grimes
Pvt-2 J D Heinrich
Pvt-2 J Harvey
Pvt-2 J Strickland
Pvt-2 J D White
Pvt-2 H J Poulin

FIFTH ROW

PFC B L Gibson
Sp/3 J Williams
PFC J C Townsend
PFC B R Marshall
PFC J R Hays
PFC M L Roberts Jr

Pvt-2 L Brown
Pvt-2 B Bettendorf
Pvt-2 M P Cowman
Pvt-2 T Gish

FOURTH ROW

Sgt C L Robinson
Cpl E Mendias
Sp/3 F L Jackson
Sp/3 L Sua
Sp/3 F R Healy
Sp/3 W R Vreeland
Sp/3 J Moody
PFC L W Nobles
PFC G C McDowell

THIRD ROW

Sgt J H Steve
Sp/3 C D Leemhuis
Sp/3 B D Haley
Sgt M A Mirailh
Sp/3 H R Huggins
Sgt L G Wilson
Sgt C Cervenka
Sgt J W Watson
Cpl W Smith
Sp/3 L Bixemann

SECOND ROW

Sgt R E Hack
Sgt K A Clunk

Sgt P J Belden
Sgt R Adamczyk
Sgt J Danko
Sgt J W Price
Sgt L E Kunst
Sgt D Hernandez
Sgt J P Barrow

FIRST ROW

Sgt C W Dasher
M/Sgt R J Olguin
(1st Sgt)
M/Sgt R L Johnson
2nd Lt K Ferguson

Capt G R Toomer
(CO)
2nd Lt J P Humphrey
2nd Lt D L Gardner
SFC R C Howland
SFC W D Waltz

Not Pictured:

2nd Lt A R Carlisle
SFC G H Burgess
SFC F R Cardenas
Sgt R J Hodgdon
Sgt E C Lewis
Pvt-1 J A Long
Pvt-2 D R Redmon

CAPT. HARRY B. HARRIS
CO M Co.



Late summer and early fall of 1955 caught the "Lions" preparing to be better soldiers. Training cycles began anew, equipment was polished and inspections were held. We could no longer rely on "Boy san" to pull KP or shine the brass. We had field exercises and tactical parachute jumps both day and night. We roared "all the way."

Many of our top NCO's went to the 1st Bn to train basic trainees. Among these were Sgt. Wiles, a 57 RR instructor, known as "Backblaster," Sfc. Wood, a 60 MM Mortar instructor, known as "Baseplate," and Sgt. Ralston, a 30 Cal. LMG instructor known as "Mr. Burst of Six." The "Lions" were going full speed ahead. All the comments received on their instruction is noteworthy and commendable.

One of the most important changes came in the command Post. Captain George Daoust bid us "Sayanara" and Captain James C. Watkins took command on 22 September 1955.

We also gained and lost an Executive Officer. 1st Lt. Alfred Burkhard left the XO and took over the task of taming "Ibu." 1st Lt. Thomas R. York came into the organization to replace Lt. Burkhard. 1st Lt. Al Roper is now in the company and is presently coaching the 3rd Bn baseball team. Our 1st Sergeant also changed hands, M/Sgt. Claude Hamberlin took over the "Top Slot" once more, replacing M/Sgt. Earl Barnes who transferred to Head Third awaiting discharge.

As it is often quoted in the "Den," it is not the individual or the unit as a whole but the everlasting teamwork of every blooming soul. ROAR LIONS ROAR.

Having moved half way around the world and back again, Mighty Mike settled at Fort Bragg, North Carolina for a brief stay in August 1955. August was the month for reunions and the renewal of old friendships; then again in September it was "Pack your duffel bags," as Mike and the 187th ARCT was re-located in the RCT area at Fort Bragg.

Here it was that the terms "rehabilitation" and "beautification" came into common usage as Mighty Mike went into action and transferred it's area into a top notch Rakkasan beauty spot. Through the remainder of the year Company "M" assisted the RCT's training mission by providing top notch instructors and demonstration teams.

January 1956 meant a new mission to be performed by the Mighty Mike Road Runners—that of leading the way for the Regiment in Operation "Gypsy." The "Beep! Beep!" of the Mighty Mike Road Runners, however, was to be heard again.

Mike now takes on the additional mission of preparing 275 trainees in heavy weapons, and sometime in the near future Mike's "Beep! Beep!" will be sounded as he moves to still another location.



1ST LT. DESMOND O'KEEFE
CO Hq & Hq Co.

EIGHTH ROW

Sp/2 C Benvenuto
Pvt-2 A L Holt
Sp/3 C Mathieu
Sp/3 A E McDonald
Sp/3 J Mayfort
Pvt-2 C M Kiser
Sp/2 E L Long
Pvt-2 R B Bothun
Sp/3 L G Tibbetts
Pvt-2 W E Parker
Pvt-2 D F Parker
Sp/3 J Kasprowski
Pvt-2 P Igneri
Sp/3 M D Barnard
Pvt-2 R W Werner
Sp/2 J Jordan

SEVENTH ROW

Pvt-2 J S Haswell
Sgt J L Embrey
Pvt-2 R R Fite
Sp/2 C H Courter
Pvt-2 J M Gallagher
Pvt-2 R G Ladish

Sp/3 E F Madison
Pvt-2 A Hooker
Sp/3 W M Barnes
Pvt-2 R J Kaiser
Pvt-2 J A Schneider
Pvt-2 D Redlon
Pvt-2 D Hutton
Pvt-2 W A Rogers
Pvt-2 G B Busch Jr
Sp/3 W W Klatt

SIXTH ROW

Pvt-2 J C Matyga
Sp/3 Z Gondro
Sp/3 J M Miranda
Sp/3 E F Horvath
Sp/2 R F Hughes
Sp/2 W D Livergood
Sgt J Ramirez
Cpl J P Seery
Pvt-2 P Phelan
Sgt M B Sheffield
Sgt W H Lemon
Sgt J M Henry
Sgt C Robinson

Sp/2 G E Murray
Sp/2 A Vanderpool

FIFTH ROW

Sp/2 S Cunningham
Sp/2 G E Bankis
Sp/3 R N Felty
Sp/3 A Herndon
Pvt-2 L L Boyer
Sp/3 H E Herring
Sgt K A Bridge
Sp/3 I W Spence
Sp/3 J D Millwood
Pvt-2 J M Clarks
Sp/2 W Suterowski
Sgt R Porto
Sp/3 R D Williams
Sgt J E Tidwell

FOURTH ROW

Pvt-2 J L Gier
Pvt-2 C E Burk
Pvt-2 M A Haro
Pvt-2 P A Chenette

Pvt-2 G DeRubis
Pvt-2 B J Stiles
Pvt-2 C B Fuller
Pvt-2 E C Benington Jr

Pvt-2 T F Martin
Sp/3 C E Wesley
Sp/2 C T Sanders
Sp/3 R J Whitener
Sp/3 R Grimes Jr
PFC J M McGivern
Sgt D R Carter

THIRD ROW

M/Sgt J W Smith Jr
Sgt J Cherry Jr
Sgt A Forster
Pvt-2 G J Germick
Pvt-2 V J Bartasius
Sp-3 A W Carter
Sp/3 K C Lord
Pvt-2 C M Sharpe
Sp/3 D K Kaea
PFC F H Hinson
Pvt-2 L H Pettis

Sp/3 T L LeFlore
Sgt J Leverett
Pvt-2 J Odum
Sp/2 R G Waldon
1st Lt E B Bookman
(Exec Off)

SECOND ROW

M/Sgt H W Weisbach
PFC T A Russell
Sp/3 P N Elliot
Sp/3 L Freeland
Sp/3 S A Godin
Sp/3 W E Cody
PFC W W Lewis
Pvt-2 R J Lomas Jr
Pvt-2 E Phillips
PFC T Campros Jr
Pvt-2 R Pease
Sgt I G Goskey
Sgt F D O'Neal
Sp/2 B H Leslie
Sp/3 J Roberts
Sgt J R Linton

FIRST ROW
M/Sgt J A Warren
SFC T W Davis
SFC R T Craycraft
SFC D R Lowery
SFC J G Earley
SFC J A Bailey
SFC K B Jimmerson
Sp/1 F L Sibilski Jr
SFC W E Gentry
M/Sgt J G Michael
M/Sgt I E Strack
SFC F J Werle
SFC J L Morris
M/Sgt T Pozzi
1st Lt D O'Keefe
(CO)

Not Pictured:

Sp/2 J A Akers
Pvt-1 H Bildstein Jr
Pvt-2 G H Boone
SFC C W Bass
M/Sgt R Carbajal

Sgt J G Cozort
Sgt T A Crawley
Pvt-2 J A DeCesare
Sp/2 F N Dobson
PFC R S Dowdell
Pvt-2 D Doyle
M/Sgt G W Dunaway
Pvt-1 P C Edwards
Sgt R K Gambill
Sgt N G Grisham
Pvt-2 D O Guthrel
Sgt F L Hale
Sgt R H Helton
Cpl F Henegar
SFC L Hunt
Sp/3 D Hicks
M/Sgt G W Ivy
Pvt-2 J G Jarvis
Pvt-2 R S Karland
Pvt-2 R King
Sp/3 F J Klein
Sp/3 M L Kroah Jr
Pvt-1 F Kupper Jr
Pvt-2 R K Loughry
Sgt W W Lowery

SFC H McCreary

Sgt W J Morrow
Sgt R M Myers
SFC R P Nichol
Sgt J Patterson
M/Sgt J Powell
(1st Sgt)
Sgt R M Robinson
Sgt J Rogers
PFC F W Shinskie
Sgt T Sims
Pvt-2 D E Snelson
Sp/3 J Soroka Jr
Sp/2 J Sullivan
Sp/2 B A Talley
Sp/3 M C Tucker
SFC E W Valentine
Sp/2 W C Wall
Pvt-2 B C Waller
Cpl B J Watson
SFC C J Watkins Jr
Sgt J Williams
Pvt-2 H A Dougherty
SFC J E Spence



HQ & HQ COMPANY

SEVENTH ROW

Sp/3 P Reilly
Sp/3 L Rich
Sp/3 J A Moore
Sp/3 E D Edwards
Sp/3 H Hagan
Sp/3 M Piccoli
Sp/3 S Hudson
PFC J Lockhart
PFC J Hoehne
PFC E Clute
Pvt F Poley
Pvt S Harris
PFC W Decosta
PFC L McNeely
PFC D W Shaw
Pvt F Ockert
Pvt A Rohrhuber
PFC H Burns

Pvt J B Burke
PFC C Brewer

SIXTH ROW

Pvt R Collins
Sp/3 A Curtis
Sp/3 W Bostic
Sp/3 M Glass
Sp/3 W Smith
Sp/3 R Wright
Sp/3 H Haines
Sp/3 L Kimback
Sp/3 P Ochoa
Sp/3 C Barry
Sp/3 A Ochoa
Sp/3 B Royce
Sp/3 R M Britt
Sp/3 J Witmer
Sp/3 D Culp

Sp/3 T Hayes
Pvt C Hardy
Sp/3 O Koch
PFC G Worley
Pvt I Basner

FIFTH ROW

Pvt C Martin
Sp/2 G Mayer
Sp/2 J Ramos
Cpl R Donaldson
Sp/3 W Evans
Sp/3 H Merriman
Sp/3 S Spinks
Sp/3 F Uribe
Sp/3 G Chavez
Sp/3 J Potter
Sp/3 R Cudaback
Sp/3 W Brown

Sp/3 D Christenson
Sp/3 C Perkins
Pvt B Richardson
Pvt E Gallagher
Pvt C Ellis
Pvt P Goodwin
Pvt J Rivers

FOURTH ROW

PFC S Johnson
PFC F Rainey
PFC E Cecil
Pvt R Devielle
Sgt R Campbell
Sp/2 C Thompson
Sp/2 J Newman
Sp/2 J Welsh
Sp/2 M Linton
Sp/2 H Hellen

Sp/2 J Bierman
Sp/2 D Pritt
Sp/2 J Tillman
Sp/2 M Smith
PFC T Calhoun
PFC B K Archer
PFC C Woolever
Pvt A Ellis

THIRD ROW

Sgt C Harvey
Sgt A Jimenez
Sgt A Faulkner
Sgt T Gamble
Sgt R Mitchell
Sgt E Allen
Sgt D Johnson
Sgt R Lord
Sgt W Eskew

Sgt R Harris
Sgt J Watkins
Sgt E Keene
Sp/3 C Drake
PFC F Null
PFC R Tinsten
PFC R Taylor

SECOND ROW

Sgt D Stuart
SFC J F Allen
SFC J Williams
SFC H Varner
SFC L Lafoon
SFC E Britt
SFC F Doss
SFC J White
SFC L Amans
SFC W Pere

SFC J Thompson
SFC G C Queipo
Sgt E Blankship
Pvt J Anjesky
Pvt L Delonjay
Pvt J T Williams

FIRST ROW

M/Sgt M Price
(1st Sgt)
Sp/2 R Marlow
SFC G Connor
1st Lt H L Hyatt
Capt H D Phillips
CWO R Bradley
CWO B Potts
1st Lt C Nugent
M/Sgt J Rogers
SFC G Brown

Not Pictured:

Sgt K Garmon
CWO H Strickland
SFC H Gunn
Sgt R Phelps
Sp/3 R Mallenkoph
Sp/3 R Simpkins
SFC W Morris
Sp/2 H Colburn
Sp/3 J Peters
Sp/3 V Cholico
SFC C Stevens
Sp/3 M Sandlin
SFC G Dawe
Pvt R Furioni
Pvt J Gordon
PFC B Cotman
Capt F Champoux



1ST LT. HARRY T. McDANIEL
CO Svc. Co.





MEDICAL COMPANY

During the months of October, November, and December, the company supported the Recruit Training Program by assigning several aid-men to each company of the 1st Battalion. In December of 1955, 1st Lt. Alvah C. Monshower, Jr. assumed command of Medical Company upon the transfer of 1st Lt. Lloyd E. Spencer.

On January 17, 23 EM and 1 Officer departed for Fort Campbell by way of motor convoy. These men constituted the advance group and upon arrival they at once began to make preparations for the arrival of the main body of troops. Buildings were opened and work was begun to ready them and the surrounding areas.

In addition to preparing buildings and areas, these 23 EM and 1 Officer furnished medical aidmen to various ranges and to Companies "K" and "L" of the 187th ARCT to support the training cycle being conducted for recruits. In March, 26 enlisted men were welcomed into the company from the 11th Airborne Division.

Battle Group Neptune of the 101st Airborne Division was formed in March and 44 EM and 1 Officer were transferred into the battle group to furnish medical support. This was a period of much activity for Medical Company, as men were transferred both in and out of the company, training parachute jumps were conducted, and maintenance and training was carried on.

By April, the company was stable and an extensive program of beautification was begun. Grass was planted, and the entire company area was landscaped. As training gained momentum throughout the Regiment, medical support commitments increased.

Medical Company, working together as a unit, has come a long way toward their goal of attainment of a high state of Combat Readiness, and in consonance with Regimental policies, the maintaining of the high Airborne standard of this Combat Team.

SEVENTH ROW

Capt A E Roberts
Sp/3 B King
Sp/3 H A Brown
Sp/3 B Davis Jr
Sp/3 C Johnson
Sp/3 C L Parker
SFC P A Silfies
SFC P Schaaf
Sp/2 W L Christensen

SIXTH ROW

Sp/2 M Torres Jr
Sgt P Rodriguez
Sgt J F Bertrand
Sgt J A Martinez
Sp/2 K Beecham

Pvt-2 J G LaRochele
Sp/3 T L Jackson
Pvt-2 W K Anusevitch
Sp/3 C R Barnwell
Pvt-2 B Jones
Pvt-2 A L Marshall

FIFTH ROW

PFC W W Potter
SFC F E Doster
Pvt-2 B Moore
Sp/2 D A Hostetter
Sp/1 F J Thomas
Pvt-2 A H Huet
Sp/3 J E McCarter
Sp/3 S S President
Pvt-2 J F Marriott

Sp/3 G J Snow
Sp/2 A D Sowers
Sp/3 I N McDonald

FOURTH ROW

Sgt J C Pursley
Sp/2 A C Duggar
Sgt J W Love
Sp/1 G E Mazzei
Sp/3 C R West
Sp/3 J W Moore
Sp/3 B J Hubbard
Sp/2 D E Boyce
Sp/2 J A Willis
Sgt R Overstreet
SFC J D Young

THIRD ROW

Sp/2 W Condry
SFC M L McRae
Sp/3 H O Thompson
Sp/3 L Torres
Pvt-2 D C Locke
Pvt-2 J Guilfoyle
Pvt-2 J Neubaur
Pvt-2 W J Grant

SECOND ROW

Sp/2 R Vandagriff
SFC D S Pedroza
Sp/3 V E Watson
Sp/3 N R Smith
Pvt-2 G McCain Jr
Sp/1 D Vinson

Sp/2 C A Taylor
Sgt S Grohal

FIRST ROW

SFC C E Barnette
SFC J Castillo
M/Sgt L E Rodriguez
1st Lt A Monshower Jr
(CO)
2nd Lt R H Oehler
M/Sgt W H Childress
(1st Sgt)
M/Sgt T W Crump
M/Sgt W Smith

Not Pictured:
M/Sgt A W Kent

SFC N Brown
Sgt G H Dirks
Sgt D Little
Sgt N Suber Jr
Sp/2 T LeMastus
Sp/2 E Leming
Sp/2 P B Lewis
Sp/2 B S Neal
Sp/2 E J O'Mara
Sp/2 W L Rollins
Sp/2 R L Schweitzer
Sp/2 F Villarreal
Sp/2 C H Watson
PFC W Jeffers
Pvt-2 G Mars
Pvt-1 W F Amick
Pvt-1 W Chisolm



1ST LT. ALVAH C. MONSHOWER, JR.
CO Med. Co.

ENGINEERING COMPANY



Sgt P D Reeves
Sp/2 E L Currier
Pvt-2 C J Hebert Jr
Sp/3 J T Wilford
Sgt J Santiago
Sp/3 N Davis
Sgt A V Vaughn
Sgt G A Lovett
Sgt J Mishoe Jr
Sgt D J Counts
Sp/3 O R Ballenger
Sgt E Trevino
Pvt-2 R L Kitchens
Pvt-2 R A Jiles
Sp/3 K E Singo
Pvt-2 R D Kitts
Pvt-2 D O Congdon

SFC H T Ezell
SFC C W Polies
Sgt O J Jones
SFC R L Beckham
SFC C Ardoline Jr
Sgt W Dillree
Sgt M D Carter
Sgt L F Kirk
Sp/2 P W Hamilton
Sp/3 Z J Kilian
Sp/3 B M Crew
SFC H M Wilson
Sgt T V Peek
Sp/3 J G Hall
Sp/2 A J Simms
SFC R Hendricks
Sp/2 G Frost

Sp/2 F D Mose
Sp/2 W Ford
SFC Z F Osnoe
Sp/3 O R Adams
Sp/3 R G Moore
SFC D O Coffalt
Pvt-2 C Massey
Pvt-2 J M Martinez
Pvt-2 L E Ostrand
Pvt-2 M G Hall
Pvt-2 R J Steele
Sp/3 W T Jacobs
PFC R Patterson
Sp/3 N M Finlanson
Sp/3 E Elswick
Sp/3 J J Meadows
Sp/2 K W Pitman

Pvt-2 A L Mikell
Sp/3 L G Tibbetts
Sp/3 C J Hendricks
SFC A Burr
Sp/2 C C Jones
Sp/2 L F Lofthouse
SFC N T Norris
SFC J J Payne
Sgt N J Graziosil
Sgt J F Williams
Pvt-1 D Threatt
PFC J C Osborne
Pvt-2 R A Peterson
Sp/2 J G Lyons Jr
Pvt-1 A L Thompson
SFC F W Pumphrey Jr
Sgt A McCaskill

Sgt R F Mullins
Pvt-2 C Grinnell
Sgt R Grier
Sp/2 L R DePriest
SFC D E Hester
SFC J A Robbins
M/Sgt C P Boenau
SFC A S Gladney
M/Sgt P Tihansky
Sgt F X Shea
Sp/2 M Medrano
SFC J Jackson Jr
2nd Lt R A Fontaine
1st Lt H W Martin
M/Sgt E F Pena
M/Sgt W G Hayes
1st Lt J P Smallwood

1st Lt D K Randels
2nd Lt C P Carlton
Sp/3 H B Parks
Pvt-2 K Duncan
Sp/3 E R Ornelas
SFC J R Shearfield

Not Pictured:

SFC W H Colbert
SFC R Davis
SFC C T McGrew
SFC H Morris
Sp/2 W R Adams
Sp/3 B D Phillips
Sp/2 H T Keith
Sp/2 D R Lavigne

Sp/2 J Lowe
Sp/2 E McCarthy
Sp/2 J C McBride
Sp/2 M P Mitchell
Sp/2 L Robert
Sp/2 D E Robinson
Sp/2 R L Stearns
Sp/3 M Chavira
Sp/3 E L Day
Sp/3 J C Hinshaw
Sp/3 W C Hundley
Sp/3 L H Neal
Sp/3 W B Parker
Sp/3 B D Phillips
Sp/3 G V Rosevink
Sp/3 S L Smith

Sp/3 I Watson
PFC L R Dreifuss
PFC M M Guelf
PFC M Hamilton
PFC L H Padgett
PFC T O D Smith
Pvt-2 M L Boley
Pvt-2 R Carillo
Pvt-2 M C Dyke Jr
Pvt-2 J M Lucante
Pvt-2 H J McGuire
Pvt-2 A D Oliver
Pvt-2 S M Romero
Pvt-1 F L Van Jr
Pvt-1 W J B Hersey

Only a few days before pulling up our roots from Fort Bragg we lost a Company Commander whose integrity and leadership created an impression that none of us will ever forget when Capt. Leo E. Soucek received orders for civilian schooling. But we found that Lt. James P. Smallwood, the former Exec. receiving his baptism to fire under the pressure of Operation Gypsy, filled these big shoes most admirably and the operation of the Company remained smooth and efficient.

While the other companies improved their areas we proved we were real "Injun Ears" by immediately devoting ourselves to the challenging task of renovation the Fort Campbell, Jump school. We were all pleased to be doing the work we have been trained and organized to do for the first time since Japan.

February of this year saw an old pillar of the 22nd Engineers, SFC John Kent, move up to the 7290th Advanced Group and SP/3 Elswick take charge of our supply Room.

SFC Hester took the first and third platoons out to enlarge the 187th Drop Zone by some 200 acres. This involved clearing 8 to 10 acres of dense vegetation drawing on the imagination and ingenuity of everyone insofar as borrowing equipment and men from every unit on Post. SFC Gladney's Motor Pool grew and grew, until we looked like the 22nd Abn Engineer Bn, with cranes, rollers, graders and extra bulldozers. Our Mess Steward, SFC Colbert working closely with Field First Sergeant Pena kept the hard working crews well fed, and our mechanics, Finlanson and Lyons pinch-hitting as dozer operators on the extra bulldozers became highly proficient.

Accomplishing several other Engineer tasks during early 1956 and with more waiting for us we are a contented Engineer Company, looking forward to forming the new Engineer Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division.

1ST LT. JAMES P. SMALLWOOD
CO 22nd Eng. Co.





1ST LT. PHILLIP C. MILLER
CO Spt. Co.

The main mission of Support Company, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, is to furnish close heavy mortar support and antitank protection to the elements of the Airborne Regimental Combat Team in combat.

Since it's return to the United States in June of 1955, Support Company has undergone a change of not only men but CO's as well. Capt. William T. Manderson who was Support Company Commander in Japan transferred to "H" Company 187th.

After closing in at Fort Campbell the Company set up to help the Regiment undergo the job of maintaining the post. Moving into the new buildings was something new to the unit since they lived in the temporary type buildings at Fort Bragg.

When we lost part of the Company to the new battle group we lost our new CO, Capt. Whalen as well. In return 1st Lt. Robert J. Henson who was former Support Company CO of the 188th AIR took over the unit as CO.

At that time the only thing that was left of Support Company was Headquarters Platoon and a part of the 1st Mortar Platoon which was made up of the remainder of the antitank personnel. Then 1st Lt. Phillip C. Miller took over the Company as Commanding Officer and he also had the duty to train the Honor Guard Platoon. It was at that time the Honor Guard and Jump School personnel moved into Support Company.

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|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| SEVENTH ROW Pvt-2 R E McManus Pvt-2 E Waltz Pvt-2 A J Coulson Pvt-2 C W Ellerington Pvt-2 V L Rice Pvt-2 W E Pratt Pvt-2 G E Wood Pvt-2 B Kiser Pvt-2 W J Fowler Pvt-2 T G Beagle Pvt-2 R R Stearns Pvt-2 L Roundtree Pvt-2 G Gomez Pvt-2 G L Buchanan Pvt-2 W A Bevis Pvt-2 K Britland Pvt-2 T Cunningham Sp/3 L E Johnson Pvt-2 G W Ferry Pvt-2 C E Barnes Jr Pvt-2 G E Twigg | Pvt-2 M G Burghart Pvt-2 G Muckle Pvt-2 D L Yellowrobe Pvt-2 J R Watts Pvt-2 H E Whalen Sp/3 C F Roach Pvt-2 S O Boaz Pvt-2 E G Lamb Pvt-2 R F Strobeck Pvt-2 L G Phegley Pvt B Drumheller Pvt-2 J A Ostlyn Pvt-2 J P Barthen Pvt-2 J A Beiss Pvt-2 K L Olson Pvt-2 R T Garcia Pvt-2 J Clemons Pvt-2 T L Gaisten Pvt-2 W D Patton | PFC W T Pierce PFC R C Terry PFC J A Arthur Sp/3 R Antonellia Sp/3 R Gamblin Jr Cpl C Talley Sp/3 D Alvarez Sp/3 J R Wilson Sp/3 J Keen Sp/3 J F Bonds Sp/3 D Flores Sp/3 R E Bertucci Sp/3 C P Callus Sp/3 D E Dossett Cpl H B Elms Jr Pvt-2 F M Hauch Pvt-2 T C Raborn | Cpl H O Scott Jr Sgt J Villareal Sgt R P Nemeth Sp/2 J D Albright Sp/2 K D McGraw Cpl D L Mason Sp/3 A Velasquez Sp/3 J A Markwood Sp/3 J E Morris Cpl J C Dennis Sp/3 J J Mazon Pvt-2 L Williams PFC E Z Chance Pvt-2 R Jackson | Sgt I L Waslick Sgt R T Anderson Sgt R Right Sgt R W Reustle Sgt R C Johnston Sgt R W Martin Sgt H L Oney Jr Pvt-2 G S Tyler Pvt-2 G E Coffee | Sgt G L Miles Sgt K N Gage Sgt R C Watson Pvt-1 R F Hock Pvt-2 W B Soby | SFC S E Allen Not Pictured: 1st Lt H J Cooke 1st Lt G D Wilson M/Sgt W F Pajak M/Sgt K E Ryals SFC D W Daugherty SFC L Grissom Jr SFC A Harjo SFC C L Harlow SFC R A Horn SFC H Jackson SFC G J Jensen SFC B H Manning SFC G W Strang SFC S J Willard SFC E M West SFC A R Sumpter Sgt K D Dail Sgt V A DePhillipo Sgt C D Gray Sgt J R Holt Sgt J Sunchild | Sgt E R Wiles Cpl E R Mullennix Pvt-2 J MacPherson Pvt-2 A J Abrazinski Sp/3 S Bates Sgt J C Bolinger Pvt D B Carbjel Pvt L E Charette Sp/3 R A Dubruiel SFC A Mercer Sp/3 S Orehovich Sp/2 H S Pike Pvt-2 J E Rains Pvt-2 G H Johnson Pvt R J Rarick Cpl A Rawson Sp/3 L Wesslering SFC D K White Sp/2 B K Williams Sp/3 T W Williams Sp/2 J H Willis Pvt-2 W R Willman |
| FIFTH ROW Pt-2 A B Pinkney Pvt-2 G W Kellison Pvt-2 N N Durgin III | FOURTH ROW Sgt S L Kalogeros Sgt K R Hunter Sgt F N Valero Sp/2 K H Easley Sgt W M Remney | THIRD ROW Sgt T H Allen Sgt C L Mullins Sgt J E Drake Sgt B D Walston Sgt J P Frost Sgt W I Peed Sgt S Ganster Jr Sgt T E Easterling | SECOND ROW Sgt J J Lynsky SFC H Kennedy SFC R Plaisted Jr SFC A C Bounds SFC N H Pinder SFC A J English SFC J E Mirus SFC R C Enloe SFC B L Jones SFC R A Bedard SFC G L Ayers SFC L F West SFC R Williams | FIRST ROW SFC R J Trahan M/Sgt V P Costa M/Sgt B M Miller M/Sgt R E Veasey M/Sgt E B Hendrix M/Sgt K A Guerin 1st Lt P C Miller (CO) 1st Lt R R Houde M/Sgt P R Roper (1st Sgt) M/Sgt R S Barrett M/Sgt G P Gray M/Sgt F H Allen SFC B T McDonough SFC W E Tuggle SFC J E Bowden | | | |
| SIXTH ROW Pvt-2 B J White | | | | | | | |



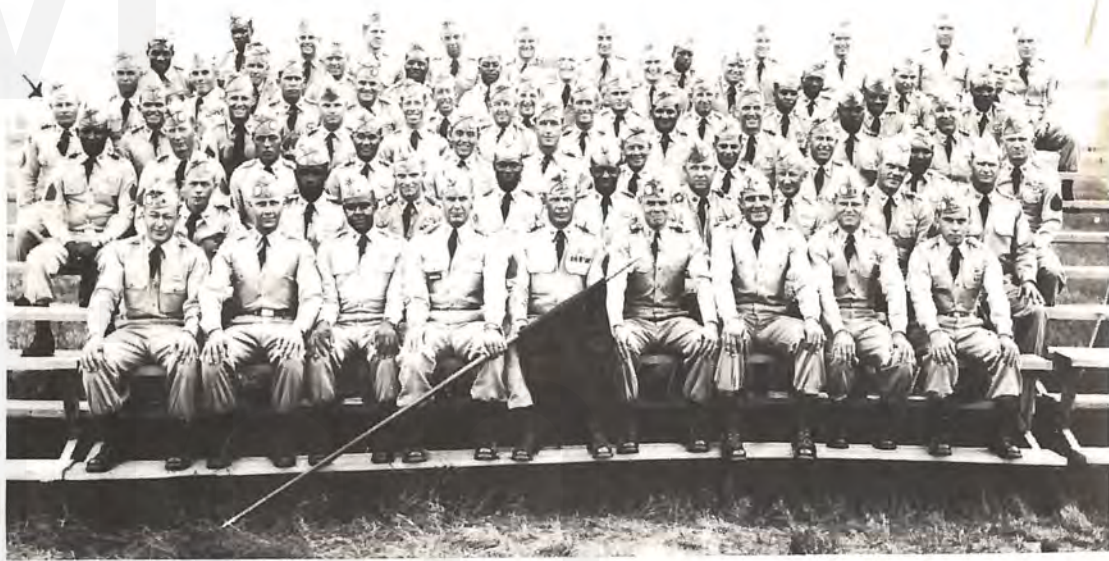
SUPPORT COMPANY

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| TOP ROW Pvt G L Vinson Pvt C H Pingree Pvt R J Malloy Pvt J T Edwards PFC E E Mullin III Pvt J W Martin Pvt H B Jones Pvt R Allen Pvt N M Guiggio Pvt D M Davis Pvt P Pruitt | PFC L Conway PFC K Perry PFC H A Simiste PFC S B Clark Sp/3 J N Crawshaw Cpl C Hogan PFC H R Schwartz Pvt J B Meekins | Sp/2 D J Shellar Sp/2 B T McMichael Sp/2 W A Payne Sp/2 C Warren | THIRD ROW Sgt J C Evanx Sgt J Snider Sgt D B Hollis Sgt A Miguel Sgt C R McTire Sgt C E Beverding Sgt C E Welch Sgt V P Barrose Sgt J W Johnson Sgt A K Read Sgt J R Harris | SFC G Hale SFC E E Johnson SFC L B McNeal SFC C J Sheets SFC O M Pedrazas | Not Pictured: 2nd Lt E W Gannon 2nd Lt D J Nolan Sgt R P Garcia Sgt R B McPhail Cpl O L Linson Sp/3 R G Dowler PFC E L Carter PFC J L Hoerner PFC G M Long Pvt H Thompkins Pvt T D Bennafield Pvt D D Mattox Pvt W A O'Donnell Pvt N R Smith Pvt E Friendly |
| SIXTH ROW Pvt J Cameron PFC G R Efaw Pvt D E Eisenblse | FIFTH ROW Sp/3 J L Queen Sp/3 R L Kennedy Sp/3 C S Spears Sp/3 A J Kramarewicz Sp/3 L J Touchet Sp/3 J R Davis Sp/2 J J Moles Jr | FOURTH ROW Sgt T L Beddingfield Sgt J H Yow Sp/2 C D LeMaster Sgt D A Miller Sgt O D Crabtree Sgt R D Wholly Sgt A M Hernandez Sgt R S Valenzulea Sgt G Baldwin Sgt J K Nelson Sgt B F Gordon | SECOND ROW M/Sgt W G Howser SFC C C Brooks SFC J Michniak SFC L Bassett | FIRST ROW 2nd Lt R W Simpson 2nd Lt D J MacKay 2nd Lt B Conley 1st Lt T Barnard (CO) M/Sgt R L Marx (1st Sgt) 2nd Lt C M Poteat 2nd Lt K W Peebles 2nd Lt J H Munger 1st Lt W C Chamberlin | |



1ST LT. TALBOTT BERNARD
CO AAA Btry.

AAA BATTERY





CAPT. CLYDE GREGORY, JR.
CO 187th QM Co.

In October, Captain Clyde Gregory, Jr. relieved Major Robert F. Stroud, who had been the commanding officer for eighteen months.

The company conducted a demonstration for General Cleland in November and although weather conditions were adverse, a fine packing and pull off demonstration was conducted. Towards the end of November the company received the first school training rigger replacements.

During the month of December the company supported CONARC Board No. 5 airborne exercises in addition to Regimental exercises.

In January the company continued to pack parachutes in support of regimental airborne exercises and started preparing all T/O&E equipment for the move to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Seventeen (17) more school trained rigger replacements were received from other companies in the regiment, plus thirty (30) basic airborne trainees, who were turned over to Sp/2 William L. Brady who put them through pre-airborne training.

In March the unit supplied the regiment with three-thousand three-hundred parachutes and air items for the Combat Team's first independent airborne exercises conducted since arrival at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The company is justly proud of its record of only one (1) minor malfunction during these operations. The company has received some of its heavy drop equipment and is in the process of conducting a heavy drop school for key officers and first three graders from Airborne Combat Group Neptune.



QUARTERMASTER COMPANY

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|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOP ROW Pvt B R Pross Sp/2 D W Batt PFC D O Bailey PFC L Downing Pvt J C Capner Pvt R V Neese Pvt W H Neff Pvt R K Shattuck Sp/3 C M Howard Pvt R E Harper Sp/3 R D Miller Sp/3 D L Alsip Sp/3 J J Taylor Pvt C E O'Connor Pfc J S Johnson Pvt E L Montgomery Pvt T J Padden Pvt J R Murray Cpl A W Rush Sp/3 K T Hamman | Pvt H V Dvorak Sp/3 D J Holmes Sp/2 F Guillory Sp/3 C D Hall Sp/2 D E Rowland Sp/3 R Dodd PFC R J Davis PFC G M Cole PFC D L Price Sgt F Pickerell Sp/3 J H Dill PFC W Hollingsworth Sp/2 L D Touchton Sp/2 R Pennington Sp/3 K E Pee Pvt J L Schuler | Sp/3 J L Thrasher Sp/2 M Williams Sgt R M Pippenger PFC K J Carr Sp/3 G R Reasor Pvt R M Cole Pvt P O'Callahan Sp/2 W C Payne Sp/2 F S Gladhill Sgt G A Chilton | Sp/3 J DeVesconi PFC C R Easterly Pvt W Scarfin Pvt E L Hammonds | THIRD ROW Sp/3 H D Halterman Sp/3 D O McBride Sp/3 G A Hobnson Pvt J R Ross Pvt E L Leenher Sp/2 J J Barton Sp/2 B U Collins Sp/3 A W Walker Pvt G A Ellis Sp/3 T C Cowles Sp/2 E C Gomez Sp/2 E P Weaver Pvt G C Debelok Pvt A D Carter PFC J B Sallis Pvt W Romesburg Pvt J A Smith | Pvt D P Owens Pvt R A Maes Pvt J D Pettery Pvt C Robinson Sp/2 J D Hunter Pvt W Hughes Pvt E Mesa Pvt G W Simpson Sp/3 R L Nilsen Pvt C P Kennedy Sp/3 J R Pappé Sp/3 R B Barnes Sp/3 F Wilcox Sp/3 J G Brown Sp/2 R W Lee S-3 E F Fos | FIRST ROW Sp/2 W L Brady Sp/2 W J Griffith Sp/2 G D Brown Sgt W Shackelford Sp/2 A W Toner 1st Lt J E Ray 1st Lt E C Dickey Capt C Gregory Jr | M/Sgt B E Usry (1st Sgt) SFC E V Sooter SFC R Young SFC D J Hoffman SFC J L Stfange M/Sgt G Aasal | Not Pictured: SFC L Andarakes SFC P W Clark SFC R B Eubanks Sp/2 R A Gavlick Sp/3 L Ahnert Sp/3 J H Boyle Sp/3 D R Hamlin Sp/3 J L Keller Sp/3 W C Manning Sp/3 R L Watts PFC R L Hudkins PFC L R Taylor PFC J E Vlasak Pvt M Altimirano Pvt A C Colbert Pvt G Coldren Pvt R L Clark | Pvt J S Cugle Pvt F Disenell Pvt S G Faulkner Pvt J A Fox Pvt J B Glasgow Pvt J A Hatcher Pvt J L Hernandez Pvt A P Heschke Pvt C Hover Pvt L H Kimble Pvt J M Locher Pvt J Mattenon Pvt H A McDaniel Pvt R W Mohernne Pvt L Montana Pvt J Olmez Pvt O E Parrish Pvt J E Patten Pvt R C Peterson Pvt V Quan Pvt B L Rudder Pvt D Roux Pvt G A Samuels Pvt A L Sherebine Pvt F J Sandrey Pvt C J Soberg | Pvt B Swindle Pvt J A Vemesh Pvt J A Weber Pvt W Wiedenhoeft Pvt L E Whitaker Pvt J M Wilson Pvt W Wood Pvt S McMichael PFC J F Killebrew SFC R E Ward Sp/2 H L Johnson Sp/2 P Yedinak Sp/3 H J Conroy Sp/3 L Kimbler Sp/3 W S Mills Sp/3 C W Turner PFC T F O'Shea PFC W W Smith PFC B E Watkins Pvt R C Bunch Pvt L R Flores Pvt W T Hiland Pvt J H Wilson Sp/3 J E Cravens Sp/3 C W Howlett Sp/3 K Louderback |
| SIXTH ROW Pvt M O Riley Pvt L Jannas Sp/3 J T Hall | FIFTH ROW Pvt M E Miller Sp/3 J E Vanduyne Sp/3 C K DeGroff Sp/3 D B Ridener Pvt J Eliopoulos Pvt R Raffanetti PFC A Sanchez Sp/3 M Collins | FOURTH ROW Pvt F D Fournier Sp/3 P V Fowler Sp/3 F W Turner Sp/3 E DelPilar Pvt F P Conner Pvt E R Egger PFC C A Duty PFC J L Downie Sgt R L Watts Sp/3 J P Solloway Pvt E Fitzgerald Pvt W Jatczak PFC R E Dodge Sp/2 C E Claybrook | SECOND ROW Sgt H W Nichols | | | | | | | |

REPLACEMENT COMPANY



- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Cpl L Klopotoski PFC W Snell SFC P Owens SFC J Willard Sp-3 R Olson Sp/2 R Titus PFC J Cook Sp/3 M Perry Sgt B Caulk Sgt G Petty Sp/2 E Payne Sgt W Jaquenod Cpl J Neitzel | SFC E Miller Jr Sgt J Sloan Jr SFC W Hatch Sgt C Dahlquist Sgt J Borja Sgt S Jefferson Sgt J Richardson Sp/2 C Kemp Sp/3 R Curiel Sp/2 W Jones Sgt J Green Pvt-2 J Minton Sp/3 C Wells | Sp/3 A Largent Sp/3 R Johnson Sgt C Teague SFC S Ortiz PFC F Alvarez Sp/2 J Stewart Pvt-2 W Rayburn Sp/2 D Ramirez Sp/3 M Cottrell Pvt-2 D Knauss Sp/2 P Nicholson Sgt F Alderson Sgt B Lawrence | Sp/2 C Honeywell Sp/3 J Robu Sgt J Hawkins SFC J Dayoc SFC A Weyant M/Sgt S Bynum M/Sgt T Gillery 1st Lt J C Hicks 1st Lt H Hale M/Sgt H Hodge 2nd Lt D Looney SFC M Murreah Sgt C Quintero | Not Pictured: 1st Lt B Lovell 1st Lt R Markley 1st Lt C Mixon Sgt J Moss Sgt E Rosa Sgt N Yenter Sp/2 R Hancock Sp/2 N Lien Sp/2 J Simpson Sp/2 E Storms Sp/2 R Taylor | Cpl T Woosley Sp/3 G Davis Sp/3 E Denley Sp/3 J Enlow Sp/3 J Head Sp/3 R Pray Sp/3 G Stegall PFC J Clifton PFC B Jacobs Pvt-2 T Martin Pvt-2 G Rea |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|

1ST LT. HERMAN J. HALE
CO Repl. Co.





CAPT. ROBERT L. VRANISH
Comdt Abn School

AIRBORNE SCHOOL

Pvt-2 A J Coulson
Cpl H Q Scott Jr
Sp/3 L R Stanigar
Sp/3 P Blackburn
SFC A R Sumpter
Sp/2 M Torres Jr
Sp/2 K H Easley
SFC S T Pressey
Sgt T H Allen
Sgt J P Frost
Sgt W M Remeny
Sgt J E Drake
Sgt V A Defillipo

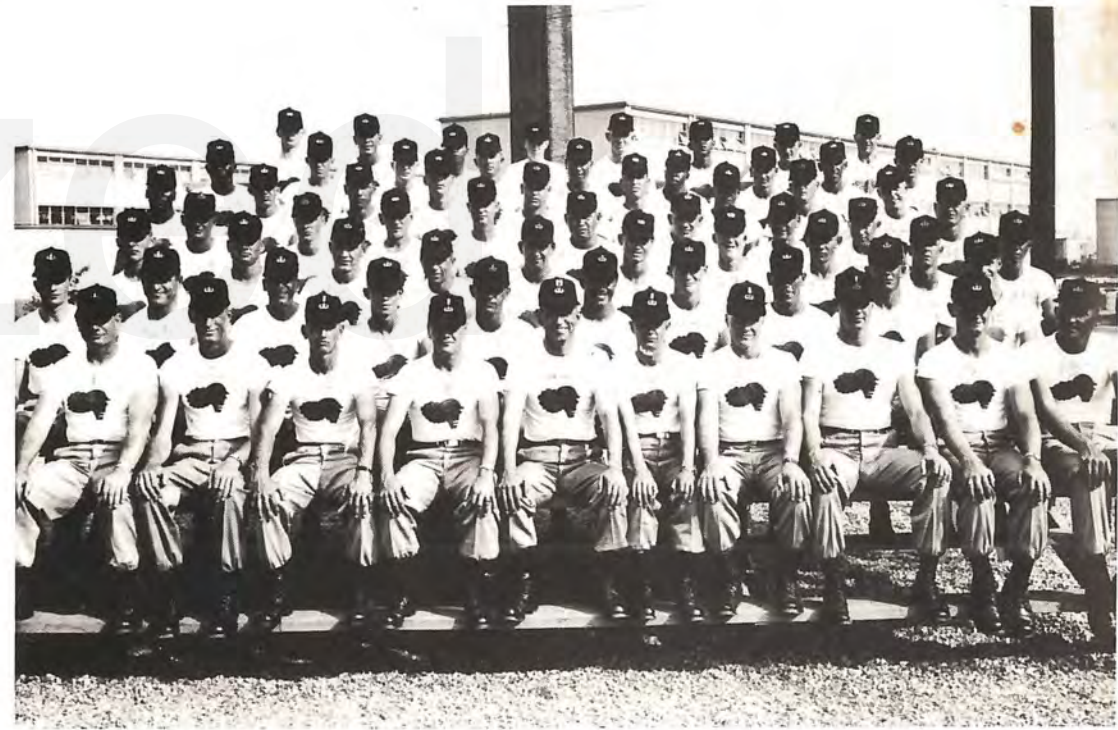
Sgt J Villareal
SFC H Kennedy
Sgt K N Gage
Pvt-2 J MacPherson
SFC R C Enloe
SFC S E Allen
SFC G J Jensen
Sgt R P Nemeth
SFC E M West
Sgt B L Jones
Sgt J R Holt
Sgt K D Dail
SFC C C Davis

Cpl E R Mullennix
M/Sgt G P Gray
M/Sgt F H Allen
1st Lt B G Brown Jr
1st Lt P B Malone III
Capt R L Vranish
1st Lt H J Cooke
1st Lt E R Laursen
1st Lt R J Kuhn
M/Sgt R E Veasey
M/Sgt E D Hendrix
SFC H Jackson
Sgt K R Hunter

Sgt R C Johnson
SFC C L Harlow
Sgt J Sunchild
SFC B R Manning
SFC A C Bounds
SFC R Plaisted Jr
Sp/3 R Antonelli
SFC S K Willard
Sgt T D Easterling
SFC B T McDonough
Sgt J L Wifick
SFC A A Harjo
SFC R A Horn

SFC J E Mirus Jr
Sgt B D Welston
Sgt W I Peed
M/Sgt K E Ryals
M/Sgt W F Pajak
M/Sgt V P Coste
Sgt C I Mullins
SFC A J English
SFC R J Trahan
Sgt R W Bierowski
SFC N H Pinder
SFC W K Tilmon
Sgt C D Gray

Not Pictured:
M/Sgt K Guerin
SFC J Bowden
SFC D Daugherty
SFC L Grissom
SFC G Strang
Sgt S Ganster
Sgt E Wilps
Cpl J Sikes
Cpl F Valero
Pvt-2 E Waltz



Sp/3 R R Marose
Sp/3 R B Nageli
Sp/3 J G Bingham
Sp/3 J F Bowman
Sp/3 M E Francis
Pvt-2 F J Kelly Jr
Pvt-2 R C Keefe
Sp/3 S J Doty
Sp/3 L J Wall
Pvt-2 J G Jarvis
Sp/3 C E McCloud

Sp/3 R D Meyer
Sp/3 R E Herrity
Sp/3 B J Svehla
Sp/3 J B Sloan
Sp/3 W S Scott Jr
Sp/3 J H Cunliffe
Sgt W L Nicely
Sgt R L Sutton
Sgt L R Boggs
Sgt C W Williams
SFC O J Howell

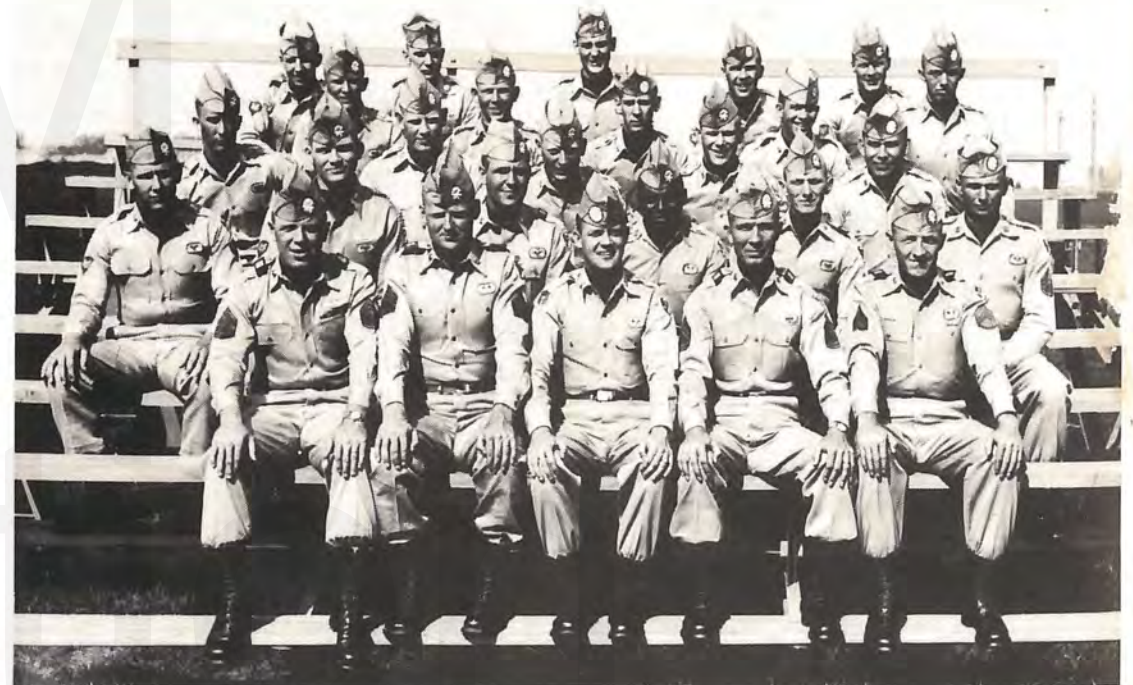
SFC E P Gliddens
1st Lt T M Jones
SFC Q W Cox
Sgt B E Cotton

Not Pictured:
Sgt C J Swearengin
Sp/3 L E Lunnen
Sp/3 H D Pever
Sp/3 M E Taylor

1ST LT. THOMAS M. JONES
187th Provost Marshal



PROVOST MARSHAL





HONOR GUARD

1ST LT. PHILLIP C. MILLER
Honor Guard Commander



Pvt-2 G H Johnson
Pvt-2 N N Durgin III
Pvt-2 W Soby
Pvt-2 K Olson
Pvt-2 R J Garcia
Pvt-2 R J Rarick
Pvt-2 B Drumheller
Pvt-2 L V Charette
Pvt-2 H Whalen
Pvt-2 S O Boaz
Cpl D L Mason
Sp/3 J C Morris
Sp/3 J A Markwood

Sp/3 D Alvarez
Pvt-2 G L Buchanan
Pvt-2 J P Barthen
Pvt-2 D L Yellowrobe
Pvt-2 G W Kellison
Pvt-2 W R Willman
Pvt-2 B J White
Pvt-2 E G Lamb
Pvt-2 R Strobeck
Pvt-2 J A Biess
Cpl C Talley
Pvt-2 L Phegley
Pvt-2 J Ostylin

PFC J A Arthur
Pvt-2 T L Galsten
Pvt-2 M J Burghart
1st Lt P C Miller
SFC D J Ayers
Sgt R T Anderson
Sgt G L Miles
Sgt R W Martin
Sp/3 A Velesquez
Cpl J C Dennis
Pvt-2 W A Bevis
M/Sgt R S Barrett



BAND

CWO NATHAN CAMMACK
187th Band Leader



D Russell
P Bryan
G J Valdez
H G Short
A L Goss
N A Cammack Jr
V G England
R H L Young
D Stressman
R Martin
J L Hutchings
F Broussard
W Norman

H A Jones
M Breaux
R Haines
L Navarro
D E Robinson
B J Ruland
J M Higashide
M C Jones
A Messier
N Bouchard
F A Suchy
R Coakley
A R Redwine

Not Present:
L Jackson Jr
M J Carrick
T E Lynn
C D Brett
E E Matthew
R Charland
R T Chase
L A Wanhala
S T Mullinax
C Franklin
D C Dale



AIR SECTION

CAPT. DAVID M. DIAL
Aviation Officer



Capt D M Dial
1st Lt R C Winesette
1st Lt J Hutcheson
1st Lt H W Marshall
1st Lt R P Keating
1st Lt R Lautzenhesir
SFC M O Lyle
Sgt A B Poe

Sp/2 J R Cline
Sp/3 N B Blankenship
PFC F A Clayton
Sp/3 W P Sanders
SFC G A Cornign

Not Pictured:
SFC L P Rea



MAJOR ALVIN K. CHARLES
CO 674th FA Bn

674TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION



Col. Ryneska, Rakkasan Commander, congratulates M/Sgt. Leonard Axtman, Bn. Sgt. Major, on election to President, 187th Chapter, Airborne Association. Major Sinclair, left, Artillery Comander, observes.



Left to Right: Cpl. Wernie I. Cherry, SFC Pedro Alvarado, Chief of Section, Sgt. Fred Walker all of "C" Btry 674th FA Bn level the scales on the gunners sight parallel to the Gunners Quadrant as one step in preparing the Howitzer for a fire mission.

674th Field Artillery Battalion Staff, Left to Right, Capt. Charles B. Gillespi, XO, 1st Lt. Dale M. Driggs, S-2, Capt. John H. Linden, S-3, CWO John L. Tatalajski, and M/Sgt. Leonard F. Axtman, Sgt. Major.



Left to Right: Major Charles, new CO, 674th FA Bn puts his name on desk as Major Sinclair takes his off.



"Round on the way" (circle) field fire, 674th Abn FA at Fort Bragg.



The 674th Abn FA Bn, commanded by Major Alvin K. Charles, who assumed command on 23 January 1956, is the close support artillery for the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. It is capable of massing the fire of eighteen 105mm howitzer, six in each of three firing batteries, A, B, and C Service Battery furnishes logistical support and Headquarters Battery provides communication, fire Direction, survey, and the administrative functioning of the Battalion.

The sound that struck fear in the hearts and minds of many North Koreans echoed across the Fort Bragg Military Reservation on November 8 as the 674th fired their 105mm howitzers for the first time on the post. The firing was a demonstration for the trainees assigned to the 187th. At 11:00 AM 1st Lt. Jack L. Allen of "A" Battery, dropped his hand as a signal to pull the lanyard to send the first round on its way to Coleman Impact area. Every detail of the firing was a classic example of the high degree of training and leadership that is the byword of the Battalion.

In October the planning for and receiving of one hundred and fifty recruits for Advanced Individual Training got under way. The main task was given to "C" Battery. This entailed the billeting, messing, and administration, while "A" and "B" Batteries provided the instructors for the training.

As a part of a day-long remembrance, marking the 10th anniversary of the United Nations, the troopers of the Battalion turned out in full parade dress to march with other Units of the 187th through the streets of Fayetteville, N.C. On November 11, honoring Veterans of both World Wars, members of "A" Battery, under the command of 1st Lt. George F. Rozsy-pal, paid tribute to those Veterans with a parade at Warsaw, N.C.

In the field of sports, the Red Leg athletics have been predominant. The 187th Rakkasan pigskinners were coached by 1st Lt. Bruce E. Elmsblad, Battery commander of "A" Battery; the boxing team was under the direction and guidance of Lt. Harrison, Hqs. Battery, Sfc. Trahan, and Cpl. Hoffman, both of "B" Battery. The Red Leg Basketball squad was victorious in the RCT intra-squad hoop championship.

The benevolence of all members must not be overlooked. Even after departing from Japan the boys of Kumamoto Boys Town were not forgotten as donations were sent back to their little friends. Other such worthy projects that met with 100% participation were the United Fund Drive in October, and the Red Cross Drive in February; also many men donated blood in emergency and on call for the blood bank.

The highlight of the year was the PCS move from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to the present station Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Word of the

move first came in November and in the latter part of January the advance party moved to Campbell, to prepare for the rest of the Battalion which arrived at its new home on February 14th. Fort Campbell was not a new post to the 674th for it had been the home of the Battalion prior to departure for Korea in 1950.

7 April was the day men of the 674th put on a new look. This came in the form of the new Battalion Coat of Arms. The crest in itself is a history of the Battalion. The colors, Red and Yellow, are for artillery, the two suns taken from the Philippine flag represent the two campaigns in the Philippines during World War II. The pile Korean service ribbon blue, refers to the sky and, together with the descending parachute and howitzer, alludes to the Airborne classification of the Battalion. The two points symbolize the two combat parachute jumps the organization made in Korea.

A Battalion formation was held at which Col. Ryneska pinned the first set on Major Charles, the Battalion Commander. Each Battery Commander then passed out the Coat of Arms to the troops while the RCT band played "The Caisson Song."

In the past year the Battalion has seen many places and many faces, but none shall be forgotten.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY



Pvt-2 R Lauterback
Pvt-2 J Rickey
Pvt-2 M Hengst
Pvt-2 E Egli
Pvt-2 S C Curry
Pvt-2 C Murphy
Sp/3 K E Rodenhouse
Sp/2 J Conn
Sp/2 E Singleton
SFC J Minshaw
Pvt-2 W Maryar
Pvt-2 D C Simmion
PFC C Ketter
Sp/2 C Cravath
SFC L Sherrick
Sp/2 T Stephenson
Sp/3 H C Banks

Sp/3 R S Varner
Pvt-2 R J R Lomas
Sgt W Nilan
Sgt W McNeely
Sgt C Fisher
Sgt J B Wolfe
Pvt-2 J Linehan
Pvt-2 J Kegley
Pvt-2 G Baylis
Sp/3 T Taylor
Sp/3 J A Taylor
Sp/3 C Buckley
Sp/3 V Hover
Sp/3 L L Marshall
Pvt-2 D D Miller
Pvt-2 S Driver
Sgt J L Blake

Sgt R H Evans
Pvt-2 E Chavez
Pvt-2 R Gartner
Pvt-2 L Phillips
Pvt-2 E Mullin
Sp/3 R Long
Sgt O Duffee
Sgt C Burden
PFC W Barnes
Pvt-2 A Dowdell
Sp/3 J S Eagle
PFC O Hupp
Pvt-2 E Greane
Sgt J Toomey
Sp/3 C E Black
Sgt D Carter
Pvt-2 W Timpson

Pvt-2 J Patten
Pvt-2 J Weaber
SFC A Jackson
Sp/3 O G Chester
Pvt-2 P Fortune
Pvt-2 P Jones
Pvt-2 E Duncan
Sgt P C Seaman
Sp/3 C W Adkin
SFC G L Tomb
SFC A N O'Quinn
M/Sgt J H Kendrick
M/Sgt W O Pruitt
M/Sgt B M Rose
1st Lt D R Lambert
2nd Lt L V Moore
M/Sgt L F Axtman

SFC J E Messick
SFC C Dennis
SFC R T Petterson
Sp/3 W R White

Not Pictured:
SFC C E Cheevers
SFC A T Chupco
SFC J G Corning
SFC J V Fountain
SFC R Rourk
Sgt R A Boyd
Sgt G DeYoung
Sgt C Gibbs
Sgt P F Harvey
Sgt G N Moore

SFC Amos Chupco assumed the duties of 1st Sgt. when M/Sgt. Arsenault was accepted for a CIC assignment. Exchanging their Sgt. for SFC stripes were Sgts. Tomb and Cheevers. M/Sgt. Len Axtman replaced M/Sgt Phillips as Battalion Sgt. Major when Sgt. Phillips pinned on 2nd Lt. bars. M/Sgt. Axtman was also elected as president of the 187th ARCT Chapter, the "RAKKASANS," of the Airborne Association.

On 14 February, led by Capt. Holtz, the Battery began its three day trek to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The Battery had a 50% turnover when approximately 20 first three graders from the 11th Abn Div. and 30 recruits from the 10th Recruit Training Company from Fort Bragg were assigned to the Battery.

1st Lt. David Lambert assumed command of Hq. Battery when Capt. Holtz took command of the first Artillery Battery, Combat Group Neptune, under the new re-organization concept. M/Sgt. Billy Rose, and the ex-blue cord turned redleg replaced SFC Amos Chupco as 1st Sgt.

The new Bn baseball team, in which Hq. Battery is represented by Sgt. Moore, Sp/3 Chester, Frenn and Black, and Pvt. Gilliam, have hung out the "beware" sign.

1ST LT. DAVID R. LAMBERT
CO Hq. Btry.





1ST LT. BRUCE E. ELMBLAD
CO A Btry.

In late October A Battery received the mission of training 240 eight week trainees on the 10th Training Company. The mission was accomplished to include a week bivouac in the field in January. The efforts were to be amply rewarded when the 10th Training Company was assigned to the 674th upon completion of basic Airborne Training.

In January Lt. Bruce E. Elmblad replaced Lt. George F. Rosaypal as Battery Commander. Virtually the entire officer staff of the Battery would be changed before the battery went west. Three new officers and twenty one EM from the battery (all of tigersome inclination, it developed) received their wings from the Jump School at the end of January. In Mid-February, the convoy loaded up and made the three day march to Kentucky.

Once set up at Campbell, the First Sergeants post was filled by M/Sgt. Lee R. Bishop who had been a member of the 674 in June, 1943, shortly after the battalion was activated, also the battery contributed personnel to the 187th Jump School, the first Battle Group (Neptune) and a training battery which was to receive upwards of 200 basic trainees in May. The Summer months bare promise of a large role in further activation and organization of the 101st which responsibility "A" Battery waits to accept with customary vigor and pride.



A BATTERY

EIGHTH ROW

Sgt G Simmons
Pvt Allen
Pvt P W Hetterich
Pvt B Gideon
Sp/3 J S Dean
Pvt T A Chavez
Pvt G T Wanak
Pvt Friendly
Pvt H W Lambert
Pvt L J Spears

SEVENTH ROW

SFC W S Weaver
Pvt R L King
Sgt C R Fife
Sp/3 R A Turner

Pvt J H Williams
Pvt W R Haney Jr
Pvt J C Owens
Sp/3 J E Dudley
Pvt A Brown

SIXTH ROW

Pvt S V Lewczyk
Sp/3 W T Lewis
Pvt Couch
Pvt A B Noftger
Pvt T D Lee
Pvt J E Mills
Cpl S G George
Sgt W C Ledbetter
Pvt R T Thomas
Pvt E Malloy

FIFTH ROW

Sgt V J Gardner
SFC B Mathis
Sp/2 R E Cook
Pvt G Spencer
PFC A Hauser Jr
Sgt S Scott Jr
Sgt L Gillespie
Pvt N L Falleaf
Pvt G P Hill
Pvt M C Crutchfield

FOURTH ROW

PFC R D Oswald
Sp/3 G A Arredondo
Pvt C A Maxwell
PFC A A Felton
Pvt E B Watts

Pvt J W Kowalski
PFC C Robinson Jr
Pvt F J Howze
Sgt E M Johnson
PFC W T Shuman

THIRD ROW

Pvt F B Ginwright
Pvt I S McKinstry
Sgt W J Milliones
Sgt J H Cheatham
SFC A G Maria
SFC J R Parrish
Pvt T D Johnson
Pvt Guiggie
Sgt G Graham
Pvt J Domico Jr

SECOND ROW

Sgt J M Capuria
Pvt R L Alderton
Pvt F J Zuckowski
Pvt E P Powell
Sgt B J Jones
Sgt R F Stoult
Sgt J F Marks
SFC C L Perry
SFC M C Cross
Sgt P Bell Jr

FIRST ROW

M/Sgt J M Flores
2nd Lt R B Vasser
2nd Lt M R Hoffman
1st Lt W H Mantooth

1st Lt B E Elmblad
(CO)
1st Lt T L Carnes
2nd Lt D P Coon
2nd Lt S H Taylor
M/Sgt L R Bishop
(1st Sgt)

Not Pictured:

M/Sgt B L McGee
SFC W A Boardley
SFC D W Daniels
SFC J J Rodriguez
SFC D L Straub
Sgt R L Mallek
Sgt E R Martinez
Sgt W E Peacock
Sgt D C Picard

Sgt F Villalobos
Sp/2 W T Crabtree
Sp/2 E M Thomas Jr
Cpl E Alberson
Cpl F P Lindsey
Cpl B K Miller
Sp/3 H B John
Sp/3 J Lee
PFC C B Bachelor
Sp/3 C A Miles
Pvt K K Abernathy
Pvt E G Camacho
Pvt D H DeBoer
Pvt D DePalma
Pvt W T Epperson Jr
PFC M Montoya
Pvt A Mosely Jr
Pvt J B Phillips
Pvt Tompkins

Sgt J Taylor
Cpl W I Cherry
Pvt-2 A Williams
Sgt D W Lister
Pvt-2 H A McDaniel
Pvt-2 R Holmes
SFC J L McCorkle
Sp/3 J R Diggs
Sgt F L Crosby
Sp/3 V R Hickland
PFC R J Reimer
Sgt D A Ferguson
Sgt S M Arzate
Pvt-2 G H Tomlinson
Pvt-2 M C Woods
Sgt L Simmons Jr

Sgt J R Williams
Sgt J R West
Pvt-2 H Levesque Jr
Pvt-2 E Malloy
Pvt-2 G W Pertzline
Pvt-2 D Stringer
Pvt-2 J A Seymour
Pvt-2 F Hogeback Jr
Pvt-2 J T Edwards
Pvt-2 J V Padilla
Sp/3 O G May
PFC B L Logan
Sgt G G Anderson
Pvt-2 W F Lardner Jr
Pvt-2 M C Woods
Pvt-2 J E Lashley

Sp/3 I Gamble
Pvt-2 L Hobson
Pvt-2 L Spigner
Pvt-2 R Fromcke
Pvt-2 W F Draper
Pvt-2 P Hosler
Pvt-2 J R Haley
Pvt-2 B Butler
Sgt K A Schmitt
Pvt-2 G Hamrick
SFC J Rewis
Pvt-2 W D Heithcock
Cpl D Reed
Sgt T V McCarthey
Sgt J C Shepherd
Sgt R Mills
Pvt-2 R J Rojas

Pvt-2 C A Jones
Pvt-2 R Mendicino
PFC A A Felton
Pvt-2 M T Miller Jr
Pvt-2 I Grice Jr
Pvt-2 C W McHugh
Sp/3 G J Swazey
PFC E T Crane
Pvt-2 H M Strong Jr
Sp/2 C Hudson
Sp/3 W J Little
Pvt-2 K J Barnes
Sp/3 H Frye Jr
Pvt-2 C J Leach Jr
Pvt-2 J Cameron
Pvt-2 E D Downing
Pvt-2 D Patrizi

Pvt-2 C Ellis
Pvt-2 M Grice
Pvt-2 E Moffett
Pvt-2 A Leon
PFC J Garnette
PFC F E Watson
SFC J H Collier
Pvt-2 E E Davis
PFC A Babasa
Pvt-2 M Dayhoff
Pvt-2 S Lavate
Pvt-2 H Gregory
Pvt-2 M Payne
Pvt-2 A E Johnson
Sp/3 W Hair
Pvt-2 R Ellison
Sgt F E Hesler

Pvt-2 B G Bethell
Pvt-2 H Gilbert
Sp/3 R Dwiro
Pvt-2 R Barrett
Pvt-2 R Briner
Pvt-2 A A Auger
PFC D D Hofer
M/Sgt R A Dulaney
M/Sgt C T McGuire
SFC M Kimurea
SFC A Pippin
Sp/3 R J Mazeike
Sgt R D Colwell
Sgt R Godwin
2nd Lt R Cheesborough
1st Lt T Unger-Suranyi
Jr

1st Lt E C Rushkowski
1st Lt J E London
M/Sgt R E Serrane
Capt O E Holtz Jr
1st Lt J A Koegler
1st Lt M S Munez
2nd Lt J W Dennis
2nd Lt L O Zittrain

Not Pictured:

1st Lt A Mitchell Jr
2nd Lt L F Marten
2nd Lt R H Yanker
Sgt G O Dudley
Sp/2 S Redding Jr

B BATTERY



CAPT. OSCAR E. HOLTZ
CO B Btry.



Starting on 28 October 1955 with a group of green recruits, "B" Battery in less than two short months and after much hard work, graduated over two hundred trained artillerymen. "B" Battery left Fort Bragg, North Carolina, arriving at Fort Campbell, Kentucky three days later.

Again we had to adjust ourselves to a new home and different surroundings but it wasn't long before we found it was just about the same jumping out of a C-119 over Fort Campbell as over Fort Bragg. In March "B" Battery went under the control of Combat Group Neptune and that's when things started to happen. It was hard at first to get used to being a mortar battery, but it began to grow on us after a while. Plenty of able assistance on the mortar was furnished by the fine NCO's who come to "B" Battery from Support Company, although still in the early stages of the new training phase, no one in "B" Battery has any doubts as to the ability of Bravo to perform its new mission in Combat Group Neptune with the same professional know-how and finness as it has always done in the past.



C BATTERY

When 1st Lt. Harry W. Brown assumed command of the battery in September, Capt. John H. Linden, who had commanded the Battery for a year, went to Battalion Headquarters as a staff officer.

The Battery received a new first sergeant in October and chief of firing Battery when M/Sgt Morris N. Turner assumed the responsibilities. SFC Charles F. Loveland was appointed chief of firing battery. Also in October the battery was designated to train Artillery recruits who were to fill in the shortages of personnel in the Battalion. 1st Lt. Blum and M/Sgt Donald Snowwhite were primarily responsible for recruit training.

In March 1st Lt. Harry W. Brown was moved to Battalion Headquarters as assistant S-3. 1st Lt. Charles A. Hoenstine Jr. assumed command of the Battery and is the present commander.

Shortly after, Major General Paul D. Adams, XVIII Airborne Corps Commander inspected the barracks of Charlie, the only unit inspected in the 187th ARCT, and it received a letter of commendation for its superior showing.

The Battery made its first parachute jump at Fort Campbell, on Yamoto Drop Zone, in the latter part of March.

The Battery is again preparing to receive more recruits who are to be given artillery training and to be molded into paratroopers.



1ST LT. CHARLES A. HOENSTINE
C Battery

EIGHTH ROW
Pvt-2 W White
PFC C Housley
Sp/3 Y Kirk

SEVENTH ROW
PFC O Paul
Pvt G Flores
Pvt G Davis
Pvt J Haseldon
Pvt C Franklin
Pvt D Mattox
Pvt J Velez
Pvt B Neely
PFC T Sothman
PFC C Bowker

Pvt-2 N Smith
Sgt H Geter

SIXTH ROW
Sgt B Tinsley
Pvt F Smith
Sgt D Parker
SFC E Sevigne
Pvt S Thompson
Pvt G Deveau
Pvt P Keller
Pvt J Krilevich
Pvt S Kennedy
Pvt P Jensen
Sgt H Drake

FIFTH ROW
Pvt N Szoke
Pvt D Secondine
Sgt F Walker
Sp/3 A Ladolce
PFC C Jackson
Pvt F Brooks
Pvt J Gregory
PFC W Fletcher
Pvt J Benway
PFC T Rhea
Sp/2 J Stanway
PFC T Gallion

FOURTH ROW
Pvt J Hall

Pvt J Theriot
Pvt C McNeely
PFC J Twitty
Sgt S Williams
Pvt C Stroud
Pvt E Josey
PFC C McLean
PFC R Patterson
Sgt E Weston
Pvt R Sneed

THIRD ROW
PFC D Bland
Sgt B Hailey
SFC W Jones
Sp/3 R Fairley

Sp/3 A Jiminez
Pvt D Davis
Pvt J Barryman
Pvt R Pardee
Sgt L Smith
Pvt H McCreery

SECOND ROW
Pvt J McDonald
Pvt W Bufkin
Cpl L Sheppard
Cpl R Thoreson
Sp/3 A Tunnell
Sp/3 W Messinger
Pvt R Hundley
Sgt U Cole
Sp/3 D Settle

Sp/2 N Breton
Sgt J Ward

FIRST ROW
Sgt W Barrentine
SFC R Hamilton
SFC W Georgetown
1st Lt G Culpepper
1st Lt C Hoenstine
(CO)
M/Sgt D Snowwhite
SFC D Brown
SFC D Rutter
Sgt J Morrison

Not Pictured:
1st Lt R Craft

2nd Lt D Canady
2nd Lt E Valdivieso
2nd Lt J Collins
M/Sgt M Turner
(1st Sgt)
SFC P Alvarado
SFC J Bassnett
SFC W Dekeyser
SFC D Kershaw
SFC C Loveland
SFC V Muir
SFC D Rine
SFC S White
Sgt E Galdden
Sgt F Nelson
Sp/2 A Longtote
Sp/3 C Foster

Sp/3 E McIntosh
Sp/3 R Woodward
PFC C Crooker
PFC C Conder
Pvt T Donahue
Pvt C Franklin
Pvt S Gilstrap
Pvt D Donovan
Pvt D Gonzales
Pvt B Long
Pvt W Miller
Pvt D Pratt
Pvt A Tisdale
Pvt B Whitt
Pvt W Burke
Pvt B Locke

SERVICE BATTERY



SIXTH ROW
Sp/3 W Neaves Jr
Sp/3 R L Kennedy
PFC R T Teramoto
Sgt W J Milligan
Sgt C Warren
Pvt R Trentadue
PFC L Thomas

FIFTH ROW
Sp/3 CE Norman
Pvt RR Winn
Sgt H C Hubbard
Sp/3 R P Higgins
Sgt R L Crabb

SIXTH ROW
PFC O L Dugar
Pvt J C Curry

FOURTH ROW
PFC R C Evans
Pvt G Trejo
Pvt S Turner
Pvt J R McQuay
PFC H R Schwartz
Pvt J B Meekens
Sp/2 D E LaPlante
Sgt W D Vroman

THIRD ROW
Pvt R E Murphy

PFC D L Burgess
Sp/3 C C McLaughlin
PFC R E Johnson
Pvt E A Gusk
Pvt J L Yates
Sp/3 I Frederick

SECOND ROW
Sgt W G Galinsky
Sgt H Lueth Jr
SFC T F Johnson
Pvt O Martinez
Sgt W W Sherrard
SFC P L Colvin

FIRST ROW
SFC G Rask
SFC E Johnson
M/Sgt C Duncheskie
(1st Sgt)
1st Lt B M Mulligan
(CO)
CWO J L Tatalajski

KNEELING
Pvt T D Bennafield
Pvt W L Holmes

Not Pictured:
1st Lt R R Rolph Jr

SFC J A Crocker
SFC H B Wright
Sp/2 F Hibbard
Sp/3 B L Waite
Sp/3 P D Yoders
Pvt W Arsenault
PFC J L Dickerson
Sp/3 G H Moore
Pvt L J Sanderfoot
Pvt R E Guilliams
Pvt H R King
Pvt J R Robertson
PFC R C Watts
Sp/2 W Gainey
Pvt L Little

1ST LT. BERNARD M. MULLIGAN
CO Svc. Btry.



In early September a Replacement Training Program was established in the 187th Abn RCT with selected men assigned to take Artillery Training. Service Battery played an important role in this program.

In October, a new 1st Sgt. took over the battery as SFC William P. Hoffman was vice M/Sgt. William G. Houser, who transferred to AAA Battery of the 187th. Also during this month the Recruit training Program reached field firing exercise phase, and Service Battery Ammo Section under the leadership of Sgt. Herbert L. Crabb was assigned to furnish all the necessary ammunition for this field problem.

March saw the command of the Battery change as 1st Lt. Bernard Mulligan replaced 1st Lt. Marion F. England, who transferred to Battalion Headquarters Staff. This month also brought us many qualified replacements from the departing 11th Airborne Division.

As the 674th continues to fulfill its mission, Service Battery will support each demand until reactivation of the 101st Airborne Division. We will then do as we have in the past by supporting all needs of the Artillery Batteries.



TRUMAN
BEDDINGFIELD

AAA BATTERY

TRAINEES AND CADRE ADVANCED INFANTRY COURSE

D COMPANY



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by

RCM

Collection

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by
RCM
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RCM

Collection

