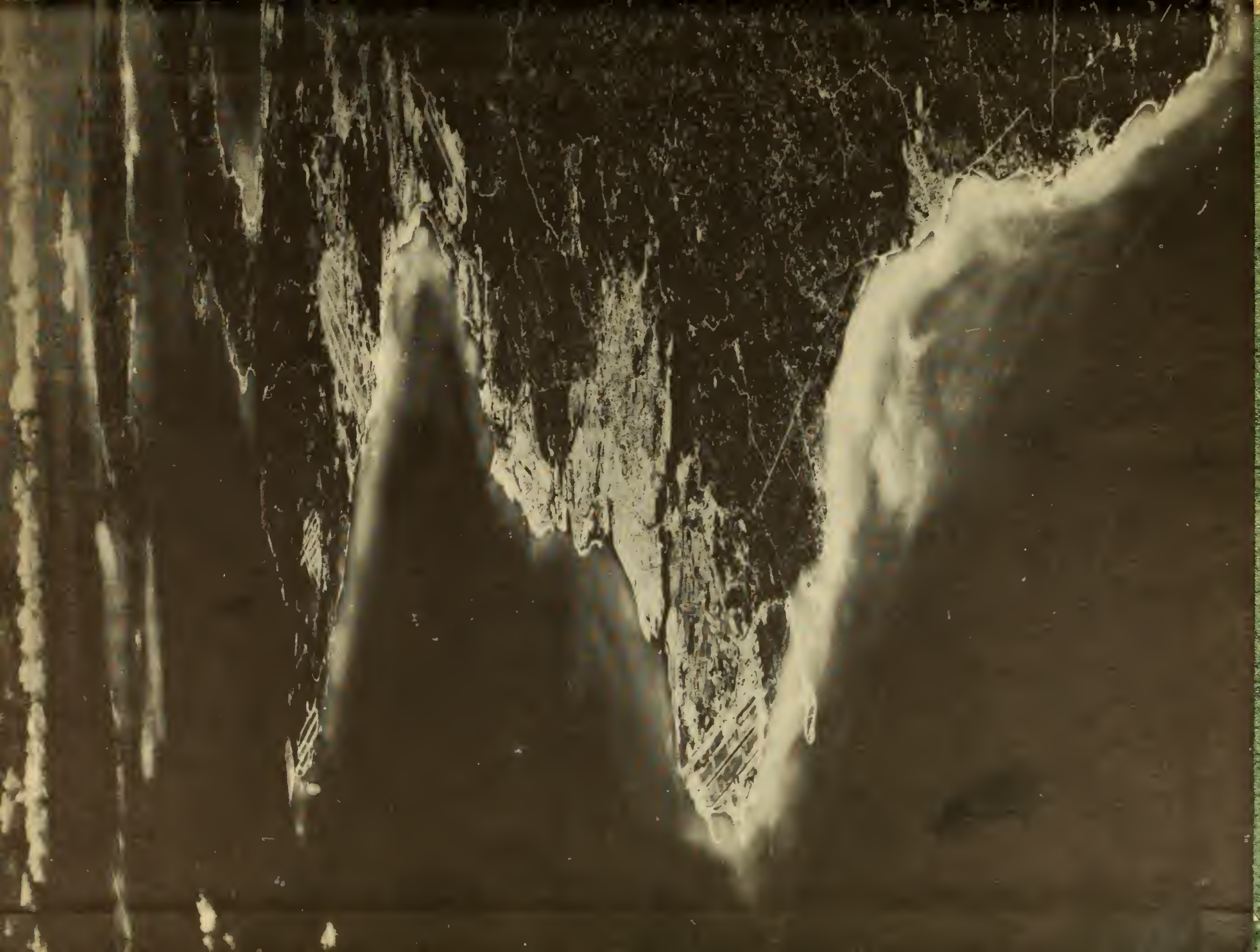
173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE
(SEPARATE)



DEDICATION

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, THIRTY-FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, IS DEAD. NO OTHER PRESIDENT'S DEATH HAS SO DEEPLY TOUCHED THE HEARTS OF ALL MILITARY FORCES—FOR THEY KNEW HIM AS A STAUNCH FRIEND. INDEED, HE WAS A MILITARY FAMILIES' PRESIDENT. IT IS TO HIM AND TO THE INSPIRATION WHICH HE LEAVES, THAT WE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATE THIS BOOK IN HIS MEMORY.

"ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY."

BRIGADIER GENERAL
ELLIS W. WILLIAMSON
Commanding Officer

COMMANDING GENERAL'S MESSAGE

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to each of you for providing the initiative, enthusiasm, and professional skill to make this past year a memorable one for the 173d Airborne Brigade.

Your spirit of determination and leadership ability that I have observed throughout the past year never fails to renew my confidence that our great nation will continue to be a leader in the free world.

In this yearbook you will find many pictures which depict the type of activities we have experienced together. Our training in various types of terrain, under many different situations, is invaluable to us as an airborne unit that is fully prepared to get the job done.

I congratulate each of you for a job well done and for making this a most memorable and worthwhile year.

Airborne, All the Way

Ellis W. Williamson

ELLIS W. WILLIAMSON
Brig. Gen., U.S. Army
Commanding

173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

On 25 June 1963 there occurred a new development in the structure of the United States Airborne forces with the activation of a separate airborne brigade on Okinawa. Initial reorganization began in March of 1963 when Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the new brigade was formed. Activation brought a new concept to today's modern Army: formation of a force augmented not only in manpower but in mobility and firepower. One dominant feature remains unchanged—the will to win.

Subordinate units of the 173d are the 1st and 2nd Battalions (Airborne), 503d Infantry; 3d Battalion (105MM Towed), 319 Artillery; the 173d Support Battalion; and separate units consisting of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep); 173d Engineer Company; Troop E, 17th Cavalry; and D Company, 16th Armor. Each of the infantry battalions is composed of three rifle companies and a headquarters company, while the 3d Battalion, 319th Artillery has three firing batteries with six 105MM Howitzers each and a headquarters/service battery. The 173d Support Battalion is composed of Company A (Administrative), Company B (Medical), Company C (Supply and Transportation), and Company D (Maintenance). Located within Company C(S&T) is the Air Equipment Support Platoon containing the brigade's organic parachute packers and riggers. As indicated by their designations, companies of the support battalion provide the brigade with supply, field maintenance, medical service, parachute and aerial delivery support, administrative and miscellaneous services for all assigned or attached elements.

HHC, 173D ABN. BDE. (SEP)

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) contains the personnel and equipment to the Brigade Commander for command and control of a complex fighting force.

Within this company organization are located the staff officers who advise the commander within their area of responsibility; a communications platoon to extend the voice of the commander to subordinate and higher organizations; an aviation platoon to give him mobility on the battlefield; a military police platoon to preserve law and order; and a security platoon to protect his command post.

Its motto of "Ahead of the Best" exemplifies its spirit and awareness of mission.

D COMPANY, 16th ARMOR.

Company "D," 16th Armor is the anti-tank protection for the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate).

This completely mobile and hard-hitting company has the capability of destroying any enemy tank in existence today with its high velocity guns. Additionally, it can provide close fire support to the infantry by engaging other targets with its destructive fire power.

The full tracked vehicle with its 90MM guns are air deliverable by parachute and will accompany the brigade into enemy held territory in the event of a parachute assault.

"Artillery—King of Battle"—Mission—to support the other combat arms by fire. A vital component of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) is the 3d Battalion, 319th Artillery.

The 319th traces its history and traditions to Camp Gordon, Georgia, where it was formed in 1917 for action in France during WWI. Its organizational colors bear streamers denoting action at Lorraine, St. Michael, and Meuse-Argonne.

As a part of the famed 82nd Airborne Division during WWII, the 319th participated in the invasion of Sicily and the subsequent campaign up the Italian peninsula. Action on D-Day in Normandy, the airborne invasion of Holland, and the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes contributed more battle streamers to the colors of the 319th.

Units of the 319th are Headquarters and Service Battery, A Battery, B Battery, and C Battery.

SUPPORT BATTALION

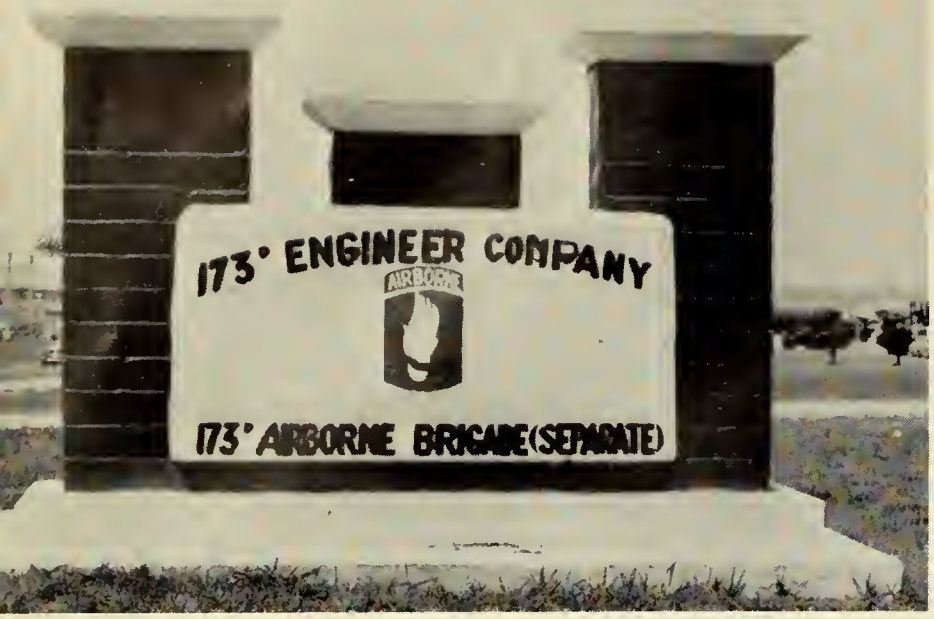
173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)

173d Support Battalion—the only unit of its kind in the United States Army.

This battalion has the mission of providing administrative, medical, logistical, transportation, and maintenance support to the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate). It also is responsible for packing and maintaining the parachutes and air items for the entire brigade.

All of the technicians and specialists required to operate and maintain the complex equipment of a modern Army, as well as chaplains, doctors, and administrative personnel, are concentrated within this battalion. These dedicated personnel perform those essential functions which keep the combat soldier the best supplied and equipped in the world.

Units of the 173d Support Battalion are A Company (Administrative), B Company (Medical), C Company (Supply and Transportation), and D Company (Maintenance).



173D ENGINEER COMPANY

"Let Us Try" is the motto of the 173d Engineer Company of 173d Airborne Brigade.

Whether there is an airfield to build, a demolitions task to be accomplished, streams or rivers to be crossed, roads or trails to be hacked out of the dense jungle, a minefield or barrier to be layed or erected or perhaps a schoolhouse to be built for the local people; it can and will be done by the 173d Engineer Company along with its other various missions.

As can be seen this small but vital portion of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) stands prepared and willing to execute any and all missions.

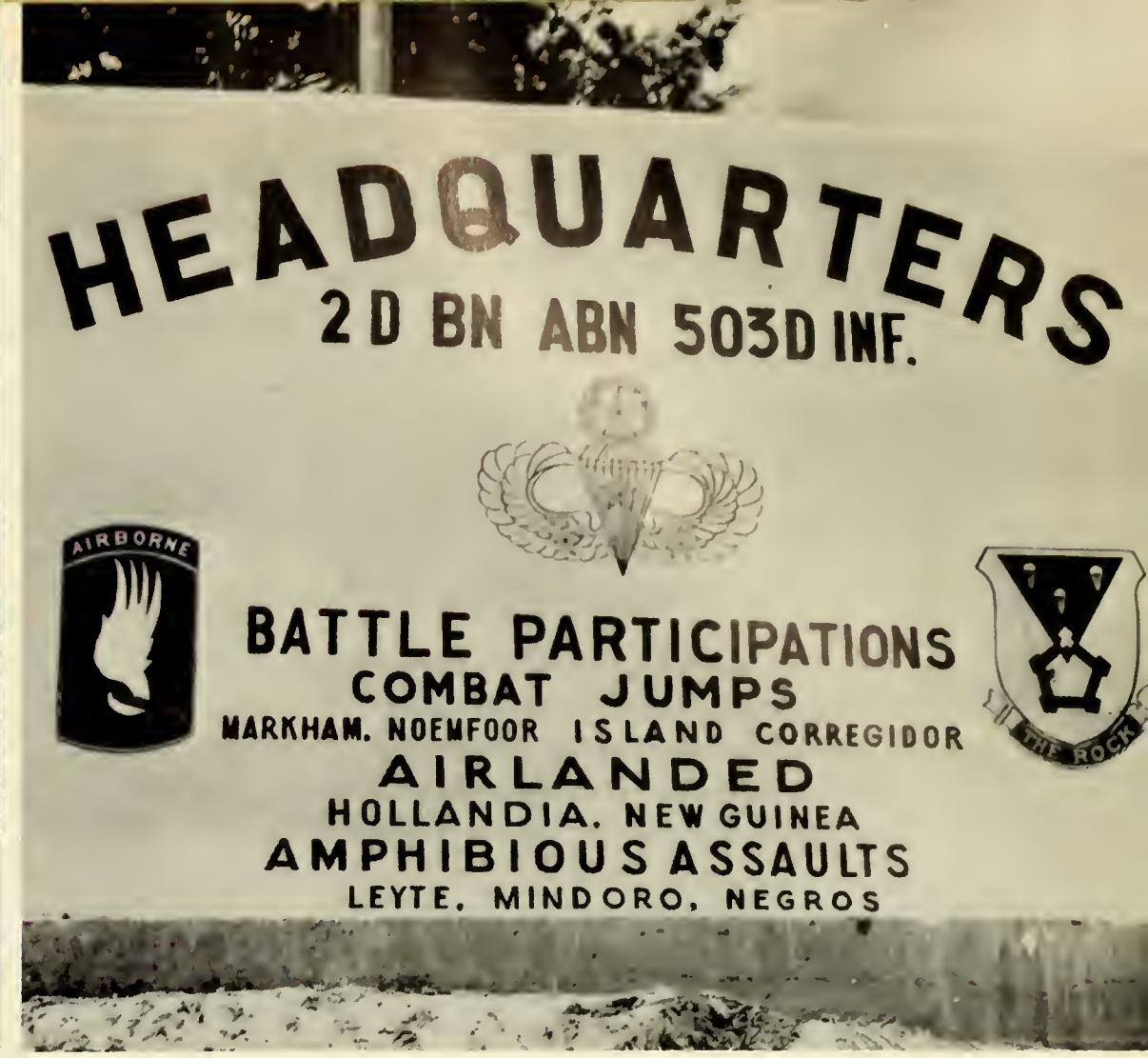
Its reservoir of ingenuity and professional know-how contributes to the success of the brigade combat elements and the Engineers history is replete with occasions when it also fought as combat infantry.

TROOP E/17th CAVALRY

Troop "E," 17th Cavalry has inherited the history and dash of the United States Cavalry which subdued the wild West after the Civil War.

The present "eyes and ears" of the Brigade Commander was originally formed in July, 1916. More recently, this cavalry squadron was designated by the United States Army to provide security for a division. It provides reconnaissance; offensive and defensive action; and to conduct independent action as required. This is the unit of the brigade which with its complete mobility ranges ahead and to the flanks to find the enemy and to report his location and strength.

A combination of individual initiative, resourcefulness, thorough knowledge of scouting and patrolling and a toughness of mind and physique are prerequisites for duty with Troop "E."



The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 503d Infantry are the lineal descendants of the WWII 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment of Corregidor Fame. These Battalions continue the traditions of that famous regiment.

The 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment was the first regiment of paratroopers formed in the United States Army in August 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia. This is the only airborne regiment with a memorial at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

During WWII the 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment participated in numerous campaigns in the Pacific area of operations which culminated with the renowned parachute and capture of the fortress island of Corregidor in the Philippines in April, 1945. This island stronghold was bitterly defended by the fanatical Japanese and was only secured by the 503d after two weeks of bloody fighting. After this battle the 503d turned the island over to the command of General Douglas MacArthur, thus helping to enable him to keep his vow to the Philippine people: "I Shall Return."

In June 1960, the 2nd Airborne Battle Group, 503d Infantry arrived on Okinawa from the 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to become the forward striking element of the United States Army in the Pacific. It was subsequently reorganized into two Airborne Infantry Battalions of the 173d Airborne Brigade. Each Battalion has a headquarters and headquarters company and three rifle companies.

COMMANDING GENERAL ARRIVES

GENERAL ELLIS W. WILLIAMSON (Left) and COLONEL ROBERT L. ROWAN salute the colors as the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) pass in Review.

173D ON PARADE

CG reviews troops at NCO parade

—On line

The Colors are presented to the CG

"PASS IN REVIEW"

Armored Personnel Carriers "Pass in Review" as Minute Man flag unfurls (rear).

"4.2" Mortars (left) and Medic Vehicles.

The 173d's power punch—105MM Towed Howitzers.

50039

039

50039

U.S. AIR FORCE

039

U.S. AIR FORCE

"Away she goes"

"One thousand, two thousand . . ."

"On the way-down"

"Where's the May We[illegible]?"

Slip over, will ya!

Touching down on Chinese soil

"And the wind blew"

"A lotta silk"

More to come

"I got mine out."

"Those blasted twisted risers."

"Prepare to land."

"What I'd give for a nice sandy Drop Zone."

"The smoke was there, too."

"Love that concrete."

"Medics, on the job."

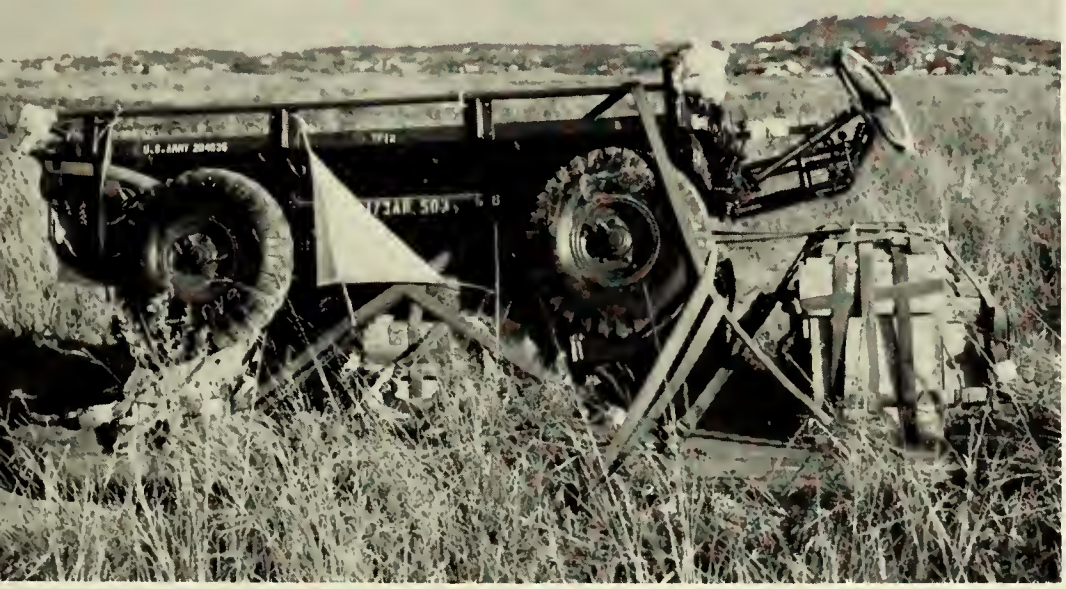
"They call this tactical."

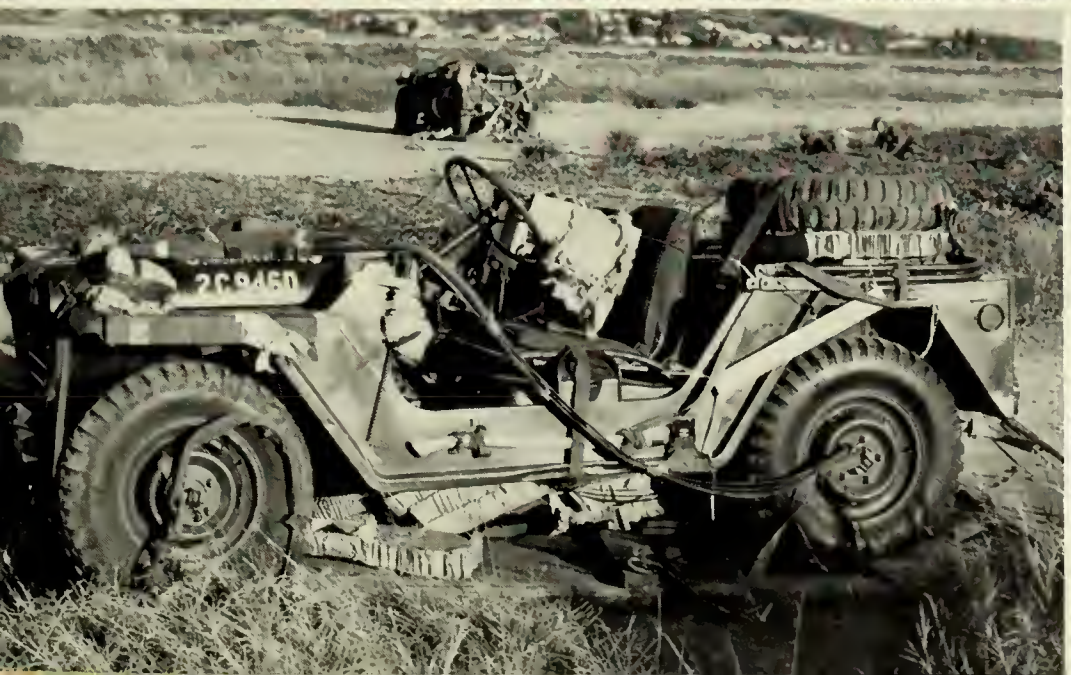
"Was it Du

"This landed softly."

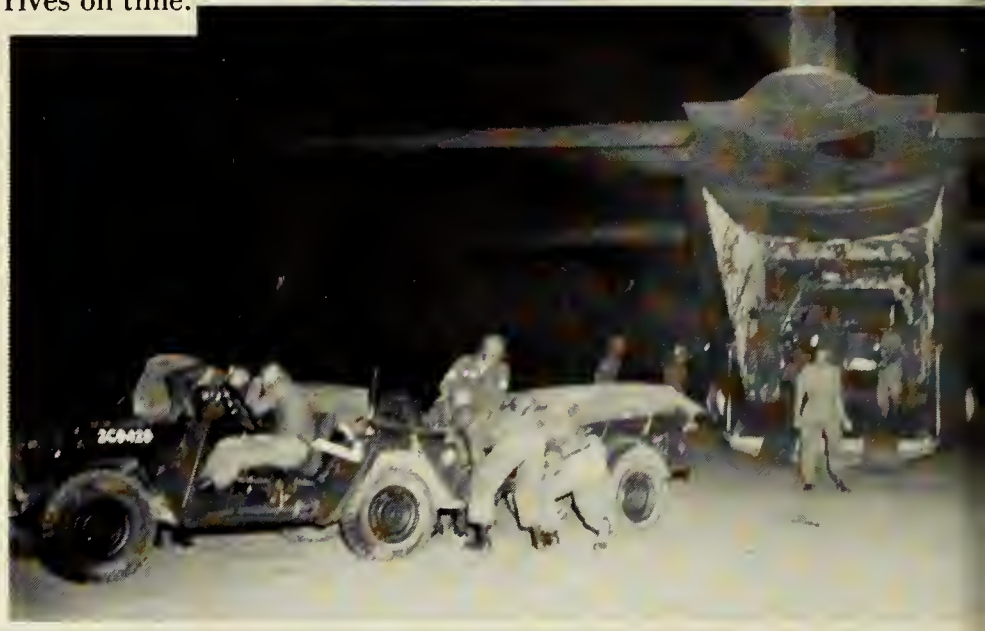
Two to one it doesn't open

"Streamer"





Equipment arrives on time.



These Aggressors weren't so lucky.

Infantry—Walk, walk, and more walking.

A little "People to people"

FOR THE LATE PRESIDENT.

COMMAND INSPECTION OF THE 173D

The Command Inspection was held during the month of December. The inspecting officer was Lt. Gen. Paul W. Caraway, Commanding General-USARYIS and IX CORPS. All phases of units were inspected.

OUR FRIENDS IN DEFENSE

Mount Fuji

Tokyo Tower

Korean Papa-san

Korea

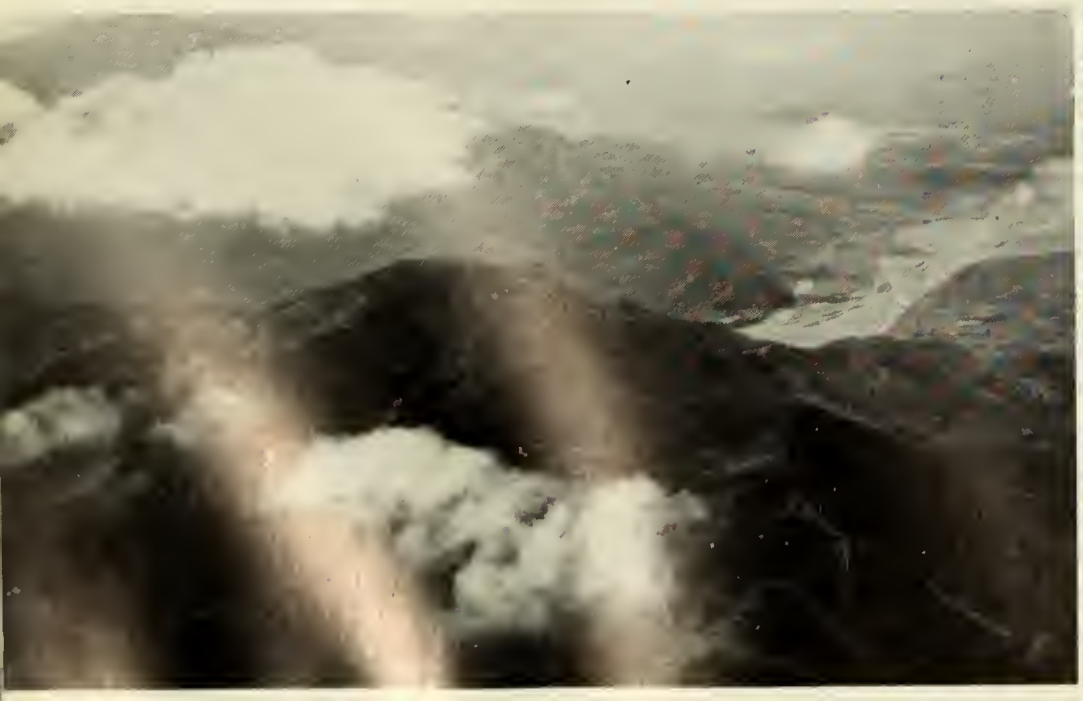
Hong Kong

Hong Kong

Chinese lass

Taiwan farmland

Taiwan village

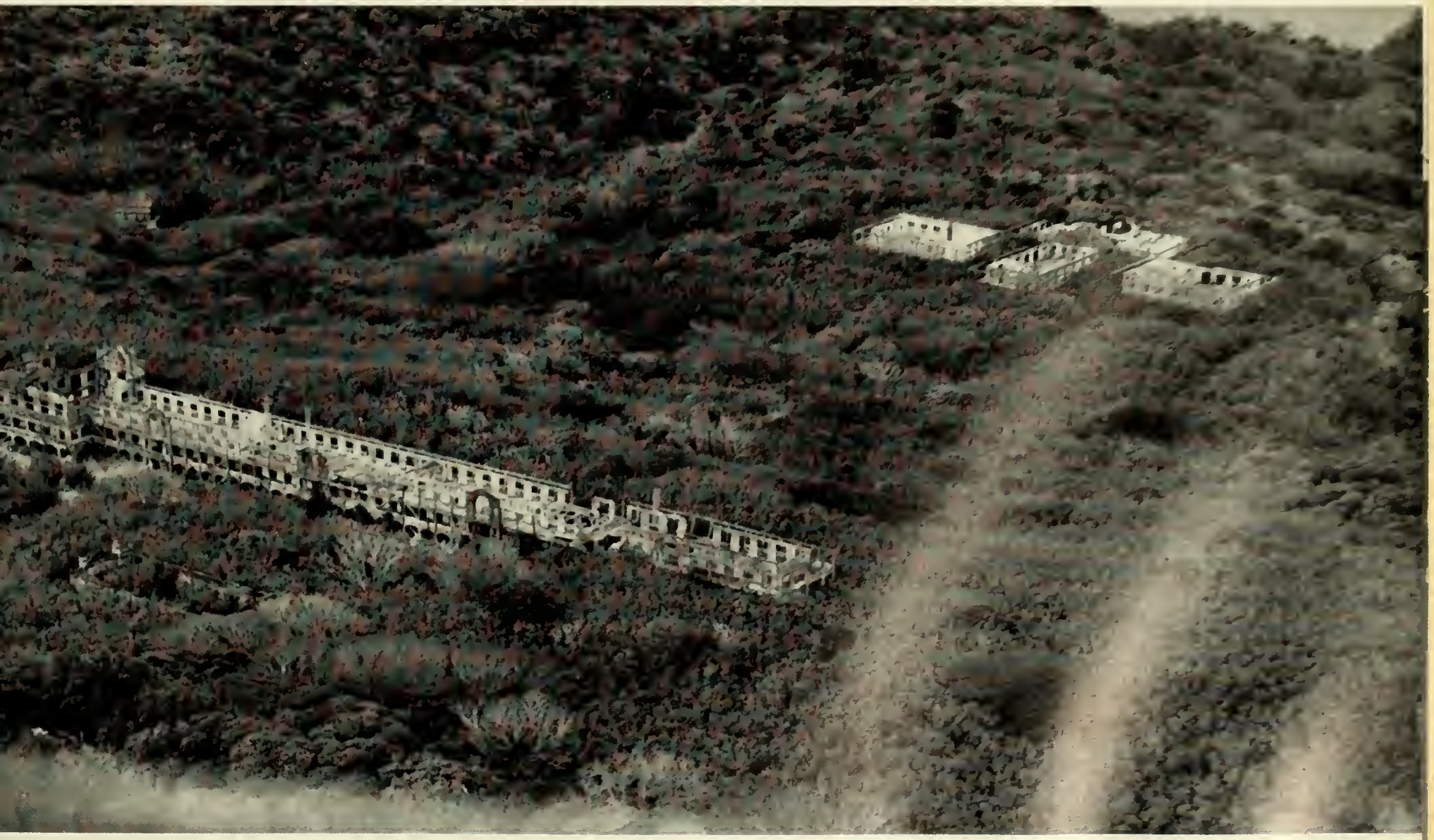


Mountains of Taiwan

The Philippines

The Philippines

The "ROCK"



"Corregidor"

Government transportation

Easy on that "C" chow

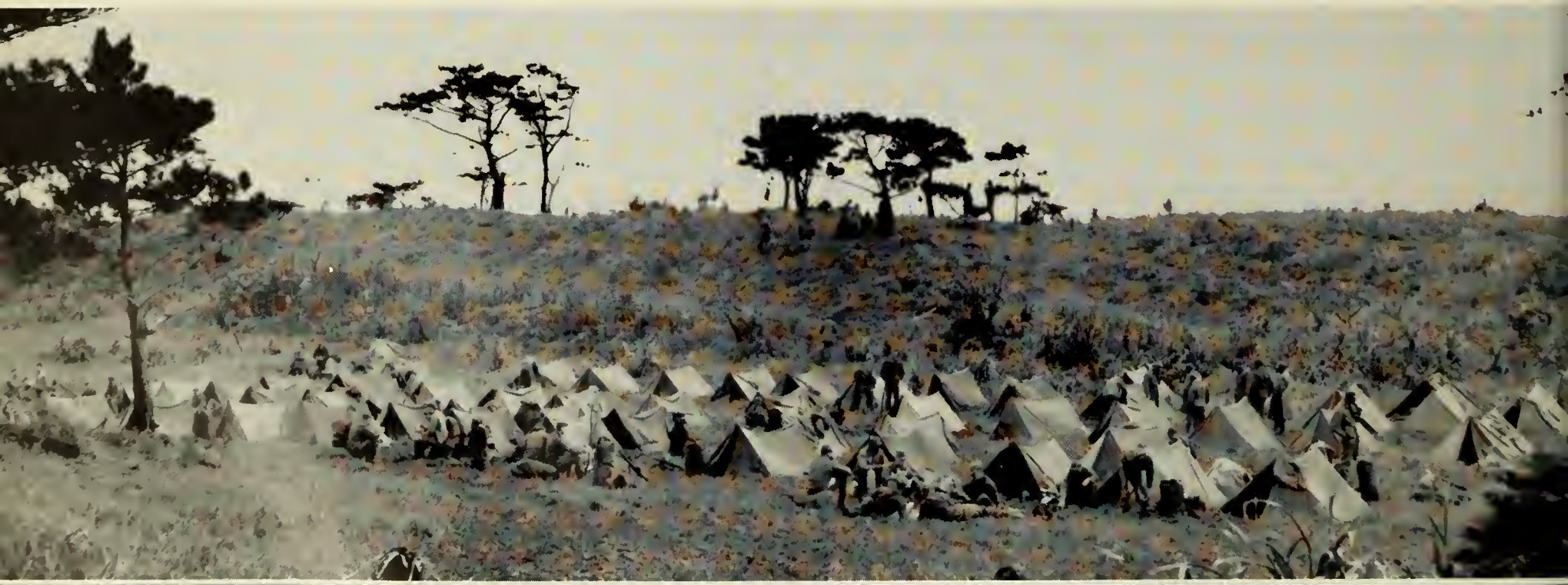
Samsonite. Anyone

I know how a sardine feels.

Anyone for a sea cruise.

It rained and rained and rained.

Tent City

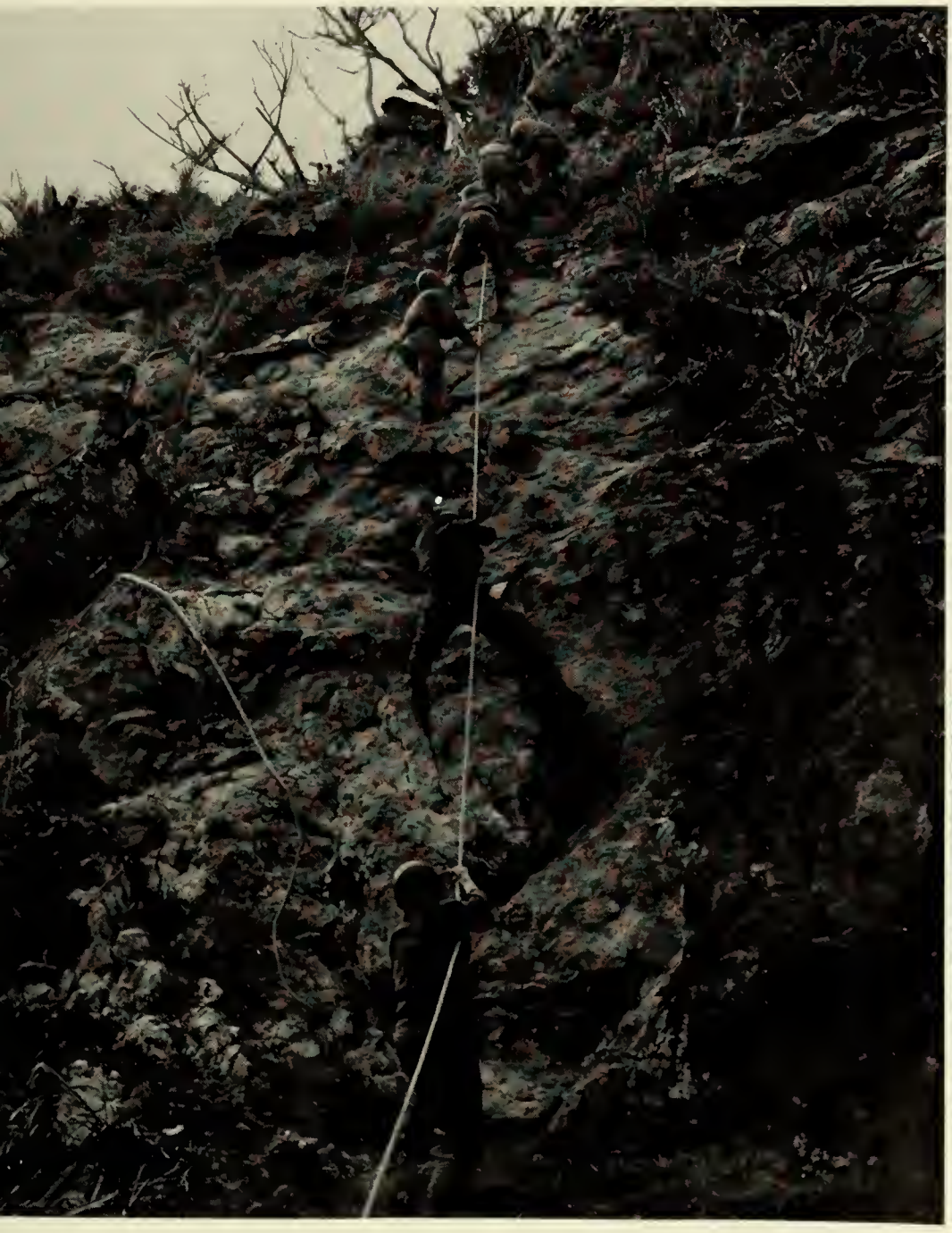


Home for two weeks

Off to training

The classroom

Slide for life



Look out below

Airborne

Rappelling

Automatic

Dear darling

"Hold on"

Rope bridge crossing

"Who sprang that trap?"

Night river crossing

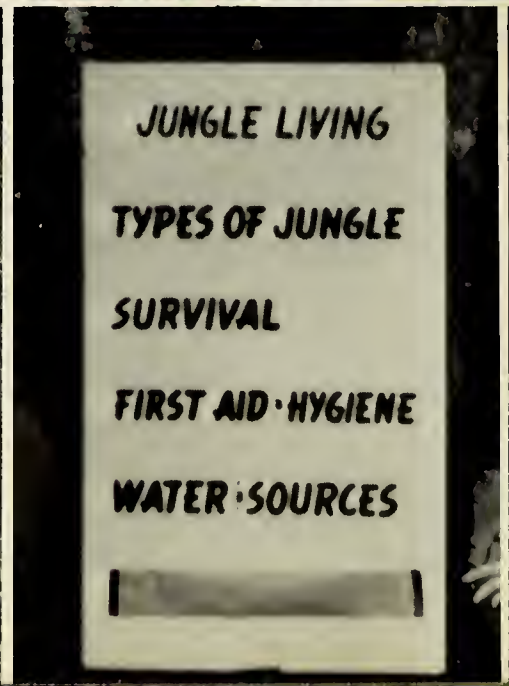
The "King"

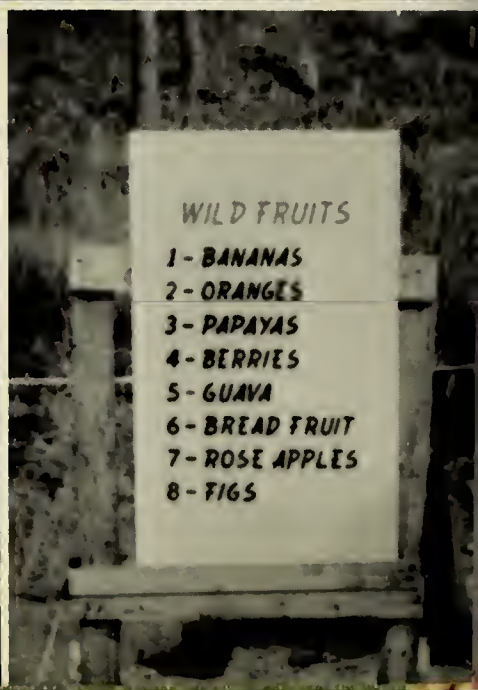
Oh, my aching feet!

(The bat.)

BAMBOO WHIP
BAMBOO WHIP

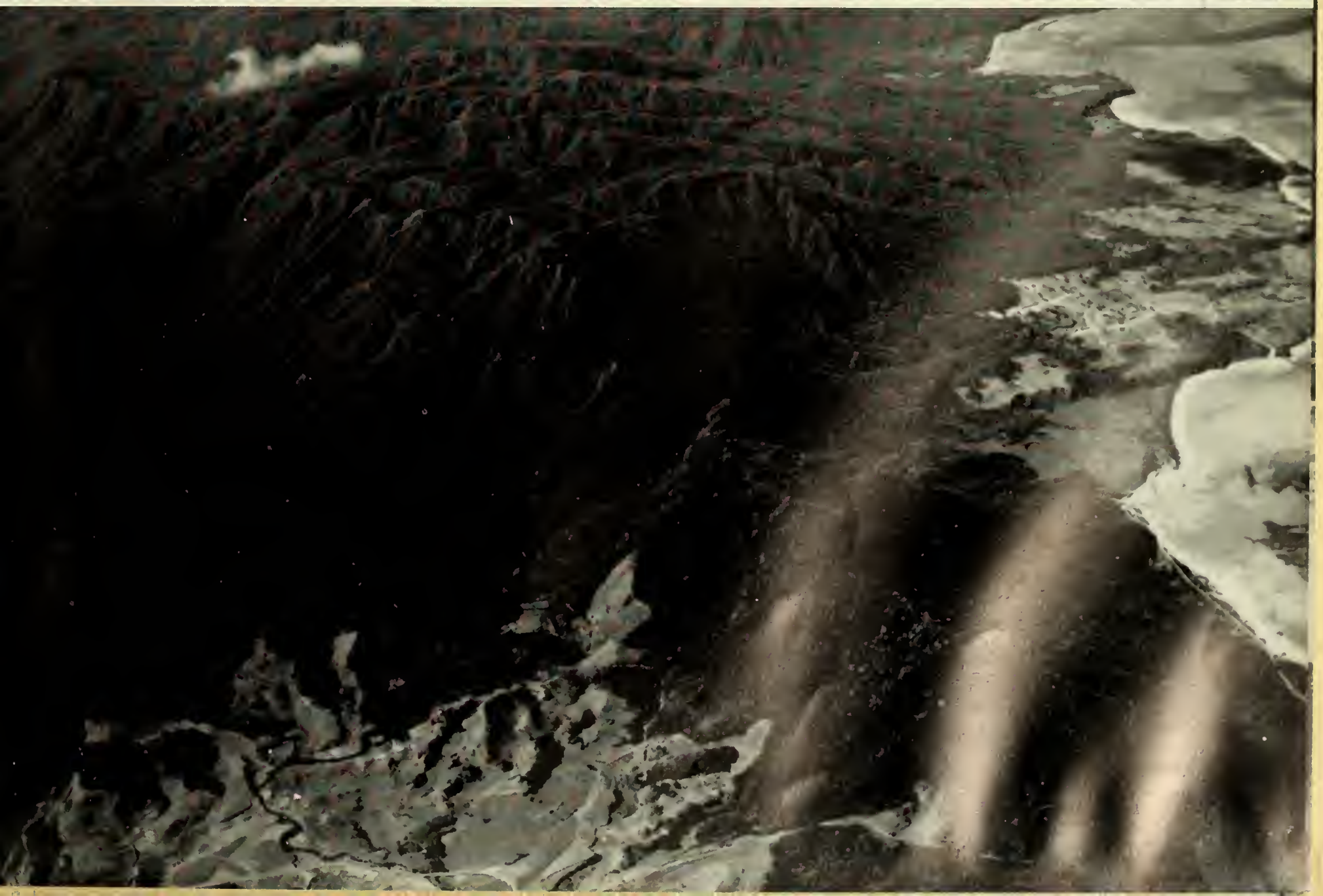
BOOBY TRAP
WITH BARB WIRE
& HAND GRENADE

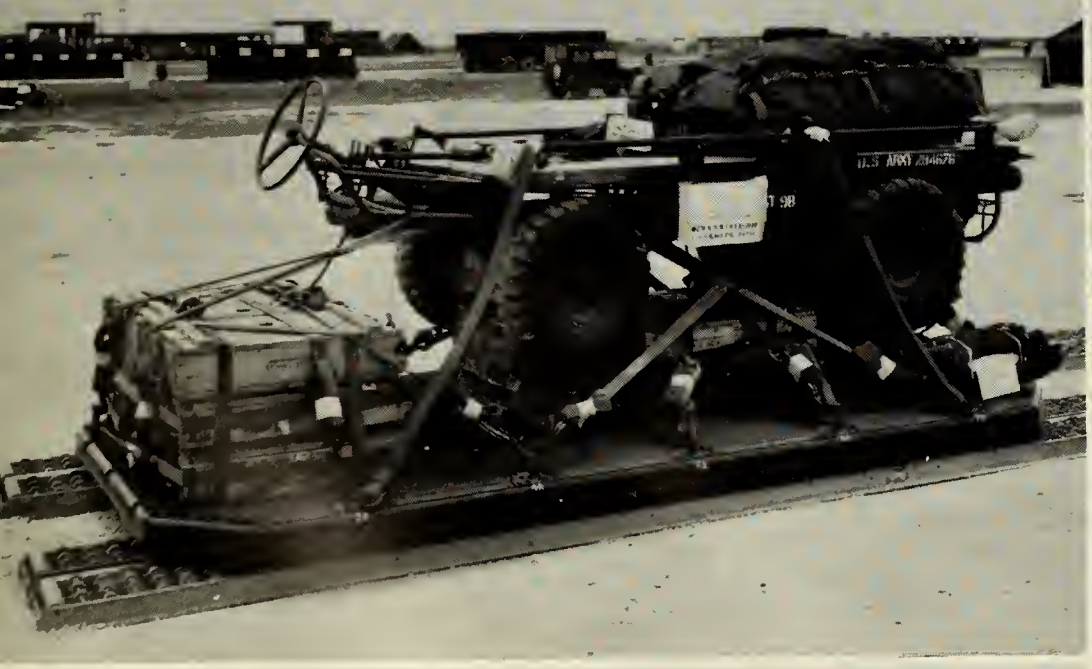

JUNGLE LIVING
TYPES OF JUNGLE
SURVIVAL
FIRST AID · HYGIENE
WATER · SOURCES

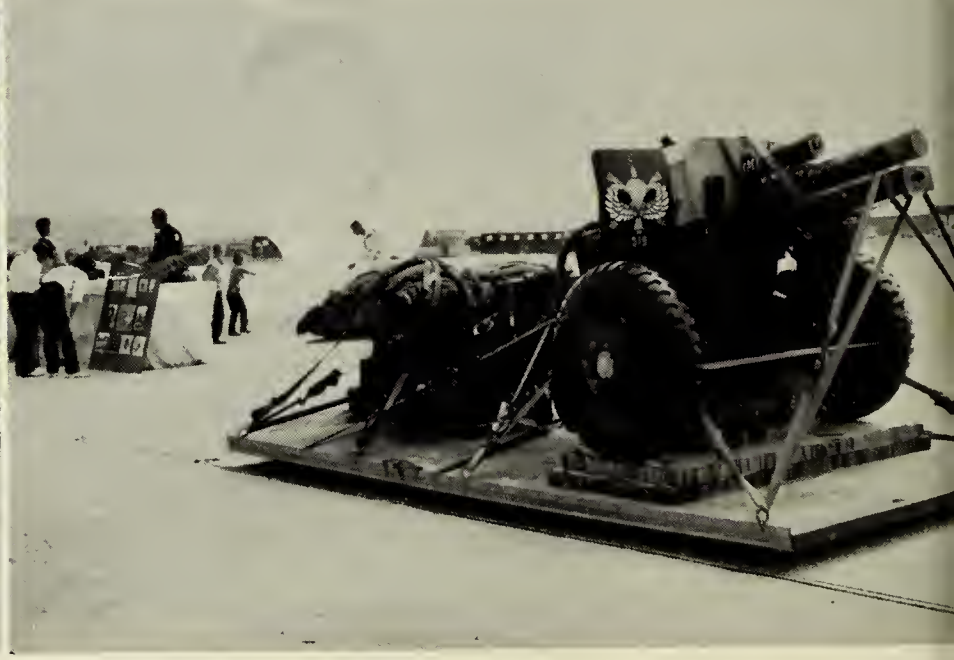

WILD FRUITS
1 - BANANAS
2 - ORANGES
3 - PAPAYAS
4 - BERRIES
5 - GUAVA
6 - BREAD FRUIT
7 - ROSE APPLES
8 - FIGS

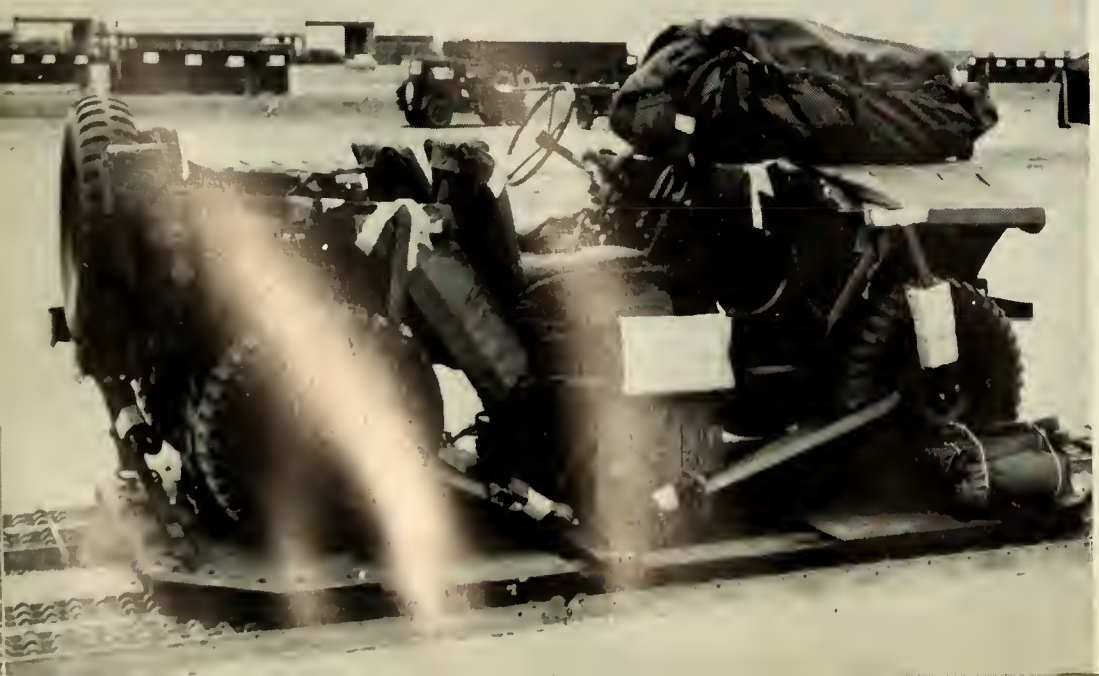
They call this fun

CG presents toys collected by the men of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate)









ARMED FORCES DAY ACTIVITIES

Portable flame thrower

"Kiddie" mortar range

"Machine-gunners"—All

"Turn me loose"

Kiddies—Airborne too!!

Hand to hand demonstration

"Kiddie" grenade range

173D SPORTS

SEATO Headquarters—"LIGTAS"

With the parachutes, came the rain.

People to people

Philippine ground

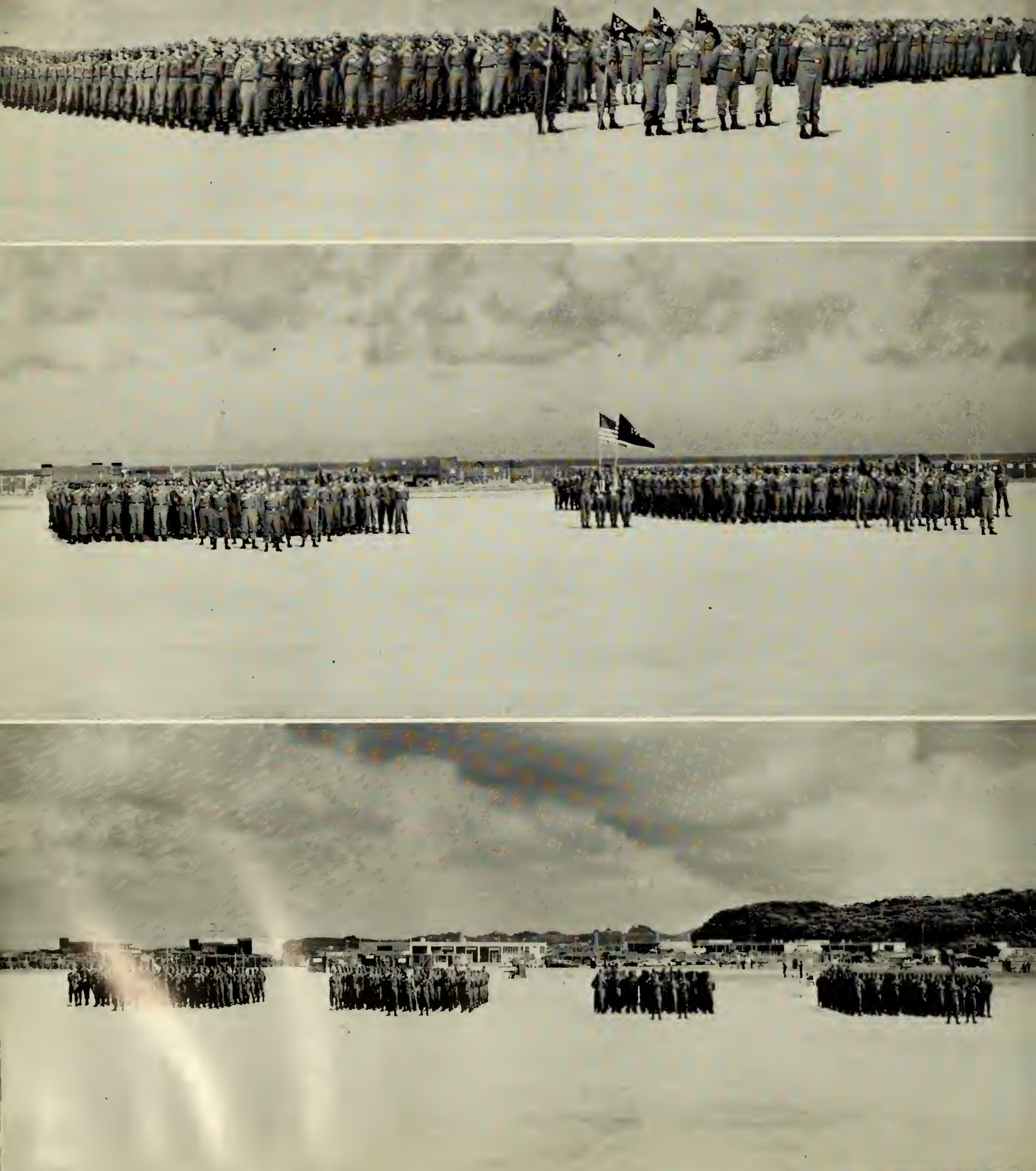
Heavy Drop—"A" O. K.

The 17 I'd Punch.

Bye, Bye-Blood!!!!!

SMILE! You're on Candid Camera.

HAPPY
1 73d A B N BdE (SEP)



WOW! he's heavy.

Ring around the ballbat.

Move out [illegible]t Sergeants

Yo, ho ho heave ho

Not my good Jump Boots.

What a way to earn a living.

SMILE

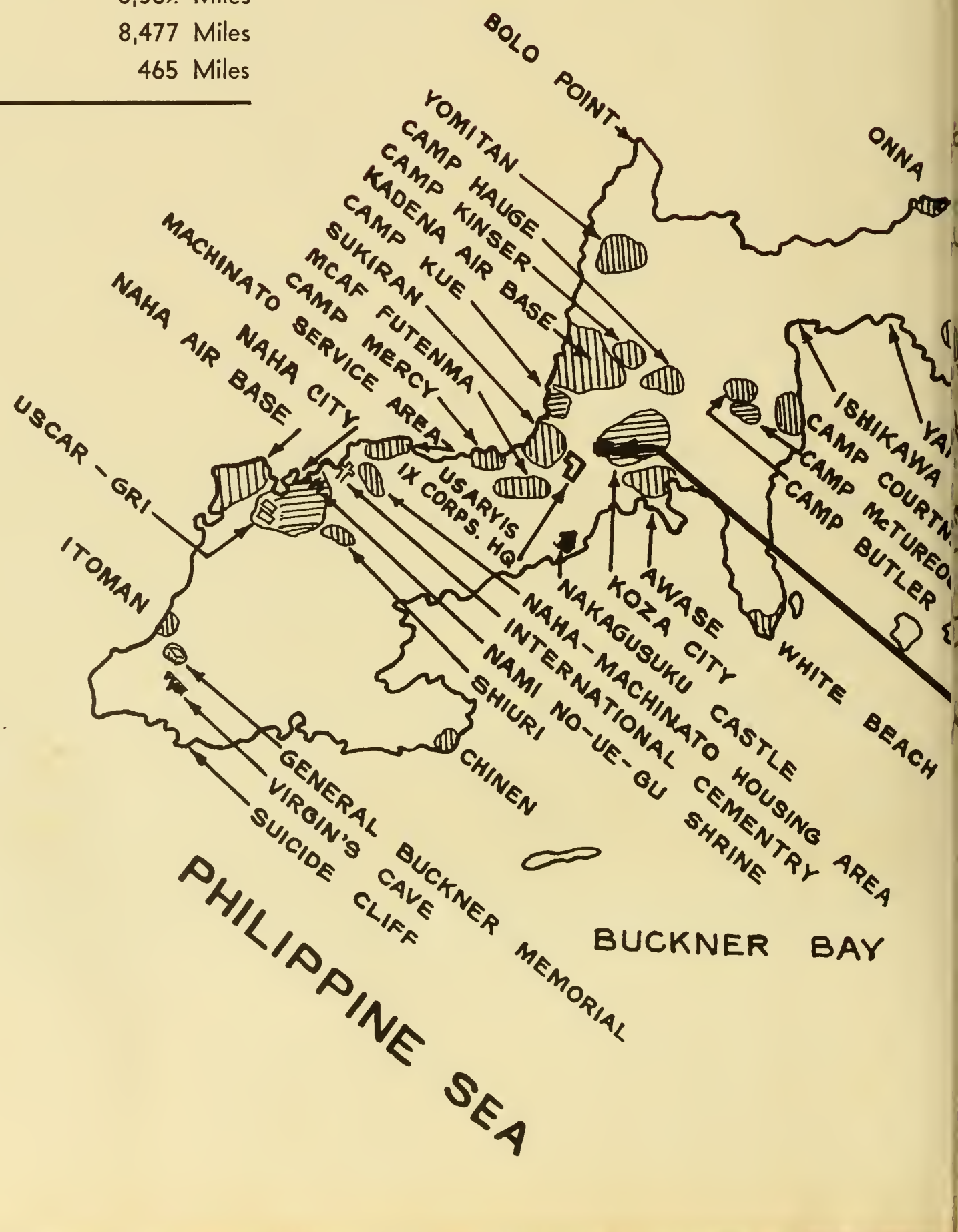
Taylor-made
ARMED FORCES
PUBLICATIONS
TAYLOR PUBLISHING COMPANY
DALLAS • U S A

Property of
H. K. Bond

OKINAWA-RY

Okinawa	0 Miles—7 AM Mon
Los Angeles Seattle	7,300 Miles—2 PM Sun
Denver Phoenix	8,300 Miles—3 PM Sun
Chicago Houston	9,300 Miles—4 PM Sun
New York Miami	10,000 Miles—5 PM Sun

Manila—"I Shall Return"	1,031 Miles
Hong Kong—"Go Broke on Bargains"	996 Miles
Moscow—"Not Far Enough"	8,362 Miles
Paris—"City of Lights"	8,477 Miles
Red China—"Too Close"	465 Miles



KYU ISLAND

PACIFIC OCEAN

BLACKIE The Photographer
Box 62 Koza, Okinawa

Length of Island		66 Miles
Width —	Widest Point	19.7 Miles
	Narrowest Point	2 Miles
Area —	Okinawa	593 Square Miles
	Rhode Island	1,214 Square Miles
Population		890,000 People
Density		1,504 Persons Per Square Mile