

U. S. ARMY

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**C**areer  
**C**ounseling **JOURNAL**

**MARCH 1966**

**ON THE WAY!**



**OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL  
FORT SILL, OKLA.**

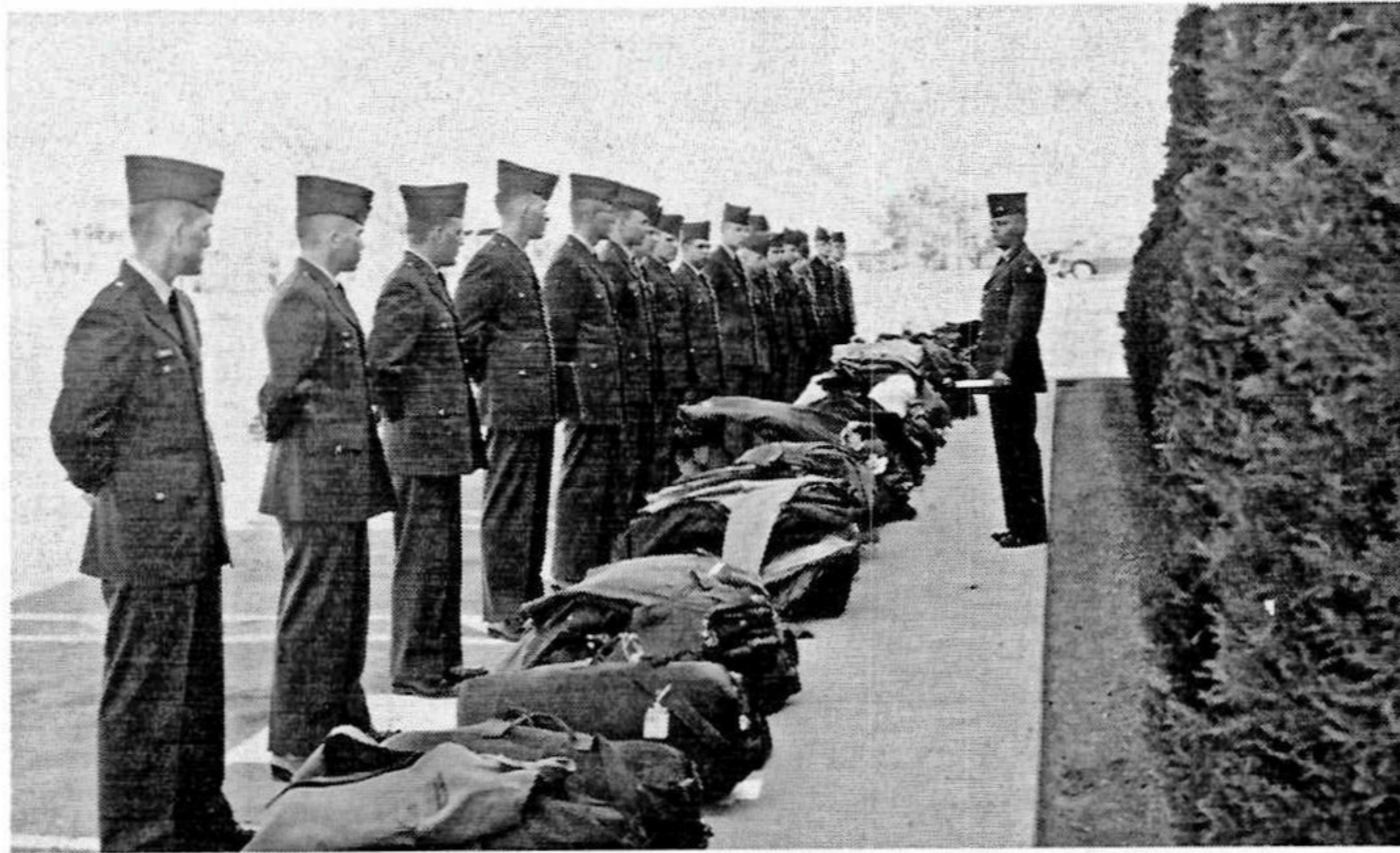
**(Pages 6 and 7)**



## BECOMING AN ARTILLERY OFFICER

BY 2ND LT. JOSEPH A. ROLLO  
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First in a series of articles reporting on highlights of a typical artillery OCS class from the first week of training to completion of course and graduation as commissioned officer.



Candidate Robert L. Stein, a middleclass guide, gives helpful suggestions to members of Class 8-66 prior to processing for entry into OCS the next day.



Candidates are issued "basic load" of literature. They will rely heavily on the text books as they progress in the 23-week Officer Candidate course.

One hundred and thirteen soldiers, ranging in rank from private to warrant officer and representing 34 states, reported into Officer Candidate School, Fort Sill, Okla., and attained the rank of "candidate" with one goal in mind: completion of the course and a commission in the U. S. Army as a second lieutenant.

The group was assigned to Delta Battery, commanded by Capt. Floyd D. Whitehead, a 1960 graduate of West Point. Five tactical officers are also assigned to Delta Battery to help in the supervision of the candidates.

First Lieutenant Francis E. Israel Jr., executive officer, has a Master of Science Degree from the University of Knoxville.

The four platoon leaders are 1st Lt. Gerald W. Sharpe and 2nd Lts. John R. Treanor, John C. Gambaccini and Pat J. Razook. Lieutenant Sharpe is a graduate of OCS and attended Western State College in Colorado.

Lieutenant Treanor graduated from St. Mary's University, San Antonio. Lieutenant Gambaccini graduated from Kent State University in Ohio. Lieutenant Razook holds a Master of Science Degree in Student Personnel and Guidance from Oklahoma State University.

### FIRST WEEK

The new candidate class, Number 8-66, began its processing Sunday, Oct. 31 for the 23 week long class.

Members of Class 8 spent most of their first hectic week being welcomed to OCS and receiving the tools and equipment which they will use during the next six months. They received their texts and instruments on Tuesday and were amazed at the voluminous manuals and gunnery equipment they will have to master.

In a ceremony Thursday afternoon Col. Charles E. Howard, the OCS commandant, presented the class guidon to Officer Candidate Battery Commander Marvin C. Williams, Danbury, Tex.

The class guidon bearer was Candidate Daniel Russel III, Glenarden, Md. The guidon will be presented to the honor graduate at the completion of the course.

On Friday morning, Col. Robert C. Williams, deputy assistant commandant of Sill's Artillery and Missile School, welcomed the class to the school. He told them that units at Sill fought to get graduates of OCS because they were the "best-trained artillerymen available."

After the welcoming address, the candidates attended their first classes. The instruction was given by the Artillery Transport Department and covered the general policies of the Army's maintenance program. Duties of the driver were stressed and the responsibility each individual has for the equipment assigned to them.

Candidates learn the Army from the ground up so that they will become familiar with the jobs of the lowest grade enlisted personnel before taking command as an officer.

As lowerclassmen during the first seven weeks of the course they learn the duties of the "worker." Later, during middle and upper class, they will learn the duties of the non-commissioned officer and junior officer, respectively.

The week was completed with an inspection in ranks by the TAC staff on Saturday morning. If the candidates had not learned what OCS was all about during the inspection they had a good indication of the standards expected of them.



With a long first week behind them, the candidates can look forward to many classes and a rigid schedule of activities to keep them always on the alert so they will learn how to function under pressure.

Two inspections and one written exam highlighted Class 8's first academic week of OCS training. After a week of processing, the 113 candidates began a rigid schedule of classroom instruction.

Although subject to inspection 24 hours a day, formal inspection of personal appearance and individual weapons was conducted on Saturday, Nov. 6 by the battery commander, Capt. Floyd D. Whitehead, and his platoon leaders.

## SECOND WEEK

Class 8 received its first written exam from the Artillery Transport Department of the Artillery and Missile School on Tuesday. The exam covered the instruction the candidates had received on the Army's maintenance program.

On Wednesday, the candidates were finally given a chance to conduct their own inspections of various Army vehicles.

A junior officer is often assigned the task of motor officer and is responsible for the condition of the equipment assigned to his battery. The instruction on Wednesday gave the class practice in knowing how to determine the readiness of a vehicle.

An integral part of OCS is the close relationship each candidate has with his platoon leader. On Wednesday afternoon, each candidate was counseled by the officer responsible for his training. The candidates were questioned on their background and individual problems.

Veterans Day was a special day for Class 8 students as they were allowed to leave the OCS area and use the recreational facilities of Fort Sill. Although the time was used by some to polish boots and do the hundreds of things that could not be accomplished on busier days, some candidates took the time to see a movie at one of Sill's three post theatres.

Friday afternoon the candidates received the first classes in what is one of the most important blocks of instruction in their 23 weeks. The class was taught the proper method of giving commands and teaching drill and physical training. They will spend many hours doing practical exercises in these subjects before their training is completed.

The usual inspection by the officers of Delta Battery took place on Saturday morning. The errors of the previous week were corrected but the well-trained eyes of the TAC staff were still able to find some flaws that the candidates had missed.

The candidates will get a look at Sill's range area as they begin their instruction in map reading next week. They will learn how to locate their position on a map by observing the area around them. This past week *they knew where they were*—IN OCS.

## THIRD WEEK

"You should be able to locate your general position by observing the surrounding terrain. By taking azimuths from known points, you will be able to plot your exact position."

First Lieutenant William A. Ziegler, an instructor at Sill's Tactics and Combined Arms Department, was kept busy last Thursday afternoon instructing a section of OCS Class 8 and answering their many questions as they prepared for a final exam in map reading on Friday.

The instruction took place on Fort Sill's West Range and the candidates moved from one location to another, constantly trying to orient themselves by observing the terrain.

Using maps, coordinate scales, protractors, compasses, and grease pencils, candidates of Class 8 tried to piece together the knowledge they had been collecting all week.

The course of instruction this week also covered classes in military justice and beginning classes in survey.

On Saturday, the candidates witnessed Artillery Firepower Demonstration. They observed a display of small arms firepower and three artillery "mass missions" in which 80 pieces of tube cannonry simultaneously fired on the same target.

Following the third "mass mission," the candidates watched as H-34 Choctaw helicopters from Sill's 1st Aerial Artillery Battery demonstrated the firing capabilities of their 4.5 inch rockets.

Next week the candidates can look forward to a big Thanksgiving Day feast in the OCS messhall and the possibility of a pass for a few hours on the holiday.

Classes in Field Artillery Tactics begin next week. This block of instruction will last throughout their training. They learned this week how to read a map and travel from one location to another without getting lost. Next week the candidates will begin to learn what they should do when they get there.#

(to be continued)



At Sill's West Range, Candidate Alexander Koziol Jr. of New Ulm, Minn., takes a compass reading on a terrain feature pointed out by 1st Lt. Ziegler, instructor in tactics and combined arms.



First Lieutenant Sharpe (left) snaps weapon from hands of Candidate Joseph W. Howze of Cleveland. Sharpe's inspection covered individual weapons and personal appearance.



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Through these portals. . .

### FOURTH WEEK

Time is a very valuable but limited ingredient in the life of an officer candidate. The high standards of personal appearance and military deportment must be learned quickly for there is little free time in the candidates' daily routine.

From 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., the candidates rush through a hectic schedule fighting the clock trying to get all their duties and assignments completed.

Their day begins with a mad scramble as the candidates prepare for their physical training. Five minutes after awaking, they are in formation prepared either to run two miles around the OCS track or begin their twelve repetitions of the "daily dozen," the Army's standard physical training exercise.

The candidates have 15 minutes after PT for showers and a change to their duty uniform. At 5:45 they are in formation for Reveille.

After breakfast, the candidates have 45 minutes to prepare their barracks and the battery area for inspection. At 7:15 the academic schedule begins with classes until 11:30.

After an hour-long break for lunch, classes resume. The candidates' lunch hour includes traveling to and from classes and waiting in formation to enter the mess hall.

Study Hall begins at 7 p.m. and lasts for two hours. The candidates must have completed their duties prior to Study Hall because they have only an hour after it is over before "lights out" at 10 p.m.

When candidates fall below the standards expected of them,

demerits are imposed by Tactical Officers. In addition to being restricted to the OCS area during off-duty hours of the weekend, too many demerits will "qualify" a candidate for participation in the weekend "Jark March."

Named for Lt. Gen. Carl H. Jark, retired, former Fourth Army Commander and the director of OCS in 1941, the march is a four mile struggle up Medicine Bluff 4, a steep hill on Sill's West Range.

Several members of Class 8 took their first "Jark" this weekend. Upon returning, all candidates had a little more incentive to budget their time more carefully, accomplish all required tasks, get fewer demerits, and avoid the next "Jark March."

### FIFTH WEEK

Azimuth, traverse, triangulation, orienting angle, and declination constant became familiar terms to members of Officer Candidate Class 8 this week as they prepared for their final exam in Survey.

Working with logarithms, aiming circles, theodolites, steel tapes and plumb bobs, the candidates checked their measurements of Fort Sill's terrain against the accurate data held by the Survey instructors of Sill's Target Acquisition Department.

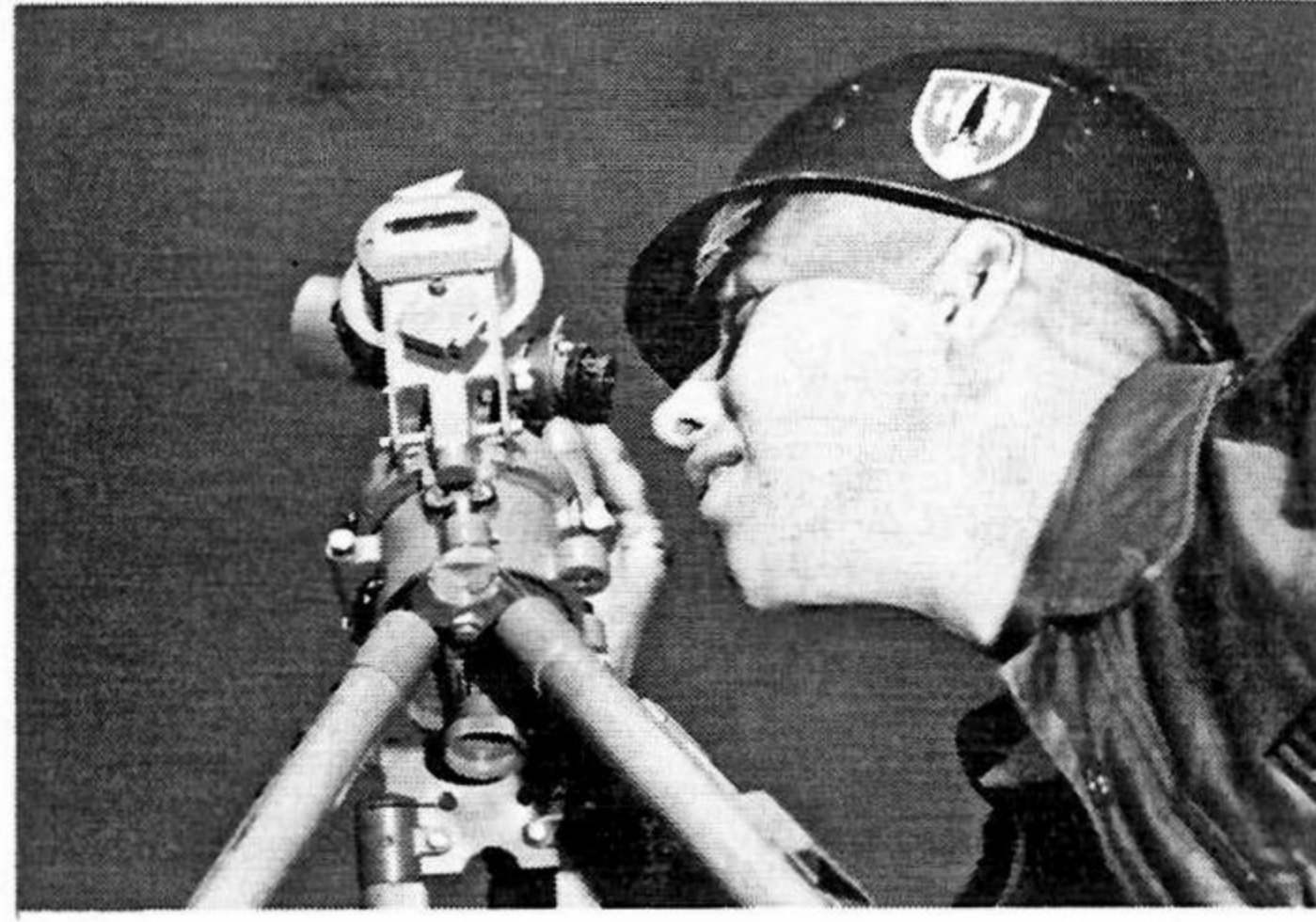
Accurate survey is necessary if the artillery is to provide effective fire support. The exact position of the artillery piece must be known if fire is to be directed accurately on a target.

Wednesday and Thursday mornings and all day Friday the

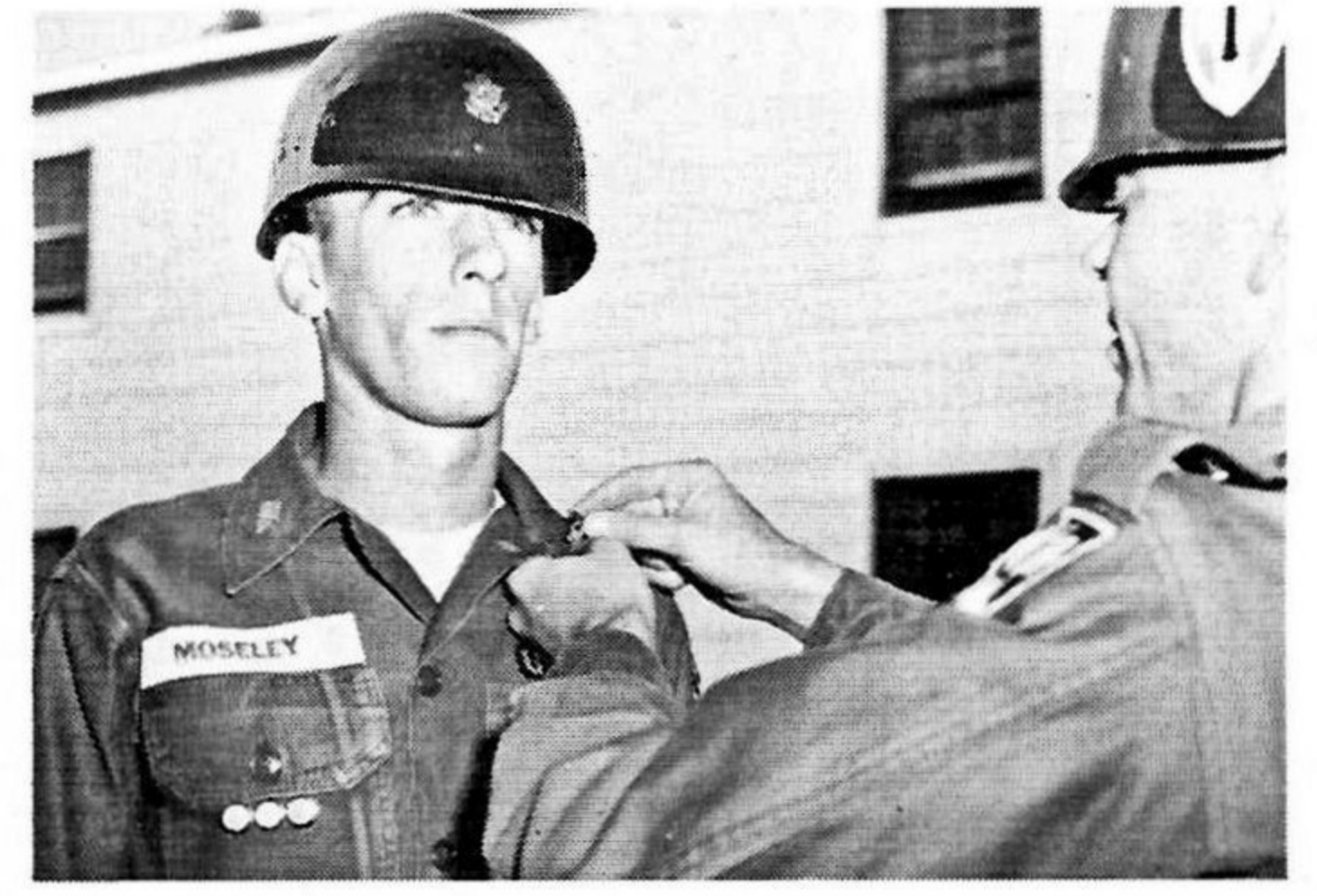




Candidates John A. Kilcoyne (left) and Barton H. Ishizaki take tape measurement during survey exercise



Candidate Wayne Smoot of Newcastle, Calif., sights through the eyepiece of a theodolite (a survey instrument)



Candidate Michael S. Moseley, Moorestown, N. J., receives green felt and eagle, symbols of middle class

candidates worked in the field putting their classroom instruction to practical use. On Wednesday the candidates performed a *position* area survey problem. A *target* area survey problem faced them on Thursday, and Friday's problem was an artillery battalion survey requirement.

Friday's exercise afforded the candidates the pleasure of spending the duty day away from the pressures of Robinson Barracks. The candidates performed the various duties of a survey party. Some candidates acted as tapemen, some as recorders and others as instrument operators.

The final survey exam is scheduled for 7:30 Monday morning. After completion of the exam the candidates immediately begin another block of instruction in communications. They will be taught the techniques and the importance of being able to send and receive messages by wire and by radio.

This Saturday morning the class will view a helicopter demonstration. The show will feature a 105mm howitzer battery being airlifted into position. An indirect fire demonstration by the 4.5-inch rockets mounted on the H34 helicopters of Sill's 1st Aerial Artillery Battery will also take place during the show.

Next Wednesday morning the physical fitness of members of Class 8 will be determined as they take the Army's Combat Proficiency Test.

#### SIXTH WEEK

Crawling, swinging, running, dodging, jumping, throwing and more running highlighted this week for Class 8 at Sill's Officer Candidate School.

The candidates put away their classroom notes Wednesday morning and struggled through the five physical fitness exercises which make up the Army's Physical Combat Proficiency test. A maximum of 100 points can be made in each event.

Starting the test is a 40-yard crawl over a dirt course. Two candidates in the class completed the course in 21 seconds.

The second problem is the dodge, run and jump, a test of agility and speed. The test includes several obstacles, a six-foot wide ditch and four gates to hinder the runner. A time of 22 seconds is necessary for a maximum score. Five candidates mastered this test with perfect scores.

The horizontal ladder or "monkey bars" is next on the list. Strong hands and arms and good timing are essential in this exercise. Candidate Francis J. Sloan, Chicago, Ill., led the class in this event.

Candidates limbered up their arms in the next test, the

grenade throw. A man must throw five disarmed grenades 90 feet to the center of a bulls-eye. Three candidates scored the maximum points for the test.

A mile run is the finale of the 500-point-possible PT test. The run must be completed in six minutes and 2 seconds to score the maximum points. Candidate Andres O. Ortiz, San Antonio, Tex., excelled with a time of five minutes and 40 seconds.

Candidate Bobby L. Parker, Thomasville, Ga., led the class with a score of 497. Passing score for the test is 300. Forty-nine of the 109 candidates who took the test scored more than 425 points. Average score for the class was 411.

#### SEVENTH WEEK

Green felt and golden eagles became a part of the uniform of the officer candidates of Class 8 last week when they advanced to middle class status.

In a ceremony Thursday, the class received the symbols of middle class from the members of Class 3-66, who are in upper class. The green felt is worn under the OCS brass on the collar. The eagles are worn on the helmet liners which the candidates wear when in fatigues or marching in a parade.

As members of the middle class, the candidates are now charged with supervisory responsibility. They hold positions in OCS which would normally be allotted to noncommissioned officers in other units.

In the various details which must be accomplished in the OCS area Class 8 will now supervise the lower classes.

Prior to Thursday's ceremony, the candidates took a written exam in communications. On Friday, they spent the day in the field putting to use the knowledge gained in the classroom as they were required to set up a battalion communications system.

Next week the candidates take a six-day break for Christmas leave. They will return to their classes on Dec. 29.

On Saturday, the class entered into the spirit of the holidays by sponsoring a Christmas party for the Lawton Boy's Club. The candidates obtained a cartoon movie for the party and took up a collection for prizes, fruit, and candy. About 400 boys attended.

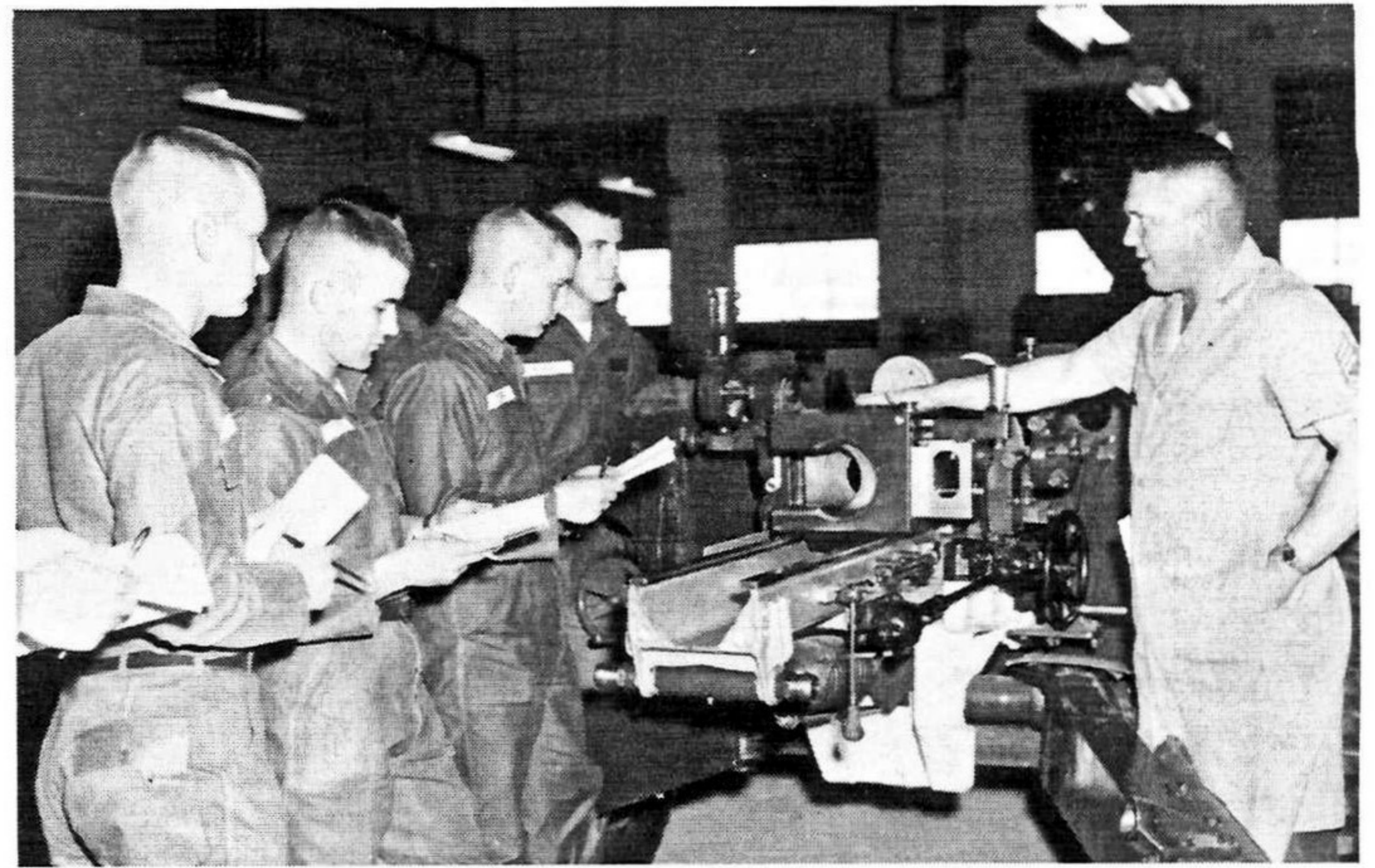
When the candidates attained middle class status, a milestone was passed; the next hurdle is advancement to upper class. With an abundance of fine training, hard work and intense study behind them, members of Class 8 may confidently anticipate upper class standing eight busy weeks from now.#

(To be continued)





Aiming circle procedure



105mm breech block mechanism

# becoming an artillery officer

By 2nd Lt. Joseph A. Rollo  
Information Office  
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## EIGHTH WEEK

The complexity of accurate artillery fire support was demonstrated to the aspiring officers of Class 8 this week as they began courses in gunnery, the largest block of instruction.

Instruction began with an orientation class in fire direction. Candidates learned the general duties of personnel in the fire direction center and became familiar with the various equipment used to convert fire missions to fire commands to the howitzers.

On Tuesday, the class was taught correct terms used in preparing an artillery piece to fire. These fire commands give all the necessary information to the gun crew for commencement, conduct and cessation of fire.

Beginning on Thursday, the candidates were allowed to take time for Christmas leave.

Returning to OCS, the class began practical exercises in laying an artillery piece by use of an aiming circle. The tubes of the howitzers must be pointed in a known direction if accurate fire is to be achieved.

Rounding out the general introduction to gunnery, instruction in observed fire was given to the class members. They learned the proper method of requesting a fire mission

as a forward observer. Other classes will soon follow in the adjustment of fire.

More specific courses in the art of gunnery begin next week when the candidates receive instruction in the artillery weapons. Each major weapon will be covered in detail and classes conducted in the maintenance, care, and firing characteristics of the piece.

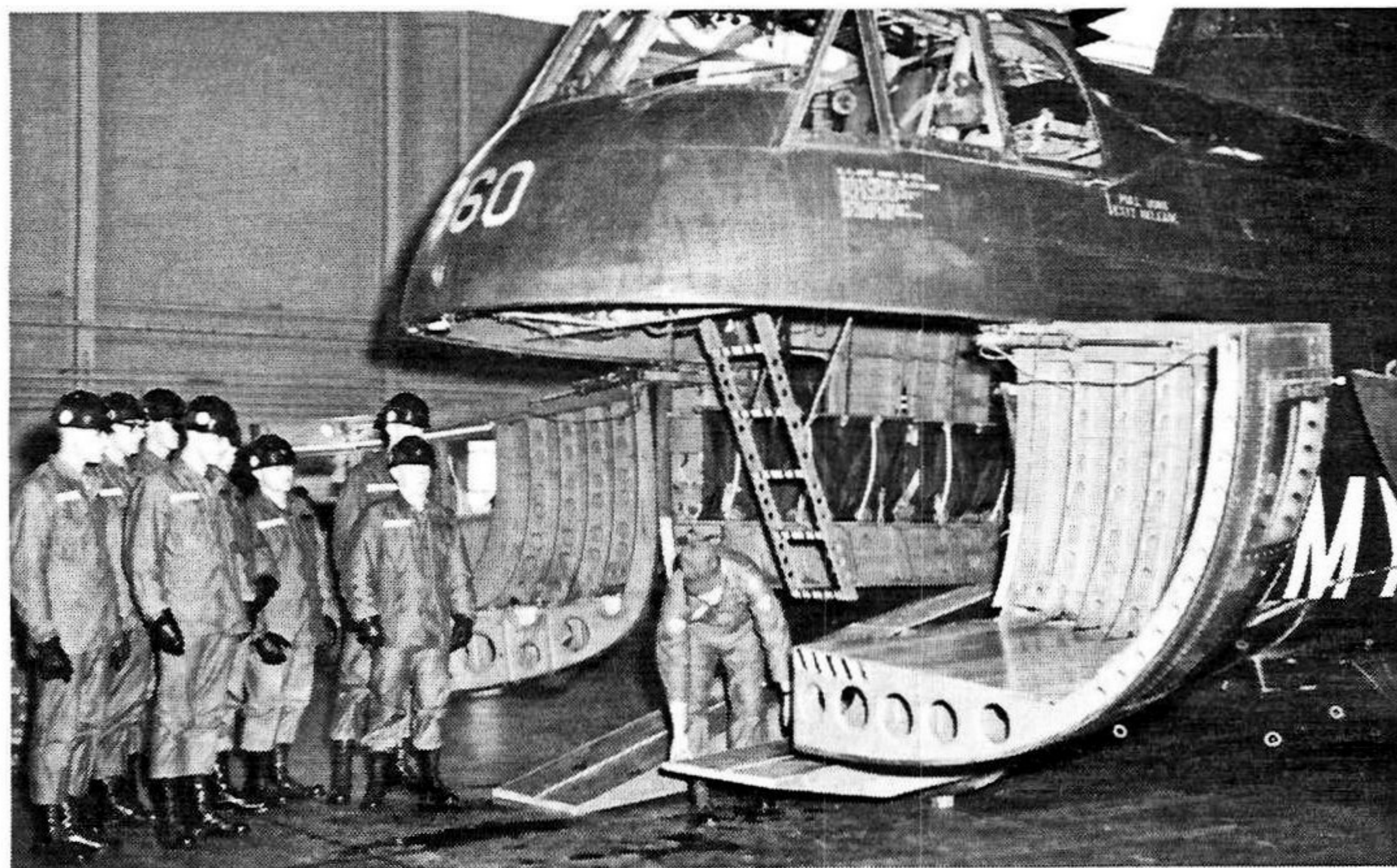
Next week Class 8 will have a new battery commander. First Lieutenant Gerald W. Sharpe, former platoon leader, will replace Capt. Floyd D. Whitehead as battery commander. Captain Whitehead is leaving OCS for duty in Vietnam.

Settling down following Christmas, Class 8 looked forward to a new course of instruction, gunnery; a new battery commander, Lieutenant Sharpe; and a new year. One of the classes' New Year resolutions was sure to be the determination to walk across the stage in April with a second lieutenant's commission.

## NINTH WEEK

Answers to questions which might save a lieutenant's life were provided for the candidates this week as they took classes that ran the gamut from first aid to insurgency to night patrolling to 105mm howitzers.





**CH-37 'copter loading demonstration**

All courses of instruction had one thing in common—preservation.

Beginning Monday, the candidates were instructed in the Army's system of medical support and the medical aspects of nuclear warfare. They learned how the Army cares for its wounded and how to survive and continue their mission in the event of nuclear warfare.

First aid classes were given on Thursday and the candidates learned how to treat themselves if wounded and no other help was immediately available.

Gunnery instruction this week concentrated on the weapons of the Artillery and the care, maintenance and functions of each part of the 105mm and 155mm howitzers. Learning to keep their weapons combat-ready by careful and knowledgeable maintenance was emphasized.

The gunnery classes featured instruction in small groups, with approximately eight candidates assigned to a howitzer with one instructor from Sill's Gunnery Department.

Friday afternoon and evening the class was given instruction and a practical exercise in night patrolling techniques. This session included how to locate the enemy and gather necessary information about his position and activities. The candidates experienced the difficulties of negotiating unfamiliar terrain and moving undetected during darkness.

Friday's class was only a preliminary to the instruction which will follow next week. Classes in escape and evasion and counterinsurgency operations will further test the skills acquired during Friday night's practical exercise.

The material presented this week may well save their lives in combat. And, more immediately, if properly learned, it will help them with their cannon exam next week as well as the escape and evasion practical exercise later on Sill's West Range.

#### **10TH-11TH WEEKS**

Standing at a rigid brace, the candidate knocked three times and was told to enter the room. Approaching the desk, he saluted and reported to his platoon leader. He was asked to sit down and the lieutenant read from a piece of paper as the candidate listened attentively.

Thus began another counseling session at Sill's Officer Candidate School. Each candidate is regularly rated by the other candidates in his platoon and by the tactical staff in his battery.

The tactical staff is charged with the responsibility of developing, instructing, and evaluating the candidates in their charge.



**Fixed-wing aircraft explained**

Each candidate receives a daily inspection by his platoon leader and every candidate in a leadership position receives a written observation report on his performance. Leadership positions are rotated weekly and a candidate may hold varied offices from candidate battery commander to squad leader.

Daily inspections and ratings on each leadership assignment keep the tactical staff busy learning more about each candidate every day. The candidates frequently are counseled by the staff on their progress and special problems.

Facing difficult assignments each day and under constant evaluation of their performance, the candidates learn more about themselves and develop confidence in their ability to lead.

A well-timed snow storm provided the candidates of Class 8 with physical proof of the problems of mobility. The Tactics/Combined Arms Department of Sill's Artillery and Missile School provided part of the Army's answer—movement by air.

On Wednesday the officer candidates were instructed in the role of Army Aviation and the characteristics of various fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft. After a classroom presentation on the Army's concept of air-ground operations, the class traveled to a hangar at Fort Sill's airport to view several aircraft and learn their capabilities.

A medium transport helicopter, the CH-37 Mojave; a fixed-wing utility aircraft, the U-6 Beaver; and an experimental fighter-escort helicopter, the Bell Huey Cobra, were among the aircraft shown to the candidates. The Huey Cobra drew the most attention because of its sleek design, speed, and firepower.

The blanketing snow storm forced some classes at the Officer Candidate School to move indoors. Drill instruction and physical training exercises took place in the gymnasium and inside the barracks.

Instructed mostly within the warm, cozy confines of Snow Hall this week, Class 8 journeys outside one day next week to put into practice techniques learned in the classroom.

Included in next week's schedule is a "split shoot" which will test the candidates' ability to fire the 105mm howitzer and adjust the rounds to a target on Sill's impact area.

Fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and 105mm howitzers are all a part of the Army's new airmobile division. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara praised the division as a "different approach to the solution of tactical problems." To the candidates of Class 8, the instruction was another important phase of learning how to be an officer.#

*(To be continued)*





Preparing to load 105mm



Firing practice round

# becoming an artillery officer

BY 1ST LT. JOSEPH A. ROLLO  
Information Office  
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Fourth in a series of articles reporting on highlights of a typical artillery OCS class from the first week of training to completion of course and graduation as commissioned officer.

## 12TH-14TH WEEKS

Having completed 11 weeks at Artillery Officer Candidate School, which included five weeks of gunnery instruction, candidates of Class 8 finally begin practicing their chosen military profession—*firing artillery weapons*.

Although as officers they will probably never fire the weapons, the candidates must learn the duties of each cannoner to insure that they can train and supervise personnel in efficient operation of the firing battery they will someday command.

After an exhaustive, practical exercise and "dry run" beginning on Monday, the class traveled to West Range for an all-day actual firing exercise. The class was split into two groups as one section fired the 105mm howitzers while the other section observed the rounds and adjusted the fire to targets in the impact area.

Classroom instruction in the duties of the executive officer of a firing battery and a practical exercise in the operation of the fire direction center were additional classes in gunnery given this week.

The candidates will look at Sill's impact area from a different angle next week as they take a class in aerial observation. From helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, they will observe and adjust artillery rounds.

The skills of an artillery battalion's forward observer, the

most hazardous artillery job, were practiced by the candidates after many hours of preparatory indoor classes before actually expending ammunition on West Range.

Peering through their binoculars, the students took turns calling for fire on targets designated by their Gunnery Department instructor. After initial rounds were fired, the candidate was required to sense the deviation from the target and adjust the fire within destructive distance.

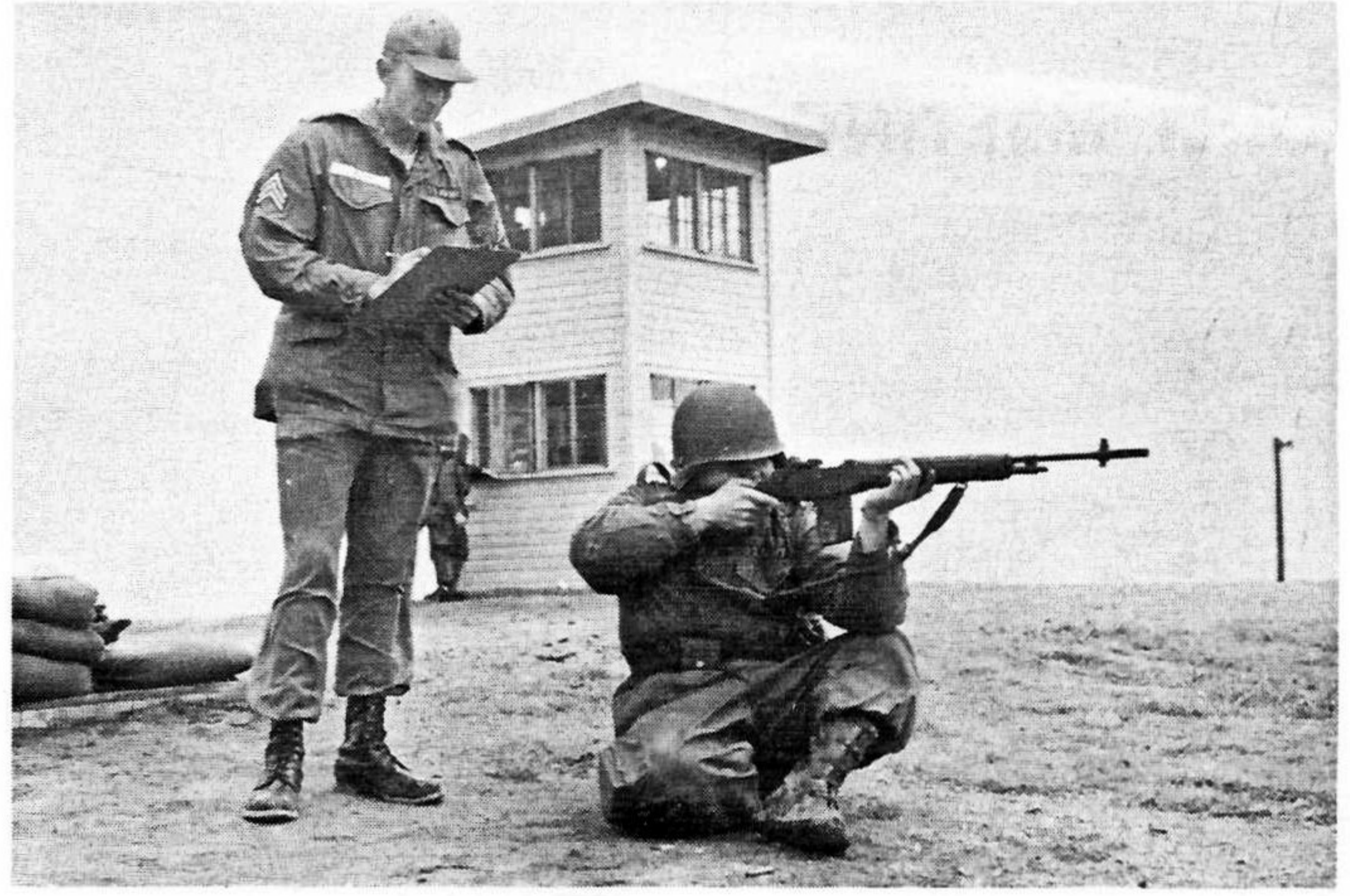
Yellow and red automobile bodies were the primary targets in the impact area, representing enemy patrols and command post headquarters. The candidates in Section 1 had already seen these targets from a different angle—observed from helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. Calling for fire from the air and adjusting the rounds to the targets presents additional problems with which the forward observer in modern warfare must cope. This aerial method is presently being used with much success in the jungle warfare of Vietnam.

When the candidates were not in the field practicing fire missions, they were in Snow Hall learning more about the operation of the fire direction center. Another important class given was in methods of military instruction. Proper teaching techniques are essential because when they become second lieutenants the candidates will be required to give many classes to members of their battery.





Observing-adjusting fire



On range with M-14

For two days next week the class will put aside artillery matters as it journeys to one of Sill's rifle ranges to practice firing M-14 rifles. A forward observer protects his battery and front lines with artillery fire but he must also be able to protect himself with small arms fire if necessary.

Switching from pulling lanyards to squeezing triggers, the candidates first fired the M-14 for practice and later for score, ably assisted by the personnel of Sill's Trainfire Branch. During the two days of firing, the skills acquired in basic training were relearned.

M-14 rifle familiarization is part of a weapons orientation which all artillery officer candidates receive during the 23 week course. Before graduation each candidate will fire the 3.5 rocket launcher, the .22 caliber pistol and the M-60 machine gun.

Returning to the classroom, an exam in Tactics was given. Observed fire exercises followed by another Tactics exam highlighted the remainder of the week's activities.

Although another exam in gunnery and several classes in tactical field operations are scheduled, the class members look forward to next week when they attain upperclass standing.

As upperclassmen, the green felt on their uniforms will change to red. They will become candidate officers with increasing responsibility, and more important supervisory tasks will be assigned to them. After 15 weeks at OCS, the last hurdle, upperclass, is a welcome sight on the horizon.

#### 15TH-16TH WEEKS

One hundred nine members of Class 8 received their red tabs this week and were promoted to upperclass. After 14 weeks of academic training, they are now regarded as junior officers with added responsibilities—but additional privileges.

On Thursday the candidates assembled in the battery area and received their tabs from Class 4 which is in its 18th week. After pinning on the tabs, Class 8 is eligible for salutes from all lower class candidates.

*Walking* in the OCS area is only one of the privileges the candidates now receive; formerly they were required to double-time. The north-south walks are accessible to the Class and they may now smoke outside. Jark Marches will be easier for the new upperclassmen because they will no longer be required to carry their rifles which weigh some 11 pounds at the start but "grow heavier with every step."

Although the physical efforts required will be easier for the next 8 weeks, the academic schedule and added supervisory responsibilities will keep the candidates busy. The hardest part of gunnery is still before them, and the leadership positions in the all-day field problems are now theirs to assume.

The classroom schedule this week was mainly in preparation for the field problems coming up in the future. During the next eight weeks class 8 will have two tactical field problems which will test all the skills learned in previous training. This week's training dealt with the defense of an artillery battery against enemy attack and the proper methods of reconnaissance before occupying a position area.

Friday afternoon 64 candidates took the physical examination for Airborne training. Ranger and Special Forces tests were also given and attracted many candidates.

Washington's birthday highlights next week's schedule as OCS celebrates the holiday from the academic training schedule. An important class will be given next Friday as the candidates learn the duties of safety officer, a job which occupies much of a new second lieutenant's time.

Upon graduation from Artillery OCS, a candidate receives a gold bar. After assignment to a firing battery, he receives another item of equipment—the yellow helmet of an artillery safety officer. This week, class members learned their duties when wearing this helmet.

The safety officer is responsible for the safe firing of an artillery piece and insures that the shell lands within the prescribed safety zone. During all firings at Fort Sill, a safety officer is present to personally check that the weapon is pointed in the right direction and that the range and deflection settings on the weapon are within the safety limits.

During their first full week as OCS upperclassmen, Class 8 looked forward to the traditional "Redbird Party" on Saturday evening. The party, which is given for all new upperclassmen, took place at Fort Sill's Polo Club. In addition to the party, the candidates were free for the remainder of the weekend.

Washington's Birthday was an additional holiday but training continued as usual the rest of the week. An exam on Monday and one on Wednesday kept the candidates occupied during the weekend and the holiday. The class also continued its gunnery instruction and fired some 155mm howitzers Thursday morning.#

(To be continued)



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## 16TH-17TH WEEKS

In modern warfare, where there is no front line, it is not unusual for an artillery battery to have the enemy "at its front door." Consequently, an effective perimeter defense must be employed if safety for the firing battery is to be insured.

In previous weeks, the candidates learned from the instructors of the Tactics Department of the Artillery and Missile School about the defense of a firing battery.

Last week instructors of the Officer Candidate School and the tactical officers from Delta Battery showed the candidates how to emplace their available weapons to defend the perimeter.

Class 8 combined with Class 4 (upper class of the battalion) in a firing exercise which involved selecting, occupying and firing from a position area.

After darkness had fallen, the candidates moved into another location and resumed firing. OCS instructors gave them a tour of the area perimeter and demonstrated the weapon emplacement which would protect the battery.

A rotating guard was maintained, and at 3:45 a.m., the candidates returned to the garrison area and began cleaning the equipment used on the exercise. Later that day an inspection of all individual field gear was conducted.

Next week two all-day field problems are scheduled with Class 4. Duties will be rotated so that all candidates can become familiar with the problems in communications, survey and gunnery. Candidates of Class 4 will be assigned the leadership positions and Class 8 will perform the jobs normally handled by the lower grade noncommissioned officers and privates in a battalion.

## UPPER CLASS STANDING

With the graduation of Class 4, Class 8 assumed the senior

role in the 2nd Battalion, the school having two battalions, 1st and 2nd, of seven batteries each.

Of the 108 candidates now in Class 8, six now hold the senior command and staff assignments in the 2nd battalion. The chain of command fluctuates as the candidates rotate through the leadership positions during the 23-week course.

Wednesday the following new staff-command assignments were announced:

Candidates Kenneth W. Simpson, battalion commander; James P. Dower, executive officer; James G. Branden, S3; Jon C. Henderson, S1; and Barton H. Ishizaki, S2.

## CLASS LEADERS

Another significant event occurred last week; Class leaders were announced. After 16 weeks at OCS, the leading four candidates, from four different states, range from 22 to 27 years of age. Their prior military service ranges from nine months to nine years. While the average educational level for all Artillery OCS students in Fiscal Year 1966 is 13 and a half years, the average schooling for Class 8's top four is 17 years. Army schools and extension courses helped in achieving this high academic average for the four.

The leader in the class, Candidate Simpson (battalion commander), never went to college but has attended many Army schools. "The more service a man has, the easier OCS is," he stated. He also enrolled in many extension courses offered by the Army before coming to OCS.

Simpson is 22 years old, married, and the father of two children. He entered the active Army in January 1963 after a tour in the National Guard. His home is San Diego, Calif.

Candidate Dower (battalion executive), Class 8's number two candidate, is 27 years old, married and the father of four. He entered the Army in November 1956 and reached the



rank of staff sergeant before entering OCS. When questioned about his educational background, he mentioned that he had taught Survey in the U. S. Army Artillery and Missile School at Fort Sill before becoming a candidate. He never attended a college and feels that "prior service outweighed prior education in preparing me for OCS"—Candidate Dower comes from Burlington, Vt.

The S3 and third ranking member of Class 8, Candidate Branden, has completed his course work for his masters degree in Sociology. A self-styled "citizen-soldier," he plans on attaining a PhD and becoming a college teacher.

Born in Albany, Ga., Candidate Branden went to Georgia Southern College and did his graduate work at Florida State University. He is 25 years old and single. "My academic background has been very helpful at OCS. I have had more to learn but my years in school have given me a better ability to learn and a broader outlook," he explained.

Candidate Henderson (S1) was a warrant officer before becoming a candidate. He has served in the Army for eight years and decided to become a commissioned officer because it would "allow more variety in future assignments." His previous assignment in the Army was as a calibration technician.

Although he previously attended three Army schools, Candidate Henderson stated that he "never knew there was so much involved in firing an artillery weapon."

He cited his previous military service and education as very beneficial in preparation for OCS. Henderson attended Kalamazoo College in Michigan for one and a half years. Married and the father of one child, he is 27 years old and grew up in Michigan.

#### 18TH-19TH WEEKS

Physical training classes serve a twofold purpose at Artillery OCS, (1) achieving physical stamina and (2) learning proper instructional techniques by teaching the exercises to his classmates.

Class 8 members will have spent some 76 hours in formal physical training by the time they complete the 23-week course.

Each candidate is rated by the tactical officers on his ability to teach and his composure before a group. The candidate is judged on his voice, knowledge of the material, and ability to present the instruction clearly.

The physical training drills range from the regular Army "daily dozen" to the various rifle exercises, grass drills and guerilla exercises.

In addition to the physical training classes, each class receives 60 hours of instruction on dismounted drill. Field Manual 22-5, the bible of dismounted drill, is digested and taught by the candidates paragraph by paragraph.

Practical opportunities for marching and PT at OCS are abundant. The classes march in formation wherever they go and spend at least 30 minutes each day doing PT.

A candidate's rating as an instructor is an important ingredient in his leadership rating. As a second lieutenant, he may be required to give his battery instruction in the techniques of drill and PT and his methods of presenting the material must be faultless.

This week's training schedule included classes in artillery fire planning, an observed fire examination, and an orientation on the Honest John and Little John rockets.

On Saturday, the Class spent the morning in the field operating a fire direction center in preparation for next week's gunnery examination.

Speed and accuracy via computer was the topic this week for OCS Class 8.

The M18 Gun Direction Computer (or FADAC) replaced coordinate squares, range deflection protractors, and graphical site and firing tables in the minds of the officer candidates.

Fire direction, perhaps the most difficult part of gunnery instruction, involves the use of many items of equipment to determine the proper position of the howitzer tube in order to place a round in a specific location.

The computer solves the fire direction problem with greater speed and accuracy than is possible with human calculations.

The FADAC can be programmed to solve fire control problems for five firing batteries, meteorological computations and survey operations. Although not in general use, it is currently being tested and used in several types of situations.

The candidates operated the computer to test its speed and were given instruction in the maintenance requirements of the system.

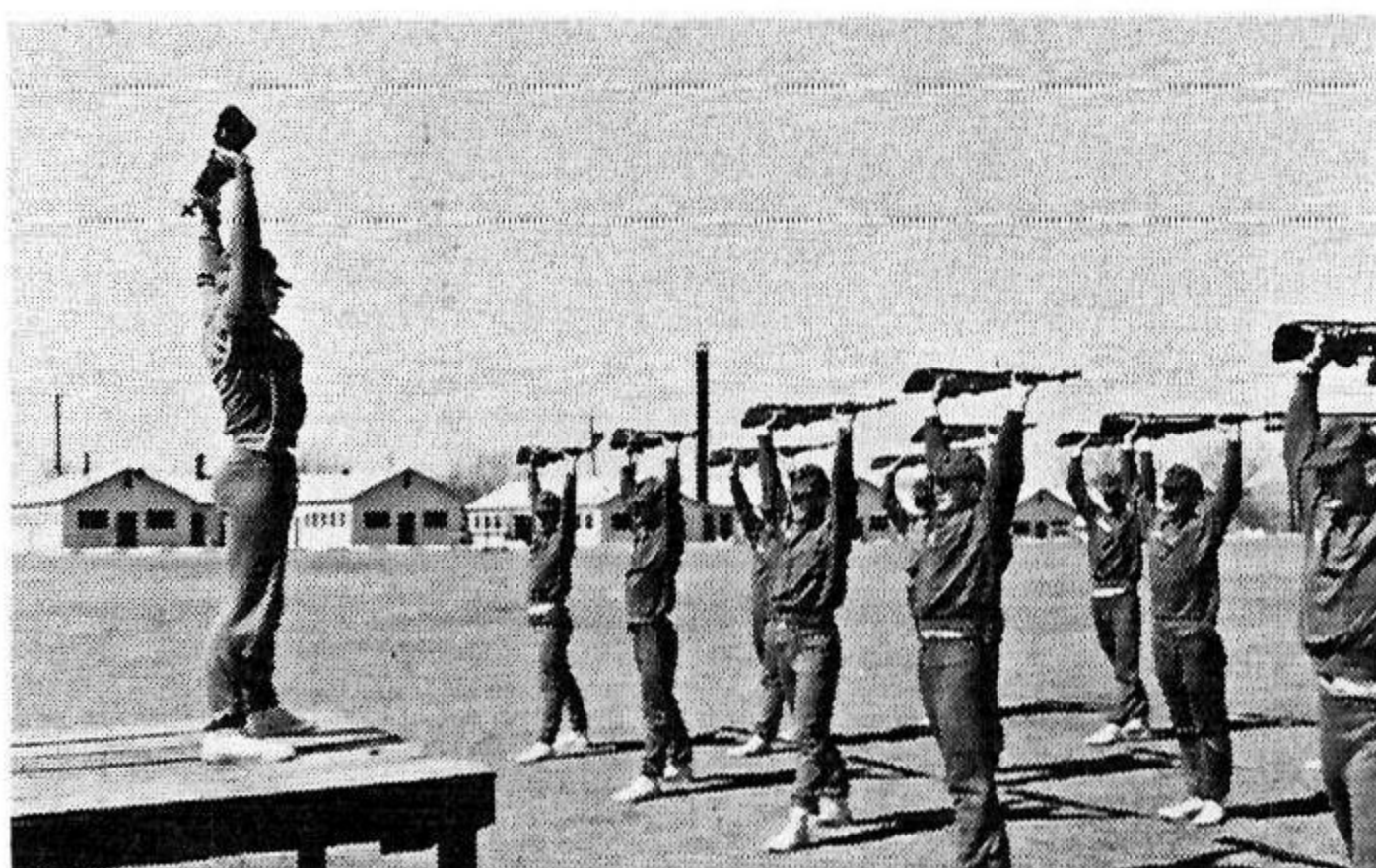
No automation has yet been developed to replace the coordination between the human eye and brain so the candidates had to be content to settle down to the old method of observed fire practice.

Peering through binoculars, the candidates adjusted artillery rounds to a target in the impact area. Some candidates were given the opportunity to observe the rounds from the air as they hovered over the target in helicopters.

On Wednesday afternoon, class members received an orientation on reporting for their first duty assignment as second lieutenants. For the next four weeks before graduation, the candidates will attend several classes geared to acclimate themselves to their future status as officers.

Class 5 graduates next Tuesday and Class 8 will become the senior class in the entire school.#

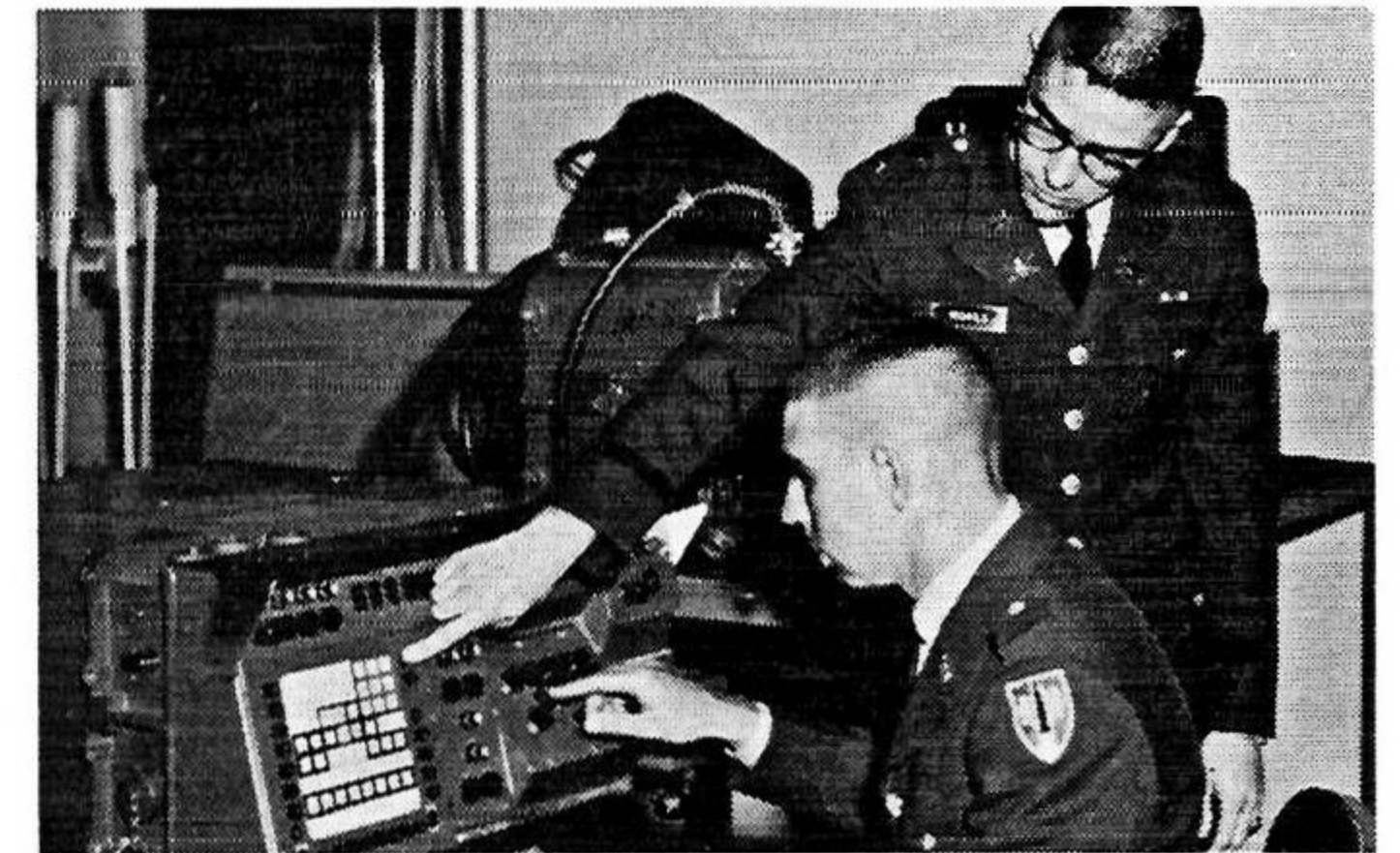
To be continued



Candidate John R. Naas leads members of his battery in physical training on which they will be graded.



From left to right: Candidates Simpson, Branden, Henderson, Dower, Class 8's most outstanding.



Direction computer explained to Candidate Paul L. Tessier by 1st Lt. Ralph V. Nichols of Gunnery Department.



# becoming an artillery officer

BY 1ST LT. JOSEPH A. ROLLO  
Information Office  
U. S. Army Artillery and Missile Center  
Fort Sill, Okla.

Sixth and last article reporting on highlights of a typical artillery OCS class from the first week of training to completion of course and graduation as commissioned officer.



Honor Graduate Simpson has bars pinned on by Fort Sill's Colonel Cullen.

With the graduation of Class No. 8 on April 15, 1966, the U. S. Army gained 99 new second lieutenants of artillery.

## THE BEGINNING

On entering Artillery OCS in November 1965, and being faced with 23 long weeks of intensified study, comprehensive examinations and inspections, and exhaustive-exhausting field and physical exercises, the members of Class 8 almost immediately adopted the same attitude toward the several months ahead. They found it would be more reassuring to regard each successfully completed day as "one more behind me" rather than count the days remaining to be successfully completed—days sure to be filled with increasingly difficult challenges and requirements, to say nothing of the ever-present chance of being eliminated or dropped back to another class.

For many of Class 8's future officers, the month before graduation had all characteristics of a first-class paradox—the passage of time was slow as it rapidly sped into the past. It seemed time went by at such a snail-like pace that each minute took an hour. On the other hand, days were dissipated with such great speed that a week was gone before it was missed.

## THE ENDING

Regardless of the rate of speed at which time passed, or seemed to pass, it is believed safe to say that at this point the candidates had abandoned the attitude of "one more day behind me" and that they are now confidently counting the days ahead.

Final examinations began with a comprehensive gunnery examination. The two-hour test covered all previous instruction given over a 14-week period. Next came a tactics examination which included fire-planning and organization for combat. This was followed by two demonstrations conducted by the Tactics Department with a rifle company performing in the defense and the attack phases of operation.

Familiarization firing with the .45 caliber pistol, the artillery officer's basic weapon, preceded a 24-hour field problem on the West Range. The candidates performed normal artillery operations until close to midnight and then established an overnight bivouac.

As graduation drew nearer and nearer, the agenda included a panel discussion for Class 8. Heading the panel was Col.

Charles E. Howard, commandant of the Officer Candidate School, assisted by Lt. Col. Donald H. Richardson, assistant commandant, and Capts. James R. Heldman and William R. Kulik, battery commanders.

Having undergone week after week of learning their future duty responsibilities as commissioned officers, the candidates did not ask questions regarding what an officer does. Instead, they asked, and were encouraged to ask, questions concerning educational opportunities, advanced Army schooling possibilities, and the many personal benefits accruing to an officer and his family.

Fielding questions on personnel matters was CWO John M. Futch, personnel officer. The chief of Sill's educational division, Mr. Russell Croach, was also on hand to answer queries about civilian schooling through the Army's several bootstrap programs.

The schedule also included two all-day tactical artillery field problems. While these exercises were nothing new to the candidates, they did provide another chance to sharpen their artillery skills before reporting to their first assignments as officers.

However, something new was provided in the form of instruction and practical work in rappelling and river crossing.

Descents were made from three cliffs of different heights on Sill's Medicine Bluffs mountain. Using rope and hip harness, the candidates lowered themselves down the cliffs. On reaching ground level, they were required to reach the far side of an expanse of water on ropes strung across for that purpose. Two methods of crossing were used—first with two ropes, then with one—and all candidates tried both.

Before graduation next week, the class will take part in an escape and evasion problem. It will begin with an afternoon orientation. As darkness approaches, the candidates will set out in groups of five and move to a prescribed area nine miles away. They will attempt to make the move without being spotted and upon arriving in the designated area set up a bivouac and spend the night.

## COMMENCEMENT

Traditional events leading to issuance of certificates of graduation and commissions as officers are the graduation



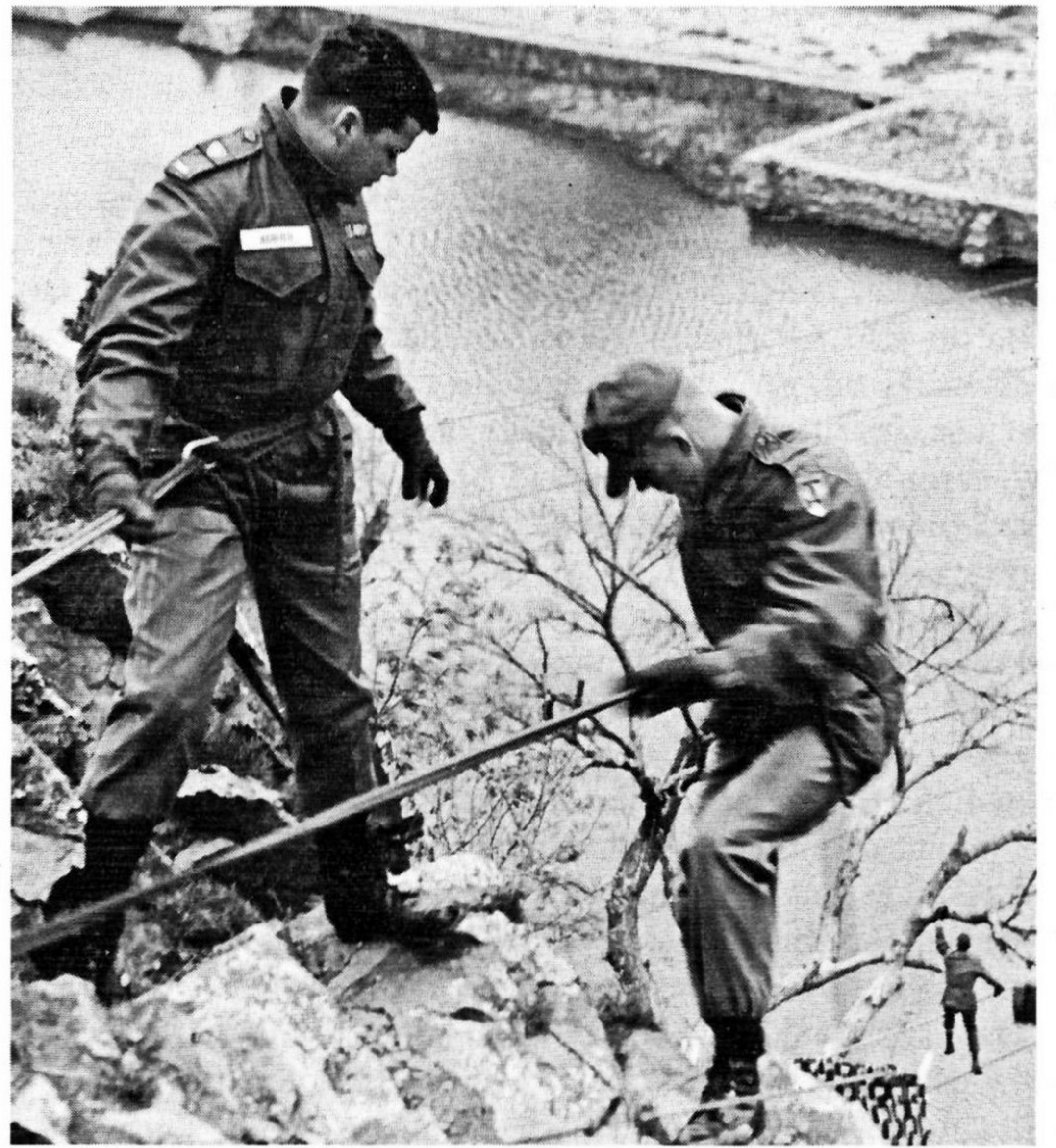
parade and the reception-dance.

Held on the OCS parade ground, the graduation parade of Class 8 was reviewed by Col. Paul S. Cullen, CO, 1st Field Artillery Brigade. That night at the reception-dance, attended by many of Fort Sill's high-ranking officers with their wives, the Gunner's Trophy was presented to Lawrence E. Soper for highest gunnery average, and the Shooter's Award went to Wayne Smoot for highest grades in observed fire.

With Colonel Cullen as guest speaker, the graduation ceremony was conducted at Snow Hall Auditorium.

Class 8's honor graduate was Kenneth W. Simpson. Distinguished military graduates with Simpson included Jon Henderson, James P. Dower, James G. Brandon, Marvin C. Williams, Thomas E. Konkle, Barton H. Ishizaki, James H. Parsley and Michael F. McCardle.

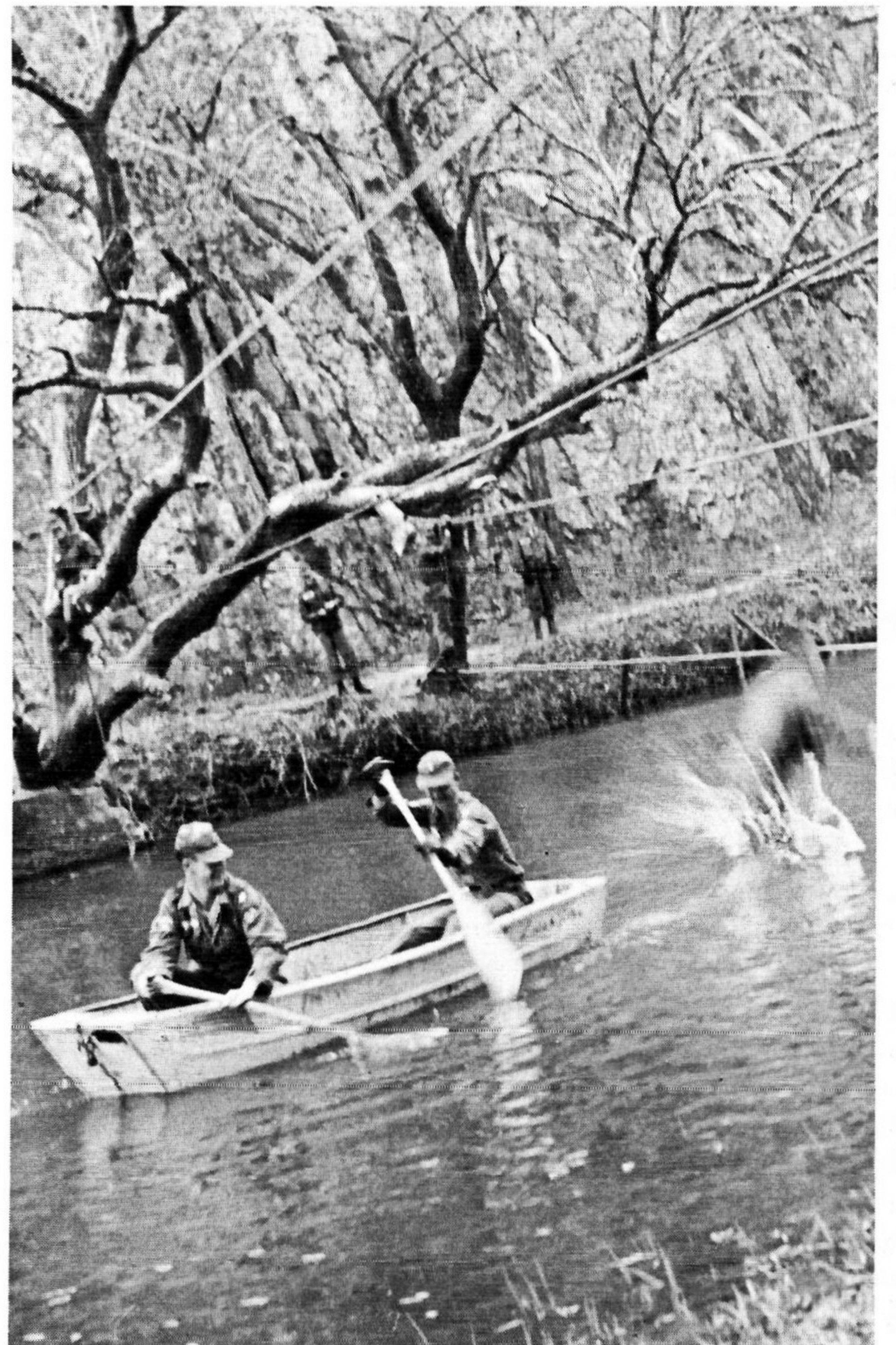
Second lieutenants all, the 99 graduates of Class 8 have passed an important milestone on their road to accomplishment—a milestone they can look back on with personal pride and satisfaction which will enable them to look the future squarely in the face with justifiable confidence, keen understanding, and sincere dedication.#



Going down



Familiarization firing



Down