

171st Infantry in Exercise with Eskimo Scouts

Units of the 171st Infantry Brigade returned to Ft. Wainwright Tuesday, November 17, from Nome after conducting a seven-day joint training exercise with Eskimo Scouts of the Alaskan National Guard.

Part of the combined training, labeled ACE BAND II, was carried out in some of the most severe weather conditions to hit Nome in a year with blizzard winds reaching 47 mph.

"The severity of the weather definitely limited us in what we had planned, but considering this it was a very good problem," stated Major Joseph Hacia, Brigade Operations Officer.

With base camp set-up only a ½ mile from the site of the first gold strike in the historic Nome area, the exercise involved two reconnaissance platoons from the Brigade's 1st Battalion, 47th Infantry and 6th Battalion, 9th Infantry.

Representing the Alaskan National Guard were Scouts from F Company, 1st Scout Battalion, 297th Infantry.

Although the training of regular Army units with reserve units of this type has been conducted in the past it took on a different appearance this year with the Scout training side-by-side with his regular Army counterpart.

In the past the Scouts were used mainly as aggressors.

"We instituted this change to allow both organizations to benefit from each other's experience and training—this was the central idea behind the exercise," remarked Captain Tom Allred, assistant Brigade operations officer.

"The cooperation from the local National Guard was simply great and the local people were the friendliest I have ever met."

The highlight of the exercise was a 24-hour field training exercise (FTX) in which the Scouts accompanied the two platoons on separate reconnaissance patrols into the foothills of the Kigluak Mountains about five miles east of Nome.

Colonel Ardie E. McClure, brigade commander, Lieutenant



OH THAT'S COLD—CPT James Barr, 6/9th Infantry Battalion surgeon, examines Eskimo scout, SSG Bernard Irrigoo during one of several physicals undergone by the scouts in the medical phase of the scouts' winter training warm-up.

(U.S. Army Photo)



SCOUTS TAKE TO SKIES—2Lt. Albert Ningeulook, acting commander of the Eskimo scout company, loads his men aboard a helicopter from the 19th Aviation Bn. supporting the exercise.

(U.S. Army Photo)

Colonel Charles Looney, 6/9th commander and Lieutenant Colonel Dudley Fry, 1/47th commander, flew in from Fort Wainwright to observe the exercise.

The two platoons spent Sat-

urday night, 14 November, clinging to hillsides after trekking through snow with drifts up to 12 feet in depth.

Originally, plans had been made to penetrate 30 miles into



VICTORIOUS SCOUT SQUAD—1Lt. Thomas McNally, E, 6/9th Infantry, congratulates the scout team captain following their 52-44 basketball victory over the composite Brigade team.

(U.S. Army Photo)

the mountains by helicopters from the 19th Aviation Battalion, but the weather grounded them.

Sunday, November 15, the two opposing platoons returned to base camp.

"My men learned a lot from your operations even though we had only a short time and we certainly appreciated the opportunity to train with such a fine outfit," stated Second Lieutenant Albert Ningeulook, acting commander of F Company for the exercise. "We hope to have you back again next year."

Thursday night, November 12, the Scouts out-hustled a combined basketball team from the two recon platoons to take a hard fought 52-44 decision in the National Guard Armory.

The game was tied at the

end of the third period, but the Scouts hit 12 straight points before the recon platoons could score.

Sunday, while base camp "BOT" was being torn down, a doctor and medics from the brigade gave the Scouts physical examinations.

Sunday night found the Brigade units in a National Guard hangar at the airport awaiting Air Force aircraft to take them back to the warmth of Ft. Wainwright. But as morning came the severity of the weather increased forcing a day's delay.

Tuesday the Brigade units returned to Wainwright the same way they went to Nome—via C130 "Hercules" aircraft from the 17th Tactical Airlift Squadron stationed at Elmendorf Air Force base.

Skinboats Used to Unload Cargo

By ROY OKPEALUK

Wales, Alaska

WALES—The community building is in progress. Quite a few carpenters were working on it. It was all covered up but had to be abandoned for lack of material.

Charles Christiansen, our school teacher, was busy working on his skinboat before the school starts. That was his fourth skinboat since he came here. He averaged one skinboat and a motor a year. But he wound up with one skinboat and two motors this time.

The boat is around 28 feet long. And finest one he ever built.

October 18, the supply ship North Star III came. After unloading at Diomed Island.

Three skinboats belonging to Jonah Tokienna, Charles Christiansen and Roland Alexander were used, also four other plywood boats. Clarence Ongtowasruk's, Roland Angnaboogok's, Toby Anagazuk's, and Andrew Seetook's also were working.

Charles Christiansen's boat run by Roy Okpealuk hauled

213.84 tons of cargo, which was little more than any other boat.

Diomed Island people had reported of catching five walrus. And they were catching quite a few spotted seals before that.

Our teacher Charles Christiansen's boat is the only one that do any hunting. Mr. Christiansen goes out only on Saturdays and the weather is good but let the others use it on school days.

And for their effort, they catch some seals and one large oogruk.

And Olaf Piscoya came from Nome to take inventory of the lumber for tank building with two tanks, also some equipment for the schoolhouse. This all came off from North Star at October. Also the lumber was stored away so they could be dry when it is ready to use.

Olaf Piscoya hired Silas Komanaseak, Roy Okpealuk, and Pat Ongtowasruk to do all this work.

This building and tanks were to be constructed by next summer.

Building of Boarding Home at Ft. Yukon to Resume in Spring

The Upper Yukon Development Corporation has reported that it feels concrete results have come from its request for a State investigation of Operation Mainstream. The Corporation called for an investigation of the job training program the last of October because, it said, Mainstream had not upheld its commitment to Fort Yukon.

The corporation had begun the construction of a temporary boarding home facility in Fort Yukon so that 9th and 10th graders in the surrounding area could attend the Fort Yukon school rather than a school outside the region.

According to Donald Peter, president of the Fort Yukon City Council and RurAL CAP, Operation Mainstream had agreed to grant Fort Yukon \$10,000 for wages for the construction of the facility and on a verbal authorization the men were put to work.

However, when the four walls of the log structure were up, the men were told by the director of the program that they had no authorization to work and were pulled off the job—leaving Fort Yukon without a boarding home.

However, following the request for an investigation, Peter said, several men from the State



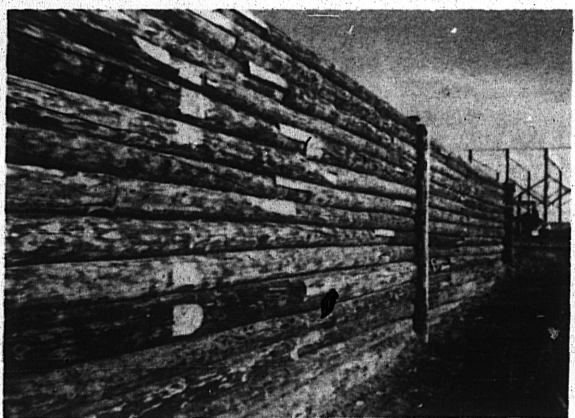
UNFINISHED DORM—The temporary log boarding home facility for 9th and 10th graders of interior Alaska lays unfinished at Ft. Yukon. The work was progressing on the structure when Operation Mainstream suddenly pulled off the workers last summer. A request by Upper Yukon Development Corporation for investigation of Operation Mainstream by the state that the OM had not upheld its commitment apparently caused rescheduling of the work on the structure which will begin next spring.

visited Fort Yukon, met with the City Council, and verbally assured the council that the remaining \$10,000 would be coming through next spring.

It is already much too cold to work on the building this winter, Peter added, "We will

have to wait until spring."

But, he seemed optimistic that at that time the money would be available and the workers would be able to finish the dorm. He stressed that this time he plans to get the agreement in writing.



THE LOG SIDING—The neat structuring of the Ft. Yukon boarding home structure is shown in the picture.