



SP4 Theodore M. Tropo, better known as "Tuner" Tropo, has been assigned the additional duty of Special Consultant to **THE ARMY COMMUNICATOR**. His primary duty is in the maintenance shop of the 67th Signal Battalion where his professionalism and ability to make anything with a piece of wire on it transmit earned him the nickname of "Tuner." In fact, his family name is Tropfasquellopo but because it was always being misspelled by the company clerk, the First Sergeant suggested he change. This Tuner did and to honor his First Sergeant, who had been NCOIC of a Tropospheric Scatter Station at Phuc Phui (RVN) in 1969, he settled on Tropo. We might add, the "M." is for Marconi, from whom he claims to be descended.

Tuner Tropo will review the technical and maintenance articles and news for **THE ARMY COMMUNICATOR**. Based on his super know-how, he will select those articles that will really tell the guys in the maintenance business something worthwhile.

Tuner is somewhat shy and modest in spite of his reputation as a real expert and would not allow us to photograph him. However, one of our artists visited Tuner's maintenance shop and secretly sketched the likeness of our expert, which we carry above.

Wanting to know a bit more about our modest maintenance hero, we slipped around and were able to develop a background sketch by talking to the people with whom he works. His First Sergeant told us, "He is one (expletive

deleted) of a fine soldier." Chief Warrant Officer Schnollogger, Maintenance Chief for the Battalion, says he is the best maintenance man he has ever seen and has already completed subcourses in 31E, Field Radio Repair.

From the guys in the barracks we learned that he is a right kind of fellow. He plays hard and works hard. He is an avid, successful poker player and drives a motorcycle—but prefers cross country to the more staid highway cruising.

We did get Tuner to stop racing around the maintenance shop putting things back in working order long enough to tell us that he enlisted in 1970; and, after being trained in 31J MOS at Fort Gordon, he spent a tour in Vietnam. He got out in 1973 but reenlisted in 1975 after picking up 2 years of college where he was preparing to go into electrical engineering.

The only flaw we were able to find in the armor of this solid Signal Soldier was the fact he has been perpetrating a falsehood on his Platoon Sergeant for some months now. It seems he has a full-sized photograph of a most attractive, scantily clad young lady inside his wall locker and the Platoon Sergeant wants him to take it out. However, Tuner insists it is a photograph of his mother. His barracks mates, however, tell us this is in reality his favorite girlfriend, B. J., who hails from his home town of Cole Camp, Missouri. We felt the Platoon Sergeant was being a bit narrow minded; or, at least, had no appreciation for really nice things in life, so we forgave Tuner this shortcoming. We welcome him to our staff as a consultant.

