

# AMBASSADORS IN GREEN



A PICTORIAL ACCOUNT OF U. S. MARINES IN VIETNAM . . . THE BATTLES  
THEY FOUGHT . . . THE HARDSHIPS THEY ENDURED . . . THE FRIENDSHIPS  
THEY ESTABLISHED . . . AND THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE FOR FREEDOM.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Finally, a grateful nod to those who were there. Without the thousands of Marine grunts, pinkies and zoomies, the Viet vets who served, there would be no "Ambassadors In Green," for this is *their* story.

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S. STIBBENS

## Portrait of a Marine

Just what the *hell* is a Marine?

World War II movies depict him as being seven feet tall, carrying a .50 caliber machine gun in his hand, firing, swearing and charging! He'd stop now and then to bite into a grenade pin, and then hurl the deadly missile with pinpoint accuracy, knocking out a pillbox.

A Marine in Vietnam averages six feet tall, carries an M-16 and as many canteens as he feels necessary. He'll stop now and then to bite into a chunk of C-ration chocolate, knocking off a mosquito.

He may be a tired, dirty, hungry, grumpy, unshaven hulk, wearing a soiled, crumpled, camouflaged, baggy utility uniform which never seems to fit. Atop his head is a camouflaged pot which causes him many lumps and headaches.

Around his neck, entwined in the chain of his dogtags may be a St. Christopher's Medal, Mezzuzah or a peace symbol.

His feet are encased in a pair of jungle boots with thick soles and heels, topped with canvas. The canvas lets the feet "breathe," and the water from the rice paddy to escape.

A minor difficulty arises, however, when the grunt remains in the paddy muck and mire for days at a time.

Generally, tied to his cartridge belt is a poncho to protect him from the monsoon rains which provide a steady downpour for three months of the year. He'll also carry a long sock which contains his food, consisting of meat, noodles and packages of coffee and hot chocolate.

Today's Marine Viet vet is a kid; young in years but generally old and wise in the ways of guerrilla warfare. Many are serving their second tours in the 'Nam.

He's a terror on the attack; he's a shadow on patrol and a sharpshooter on ambushes. But, he's a lot more than that.

He's the blond, round eyed kid sharing a cold meal with a Vietnamese orphan; he's the black, sweating man from 'Bama who's helping build a school for the kids in a small 'ville south of Da Nang.

He's the reddish looking corporal from the Pa-pago reservation in a place called "San Xavier."

Today's Marine comes in a variety of colors, shapes and forms, carrying an assortment of weapons and accents.

But there's one thing which binds the different shades, shapes and sizes together . . . a thing Marines know as "esprit de Corps!"—BARTLETT.

# Portrait of the Enemy



B. BOWEN

Just who the *hell* is the enemy?

Unlike previous combat situations, the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam is not always uniformed. He does not entrench himself in a specific area which might be considered "enemy territory."

In Vietnam, "Indian country" is north, south, east and west. The enemy may be the kid selling sodas outside the gate, the old lady who does the laundry or the Vietnamese barber. Generally, he fits into one of three categories.

In remote areas, the enemy is normally a loner. Chances are, he fought against, or for the French and retained his rifle. He's a farmer by day, and a soldier at night, more proficient at the latter, yet too dangerous to discount when drawing up battle plans.

He probably wears baggy black "pajamas," Ho Chi Minh sandals and carries a Carbine. Because he's a loner, he does his fighting close to home, on familiar ground. He'll snipe at Marine patrols, then go underground, hiding in a cave or spider hole until the Americans give up the chase and continue with their mission.

On the next rung of the enemy ladder is a member of a cell. He's probably very young, forced at gun point or scared into joining the Viet Cong through threats to his family and loved ones.

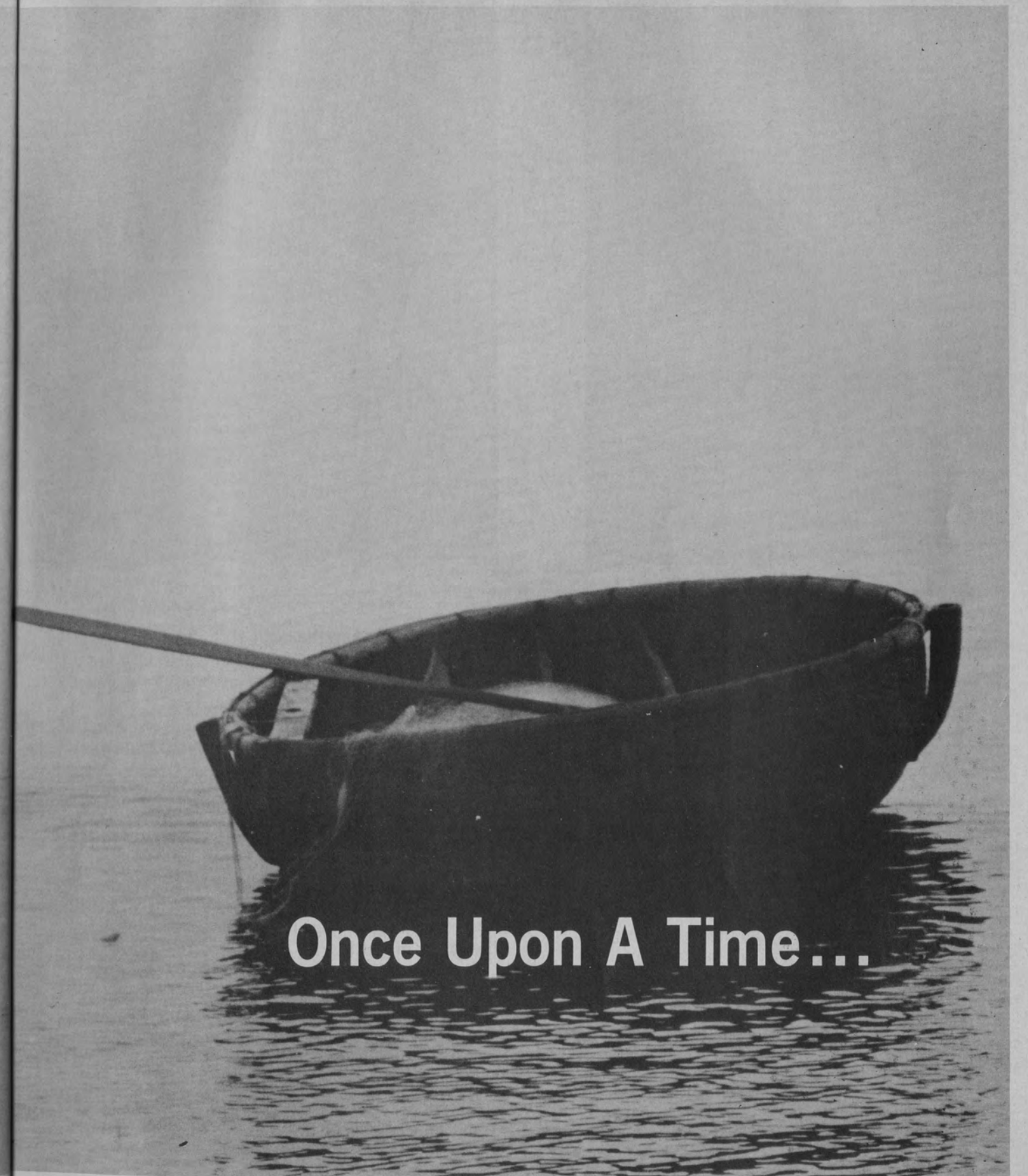
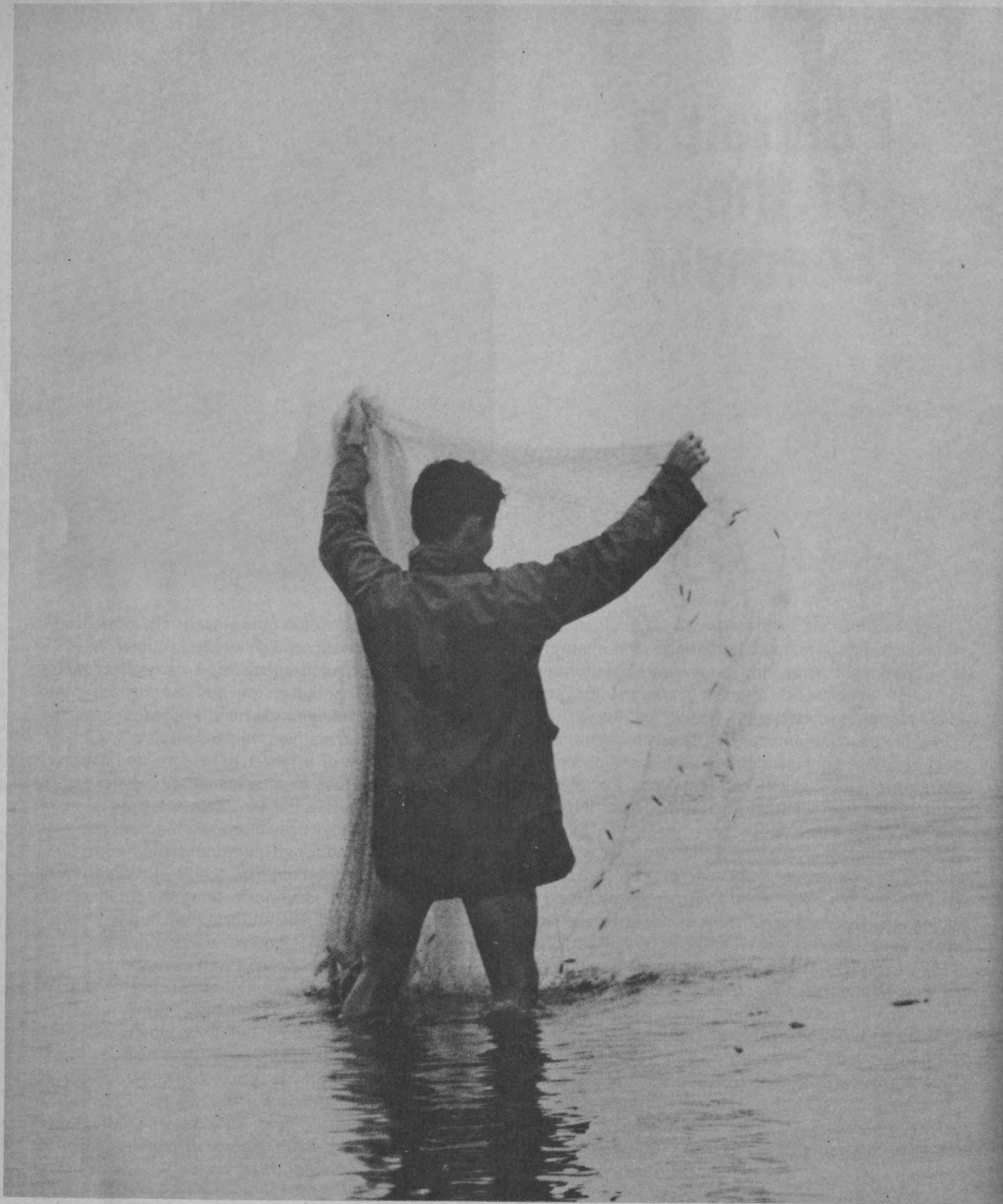
He wears a part of a uniform, usually a tan shirt. He's given a weapon (generally a used AK-47), a pair of black soled sneakers, a canteen or water bottle and a bandoleer of bullets. He generally carries a few crudely made hand grenades, probably manufactured in his own village.

As a member of a larger hard core unit, he may be ordered to probe or attack small Marine outposts or patrols. Generally the unit he's attached to is of squad or company size, although Marines encountered a regiment during Operation Star Lite in 1965.

At the top of the ladder is the North Vietnamese Army regular who is uniformed, well equipped and equally well trained. His uniform may be tan or dark green and his weapon, grenades and other pieces of field equipment are new and well cared for.

By American standards, the enemy is small; averaging around five feet, four inches in height, weighing 110 to 120 pounds, but he's tough and wiry. He's accustomed to the heat and the monsoon rains. He's worked hard all his life. He's not afraid to die, believing in reincarnation.

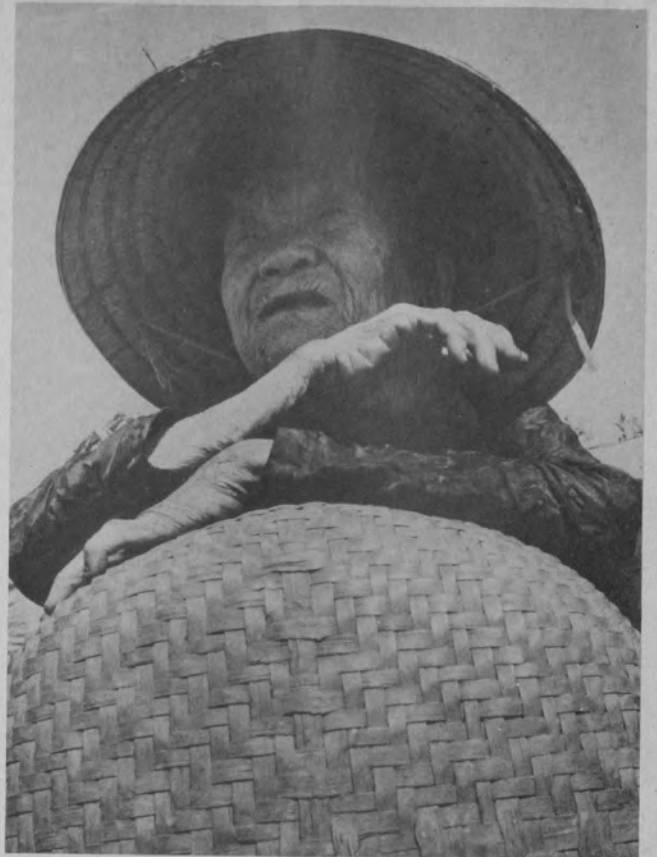
He can live off the land, knowing what to eat and where to fill his canteen. He speaks the language of the people, and by removing his uniform, can blend in or strike anywhere . . . at any time.—BARTLETT



Once Upon A Time...



S. STIBBENS



B. BOWEN

## Once Upon A Time . . .

Many years before the birth of Christ, a fire spouting dragon met a fairy queen. They fell in love in the dark of night, and during their married life, became parents of more than 100 children.

The fairy queen loved the mountains; the dragon loved the seashore. The family separated. Fifty of the children accompanied the mother into the hills. The other 50, according to the legend, went with the father to the coastline.

So was born Vietnam. . . .

Though an ancient land, it is a young nation.

Late in the 19th Century, Vietnam became a part of the French Colonial empire, and for nearly 80 years, remained under French rule. Then erupted the noises of battle.

Bloody revolts of the 1930s resulted in 699 Vietnamese executions without trial; 629 were sentenced to death or life imprisonment. More than 3000 were arrested.

Blood continued to flow. Japanese troops invaded the country during World War II. The majority of enemy troops settled in the cities of the north. In all, less than 35,000 Japanese soldiers were stationed in Indochina, which averages out to less than one enemy soldier per village.



C. NOYES



B. MARTIN

During the long years of Japanese occupation, a group of Vietnamese resisters carried on strong underground activity, against both, the Japanese and the French pro-Nazi Vichi regime. The resisters were known as the "Viet Minh."

Viet Minh guerrilla activity flourished, primarily in the north. They secured weapons from abandoned French forts or by attacks on isolated Japanese outposts. Some weapons were parachuted to them by American Army units, which also provided teams of American officers who joined the partisans in fighting the Japanese.

As enemy strength was sapped in the Pacific, the strength of the Viet Minh in Indochina grew. When the Japanese surrendered in 1945, resistance groups were also called upon to surrender their weapons. The guerrillas in the south complied; those in the north did not.

Control of Vietnam in the south returned to the French. From the 16th parallel northward, political control returned to the Vietnamese. Ho Chi Minh was in control of the northern portion . . . undermining the French government, as his Viet Minh entrenched themselves in political offices in both portions of the country.

The French sought Vietnamese leaders to guide the nation, using about 380,000 soldiers to counter Viet Minh guerrilla activity. Later, the French introduced a mechanized mobility, but it proved no match against Viet Minh foot soldiers.

In 1953, General Henri Navarre arrived in Vietnam to take command of French forces. He derived a plan in which he hoped to trap and solidly defeat the Viet Minh.

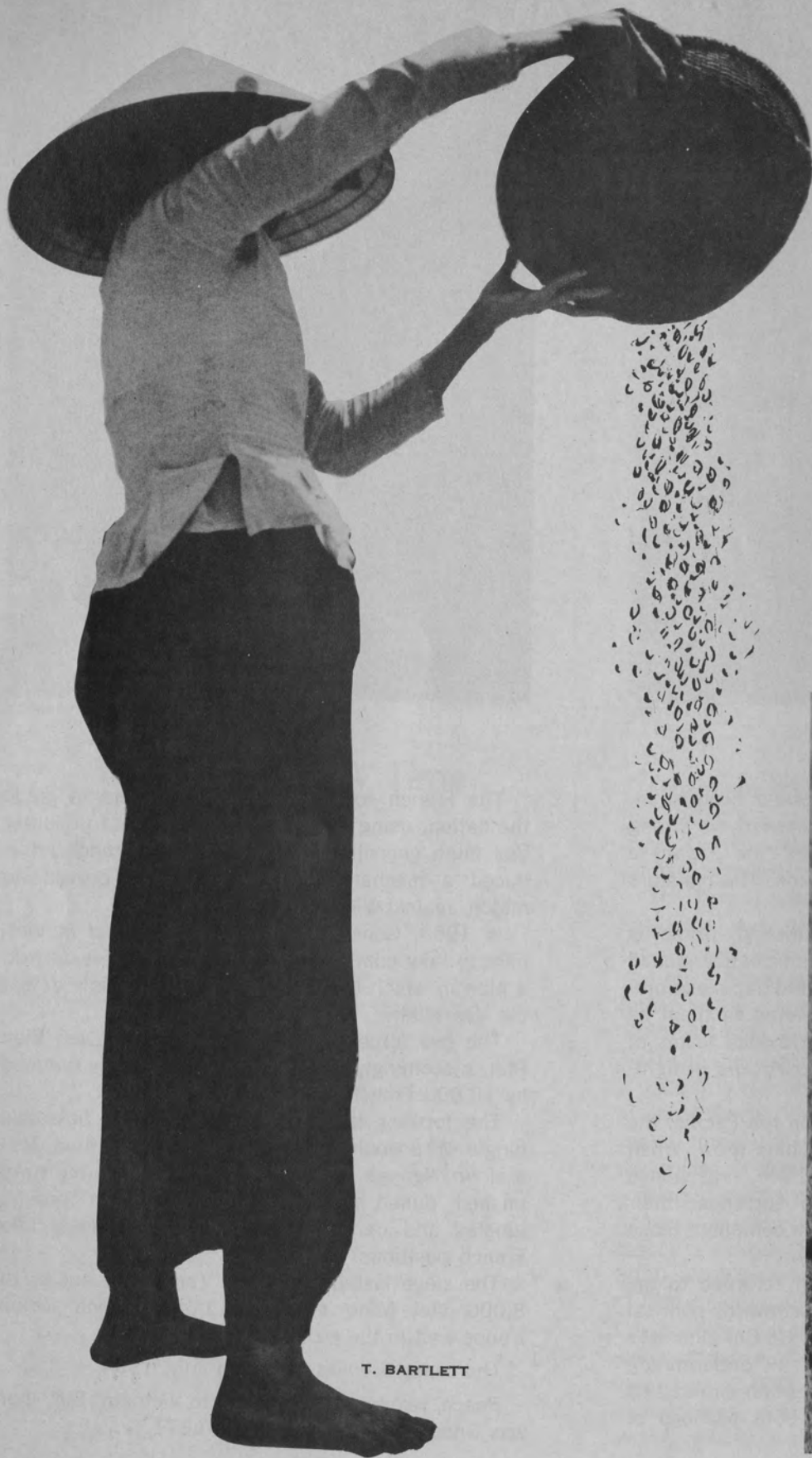
The two forces met at a place called Dien Bien Phu, a seemingly weak outpost but actually manned by 10,000 French troops armed to the hilt.

The fortress lay in a valley ringed by hills and jungle. Who would have believed that Viet Minh General Vo Nguyen Giap's troops could possibly have pushed, pulled and cursed artillery pieces through jungles and up mountainsides to fire down into French positions?

The siege lasted 167 days. Today, the bodies of 8,000 Viet Minh and over 2,000 French Union troops wait in the reddish earth.

The cease fire was signed in July, 1954.

Peace, temporarily, returned to Vietnam. But, that was Once Upon a Time.—BARTLETT.



T. BARTLETT



B. BOWEN

For centuries, Vietnamese peasants were unaffected by war. The majority of those living in small villages or hamlets had never seen the Japanese during World War II, nor did they have any immediate contact with the French during their conflict with the Viet Minh. The Vietnamese farmer knew little of politics, and cared even less. His duty was to his family and the small plot of land surrounding his home. They were a poor, hard working people with simple pleasures. They were a close-knit people, caring for family, animals and neighbors. They lived to survive and their "bowl of rice" made survival possible. The golden grain provided nourishment as well as food for the animals. Remnants were woven as roofs for homes or conical hats to protect wearers from the glaring sun. And so they survived. . . .



T. BARTLETT



T. BARTLETT



J. MARTIN

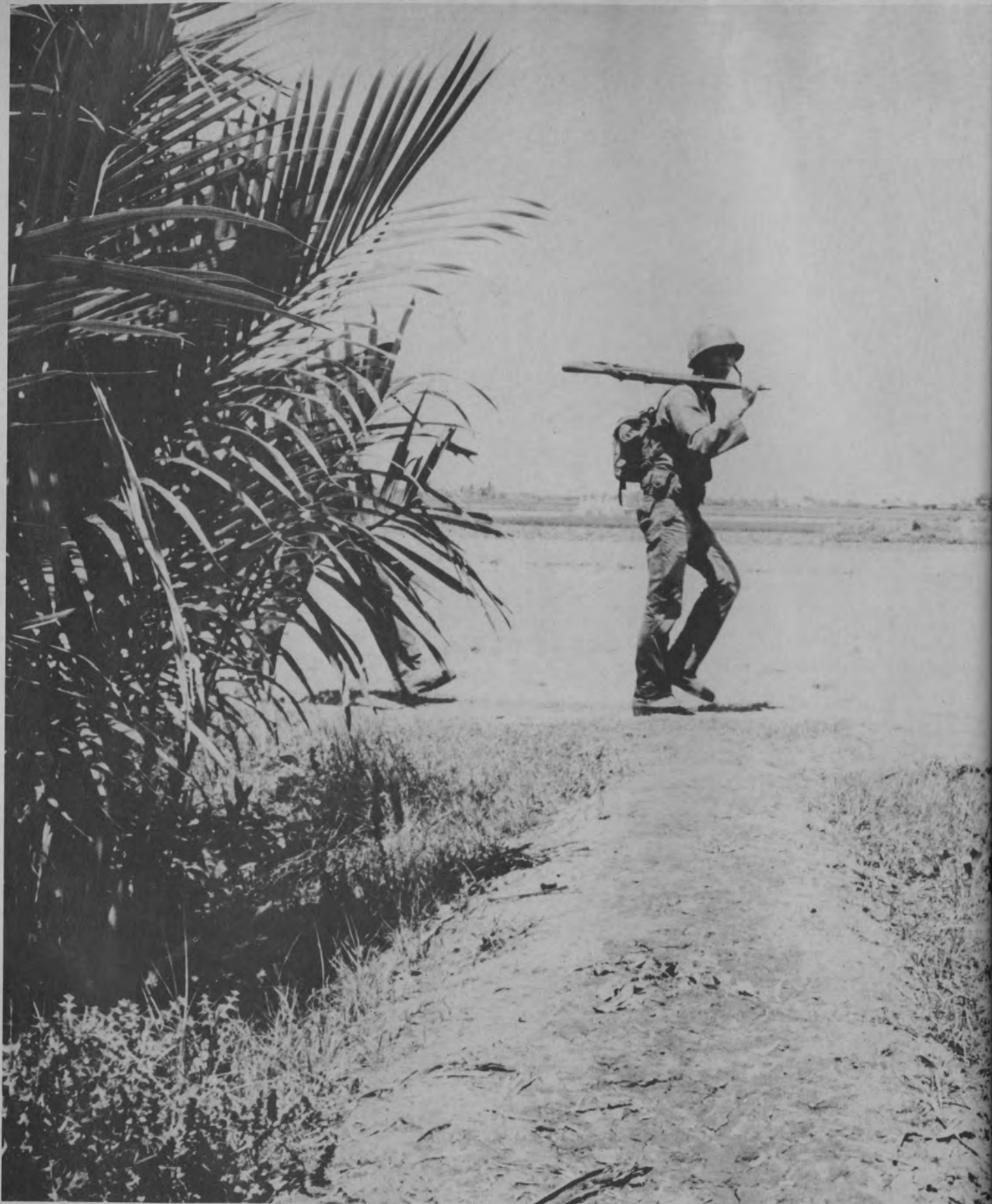


B. BOWEN

In the cities, young girls in white "ao dais" rode to school on bicycles or in pedicabs in a turmoil of wheeled vehicles, including motor scooters, military trucks and modern, sleek buses. An old craftsman carved statues and religious symbols from marble blocks, and children gazed toward the future from bleak environments. It was peaceful, but rumbles of war could be heard in the distance.



S. STIBBENS



Side By Side...



S. STIBBENS

## Side By Side . . .



S. STIBBENS



The signing of the Geneva accords in July 1954, ended French colonial rule in Indochina.

All fighting was to stop in Cambodia, Laos and in Vietnam. The Viet Minh were to leave South Vietnam. South Vietnamese soldiers were to move back to their side of the 17th parallel.

Before leaving, many Viet Minh hid their weapons and supplies. Additionally, some 2500 of the guerrilla fighters remained behind, hiding in the jungles and the highlands.

When, in 1956, the Republic of Vietnam objected to holding elections for the unification of north and south, Ho Chi Minh ordered his guerrillas into action, and a reign of terror and propaganda began.

Hamlet chiefs were decapitated; school teachers disemboweled. The Viet Minh became known as the Viet Cong. Their objective was to ridicule, corrupt, terrorize, maim or kill any hamlet, village or government official.

By 1960, the VC were conducting battalion-sized operations in the south. By 1962, enemy strength in the Republic of Vietnam grew to 25,000.

In a single year, 230 South Vietnamese hamlet chiefs and other government officials were killed and at least 10,225 civilians kidnapped.

At the request of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1962, President Kennedy established the U. S. Military Assistance Command.

In August 1964, American destroyers were attacked in international waters by North Vietnamese PT boats. This was the Gulf of Tonkin incident.

In a message to Congress, President Johnson asked for a resolution "expressing the unity and determination of the U. S. in supporting freedom and in protecting peace in Southeast Asia." He got it. The vote tally was 88-2 in the Senate; 416-0 in the House.

While senators and congressmen were voting, American Marine advisors, pilots and crew chiefs were serving.

At Can Duoc, 35 miles south of Saigon, Capt John Monahan was accompanying the 2nd Bn., Vietnamese Marines on a sweep. Monahan was easy to spot moving across the open rice paddy. He was a head taller than the Vietnamese Marines.

At Soc Trang in the Mekong Delta, Marine UH-34D helicopters were ferrying troops of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

The helicopter squadron was from MCAF Futema, Okinawa, home of the First Wing's Marine Aircraft

Group-16. Squadrons rotated between Vietnam and Okinawa.

In September 1962, Marine Task Element pilots flew to the Da Nang Air Base, setting up their headquarters in an old French garrison.

From this airstrip, Marine crews flew resupply missions to then little-known areas like Hoi An and Thuong Duc. These flights were seldom without incident.

The mission of the Marines and their helicopters was simple; get Vietnamese troops to the enemy; land them fresh and ready to fight. Helicopters provided mobility, surprise and mass.

American advisors had no command authority. They could suggest and recommend, but the Vietnamese counterpart had the final "yea" or "nay."

The role of advisor was lonely. Isolated from other Americans, he teased his stomach with a strange food and subjected himself to dengue fever, malaria, leeches, cactus and rice paddy muck.

His reward? The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the satisfaction of helping a nation in its fight against communist aggression. He was there, moving forward with the South Vietnamese . . . moving forward, side by side.—BARTLETT



Charlie of the South...

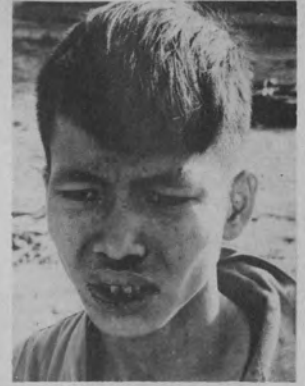
S. STIBBENS



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN

B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



## Charlie of the South . . .

For the sake of convenience, we've divided the enemy into two camps. Marines who fought in Vietnam realize how logical it is to differentiate between "Charlie of the South," and "Nguyen of the North."

The two will join at times, combining strength and tactics. Still, they are not the same enemy.

*Charlie of the South* has been called a variety of names since first meeting American Marines. Even prior to that encounter, he was known as the Viet Minh. It wasn't until 1956 that he became identified as the Viet Cong.

*Charlie of the South* is a complicated individual, for he falls into a number of categories. He's the insignificant loner. Like a mosquito, he can be easily brushed aside.

But, also like the mosquito, which sometimes carries malaria, Charlie can cause casualties and must be considered "armed and dangerous."

The more elite *Charlie of the South* is the "hard core" VC. Generally his story is pretty much the same.

He's influenced through friends or relatives during his early years. He'll be a runner, carrying mes-



B. BOWEN

sages, or he'll spy on American installations, observing troops and traffic. He picks up information and will pass it along.

As he ages, he is given additional responsibility. If he shows promise, he's offered the opportunity to go north for proper training and equipment.

Accepting, he's guided up the Ho Chi Minh trail to receive indoctrination into a hard core training cycle which includes the rifle range, use of propaganda, first aid, infiltration and evasive tactics and perhaps a military skill.

He may then be guided back to his own village, where, either through blood ties or acts of terrorism, he'll operate freely, protected by a sympathetic or scared people.

He'll then attempt to indoctrinate others into his hard core unit.

Others remain with North Vietnamese units. There is evidence that there is little love between the two. The hard core VC considers himself an equal to his professional counterpart. He rejects his role as a coolie, hand carrying heavy loads up mountainsides or through the jungles in and around the DMZ.

Charlie probably believes in Buddha and the wheel of life. He does not fear death. If he dies now, he believes he will be reincarnated to return and continue his mission.

He ties rags tightly around his limbs, straps TNT or other explosives to his body, and without attempt at concealment, charges headlong into Marine positions. The rags act as a tourniquet, stemming the flow of blood while enabling him additional time in his dash to death.

*Charlie of the South* has given a lot of thought to his present role as a human time bomb, coolie laborer and man on the run from B-52 bombers, mechanized units and superior forces. His "friends" in the north don't always pay, supply or provide as they have promised.

*Charlie of the South* may "Chieu Hoi," accepting the "Open Arms" offer from the Republic of Vietnam which will pay him for weapons and information. The South Vietnamese government will reward him and retrain him, making him a fruitful member of a society he once detested and rejected.—BARTLETT



B. BOWEN

Generally, early combat operations were similar in design. Marine helicopters landed grunts on the outskirts of villages and hamlets and the Marines established a perimeter. Vietnamese interpreters instructed the villagers to form in a group and move to a centralized location. Once the villagers (generally only women and children) had moved to comparative safety, Marine fire teams rushed into the village to search for the enemy. They were almost always met by VC snipers. The enemy was a pathetic looking lot . . . small, slim, barefoot and poorly armed, but he was determined, and he could and very often did, kill. Charlie of the South was elusive, cunning and tireless. He thought of himself as a patriot and often opened fire, single-handedly, on advancing Marine companies or even battalions! He fought in small units, and often died . . . all alone, deserted by other members of his cadre.





B. BOWEN



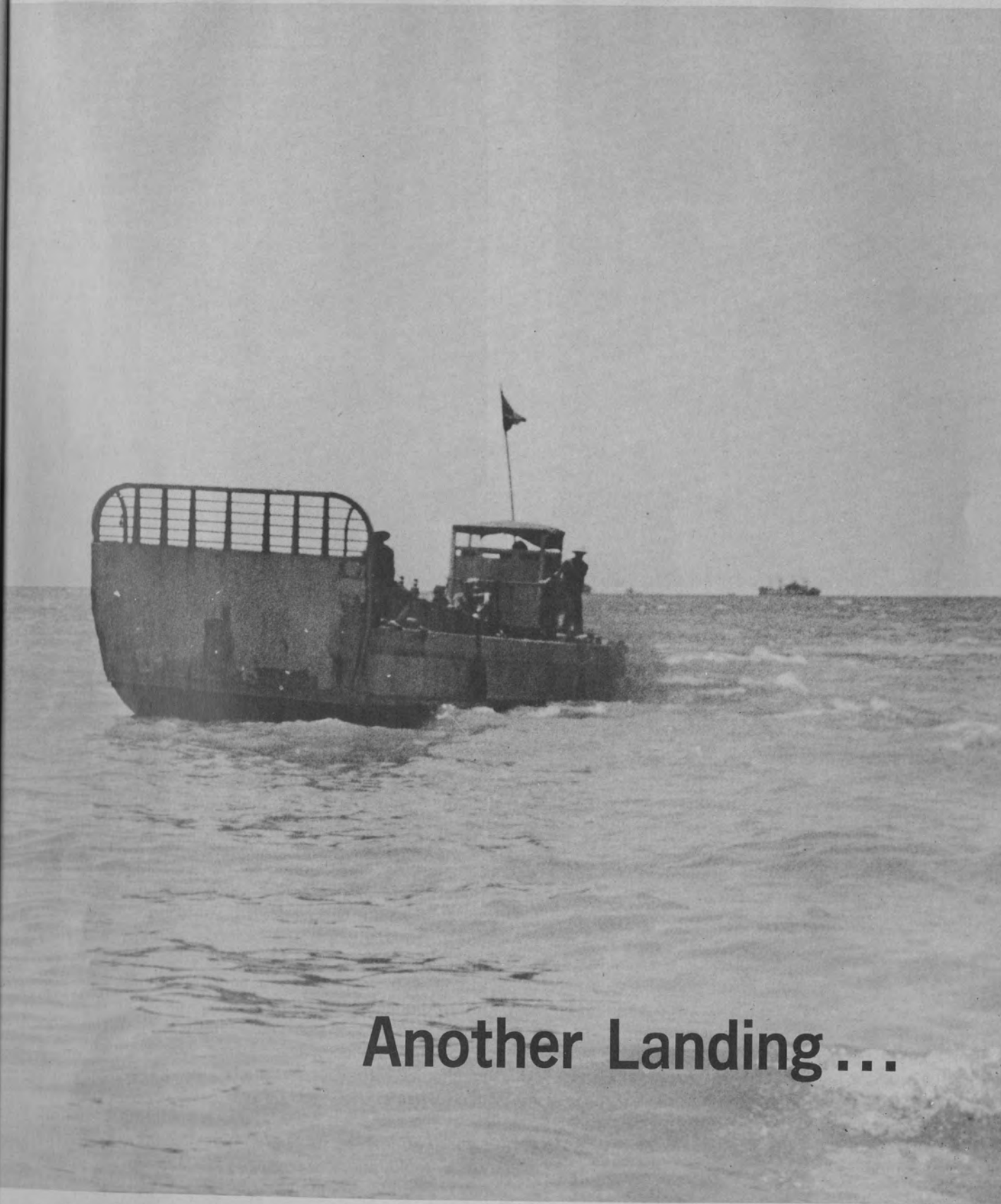
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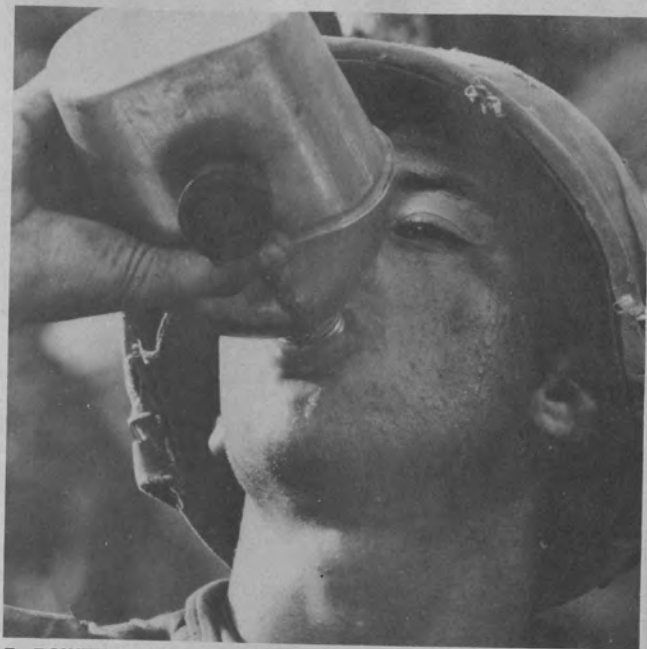
B. BOWEN



Another Landing...



T. BARTLETT



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN

It was "move out . . . spread out, hurry up and wait." It was hot. Throats were dry, backs wet with sweat and feet soaked from flooded rice paddies. Units moved to establish a perimeter defense around the Da Nang Air Base and helicopter landing zones. They were on Hill 327 and Monkey Mountain. The Marines had landed!



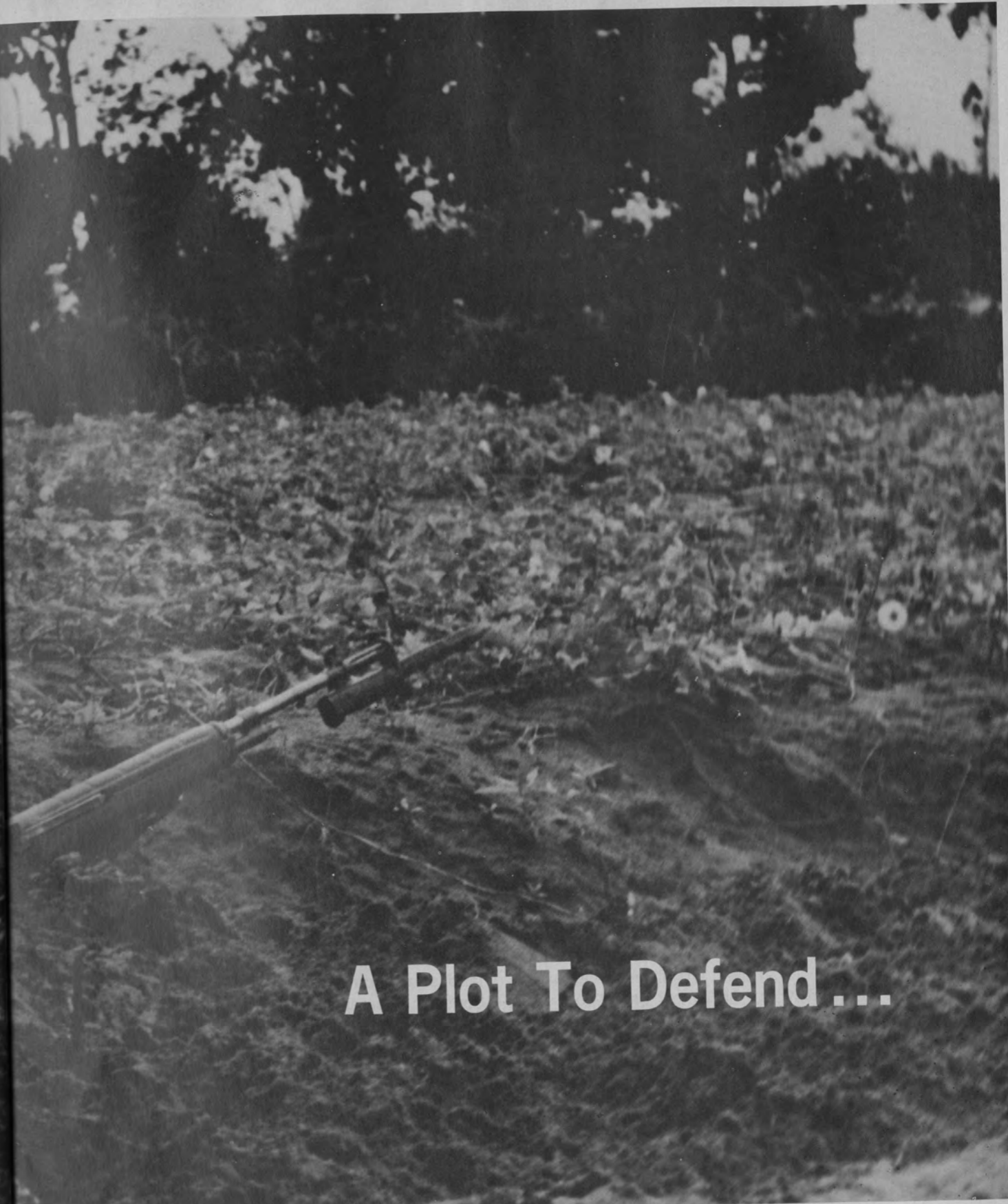
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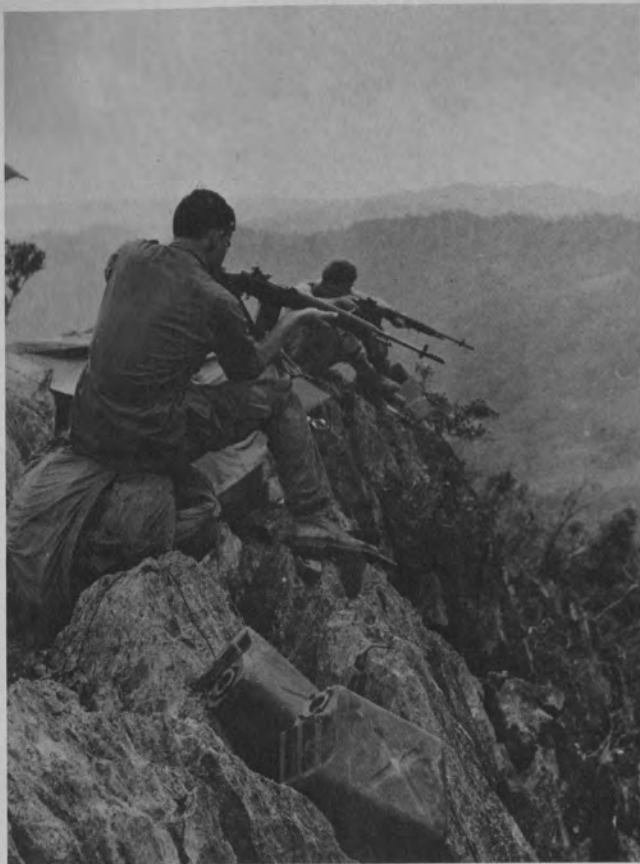
F. BEARDSLEY



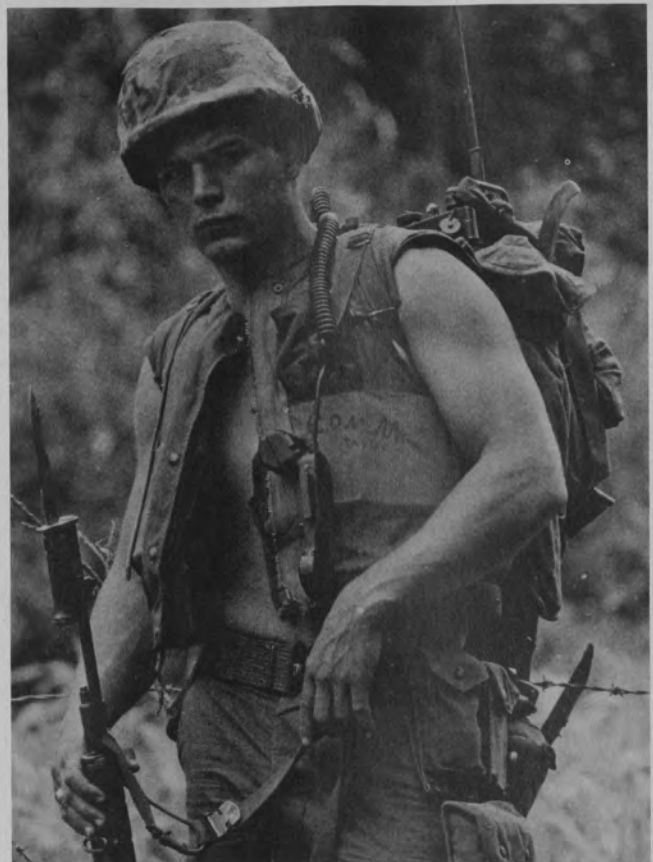
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A Plot To Defend ...



H. FREEMAN



B. BOWEN

## A Plot To Defend . . .

They were like homesteaders. They came ashore, were assigned plots, and they dug in.

The 3d Bn., Ninth Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division landed in early March. By the end of July, the division was committed in its entirety in Vietnam.

Their mission: "To secure advanced air or naval bases . . . to deny the use of seized positions and areas to the enemy . . . to close with and destroy the enemy . . ."

How best to fulfill this mission? The answer was simple . . . "enclaves!"

According to the dictionary, an "enclave" is a "country, wholly surrounded by a foreign country."

As it pertained to the Marines, it was a plot of land surrounding vital airstrips. Without air power, South Vietnamese troops would be in a bind for a swift striking capability.

Without Marine security on the airstrips, aircraft and helicopters were vulnerable to enemy mortar and small arms fire. With the airstrip locked in a firm, friendly grasp, allied troops in the field were guaranteed resupply, reinforcements and quick medical evacuation.

Several battalions of Marines were stretched out in a wide perimeter with their backs to the Da Nang



T. BARTLETT

River and the South China Sea. Patrols ranged deep into the mountains to keep the Viet Cong on the move, always away from the Da Nang Air Base.

The second *enclave* was established at Chu Lai, 60 miles south of Da Nang. Sea bees performed the near impossible, constructing a 4000-foot aluminum section runway in 23 days.

Doesn't seem too impressive?

You haven't seen Chu Lai!

Whereas Da Nang boasts firm, green flat lands and gently rolling hills (for the most part, at least,) Chu Lai is a settled sandstorm. Patrolling Marines were ankle deep in the golden sands, which tugged at boots and pulled at leg muscles until they cramped or were released for the next step. And there was cactus . . .

The third *enclave* was Qui Nhon, 90 miles down the coast from Chu Lai, and III MAF's southernmost stronghold. A battalion landed there on July 1, 1965, from the carrier *Iwo Jima* after allied intelligence reported an imminent VC mortar attack against the airstrip.

In addition to the security of the tiny, but very vital air base, Marines had a secondary mission of keeping the two major highways open; Route 1 runs

north and south, and Route 19 runs from the coast, inland to Central Vietnam.

The final and most northern *enclave* established was Hue/Phu Bai, 50 miles south of the 17th Parallel.

Marine infantry and artillery dug in, protecting the 6000-foot runway, finding some relief in the flat, dusty rice paddy fields and mounds. A battery of 155mm howitzers provided artillery support for the 55-square-mile zone.

Marines of III MAF lived in the hottest, coldest, wettest and driest sections of Vietnam. They wore out boots on the plains, in the mountains, steaming jungles and on the deserts.

A Marine from Chu Lai visiting Da Nang would find himself in a seeming oasis of greenery, with ocean breezes fresh and constant.

From Hue-Phu Bai, another Marine might claw down a sharp jungle path and catch a flight to the flat, open, broiling expanse of Chu Lai.

Regardless of the surrounding terrain, the *enclave* Marines were, temporarily, like homesteaders.

Theirs was a necessary, vital assignment; theirs was a plot to defend.—BARTLETT



B. BOWEN



S. STIBBENS

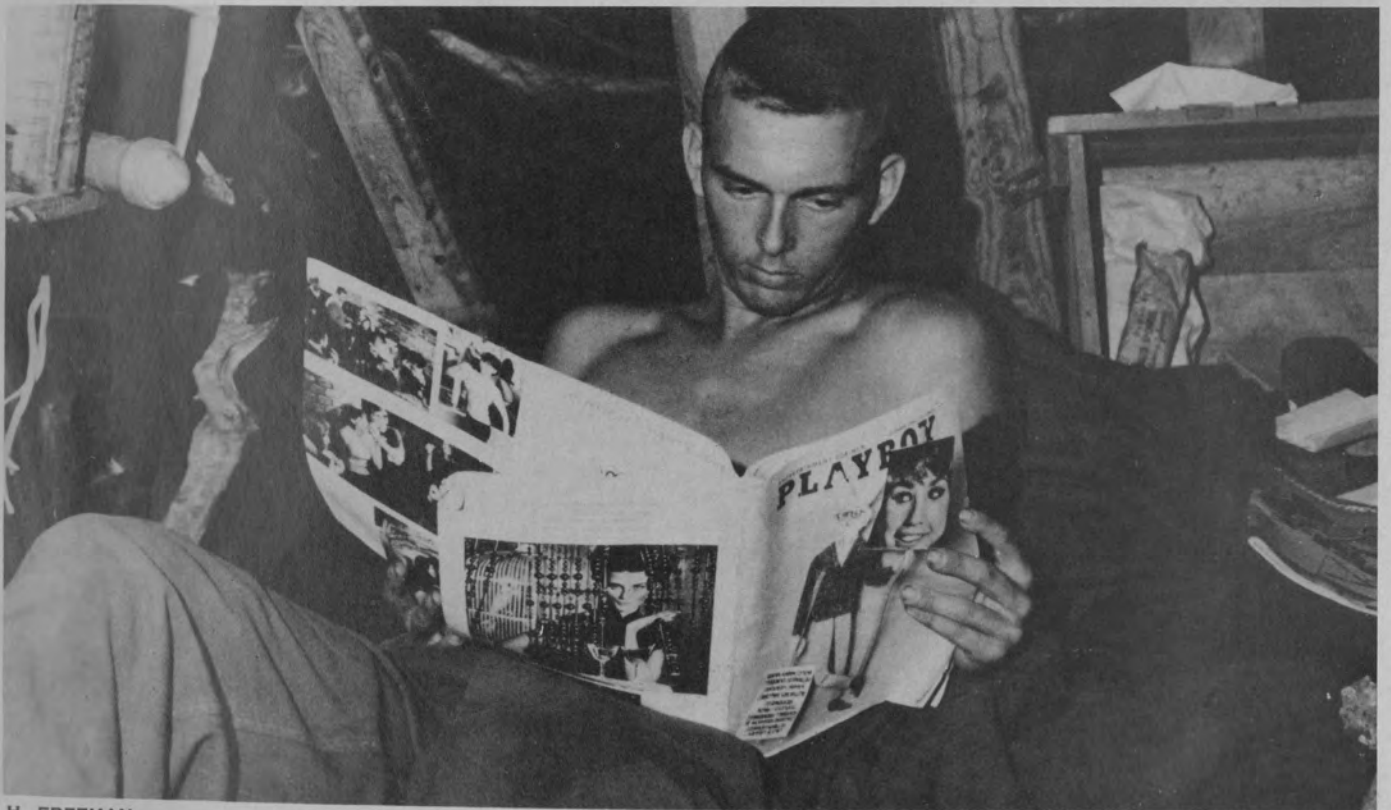


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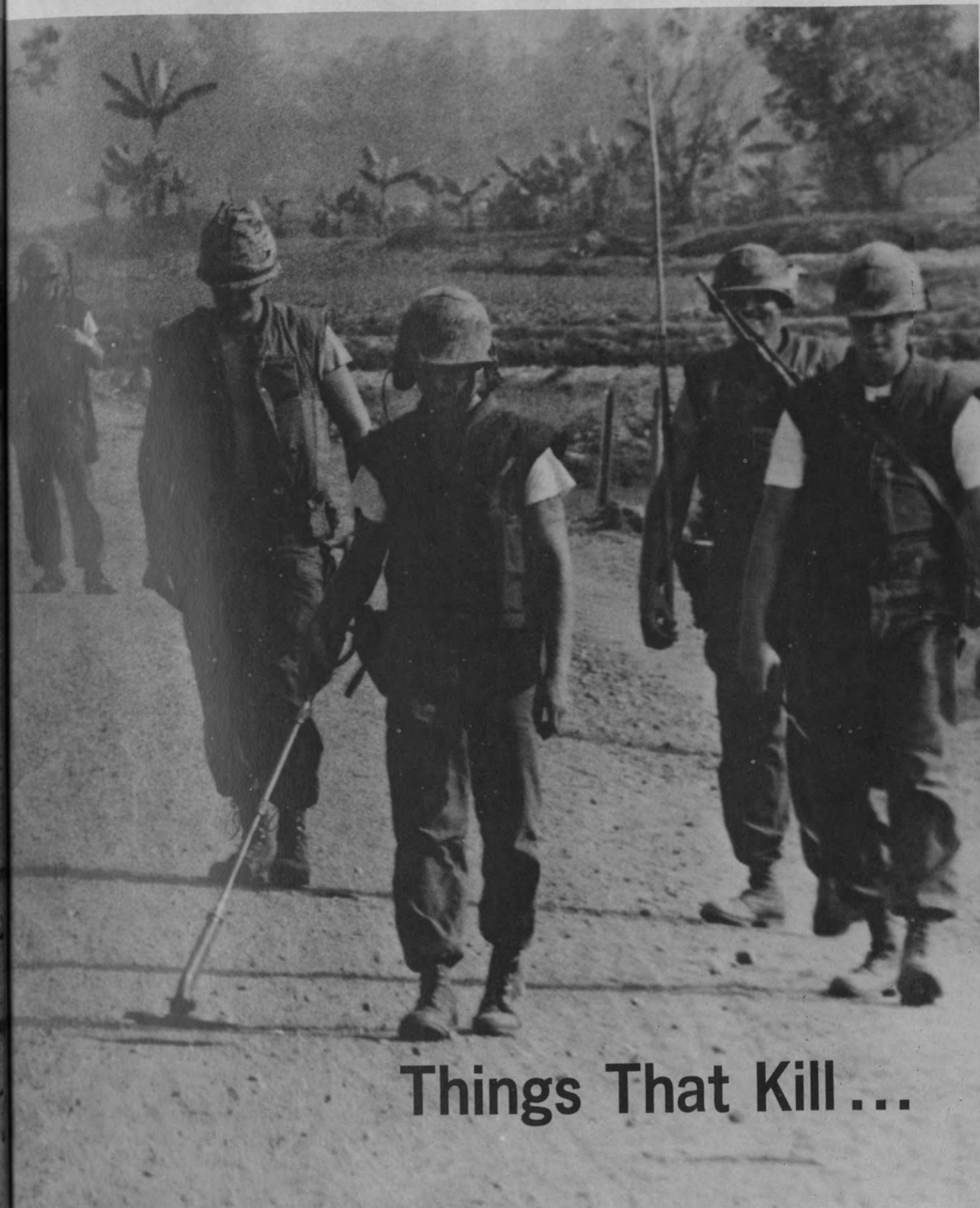
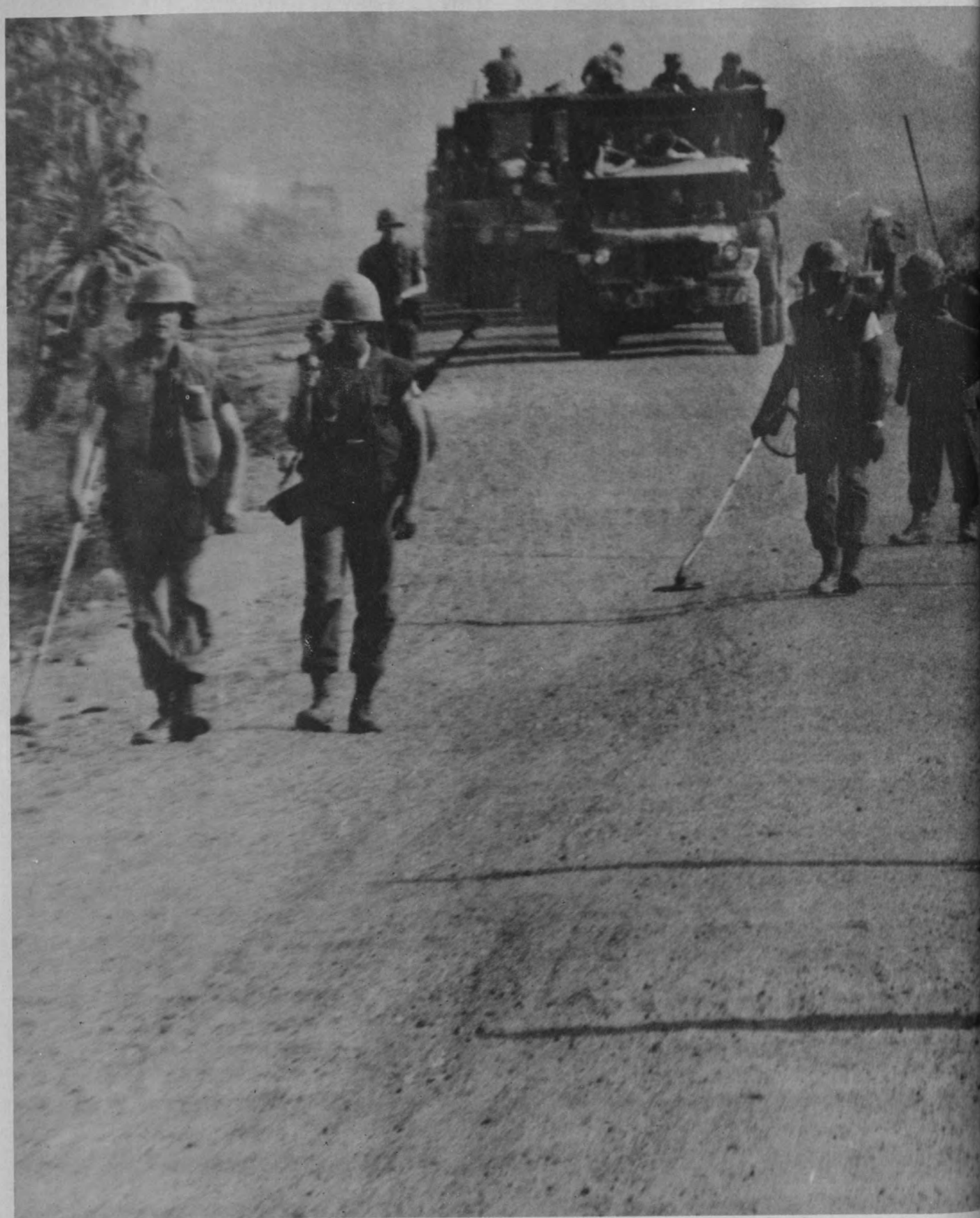
It was never very much. A pit in the sand covered by a poncho or a makeshift bunker of beams and scrounged matting from the airstrip. From there, the hub of their area of responsibility, they'd start patrols and sweeps of villages, rivers, paddies and beaches. Patrols ranged from small reconnaissance sweeps to company-sized operations backed by armored vehicles, with air and artillery support on call. This plot of ground, however Godforsaken it appeared, was home for 12 months, and at day's end, the homesteaders returned to their protective shanties to relax over a game of "Back Alley," to write letters or simply flake out with a good magazine.



F. BEARDSLEY



H. FREEMAN



Things That Kill ...

B. BOWEN



F. BEARDSLEY

## Things That Kill . . .



F. BEARDSLEY

Your back is sticky with sweat and the jacket clings and chills. An odor flows upward, out of the open neck of your utility shirt, and you discover with a grimace that the smell is you.

The sun pounds down. Sweat burns the eyes, flows along the edge of the nose, gathers, then pushes on down to the corner of the mouth. A tongue flicks out.

Salty. Yech!

Hot, tired, smelly and uncomfortable, you hear a voice.

"Cold soda, Marine?" You smile a "yes!"

She flips off the soda top and pours the fluid into a paper cup full of chipped ice. You gulp down a large mouthful of the cold, sweet fluid. Small chips of ice slide down your throat along with the soda. Then you realize, too late, that slivers of glass are cutting your stomach . . . from the inside, out.

The games people play in Vietnam are deadly.

A convoy of trucks moves slowly down the highway to Hue. A group of small boys offer loaves of French bread to Marines riding on the backs of the vehicles.

One of the trucks, loaded with supplies, suddenly heaves into the air; Marines thrown into lifeless shapes, landing in heaps on the side of the road.



T. BARTLETT

One loaf of bread contained a hand grenade.

Cpl Burley Boykin was point man on a patrol with "Alpha" Co., 3d Recon Bn., when he tripped a homemade Viet Cong booby trap. The jazzed up beer can was filled with bits and pieces of discarded metal and Boykin caught 80 of them throughout his body.

Boykin was lucky. Though a painful encounter, he would live and walk the point again. But he walked ever so cautiously!

The Viet Cong's ability to make weapons from discarded objects is uncanny. Their tools are crude. Few enemy guerrillas have any technical knowledge of explosives.

They're lackadaisical in their approach to providing pain. They don't care if they kill or maim, as long as they put a combatant out of action, while causing as much pain as possible in the process.

Ever hear about the Marine and the bear trap?

The enemy rigged the device so it took a special key to release the victim. A Marine stepped in and the jaws clamped shut. No key was available for his release.

When others attempted to evacuate the casualty by helicopter, it was learned that the device was



S. STIBBENS

chained to a concrete slab embedded in three feet of earth.

To evacuate the Marine meant digging up the anchor, carrying the concrete, chain, bear trap and the casualty to the landing zone. When the chopper set down at Da Nang, a doctor, corpsmen and Marines with hacksaws and cutting torches were also standing by to release the jaws of the trap from the Marine's leg.

Punji stakes, sharp needles of bamboo, are concealed along paths and roads. Advancing Marines come under enemy fire and dive for concealment . . . to be pierced by deadly points which have been dipped in animal excreta to infect those not receiving fatal punctures.

Viet Cong booby traps don't look good. They aren't smooth, shiny or professional in make-up or composition. They're crude, clumsy, unbalanced, often resembling Rube Goldberg inventions.

Some are primitive, such as huge, heavy balls of mud which contain pointed spears. They're hung high and fall heavily on unsuspecting troops below.

Some are ridiculous. You'd laugh, until the thing exploded, knocking the grin off your face. Then you'd realize, they're *things that kill!*—BARTLETT



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN

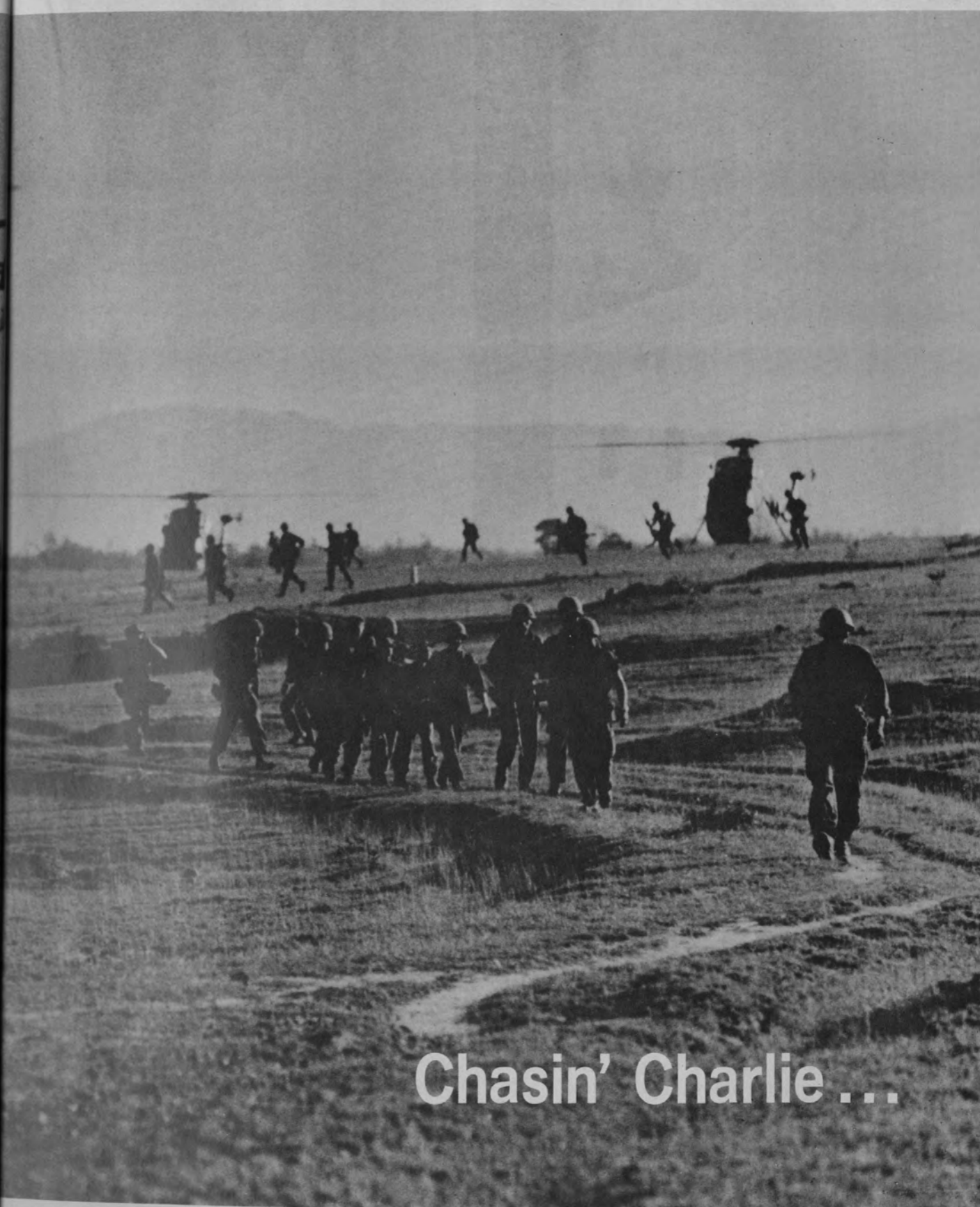
Enemy booby traps came in a variety of shapes and sizes. Some crude; others, highly sophisticated. Marine explosive experts, engineers, recon SCUBA teams and scout dogs continually searched for the gadgets of death. Some Marines chose to ignore the dangers of the hidden explosives. It often proved a costly mistake. Some lived . . . many did not.



T. BARTLETT



B. BOWEN



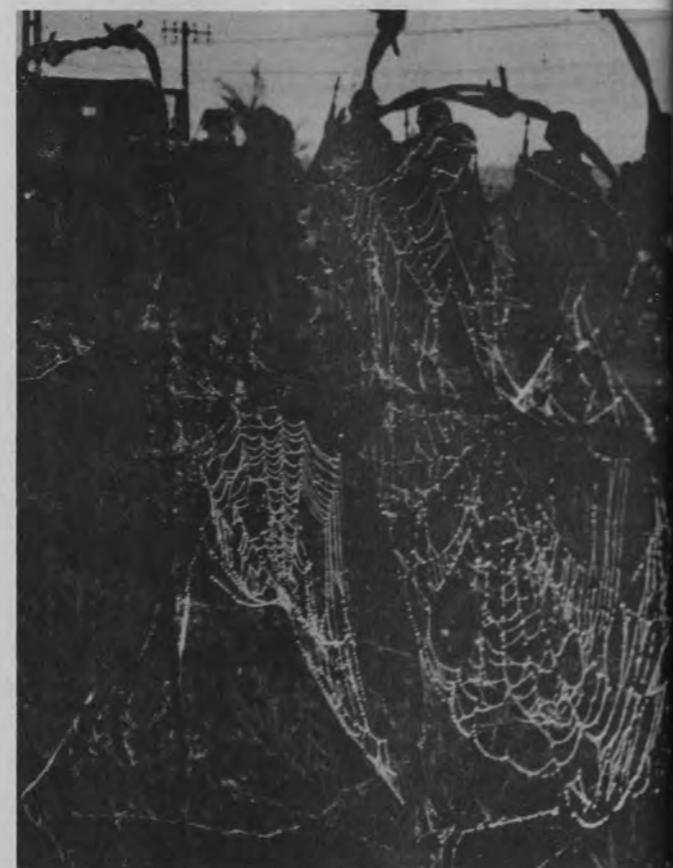
Chasin' Charlie ...

T. BARTLETT



T. BARTLETT

## Chasin' Charlie . . .



B. BOWEN



Following the landing in March 1965, Marines were primarily concerned with security of air bases, and therefore, few patrols roamed far from their enclave homes. Perimeter sweeps were conducted, but contact with the Viet Cong was negligible.

Then, in July 1965, Marine pilots flying near Chu Lai noticed VC activity in An Cuong village on the Van Luong Peninsula. Entrenchments and concrete bunkers were being constructed.

Then, during the early morning darkness of August 18, Major General Lewis W. Walt, then Commanding General, III MAF, gave the order for the Marines to make their move.

It was a "heli-phinian" assault, combining two of the Corps' perfected concepts. Helicopters ferried 2/4 into VC territory, completing the vertical envelopment phase.

Amphibious tractors of the 3d AmTrac Bn. shuttled 3/3 ashore, tightening the noose and completing the amphibious phase of the encirclement.

More than 2000 well-armed VC had gathered on the tiny peninsula, probably massing to attack the Chu Lai Air Base. They were members of the 1st VC Regiment.

Machine guns sought men of the Third Marines as they dashed across the sand. VC heavy mortars, lined up in a row, fired at the Marines like automatic weapons.

The Seventh Marines came ashore, supporting the Third Marines. Two companies, "India" and "Lima" were a part of the Special Landing Force aboard the USS *Iwo Jima*. Later, "Mike" Company would join the battle, leaving the USS *Taladega* to reinforce the Marines who were now fighting across a three-and-a-half-mile front.

Navy ships of the Seventh Fleet joined the fight when they observed two companies of Viet Cong trying to scale down the cliffs to the South China Sea. The ship's guns opened up. There was no escape.

Operation *Starlight* resulted in the heaviest concentration of air action against an enemy since World War II.

More than 120 tons of bombs and 600 Zuni five-inch rockets were delivered by Marine jets of Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 513 and 542, and Marine Attack Squadrons 214, 225 and 311.

Helicopter crews from HMM-161, 261 and 361 remained in the middle of the fight that first day, flying more than 12 consecutive hours.

The elusive VC were finally found by the Marines. He was met, face to face. He was beaten in much the same manner.

Charlie couldn't run; he couldn't hide. He could be found, hurt, captured and killed. More than 600 VC died; 125 others were taken alive, and a large quantity of weapons and supplies was captured.

Operation *Starlight* was a classic, involving one regiment of Marines, combining three separate battalions under one command. They had all arrived in Vietnam from three separate organizations; (Third Marines from Okinawa, Fourth from Hawaii and the Seventh from Camp Pendleton.)

*Starlight* broke the ice.

The Ninth Marines began a series of operations near Da Nang, aided by the 3d AmTrac Bn., to protect Vietnamese rice formerly confiscated by the Viet Cong. The Marine effort became known as *Golden Fleece*.

Marines were on the move, no longer confined to a defensive, enclave posture. They now had the strength to protect the air bases and also to seek out and to destroy the enemy.

*Starlight* was for openers. From August 1965 on, Marines would be—chasin' Charlie!—BARTLETT



F. BEARDSLEY

Charlie was elusive and cunning. Marine grunts and aviators teamed up in heli-assaults on suspected Viet Cong strongholds. At times, it appeared that the sky was full of droning choppers crammed with combat-ready Marines. At other times, Marine grunts rode to combat on armored vehicles, such as amphibious tractors, tanks and Ontos, which ferried units into battle. But it wasn't the helicopter or the steel monster which found, faced and fought the enemy. It was the grunt. It was the young Marine, the recent enlistee who was trained, supplied, armed and transferred to Vietnam, who made the final contact with Charlie. It was the grunt who made Charlie run.



S. STIBBENS



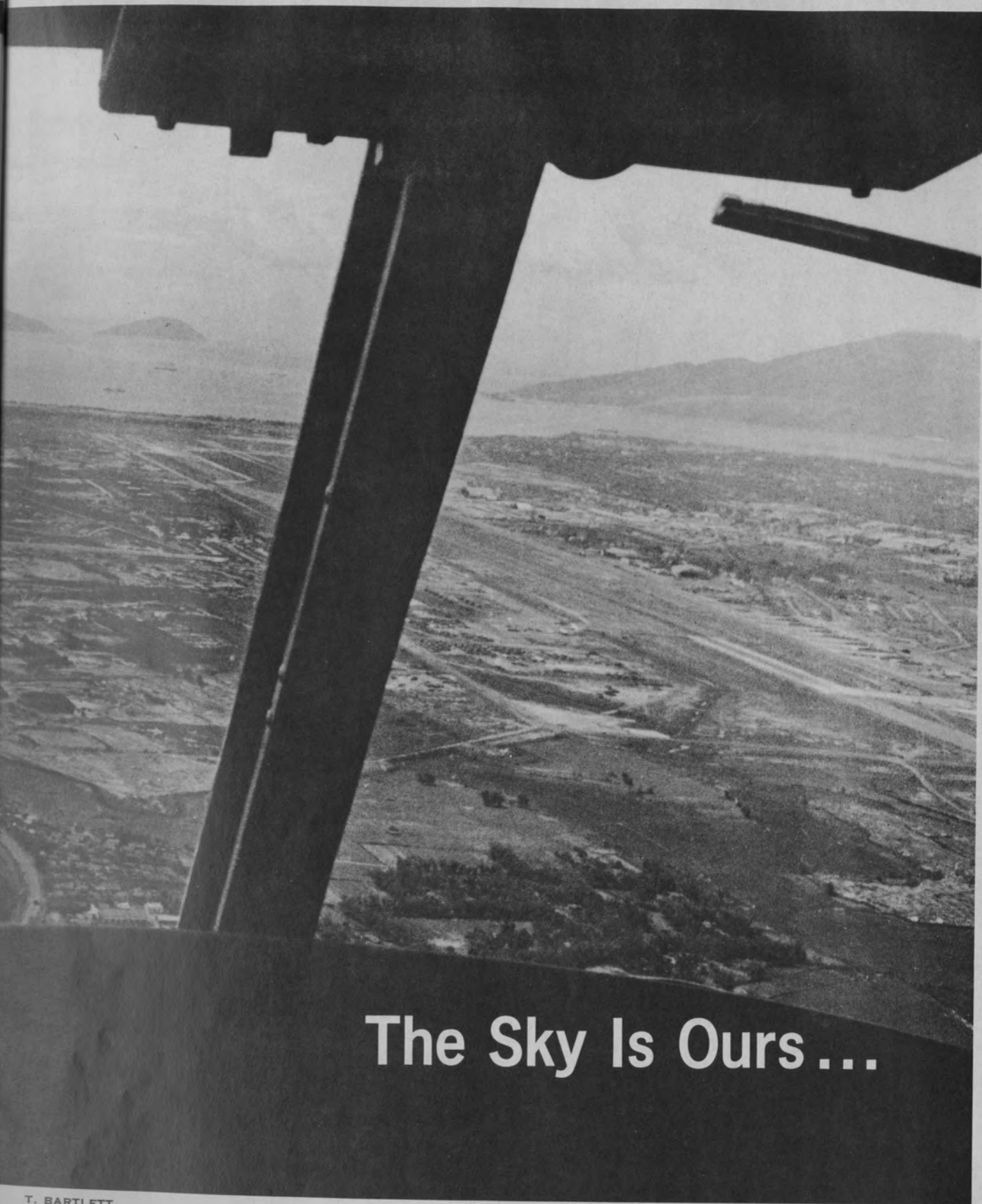
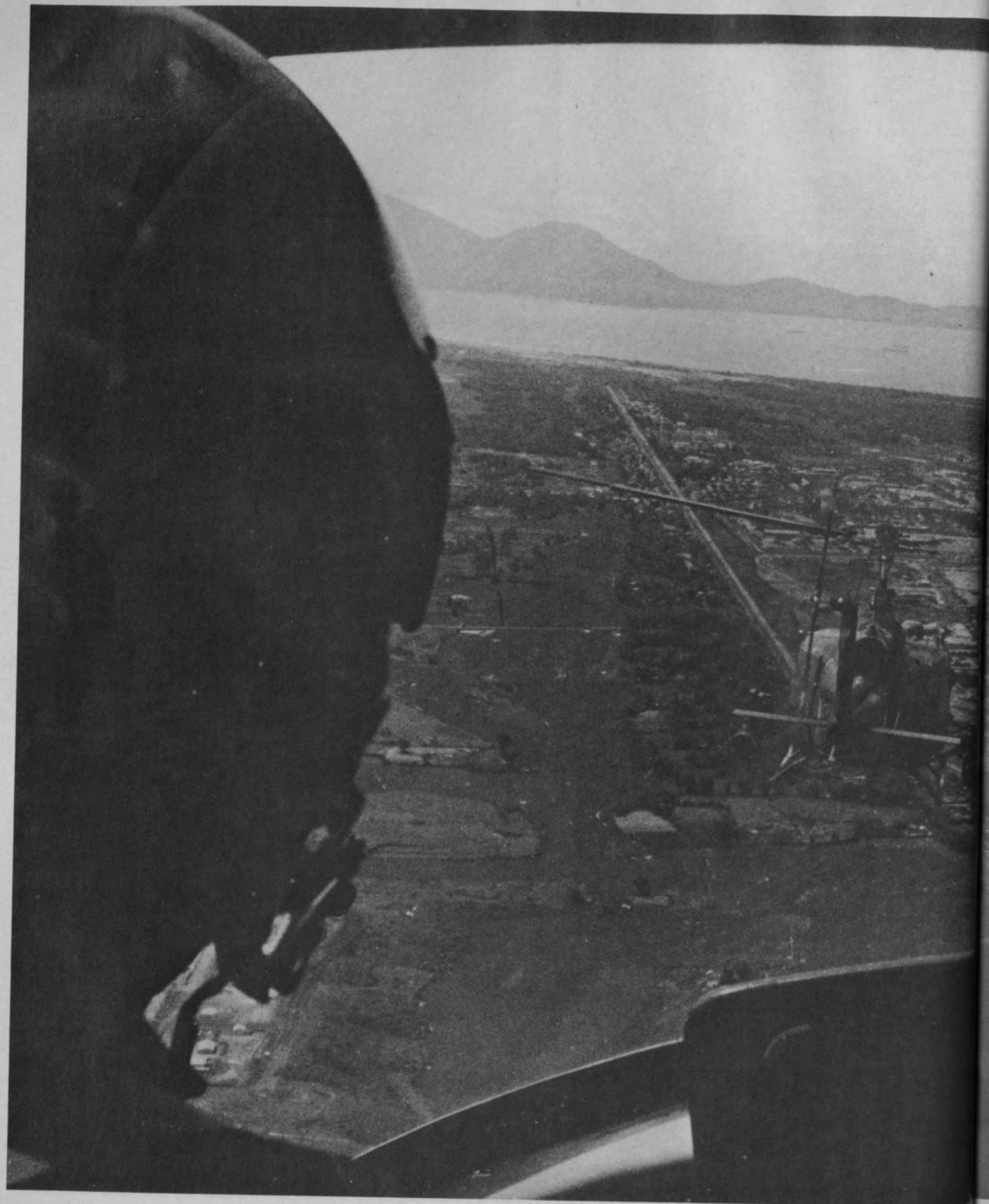
T. BARTLETT



S. STIBBENS



S. STIBBENS

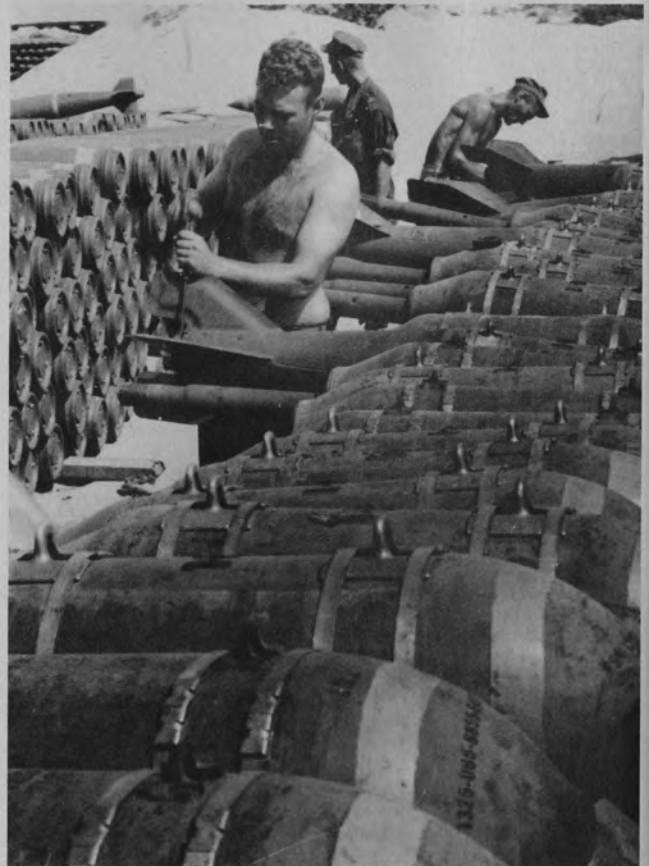


The Sky Is Ours ...



B. BOWEN

## The Sky Is Ours . . .



S. STIBBENS

On the ground in Vietnam, the enemy may be anywhere, but in the air, it's a different kind of war.

The air belongs to allied jet jockeys, transport humpers and chopper poppas. Marine aircraft, regardless of size, shape or speed, drone unopposed through the skies of South Vietnam.

Marine close air support is like a poker hand with three jets as openers. Skyhawks, Phantoms and Intruders provide surprise, punch, speed and countless enemy casualties.

The Intruder, an all-weather attack bomber, can carry 28 500-pound bombs, flying through any natural weather disturbance which grounds other aircraft.

Supersonic Phantoms with bombs, rockets and the 20mm mini gun (which "burps" 4000 rounds a minute, or 65-70 rounds per second) provide headache number 44 to enemy guerrillas moving towards friendly lines.

Skyhawks, stubby-winged jets, have recorded 120 sorties a day, dropping more than 10,000 tons of ordnance, up to 1000 pounders.

But it isn't all jets in the 'Nam. Jumbo cargo planes, as the C-130 Hercules, burdened with men, mail, chow and whatever else there's room for,



H. FREEMAN

waddle out to the flight line, grunt and groan, then lumber into the air like gooney birds.

Observation craft, the O-1E Bird Dogs, unarmed and slow moving, carried six 2.75mm Willy Peter rockets for marking targets for the jets.

Helicopters come in a variety of shapes and sizes. First, there was the thinly clad, mosquito-like Sea Horse. It was small and could carry a limited load, but it was a workhorse, and dependable.

They ferried wounded from battle. They carried beans, bullets and broads. The latter, visiting USO troupes. They flew plasma, VIPs, rockets or water.

The Sea Knight was huge in comparison, and could carry a lot more weight. It also mounted .50 caliber machine guns instead of the .30's the Sea Horses toted.

Then came the Sea Stallion, an assault transport cargo helicopter, largest in the Free World's arsenal. Built especially for Marines, it carried 38 combat-laden troops. Dubbed "Super Bird," it can trail a 20,000-pound external load. Top speed: 170 knots.

A Huey is a polliwog-like machine with a bump for a nose and a sawed off cigar for an exhaust, but no one laughs as it "whomp whomps" across the sky. It carries a rocket pod on each side, mounting



T. BARTLETT

eighteen 2.75-inch rockets. Two mounted machine guns are situated atop the rocket pods.

From the Huey evolved the Cobra, smaller, thinner, but with one hell of a sting! It boasts a rapid firing mini-gun pod that spits either 3000 7.62 rounds, or, with a flick of a switch, belches out a total of 279 40mm grenades.

Alongside the Cobra's center are rocket pods that carry 56 high explosive rockets.

Another innovation, introduced in Vietnam, is the OV-10A "Bronco," similar in design to the Lockheed Lightning or Black Widow of World War II.

The plane is armed with four internal 7.62 machine guns, two on each side. It can carry a total load of 3600 pounds of bombs, or marking rockets, Sidewinder missiles or the fast-firing mini-guns.

During the monsoon season, with torrential rains blanketing the airstrips, the enemy figured they'd have it knocked. No aircraft, they reasoned, could take off under such conditions.

They attacked. So did the Marine pilots.

Results? Heavy enemy casualties.

The enemy may roam the paddy or jungle, but sometimes he forgets, *the sky is ours!*—BARTLETT



F. BEARDSLEY



P. THOMPSON

The role played by Marine aviators and the importance of Marine aircraft in Vietnam may never be properly told. In addition to aerial observation and reconnaissance, close air support, saturation bombing, strafing runs, medical evacuations and delivering the mail, aircraft provided a great morale boost to ground units while seriously demoralizing the enemy. Many hard core Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers surrendered to allied forces because of the continued pounding, strafing or hazing by Marine pilots and their aircraft. Without Marine pilots and their "birds," the story of Hill 881 or the results of the stand at Khe Sanh might have had a much different ending.



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



P. THOMPSON

Enabling Marine pilots and their aircraft to soar freely through the sky over Vietnam was not an exciting or glamorous job. Mechanics, armorers, metalsmith and crew chiefs labored around the clock to maintain the aircraft. Flight line temperatures ranged in the 130's, and touching metal meant blisters . . . but the bombs and repairs went on!



B. MARTIN



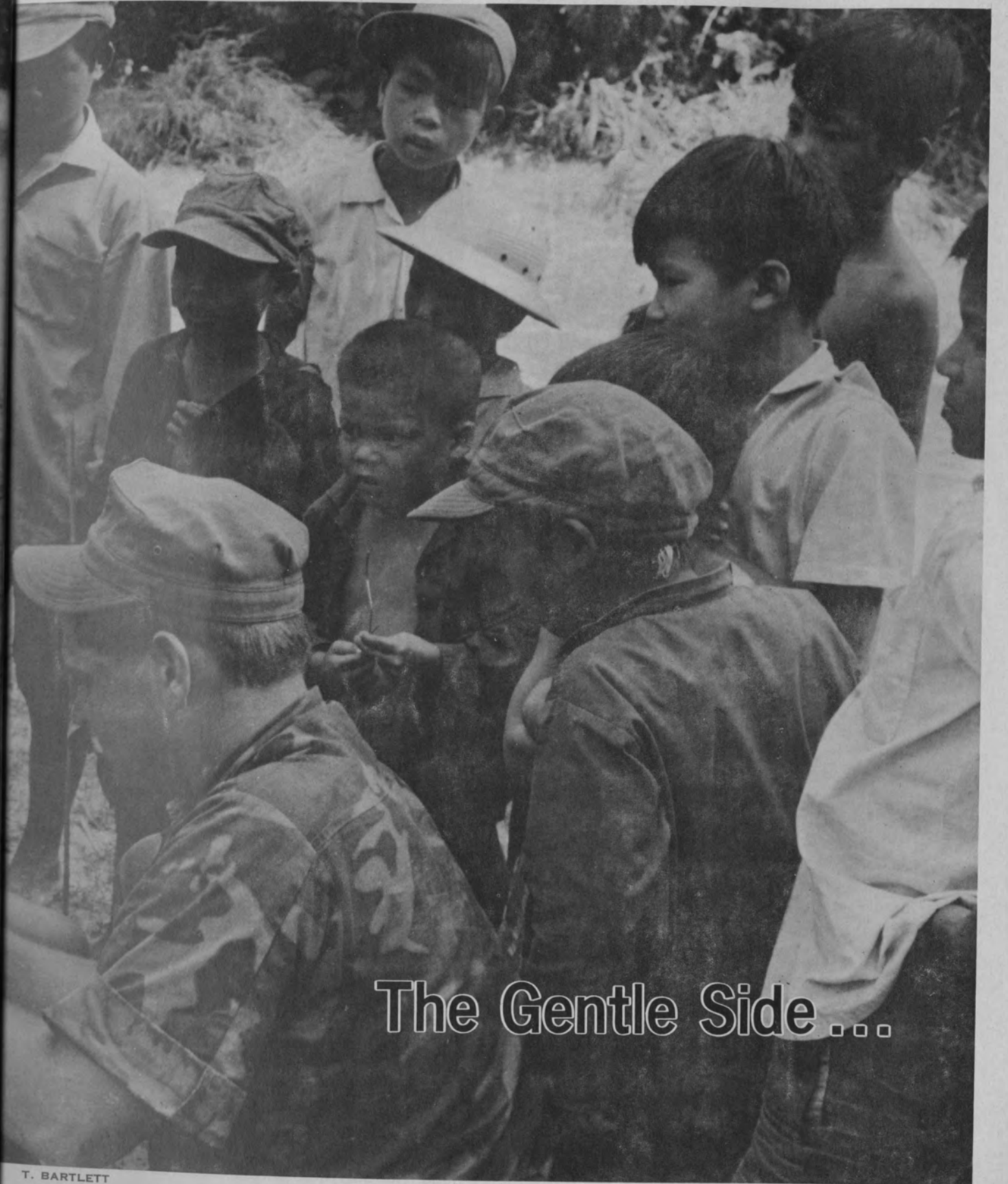
P. THOMPSON



B. BOWEN



R. WOLF



The Gentle Side...



T. BARTLETT



H. FREEMAN

## The Gentle Side . . .

A Marine rode shotgun on a resupply convoy. Clutched in one hand, a loaded M-16; in the other, a bag filled with candy. As the convoy bounced its way along the pock-marked highway, curious children were met with handfuls of wrapped sweets.

*That's the gentle side!*

The Third Marine Division's Memorial Children's Hospital at Quang Tri or the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital at FLC are more like Stateside hospitals than most in Vietnam. Marines, Navy men and Seabees built them and have continued supporting them with money, materials and a sympathetic love.

Never before had Marines been asked to rebuild a country as they secured it. During the Pacific island campaigns of World War II, Marines fixed bayonets, charged, scored a victory and moved on to another island, leaving the mopping up to other allied units.

In Vietnam, during an 18-month period, nearly two million South Vietnamese received free medical and dental care offered through a variety of medical civic action programs, or MedCaps.

Marines writing home about the many orphans were rewarded with boxes of clothing, soap and food. Not only were cartons received during Decem-



T. BARTLETT



C. NOYES

ber, but folks back home provided a year 'round Christmas.

Marines, grunts, wing wipers and supply men constructed dispensaries, showers, wells, latrines, playgrounds, walkways, schools, markets, roads, dikes, culverts, school furnishings, fences, bridges—even pig sties.

All in the name of *the gentle side*.

A brick factory operated by the 7th Marine Engineers obtained raw material from CARE and employed refugee labor to make bricks which were then supplied, without cost, to hamlets in the area for schools.

The work of Marines in their fight toward Vietnamization wasn't fully shouldered by those in Vietnam alone. In the States, Marine reservists, commercial companies and individual families contributed huge amounts of items needed by the Vietnamese.

One pharmaceutical company in California's Bay Area contributed more than a million dollars worth of medical supplies!

The Vietnamese didn't get supplies by merely asking for them. It wasn't a large "hand out" program. They got materials because they *needed* them,

as determined by a Marine representative and the village chiefs.

Among projects designed specifically to increase the level of education was the General Walt Scholarship Program, established in 1967 to assist needy students showing potential as future leaders.

The program grew from 465 elementary and high school scholarships to over a thousand! Financial support was provided by the Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Fund.

Today's Marine stands ready as "first to fight . . ." but there's another side of him. Hundreds of former Viet vets are contributing monthly to clothe, feed and educate countless orphans. The kids might be Catholic, Protestant or Buddhist . . . what matters most is the fact they're kids.

Faces of combat Marines are hard, crusted with sweat and lined with concern. Removed from the fields of battle and placed in a surrounding of kids, the Marine's face softens, and the crust of grime cracks to reveal a grin.

The Marine will replace his rifle with the small hand of a child, and though neither understands a word of the other, they share a common warmth.

This, then, is the gentle side . . . —NOYES



C. NOYES

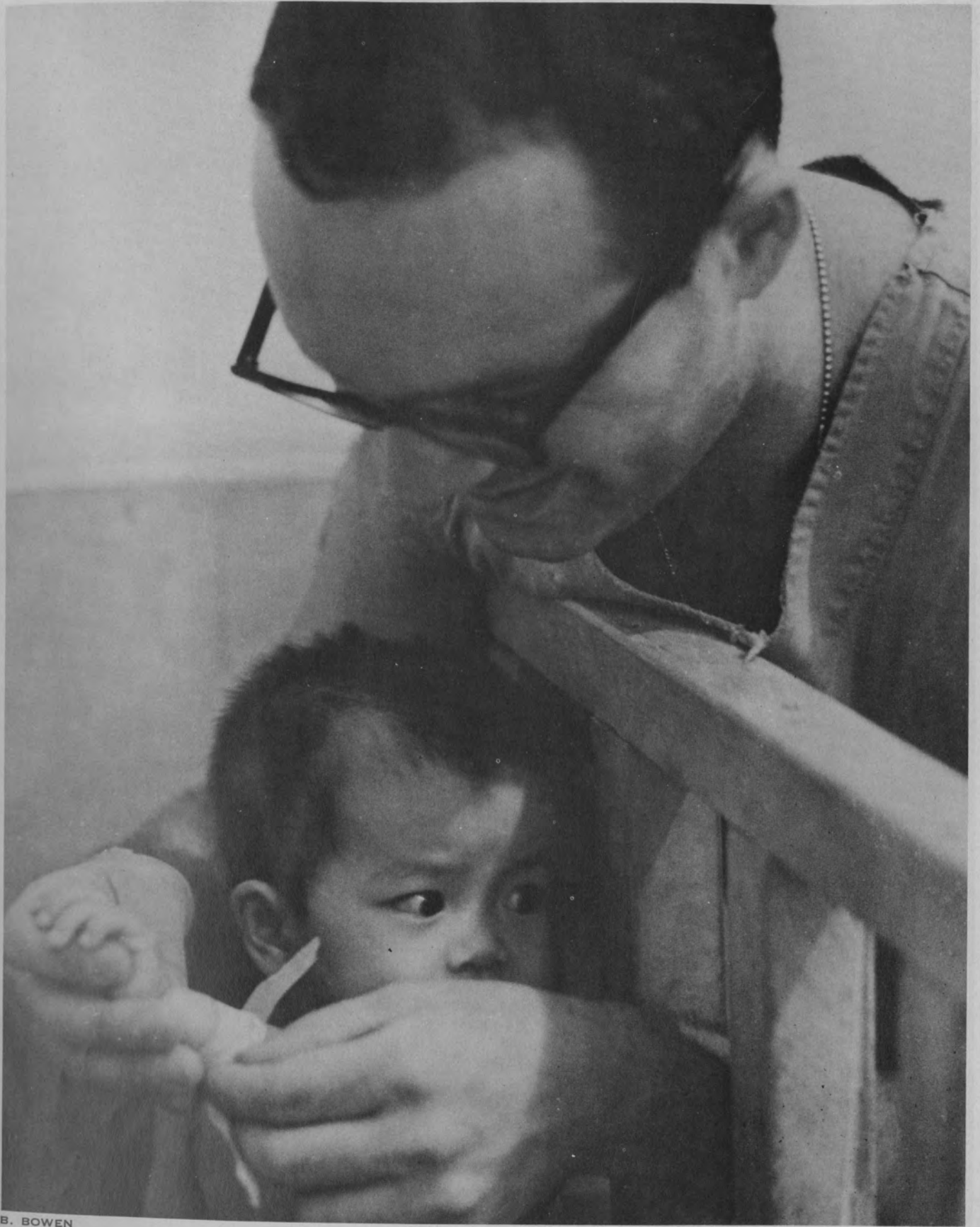
Sweating, slogging, swearing, hurting, bleeding and dying are elements of war. But in Vietnam, there was a second war, one of civic action . . . pacification . . . call it what you will. It was helping the people help themselves. Lessons began at the elementary level. Many Vietnamese had never seen soap, and Marines and corpsmen taught them how to scrub and rinse properly. Farmers carried pigs to corpsmen for vitamin injections to improve their stock. There were no Vietnamese doctors or nurses in many villes and American Navy doctors and corpsmen treated the sick and schooled the uneducated. For the young Vietnamese, born amidst the sounds of guns and weaned on fear, the future brightened.



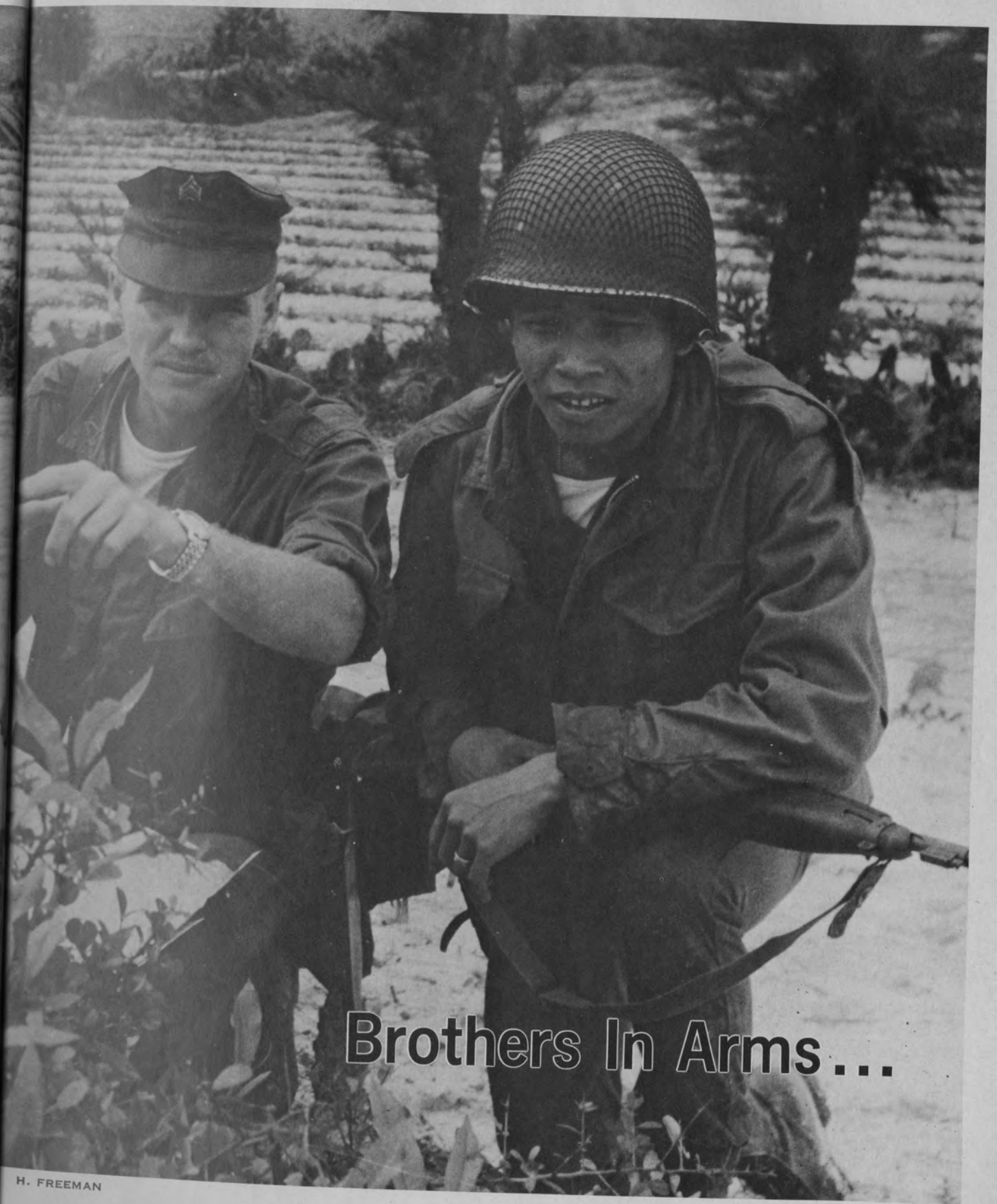
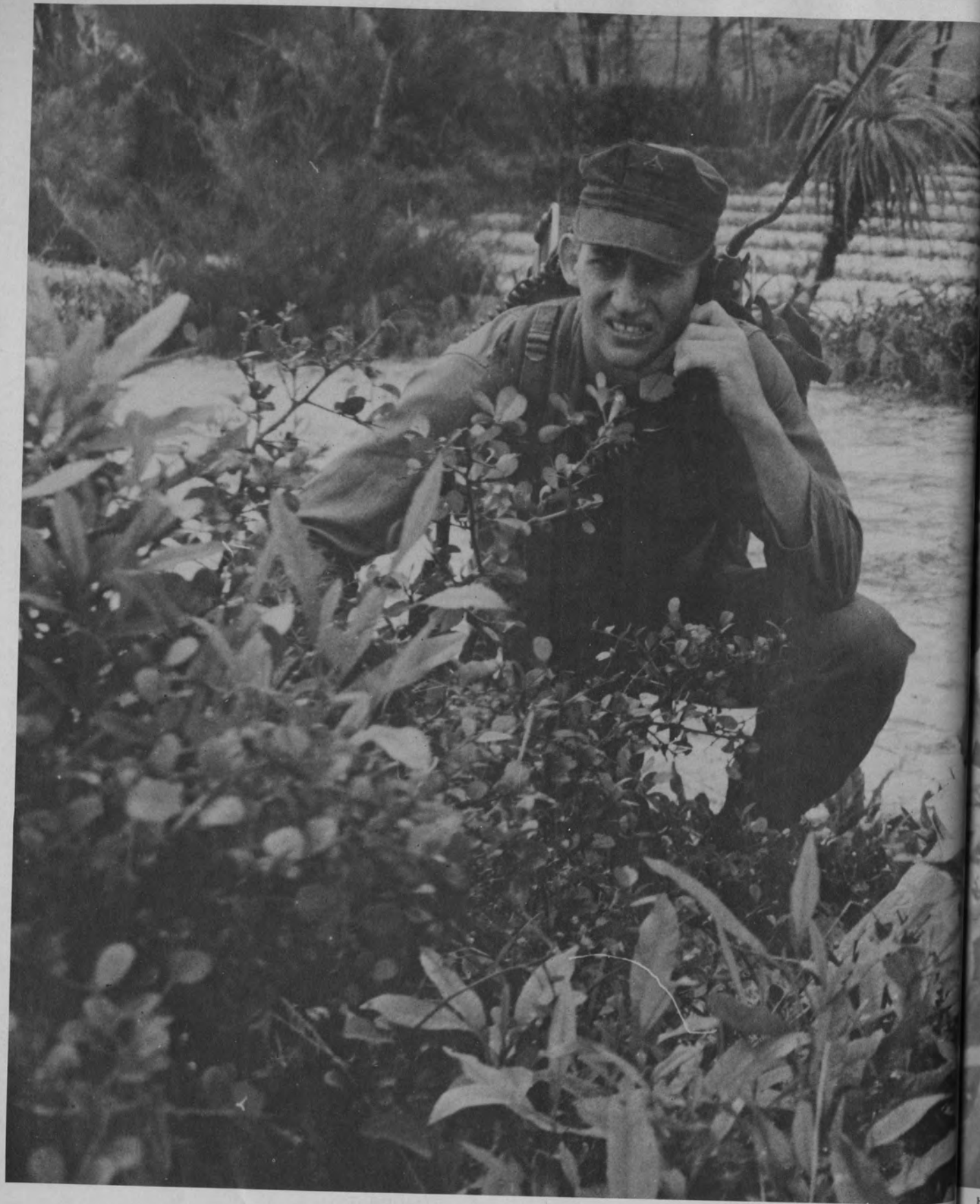
F. BEARDSLEY



T. BARTLETT



B. BOWEN



Brothers In Arms...

H. FREEMAN



F. BEARDSLEY

## Brothers In Arms . . .



F. BEARDSLEY



Differences in purpose and intent aside, both the allied and communist recipes for victory in Vietnam hinge on one vital ingredient—the support of the people.

The enemy, however, has an asterisk added to his recipe that is unpalatable to Free World tastes; this support, according to communist dogma, need not be voluntary. Terrorism can, and has, become an effective tool to gain this vital ingredient when the people do not voluntarily give it.

The Marine Corps learned early that the enemy must be separated from the people; and, in turn, the people protected from guerrilla terrorism. As one Marine company commander put it: "What good is it if we win the war and lose the people?"

In August 1965, the Corps initiated a unique program based on mutual respect and cooperation. Teams of young Marines and civilian militiamen would work together to gain the trust and confidence of Vietnamese villagers; work in the one place they could do the most good—the village itself.

The Marines called their project the Combined Action Program.

The basic working unit of the program is the Combined Action Platoon (CAP), consisting of a

13-man Marine rifle squad and a Navy corpsman integrated with a platoon of local troops called Popular Forces (PFs). The organizational chain of command would eventually run from Combined Action Company (CACO) to Combined Action Group (CAG) to Combined Action Force (CAF). At the peak of operations more than 2100 Marines and 3000 PFs were involved in the program.

The mission of a CAP can be boiled down to the simplest terms: help the Vietnamese pacify and protect their own village or hamlet. The means of accomplishing this include running daily patrols and ambushes, training PFs and destroying the Viet Cong Infrastructure (those pledged to control the populace for the communists).

It was clear from the beginning that it would take a special breed of Marine to be a member of a CAP. First, he would have to be an enlisted man (E-5 or below) and a volunteer. Next, and perhaps most important, he would have to possess a sincere belief in the concept of helping the people help themselves.

The skills needed to be a CAP Marine could be taught. At the CAP school in Da Nang young volunteers were given weeks of classroom and field work.

Subjects included the Vietnamese language, local political atmosphere and the organization of the VC Infrastructure, as well as refresher courses in tactics, mapping and weapons.

On September 21, 1970, the Combined Action Force was deactivated as part of President Nixon's announced troop withdrawal. Only the 2d CAG, located at Hoi An, would remain.

During the past five years, Combined Action units conducted more than 200,000 patrols, set more than 145,000 ambushes and administered medical treatment to nearly two million persons. During this period the units also killed more than 5300 enemy soldiers and detained another 2500 suspects. In the past three years alone CAP Marines captured in excess of 2500 enemy weapons.

Yet cold statistics cannot tell the full story. How do you count the new hope glinting in the eyes of the children? On what tally sheet do you enter the new dignity on the faces of the aged?

Perhaps these intangible results are the real success story of the Combined Action Program. A story of U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese civilians working side by side for the betterment of all. The story of "Brothers in Arms."—ELLIOTT



B. BOWEN



F. BEARDSLEY

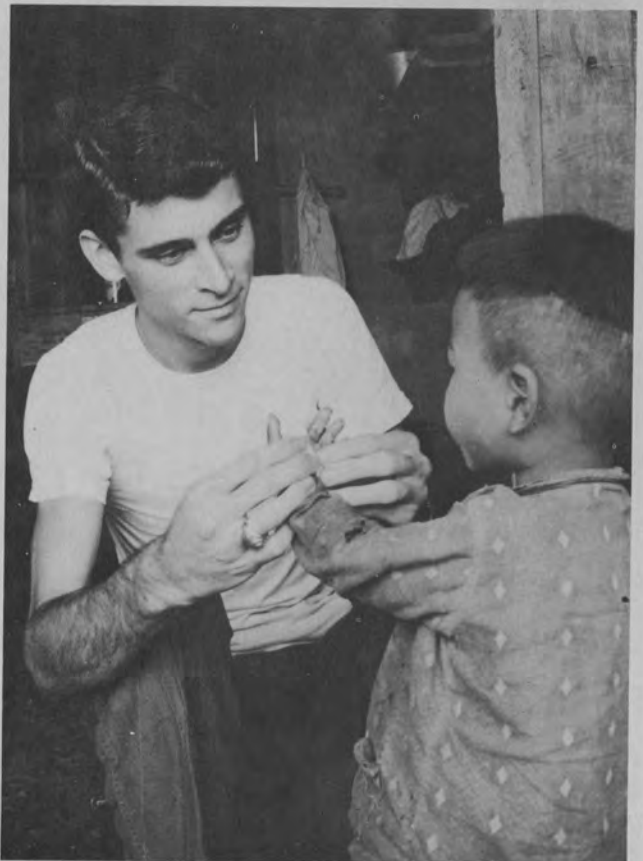
A Combined Action Platoon or CAP was a Marine rifle squad and Navy corpsman integrated with a platoon of local militia known as Popular Forces. American Marines moved into a village and educated the Vietnamese force in military tactics while providing communications to Marine artillery and air support, if needed. The corpsman administered to the sick and aged in the village and accompanied the unit on patrols. In order to fully accomplish their mission, Marines had to be accepted by the villagers while winning the confidence of the Vietnamese soldiers. It wasn't always easy. Marines were schooled in the language and local customs. It took time and patience, but the results were rewarding and lasting.



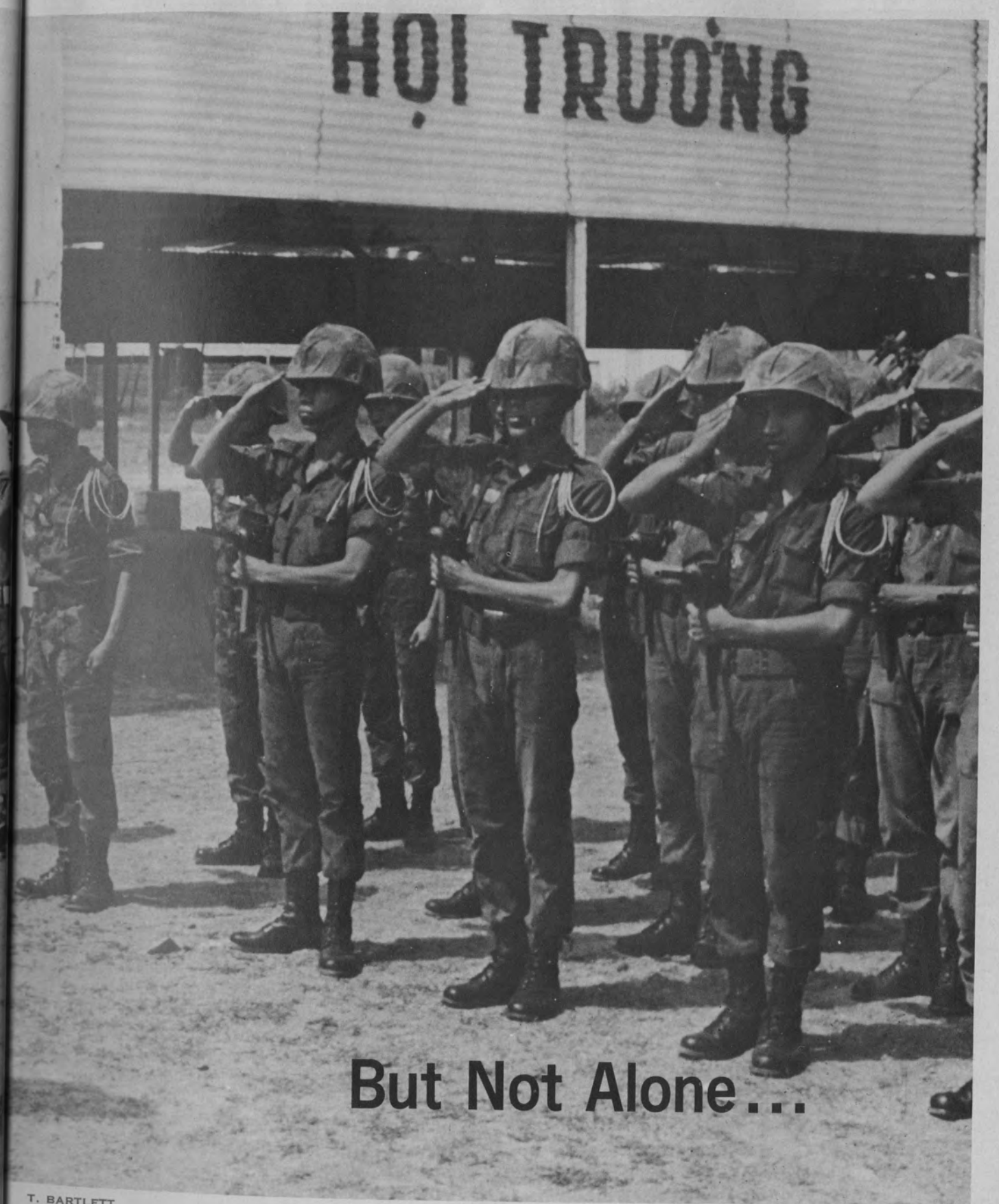
J. ELLIOTT



H. FREEMAN



F. BEARDSLEY



**But Not Alone...**

T. BARTLETT



H. RICHARDSON



C. NOYES

## But Not Alone . . .

You don't know what loneliness is until you've manned a post at night during the monsoon rains in Vietnam. You know what it's like being wet; you've undoubtedly been wet before.

But, during the monsoons, you get "running wet," when the water flows down your body and into your boots, and there's no way in hell you can get your feet dry.

And the nights. . . Are any nights darker?

The monsoon rains diminish and increase in volume, causing leaves to rustle, tin to groan and tent flaps to whine, whistle or clump. And there's no one beside you.

*That's loneliness!*

Among the many misconceptions about American participation in Vietnam is the persistent and erroneous rumor that the United States is standing alone, without allied support. Even today, years after Marines arrived in Vietnam, many people honestly believe that American Marines, soldiers, Navy men, airmen and Coast Guardsmen, with troops of the Republic of Vietnam, are fighting communist aggression without additional Free World help.

Actually, we have more outside military aid in Vietnam than we ever had in Korea. More than



S. STIBBENS



B. BOWEN

70,000 men of Free World forces are serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

The number of countries helping is less, but the strength of their support is greater. Although 37 nations have given some form of economic, medical or educational support in Vietnam, *military* assistance comes from seven.

The Republic of Korea is the second largest non-Vietnamese force in Vietnam, with more than 50,000 troops. This includes the Capital Infantry Division, the Ninth Division, the Second Marine (Blue Dragon) Brigade and support from the 100th Logistical Command, Construction Support Group, a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital and transport groups from the navy and air force.

Australians first came to the aid of Vietnam in 1962. In addition to 7500 men and the guided missile destroyer *Hobart*, Australia is also committed to several economic and social assistance projects.

New Zealand provides two rifle companies, an artillery battery, a tri-service medical team and special air service troops from their First Ranger Squadron, totaling 600 men.

The Republic of the Philippines is represented by 1000 engineers and 1000 security troops based at

Tay Ninh, the scene of one of the largest and most successful operations of the war . . . "Junction City."

Thailand is represented by more than 12,000 men of the Black Panther Division and a variety of air force and naval units, including river patrol boats.

Nationalist China has a small political warfare group providing medical assistance, advisors and an agricultural mission.

A Spanish medical mission operates a provincial hospital to help Vietnamese civilians.

West Germany is represented by teams of medical personnel and a hospital ship; Brazil, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Guatemala, Iran, Israel, Italy, Liberia, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Great Britain have sent medical help. Other nations have offered economic aid, food relief and educational support.

Nearly 3500 members of the Free World (not including Americans), have died while serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

Being lonely is not new to Marines, nor do they have a monopoly on it.

In Vietnam, although the nights are dark and the monsoon rains take no pity on those forced into the open, Marines serve with dedication.

They serve . . . but not alone.—BARTLETT



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



H. RICHARDSON

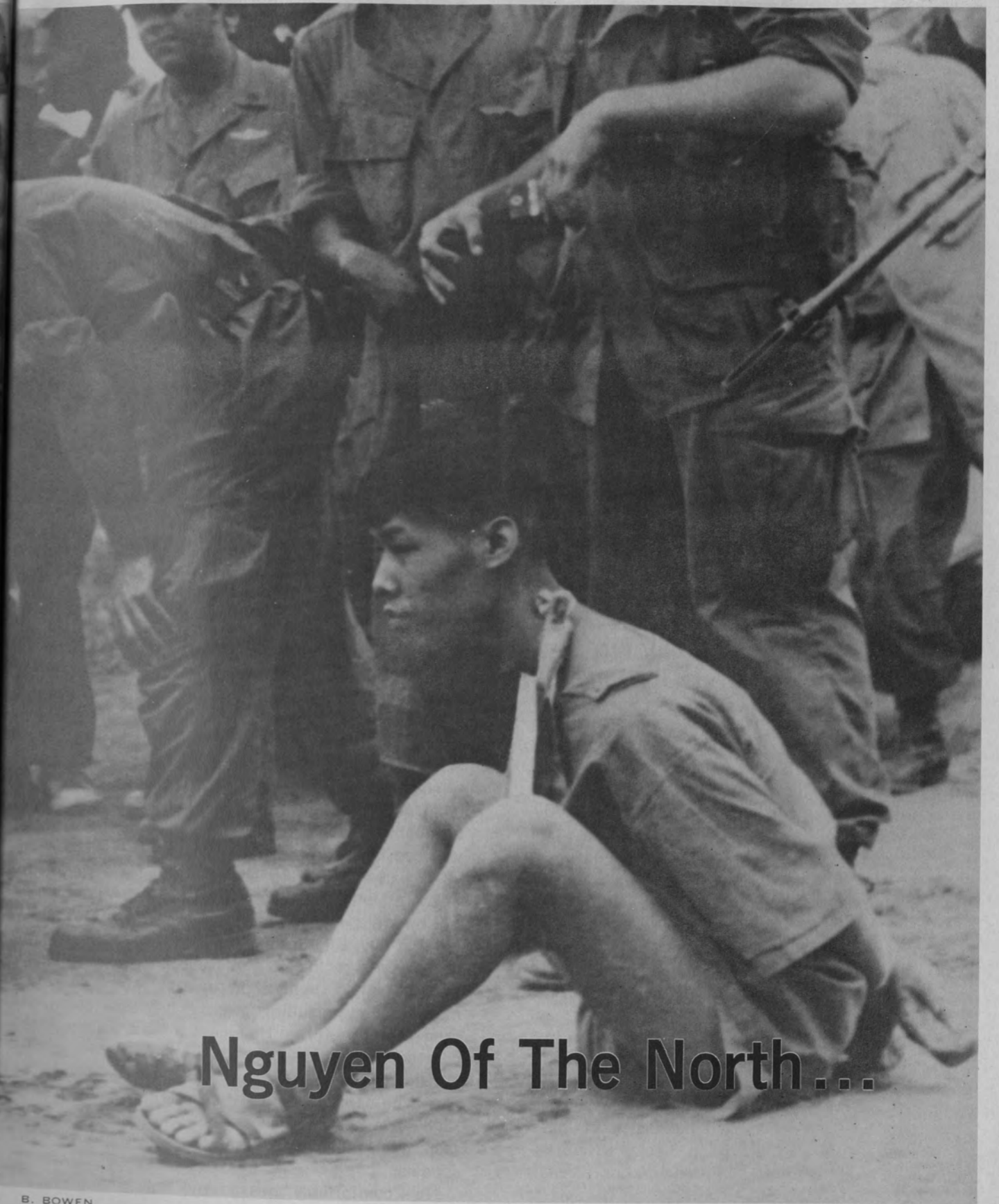
Vietnam was a conglomerate of colors. Besides the dull khaki of sweat-soaked American and Vietnamese soldiers was the camouflaged jungle uniform of the Marine, the blue of the Air Force and the Army's Green Beret. Blue-eyed nurses from West Germany served aboard the startling white *Helgoland*, the hospital ship, giving medical aid to innocent civilian victims of war. Jungle-striped Korean Marines faded into elephant grass while on patrol. A small force of American Coast Guardsmen was all but lost among the larger force of the U. S. Navy while patrolling the Da Nang Harbor. When considering Vietnam's color, who can forget the sunsets, as the day's final rays hide the smoke of battle?



C. NOYES



B. BOWEN

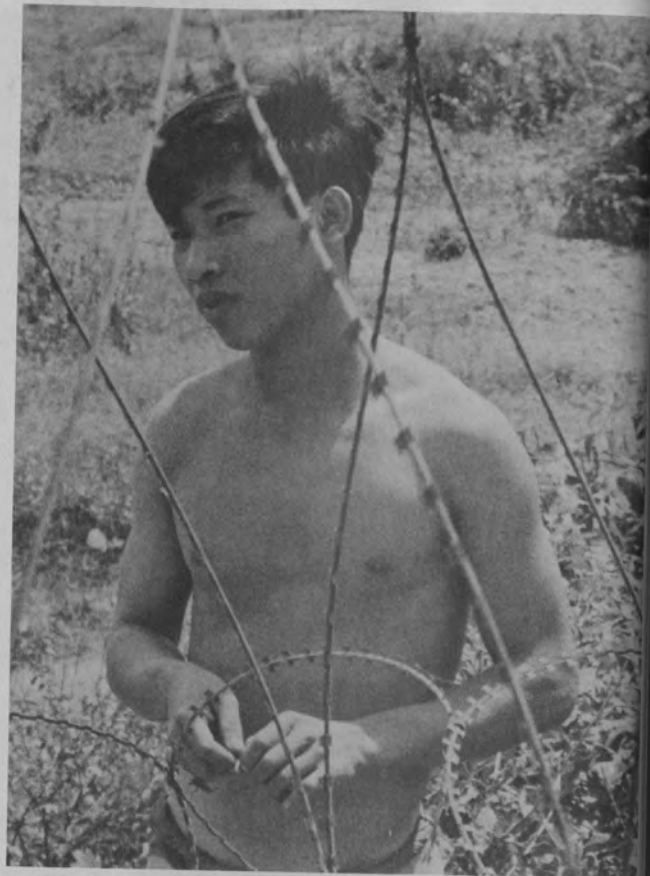


Nguyen Of The North...

B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



R. WOLF

## Nguyen Of The North . . .

Just before Thanksgiving Day, 1965, 3/7 met an enemy force near Quang Ngai. Three of the enemy were killed. Eight weapons were captured.

It marked a turning point in the war. The enemy proved to be members of the 95th Regiment, 325th Alpha Division, North Vietnamese Army.

Nguyen of the North was migrating south.

At that time, it was estimated that seven NVA regiments had crossed into South Vietnam; an eighth was considered "probable" and a ninth, "possible."

By early 1968, four NVA divisions and elements of two other divisions were fighting in the south.

How does Nguyen of the North differ from his fighting ally, Charlie of the South?

Nguyen is a "bo doi" or basic infantryman. He'll wear a simple, lightweight uniform which may be many colors, including gray, gray-green, khaki or even robin egg blue. He wears a light, camouflage covered pith helmet.

He carries plastic canteens on a thin webbed belt, and if he carries a knife, it'll be crude; homemade. He'll have an entrenching tool, and wear the canvas, rubber soled shoes, or "Ho Chi Minh" rubber sandals.

He's comfortably dressed and well armed, carry-



P. THOMPSON

ing a modern, effective ChiCom copy of a Russian weapon, either an SKS carbine, AK-47 assault rifle, light machine gun or rocket launcher. The SKS, AK and machine gun use the standard 7.62 cartridge.

Operating in the field, he's formed into squads, platoons, companies, battalions, regiments and divisions. He utilizes the "triangular" concept with three squads per platoon, three platoons per company and so forth. (A squad is 10 men divided into three cells.)

A rifle company has from 60 to 130 men and includes three rifle platoons and a weapons platoon which has 60mm mortars, 57mm recoilless rifles and light machine guns.

A regiment (1400 to 2000 men) may have special units attached, as signal, engineer, recon or medical, and may carry heavy machine guns, 120mm mortars and 70mm or 75mm pack howitzers.

Communications units carry field telephones, small hand radio sets or sophisticated switchboards and transmitters.

Engaged, they frequently use the "close embrace" tactic, meaning they get as near as possible to the enemy (as they did to Marines at Khe Sanh) to prevent the use of supporting fire.

The NVA is *not* a rinky-dink outfit. Nguyen has proved himself a well-trained, professional combatant.

During "Operation Hastings" in July 1966, Task Force Delta with 2/1, 2/4 and 3/4, the Special Landing Force (3/5), 1/1 and 1/3 clashed with NVA of the 324B Division. In all, 8000 Marines and 3000 South Vietnamese troops met Nguyen and his comrades. Then began "Operation Prairie" and "Deckhouse IV."

Nguyen of the North was fighting with his back against his homeland. He was well equipped; well trained; well supplied. But he was not invincible. Before the end of January 1967, nearly 1400 NVA had been killed during operations around the DMZ.

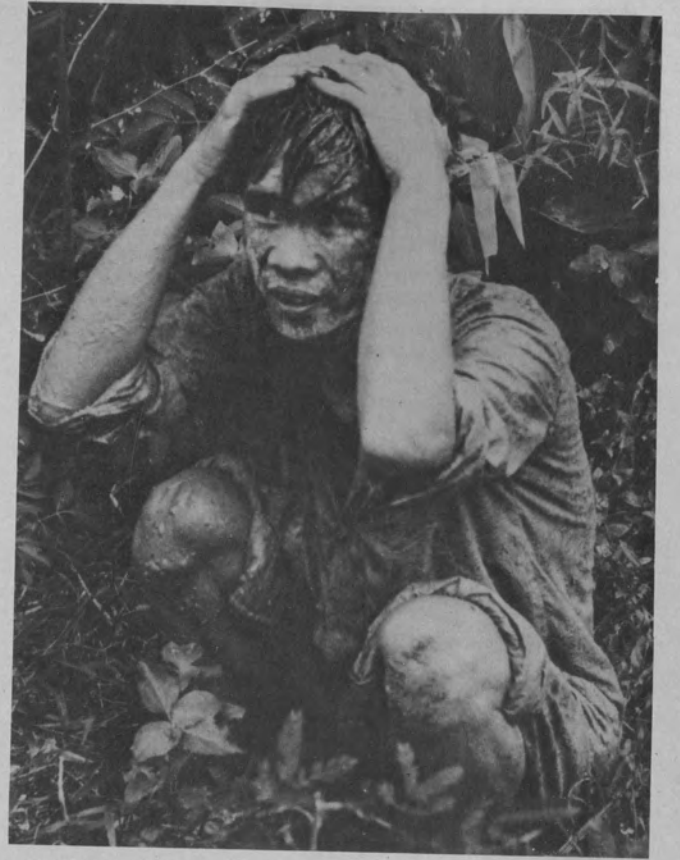
The NVA had moved concentrations of troops into the South through the DMZ because it was an easier route than along the Ho Chi Minh jungle trail. Also, moving through the Demilitarized Zone shortened Nguyen's supply lines.

He was stopped by American Marines . . . but it wasn't a permanent halt.

He'd be back . . . at Mutter's Ridge, Khe Sanh, Hill 881 and Meade River. Marines would hear more of Nguyen of the North.—BARTLETT



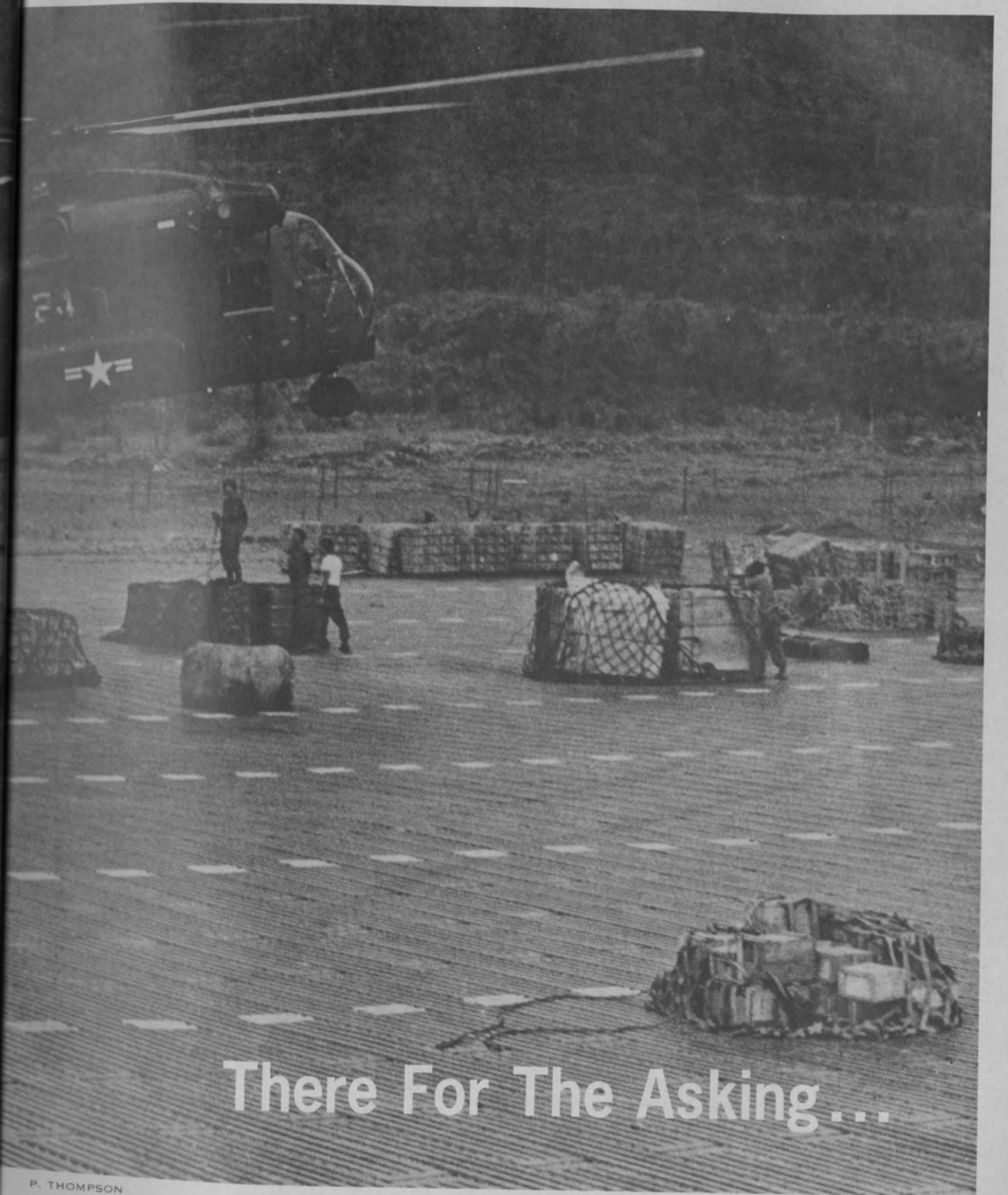
The huge white star of North Vietnam waves next to the Ben Hai River Bridge, separating North and South Vietnam. The bridge is located in the Demilitarized Zone, and, in accordance with the Geneva Convention, it is neutral. However, Nguyen of the North Vietnamese Army infiltrated through the DMZ and into the Republic of Vietnam. His route varied. Inland, the Ho Chi Minh Trail was the most direct route, but the North Vietnamese soldiers also came by sea in fishing boats.



J. ELLIOTT

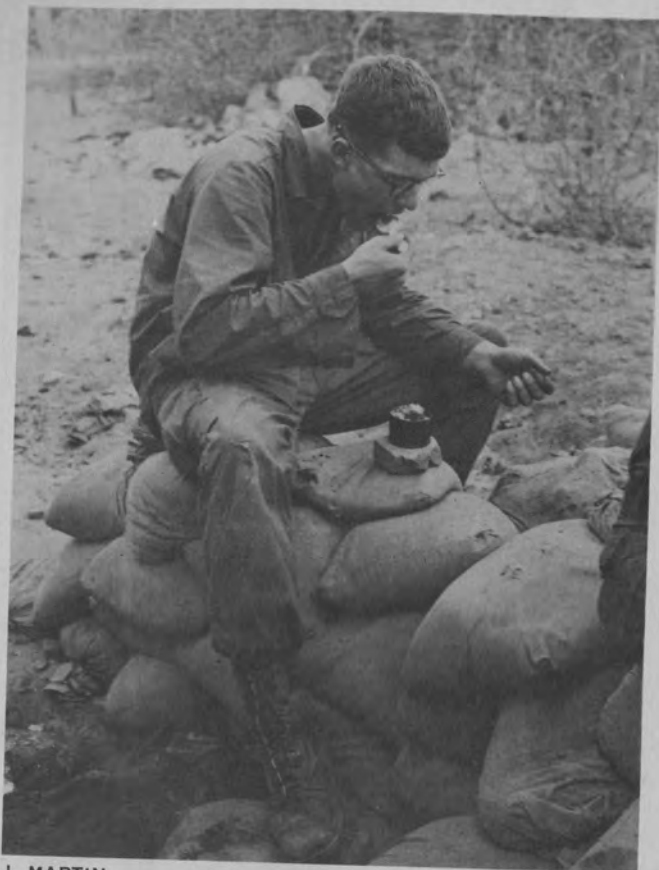


T. BARTLETT



There For The Asking...

P. THOMPSON



J. MARTIN



S. STIBBENS

## There For The Asking . . .

They did so much with so little for so many, and they did it so often that they accepted and accomplished the near impossible as commonplace.

If that sounds like a lot of nonsensical double talk then you haven't called upon the Force Logistic Command. It had a different title during earlier years, but the goals and missions remained.

The original Force Logistic Support Group landed with the Third Marine Division in 1965. It was built around the Division's Service Battalion with additional strength provided by the Third Force Service Regiment on Okinawa.

When the First Marine Division joined the III Marine Amphibious Force in 1966, the First Force Service Regiment landed also.

The two Force Service Regiments then merged into the Force Logistic Command, or FLC. The headquarters, and the beginning of FLC's supply pipeline was established just north of Da Nang at Red Beach, site of the first Marine landing in Vietnam.

Two subordinate FLSGs were maintained, dubbed "Alpha" and "Bravo."

FLSG "Alpha" was divided between Da Nang and Phu Bai, and "Bravo" split between Dong Ha and



T. BARTLETT

Quang Tri, near the DMZ.

Smaller units were established as needed and came under the heading of Logistic Support Areas. Force Logistic Support Units (FLSUs) were opened and closed as needed.

FLC was continually tested and tried, but they always managed to come through. The 1968 Tet Offensive, heavy monsoon rains and the mobility concept of the Marines challenged FLC's performance, but the challenge was met and logistical support provided.

Fresh bread, hot doughnuts and recombined milk were flown from Da Nang to remote outposts as well as "priority" supplies. Bullets, beans and bandages is a tired cliché generally applied to FLC's efforts and it sounds trite. But, how else can their job be described?

For a fighting outfit, the three "Bs" are as important as the three "Rs" in grammar school . . . more so, inasmuch as the three "Bs" determine the success or failure of a mission and the life or death of a unit.

Marines in Vietnam were better fed, better clothed and better supplied than any other combat force ever fielded by the U. S. Marine Corps.

In addition to pallets of provisions, FLC contributed in a variety of ways to Marine units. Mobile vans went to the field, fixing typewriters, mortars, tanks and amtracs. It seemed that when no one knew quite what to do with something, the logical solution was to call FLC.

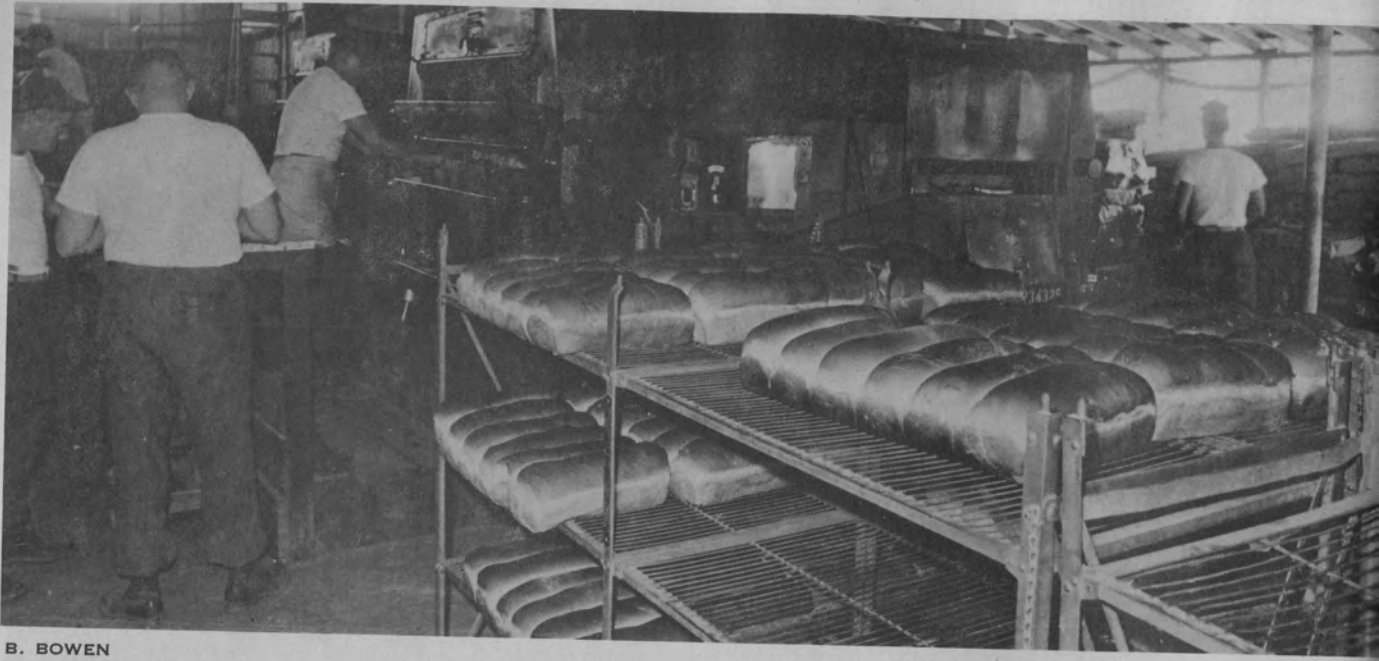
Sooner or later, Marines will leave Vietnam, taking the bulk of their supplies and equipment with them. In time, many South Vietnamese will forget various Marine accomplishments.

They won't soon forget FLC, where the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital was established as sort of a lasting monument. It's right inside the FLC gate.

Constructed primarily with money donated by the Marines, Seabees and Navy men stationed at Red Beach, the hospital is modern, air conditioned and well-staffed. During the early years, Navy doctors and corpsmen instructed Vietnamese nurses. In time, qualified Vietnamese will treat their own.

No one asks if the child entering the hospital is from a family loyal to the Republic of Vietnam or if his parents are Viet Cong sympathizers.

Assistance for the child, as resupply for the Marines, is provided by FLC, and the help is . . . simply . . . there for the asking.—BARTLETT



B. BOWEN

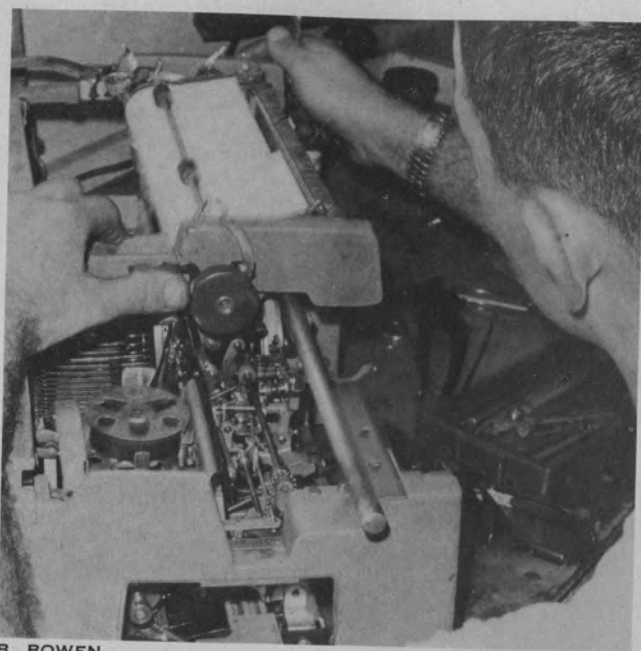


B. BOWEN

Not all Marines in Vietnam were combatants. Supplymen and repairmen worked without regard to time or holidays, retaining the readiness of front line Marines. Whether sewing jungle utilities, preparing bread for endless tomorrows or adjusting the backspace lever on a typewriter, Force Logistic Command Marines contributed to the success of the Marine mission in Vietnam. Not all assignments fulfilled combat requirements. Some FLC Marines provided luxuries such as fresh fruits, doughnuts or dry socks. And in another FLC section, air conditioners maintained a comfort designed especially for the 360 computer. War may be hell for combatants, but it's quite comfortable for some machinery!



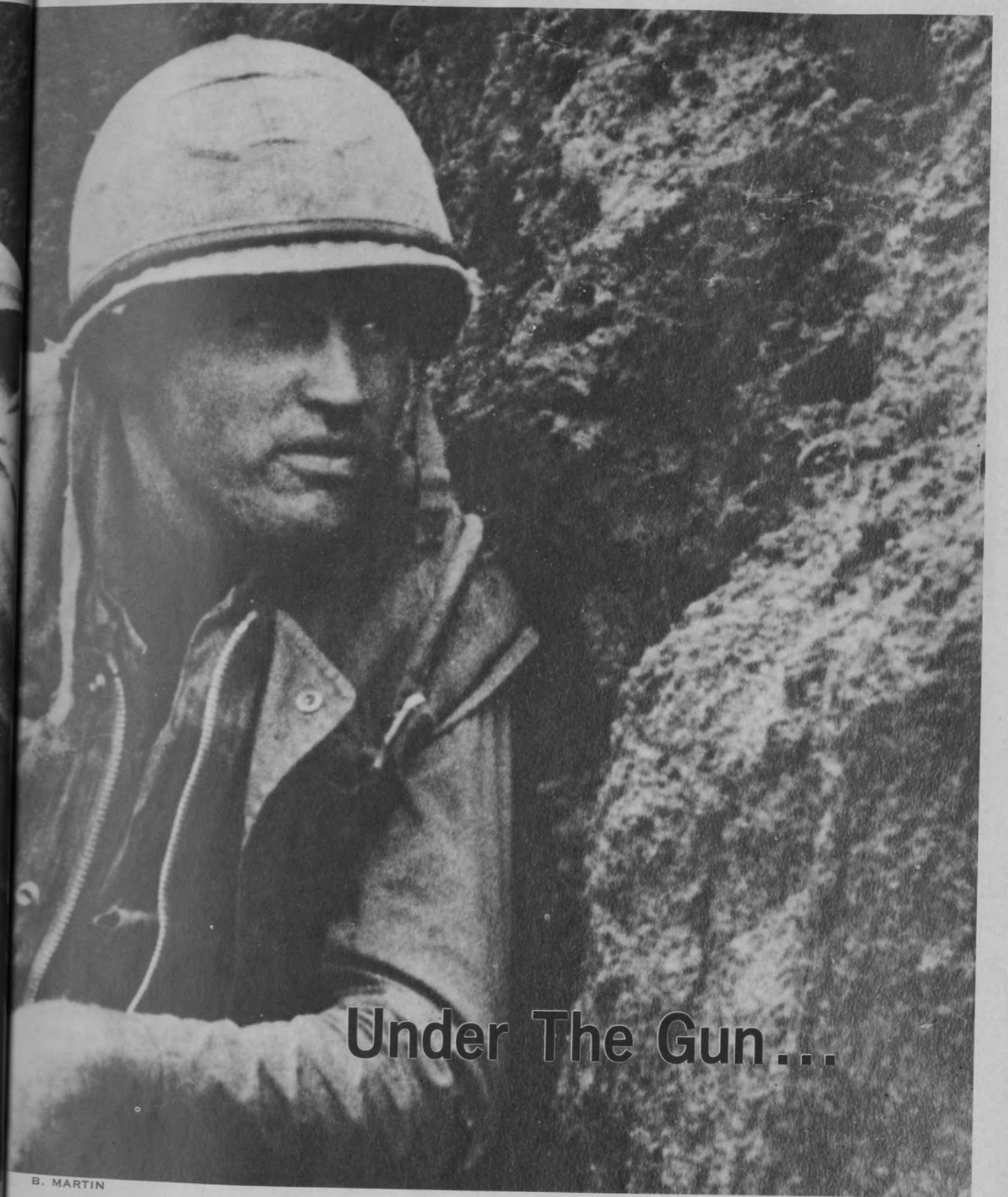
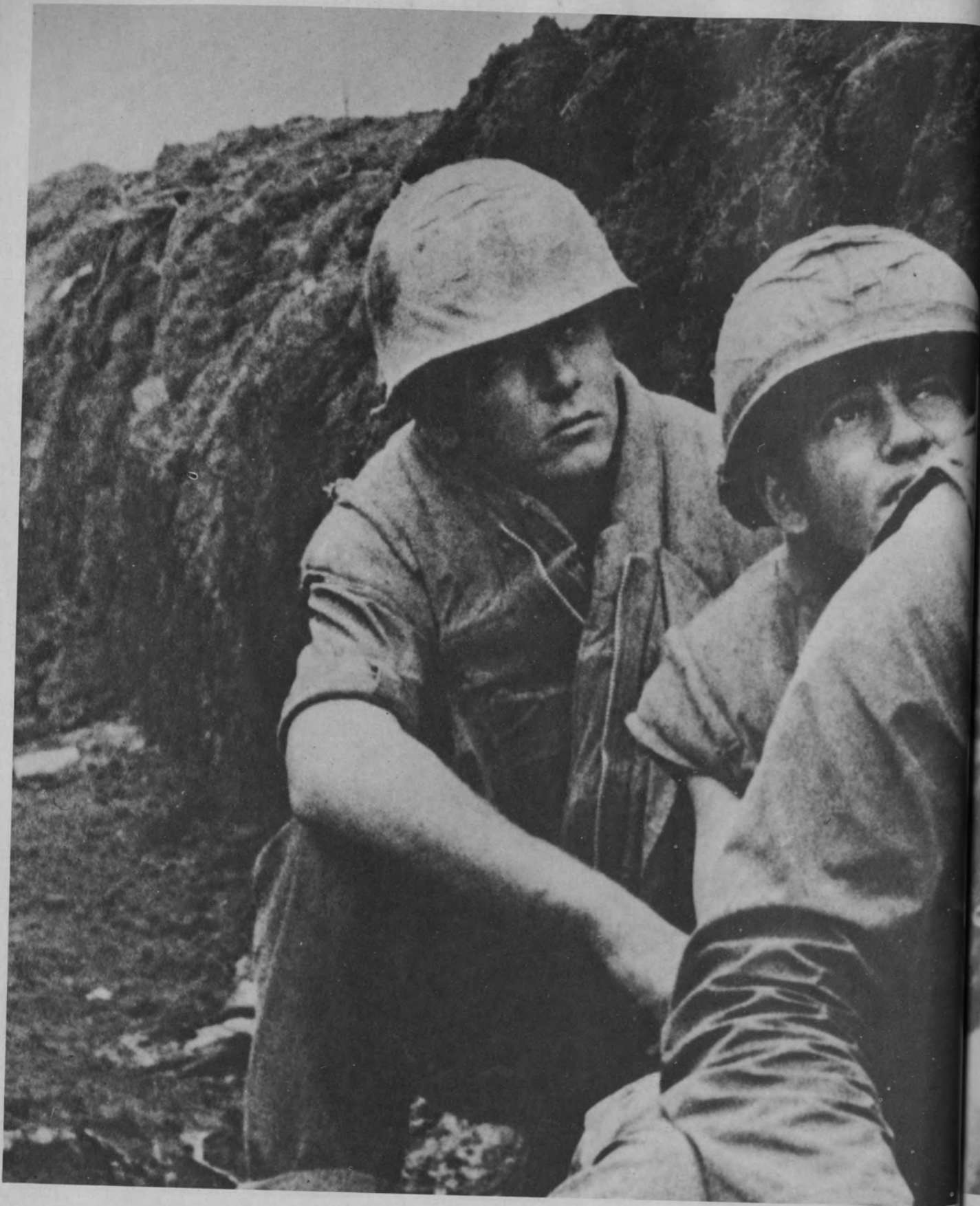
B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN

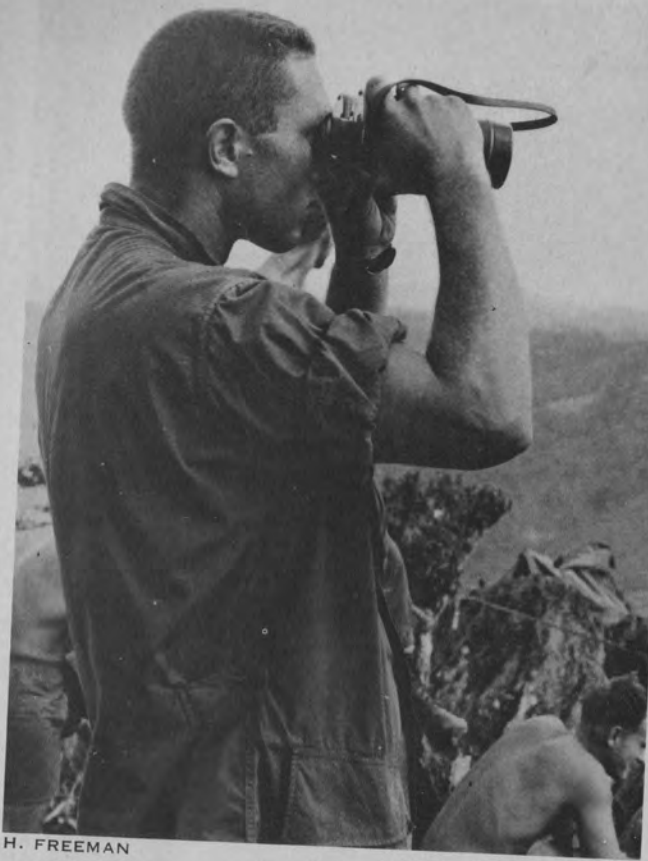


B. BOWEN



Under The Gun...

B. MARTIN



H. FREEMAN

## Under The Gun . . .



J. MARTIN

A faint noise in the distance—like the soft “pop” of a champagne cork—and men scattered wildly. They dove, scrambled and attempted to squeeze their entire beings into their helmets. It was time to make yourself scarce.

From the time the warning “pop” was heard, (and it was heard often) there were four or five seconds to disappear; to hide. You hide and the white-hot shrapnel seeks.

That’s what it was all about below Vietnam’s Demilitarized Zone. The enemy did his thing, and you did yours. He shot and you hid, hoping . . . praying, that he’d miss.

It wasn’t a life as such. It was an existence. It wasn’t always that way; it just seemed like it was.

According to the 1954 Geneva Accords, the strip of land on each side of the Ben Hai River (separating North and South Vietnam) and running the entire 38-mile width of the country would be demilitarized. No military activity was to be permitted in the DMZ.

The partition appeared good on paper, but constant violations by the North changed all that. The DMZ was used by the NVA as a staging area. From this neutral haven, thousands of artillery rounds



P. THOMPSON

were to be fired on Marine outposts at Con Thien, Gio Linh, Dong Ha and Cua Viet.

Marines moved into the area below the DMZ during "Operation Hastings" in mid-1966. They quickly established static positions at Khe Sanh, Dong Ha, Camp Carroll, Con Thien and Gio Linh.

When the Marines were reasonably settled, the NVA elevated their gun barrels and "greeted" the Americans with a shower of hot steel. NVA units gathered within the comparative safety of the DMZ and then mounted attacks against Marine outposts.

During September 1967, the NVA began a continuous pounding on Con Thien. An average of 500 artillery rounds were fired daily into the small hill-top. Marines held; they also beat off several mass ground assaults.

When the communists learned they couldn't penetrate Marine defenses at Con Thien, they swiveled their guns and hit Khe Sanh. For 77 days, NVA gunners surrounded and pounded. It was called a "siege." (On February 23, enemy guns in Laos fired 1307 artillery rounds into Khe Sanh.)

Some said it was to be another Dien Bien Phu. The Marines held, and the "siege" lifted on April 7, 1968. Marine casualties had been light.

The Marines were fed up. They had lived under the gun long enough. They began to move . . . move fast, and they struck hard. The mobility concept was set in motion.

Helicopters hovered atop craggy mountain crests and the Marines charged to meet the enemy. Instead of Marines humping up mountains, the whirlybirds set them down on top, and the Marines chased the NVA, gaining momentum from the slopes of the hills.

During "Operation Dewey Canyon," the Ninth Marines captured six Russian-made 122mm artillery pieces along with tons of ammunition and NVA supplies.

Terrain was no longer an obstacle. The Marine mobility posture caught the enemy unaware and kept him on the move. Once landed on a mountain-top, an LZ was established and Marine choppers ferried in artillery support.

It was Nguyen's turn in the barrel, but Marines knew it wasn't over . . . not yet.

Located so close to North Vietnam, the entire NVA army, mortars, rockets and artillery are poised on the other side of the DMZ. Marines are still under the gun.—WOLF

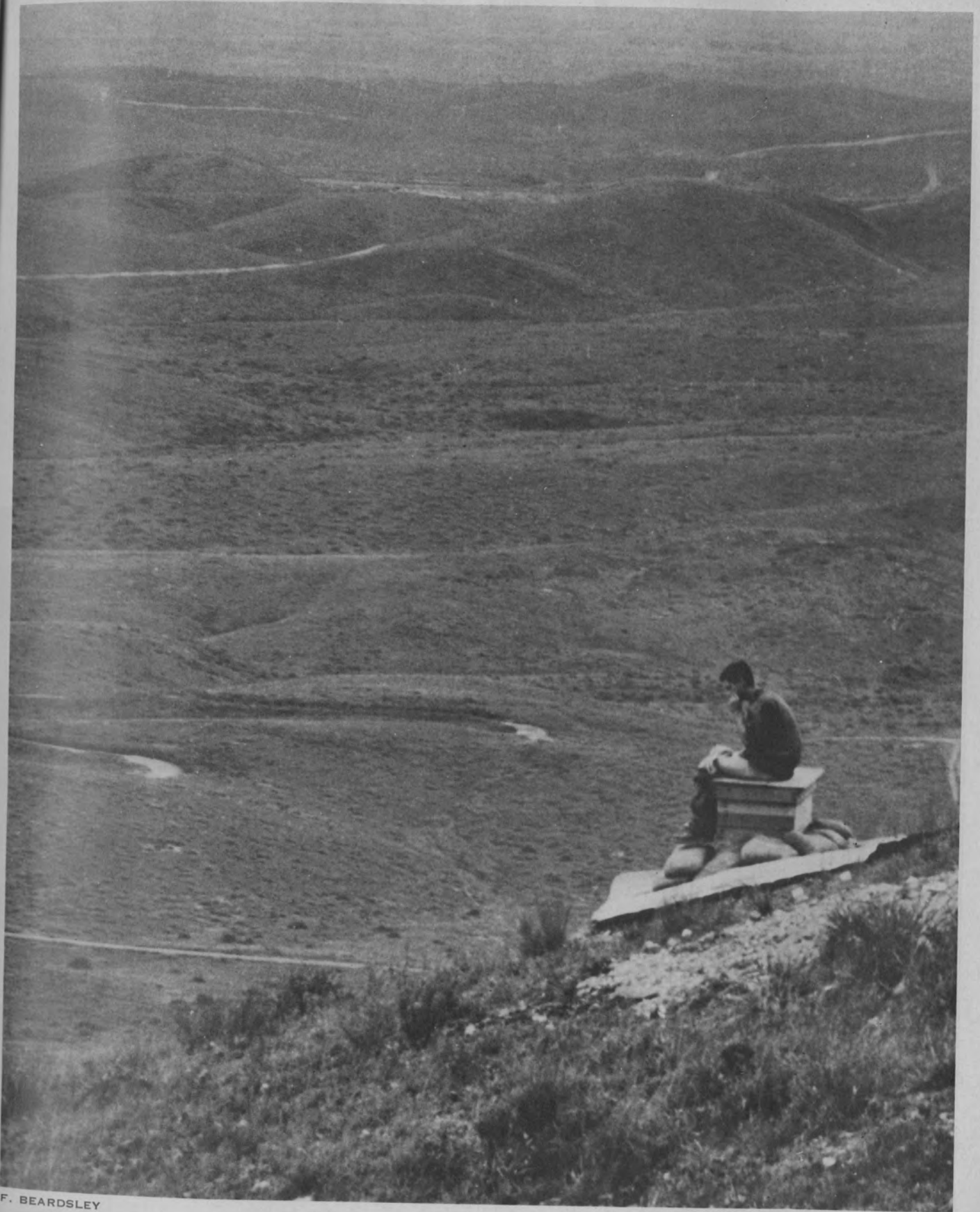


J. MARTIN



J. MARTIN

Some of Vietnam's heaviest fighting took place near the Demilitarized Zone. Operation Hastings, Khe Sanh, and hills designated by numbers or names came to the attention of folks back home via headlines, radio bulletins or TV specials. Near the DMZ, Marines met the trained, well-supplied NVA. Fighting with his back to his homeland, reinforced with artillery and mortars, the enemy proved vicious but not indestructible. They were beaten by air support, armored vehicles, artillery and the lowly individual Marine grunt. High in the mountains of the northern provinces, a Marine could look down from his "throne" and appreciate the beauty during a lull in the battle.



F. BEARDSLEY



B. MARTIN

When word was passed to halt and set up a defense, Marines shrugged off their packs, placed their weapons nearby and immediately began digging in. When Nguyen's guns opened up from the DMZ, Marines caught in the open were targets for shrapnel and hurtling rocks. Others, transported to mountain observation posts by helicopter, maintained a constant vigil on the Ho Chi Minh trail or other routes of infiltration. Even at night, aided by infrared telescopes such as the "Starlight" scope, Marines could observe known enemy routes of march, reporting movement to Marine artillery batteries which bombarded the infiltrators. And as the Marines moved and neutralized, they modernized.

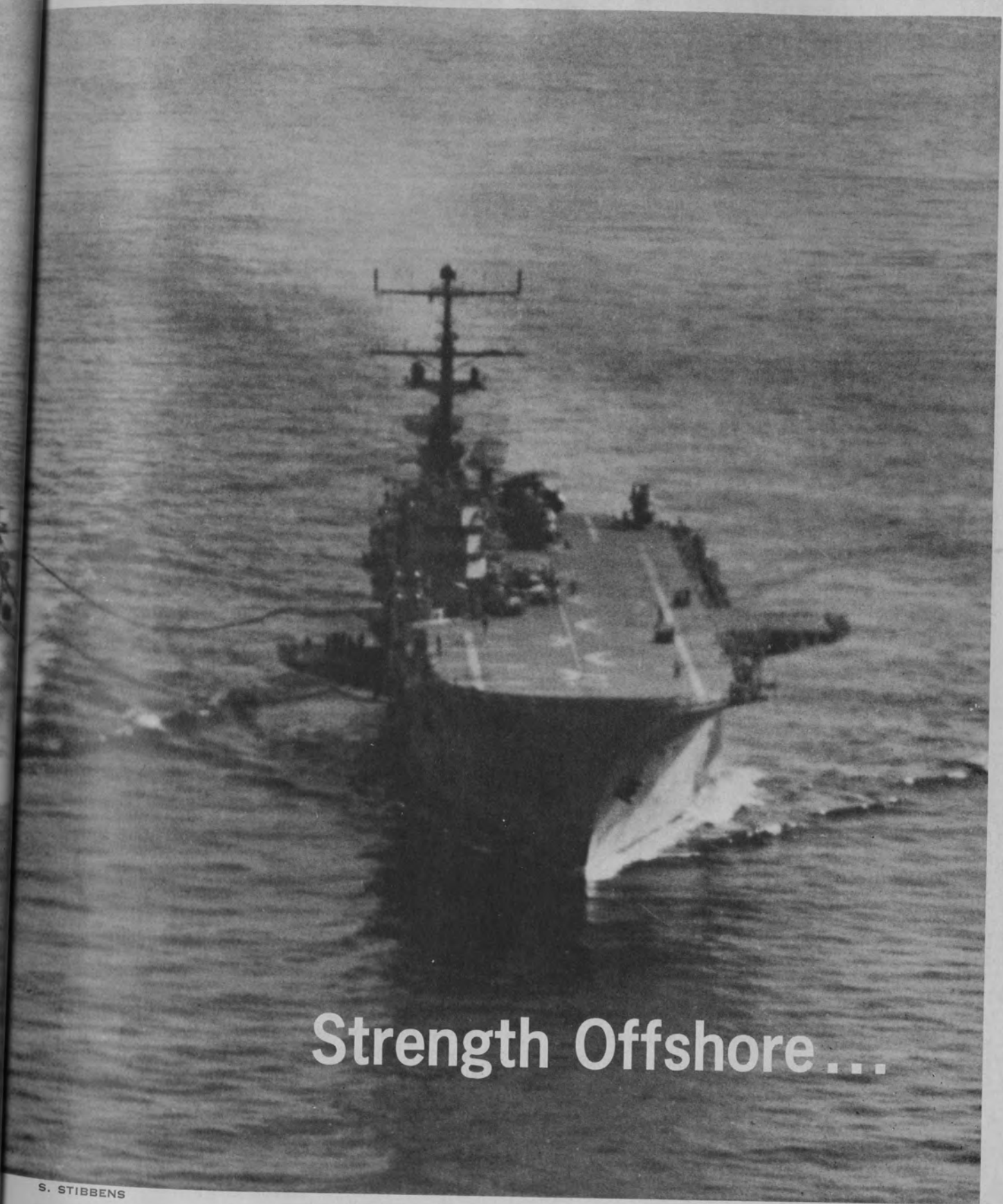


J. MARTIN



H. FREEMAN





Strength Offshore ...



B. BOWEN

## Strength Offshore . . .



S. STIBBENS

There are many unsung heroes of Vietnam. They play it cool, doing their job and more. When the action is over, they split, preferring peace and quiet rather than praise, newsprint and flash bulbs.

The Special Landing Force (SLF) is like that. They hustle and hump, and when the action is over, some other unit receives the bulk of the credit.

An integral part of the III Marine Amphibious Force, the SLF operates from ships of the Navy's Seventh Fleet. Their participation meets specific needs, either amphibious or heli-assault.

An SLF consists of a Marine battalion landing team, (BLT) and a Marine medium helicopter squadron (HMM) embarked on ships of an amphibious ready group offshore. The SLF works independently or in support of other Marine units engaged inland.

The "hammer and anvil" method is an SLF perfected maneuver in which the SLF engages and drives an enemy force towards other Marines, repositioned and acting as a "blocking force" or anvil.

During "Operation Starlight" in August, 1965, BLT 3/7 took an active role in the first regimentalized battle since Korea. They engaged the First Viet Cong Regiment, as did other Marine ground and aviation units, resulting in 964 VC killed.



B. BOWEN

The following month, RLT-7 participated in "Piranha," and though the results weren't as spectacular, remnants of the 1st VC Regiment were again clobbered. The SLF accounted for 183 VC killed; 66 in a single cave!

The SLF is mobile. In July 1966, the SLF (3/5) joined Task Force Delta near the Demilitarized Zone during "Operation Hastings" against fresh NVA troops.

As "Hastings" and "Operation Prairie" continued, 1/26 (a reactivated unit of the Fifth Marine Division) with HMM-363 became the SLF and "Deck House IV" began north of Dong Ha. NVA crossing the DMZ were hurt . . . bad.

In January, 1967, the Seventh Fleet landed the SLF (BLT 1/9 with HMM-362) south of Saigon between two lips of the Mekong. This was "Deck House V" and the first use of American troops in the Mekong Delta.

During 1967, the SLF made a total of 23 landings, accounting for more than 2130 enemy dead.

During the battle of Khe Sanh, SLF-"Bravo" (BLT 2/3 with HMM-164) landed to relieve the pressure, and they were soon engaged in some stiff fighting for Hills 881 North and South.

When the Ninth Marines moved into the DMZ during "Operation Hickory," SLF-"Alpha" (1/3) and the First ARVN Division were in support. Later, SLF-"Bravo" joined the operation.

In 1968, the SLF participated in 13 amphibious operations, including "Kentucky," "Lancaster" and the highly successful "Napoleon/Saline." The figure (13 landings) is misleading; operations during 1968 lasted longer and the results, more successful.

Later, near Da Nang, the SLF was involved in the "Operation Meade River" cordon. They also participated in "Daring Endeavor" and "Valiant Hunt" in the Hoi An area.

From the DMZ to Khe Sanh; from Dong Ha to Da Nang, to Hoi An, to the Mekong Delta. The SLF is flexible and highly mobile.

The Republic of Vietnam recognized the success of tactics employed by Marines of the SLF. They awarded 71 Armed Forces Meritorious Unit Citations, Gallantry Cross, to the BLTs designated and participating in specific operations.

It's a good feeling, gazing toward the sea and spotting a part of the Seventh Fleet, knowing there's strength offshore!—BARTLETT

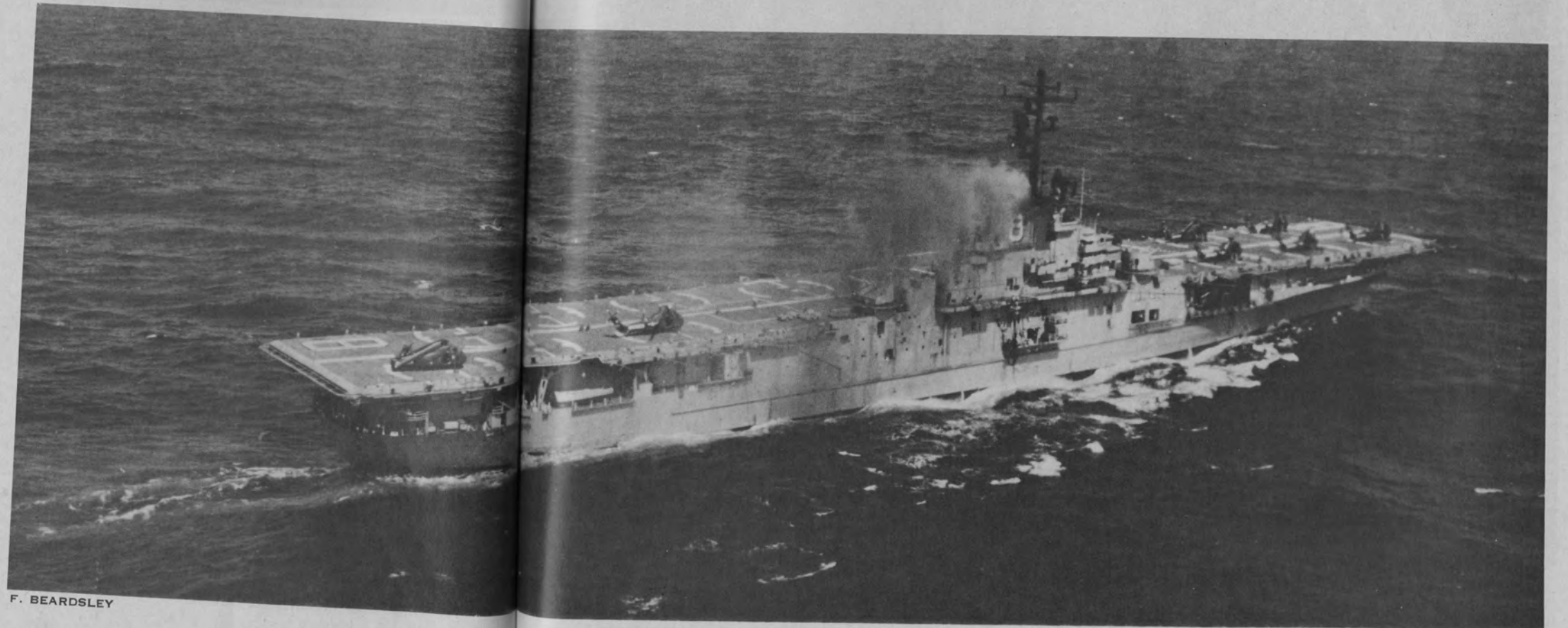


B. BOWEN

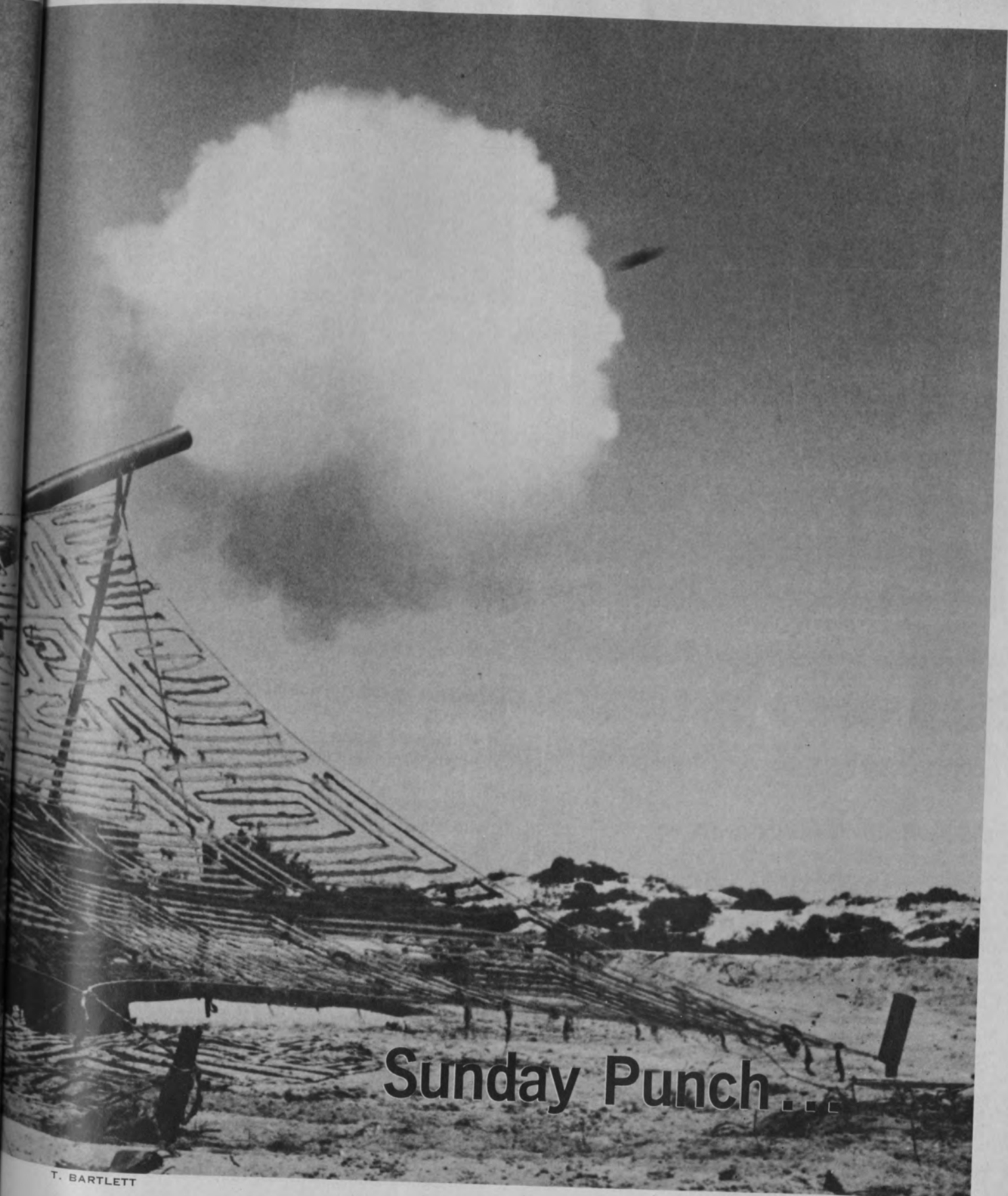
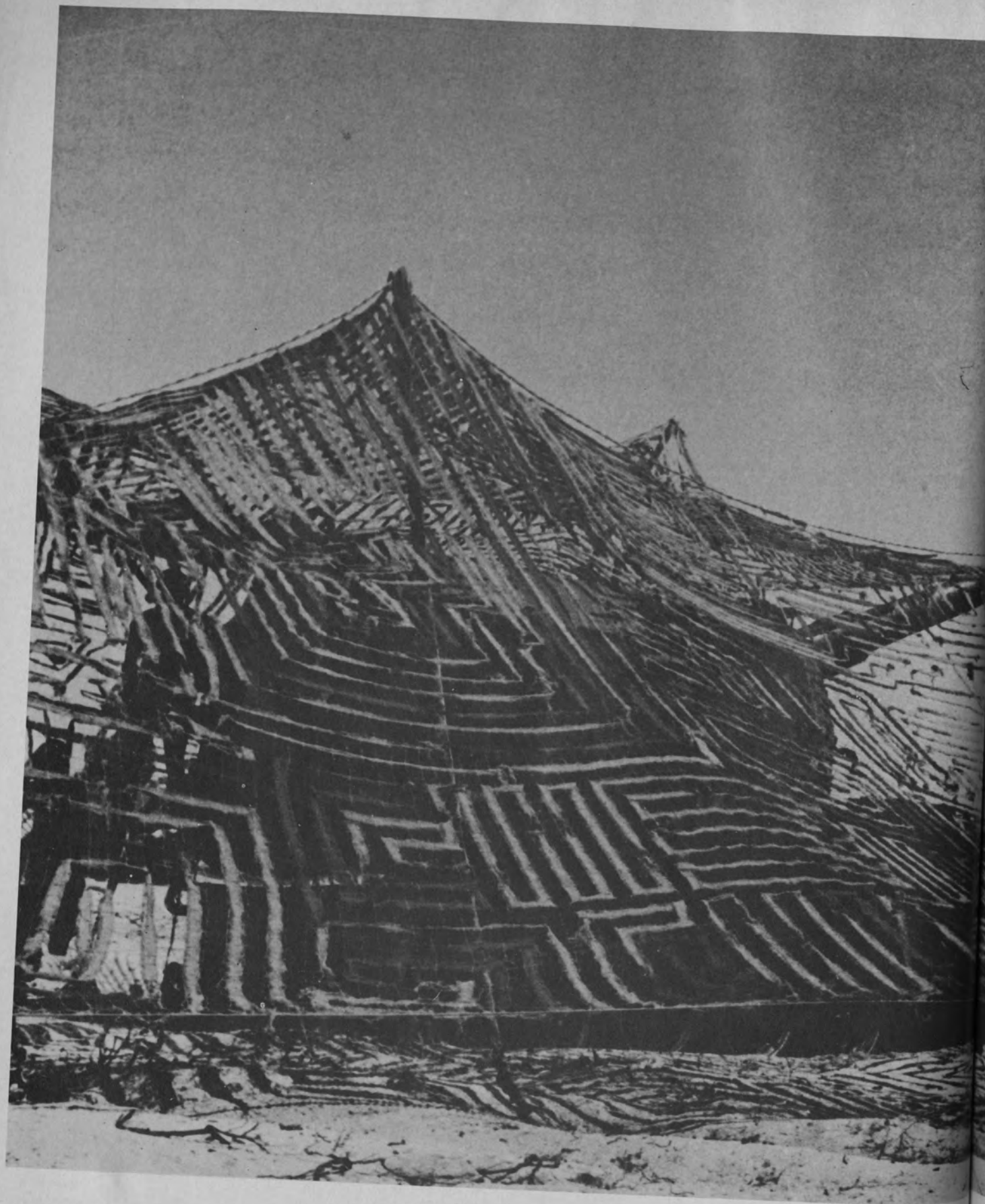
The Navy is responsible for providing chaplains, doctors and corpsmen to Marine Corps units. Additionally, ships of the Navy have provided air support and naval gunfire. Ships, from tiny patrol boats up to the battleship *Missouri*, pointed their turrets shoreward and answered grunt requests for supporting fire. Cushioned by the South China Sea, American Navy vessels pounded enemy positions and troop concentrations many miles inland. Marines of the Special Landing Force, consisting of a grunt company and a squadron of Marine choppers, have roamed the sea aboard Navy Landing Platform Helicopter ships. The SLF was housed in the bowels of the ship until ordered to assault ashore. Other Marines of the Amphibious Ready Group landed from the sea in "Mike" boats or amtracs.



S. STIBBENS



F. BEARDSLEY



Sunday Punch...

T. BARTLETT



J. MARTIN

## Sunday Punch . . .



S. STIBBENS

"A Marine's concept of a perfect battle is to have other Marines on the right and left flanks, Marine aircraft overhead and Marine artillery and naval gunfire backing them up."—Ernie Pyle—

Marine air support was explained in the chapter headed, "The Sky Is Ours." What remains is the story of guns; little guns, medium-sized guns and those bodaciously barrelled boomers which project projectiles thousands of meters away with devastating results.

Even if the shrapnel doesn't kill, the concussion will, and if *that* doesn't, the enemy will probably die of fright from the noise!

Supporting Marine grunts is a collection of small weapons, such as the 60mm and 80mm mortar, the 4.2 howtar (mortar) and the 3.5 rocket launcher.

Within a squad, the M79 grenade launcher may be considered a supporting arm, but then, within a squad, under strained circumstances, a hand grenade or a rock may be considered "supporting arms," depending on the situation.

Terrain in Vietnam limited the use of armored columns, but the guns on armored vehicles lent a definite advantage to Marines. Amtracs carried machine guns. Some amtracs, (1st Amored Amphibian



F. BEARDSLEY

Company) had turret-mounted 105mm howitzers.

Tanks sported 90mm cannons, and the Ontos, (Greek for "The Thing,") carried six 106 recoilless rifles. The Ontos was intended to be a tank destroyer. The enemy in Vietnam doesn't use tanks to any great extent, so Marines utilized the vehicle against entrenched enemy troops with satisfactory results.

The mobility concept developed by the Third Marine Division near the DMZ provided a speedy method of providing artillery support to Marines. Once an area was cleared, a hasty landing zone was blasted out, and helicopters ferried 105 or 155mm howitzers to the hilltop. (Approximate effective range of a 155mm howitzer is 2300 meters.)

The 1st Marine 8-inch Howitzer Battery knocked out 19 NVA artillery pieces and damaged another 25 enemy guns during August 1968. The enemy was firing from the Demilitarized Zone against Marine fire bases.

The approximate range of the 8-inch gun is 4200 meters.

Big Mama of Marine artillery is the 175mm gun which weighs 62,100 pounds. It can hurl a projectile 11,500 meters!



P. THOMPSON

Marines set up a HAWK missile battery south of Da Nang. HAWK is "Homing All the Way Killer," a 1295-pound missile, 16-and-a-half feet long, with a four-foot wing span which flies at supersonic speeds and carries a radar-tracking brain and explosive warhead.

They were waiting for enemy aircraft . . . which never came south. . . .

Marine support isn't necessarily ground bound; help also comes from the sea. Long-range naval guns on cruisers and destroyers are on call for troop support up and down the coast.

The Navy may provide rockets or projectiles with ranges varying from 2300 meters up to 23,000 meters and the missile may contain white phosphorous, high explosives or illumination.

Then there was the USS *New Jersey*, with its nine 16-inch rifles and twenty 5-inch guns. The 16-inch rifles, with a range of 24 miles, covered Marines all the way inland to Camp Carroll.

Marines on the ground engaged in combat aren't alone. Quite often, there are batteries of other Marines sighting down their barrels, readying a heavy dosage of artillery; waiting to throw their Sunday punch!—BARTLETT

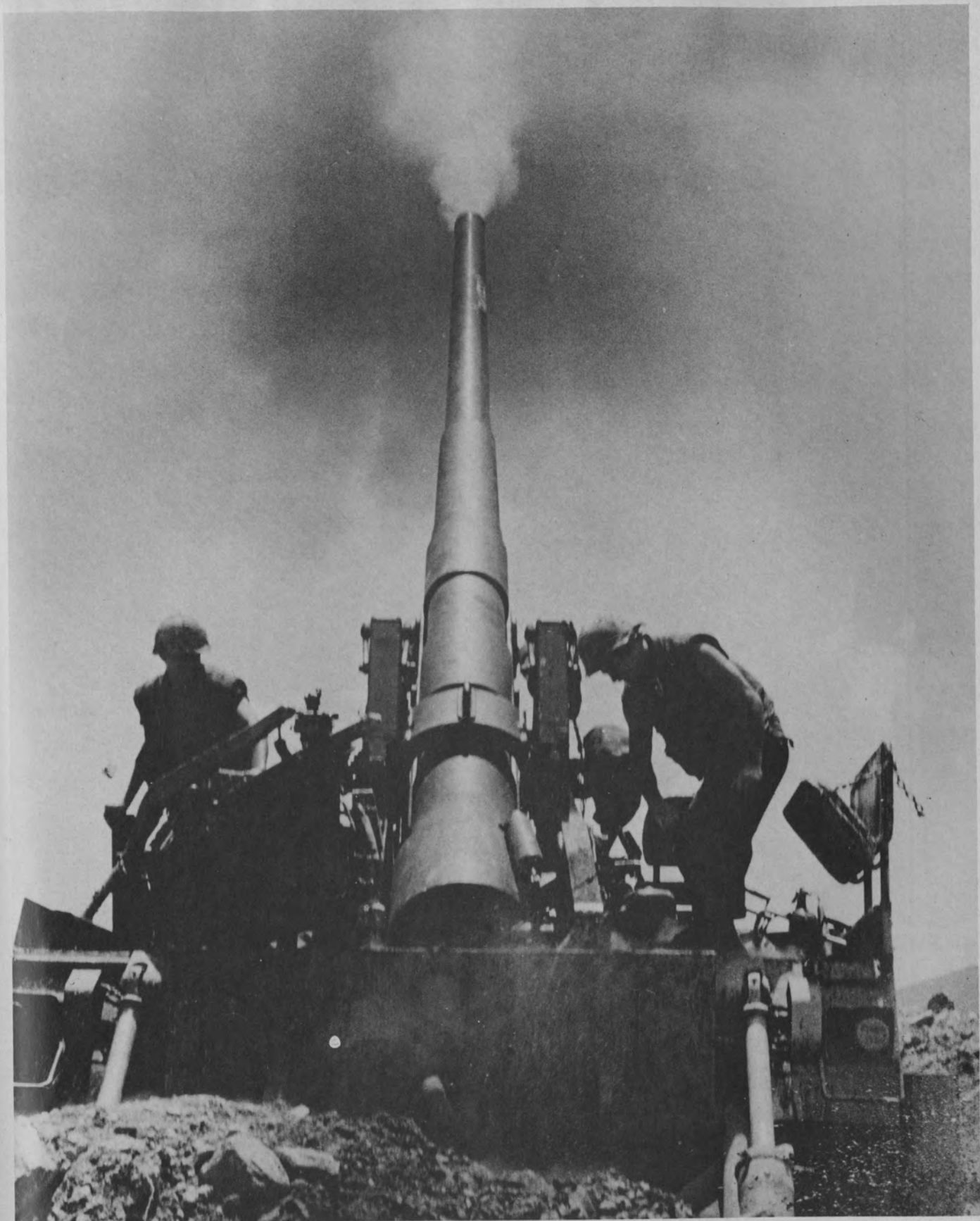


B. BOWEN



T. BARTLETT

The enemy was learning. If Marines could see him, they could hit him. Sometimes, though he couldn't be seen, he was clobbered anyway, due to seismic detection devices. Marine artillery was a major implement in the mobility concept, especially around the Demilitarized Zone. Transport helicopters ferried howitzers externally to tiny mountain clearings where Marine grunts maintained a constant vigil on neighboring areas. Marine recon patrols, skirting canopied jungle lanes or dense grassy areas, often made visual contact with enemy units, then radioed a fire support base. Clearance was made for the fire mission, and crews and guns stood ready for the call, "FIRE!" A lanyard was pulled and the artillery piece belched, sending its projectile to targets thousands of meters away with amazing accuracy. The 175-mm. gun fires a 147-pound shell more than 20 miles!



J. ELLIOTT



Just Plain Doc...



B. BOWEN

## Just Plain Doc . . .



T. BARTLETT

A man is cited for valor—a corpsman. Nearly 18,000 corpsmen have served in Vietnam; many risked their lives in battle. Three have received the Medal of Honor; two posthumously.

To each Marine unit, from fire team to battalion, the courage of the Navy corpsman has become an accepted fact. The deeds of corpsmen like HM3 Wayne M. Caron, who won the Medal of Honor in his valiant efforts to save the lives of five wounded Marines at the cost of his own life, are typical.

The gauge of their skills is borne by each Marine once wounded who yet lives. More often than not it was the treatment given them in the field that prevented the loss of a leg, an arm, a life.

In the field, they work from the supplies they carry on their backs. There are no sterile operating rooms, no closets filled with extra supplies, and no assistants to take over should something happen to them. They're pretty much on their own.

Still, not all of their work is done during a fire fight—most is done during "rest" periods. When the fighting is over, medcaps begin. Entering villes and hamlets, Vietnamese patients line makeshift dispensaries with ailments ranging from infections to lacerations, some to be treated on the spot, others



F. BEARDSLEY

to be medevaced to nearby field hospitals for surgical repair or hospitalization.

With his bag of bandages, vitamins and penicillin, the corpsman has become one of the chief weapons in the war for Vietnamization. He often works with a village nurse, teaching her the skills that will preserve life after he's departed. He may be called upon to treat an ailing water buffalo or pig, and is expected to treat them as thoroughly as he does his Vietnamese patients.

As a corpsman, he spends much of his time in the field. But he'll also be pulling some hospital duty, either in rear-area hospitals, as the Naval Support Activity hospital in Da Nang, or aboard one of two hospital ships, *USS Repose* or *USS Sanctuary*.

Here he does have the germ-free conditions he was trained for, but only to a degree. The standards of cleanliness in Vietnam differ widely from those in the States. But, he does have supplies, ward-care, and the pressures of urgency are less.

Here, also, there is the aid of graduate doctors and nurses, experts in snatching life from death's door and returning it to the Marine who got hit on patrol, stepped on a mine, or was bitten by the malaria-bearing mosquito. So efficient has the

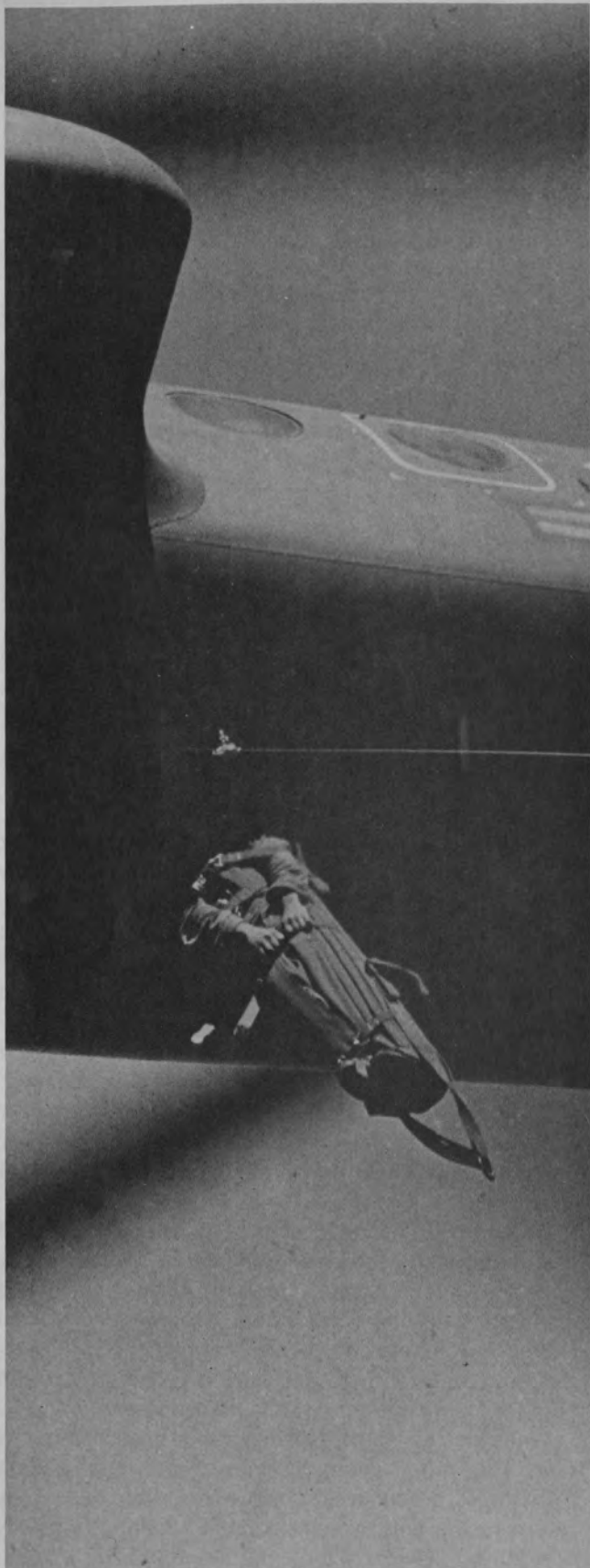
Navy team become that the mortality rate listed at 11.1 percent during World War I, dropped to a low of less than three percent in Vietnam.

Bimonthly MedCap teams travel to the Crescent Beach Orphanage and nearby Leprosarium. For medical teams the trip means vaccinations and treatment of infections. To the dental teams it usually means tooth extractions. Most cases are treated at the local site, with few patients being medevaced.

Once within the hospital grounds, the doctor again assumes his role as surgeon, internist or diagnostician. The role of the nurse becomes that of a supervisor.

Aboard the hospital ships, reported to be the best equipped hospitals available in Vietnam, the wounded Marines make use of such specialized equipment as decompression chambers, artificial kidney machines and heart monitors. There, too, they may be examined and issued eyeglasses within hours, or undergo the most complex dental surgery.

When not on patrol, sitting inside hootches in the rear, you might hear Marines swap name-calling with their corpsmen. It's all in fun. But once they return to the field, you'll hear them calling him only one thing . . . just plain "doc."—NOYES.

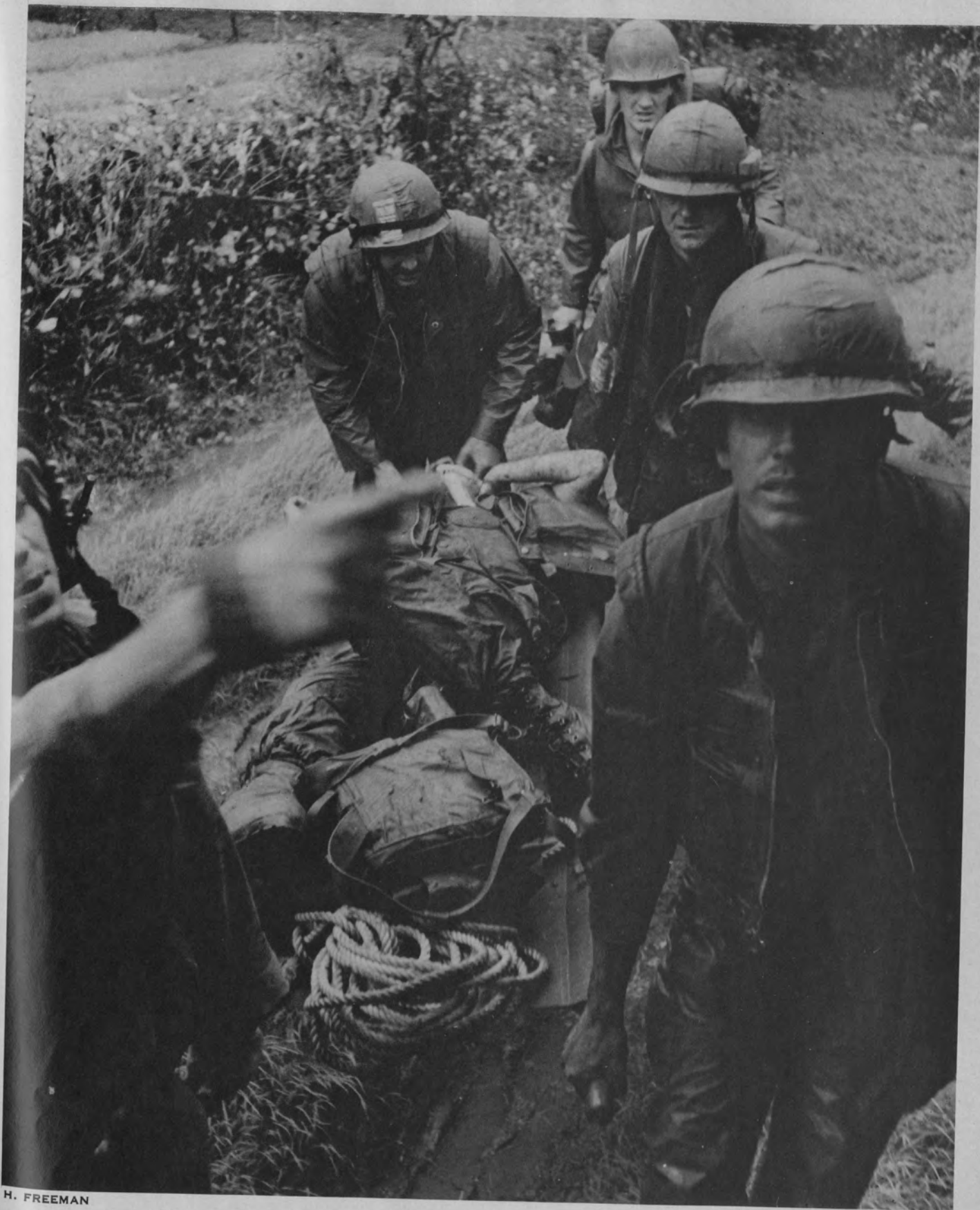


B. BOWEN

The knowledge and ability of the Navy corpsman, plus the versatility of the Marine helicopter, formed a life-saving partnership in the jungle, heat and paddy of Vietnam. A Navy corpsman was with each Marine unit; there was no place that a helicopter couldn't go. Wounded Marines were treated as the call for "medevac!" was being radioed back. Within minutes, the helicopter was en route. If dense jungle growth prohibited landings, the chopper dropped a Neil Robertson stretcher and the wounded were hydraulically lifted to the hovering aircraft. If a landing was possible, the corpsman stayed with the wounded man until he was safely and gently placed inside the chopper. The corpsman was Navy, but to the grunts in combat he was a welcome addition to their elite group!



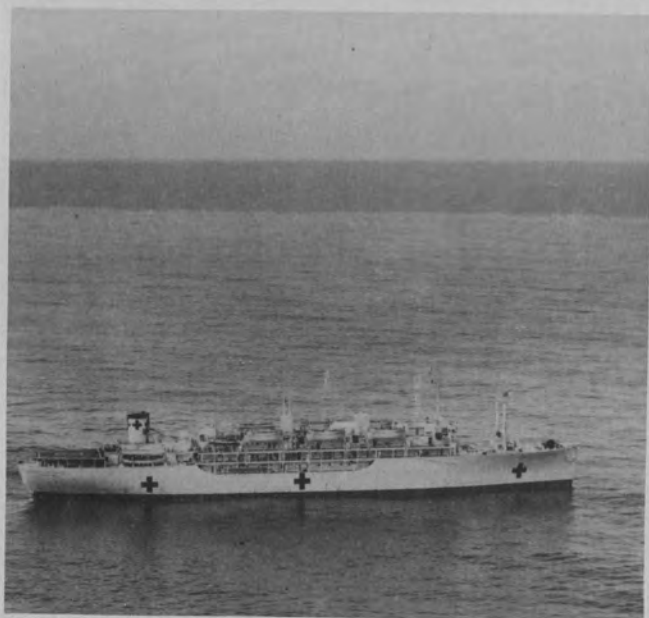
B. BOWEN



H. FREEMAN

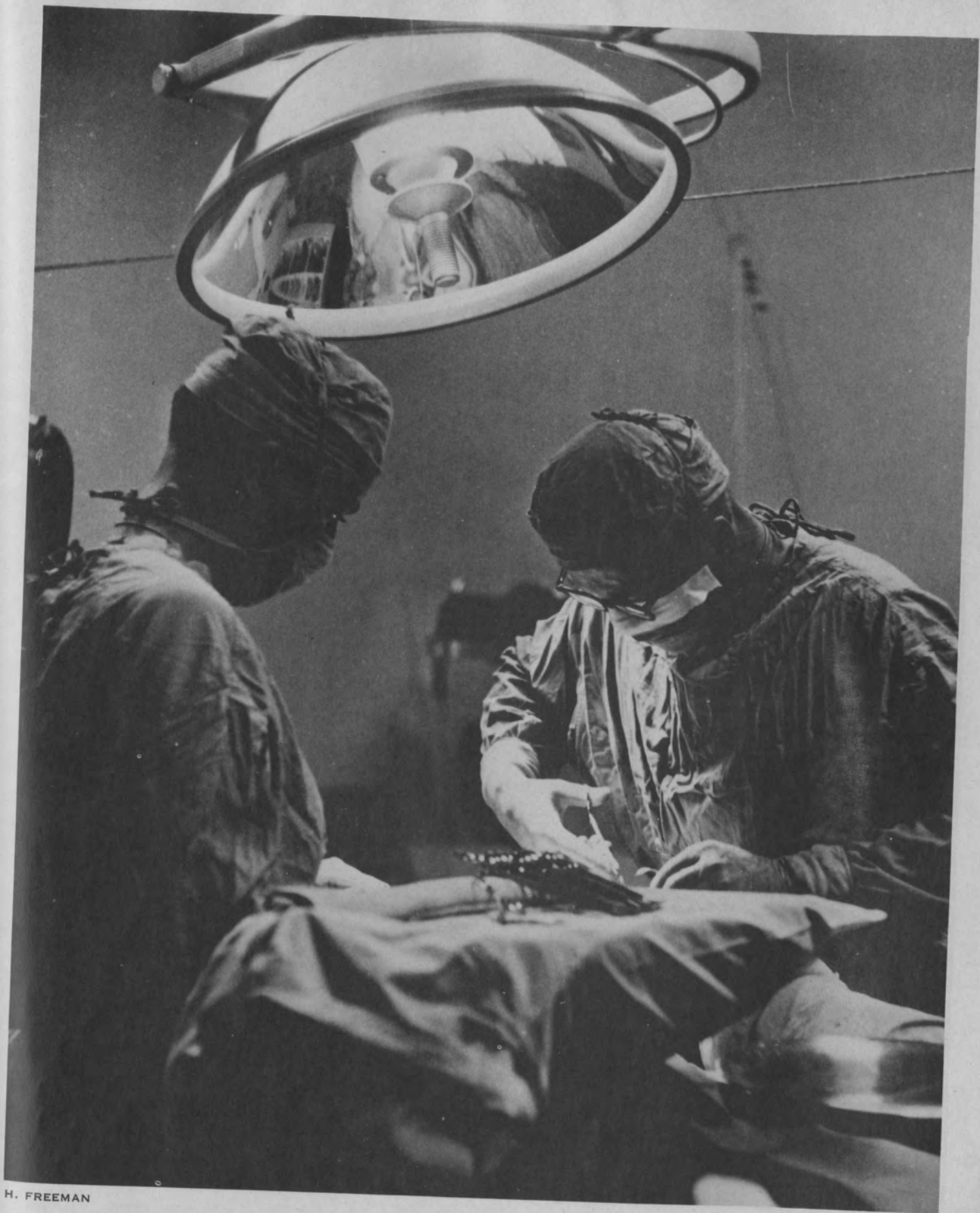


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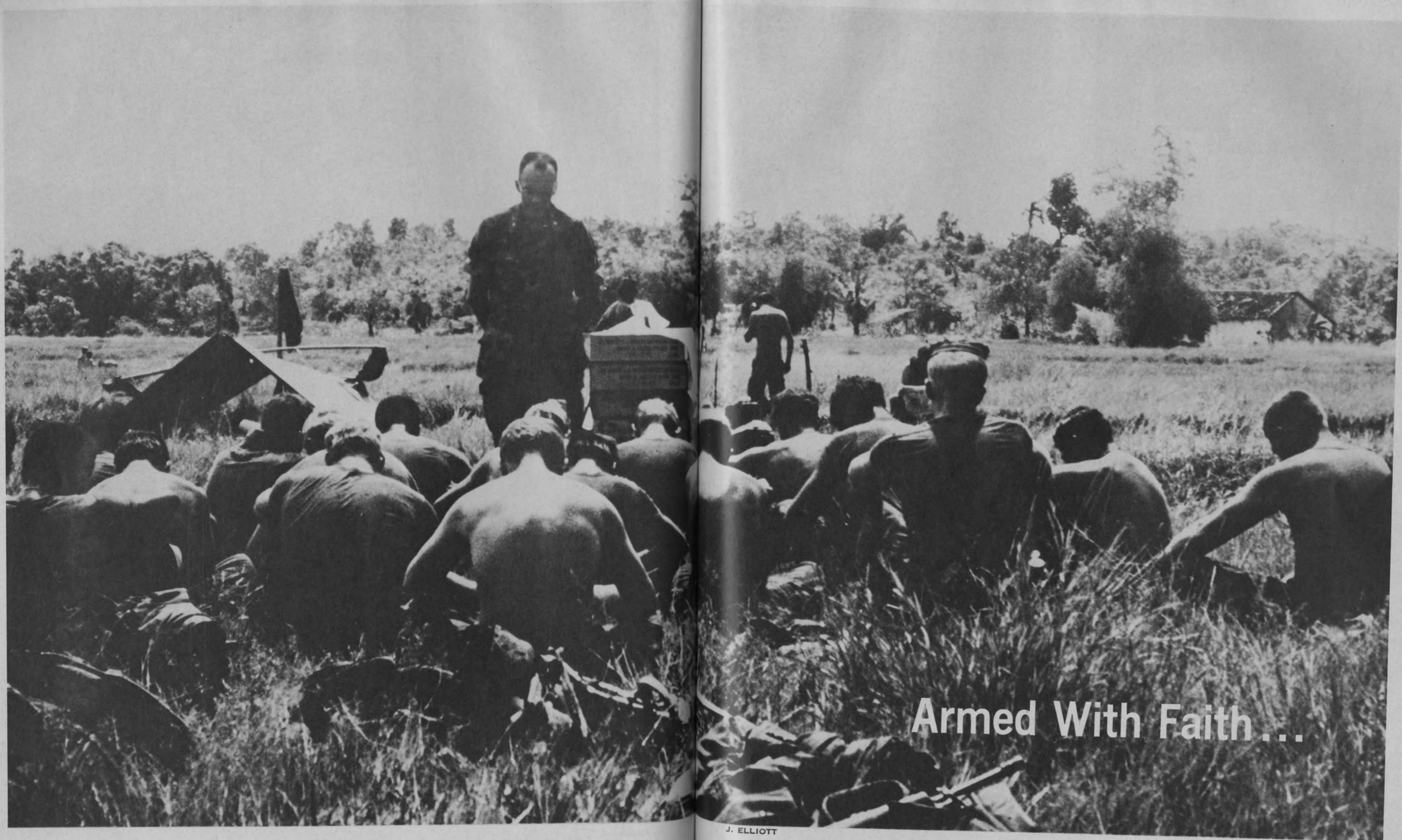


H. FREEMAN

Assignment to a Marine Corps organization might have shocked some Navy corpsmen who had joined to serve aboard ships, yet found themselves wallowing through Vietnam mud, paddy and clay. They wore the same uniform as the Marines they accompanied. During the hell of battle, it was the corpsman who got up when others went down, exposing himself to enemy fire to reach and treat the wounded. Marines are alive today because the corpsman acted without hesitation. He often held the key, balancing the Marine between life and death. He would (and often did) give the shirt off his own back. Meanwhile, offshore in the South China Sea, Navy doctors and corpsmen performed life- and limb-saving operations aboard American hospital ships.

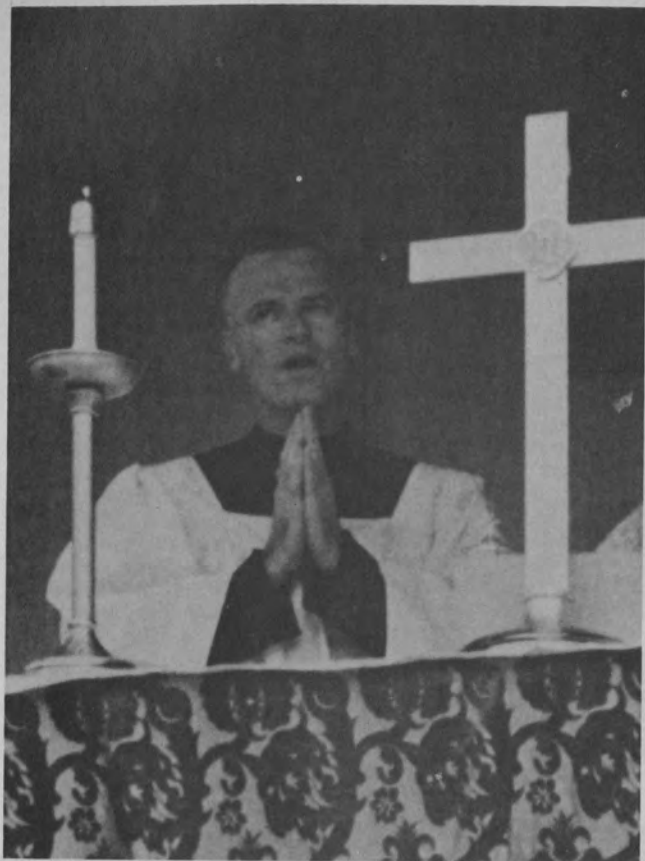


H. FREEMAN



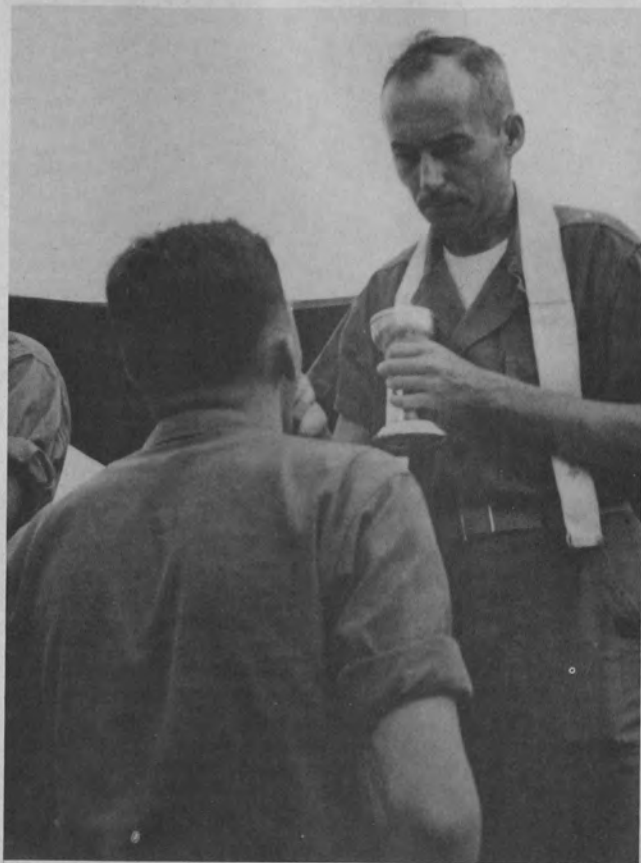
Armed With Faith ...

J. ELLIOTT



F. BEARDSLEY

## Armed With Faith . . .



F. BEARDSLEY

Faith is a belief, not an invisible shield.

Thirty-five Navy chaplains have received 38 Purple Hearts for service in Vietnam. Three have died in combat there.

Lt Vincent R. Capodanno was posthumously awarded our nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. Another Navy chaplain, Lt Raymond Johnson, was decorated four times, including the Silver Star, for heroism in Vietnam.

The mission of a chaplain is to satisfy the spiritual needs of American servicemen and women.

In addition to traditional divine services, the chaplain communicates through the use of small group discussions and seminars, dialogues, folk masses, modern liturgies and visual aids.

A chaplain conducts ministries in accordance with the practices of his church and the dictates of his conscience.

There are approximately 1050 chaplains presently serving. More than 650 served in Vietnam; an additional 200 were aboard Navy ships deployed to Southeast Asia.

He is many titles, including "sir," "padre," "father," "reverend" or "rabbi." He comes from 47 denominations, encompassing 94 percent of the



F. BEARDSLEY

total population in America.

The Navy's Chaplain Corps is as old as the Navy itself. The Continental Congress adopted the second article of Navy Regulations which provided for divine services aboard ships of the 13 colonies. That was on November 28, 1775.

John Paul Jones wrote to naval authorities in 1778 asking that chaplains be assigned to duty aboard the ships *Ranger* and *Bon Homme Richard*.

Seagoing chaplains did more than fulfill spiritual needs. They abolished flogging aboard ship and also initiated welfare and recreation programs.

But, that was many years ago . . .

In Vietnam, Marine pilots provided "Holy Helo Hops" to chaplains, enabling them to carry services to Marines at isolated outposts or to the midst of command posts during countless operations.

Chaplains slogged through mud; slogged through rice paddies; sliced through elephant grass or sweated through jungle. They dove for cover under fire, as did the others of the patrol; they went without water when resupply was late . . . throat slaked dry with the heat and dust.

He's enjoyed the lighter moments, as when finding a dry hootch in a monsoon rain, or discovering

a "lost" can of peaches during a long, tiresome sweep.

He's seen boys become men before his eyes. He's seen the living die and the wounded bleed. He's seen hatred, death, pain and agony. He's seen tears flowing unashamedly from the Marine tenderly carrying the lifeless body of a friend.

Often, he's shared the sorrow.

He's seen the smile of a grunt, sharing his rations with a young orphan; he's heard laughter in the 'ville during civic action programs.

In the summer of 1969, the dedication and involvement of Navy chaplains became even more pronounced when word was officially released that the Third Marine Division was returning to Okinawa. Of the 16 Navy chaplains eligible, 14 requested transfer to other III MAF units so they could remain in Vietnam.

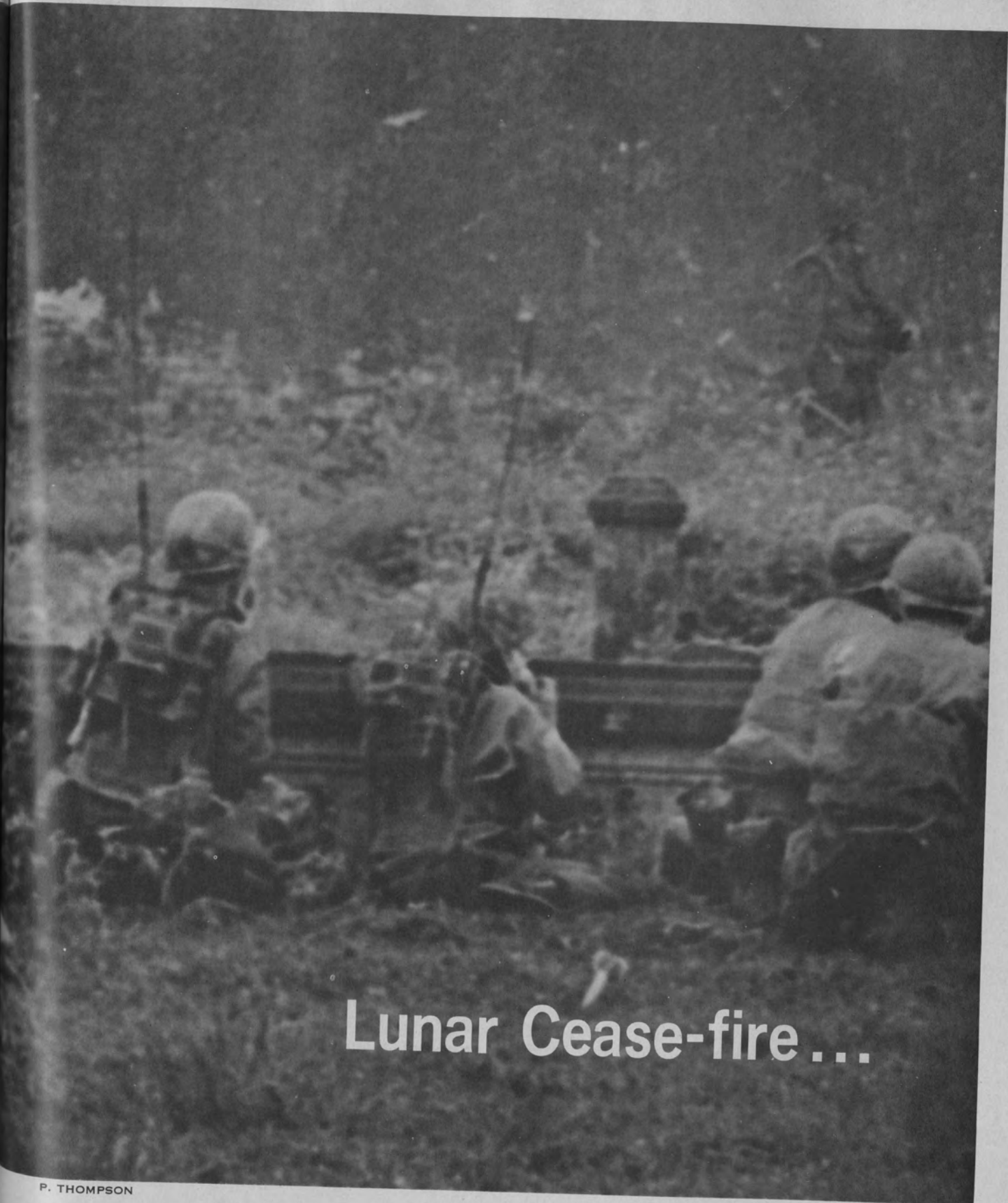
The Navy chaplain knows that, wherever he goes, he represents something greater, more moving and far reaching than just another man in uniform. On his collar is a cross or the Star of David.

It is written: "Greater love hath no man . . ."

No love is greater than that displayed by those . . . armed with faith.—BARTLETT



J. ELLIOTT



Lunar Cease-fire...

P. THOMPSON



P. THOMPSON

## Lunar Cease-fire . . .



P. THOMPSON

War came to Hue City like a thief in the night.

For years, the ancient Imperial City stood, an aloof lady in waiting amid a war-ravaged court. Her moat-encircled palaces and temples were proud memories of past glories. Her citizens could still walk freely through the beautiful, tree-lined streets.

Then in the early morning darkness of January 31, 1968, Hue's immunity to the wrath of communist forces ended abruptly with a savage mortar and rocket barrage. The "thief" had struck.

And, like a thief, the enemy was without honor. Though many previous cease-fire agreements had been made, the enemy had never kept his promise. The attack and brief occupation during 1968's Lunar New Year (TET) truce (announced by both sides) resulted ultimately in the indiscriminate communist slaughter of some 1000 South Vietnamese civilians.

Within hours after enemy occupation of Hue, elements of the First and Fifth Marine Regiments arrived from Phu Bai. Their first mission: relieve pressure on the U. S. Military Advisory Command (MACV) compound on the southern side of the Perfume River dividing the city.

For the Marines it was a new kind of war; not since the recapture of Seoul in 1951 had they fought



P. THOMPSON

a major battle in a large city. Forgotten were the mountains, jungles and rice paddies; this was a room-to-room, house-to-house, street-to-street struggle against a determined and entrenched enemy.

Many problems faced the Marines—civilians flooded the streets, often in the middle of a firefight; care also had to be taken to spare as much as possible of South Vietnam's most revered city.

The Marines met the challenge the only way they knew how—head on. Spearheaded by tanks, they pushed the invaders away from the MACV compound and turned to securing the southern half of the city. Each man, fire team and platoon distinguished themselves. Individual acts of heroism were commonplace.

When the southern section was secured on February 9, the spirit of the Iwo Jima flag raisers prevailed. A trio of Marines from Hotel company, 2/5, replaced a Viet Cong flag with the Stars and Stripes.

The Marines, augmented by ARVN units, now turned to the northern banks of the Perfume River. Here stood the ancient Citadel, built centuries earlier to halt invading hordes of Chinese. Its 12-foot walls surrounding the Imperial Palace now held a fanatical enemy. Even the weather was on the side

of the invaders. A low cloud ceiling formed, rains fell, and supporting Marine aircraft could not provide cover.

Fighting man to man, rifle to rifle, making progress some days by mere inches, allied forces ground inexorably forward. Then the monsoon broke, Marine jets arrived, and the enemy's back was broken.

On February 24, a Marine tank, commanded by Sgt Roy Jones of Alpha Company, 1st Tank Bn., punched a hole in the palace wall, marking the beginning of the end for the enemy. As Marines watched, ARVN forces were allowed to pass through the breach. The honor of taking the palace was theirs by prior agreement.

The "TET" offensive, for all practical purposes, was over. A major goal of the enemy offensive—to rally the citizens of South Vietnam's third-largest city to the communist cause, (gaining both a political and military victory)—had been denied him.

It was a costly battle for the communists; amid the rubble and debris lay more than 3000 dead enemy soldiers.

At a place and time of his own choosing, the "thief" had been met, beaten, and mauled, during the Lunar "Cease-fire."—ELLIOTT.



P. THOMPSON



Marines who served in Vietnam during any "cease-fire" suffered a "pucker factor" if confronted with the fact they'd have to serve a second "truce" observance in the 'Nam. Twice yearly, once during Christmas and once during the Vietnamese Lunar New Year (Tet), a five-day cease-fire was observed. Some of the heaviest fighting south of the Demilitarized Zone took place in February 1968, during the Lunar Cease-fire. Tanks paved the way for Marine grunt units, which proved successful in streets and alleys, but when it came to clearing houses, shacks and tall buildings, the grunt was on his own. American Marines and soldiers of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam entered Hue with Marine artillery constantly on call to provide cover for advancing units. The enemy suffered heavily in both strength and supplies.



P. THOMPSON



P. THOMPSON



P. THOMPSON



P. THOMPSON



P. THOMPSON

Marines fought house-to-house. They had not done so since World War II. It proved a hell of a way to fight a war, and when the shout came that the building was "secure!" a smile of relief was shared by the fire team. As the enemy pulled back and out of the city, or deeper into pockets near the old palace, Marine armor, air support, artillery and mortars searched him out. Machinery kept the enemy on the run, but it was the grunt who had to face him once he was cornered. Vietnamese reconnaissance members and ARVN Black Panthers shared the fighting, pain and success of the victory at Hue. The enemy had figured that the citizens of Hue would join their cause. The enemy was wrong. The enemy was dead wrong. The enemy was dead. . . .



P. THOMPSON



On Their Own...



S. STIBBENS

## On Their Own . . .



T. BARTLETT

American troops are leaving Vietnam. Marines are departing through a swinging door—but it's a door that swings both ways.

Should the enemy mount a massive drive across the Demilitarized Zone and into South Vietnam, there's the chance that Marines will return.

The question arises: "Can the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam protect *their* people, *their* land and *their* government?"

Some claim the South Vietnamese armed forces don't want to fight. Others disagree.

"If they couldn't fight, if they didn't have the determination, then the war would have been over before we ever got there," answered General Lewis W. Walt, USMC, Ret'd., former III MAF Commander, and later, Assistant Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps.

Prior to 1954, when the French controlled Indochina, no Vietnamese officer held a position of command or leadership. Each unit, company-sized or larger, was led by a French officer, usually with a Vietnamese deputy.

When the French evacuated in 1954, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam was without leadership. It had no officer trained to lead a company, much less a division!



T. BARTLETT

A good army is not built overnight. ARVN units survived Viet Cong guerrilla attacks, banditry, political unrest and a reservoir of manpower which numbered less than 100,000.

It took time, patience and understanding, plus raw courage on the part of many American advisors.

During the 1968 Tet Offensive, ARVN troops proved they could hold their own against the best hard-core units the enemy could throw against them. The fighting skill of the ARVN, Rangers and Vietnamese Marines is well known to our Viet vets.

Almost overnight, the ARVN developed that inner pride so necessary for a winning army. American Marines know about such pride. They call it "esprit de Corps!"

In addition to pride and knowledge, the South Vietnamese Army has been equipped with modern weapons. Most ARVN carry the M-16 instead of the carbine, and 75mm pack howitzers gave way to the larger, more capable field pieces.

ARVN pilots fly a variety of aircraft, and they are well versed in helicopter assault and close air support procedures.

ARVN strength including women, has grown. By 1971, there were 374,000 full-time soldiers,

32,000 airmen, 17,000 sailors and 11,000 Marines.

There's another source of fighting power. There are 252,000 Regional Force troops, 178,000 Popular Force members, 45,000 Civil Police, 40,000 Civilian Irregular Defense Group members and over a million in the People's Self-Defense Group.

Marine veterans of Korea will recall the prophecies of the skeptics. "Once we pull out, the communists will cross the 38th parallel and take Seoul and Inchon, continuing south until the entire country is Red!"

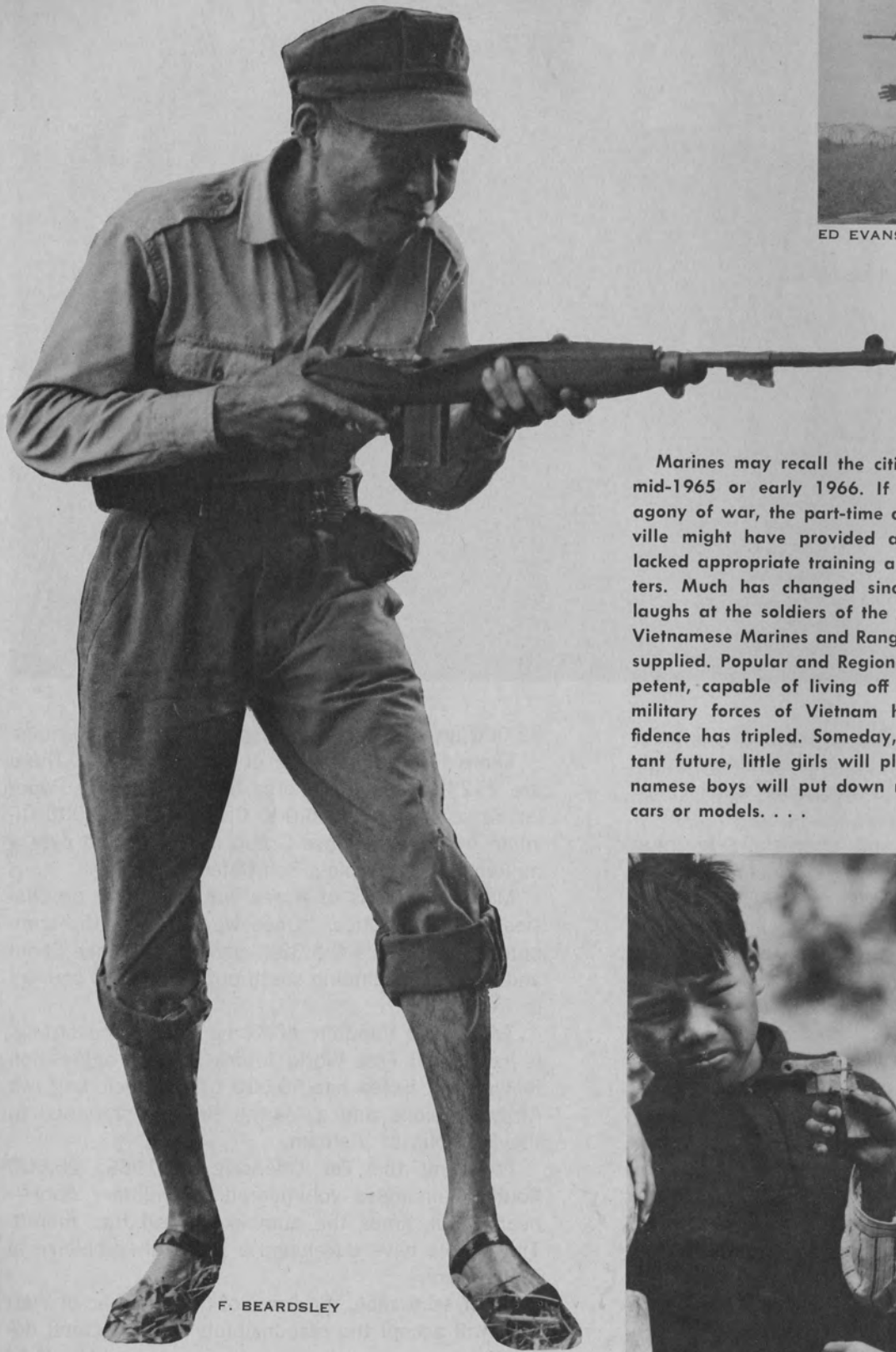
Today, the Republic of Korea is free and strong. It has joined Free World forces fighting aggression in Vietnam. Korea has 50,000 troops, including two Army divisions and a Marine Brigade stationed in the Republic of Vietnam.

Following the Tet Offensive in 1968, 26,000 South Vietnamese volunteered for military duty—nearly four times the number drafted that month. The people have developed a pride; they believe in their country.

Soon, very soon, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam will accept the responsibility as protectors, defending a free people who will one day realize their goal of being "on their own."—BARTLETT



ED EVANS



F. BEARDSLEY

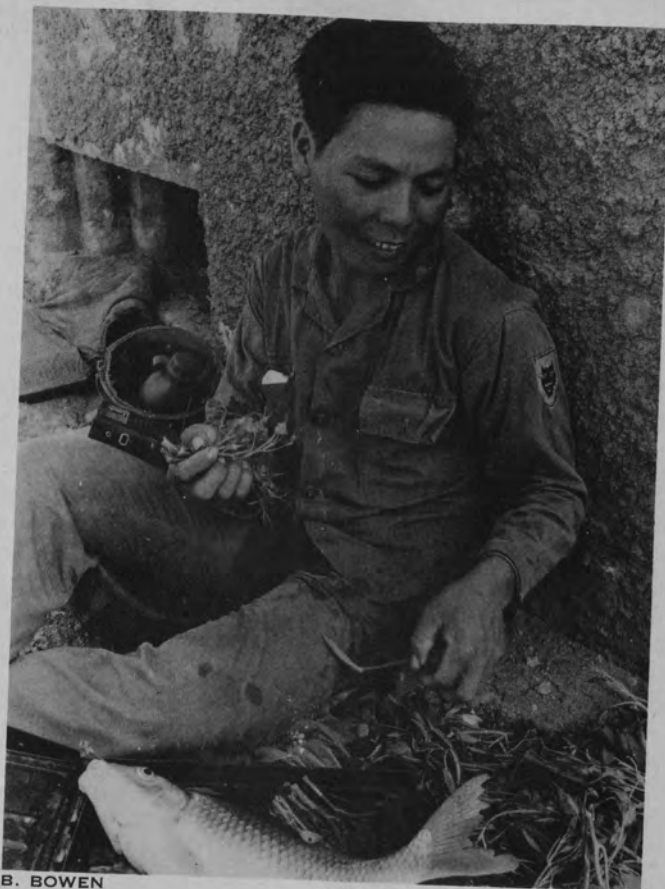


B. BOWEN

Marines may recall the citizen-soldier of Vietnam during mid-1965 or early 1966. If it wasn't for the horror and agony of war, the part-time combatants from the hamlet or ville might have provided a laugh. They tried hard but lacked appropriate training and experience in military matters. Much has changed since that early period. Nobody laughs at the soldiers of the Republic of Vietnam anymore. Vietnamese Marines and Rangers are hard, well-trained and supplied. Popular and Regional Forces are armed and competent, capable of living off the land. The strength of the military forces of Vietnam has doubled; pride and confidence has tripled. Someday, hopefully in the not too distant future, little girls will play with dolls, and little Vietnamese boys will put down rifles and play with miniature cars or models. . . .



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



Stack Arms...



B. BOWEN

## Stack Arms . . .



B. BOWEN

Marine redeployment in Vietnam began in September 1968. Following the activation of the Fifth Marine Division in March 1966, RLT-26 arrived in Vietnam in April, and later received a Presidential Unit Citation for action at Khe Sanh.

The Twenty-seventh Marines, following a 48-hour notice, shipped out of Camp Pendleton, arriving in 'Nam during the height of the 1968 Tet Offensive. Part of the unit went to the Da Nang "rocket belt," and the remainder went north to help mop up Hue City. They returned to the States in September 1968.

Most of the Fifth Division was deactivated on October 15, 1969. The final ceremony was held November 26, 1969, at Camp Pendleton.

The Third Marine Division was next, and as the word spread, Marines on Dong Ha Mountain and Mutter's Ridge smiled from the fog, slime and clay.

They were manning the northernmost positions. As Marines were replaced by American Army and ARVN units, they'd move south for ships to Okinawa. L/3/4 was last.

The Ninth Marines, first to land in Vietnam, was the first major unit pulled out of the war zone, and by late August 1969, they were training on Okinawa.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-165 bundled



B. BOWEN

up its Sea Knights and loaded aboard the LPH *Valley Forge* in mid-69, also heading for Okinawa. Fixed wing aircraft squadrons followed, most going to Iwakuni, Japan.

Perhaps the most enviable redeployment for Marines in Vietnam was made by the 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Bn. The 692 men went all the way back to Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Armed with HAWK missiles, the unit arrived in Da Nang in February 1965, even prior to the landing of the Ninth Marines. The 1st LAAM never fired in anger, but the threat posed to the enemy probably had something to do with his never flying south of the DMZ!

The Marine Corps began returning to the pre-Vietnam posture. Early outs were granted many Marines in time for Christmas, 1969, and others were timed to benefit those enrolling in college. These "cuts" made the Marine Corps a smaller outfit, to be sure. . . .

But the reduced size of the Corps was also to benefit this elite service, for recruiters had reduced quotas, meaning enlistment standards were raised, and only the best qualified.

Training resumed. Guerrilla training at Camp

Hansen, maneuvers in the Philippines and in Taiwan began anew, and a joint exercise was conducted in South Korea.

In Vietnam, American casualty figures dropped and units of the First Marine Division began turning areas of responsibility over to Vietnamese units. An Hoa, always a hot coal of enemy activity, was grasped by the ARVN. Vietnamese Joint Popular Force/Regional Force units were deliberately making contact with the enemy and the results were lopsided in favor of the loyal Republic of Vietnam forces.

Marines were training Vietnamese soldiers and Marines in a variety of roles: artillery fire support, helicopter operations and resupply.

Americans were leaving, but they were in no big hurry. They were patient and deliberate in training the Vietnamese, preferring to remain and do it right, rather than leave in a hurry, their job half-done, and return later during their enlistment.

Then, slowly at first, but building in tempo, the Vietnamese were gaining a new confidence; moving with a new-found pride. This pride was contagious. Americans felt it as they moved forward to stack arms. . . . —BARTLETT



B. BOWEN

Most of the grunts were in the bush when the word came that they were being redeployed. Many Marines were happy, glad to leave the heat, crud and mud of Vietnam. Others felt cheated; they had come to do a job and didn't feel that they, personally, had contributed enough to that effort. As grunts of the northernmost units went south to board ships, ceremonies were held and flower garlands and signs expressed the appreciation of the South Vietnamese. Then, it was time. They boarded ships, as the USS *Paul Revere*, and sailed for Okinawa. Some were luckier . . . they flew home. Hot showers, cold beer, clean uniforms and cement sidewalks were to be enjoyed, but also necessary was a hard training schedule of military subjects. There was always the possibility that Marines would return to Vietnam if needed, and if needed, they'd be ready!



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN



B. BOWEN

## Tomorrow...

General Lewis W. Walt retired February 1, 1971, while serving as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, following 37 years of service to country and Corps.

Among the 33 personal decorations and campaign ribbons which he wears above his left breast pocket are two Navy Cross Medals, a Distinguished Service Medal, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with Combat "V", the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and two Purple Hearts. Walt also holds the distinction of being the first Marine promoted to four-star rank on active duty, other than the Commandant.

For two years, (June 1965 to June 1967) he served in Vietnam as Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force and Senior Advisor to I Corps, the five northern provinces of South Vietnam.

Walt went to Vietnam believing the U. S. involve-

ment to be a just one. He left with the same belief . . . his conviction much stronger. Prior to leaving, he told a *Leatherneck* correspondent, "I can only say, that if I didn't believe in what we're doing here, with all my heart, I wouldn't be able to live with the lives that have been taken, and the effort that has been expended."

In 1970, Walt expressed his beliefs in "Strange War, Strange Strategy; a General's Report on Vietnam." It was the first book about a war ever authored by a general officer while the author was still on active duty and the war was still in progress.

During an exclusive interview with MSgt Tom Bartlett, just prior to retiring, Walt cautioned about thinking the war will end tomorrow, but left no doubt that when it does end, the world will be better off for it having been fought.

*“ . . . if I didn't believe in what we're doing here, with all my heart, I wouldn't be able to live with the lives that have been taken, and the effort that has been expended.”* —Gen. Lewis W. Walt, USMC

*General Walt, in 1967, you predicted that South Vietnam would one day be the cornerstone of freedom in the Far East. Do you still believe this?*

*“Yes! I believe that even stronger today than I did three years ago.”*

*What has strengthened your convictions?*

*“The progress that has been made in destroying the Viet Cong infrastructure. The improved posture of South Vietnamese fighting men. And, the number of enemy soldiers putting down their weapons, pledging support to the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam.”*

*Briefly, General, what have we accomplished in Vietnam?*

*“American efforts in Vietnam saved 17 million people from communist enslavement. We prevented the communists from gaining a toe-hold in the Indian Ocean, in East Africa, in Australia, in Indonesia, and in the Philippines. That's an additional 330 million Southeast Asians who won't be ruled by communism.”*

*You are convinced then that American involvement was justified at this time?*

*“If we hadn't stopped the communists today, our next generation of Americans would be facing a much stronger enemy, one much closer to home. It would have been a much bigger war.”*

*Regarding the departure of American forces, General. Is this an invitation for the enemy to begin a new offensive? General Giap claims the Viet Cong is capable of mounting additional offenses against the political and military forces of Vietnam. Do you agree?*

*“He doesn't know what he's talking about. The guerrilla infrastructure is decaying. At the present, the VC have returned to Phase I, or the harassing phase of guerrilla warfare. We could pull out right now, but the threat of the North Vietnamese Army is there.”*

*General Walt, in the event of a massed assault across the DMZ by the North Vietnamese, is it conceivable that Marines now stationed on Okinawa would return to Vietnam?*

*“No question about it. Marines are prepared to return; to return in just a few hours. They're extremely well-trained and equipped.”*

*“The NVA has a four division capability across the DMZ. If they attempt to come across, they'll get slaughtered.”*

*What about the future of the Republic of Vietnam, General Walt, about tomorrow?*

*“The Republic of Vietnam has made giant strides and there's no chance they'll slip back. Socially, they are closer aligned to western thinking and to western ideas, but without sacrificing their own culture.”*

*“Marine civic action projects and scholarships have provided the basis for a bright future for many intelligent Vietnamese children, the future leaders of that nation. Many have obtained educations who might not otherwise have had the opportunity.”*

*“Medically, the Third Marine Division Memorial Hospital was turned over to the Vietnamese, and the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital, which was sponsored by the Force Logistic Command, continues in its mission under the supervision of trained Vietnamese doctors and nurses.”*

*Does the local VC unit have any voice in hamlet or village politics?*

*“The VC is weak. The South Vietnamese, or about 99 percent of them, live in reasonably secure hamlets, now. We've won the confidence of the people, and when they have confidence, I have confidence.”*

*“The people of the Republic of Vietnam have a new spirit, a new pride in their armed forces.”*

*“In 1969, 47,000 enemy soldiers returned to the Republic of Vietnam through the 'Open Arms' (Chieu Hoi) program, and in 1970, they averaged 2600 returnees a month.”*

*Are the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam strong enough to defend that country once American forces are withdrawn?*

*“ARVN, Rangers and Vietnamese Marines are pros. They're really good.”*

*“In late 1970, joint Popular and Regional Force units began making contact with the enemy. The combined PF/RF force, has been hurting the enemy while taking only minor casualties themselves.”*

*“The enemy has an expression: 'The people are like the fish in the water.' I like to turn that expression around a bit.”*

*“The enemy is now the 'fish,' and there is no water. The lake is dried up, and the enemy is floundering on the banks.”*

# In the Highest Tradition



*\* Indicates posthumous award. Marines are presented in sequence in which decoration was given and includes those awarded through 1970.*

The Marines shown here are all recipients of the Medal of Honor, the highest decoration for bravery bestowed by the Congress of the United States on behalf of a grateful nation. The Navy Medal of Honor was established by an Act of Congress on December 21, 1861, to be awarded to Navymen and Marines who distinguished themselves by gallantry in action during the Civil War. A second Medal of Honor, commonly referred to as the new Medal of Honor, was approved on February 4, 1919.



Robert E. O'MALLEY  
Sgt N.Y.



\*Frank S. REASONER  
1stLt Idaho



\*Joe C. PAUL  
LCpl Ohio



Harvey C. BARNUM, Jr.  
Capt Conn.



\*Peter S. CONNOR  
SSgt N.J.



Jimmie E. HOWARD  
GySgt Iowa



Howard V. LEE  
Maj N.Y.



John J. MC GINTY, III  
2dLt Mass.



R. J. MODRZEJEWSKI  
Maj Wis.



\*Douglas E. DICKEY  
Pfc Ohio



Richard A. PITTMAN  
Sgt Calif.



\*James ANDERSON, Jr.  
Pfc Calif.



\*John P. BOBO  
2dLt N.Y.



\*Walter K. SINGLETON  
Sgt Tenn.



\*Roy M. WHEAT  
LCpl Miss.



\*Gary W. MARTINI  
Pfc W.Va.



\*James A. GRAHAM  
Capt Penn.



Stephen W. PLESS  
Maj Ga.



\*Melvin E. NEWLIN  
Pfc Ohio



\*Rodney M. DAVIS  
Sgt Ga.



\*Paul H. FOSTER  
Sgt Calif.



\*Larry E. SMEDLEY  
Cpl Va.



\*William T. PERKINS, Jr.  
Cpl N.Y.



\*Alfredo GONZALEZ  
Sgt Texas



\*Jedh C. BARKER  
LCpl N.H.



\*Terrence C. GRAVES  
2dLt N.Y.



\*Lawrence D. PETERS  
Sgt N.Y.



\*Larry L. MAXAM  
Cpl Calif.



\*Kenneth L. WORLEY  
LCpl Wash.



\*William R. PROM  
LCpl Penn.



\*Thomas E. CREEK  
LCpl Texas



\*Ralph H. JOHNSON  
Pfc S.C.



\*Robert C. BURKE  
Pfc Ill.



\*Dewayne T. WILLIAMS  
Pfc Mich.



\*Oscar P. AUSTIN  
Pfc Ariz.



\*Alfred M. WILSON  
Pfc Texas



\*Robert H. JENKINS, Jr.  
Pfc Fla.



\*Ronald L. COKER  
Pfc Nebr.



\*Jimmy W. PHIPPS  
Pfc Calif.



Sando M. VARGAS, Jr.  
Maj Ariz.



James E. LIVINGSTON  
Capt Ga.



\*William D. MORGAN  
Cpl Penn.



\*Jose F. JIMENEZ  
LCpl Mexico

# Navy Cross Recipients

ART BY JIM HOPEWELL  
PRODUCTION/ART EDITOR  
LEATHERNECK MAGAZINE

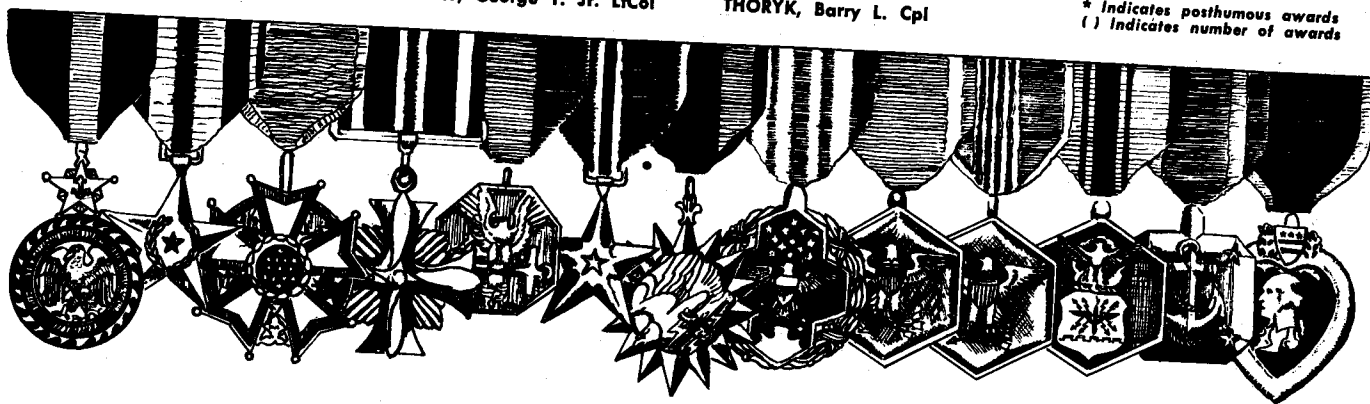


An Act of Congress on February 4, 1919, established the Navy Cross (then the third highest Navy decoration). Another Act of Congress on August 7, 1942, placed the Navy Cross ahead of the Distinguished Service Medal, thereby making it the second highest Navy decoration. It is awarded to officers and enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps who distinguish themselves by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

- \*ABSHIRE, Bobby W. Cpl  
 \*ABSHIRE, Richard F. Sgt  
 \*ADAMS, John F. LCpl  
 ADAMS, Lawrence R. III Capt  
 ALFONSO, Vincent Pfc  
 ALLEN, Yale G. Cpl  
 \*ALMEIDA, Russell V. LCpl  
 AMBROSE, Gerald D. LCpl  
 \*AMENDOLA, Willet R. Cpl  
 ANDERSON, John T. Sgt  
 ARMSTRONG, Russell P. SSgt  
 \*ARQUERO, Elpidio A. SSgt  
 \*ASTON, James M. Pfc  
 BADNEK, Samuel J. Pvt  
 \*BAGGETT, Curtis F. SSgt  
 BARNES, Robert C. SSgt  
 BARNETT, Robert L. Cpl  
 BARRETT, James J. Cpl  
 BARRETT, John J. Capt  
 BASKIN, Richard W. Sgt  
 BATCHELLER, Gordon D. Capt  
 BATEMAN, Kent C. Maj  
 \*BEAULIEU, Leo V. Pfc  
 BELL, Van D. Jr. LCpl  
 \*BENDORF, David G. LCpl  
 BENOIT, Ronald R. 2dLt  
 BERGER, Donald J. 2dLt  
 BINNS, Ricardo C. LCpl  
 BIRD, William C. Pfc  
 \*BLANN, Stephen LCpl  
 \*BLEVINS, Thomas L. Jr. Cpl  
 BOGAN, Richard E. LCpl  
 BRADY, Eugene R. LtCol  
 BRANDTNER, Martin L. Capt (2)  
 \*BRANTLEY, Leroy Cpl  
 \*BROWN, David H. Sgt  
 BROWNING, Randall A. Cpl  
 BRYANT, Jarold O. LCpl  
 BUCHANAN, Richard W. LCpl  
 \*BURKE, John R. Cpl  
 BURNHAM, Thomas R. Cpl  
 BURNS, Leon R. SSgt  
 \*CALHOUN, John C. LCpl  
 \*CAMPBELL, Joseph T. 1stLt  
 CANLEY, "J" "L" GySgt  
 \*CARROLL, James J. Capt  
 CARTER, Marshall N. Capt  
 \*CASEBOLT, Henry C. Cpl  
 \*CASEY, Michael J. 2dLt  
 \*CASEY, Thomas J. Jr. LCpl  
 CASTILLO, William Pfc  
 CAVANAUGH, Thomas J. Cpl  
 CHEATHAM, Ernest C. Jr. LtCol  
 CHEATWOOD, Paul R. LCpl  
 CHRISTENSEN, Paul K. Cpl  
 \*CHRISTMAN, William J. III 2dLt  
 CHRISTMAS, George R. Capt  
 \*CISNEROS, Roy Cpl  
 CLAYBIN, Edward A. Pfc  
 \*COBB, Paul F. 2dLt  
 \*COCHRAN, Robert F. Jr. 2dLt  
 COFFMAN, Clovis C. Jr. GySgt  
 COLLINS, Bryant C. Cpl  
 CONE, Fred "J" Maj  
 CONKLIN, Richard F. Cpl  
 COOLICAN, James J. Capt  
 CORSETTI, Harry J. Cpl  
 \*COUSINS, Marritt T. LCpl  
 \*COVELLA, Joseph F. GySgt  
 COVER, Robert L. MSgt  
 CROCKETT, Joseph R. Jr. Sgt  
 \*CUMMINGS, Roger W. Pfc  
 CURLEY, Ronald T. Sgt  
 CURTIS, Russell W. GySgt  
 DALTON, Robert G. Cpl  
 DANNER, David J. Sgt  
 \*DARNELL, Dana C. LCpl  
 \*DAVIS, Dennis D. Pfc  
 \*DAWSON, John R. 2dLt  
 \*DAY, Edward LCpl  
 DE BONA, Andrew D. Capt  
 DE PLANCHE, Mark E. Cpl  
 DEVRIES, Marvin H. 1stLt  
 \*DICKSON, Grover L. Cpl  
 DILLARD, Henry C. Cpl  
 DITTMAN, Carl R. Cpl  
 DONALDSON, Billy M. SSgt  
 DONOVAN, Joseph P. 1stLt (2)  
 \*DORRIS, Claude H. SSgt  
 DOWNING, Talmadge R. GySgt  
 DRISCOLL, Thomas B. Cpl  
 \*DUFF, Barry W. Cpl  
 \*DUNCAN, Richard W. Cpl  
 EADES, Lawrence M. LCpl  
 ELBERT, Terry J. 1stLt  
 ESTRADA, Manuel A. LCpl  
 \*EVANS, Richard J. Jr. Pfc  
 FAIRFIELD, Rupert E. Jr. Capt  
 FANTE, Robert G. Cpl  
 \*FEDEROWSKI, Robert A. Cpl  
 FEERRAR, Donald L. LCpl  
 \*FINLEY, Michael P. LCpl  
 \*FISHER, Thomas W. LCpl  
 \*FLOREN, Jimmy E. Cpl  
 FOWLER, Earl W. Cpl  
 FRYMAN, Roy A. SSgt  
 \*FULLER, John L. Jr. 2dLt  
 \*GAINNE, Lawrence B. III Cpl  
 \*GALBREATH, Bobby F. Capt  
 GALE, Alvin R. Pfc  
 GALLAGHER, Patrick LCpl  
 \*GAUTHIER, Brian J. Cpl  
 \*GETLIN, Michael P. Capt  
 GIBSON, George R. Cpl  
 GILLELAND, Richard M. Sgt  
 \*GILLINGHAM, Richard K. Cpl  
 GOMEZ, Ernesto LCpl  
 GONZALES, Daniel G. Cpl  
 \*GOODSELL, William J. Maj  
 GRAY, George E. LCpl  
 GREEN, John S. GySgt  
 GREEN, Maurice O. V. 1stLt  
 GREGORY, Robert B. Jr. LCpl  
 GRESHAM, Michael F. Sgt  
 GRIMES, Paul E. Jr. LCpl  
 GROSZ, Nicholas H. Jr. 1stLt  
 GUARINO, Timothy S. Pfc  
 GUAY, Robert P. Maj  
 GUERRA, Victor J. SSgt  
 \*HALSTEAD, Lee M. 1stLt  
 HARRINGTON, Myron C. Capt  
 \*HARTSOE, David E. Pfc  
 HAYS, Daniel J. LCpl  
 HAZELBAKER, Vincil W. Maj  
 HENDERSON, Billy K. LCpl  
 HENDRICKS, Robert L. Cpl  
 \*HERRERA, Felipe LCpl  
 \*HERRON, Lee R. LCpl  
 HILGERS, John J. W. Capt  
 \*HILL, Lamont D. Pfc  
 HOAPILI, John GySgt  
 \*HODGKINS, Guy M. SSgt  
 HOLMES, Walter C. Sgt  
 \*HONEYCUTT, James E. Pfc  
 \*HOPKINS, Michael E. Pfc  
 HOUGHTON, Kenneth J. Col  
 HOUSE, Charles A. LtCol  
 \*HOWARD, Billy GySgt  
 \*HOWELL, Gatlin J. 1stLt  
 \*HUBBARD, Robert W. Capt  
 HUGGINS, Michael A. Pfc  
 HUGHES, Stanley S. Col  
 \*JMAEFF, George V. Cpl  
 JOHNSON, James L. Jr. Cpl  
 \*JOHNSTON, Clement B. Jr. LCpl  
 \*JONES, Phillip B. 2dLt  
 \*JOYS, John W. SSgt  
 \*JUDGE, Mark W. Pfc  
 \*KALER, Richard D. Cpl  
 \*KAUFMAN, David M. 1stSgt  
 \*KECK, Russell F. Cpl  
 KELLEY, Edwin C. Jr. 1stLt  
 \*KELLY, James R. III Cpl  
 KELLY, Robert A. 1stLt  
 KEMP, Marwick L. SSgt  
 \*KENISON, Benjamin A. LCpl  
 KENNEDY, Johnnie M. GySgt  
 KEYS, William M. Capt  
 \*KOELPER, Donald E. Maj  
 KOONTZ, Lenoard Cpl  
 KOWALYK, William LCpl  
 \*KUZMA, Marc J. Pfc  
 LAIN, Bobby D. Capt  
 LANKFORD, Albert J. III 1stLt  
 LA POINTE, Alvin S. Pfc  
 LA PORTE, Alfred P. Jr. Sgt  
 \*LARAWAY, William D. LCpl  
 \*LAVER, Charles R. Cpl  
 LAZARO, Lawrence J. Cpl  
 LEBAS, Claude G. LCpl  
 LEFLER, Alan C. LCpl  
 LEFTWICH, William G. Jr. Maj  
 \*LINEBERRY, Jerry E. SSgt  
 LONG, Melvin M. Sgt  
 LOPEZ, Jose G. Sgt  
 \*LOWERANITIS, John L. Cpl  
 LOWERY, Steven M. Cpl  
 LOWNDS, David E. Col  
 LUCA, Joseph Sgt  
 LUMBARD, Donald W. LCpl  
 \*LUNSFORD, Glen T. Sgt  
 MAC VANE, Matthew C. Cpl  
 MANN, Bennie H. Jr. Maj  
 MARLANTES, Karl A. 1stLt  
 \*MARTIN, Raymond C. Sgt  
 \*MEIER, Terrance L. SSgt  
 \*MENDEZ, Angel Sgt  
 \*MEUSE, John R. Pfc  
 MITCHELL, Robert G. Maj  
 MOE, Robert E. SSgt  
 MOFFIT, Richard E. Sgt  
 \*MONAHAN, Frederick G. LCpl  
 \*MONAHAN, Robert LCpl  
 MONTGOMERY, Robin L. 2dLt  
 \*MOORE, Freddy L. LCpl  
 MOORE, Ronald A. LCpl  
 MOSHER, Christopher K. LCpl  
 \*MUIR, Joseph E. LtCol

- MULLOY, James E. Jr. Sgt  
MURPHY, James E. Capt  
MURRAY, John D. Capt  
\*MYERS, William H. Pfc  
MC AFEE, Carlos K. Capt  
MC CAULEY, Bertram W. Maj  
\*MC CORMICK, Michael P. 2dLt  
MC HENRY, William D. Cpl  
MC RAE, Arthur G. Cpl  
\*MC WHORTER, James E. LCpl  
NOEL, Thomas E. 2dLt  
NOON, Patrick J. Jr. Sgt  
NORTON, John J. Capt  
NORWOOD, George O. LCpl  
OAKLEY, John L. LCpl  
\*PALYA, Warren H. Jr. Cpl  
PANIAN, Thomas C. Sgt  
PECZELI, Joseph S. GySgt  
\*PETERS, William L. Jr. 1stLt  
\*PETERSON, Dennis D. 2dLt  
PHELPS, John G. LCpl  
\*PICHON, Louis A. Jr. GySgt  
PIERPAN, Herbert E. Maj  
\*PITTS, Roy E. Pfc  
PLATT, Louis R. 2dLt  
\*POPP, James A. Pfc  
POULSON, Leroy GySgt
- \*POWELL, Charles T. Sgt  
QUICK, Robert L. Pfc  
\*RASH, Donald R. Pfc  
\*RAY, Darrell T. Pfc  
\*REID, John M. Cpl  
\*REILLY, Donald J. Maj  
\*REILLY, James R. Pfc  
\*REIS, Tiago Cpl  
RICHARDS, Thomas A. Cpl  
RIENSCHKE, Harold A. SSgt  
RIVERA, Jose L. LCpl  
\*RIVERS, Jettie Jr. 2dLt  
ROBERTSON, James J. 2dLt  
RODGERS, Raymond G. Jr. 1stSgt  
\*RODRIGUES, Joe G. Jr. Sgt  
ROLLER, Robert T. Sgt  
ROMINE, Richard E. LtCol  
\*ROSENBERGER, Roger D. Pfc  
ROSS, David L. Maj  
\*RUSHER, Robert C. Cpl  
RUSSELL, Timothy W. Cpl  
RUSSELL, William E. Capt  
RUSTH, John E. Cpl  
SADLER, Charles D. Cpl  
\*SAMPSON, Gerald D. Capt  
\*SANDERS, Thomas Cpl  
\*SARGENT, George T. Jr. LtCol
- SCHLEY, Robert J. Cpl  
SCHREIBER, Klaus D. 1stLt  
SCHUNCK, Henry M. Cpl  
SCOTT, Donald W. Sgt  
SEXTON, Merlyn A. Capt  
SHERMAN, Andrew M. 2dLt  
\*SIPPLE, Conrad A. Cpl  
SLATER, Albert C. Jr. Capt  
\*SLEIGH, Duncan B. 2dLt  
SLIBY, Dennis M. LCpl  
\*SNYDER, Stephen F. 2dLt  
\*SOLIZ, Thomas Cpl  
SOTOMAYOR, Miguel A. R. Cpl  
\*SPARK, Michael M. Col  
\*SPICER, Jonathan N. Pfc  
\*SRSEN, Steve A. Pfc  
\*ST CLAIR, Clarence H. Jr. Cpl  
\*STEWART, Michael E. LCpl  
STUCKEY, James L. Cpl  
SULLIVAN, Daniel F. Jr. Cpl  
SULLIVAN, George R. 2dLt  
THATCHER, Charles D. LCpl  
\*THOMAS, Michael D. 2dLt  
THOMPSON, Brock I. Cpl  
THOMPSON, Jerrald R. Cpl  
THOMPSON, Robert H. LtCol  
THORYK, Barry L. Cpl
- \*THOUVENELL, Armand R. Pfc  
\*TIMMONS, James N. Pfc  
TONKYN, Michael S. LCpl  
\*TRENT, William D. LCpl  
\*TYCZ, James N. Sgt  
\*TYRONE, Willie D. SSgt  
UNDERWOOD, David F. Capt  
VANCOR, Norman W. LCpl  
\*VASQUEZ, Jesus R. Sgt  
VERHEYN, David A. LCpl  
WALLACE, Ernie W. LCpl  
\*WARD, James C. Cpl  
WARREN, Roger O. LCpl  
\*WEBB, Bruce D. Capt  
WEBB, James H. Jr. 1stLt  
WEISE, William LtCol  
WIDGER, Robert I. Cpl  
WILLIAMS, Robert S. 1stLt  
WILSON, Willis C. 1stLt  
\*WIRICK, William C. Cpl  
WOODS, Lloyd Cpl  
WYNN, Edward H. Pfc  
\*YARBER, Vernon L. LCpl  
YORDY, Charles R. Pfc  
YOUNG, William H. Cpl

\* Indicates posthumous awards  
( ) Indicates number of awards



### Personal Awards Presented to Marines

Medals of Honor .....	43	Air Medals .....	190,471*
Navy Crosses .....	340	Joint Service Commendation Medals .....	188
Distinguished Service Medals .....	38	Navy Commendation Medals .....	18,679
Silver Star Medals .....	2230	Army Commendation Medals .....	82
Legion of Merit .....	1149	Air Force Commendation Medals .....	4
Distinguished Flying Crosses .....	2531	Purple Heart Medals .....	57,951*
Navy and Marine Corps Medals .....	176	Navy Achievement Medals .....	22,190
Bronze Star Medals .....	11,910		

\* Approximate figure



### Unit Citations Presented to Marines

Presidential Unit Citations .....	7	Meritorious Unit Commendations .....	55
Navy Unit Commendations .....	30	Totals through December 31, 1970.	

# The Leaders

For most, it was their third war; for all, their second. Vietnam proved most difficult of all. The enemy was not uniformed as he had been in the Pacific during World War II and he wasn't on "his" side and the allied on "ours." In Vietnam, the enemy could be anywhere, wearing anything, and he, or she, generally was. The lowest ranking enlisted man could find some comfort or relaxation in a nearby club or during the showing of a movie. Battlefield humor retained him during enemy encounters. For the general, forced to remain aloof because of rank and command, there was little humor to be found. For the commander, there was no separation between night and day; little difference between Tuesday, Saturday and holiday. Planning, ordering, moving, praying, and at times, cursing. To envy a commanding general was to prove one's ignorance. Sending men into battle, knowing that some would not return; aware that others would be hurt or maimed for life was not rewarding.

*Ranks listed are those held during Vietnam commands.*



**COLLINS, William R. MajGen**  
3dMarDiv, 1964-65  
III MAF, 1965



**WALT, Lewis W. LtGen**  
3dMarDiv, 1965-66  
III MAF, 1965-67



**CUSHMAN, Robert E. Jr. LtGen**  
III MAF, 1967-69



**NICKERSON, Herman Jr., LtGen**  
1stMarDiv, 1966-67  
III MAF, 1969-70



**McCUTCHEON, Keith B. LtGen**  
1stMAW, 1965-66  
III MAF, 1970



**ROBERTSON, Donn J. LtGen**  
1stMarDiv, 1967-68  
III MAF, 1970-71



ANDERSON, Norman J.  
MajGen, 1stMAW, 1967-68



ARMSTRONG, Alan J.  
MajGen, 1stMAW, 1970-71



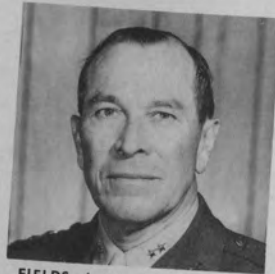
AXTELL, George C.  
Col, FLC, 1966



DAVIS, Raymond G.  
MajGen, 3dMarDiv, 1968-69



FEELEY, James A. Jr.  
BGen, FLC, 1968-69



FIELDS, Lewis J.  
MajGen, 1stMarDiv, 1965-66



HERBOLD, James E. Jr.  
BGen, FLC, 1966-67



HOCHMUTH, Bruno A.  
MajGen, 3dMarDiv, KIA 1967



JONES, William K.  
MajGen, 3dMarDiv, 1969



KYLE, Wood B.  
MajGen, 3dMarDiv, 1966-67



OLSON, Harry C.  
BGen, FLC, 1967-68



PADALINO, Mauro J.  
BGen, FLC, 1969-70



QUILTER, Charles J.  
MajGen, 1stMAW, 1968-69



ROBERTSHAW, Louis B.  
MajGen, 1stMAW, 1968-69



SIMPSON, Ormond R.  
MajGen, 1stMarDiv, 1968-69



THRASH, William G.  
MajGen, 1stMAW, 1969-70



TOMPKINS, Rathvon McC.  
MajGen, 3dMarDiv, 1967-68



WHEELER, Edwin B.  
MajGen, 1stMarDiv, 1969-70



WIDDECKE, Charles F.  
MajGen, 1stMarDiv, 1970-71



YOUNGDALE, Carl A.  
MajGen, 1stMarDiv, 1968



B. BOWEN

**Deputy Commanders, III MAF**

BOWMAN, George S. MajGen	1969
CARL, Marion E. BGen	1965-66
CUSHMAN, Robert E. Jr., MajGen	1967
FIELDS, Lewis J. MajGen	1966
McCUTCHEON, Keith B. MajGen	1965-66
MURRAY, Raymond L. MajGen	1967-68
NICKERSON, Herman Jr., MajGen	1966-67
TOMPKINS, Rathvon McC. MajGen	1968
VAN RYZIN, William J. MajGen	1968
YOUNGDALE, Carl A. MajGen	1968-69



J. ELLIOTT

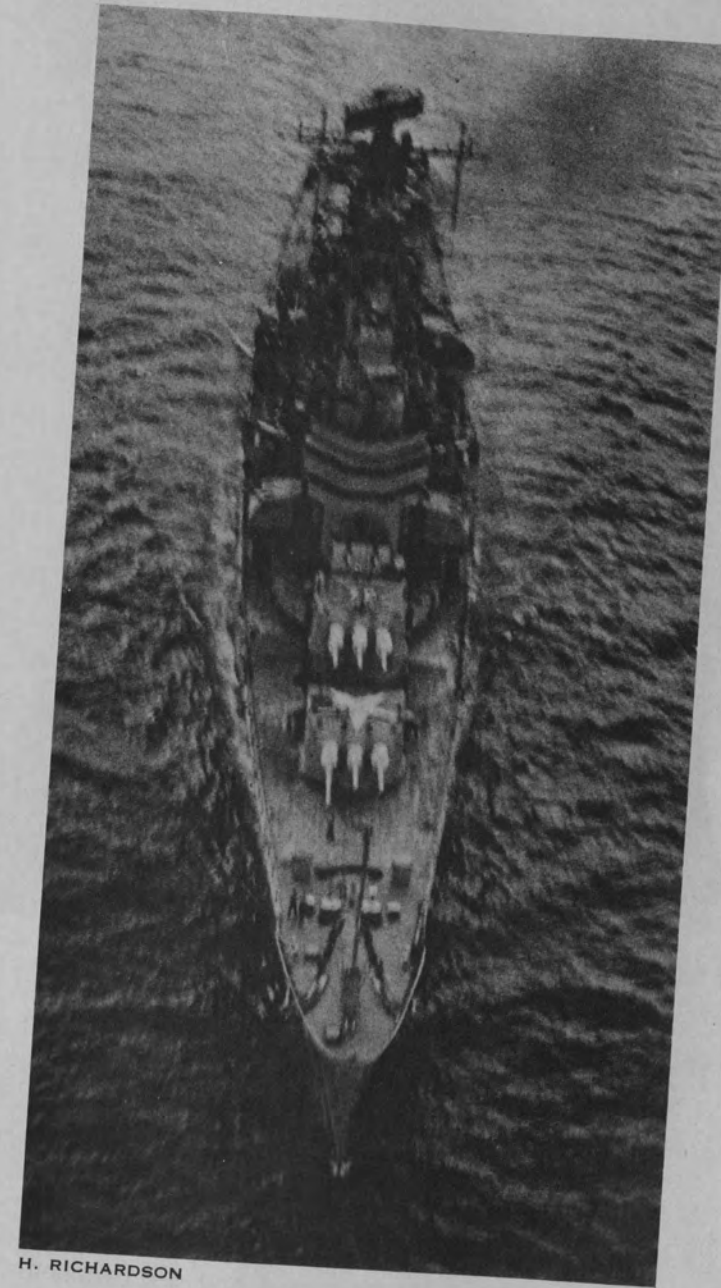
**Assistant Commanders  
First Marine Division**

DOEHLER, William F. BGen	1969-70
DULACKI, Leo J. BGen	1969
DWYER, Ross T. BGen	1968-69
HOFFMAN, Carl W. BGen	1968-69
JASKILKA, Samuel BGen	1969
LAHUE, Foster C. BGen	1967-68
McLAUGHLIN, John N. BGen	1968
ROBERTSON, Charles S. BGen	1969-70
SIMMONS, Edwin H. BGen	1970-71
STILES, William A. BGen	1966-67
WEBSTER, George D. BGen	1968
WILLIAMS, John E. BGen	1968



**Assistant Commanders  
Third Marine Division**

CARNEY, Robert B. Jr. BGen	1968-69
CHIP, William C. BGen	1968
ENGLISH, Lowell E. BGen	1965-67
FRIBOURG, Leonard E. BGen	1969
FULLER, Regan BGen	1969
GARRETSON, Frank E. BGen	1968-69
GLICK, Jacob E. BGen	1968
HENDERSON, Melvin D. BGen	1965
HOFFMAN, Carl W. BGen	1968
KARCH, Frederick J. BGen	1965
METZGER, Louis BGen	1967-68
PLATT, Jonas M. BGen	1965-66
RYAN, Michael P. BGen	1967



H. RICHARDSON

**Assistant Commanders  
First Marine Aircraft Wing**

CARL, Marion E. BGen	1965-66
ELWOOD, Hugh M. BGen	1966
HILL, Homer S. BGen	1968-69
HISE, Henry W. BGen	1968-69
JOHNSON, William G. BGen	1969
KELLER, Robert P. BGen	1967-68
McCUTCHEON, Keith B. BGen	1965
OWENS, Robert G. Jr., BGen	1966-67
QUINN, William R. BGen	1969-70
SPANJER, Ralph H. BGen	1969



# Six Years Under Fire...

T. BARTLETT

Marines landed on March 8, 1965. From that date, through 1969, 417 large Marine unit operations were conducted.

Included below is a listing of those operations, encompassing many conducted by the Special Landing Force. Some of the SLF battles were fought in conjunction with larger named operations, though under the name of lesser known offensive actions.

During 1965, 11 regimental and 39 battalion-sized offensive operations were conducted by Marines with 392 company-sized operations, 13,671 patrols and 7678 ambushes. It is estimated that 2560 enemy were killed, 502 captured and 539 weapons taken.

In 1966, 90 regimental and/or battalion-sized operations were conducted along with 1751 company-sized operations, 88,775 patrols and 49,941 ambushes. As a result of these offenses, 10,627 enemy were killed, 913 captured and 1545 enemy weapons were taken.

There were 116 large operations conducted in 1967, 2315 company-sized offenses, 277,372 pa-

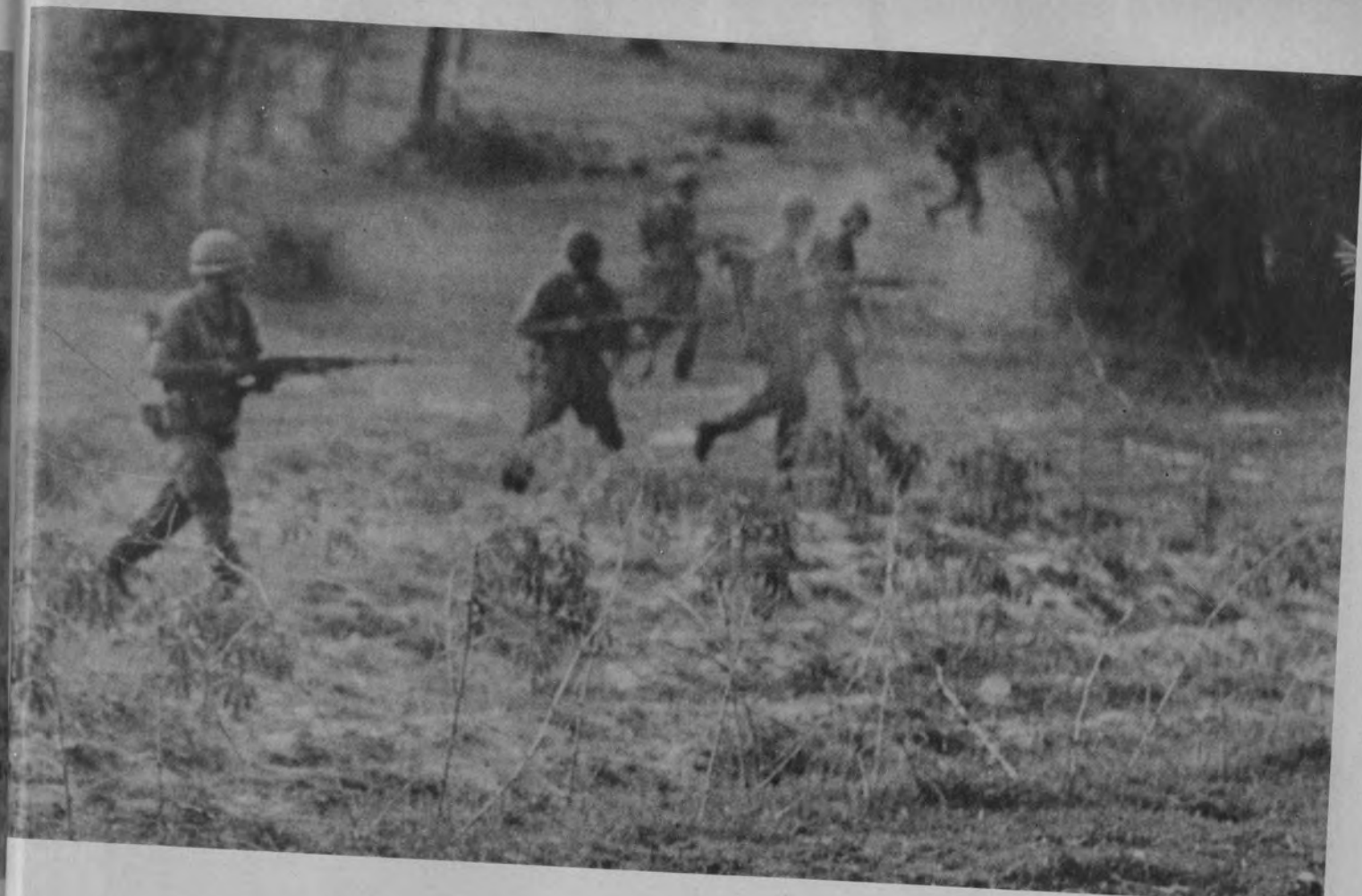
trols and over 73,800 ambushes set. As a result of these offenses, 17,324 enemy were killed by Marines, 1090 captured and 4949 enemy weapons taken.

During 1968, III MAF forces conducted 66 regimental and/or battalion-sized offensive operations, along with 1109 company-sized operations, 130,747 Marine patrols and 56,881 ambushes. Results were 31,691 enemy killed, 997 captured and 13,849 enemy weapons taken.

There were 62 regimental/battalion-sized operations by Marines in 1969, with 2559 Marine company-sized operations, 171,969 (109,823 CAP) and 121,088 ambushes, including 66,061 by CAP.

Enemy casualties included 17,444 killed, 607 captured and 7242 weapons captured.

Marine operations in 1970 were reduced due to the redeployment of the Third Marine Division, and statistics regarding enemy casualties are still classified. It became the policy of Marine commanders in Vietnam to forgo publicizing the names of operations after September 1970. A partial list follows:



Operation	Dates	Operation	Dates	Operation	Dates
Stomp	Sep, 1965	Macon	Jul-Oct	Independence	Feb
Starlite	Aug	Hastings	Jul-Aug	Stone	Feb
Piranha	Sept	Franklin	Jul	Chinook II	Feb-Apr
Blue Marlin	Nov	Prairie I	Aug-Jan	Lafayette	Feb-Mar
Song Ve 6	Nov	Colorado	Aug	Prairie III	Mar-Apr
Harvest Moon	Dec	Suwannee	Aug	Beacon Hill	Mar
Mallard	Jan, 1966	Napa	Sep	Beaver Cage	Apr
Double Eagle I	Jan-Feb	Deckhouse IV	Sep	Beacon Star	Apr
Double Eagle II	Feb-Mar	Fresno	Sep	Prairie IV	Apr-May
New York	Feb-Mar	Teton	Oct	Big Horn	Apr
Utah	Mar	Kern	Oct	Canyon	Apr
Oregon	Mar	Pawnee III	Oct-Dec	Union	Apr-May
Texas	Mar	Shasta I	Nov	Shawnee	Apr-May
Kings	Mar	Rio Blanco	Nov	Khe Sanh Area	Apr-May
Indiana	Mar	Trinidad II	Dec	Crockett	May-Jul
Orange	Apr	Sierra	Dec	Hickory/Belt Tight	May
Nevada	Apr	Chinook I	Dec-Feb '67	Choctaw	May-Jul
Hot Springs	Apr	Deckhouse V	Jan, 1967	Union II	May-Jun
Georgia	Apr-May	Tuscaloosa	Jan	Cimarron	Jun-Jul
Montgomery	May	Desoto	Jan-Apr	Beacon Torch	Jun
Kansas	Jun	Deckhouse VI	Feb	Bear Bite	Jun
Jay	Jun-Jul	Prairie II	Feb-Mar	Buffalo	Jul



H. RICHARDSON



P. THOMPSON

Operation	Dates
Cochise	Aug
Arizona	Jun
Adair	Jun
Calhoun	Jun-Jul
Fremont	Jul-Oct
Hickory II	Jul
Kingfisher	Jul-Oct
Ardmore	Jul-Oct
Pike	Aug
Shelbyville	Sep
Medina	Oct
Osceola	Oct-Jan '68
Granite	Oct-Nov
Scotland	Nov-Mar '68

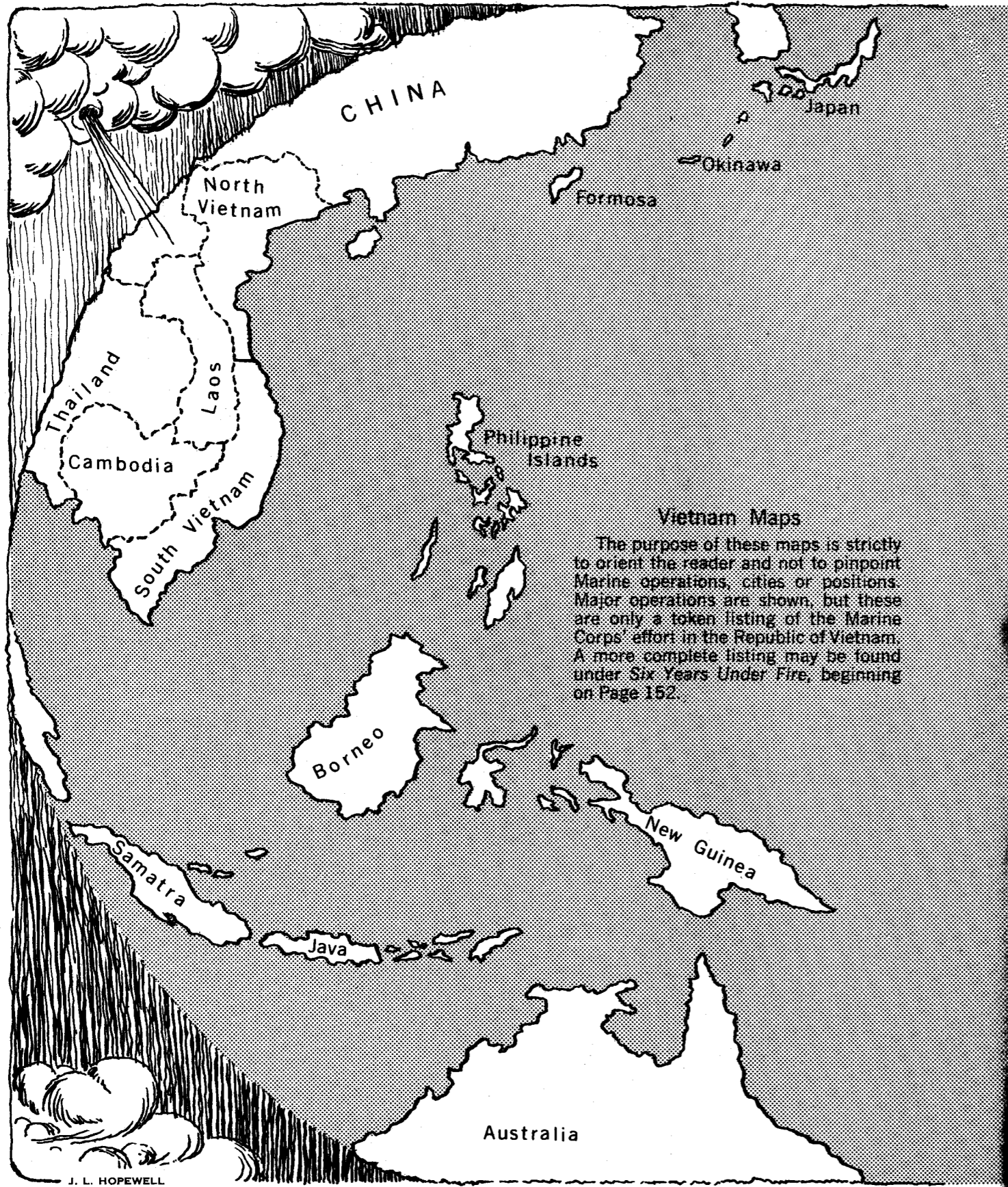
Operation	Dates
Badger Hunt	Nov
Kentucky	Nov-Feb '69
Neosho	Nov-Jan '68
Napoleon	Nov-Feb '68
Essex	Nov
Foster	Nov
Citrus	Dec
Fortress Ridge	Dec
Badger Tooth	Dec
Auburn	Dec-Jan '68
Badger Catch	Jan, 1968
Ballistic Armor	Jan
Fortress Attack	Jan
Lancaster II	Jan-Nov

Operation	Dates
Hue City	Feb-Mar
Houston	Feb-Sep
Napoleon/Saline	Feb-Dec
Rock	Mar
Worth	Mar
Ford	Mar
Jasper Square	Apr
Scotland II	Apr-Feb '69
Pegasus	Apr
Baxter Garden	Apr
Allen Brook	May-Aug
Mameluke Thrust	May-Oct
Swift Saber	Jun
Eager Yankee	Jul

Operation	Dates
Swift Play	Jul
Proud Hunter	Aug
Swift Pursuit	Aug
Sussex Bay	Aug-Sep
Eager Hunter	Oct
Maui Peak	Oct
Henderson Hill	Oct-Dec
Garrard Bay	Oct-Nov
Sabine Draw	Oct-Nov
Daring Endeavor	Nov
Swift Move	Nov
Nicollet Bay	Nov
Meade River	Nov-Dec
Dawson River	Nov-Jan '69

Operation	Dates
Forsyth Grove	Jul
Arlington Canyon	Jul-Sep
Williams Glade	Jul
Georgia TAR	Jul-Sep
Idaho Canyon	Jul-Sep
Durham Peak	Jul-Aug
Pickens Forest	Jul-Aug 1970
Barren Green	Jul
Lyon Valley	Aug
Ripley Center	Aug
Imperial Lake	Aug
Nebraska Rapids	Sep
Dubois Square	Sep
Tulare Falls	Oct

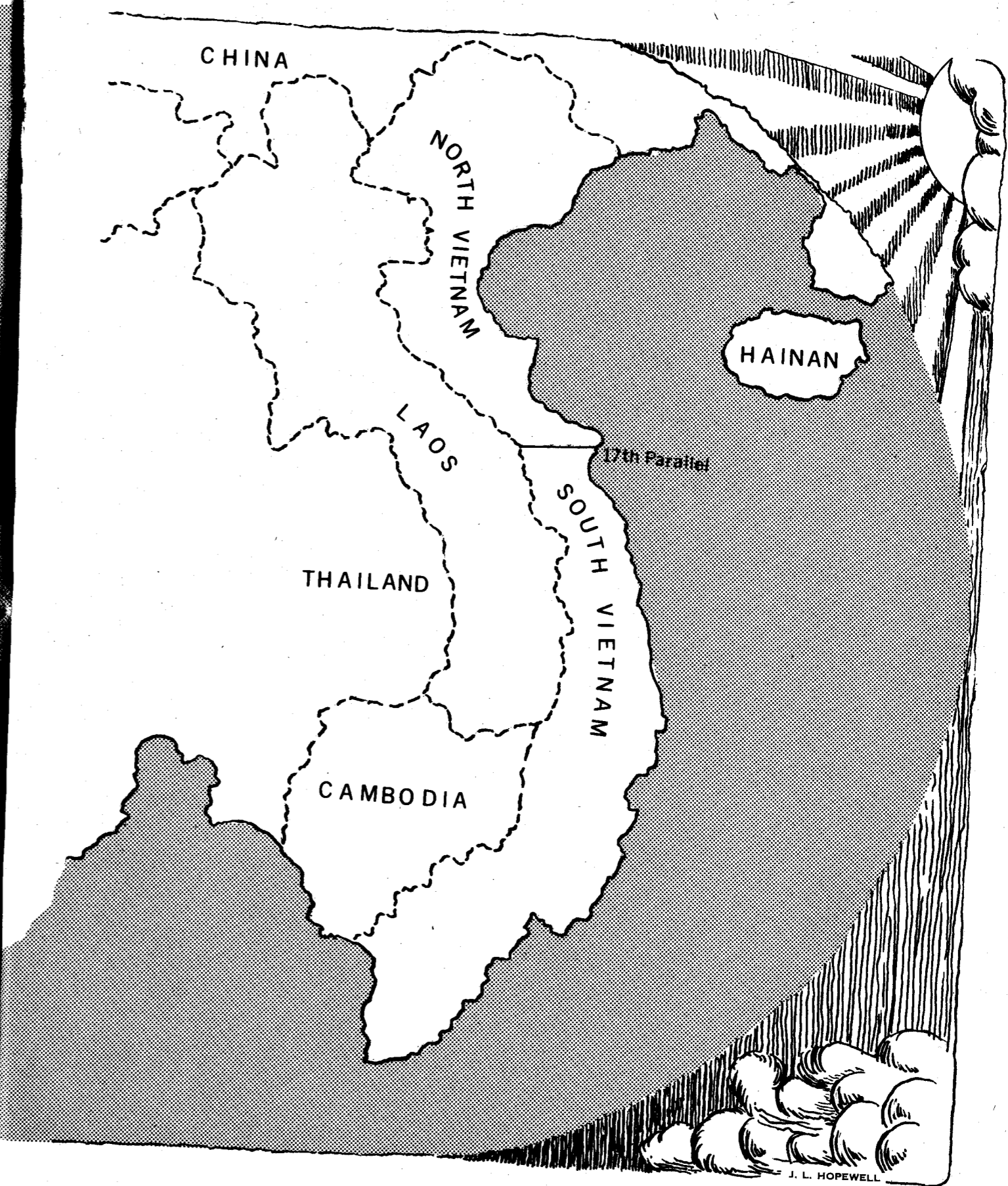
Operation	Dates
Valiant Hunt	Dec
Taylor Common	Dec-Jan '69
Dewey Canyon	Jan-Mar, 1969
Linn River	Jan-Feb
Purple Martin	Feb-May
Maine Crag	Mar-May
Oklahoma Hills	Mar-May
Muskogee Meadow	Apr
Virginia Ridge	Apr-Jul
Herkimer Mountain	May-Jul
Apache Snow	May-Jun
Pipestone Canyon	May-Nov
Cameron Falls	May-Jun
Utah Mesa	Jun-Jul



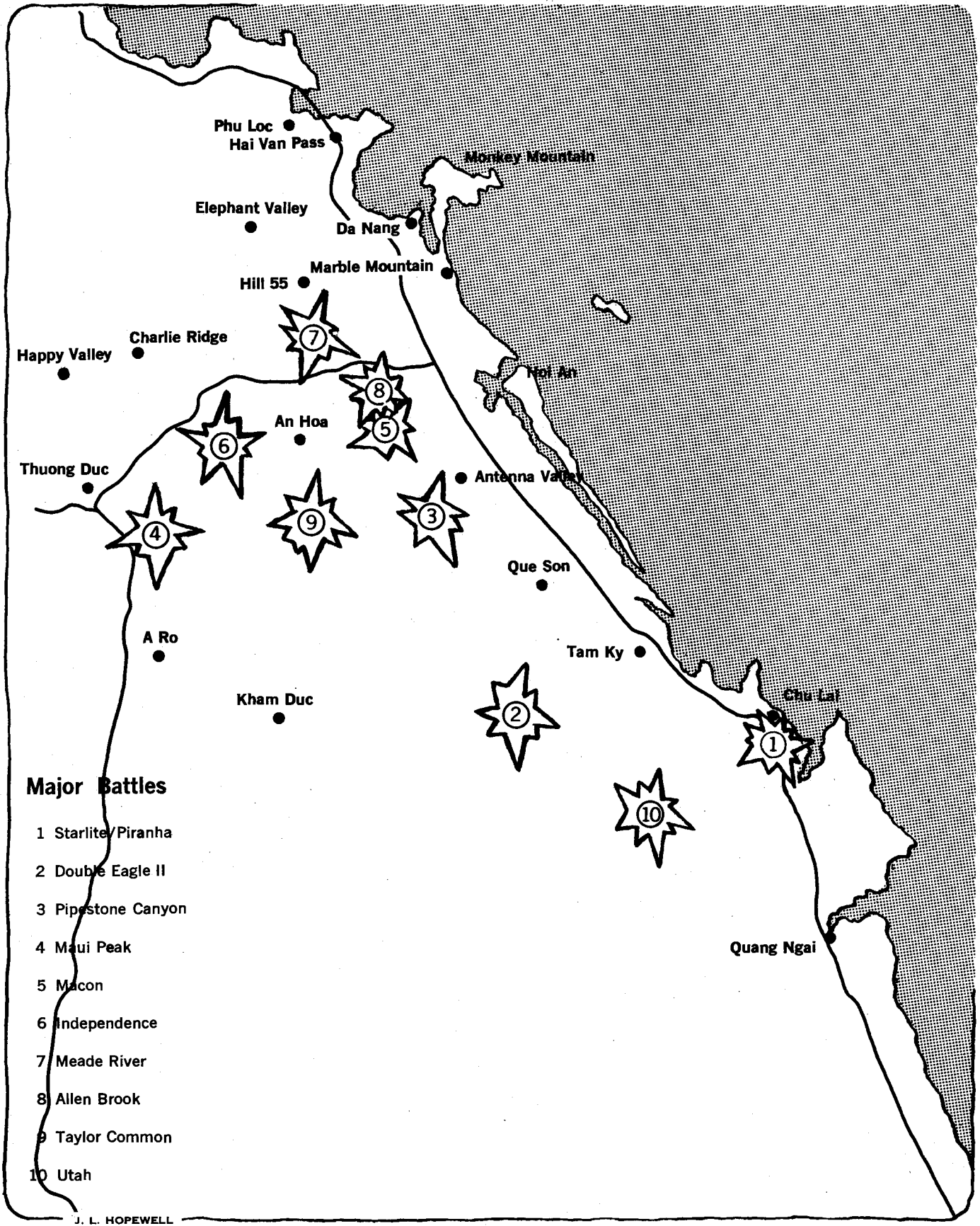
**Vietnam Maps**

The purpose of these maps is strictly to orient the reader and not to pinpoint Marine operations, cities or positions. Major operations are shown, but these are only a token listing of the Marine Corps' effort in the Republic of Vietnam. A more complete listing may be found under *Six Years Under Fire*, beginning on Page 152.

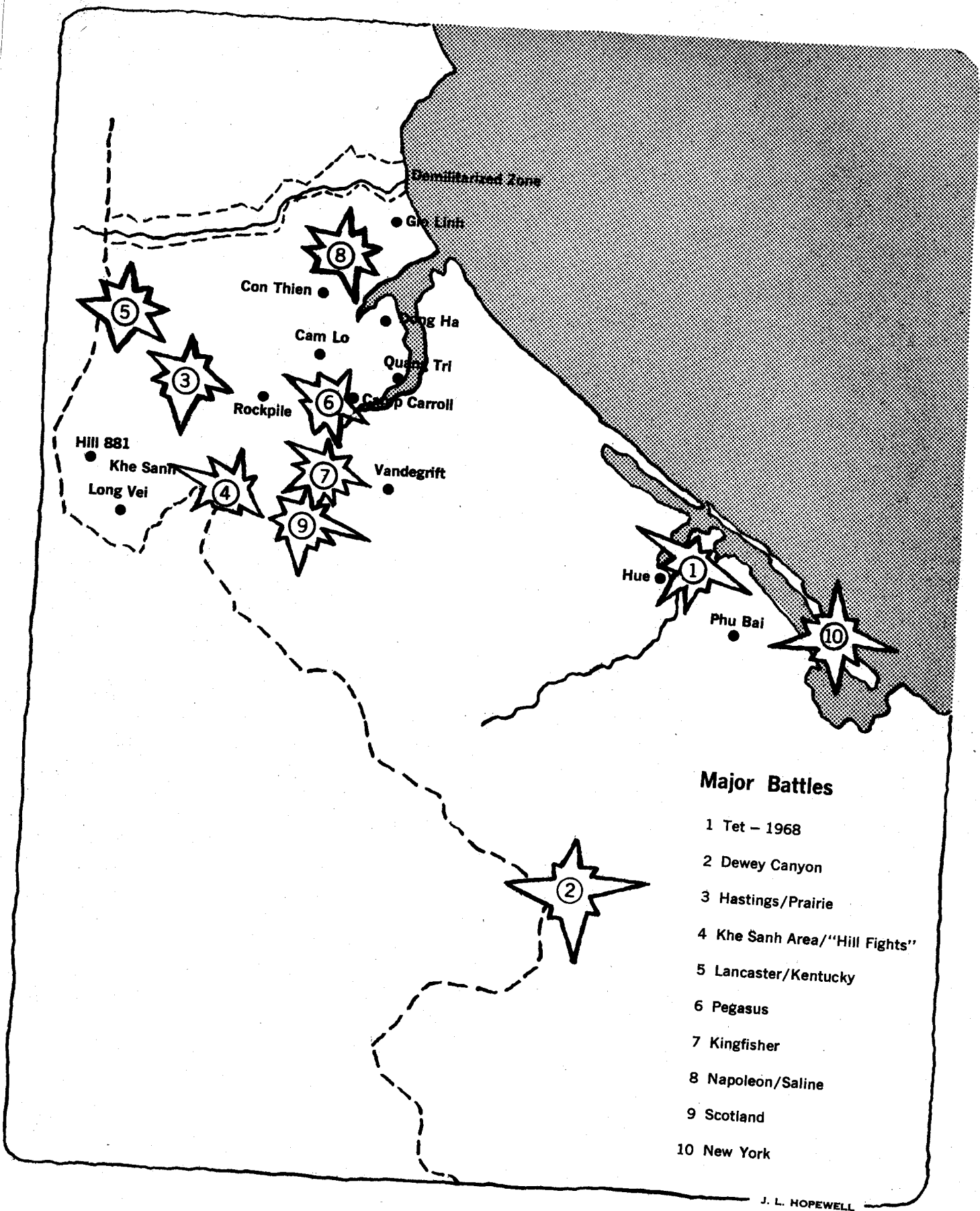
J. L. HOPEWELL



J. L. HOPEWELL



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**Major Battles**

- 1 Tet - 1968
- 2 Dewey Canyon
- 3 Hastings/Prairie
- 4 Khe Sanh Area/"Hill Fights"
- 5 Lancaster/Kentucky
- 6 Pegasus
- 7 Kingfisher
- 8 Napoleon/Saline
- 9 Scotland
- 10 New York

J. L. HOPEWELL



## About The Authors...

When Steve Stibbens reported to *Leatherneck Magazine* in 1964, he had already made three trips to Vietnam for *Stars and Stripes*. His first junket to Vietnam for *Leatherneck* was late in that year, and his articles began appearing in February 1965.

He accompanied a U.S. Marine advisor with the 2d Battalion, Vietnamese Marines, in the Mekong Delta, then did a story in Saigon before returning to *Leatherneck*.

Stibbens was back in 'Nam to record the arrival of the Ninth Marines in 1965, then penned stories on E/2/3 in Le My Village, 3d Tanks at Chu Lai, and the "Flying Nightmares" of VMFA-531.

Tom Bartlett relieved Stibbens, and his coverage included Cam Nhe with B/1/9; Operation Starlite; 3d Recon and the first Golden Fleece Operation.

Frank Beardsley followed, observing Vietnam in October 1965 through an open chopper door at HMM-161. Then he followed Harvest Moon (2/1), the SLF, 155's of F/2/12 and the Combined Action Company of 2/1.

Bob Bowen arrived in January 1966 and joined Task Force Delta on Operations Double Eagle I and II, then accompanied Marine patrols around Da Nang and Phu Bai.

Stibbens was next—his third *Leatherneck* tour in the toolies. For an aviation feature, he wrote about VMA-211's plane captains at Chu Lai, and MAG-12 Skyhawks. When Steve saw a VC suddenly disappear into the ground, he investigated, and the results were six VC and a story titled "The Hole," about G/2/9.

Bartlett returned in May 1966, and his stories included EOD, Operation Jay with F/2/4, MCB-7 Seabees, HMM-164 on Hastings, 81mm mortars of 3/4, a civic action article on M/3/4 and two stories on Vietnamese Marines and their advisors.

Herb Freeman began his tour with VMFA-115's Phantoms, then followed with 1/26 in "Death Valley," an observation unit atop the Rockpile, and "M" Battery, 155 Self-Propelled Howitzers of the 12th Marines.

Bowen was back in January 1967, and he hooked up with F/2/26 during Operation Independence, then covered scout dogs, 7th Engineers, VMFA-323 bombing runs and the Force Logistic Command. It was during this tour that Bowen authored a story on the Marine commander in Vietnam, a story that gained a nickname for the general, "Three Star Grunt" Lewis W. Walt.

Bruce Martin began his tour with the USS *Sanctuary*, followed by HMM-463's Sea Stallions, "K" Battery, 11th Marines, and the All Weather "Intruders" of VMA-242.

He was with the Ninth Marines at Con Thien during the heavy shelling.

Paul Thompson, a veteran of tours with the Third Marine Division and the First Marine Aircraft Wing arrived in 'Nam for *Leatherneck*, and joined the Korean Marines south of Da Nang, then accompanied 1/4, 3d Recon, 1st Amtracs and the Special Landing Force, (3/1).

In early 1969, John Martin wrote from Khe Sanh, and then about VMA-223, EOD, 2/12, CAP-3, MAG-39, First Wing Band and the Seventh Marines Aid Station.

Paul Thompson returned, covering LZ Vandegrift, Hue City, 3d Tanks and the OV-10 Bronco.

Herb Richardson inked stories on the Third Division's rough riders, 1/9, the return to Khe Sanh, the Korean Marines, 3d Recon and Operation Meade River.

Bruce Martin returned and wrote about scout dogs, 175mm guns, MABS-16, Combined Action, 1st ANGLICO and Navy gunfire teams aboard cruisers. He returned Stateside on a C-141 Air Force medevac, writing en route.

Thompson's third trip included Cua Viet R&R, VMGR-152, ground surveillance and the Huey Cobra.

Bowen returned to the magazine following a year at Syracuse University and a tour with the First Division. Volunteering for another stint in the 'Nam, he covered C/1/1, 1st Recon, Operation Pipestone Canyon, Ninth Marines redeployment and a rocket attack on Da Nang. He featured the Air Force's "Spooky" gunships, then Delta Med, HMM-165 redeploying and the Korean Marines on Barrier Island.

Bartlett (following Syracuse University and a tour with III MAF), went with 3d Amtracs, F/2/1, and the 1st Tanks when they moved the leper colony. He was with L/3/4 on Dong Ha Mountain, 3d Shore Party, 1st Recon SCUBA teams, HMM-263's Eager Gophers, FLC Civil Affairs team and the Vietnamese Marines.

WM Cherilee Noyes arrived in early 1970 and did stories on the USS *Sanctuary*, Vietnamese Women's Armed Forces, Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital, Navy nurses and the Crescent Beach Orphanage.

Ray Wolf, formerly with the Third Marine Division, was next, covering L/3/1, Liberty Bridge, medevacs, crew chiefs, the enemy raid on Phu Thanh and Vietnamese Marines.

Another former member of the Third Division, Jim Elliott, covered the Combined Unit Pacification Program, A/1/5 Pacifier mission and the 175mm guns at Da Nang.

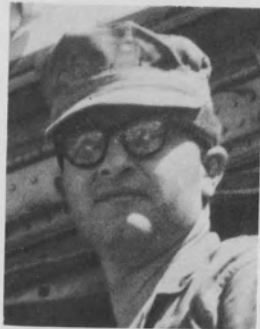
Eddie Evans, formerly 3dMarDiv, followed, and the stories continue . . . stories of Ambassadors in Green.



**Steve Stibbens**



**Tom Bartlett**



**Frank Beardsley**



**Bob Bowen**



**Herb Freeman**



**Bruce Martin**



**Paul Thompson**



**John Martin**



**Herb Richardson**



**Cherilee Noyes**



**Ray Wolf**



**Jim Elliott**



**Ed Evans**

