

HEADQUARTERS
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing FMFPac
FPO San Francisco 96601

30:LJS:ddb
13 October 1965

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From: Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 36
To: Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing (Attn: C of S, G-3)

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: Wing Order 5750.1A

Encl: ✓(1) Standard Reference Map
✓(2) Photos (9)
✓(3) Newspaper Clippings

1. Narrative of significant events occurring during the reporting period.

The USS Princeton LPH-5 arrived off the coast of Vietnam in the vicinity of Chu Lai on 31 Aug, 1965 with helicopters, personnel and gear of MAG-36. Disembarkation began on 1 Sept 65 when CH-37 detachment, VMH-6 and HMM-363 debarked and ferried their aircraft and personnel to Da Nang East and Da Nang to be parked until such time as the helo mat was completed. A rifle company of 250 officers and men were flown ashore where they set up a perimeter defense at the proposed camp site. This company was formed by personnel from MAG-36. A 140 man working party was also flown ashore to assist in unloading and stacking gear. Ammunition, "C" Rations and a limited amount of gear was flown ashore. The weather was less than desirable with high winds and reduced visibility due to rain. Lighterage craft were available but could not be utilized because of heavy seas. The LPH-5 hoisted anchor at 1930 and sailed to sea returning 2 Sept and debarkation commenced at 0630. In spite of the limited landing areas all of the gear and personnel, with the exception of HMM-364 was unloaded. HMM-362 ferried their A/C to Da Nang East for parking and security. HMM-364 debarked from the LPH-5 on 4 Sept and they also proceeded to Da Nang East. F-4S-36, MAES-36 and some squadron personnel pitched shelter halves and established camp on 2 Sept at what was to be called Ky Ha airstrip.

The SS Iberville arrived off the coast of Vietnam near Chu Lai on 1 Sept and because lighterage craft were not available, due to prior commitment, put to sea returning at 0700, 3 Sept and started unloading the bulk of camp material and gear. The manner in which the Iberville was loaded hindered Base Utilities from progressing with Base Camp. Utilities did however grade proposed tent sites and when the first tents arrived on 6 Sept and tent poles on 7 Sept they started erecting tents.

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All personnel were tented in GP tents by 17 Sept. Construction grade lumber was used by the Iberville for shoring and dunnage and the first bits of lumber delivered were pallet sized and useless for construction. The first usable lumber was unloaded on 6 Sept. and hardbacking of tents began on this day. The S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4 and communications tents were hardbacked in that order. Shower units arrived on 7 Sept. at 1300 and were in operation by 1630. This was a great boost in morale however it was short lived because on the 9th we had to supply 2400 gallons of water per day (total of 9600 gals.) to the SS Iberville to provide steam for their winches. The Iberville completed unloading on 11 Sept.

Helo Mat No #1 was completed on 12 Sept. and units from HMM-362 and VMO-6 started moving down from Da Nang East. This was the day of our first "Red Ops". HMM-362, HMM-364 & VMO-6 continued moving to Ky Ha and all A/C were at Ky Ha by 25 Sept. The field was named Ky Ha on 14 Sept.

A temporary mess hall was in operation on 12 Sept. The delay was due to the cook stoves being one of the last pieces of equipment unloaded from the Iberville. Construction of the permanent mess hall started on 19 Sept. but was hindered because of the torrential rains which began on 11 Sept. and continued thru 25 Sept.

Construction slowed down by rains picked up after the 25th and by the end of the month we had 163 tents erected and twenty of them hardbacked both at Base Camp and on the line. Flight operations continued and at the end of the month MAG-26 flew a total of 3,598 hours and 6,381 sorties and hauled a total of 9,087 troops/passengers and 1,161,688 pounds of cargo.

2. Organizational Data

a. Unit Designation	Location	Date
H&MS-36	Ky Ha	1 Sept-30 Sept
MABS-36	Ky Ha	1 Sept-30 Sept
HMM-362	Da Nang East Ky Ha	2 Sept-16 Sept 16 Sept-30 Sept
HMM-363	Da Nang Qui Nhon	1 Sept-28 Sept 28 Sept-30 Sept
HMM-364	LPH-5 Da Nang East Ky Ha	1 Sept-4 Sept 4 Sept-18 Sept 18 Sept-30 Sept
VMO-6	Da Nang East Ky Ha	1 Sept-20 Sept 20 Sept-30 Sept

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Period covered by this report: 1 Sept-30 Sept

- c. Task Organizations
- d. Commanding Officers and Staff MAG-36.
Commanders and staff of attached units
- e. The average monthly strength of MAG-36 was 11460. 235 Officers,
1225 Enlisted.

Commanding Officer and Staff MAG-36.
Commanders and staff of attached units.

CO	JOHNSON, W. G.	COL
XO	ARMAGOST, W. I.	LTCOL
ADJ	AMEROSE, R. H.	2NDLT
S-1	TOUGHTON, E. R.	MAJ
S-2	SCHULER, J. L.	CAPT
S-3	COSTELLO, K. W.	LTCOL
S-4	NAVORSKA, D. R.	MAJ
CHAP	HOWARD, M.	ETCDR
DR	SCHENK, T.	LT
MTO	MOFFETT, F. L.	CAPT
EMS	RANDALL, R. T.	1STLT
ORD	PARKER, G. R.	CWO
MAINT	GARDINER, J. C. JR.	MAJ
LEG	TROYER	1STLT
COMMO	MEEKS, C. I.	CAPT
CIVIL AFFAIRS	FARNSWORTH, F. W.	MAJ
AVN SAF	GOODSELL	MAJ
NATOPS	VOBORA	MAJ
SECURITY O	JESSEN, T. F.	CAPT

H&MS

CO	MOONEY, T. G.	LTCOL
XO	SIVERT, P. G.	MAJ

MABS

CO	KENNEDY, J. A.	MAJ
XO	CRANE, W. B.	CAPT

HMM-362

CO	ALDWORTH, J.	LTCOL
XO	DUVAL, R. L.	MAJ
OPS	SMITH, W. W.	MAJ

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HMM-363

CO	KEW	LTCOL
XO	KELLOGG	MAJ
OPS	GRAHAM	MAJ

HMM-364

CO	LUCAS, W. R.	LTCOL
XO	HATCH, R. D.	MAJ
OPS	NEEDHAM, M. J.	MAJ

VMO-6

CO	ZITNIK, R. J.	LTCOL
XO	PRESSEN, R. E.	MAJ
OPS	HARKEY, H. S.	MAJ

3. Sequential listing of significant events for the period covered.

- 1 Sept: The USS Princeton (LPH-5) commenced debarkation. HMM-363 debarked for Da Nang. VMO-6 debarked from LPH-5 for Da Nang East for storage of A/C awaiting completion of Mat #1 at Ky Ha. CH-37 detachment debarked LPH-5 for Da Nang East to become an integral unit of MAG-16. The MAG-36 Rifle Company debarked USS Princeton to set up a perimeter Defense around the camp site. A 104 man working party went ashore and began initial unloading.
- 2 Sept: H&MS-36, MABS-36, debarked from LPH-5 and began to dig in to stay at Ky Ha. HMM-362 debarked for Da Nang East for storage of A/C awaiting completion of Mat #1. A security force from MAG-36 Rifle Company departed for Da Nang East to provide security for parked helicopters. This force consisted of one officer and twenty enlisted men. VMO-6 began cross training with the U.S. Army 7th Aviation Platoon flying training hops only.
- 3 Sept: The T. A. K. S.S. Iberville arrived off the coast of Vietnam near Chu Lai and commenced off loading the bulk of MAG-36 materials and equipment. Base Utilities were grading the land preparatory to erecting tentage. HMM-364 A/C supported the U.S. Army fly off the LPH-5 at Saigon.
- 4 Sept: The Seabees began laying Aluminum matting on Mat #1. HMM-364 completed unloading the last of MAG-36 gear from the LPH-5 and debarked for Da Nang East parking their A/C awaiting completion of Mat #1.

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The MAG-36 Rifle Company recieved its first sniper fire on the Eastern perimeter and first W.I.A. accured this day. VMO-6 continued cross training hops with the Army Aviation Platoon and flew Med evacs and helo escort supporting MAG-16.

- 5 Sept: A security force consisting of one officer and 40 men from MAG-36 Rifle Company was sent to Chu Lai airfield for a period of 10 days. HMM-362 and 364 began flying administrative runs from Da Nang.
- 6 Sept: Tents began arriving from the SS Iberville and a limited amount of tents were erected. Tent poles still on T.A.K. First beer sales (2 per man)
- 7 Sept: Tent poles unloaded and tents now going up at a good rate. Shower units unloaded at 1200 and showers were in operation at 1630. This was a big boost in morale.
- 9 Sept: Base Utilities began hardbacking of S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, and Communications tents. The laundry unit was put in operation. All pilots from VMO-6 had completed cross training with the Army.
- 11 Sept: Work was started on the Temporary Mess Hall and we also got our first Monsoon rains.
- 12 Sept: The Helo Mat #1 was completed and MAG-36 begins operations from Ky Ha Airfield. First official visitor to Ky Ha was Lt. Gen Mangrum. The first hot meal served to personnel in Temporary Mess Hall. Base Utilities blew its first Dry Well. The T.A.K. USS Iberville completed unloading. HMM-362 started moving A/C and personnel from Da Nang East and VMO-6 provided VIP A/C for CNO Admiral McDonald and assistant CMC Lt. Gen. Mangrum.
- 14 Sept: The field was officially named Ky Ha. HMM-364 A/C and personnel began moving to Ky Ha from Da Nang East. Rains continued and muddy ground nearly bringing construction work to a standstill. VMO-6 began moving its A/C and personnel to Ky Ha and started operations immediately.
- 15 Sept: Two A/C were committed on a daily basis to MAG-12 for S.A.R.
- 17 Sept: All personnel are under GP tents. All of HMM-362 now at Ky Ha and operating full scale.
- 19 Sept: Work was started on the permanent Field Mess Hall which will have a seating capacity of 400 personnel.

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- 20 Sept: Base Utilities blew its second well and we now have our own water source. HMM-364 now at Ky Ha in full strength.
- 24 Sept: A helo from HMM-362 piloted by Capt. J. Durrant rescued Commander J. Gallagher, C.O. V. A. 196, U.S.S. Bonne Homme Richard from the waters near Chu Lai, after he parachuted from his crippled jet.
- 25 Sept: All MAG-36 A/C and personnel, less HMM-363, are now at Ky Ha operating from one mat 600 x 900 ft. In spite of the crowded conditions flight operations continue on a large scale. There are 65 A/C parked and flying from Ky Ha, Mat #1. The field PX was opened on this day and many needed items went on sale. The rains finally stopped and personnel were busy trying to dry out their gear and clothing.
- 28 Sept: HMM-363 was displaced to Qui Nhon to support U.S. Army task force Alfa.
- 30 Sept: Special Services opened and first movies were shown at Ky Ha. At the end of the month of Sept. there were 163 tents erected. 20 of them were hardbacked including two dispensary tents. The significant operations were "Hardfleck" and "Quickdraw".

Special Notes.

The S-2 section prepared a booklet of maps on which the latest photo imagery overlays are plotted. This is used in conjunction with photos on HLZ's etc.

In spite of the drain of manpower from all units to support the 250¹⁸⁰ man rifle company, operations continue fairly close to normal although a heavy burden is laid on key personnel.

Our engineering dept. rigged up a drying tent by erecting a G.P. tent close to a Generator and ducted the hot air blown over the engine into the tent. This allows drying facilities for clothing, boots, etc., in wet weather, a very necessary commodity in this climate.

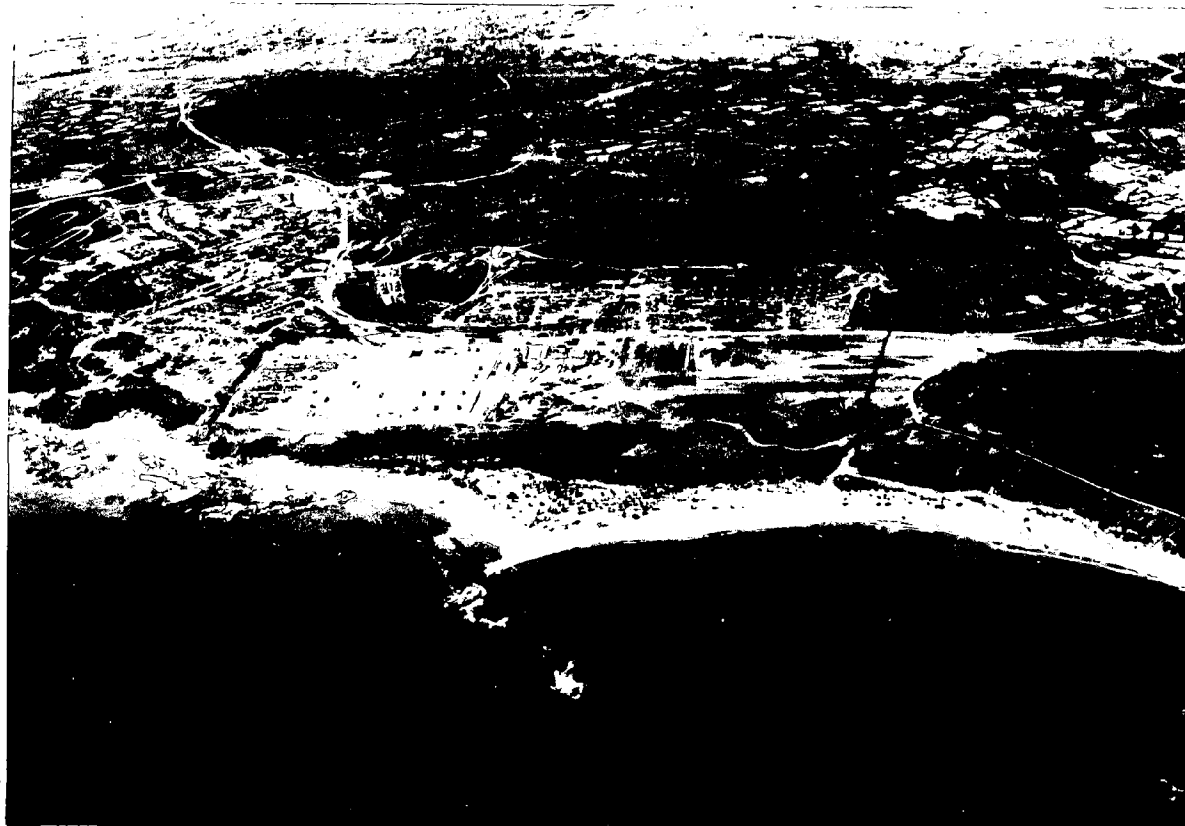
Another ingenious idea which the engineering dept. came up with was the water cooler. A lister bag was erected 6 feet off the ground and a hose connected to the water cooler. Water flows by gravity with sufficient pressure to operate the electric cooler.

The communications section is doing a real job with 40 phones and 2 switch boards, but in order to be 100% efficient they will need 100 phones and a switch board capable of 80-100 lines.

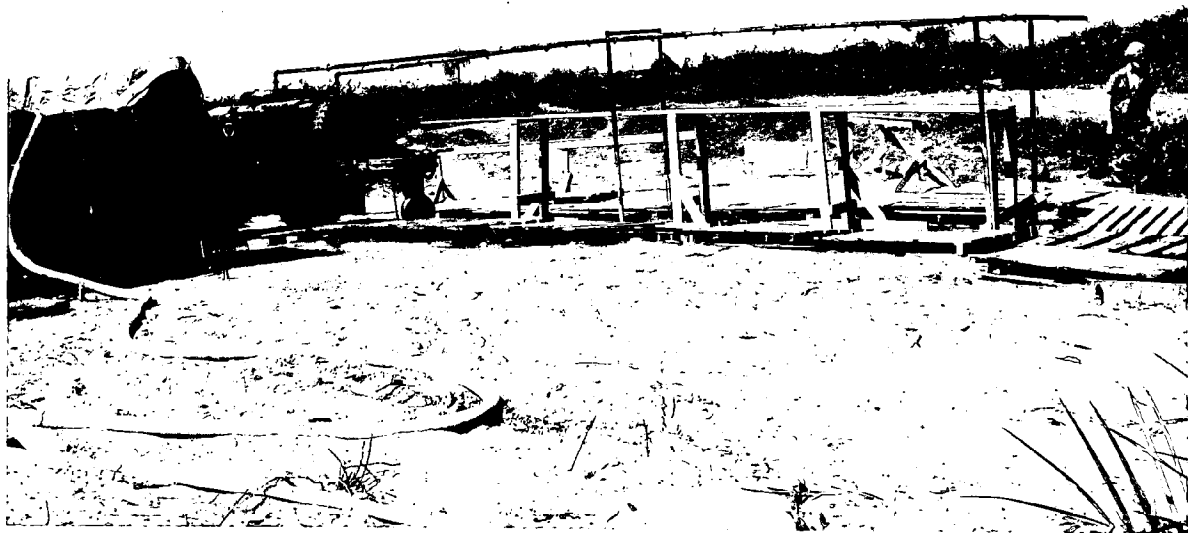
William G. Johnson
WILLIAM G. JOHNSON

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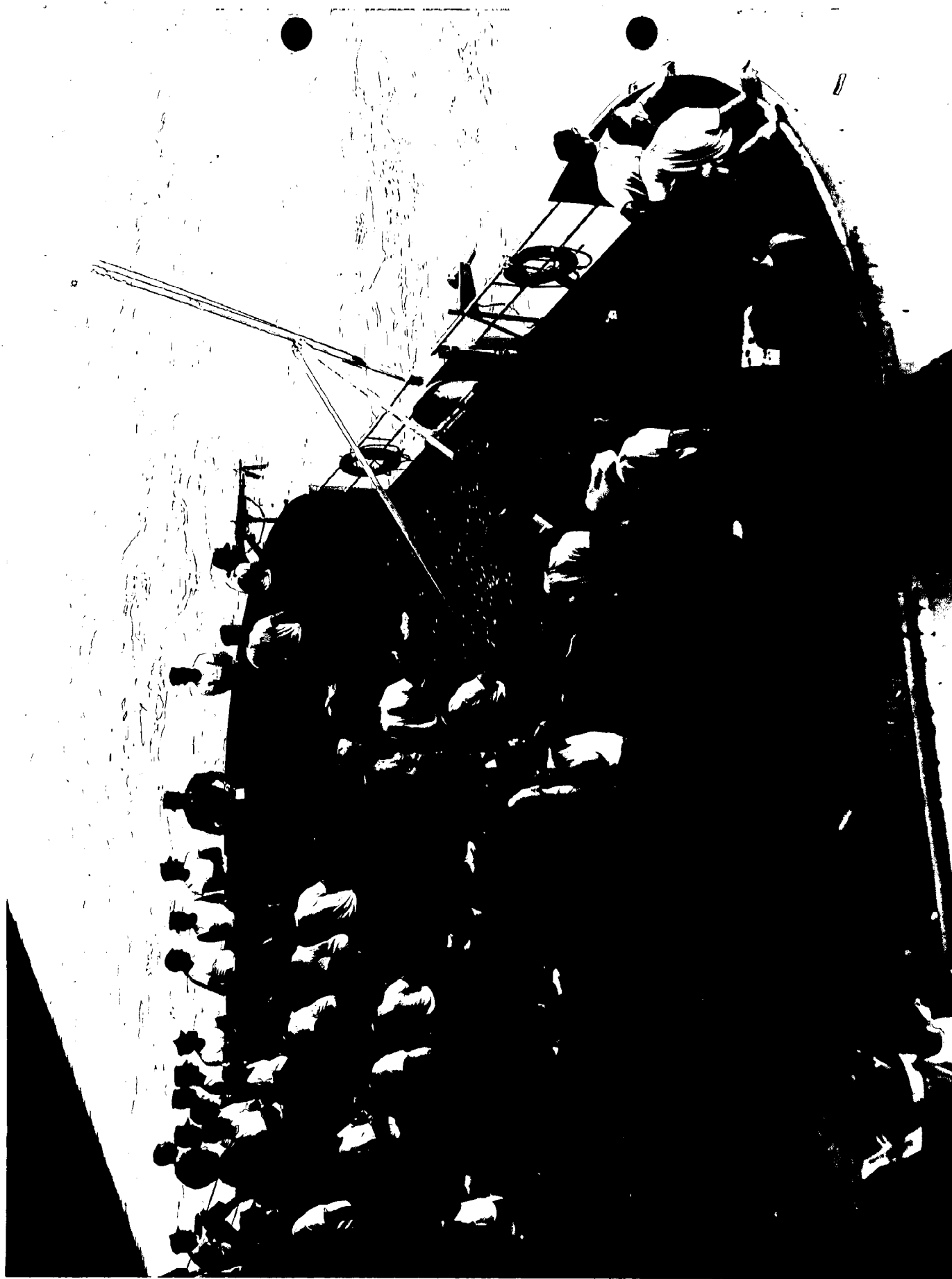


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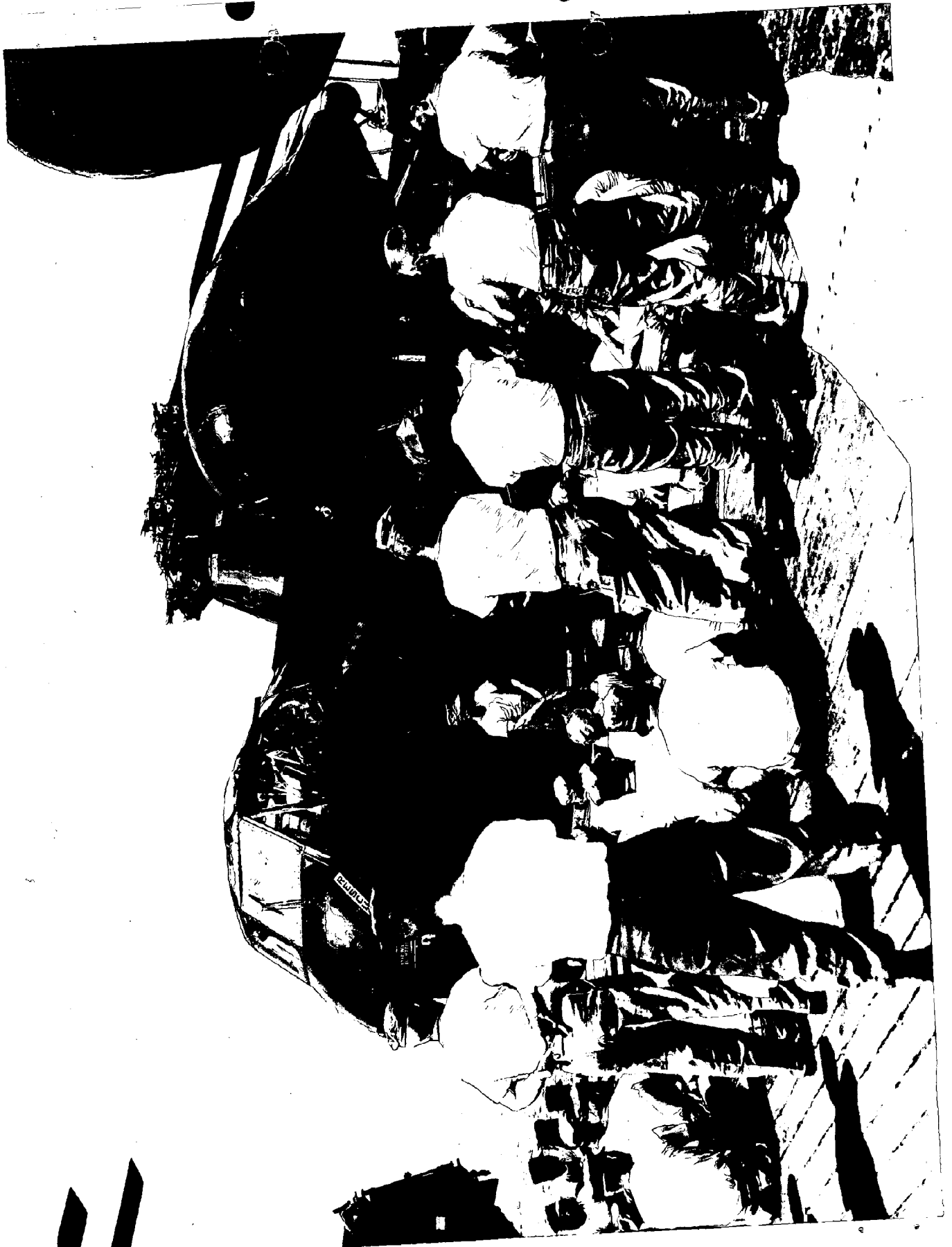
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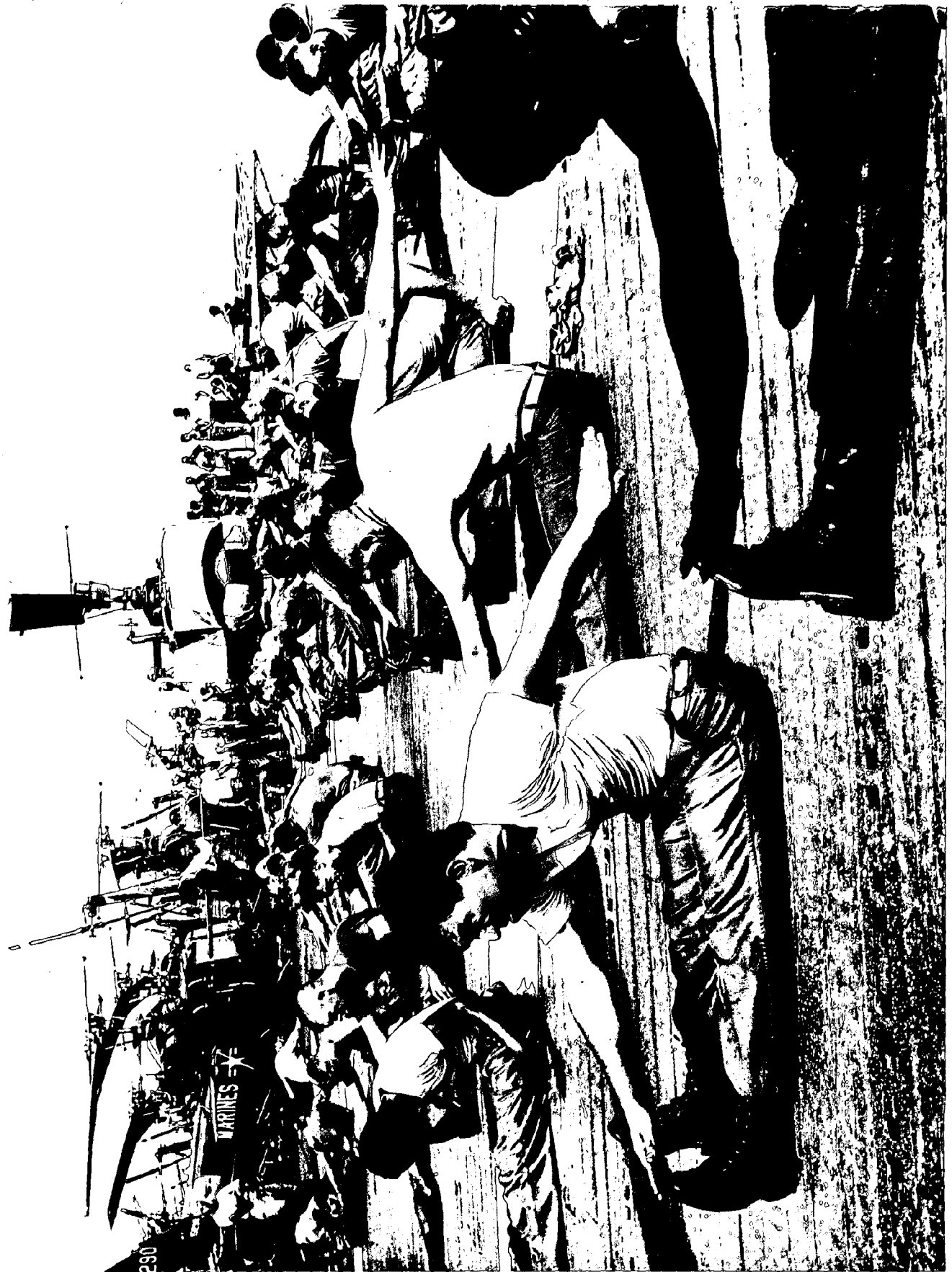
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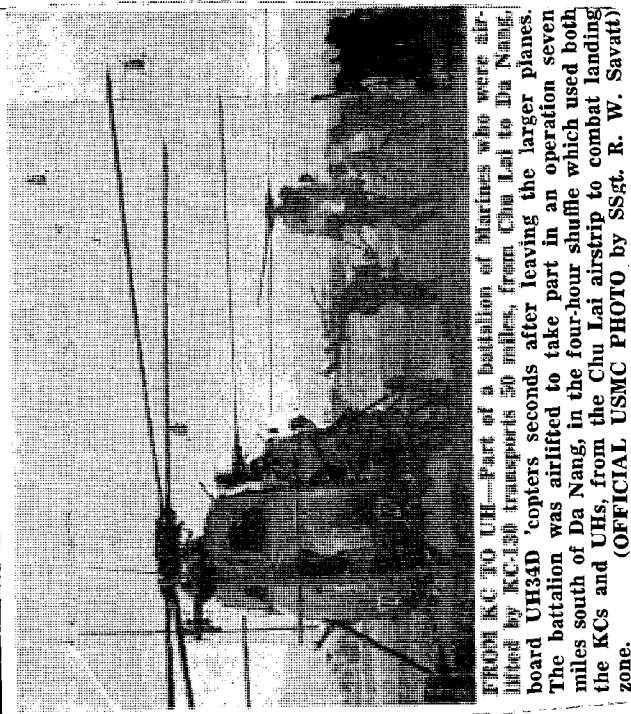
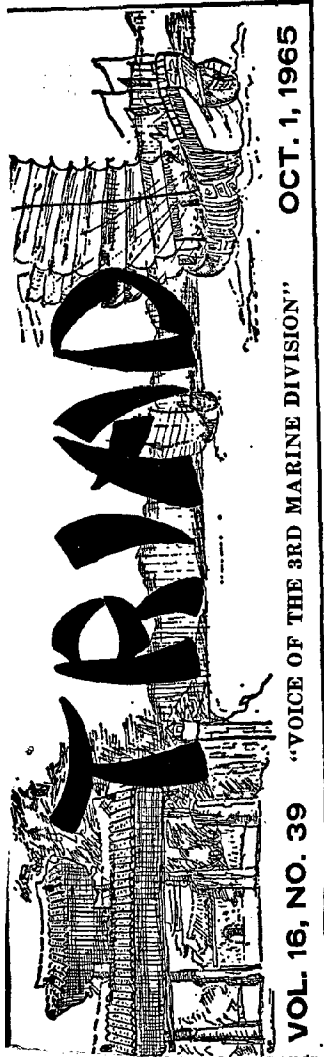
'Make Better, Doc'; Medic Answers Vietnamese Plea

Observer - 10/2/65

Chu Lai (USMC-10) — He has no hospital or clinic. Instead, he sets up his medical kit in the middle of a dirt road. But to residents of the small fishing village of Ky Ha, he is a form of help they have never had.

When Marine Aircraft Group 36 moved into the sprawling air complex at Chu Lai recently, Bill Louis, a Navy corpsman with the Group's medical department, noticed that the adjacent hamlet had no medical facilities whatever. He began visiting and treating the villagers.

His medications are modest — mostly adhesive bandages and advice — but to the villagers, he's practically as important as a mayor. The old men and women and the youngsters have, in the past, considered medical aid of any sort
(Cont'd on p-7, Col. 1)



FROM KC TO UH—Part of a battalion of Marines who were airlifted by KC-130 transports 50 miles, from Chu Lai to Da Nang, board UH34D 'copters seconds after leaving the larger planes. The battalion was airlifted to take part in an operation seven miles south of Da Nang, in the four-hour shuffle which used both the KCs and UHs, from the Chu Lai airstrip to combat landing zone. (OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO by SSgt. R. W. Savatt)

▲ Make Better

(Cont'd from p-1, Col. 5)
only when death was eminent.

Someday, Louis hopes that Ky Ha will have an established medical clinic. But, it may not happen today... or even tomorrow. At night, Viet Cong snipers move into the paddies surrounding Ky Ha to shoot at the Marines.

Louis knows that the villagers aren't going to put up with it much longer though. He realizes it every time a child skips down the dirt road in the morning, holding a scraped knee or arm and crying the only English he or she knows: "Make better, Doc."

Leatherneck Saves Passenger From Death Aboard Burning Helicopter

Chu Lai (USMC-10) — A U.S. Marine Corps helicopter troop ship gradually settled into an assault landing zone, large enough for only one plane at a time, when a sudden draft of turbulent air sent the loaded ship skidding down a sharp embankment, and the co-pilot yelled, "Mike, we're on fire!"

It was the type of warning that forecasts disaster, but the Marines aboard the chopper averted what could have caused the tragic death of everyone aboard.

Within seconds, five passengers and four crewmen were off the flaming ship, the infantrymen still clutching their weapons. But there was one Marine unaccounted for.

1st Lt. Mike D. Fowler, the pilot, ran to the smoking troop compartment and found the unconscious Marine, barely visible in the

flames. Fowler grabbed the Marine by his pack harness to pull him out, but the victim's gear was tangled in the seat.

The unconscious man's clothes were starting to catch fire and Fowler cradled him in his arms and pulled with every ounce of strength he had. The seat broke loose and trailed after the pilot as he carried the man from the wreckage.

A crew chief from another helicopter which land-

ed in the landing zone raced to the scene of the crash. "By the time I got there," he recounted, "the fire had started to set off the ammo. Bullets were flying all over the place. I saw the co-pilot in a sort of daze, yelling for Lt. Fowler. He was in the open and I guess I hit him full tilt. We both wound up flat behind a rock."

A replacement Marine squad was flown in and the assault mission continued.

Personnel 10/2/65

Copter Has Pinups

10/4/65

CHU LAI, Vietnam (ISO) — Whenever Marine infantrymen headed for battle climb into Sgt. William E. Barter's chopper, they begin swiveling their helmeted heads as if they were having heli-cinations.

There are beautiful women all around them.

Barter, of Santa Ana, Cal., is crew chief of a troop-carrying copter in Marine Medium Helicopter Sq. 362, and he's literally walled the UH34Ds insides with pin-ups.

"These guys riding in my bird are heading for firefights," he explains, "so I figured to give them something to think about, other than the minutes after they get out. From the gallery-searching I've seen them doing, I guess the idea works."

Shy Girl Has Proud Moment

CHU LAI, Vietnam (ISO) — A 14-year-old girl returned a U.S. machine gun and was flabbergasted when a convoy rolled into her village to bring presents of thanks from Marine Corps field grade officers.

The gun broke from its mount as a Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-36 helicopter flew over Sam Hai, a few miles from here, and fell to a field surrounding the town. Its loss was a serious concern because of the possibility of it falling into Viet Cong hands.

Young Nguyen Thi Suu found the M-60 and turned it over to the hamlet chieftain. He returned it to MAG-36.

Later, representatives of the helicopter group drove into Sam Hai. The commanding officer of MAG-36, Col. William G. Johnson, from Fountain Valley, Cal., headed the delegation.

He gave the chieftain a bag of salt, a Vietnamese custom when visiting for the first time, then asked to see Miss Suu.

Extremely shy and refusing to look into the faces of her elders, also, a Vietnamese custom, the young lady accepted gifts donated by MAG-36 marines. Then, she backed off, smiling shyly at the exclamation of her young friends.

MAG-36 At ChuLai; Augments MAG-16

Story by WO Rob Robinson

DA NANG, Vietnam—Col. William G. Johnson stood on the bridge of the USS Princeton, Landing Platform Helicopter (LPH)-5, and watched as some 1,400 Marines of his command landed on beaches at Chu Lai.

Transport helicopters of the unit, MAG-36, took off from the Princeton's flight deck endlessly throughout the day.

No sooner had a chopper—loaded with equipment, supplies and Marines—launched into the wind than another UH-34D was raised from the hangar deck and

moved into position. Helicopters were moved into take-off circles and were airborne within minutes.

Nearby, other Marines moved from compartments aboard two other troop carrying ships—the USS Comstock and USS Iberville.

A strong wind whipped the South China Sea as they loaded small landing craft with other cargo. Boats circled beside the mother ship and on signal formed a skirmish line to streak toward the distant shore.

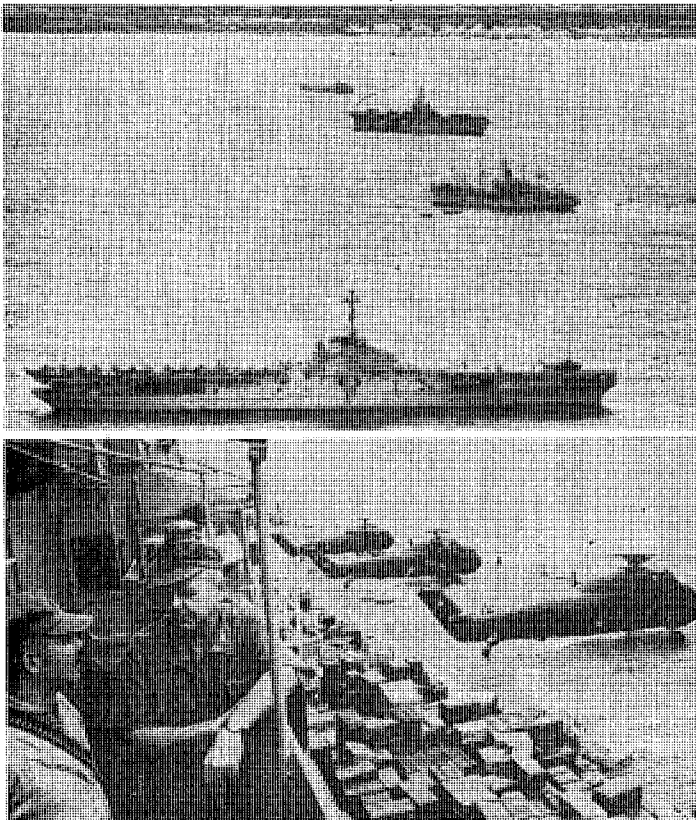
Taking in the beehive of
(Continued on Page 8)

Thought
For The Week
“Men should not think too much of themselves, and yet a man should always be careful not to forget himself.”

(G. D. PRENTICE)

has been great. This is an outstanding example of what we mean by the Navy-Marine Corps team.

“I'm particularly proud of these men,” he continued. “I put them on their honor and allowed them to use their initiative and they have never let me



NEW MAG AT CHU LAI—Marines and helicopters of El Toro's MAG-36 move ashore at Chu Lai September 3. Four helicopter squadrons unloaded from the carrier USS Princeton. In bottom photo, Col. William G. Johnson (right), MAG-36 Commander, talks with one of his pilots as the Group's UH-34D choppers move ashore.

(PHOTOS BY SSGT. R.W. SAVATT JR.)

'ConscienceOne'

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III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE AND NAVAL COMPONENT COMMAND
MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
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CALIFORNIA 96601

Release No. 691-65 Photo No. 1-308-65
First Marine Aircraft Wing Release No. X-291-65
By: Sgt. C. B. Simmons

Da Nang Press Center
Da Nang, Vietnam
Tel: Falcon 6259

b-52

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Sept 29 -- Elements of three squadrons from Marine Medium Helicopter Group (MAG)-36 here became the first Marine 'copters to airlift a search force into an area saturated earlier by strategic B-52 bombers.

Twenty-eight 'copters were used to haul 244 Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers who combed the bombed Viet Cong stronghold four miles south of Quang Ngai. The troop-carriers were from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadrons (HMM)-362 and -364, escorted by four armed "Hueys" from Marine Observation Squadron (VMO)-6.

The heli-landings were unopposed, and the four-hour search by the ARVN forces told why.

Over the entire three-mile-long, half-as-wide belt, there were signs of hasty enemy departures. Weapons, money caches and food supplies were left behind as the VC fled beneath the showers of steel dropped by the heavy bombers. No bodies were found, nor were there any live Viet Cong around to contest the neutralization.

After the initial assault landings, the Marine copters returned to Quang Ngai to stand by for medical evacuations or battlefield resupply. They weren't needed however, until they were called back to lift the ARVN troops back home.

-USMC-

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MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
C/O FPO, SAN FRANCISCO
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Release No. 686-65

First Marine Aircraft Wing Release No. X-286-65

By: Sgt. C. B. Simmons

Da Nang Press Center

Da Nang, Vietnam

Tel: Falcon 6259

helo out

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Sept. 27 -- The words "bird down" are electrifying. They mean a helicopter is on the ground in enemy territory, and they flip the switch on a current of hustle.

A Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM)-362 chopper piloted by 1stLt. William T. Walter (Abilene, Texas) is an example. A mechanical failure forced him down in an area called White Sands, 10 miles northwest of here in the middle of recent Viet Cong activity.

In almost as much time as it takes to read about it, the four-man crew had stripped the aircraft of armament and essential equipment and were in another 'copter. The companion aircraft set down beside 1stLt. Walter's UH34D almost as soon as it settled to the ground.

Another 'copter wound tight circles around the disabled craft, its guns discouraging any attempts the VC might have of claiming the cripple.

Within minutes, two Marine armed "Huey" helicopters were flying above White Sands. They had scrambled when the "Bird Down" radio call went out.

The companion bird flying cover, low on fuel, returned to Chu Lai. Two additional UH34D's with maintenance gear were preparing to take off with MSgt. Michael W. Katznark (San Clemente, Calif.) squadron maintenance chief. A squad of infantry Marines, always on stand-by for such emergencies, were also loaded aboard, to provide a ground perimeter defense.

~~more~~

helo out 2-2-2-2-2-2

With the flying arsenal above with riflemen surrounding him, MSgt. Katzmark repaired the engine sufficiency to fly the cripple home.

The half-million-dollar 'copter labored back to Chu Lai, flanked by enough aerial ordnance to discourage possible Viet Cong interference.

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III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE AND NAVAL COMPONENT COMMAND
MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM
C/O FPO, SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA 96601

Release No. 632-65
First Marine Aircraft Wing Release No. X-267-65
By: Sgt. C. B. Simmons

Da Nang Press Center
Da Nang, Vietnam
Tel: Falcon 6259

well

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Sept. 20 -- Next to digging Viet Cong out of the perimeter, digging water out of the ground is the big consideration of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-36.

The Corps' newest helicopter group in Vietnam is in the process of settling into its combat base, while simultaneously, flying assaults against the Viet Cong. Water is a primary concern... enough to support the 1800 heli-Marines who've increased Chu Lai's population.

So the first crane which came ashore with MAG-36 was put to work. Within two days it had scooped 50-feet down into what'll become the Group's reservoir... and gathered its own peculiar type of sidewalk superintendents.

They are machinegun crews, on watch day and night to protect MAG-36's perimeters from Viet Cong probes.

-usmc-

Supporting Art
MAF Release No. 691-65 Photo No. 1-308-65

AFTER THE BOMBERS -- A force of Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers scramble into position after leaving a Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-36 helicopter. Twenty-eight MAG-36 'copters lifted the ARVN troops to search a Viet Cong stronghold which had just been smashed by a B-52 bombing raid. Hastily discarded VC weapons, money and food were found during the four-hour search. (OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO BY Sgt. C. B. Simmons)

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