

U.S.M.C.
193
YEARS



"HUMPING - IT"
C. S. COOPER '68



SEA TIGER



Vol. IV, No. 45

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

November 8, 1968

BIRTHDAY RECAP



Moving Out

Leathernecks, partially hidden by tall elephant grass, emerge from a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter during a search and clear mission near Khe Sanh. For a special Birthday Supplement depicting Marines in action, see the centerfold.

Commandant's Message

This 10th of November 1968 marks the 193rd anniversary of the founding of our Corps. Conceived in a period of crisis, Marines ever since have stood ready to defend the Republic. We do so today.

Our success derives from the sweat and blood of the Marines who preceded us. We see the value of this heritage reflected in the combat record of our forces in Vietnam.

To those past Marines who have made the Corps what it is . . . the finest fighting force the world has ever seen . . . we pay our everlasting respect. To those wearing the uniform today, I say, "Well done; continue the march."

Our Corps lives in the hearts and minds of Marines . . . regular, reserve, retired . . . throughout the world. To them, and to their families on this very special day, I send my personal greetings and best wishes.

Gen. Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.
Commandant-U.S. Marine Corps

With Heroism, Pride, Tradition

Marines hammered out new traditions in their 193rd year . . . one of often-bitter combat. Khe Sanh, Hue and hundreds of other fights topped their Corps' 192nd-year roster of victories.

The year began quietly with monsoon rains beginning to fall on the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam and ground action limited.

It had a costly beginning. With the year only five days old, MajGen. Bruno A. Hochmuth, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Division, died in a shot-down helicopter.

The month ended with the retirement of Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., the Corps' 23rd

LtGen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr., took the oath of office, became the 24th Commandant and began (Continued on Back Page)

Watch Who You're Calling a 'Boot'!

By: GySgt. Tom Bartlett

With all due respect to the senior Marines, it is time that the truth were known. We "boots" have absorbed your sea stories and laughed at your legends.

"We've sat hypnotized while you told us about Dan Daly, Chesty Puller and John Basilone. "We've seen all the John Wayne movies.

Now, again with all due respect, we ask that you listen to us.

Let's knock off all this jazz about the "old Corps." You, sir,

"old Corps;" the kind out of the Guidebook for Marines which we had to memorize (at least were never in it! I mean THE (Continued on Page 6)

CG, FMFPac's Message

On November 10th, 1968 the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, along with Marines everywhere, observes the 193rd anniversary of our United States Marine Corps. Some will pay tribute to this occasion in the traditional manner. But, as on other Marine Corps Birthdays, the majority of the Marines of this command will be engaged in combat, far from the strains of festive music and the gleam of polished leather and brass.

This is nothing new or unique. Throughout our nearly 200 years of history, Marines have manned the ramparts in freedom's name at points throughout the globe, in order that loved ones and countrymen might live in peace and contentment.

As we honor the proud history of our Corps and the deeds of those who fought and died at places forever hallowed by their valor, let us pay special tribute to our present generation of Marines who, in the magnificent tradition of their predecessors, are fighting in Vietnam for the causes of liberty and dignity. In paying deserved tribute to those courageous men who are engaging the enemy on the battlefield, we do not overlook the significant contributions which the other men and women of this command are performing in the vital support functions throughout the Pacific. We honor, too, the families of our Marines, who also serve, and who, through loving devotion, courageous sacrifices and fervent prayers contribute so much to the morale and spirit of our fighting men.

To all Marines of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, and their families, Happy Birthday and best wishes.

LtGen. H.W. Buse, Jr.
CG, FMFPac

Gen Cushman's Message

Since the beginning of our Corps on November 10th, 1775, generation after generation of gallant Marines have written their individual pages of Marine history as they fought and suffered in every major war our nation has waged. Today, in Vietnam, a new page is being added to the illustrious annals of the Marine Corps. It is a page being written by men who, for the most part, were too young to serve in the Korean conflict, by men to whom the Pacific island campaigns of World War II are only parts of the legend handed down to them by their fathers and members of an older generation of Marines. Yet it is a page that, I am sure, will live eternally in the memory, gratitude and admiration of our own nation, of the Republic of South Vietnam, and of free men everywhere.

On 10 November, our 193rd Anniversary, our birthday finds us, as many other birthdays have found Marines, engaged in mortal combat with those who would enslave free men. As part of the free world forces in South Vietnam, God willing, we shall be successful in this struggle.

To all Marines serving in Vietnam, I extend my sincere best wishes for a happy anniversary and continued success in all your endeavors.

Robert E. Cushman, Jr.
CG, III MAF



MUD—Leathernecks of a different era slog through a swollen stream bed unlike the terrain found near the DMZ. . . .

SEA TIGER

Lieutenant General R. E. Cushman, Jr.

Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force

Major General Rathvon McC. Tompkins

Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force

Major General Earl E. Anderson

Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force

FISO

Editor

Asst. Editor

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Vietnamese Marine Corps Commandant's Message

On the occasion of the forthcoming 193rd Anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps, it is once again my honor, on behalf of the officers and men of the Vietnamese Marine Corps, to extend sincerest congratulations and best wishes to the fighting men of III MAF.

Although this anniversary is touched with sadness as a result of continued armed conflict against the vicious communist aggressors, this traditional day of reflection can be a source of additional pride and inspiration as a result of the many added accomplishments to your already long and glorious history. The dedication and sacrifice toward the cause of freedom of the U.S. Marines and their families is a source of inspiration and pride to all of us who share the name "Marine".

We of the Vietnamese Marine Corps salute the United States Marines.

Le Nguyen Khang
LtGen, Vietnamese Marine Corps
Commandant

Why "Humping It?"

What we needed was an appropriate cover presentation for our Marine Corps Birthday Issue, . . . one which told a story and expressed a feeling that all Marines experience throughout the Marine Corps. I didn't really know where to start looking. We had tons of good photos, stacks of suggestions and a trinkle of ideas.

After sorting through various ideas and suggestions we finally came up with what we wanted . . . Combat Art. Combat Art, as we know it today, is an expression of war, through the artist's own style and feeling. An artist can present a mood of anger and of passiveness through one stroke of his brush, . . . or can convey his feeling of people . . . people in conflict.

I didn't really know what art picture to pick because they were all excellent, until I came upon the one we used as our final cover. The drawing was done by Marine Corporal Henry C. Casselli, an experienced and well-known artist in Vietnam. The title of the drawing is "Humping It." As you can see, the drawing hasn't any caption . . . it doesn't need one. The picture speaks for itself. We want it to speak for itself.

Why "Humping It?"

The word "hump", defined in the dictionary doesn't fit our interpretation, but the slang definition does. From the dictionary the slang means: "To exert oneself, . . . To carry a tremendous load." In either sense, it says exactly what we wanted. By our picture we conveyed, . . . or at least we hope we did . . . a mood and expression of power, yet profound, . . . of life, yet nearness of death, . . . and of combat, yet a sincere thought for the distressed.

The drawing symbolizes a unique and colorful history of the Marine Corps throughout the past decades. It repeats on and on again, . . . "Humping It."

Yes we did hump it . . . we humped it from the Bahamas to Bull Run, . . . from Tripoli to Tulagi, . . . from Belleau Wood to Bougainville and from Chosin to Khe Sanh. We never broke stride, never budged an inch, never faltered from our mission and responsibility.

We came a long way from our beginning at Tun's Tavern . . . from the mast riggings during the War of 1812 . . . and from the dense jungles in the DMZ. We fought but were humane and understanding. We fought from every known clime, . . . from the sweat-soaking humidity to the bone-shaking cold . . . from the dark jungles to rugged mountain terrain.

Every year we pause to look back on our history and accomplishments, . . . to render due honor to those who have fallen . . . and those who will fall. We celebrate the founding of our Corps. By every action we take and every foothold we achieve, we are making history now . . . wherever Marines find themselves.

We can be justly proud to look upon our accomplishments, both past and present, but never forgetting our mission. We have both time and patience to foster peace and well-being towards other. We respect others who act the same.

Although confusing and complicated at times, . . . this conflict in which we are now engaged shows us the capacity of the enemy to alarm and confuse the populace . . . to forcefully bend people to their own will and ends . . . whatever they might be. We, as Marines know all too well the shortcoming of this philosophy. With patience and pride we are showing the people our good will.

As we come to our 193rd Anniversary of the founding of our Corps, we of the Sea Tiger Staff pay special tribute to the majority of Marines who will again be engaged in combat, far from the gay festivities. To those who might not see "polished leather and brass", and to those who will be holding a front line seat in history.

Marines are still humping it . . . at this minute without faltering. Humping it near the DMZ, . . . in the rugged mountains, . . . and humping it with the Vietnamese self-help care program.

We maintain that the past holds a key to the future . . . the future of our country, . . . of many countries . . . and of our Corps. Although some shake off the past and rely upon dissent to foster their goals . . . we must now gauge ourselves to the present. We understand fully our responsibilities to our country and Corps, and will continue to grow with our heritage.

We dedicate this Marine Corps Birthday Issue of the Sea Tiger to all Leathernecks who are "Humping It". To those who are making history, . . . and to those who are helping others shape a war ridden country.

My sincere hope is that this Birthday Issue of the Sea Tiger will convey a thought, . . . a feeling and a purpose for what Marines have done, . . . and for what they are doing in this 193rd Anniversary of our Corps. No more can I ask but this.

Let history decide if we succeeded in our venture.

Sgt. Kenneth J. DeOre
Editor—Sea Tiger

On Time, ... On Target, ... 1st MAW

From Past To Present Marine Corps Aviation

BEGINNING

The first Marine pilot was Lt. Alfred A. Cunningham, who soloed on 1 August 1912 after two hours and 40 minutes of instruction. Honored as the fifth aviator in Naval Aviation history, he and other Marine aviators were responsible for many innovations during early experiments. Lieutenant Bernard Smith made one of the first attempts at bombing from a naval plane. The bombardier's left arm was strapped to the side of the plane so he could lean over the side, release the wind wheel, and pitch the bomb. Alfred Cunningham was one of the first to take off by catapult from a battleship; and Capt. Francis T. Evans looped and spun a seaplane, though experts believed it couldn't be done.

WORLD WAR I

During World War I, the First Marine Aeronautic Company became the first American flying unit of any service to go overseas completely trained and equipped. They performed the first recorded food-dropping mission when they replenished a French regiment isolated for several days in the front lines on the Western Front. The Armistice came soon after Marine aviation arrived, but the Marines performed admirably despite the shortage of time and planes. In one particular case, Lieut. Ralph Talbot, a pilot, and his observer, GySgt. Robert Robinson, were awarded Medals of Honor for shooting down two enemy planes against overwhelming odds.

THE BANANA WARS

Between the World Wars, the Marine Corps with its aviation was the only U.S. military service substantially engaged in combat. While serving in Santo

Domingo, Haiti and Nicaragua after World War I, Marine pilots in action contributed to new tactics in air warfare. In Nicaragua, Major Ross Rowell led the first organized dive bombing and possibly the first low altitude attack ever launched in support of ground troops. Marine aviators were also the first to employ air-to-ground communications and the first to transport troops and supplies by air.

Marines air-evacuated wounded in Haiti and Santo Domingo; however, the best known evacuation occurred in Nicaragua. Lt. Christian F. Schilt, in January 1928, made ten dangerous flights under fire. He landed on a makeshift airfield with no brakes and rescued 18 seriously wounded Marines. For his heroism, Lt. Schilt received the Medal of Honor.

WORLD WAR II

The attack on Pearl Harbor destroyed all but one of the 48 Marine planes based here. The last of the 12 Marine planes at Wake Island was destroyed on 22 December 1942, after they shot down 7 enemy aircraft, and had sunk the enemy destroyer KISARAGI. Shortly after mid-December, 17 Marine bombers, sent as reinforcements, reached Midway after a spectacular flight of ten hours from Pearl Harbor—the longest mass overwater flight by single-engine aircraft up to that time. Marine aviation based on Guadalcanal, despite gross inadequacies, fought against overwhelming numbers and proved that the Japanese pilots and Zeros were not invincible.

When Japanese bombers with escorts of Zero fighters at-



The Old

tempted to bomb Henderson Field on Guadalcanal, a young Marine major, Paul J. Fontana, downed five enemy aircraft in two days to become a Marine Corps ace and earn the Navy Cross. Today, Major General Fontana is Deputy Commander of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific at Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii. Through the island campaigns, the peculiar gull-winged Corsairs became a symbol of the Marine Corps air/ground team as they relentlessly pursued the enemy. The Japanese called them "Whistling Death."

In February 1945, Marine carrier-based aviation supported Marine infantrymen on Iwo Jima for the first time and struck Tokyo itself. Marines shot down 2,355 enemy aircraft and produced 121 aces, 5 of whom shot down 20 or more aircraft apiece—Boyington, Foss, Hanson, Walsh, and Aldrich. Marine Aircraft Group 31 became the first Marine aviation unit to operate on Japanese soil.

KOREA

Following World War II, the Marine Corps tested the potential of the helicopter. It was first employed in combat by Marines in Korea in 1951, reshaping the tactical role of aviation in warfare. Flying from carriers and airstrips, they provided effective close air support for amphibious assaults and ground attacks. During the siege and withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir to Hamhung, Marine pilots, assisted by the Navy and the Air Force, supplied the 1st Marine Division by air drops, and evacuated more than 5,000 casualties. Marine close air support was an important factor in the Division's breakout from the enemy encirclement. In a period of three years, Marine helicopter squadrons evacuated almost 10,000 casualties and performed the first heli-lift of a rifle battalion in a combat operation.

RECENT HISTORY

Another first for Marine aviation was the innovation of the Short Airfield for Tactical Support (SATS) developed in 1958 at Quantico, Virginia, and tested in 1959 at Beaufort, South Carolina. Using a catapult, arresting gear, and specially constructed aluminum matting, the airstrip enables the rapid establishment of hastily constructed airstrips ashore for the tactical support of an amphibious operation. The landing field was combat-proved at Chu Lai, Vietnam, about 50 miles south of Da Nang, and has since been adopted for use throughout Vietnam.

Elements of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing were called upon in the fall of 1962 to provide helicopter support to Vietnamese units. Dubbed "Shufly", the operation continued without interruption until March 1965, then the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade landed at Da Nang.

In April 1965, the first Marine Corps F-4B "Phantom" jets were added to the aviation inventory in Vietnam, where they have performed both as fighter and attack aircraft. The "Phantoms" were joined by the workhorse of Marine close air support, the A-4, in June of that year.

Today the Marine Corps aircraft inventory in Vietnam includes the F-4B "Phantom", A-4 "Skyhawk", F-8 "Crusader", A-6 "Intruder", OV-10A "Broncho", and KC-130 "Hercules" fixed-wing planes. Marine helicopters include the CH-53, UH-34, UH-1E, and CH-46.

Protect Baggage

Personnel are reminded that when booked on flights on Military Aircraft Command or commercial aircraft they should place a copy of the pertinent orders directing travel on the top inside of each piece of checked or uncheck luggage.

This action has been taken to allow more rapid recovery of mishandled baggage and to reduce claims against the government due to lost baggage.

Tags normally affixed to the exterior of luggage, regardless of whether it is checked or uncheck, may become obliterated or detached thus causing delays or confusion in identification and delivery.

The orders should be placed inside baggage before the individual reports to a MAC check-in counter for processing.



The New



SEA TIGER

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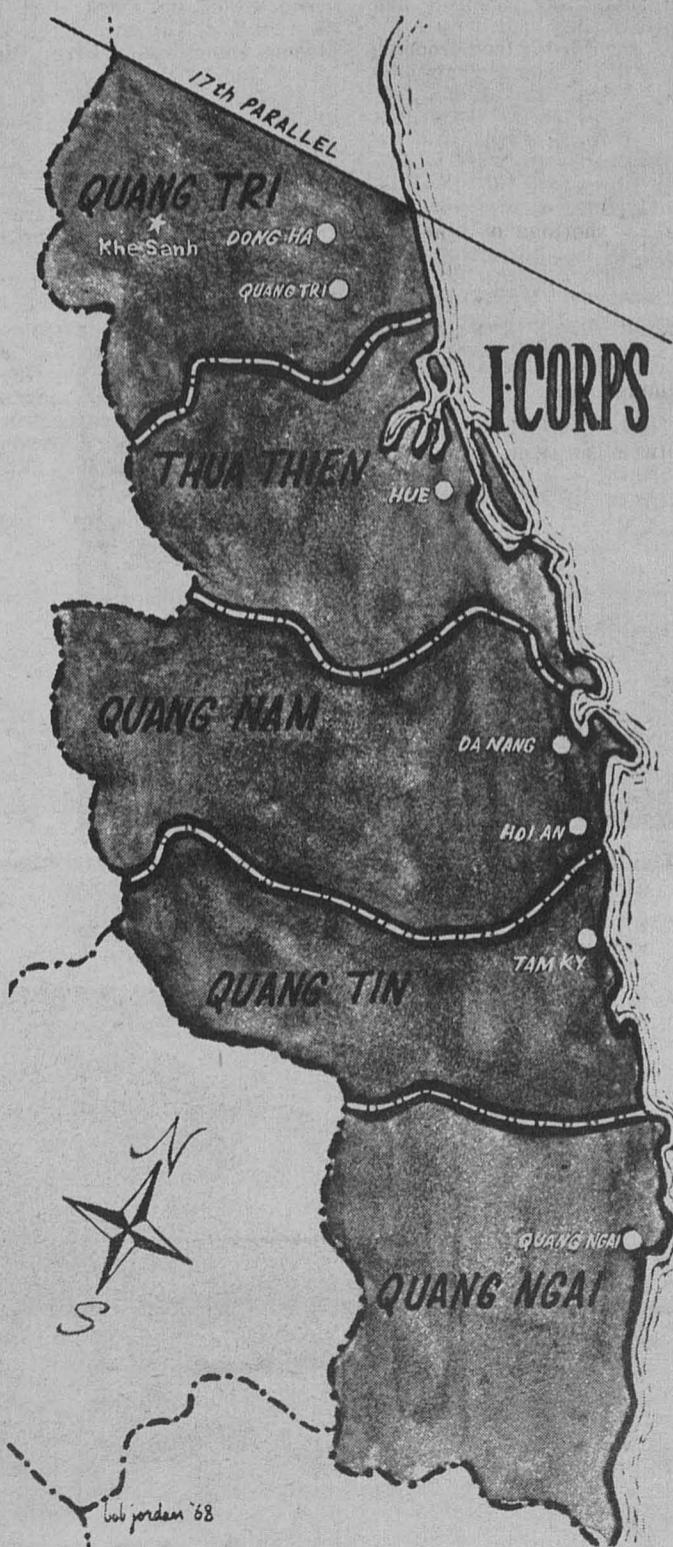
Vietnam: A Changing Conflict

I Corps: Hot, Dusty,
Rain Soaked But Vital



A Time To Look Back

A Leatherneck stops and pauses as if to look back, . . . to look back on the past. Sometimes the past holds many keen insights to the future. . . .



Hue, Khe Sanh, Con Thien, Cua Viet Are Vivid Memories

We Pause And Look Back:



Marines dash to a waiting 'chopper taking them out of the Khe Sanh Combat Base. . . .



Bringing up ammo. . . .



Moving through dense jungles on Operation Yazoo. . . .

Racing around street corners in Hue City

Air drops over Khe Sanh. . . .

Leathernecks fire on suspected enemy positions at Dai Do near Cua Viet. . . .

Marines slog through a rice paddy near the DMZ. . . .



Marines await the word to move in Hue City. . . .



Leathernecks provide security east of Con Thien. . . .

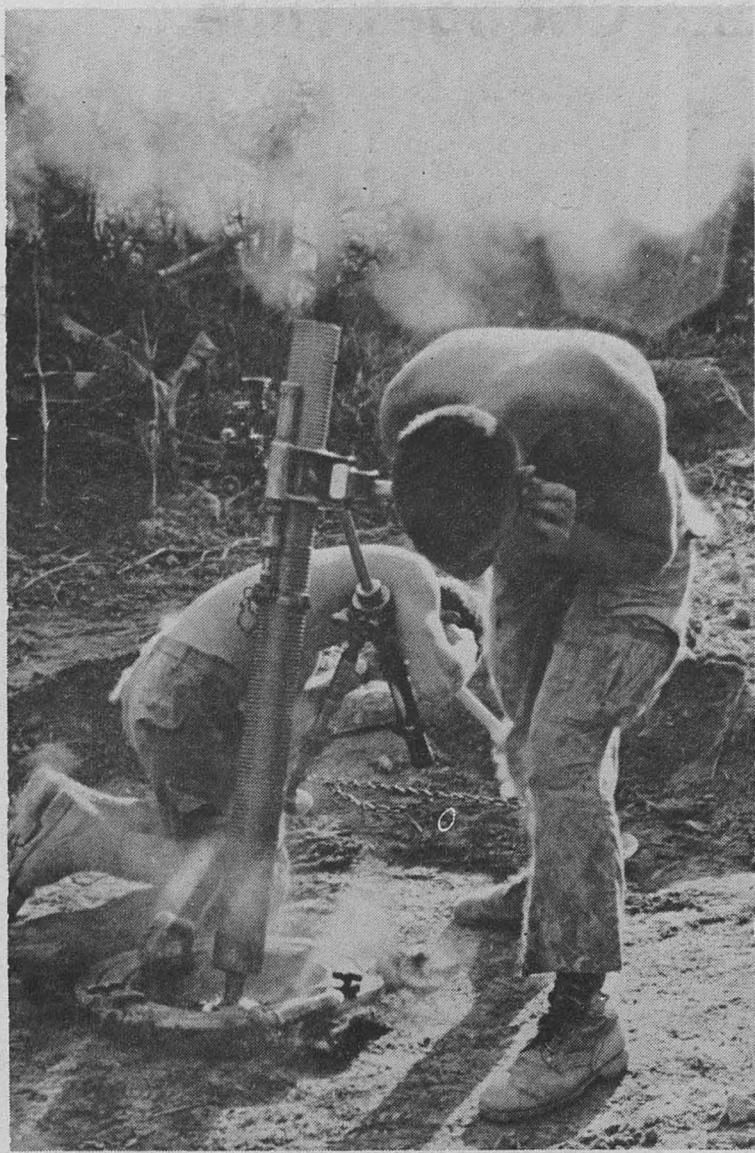


Expectation. . . .



Marines examined a captured 75mm recoilless rifle near Cua Viet. . . .

From Sandy Dunes To Dense Jungles; Marines Kept Their Tradition:



Marines send a "GIFT" to "Charlie" on Operation Allen Brook. . .



Leathernecks watch air strike on Operation Auburn. . .



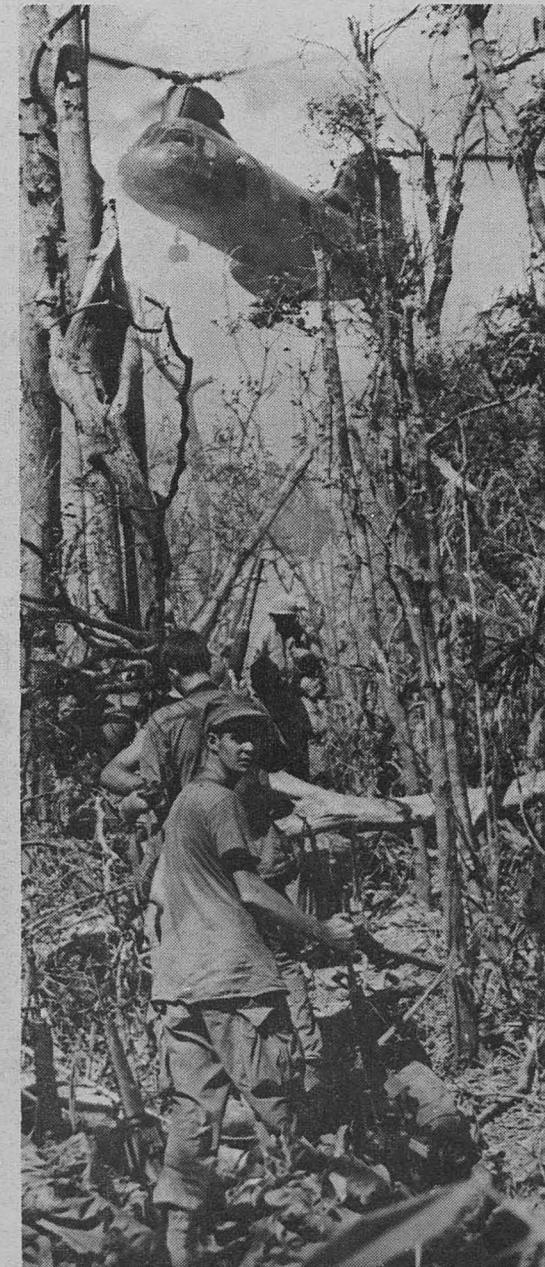
A grenade hits, "home" on Operation Lancaster II. . .



Running for cover on Operation Badger Catch. . .



Leathernecks advance on enemy positions. . .



Searching out the enemy in the DMZ. . .

Combat Art: Expression of Feeling

One Stroke Changes Time...

One stroke, . . . a gentle touch of the brush represents a mood and expression to the artist. To others it represents many things, some not evident at first glance.

Marine Corps Combat Art has become a major factor in media communication between artist and viewer. But it goes further, . . . it captures a feeling not often shown in a photo, . . . an expression of doubt or concern. Through the artist's own style and feelings . . . a mood is captured.

On this page there are four excellent Combat Art drawings produced during the past year. We will let you, the viewer, decide your own feelings.

Editor



SIGHTING

John J. Witt



Maj. A. Leahy



STREET FIGHTING

WO W.A. Parks



Maj. A. Leahy

AIR SUPPORT



Deep in the Woods . . .

Leathernecks of World War I vintage stand in formation during ceremonies in France.

Medal of Honor . . .

'Above and Beyond the Call'

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for bravery that can be given to any individual in the United States. In judging men for receipt of the medal, each service has established its own regulations. The deed must be proved by incontestable evidence of at least two eyewitnesses; it must be so outstanding that it clearly distinguishes the recipient's gallantry beyond the call of duty from lesser forms of bravery; it must involve the risk of his life; and it must be the type of deed which, if he had not done it, would not subject him to any justified criticism.

The medal is awarded "in the name of the Congress of the United States" and for this reason, it is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor. It is only on rare occasions, however, that Congress awards special Medals of Honor. An Executive Order, signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on September 20th, 1905, directed that ceremonies of award "will always be made with formal and impressive ceremonial" and that the recipient "will when practicable, be ordered to Washington, D.C. and the presentation will be made by the President, as Commander in Chief, or by such representative as the President may designate."

The Navy Medal of Honor is made of bronze, suspended by an anchor from a bright blue ribbon, and is worn about the neck. The ribbon is spangled with a cluster of 13 white stars representing the original States. Each ray of the five pointed star contains sprays of laurel and oak and is tipped with a trefoil. Standing in bas-relief, circled by 34 stars representing the 34 States in 1861, is Minerva who personifies the Union. She

holds in her left hand the fasces, an ax bound in staves of wood, which is the ancient Roman symbol of authority. With the shield in her right hand, she repulses the serpents held by the crouching figure of Discord. The reverse of the medal is left blank, allowing for the engraving of the recipient's name and the date and place of his deed.

Since the Vietnam conflict, seventeen Marines have received the Medal of Honor for their gallantry in combat. The list follows: Sgt. R.E. O'Malley,

USMCR, 1stLt. F.S. Reasoner (Posthumously), LCpl. P.J. Paul (Posthumously), Capt. H. C. Barnum, SSgt. P.S. Connor (Posthumously), GySgt. J. E. Howard, Maj. H. V. Lee, 2ndLt. J.J. McGinty III, Maj. R. J. Modzelewski, Pfc. D.E. Dickey (Posthumously), Sgt. R.A. Pittman, Pfc. J. Anderson Jr. (Posthumously), 2ndLt. J. P. Bobo USMCR (Posthumously), Sgt. W. K. Singleton (Posthumously), Pfc. G. W. Martini (Posthumously), LCpl. R. M. Wheat (Posthumously), Capt. J. A. Graham (Posthumously).



A Different Time . . .

A different time, . . . A different place, . . . Leathernecks held their pride and tradition throughout the decades.

Calling A Boot . . .

(Continued From Page 2)
in part) during those weeks of recruit training.

Every year about this time, you tell us all about Tun Tavern, Captain Samuel Nicholas and the founding of the Marine Corps on November 10, 1775. We've heard about the Marines first amphibious landing in the Bahamas in 1776.

But YOU, sir, weren't there . . . so, you see, you aren't THE "old Corps," either.

We know about the Marines moving their headquarters to the Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, in Washington in July, 1800. We know about the Marines in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War.

We've heard the story about Archibald Henderson, and how he served under nine presidents during his 38-years as Commandant, and how he fought the Indians in Florida in 1836.

And, please, sir, don't tell us again about the battle of Belleau Wood in June, 1918. We know about the Marine Brigade winning the French Croix de Guerre, and how the French renamed the wood "Marine Brigade Wood."

So, with all of this out of the way, what will you tell us, sir?

Will you tell us about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and the 1st Defense Battalion at Wake Island, which sunk two Japanese destroyers, damaged seven more and caused 700 enemy casualties before the island fell?

We've listened politely, silently . . . but we've listened long enough!

You've told us about YOUR "old Corps." Give us the chance to tell you about OUR Corps.

You tell us about Guadalcanal . . . Let me, sir, remind you of Operation Starlight . . . first major engagement by Marines in Vietnam in August, 1965.

You boast of Iwo Jima. We tell of Hastings . . . the Corps' largest multi-battalion operation.

Tell us of the landing at Okinawa, and we'll speak of Double Eagle, largest amphibious landing since the Korean War.

Speak of Peleliu, and I'll

remind you of Con Thien and Leathernecks Square.

Tarawa? I say The Citadel in Hue during the Tet Offensive.

Inchon . . . Seoul . . . Chosin Reservoir? You've heard of Khe Sanh, sir!

The individuals of YOUR "old Corps," must have really been something. To hear you talk, (as we have for so long . . . so very long) they stood eight feet tall, were barrel chested, and carried a .50 caliber machinegun in one hand and a 60mm mortar tube in the other while carrying 20 mortar rounds on their backs.

C'mon, now, sir . . .

We're not downgrading the heroism of Daly, Puller, Basalone, Jacobson, or Butler. We're not attempting to insinuate that the 17 Marines who were awarded the Medal of Honor as the result of heroism in Vietnam were any braver, either.

You tell us about the stinking heat of the Pacific during World War II. Try humping it in the boonies near the Rockpile on a sunny Vietnamese afternoon, when the temperature climbs to 130!

You speak of the mud and much of the rice paddies in Korea. What do you think that stuff on my boots is? Ever been in 'Nam during the monsoons when it'll rain an inch an hour?

Let's call it even, huh, sir? We're both proud of the Corps, be it "new," "old" or "olde." Give us some credit . . .

Today's Marine is better armed, better supported, bigger physically, better educated and he curses and gripes as loudly (or louder) than any you've served with!

Maybe my beard doesn't grow as fast as yours. Perhaps you won't find a gray hair, and maybe I'm not as fast as you are with a C-ration opener, but I'm as ready as you ever were, sir, and I know my job.

Sir? What's that? You agree? Well, sir, thanks. What?

(Damn! He pulled rank and ordered me to sit and listen to another one of his damned sea stories about the "old Corps!!")

Hi-Mom Program Offers Calls For Servicemen

WASHINGTON (AFPS)—The Department of Defense will cooperate again this year with the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, in administering the twelfth consecutive "Hi-Mom" Christmas Telephone Call Program which provides free telephone calls from overseas servicemen to their state-side families.

As in other years, the calls will be arranged in two ways. The family of a serviceman, or woman, may be contacted by a local union of the CWA. The family then will have the serviceman place a collect call which will be paid for by the local union. Arrangements for other calls will originate overseas, where the USO may select a serviceman who will notify his family that he will call, and the USO overseas will pay for the call with funds provided by the CWA.

Priority this year will be given to telephone calls from patients in military hospitals outside the U.S. and will include calls from servicemen stationed in South Vietnam and other areas of Southeast Asia.



Before The Storm...

FACES...



Patient...



New hope...



Alert...

The Past Holds A Key To The Future: Leathernecks In Vietnam....

(Continued From Page 2)

wearing his fourth star.

As Marines remembered earlier January battles, their present enemy was building a massive force near Khe Sanh.

Divisions of North Vietnamese troops poised for their planned largest offensive of the war. Leatherneck units moved north.

During the truce for Tet, a January-February Vietnamese holiday... communist forces attacked military installations, villages and cities. Marines beat them in fierce house-to-house fighting. One of the most bitter fights was in Hue city.

The stateside 27th Marine, a regiment that saw its first action on Iwo Jima in February, 1945, got a new date to remember. It rushed to Vietnam in response to a call for help from fellow Marines in heavy combat.

The enemy at Khe Sanh, advantageously deployed, was determined to destroy the Combat Base.

Despite overwhelming odds, the 26th Marines remained resolute and determined. Later, President Lyndon B. Johnson bestowed the Presidential Unit Citation on the 26th Marines (Reinforced). He praised the regiment for extraordinary heroism during the battle for Khe Sanh from January 20th to April 1st, 1968.

Not even a year had passed since Vice President Hubert Humphrey gave the 3rd Marine Division the first Presidential Unit Citation earned by Marines in Vietnam.

By mid-March, 1968, LtGen. Robert E. Cushman, Jr., commanded more troops, in Viet-

nam's I Corps area, than any other Marine general in history.

June, 1968, correspondents reported light skirmishes in Vietnam as the 40th anniversary of Belleau Wood passed. June was the first anniversary of operations Arizona, Shasta II, Choctaw, Brown, Cimarron, Adair, and Calhoun.

It was also the month that Khe Sanh Combat Base was inactivated and moved into history.

During the summer, Marines in Vietnam confused the enemy with aggressive combat actions.

September brought home the 27th Marines... the regiment that had gone to Vietnam during the Tet offensive.

A year had passed since CH-53A helicopters joined Marines in Vietnam. This largest, fastest, and most powerful transport helicopter in the Free World has been actively engaged since.

In October, Presidential Unit Citations were awarded to the 5th Marine Regiment, the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Air Wing for extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in Vietnam.

As October continued, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 was cited by the National Defense Transportation Association for its combat achievements, and also received the meritorious unit commendation. Also in October, the 9th Marine Regiment was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for combat action between November 29th, 1967 and January 12th, 1968.

As October ended, eleven Marines had won the Medal of Honor during the 193rd year.

"Our success derives from the sweat and blood of the Marines who preceded us. We see the value of this heritage reflected in the combat record of our forces in Vietnam," said the Commandant of the Marine Corps in the 193rd Birthday Message.

And now... A new year of tradition begins.



Mailing Schedule

The Sea Tiger will be publishing Christmas mailing periods up through December 13, so peruse and adhere.

From Vietnam to CONUS: Surface, 1 Oct-1 Nov; Airmail, 1-13 Dec.; SAM Letter, 1-10 Dec.; SAM Parcel, 20-Nov-4 Dec.; and PAL, 1-10 Dec.

Vietnam to HAWAII: Surface, 15-Oct-1 Nov; 1-10 Dec.; SAM Parcel, 20 Nov-4 Dec.; PAL, 1-10 Dec.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

FROM: _____

FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

TO: _____

Postage
3rd Class 8¢
Airmail 20¢
1st Class 12¢

NOTE: Fold paper three times, secure edges with
Staple or Tape and mail home.



Awareness

Watchful for a beginning... an ending. Where do we go from here? What does fate have destined for us? These three Marines, waist high in elephant grass, show a multitude of expressions... expressions that search and probe. We conclude our Marine Corps Birthday Issue with this thought: "Not to look back with anguish, nor look ahead with anxiety, ... but around with awareness..."

Edgar Allen Poe