

1st Div Gunmen Sweep 'Dodge City'



SEA TIGER



Vol. V, No. 25

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

June 20, 1969



LARGE GROVE of bamboo forms a natural tunnel for U.S. Marines of "A" Co., 1st Military Police Bn., Force Logistic Command, as they search for enemy activity southwest of Da Nang. The battalion operates at times as an infantry unit and provides security for the sprawling Da Nang Air Base. (Photo by Sgt. Ken Barth)

Much Accomplished

Progress Noted By III MAF CG

The announcement that 25,000 U.S. troops, including several thousand Marines from III MAF, are to be redeployed from Vietnam, I view as an encouraging sign of progress in the military situation in the Republic of Vietnam . . . progress that has been made possible through the efforts of all U.S. servicemen, past and present, who have served and sacrificed in this country for our nation's commitment to assist in bringing self-determination to the peoples of Vietnam.

As I reflect back to the situation which prevailed in I Corps just one year ago, for example, I note that enemy main force units were present in close proximity, and posed a threat to Hue, Da Nang and other densely populated areas along the coast. Today, the enemy main force units have been largely driven to the distant sanctuaries of Vietnam or to out-of-country havens in North Vietnam and Laos. Our U.S. forces, ably assisted by our ARVN comrades and other Free World forces, have met and defeated the enemy at every turn.

I note, too, that heartening and measureable progress has been made in pacification, an aspect of the struggle as vital to a successful outcome of U.S. involvement here as conventional combat operations. Through the efforts of a great many personnel, the villagers in the rural areas are now provided with greater security than they have experienced up to this time.

And finally, I note a marked increase in numbers and in the combat power and combat efficiency of our RVNAF counterparts and their paramilitary forces. The Vietnamese armed forces are now capable of assuming a larger share of the military burden . . . and we applaud them for this increased capability.

Much, therefore, has been accomplished . . . much progress (Continued on Back Page)

By SSgt. Don O'Neal
DA NANG — Operation Pipestone Canyon, a multi-battalion operation aimed at opening the final portion of Route 4, while at the same time neutralizing enemy forces in the "Dodge City"-Go Noi Island area, was launched by 1st Marine Div. Leathernecks, Vietnamese Army elements, Vietnamese Rangers and Korean Marines on May 26. The operation was announced June 13.

During the first 18 days of the operation, from May 26 to June 13, allied forces killed 332 of the enemy — including 234 accounted for by U.S. Marine elements — and captured 142 individual and 12 crew-served enemy weapons.

The area in contention, about 12 miles south-southeast of Da Nang, lies in the center of the fertile "Rice Triangle," a region where a majority of Quang Nam Province's million inhabitants live and work. The area extends from Da Nang to the provincial capital of Hoi An on the east and across to An Hoa to the west. In the center of this region lie "Dodge City" and Go Noi Island, an area that has seen several major battles in the past.

The operation began with two Marine battalions sweeping eastward across the western edge of Go Noi Island. In the early stages of the operation, Marines concentrated on destroying enemy fortifications, bunker and tunnel complexes. There was little significant contact with the enemy.

Maj. Gen. Ormond R. Simpson, 1st Marine Div. commander, described the operation as a "dramatic stride toward pacification." The general went on to point out that success in Operation Pipestone Canyon will not be "measured in box scores of enemy eliminated." He said that success would be directly proportional to the destruction of enemy fortifications and facilities in the area to make sure NVA and VC forces will not be able to use them again.

Go Noi Island, a precleared firing area was the target of heavy allied bombardment for more than a week in preparation for an all-out assault and sweep by allied forces that began June 10. Friendly Vietnamese civilians were evacuated from the area. They will be returned after the operation ends.

Marine artillery from five fire support bases, coupled with naval gunfire and Marine airstrikes, saturated the area in what was termed the heaviest bombardment in the 1st Marine Div. area of operations since Gen. (Continued on Back Page)

Will Insure Continued Care for Children

FLC, WRC Co-sponsor Hospital

By MSgt. Don Haley

DA NANG — A humanitarian organization helping to relieve suffering in a half dozen areas of the world has begun working with United States Marines in the sponsorship of a children's hospital in the Republic of Vietnam.

The World Relief Commission (WRC), overseas relief arm of the National Association of

Evangelicals, has announced that it will co-sponsor, with Marine Force Logistic Command (FLC), the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital eight miles northwest of Da Nang.

Representatives of the WRC and Marine officials formally announced the co-sponsorship arrangement during a short ceremony at the hospital June 7.

Taking part in the ceremony

were Dr. Nathan Bailey, president of the Executive Committee of the WRC, and Dr. Paul Fryling, vice president of the Executive Committee.

Marine officials at the ceremony included Lt. Gen. Herman Nickerson Jr., commanding general of the III Marine Amphibious Force and Brig. Gen. James A. Feeley Jr., commanding general of FLC.

Since early 1966, the hospital has been supported primarily by contributions from Marines and Navy personnel of FLC. It has since grown into one of the most modern centers in Vietnam for the treatment of children. It is located at the headquarters site of FLC, Camp Books.

The move by the WRC assures (Continued on Back Page)

Hit Four Times, Marine Aids Corpsman, Kills 4 NVA

By Cpl. Hank Berkowitz

AN HOA — "He was hit four times but he just kept on fighting. In one incident he was helping get some of the wounded out when four enemy soldiers attacked the medevac chopper. He just charged 'em and wiped out all four!" exclaimed Sgt. Candelario.

Sgt. Ron Candelario (492 E. 138th St., Bronx, N. Y.), acting platoon commander with "A" Co., 1st Bn., 5th Marines, de-

scribed the actions of Cpl. Robert L. Barnett (817 S. 22nd Ave., Milwaukee, Wisc.), a squad leader in his platoon. The company had just come out of a tough firefight with an estimated company of North Vietnamese soldiers in sunbaked "Arizona Territory" seven miles northwest of here.

"Their first barrage of small arms fire hit Barnett and our radioman knocking out communications. Barnett knew we

needed a radio and turned around, even though he was hit, and sprinted across an open field with bullets kicking up dust all around him to get one. It wasn't long before we saw him again, running through that same fire-swept terrain with that beautiful radio in his hands.

"The next time I saw him in action was when he ran to the side of a wounded buddy and started applying bandages to the (Continued on Back Page)



A STREAM-FED POND high in the mountains surrounding Hai Van pass, north of Da Nang, makes an ideal bathing spot for a Marine from 2/26, providing security for the vital land route. The Marines contain many of the fast-moving streams with small dams to provide their own "tubs." (Photo by Sgt. Frank Fox)

FROM CG III MAF

We're Fighting Only One War

On many occasions, I have heard it said that the war in Vietnam is the most complicated conflict in which the U.S. has been engaged. I believe this is true.

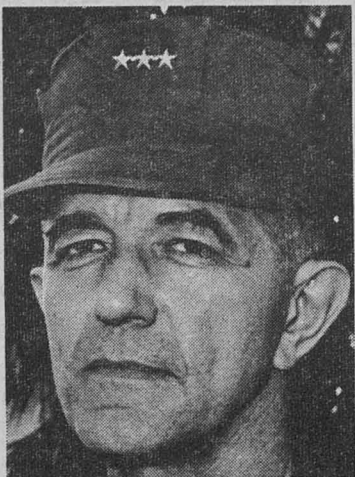
But I have heard also that there are many wars—each separate and distinct—being fought simultaneously in our areas of operation. In my opinion, this is not an accurate statement.

I should like you to know what I consider the true nature of the war in I Corps to be.

Our mission, as I see it, is to assist the Republic of Vietnam to govern itself as a free and independent nation.

To do this we must undertake many tasks . . . all of which must be tackled simultaneously . . . all of which must receive emphasis and attention.

As I see it, we have three main tasks confronting us in I Corps. They are as follows: first, to conduct combat operations; second to improve and modernize the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF); and third, to pacify the countryside.



Combat operations must be conducted to defeat the NVA and VC main force units thus creating a condition of security for the political and economic development of the heavily populated areas of I Corps. These operations seek out and destroy the main enemy formations, disrupt the enemy's plans and timetables, destroy his supply bases, neutralize his infiltration routes, and nullify his attempts to launch large-scale military attacks against densely populated regions. Operations such as Dewey Canyon, Taylor Common, Oklahoma Hills, Maine Crag, Apache Snow—to name but a few—were launched and successfully executed to accomplish these objectives. We, and not the enemy, possess the military initiative in I Corps.

By the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces improvement and modernization effort we increase the military effectiveness of the Republic of Vietnam fighting forces so that they can, in the future, provide for the complete defense of their country. Considerable progress has been made in equipping the Vietnamese fighting man with modern weapons. For example, all Army of the Republic of Vietnam combat units have been issued the M-16 rifle.

In I Corps, all major operations are combined; that is, they are planned and executed by Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces and U.S. commanders and staffs. Often other commanders and staffs are involved, such as the Republic of Korea Marine Corps Brigade and the Amphibious Ready Group/Special Landing Forces. The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces carry their full share of the load and I am pleased with their performance.

Pacification requires the close cooperation of all Vietnamese and U.S. forces and agencies. The task of pacification includes such functions as:

—The elimination of the Viet Cong infrastructure and the local guerrillas . . . those enemy who, largely through fear and terror tactics, coerce the Vietnamese villagers into supporting them.

—The establishment of local security forces to provide a close-in shield behind which the Vietnamese people can live, and work for a better existence.

—The development of the Vietnamese economy and civil government.

There are a large number of Americans in I Corps, civilians and military, as well as those of other Free World Nations, who, in coordination with their Vietnamese counterparts, perform their assigned tasks in a splendid manner. But there must be a uniting of all of these efforts to produce the most effective results.

We, as I said, are fighting one war. There are many facets of that war. But it is still one war . . . one which requires our coordinated, combined efforts to ensure that the Republic of Vietnam is a free and independent nation.

HERMAN NICKERSON JR.
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General, III MAF

PAYROLL SAVINGS MAKES DREAMS PAY OFF

GET WITH IT — STAY WITH IT!

Drugs: One Way Trip

Wanta Fly? Take a Plane

You'll be going home soon. Life's a little easier and breezier there, and most decisions won't have that life-or-death-quality about them. Or will they? Consider this one.

One of the most popular of the hallucinogenic drugs in use today, especially with people our age is LSD. The reason for its popularity is the belief that it will expand the mind or produce a thrill without the disadvantages of becoming habit forming.

While it is true that LSD itself is physically non-addictive, serious problems can result from its usage. The LSD user may go through a stage of panic, during which he is likely to be severely confused, depressed, anxious or suspicious. The initial reaction to the drug may last from one to 12 hours, but symptoms may reappear spontaneously in a month or two or as long as a year or two after taking the drug. Therefore, the side effects of LSD, it seems, are of far greater danger to the user than the drug itself.

Contrary to the claim that LSD is a "consciousness-expanding" drug, it has been clearly demonstrated that it decreases the conscious functions. In fact, it reverses the process by causing a decrease in conscious functions, distorts time sense, decreases an individual's ability to select and pay attention, and impairs critical ob-

jective judgement. It is true that LSD does intensify sensations, but the momentary thrills are overshadowed by possible long-term effects, which can lead to chronic mental derangement.

Legal ban on LSD went into effect in 1966, at which time laboratories stopped production. After they discontinued production the only available source has been the black market. On this illicit market the drug may be obtained as a small white pill, as a crystalline powder in capsules, or as a colorless, tasteless or odorless liquid in ampules. It is also quite often offered in the form of impregnated sugar cubes, cookies or crackers. Regardless of how it is acquired it will often contain impurities, and sometimes compounds like belladonna are substituted, which can result in a particularly gruesome form of death.

Pushers and users of LSD have made extravagant claims for the drug as a cure-all for alcoholism, frigidity, homosexuality and many other hang-ups, yet none of these therapeutic claims have been substantiated. It has been proven that LSD has been responsible for many attempted suicides and homicides by persons under its influence.

Unless you would like to join that elite group of "acid heads" and end up in some dark, damp gutter, think twice before you take that first trip. (AFPS)

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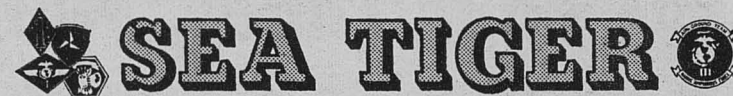
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(Continued on Page 11)



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Published each Friday by the III Marine Amphibious Force. The SEA TIGER complies with Marine Corps Order P5600.31 and MCO P5720.44 and is printed with appropriated funds, by The Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. The SEA TIGER subscribes to and receives material from the Armed Forces News Bureau (AFNB) whose material herein may be reprinted provided credit and no other copyrights are involved. All photographs are official U.S. Marine Corps Photos unless otherwise credited. Photographs submitted from other sources outside the Marine Corps for publication in The SEA TIGER become the property of The SEA TIGER. Material submitted for publication in The SEA TIGER must reach The Combat Information Bureau, III Marine Amphibious Force, FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96602, on Tuesday of the preceding publication week. Statements, views and opinion expressed in The SEA TIGER are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps and should not be interpreted as directive in nature.

Circulation This Issue 38,000 Copies

Bronco, Intruder Team to Blast Bunkers

By SSgt. John Tolarchyk
DA NANG — Diving through a break in an overcast sky, a Marine A-6A Intruder destroyed a .50-cal. machine gun, killed two North Vietnamese soldiers, damaged a bunker complex and caused one secondary explosion. "We were circling north of the Hue-Phu Bai area when we re-

ceived a call from the Direct Air Support Center saying that an OV-10A Bronco had requested a strike on a .50-cal. position 17 miles northwest of Dong Ha," said Capt. James E. Henshaw (Louisville, Ky.), a pilot from Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 225.

Moments after, Henshaw was

on the scene getting a situation brief from the Bronco pilot.

"The first report we got on the weather was that the target was socked in but when we got on station a hole in the clouds broke over the target," explained 1st Lt. David T. Brown (Hillard, Ohio), the A-6A bombardier-navigator.

After the situation brief the Bronco went into a dive marking the target with a smoke rocket. The Intruder, following at a distance, positioned for the attack. "On the first run I was a little off line, so rather than waste ordinance I pulled out of the dive and prepared for another run," said Henshaw.

Immediately the Bronco pilot was marking the target again.

"That Bronco pilot sure knew what he was doing ... he was right on target both times," Henshaw said.

On each following bomb run, the A-6A was also on the mark, first destroying the gun and killing two NVA,

Operation Cookielift A Success

By Cpl. John Ehler
CHU LAI — There have been many operations in Vietnam, involving Leathernecks of Marine Aircraft Group 13 (MAG-13). However, no operation has been quite as pleasant as one which culminated recently at the recreation hut of MAG-13's "Fightertown." This operation involved those universal aspects of servicemen away from home — a sweet tooth and fondness for home baked cookies.

"Operation Cookielift" was initiated by a Costa Mesa, Calif., housewife, Mrs. Darrilyn Oliver, who took the idea to her city council where it was received with enthusiasm. From there it mushroomed into an operation involving many southern California residents, including citizens of Santa Ana, Newport Beach and Garden Grove.

Soon housewives were busy baking cookies. Businesses and service clubs provided supplies and finances for packing and mailing. Girl Scouts, church groups and school children also helped with shipping. A room in the Costa Mesa city hall was designated as the operation's "command post." The Costa Mesa Pilot ran a special edition to ask for support in the project.

The mayor of Costa Mesa, Alvin L. Pinkley, had a personal interest in the operation, sometimes dubbed the "Chocolate Chip Offensive" by the local press. Mayor Pinkley's son-in-law, Lt. Col. Max Adrian, is serving in Vietnam as commanding officer of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 13 at Chu Lai. Soon Operation Cookielift was in full swing and the initial shipment was on its way to Marines in Vietnam.

Lt. Col. Adrian was on hand to
(Continued on Back Page)



LEATHERNECKS OF the 7th Marines cross an enemy-made footbridge as they search for caches in a communist base camp, 17 miles southwest of Da Nang. (Photo by Cpl. G. W. Wright)

Hot on the Hook

Cool Radioman Calls the Shots

By Sgt. Gary Clark

AN HOA—Richard E. Heimbach and his radio are a life line for 200 Marines.

As a 1st Shore Party Bn. radio operator assigned to "C" Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, Cpl. Heimbach (Rt. 2, Mifflinburg, Pa.) recently made up part of the helicopter support team (HST) assigned to the company.

Day after day, Heimbach could be seen bent over his radio, passing on the resupply needs of the company to the Logistic Support Area here. And whenever Golf Company "hit it" and bullets and mortars took their toll, Heimbach was at his busiest, calling in medevac choppers to get the wounded to safety.

A veteran of 19 months in Vietnam, Heimbach has seen many enemy contacts but one of the heaviest occurred with Golf Company just recently.

"Things had been fairly quiet until midnight," recalled Heimbach. "Then we started taking enemy fire. One man was slightly wounded and I requested a medevac chopper to get him out."

As the helicopter approached the landing zone, Heimbach briefed the pilot on conditions in the area, including friendly and enemy fire and the physical condition of the zone. Three strobe lights were positioned to mark the area for the chopper pilot, who brought his craft in quickly and without running lights.

"As soon as he landed," continued Heimbach, "the LZ started receiving incoming .30-cal. machine gun fire and mortars. We couldn't risk getting the helicopter destroyed, so we signaled him to
(Continued on Back Page)

Leatherneck Lays Down the LAW

By Cpl. Frank Franzone

AN HOA — "A real gutsy Marine who is not afraid to get in there and dig the North Vietnamese soldiers out," is how platoon sergeant Ray Coffman (Chauvin, La.) describes LCpl. George Miller.

Miller (202 N. Grey Ave., Wilmington, Del.), a squad leader with "H" Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marines recently had a big day against the NVA while on patrol northwest of here. He helped clear four enemy bunkers and was responsible for at least four enemy kills.

The 19-year-old Marine's platoon ran into an estimated NVA company early in the afternoon.

After sporadic fire fights, Miller's platoon cornered elements of the enemy company in a heavily fortified bunker complex. The bunkers were surrounded by fighting holes with one or two NVA soldiers in each hole.

Miller maneuvered his squad into position and had them lay down a base of fire as he assaulted one entrenched enemy. Twice he was repulsed by hand grenades. On the third try Miller got within ten yards of the enemy and fired a Light Anti-tank Weapon (LAW) directly into the hole, silencing the NVA soldier.

As Miller's platoon moved to-

ward the enemy bunkers, one of the men in his squad was wounded by fire from one of the bunkers. Disregarding the enemy bullets snapping around him, Miller rushed into the open field and pulled the wounded Marine to safety.

As the platoon moved nearer the main bunker complex, Miller's platoon received heavy fire on its left flank. Miller and fellow Marines quickly quieted the enemy positions, with Miller registering two more kills in one of the three bunkers.

In the two-hour battle for the main bunker that followed, Miller was instrumental in directing

his squad's fire against the fortified position. Twice he exposed himself to withering enemy fire. The bunker was finally secured by throwing satchel charges into the doorway.

It was action such as Miller's that prompted Lt. Col. James H. Higgins, commanding officer of 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, to say, "All supporting arms are a great help, but when it comes down to the real nitty gritty, it's the infantryman who gets the job done. When you look at the enemy bunker complex and how well it was fortified, you know what kind of Marine it took to take it." LCpl. George Miller is just that kind of Marine.



A 3RD SHORE Party Bn. Leatherneck uses various arm and hand signals to guide the pilot of a huge CH-53 Sky Crane returning a Marine 105mm howitzer to Quang Tri Combat Base for repairs by Force Logistic Support Group Bravo. The artillery piece was flown in from a mountain top fire support base in the northern reaches of I Corps.

(Photo by Sgt. Mike Teramoto)

4 Enemy Killed by Marines

By Cpl. Dave Allen

DA NANG — Flush 'em out with a grenade, slow 'em down with a light anti-tank weapon (LAW), and finish 'em off with M-16 rifle fire. That was the method employed by Leathernecks of "H" Co., 2nd Bn., 5th Marines to dispose of four North Vietnamese and capture their weapons in the "Arizona Territory" southwest of here.

The 1st Marine Div. Leathernecks, conducting search-and-clear missions in an enemy-infested area near An Hoa, came under fire as they approached to within 30 yards of a wooden bunker manned by the NVA soldiers.

"We poured about 200 rounds at them when they started to fire at us, but we couldn't get any closer than about 20 yards," said Pfc. Vernon M. Smith (1212 Jefferson N. E., Minneapolis, Minn.).

"I managed to crawl down a treeline to within 10 yards of the bunker and throw a grenade into an opening. After it exploded they came running out. Another Marine fired a LAW into their path and killed one of them. The others attempted to escape down a trail and four of us opened up on them."

Goal Is Excellence

By LCpl. F. B. Willis

CHU LAI — Excellence in combat is the byword for the officers and men of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 334.

Since arriving for its first tour in Vietnam eight months ago, the Falcons' totals have been impressive. During one 24-hour period squadron pilots flew 34 "scramble" sorties and dropped 78 tons of ordnance on enemy forces.

Under the leadership of Lt. Col. Samuel DeAngelo (Baltimore, Md.), the squadron's commander, the unit's combat record is an enviable one. Since September 1968, the F-4J crews of VMFA-334 have flown more than 4,600 combat sorties in some 5,400 combat flight hours, and have dropped almost 9,000 tons of ordnance.

Maj. Jim Scafe (Bremerton, Wash.), a squadron pilot, described his unit's mission as "striving for quality, not quantity. On our individual bombing runs, our goal is to get our ordnance 100 per cent on target on every sortie."

In talking about air operations, Maj. Scafe stressed the importance of keeping aircraft's radar in top working condition.

In a combat situation involving interception of enemy aircraft, the Phantom radar is invaluable in air-to-air firing of the F-4J's missile systems. All of VMFA-334's pilots and radar intercept officers are constantly kept up to date in the latest interception tactics.

VMFA-334, the first F-4J Phantom squadron in the Marine Corps' aviation arsenal, picked up their F-4J in August 1967. From Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif., they deployed to Vietnam in September 1968, joining other F-4 Phantom units at Chu Lai.

A Glimpse From the Other Side

By Cpl. Jim DeWitt

QUANG TRI — A new program aimed at making the Marine Corps' air-ground team function even more smoothly has been instituted by Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 and the 3rd Marine Division.

Under the new system, two

helicopter pilots trade places with two ground officers for five days, not performing each others' specialty, but rather watching those jobs accomplished on a first hand basis.

The chopper pilots tour landing zones and fire support bases in which their only previous con-

tact had been a few short minutes on the ground while delivering or picking up loads of supplies or troops. They visit headquarters areas, familiarizing themselves with problems ground officers often encounter.

Meanwhile, the ground officers spend a day with the MAG-

39 schedules officer, learning the coordination involved in assigning various helicopter missions required daily by the division. They spend the remainder of their "temporary transfer" flying with chopper crews, experiencing some of the hazards and problems of aerial combat as they assist on at least one of each type of mission assigned — troop lift, resupply, medevac, visual reconnaissance, reconnaissance team lifts, and emergency quick reaction forces.

"It's amazing to see how many people actually are involved in air-ground liaison," said 1st Lt. Roy Eugene Tolls (San Luis Obispo, Calif.), a Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 pilot, upon his return from the 3rd Marine Div.

"I just walked around, talking with anyone who would listen to me," he continued. "If you understand each other's problems, you'll be more flexible and try to bend a little more in your job."

Tolls stressed that he found the week extremely worthwhile "because we got to see what the grunts go through. I respected them before, but I think I'll push even a little bit harder for them now."

Original Bronco Pilot Breaks Record With 700 Missions

By SSgt. P. L. Stacy

QUANG TRI — A Marine major who was the first Leatherneck to fly the OV-10A Bronco, has now completed his 700th combat mission in Vietnam, a record for Bronco pilots.

Maj. William B. Jessup, (1890 S. Marsh Ave., Reno, Nev.) a Marine Observation Squadron 6 pilot, flew his first combat mission in Vietnam last July. "I was one of the original seven pilots to arrive with the Marine Corps' first group of Broncos in Vietnam," said Maj. Jessup.

The Broncos left the States for Cubi Point, Philippines, last May, while the pilots flew there in a C-130. "We picked up our aircraft in Cubi and flew them to the Marine Air Facility at Marble Mountain near Da Nang," Jessup said.

A jet pilot for nearly 8 years before checking out in the Bronco, the major praises the twin-engine observation aircraft for its flexibility. Although the Bronco is an observation type aircraft it is armed with internally mounted 7.62mm machine guns and rockets for marking targets.

The major has flown more than 1,000 hours while controlling and directing more than 800 air strikes in support of Marine and Army ground units.

The major recalled one of his most rewarding missions. It took place when he aided a Marine unit south of Khe Sanh that was taking rocket fire.

Flying low over the area where the ground troops thought the rockets were coming from, Jessup and his aerial observer spotted 40 to 50 North Vietnamese soldiers.

"I immediately called for jets and continued to make passes over the enemy position," said Jessup. "I wanted to make sure they didn't have the opportunity to fire any more rockets before the jets arrived."

After the jets came on station, the Bronco pilot directed their bombing runs on the enemy, knocking out the rocket position. Working together, the Bronco and jets were credited with killing 20 enemy soldiers.

A 1957 graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, Maj. Jessup became an aviator in 1960.

He was assigned to the Naval Air Test Center in 1966 as proj-

ect officer for the qualities and performance branch. It was during his tour at the test center that he directed the Navy acceptance test flight of the OV-10A, becoming the first Marine to fly the Bronco.

He was later assigned to the first operational Bronco squadron at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Jessup, a Naval aviator who obviously enjoys flying, said he hopes to tally about 200 more missions before his tour ends in Vietnam.

Dud Grenade Bounces Off Marine's Helmet

By Cpl. Hank Berkowitz

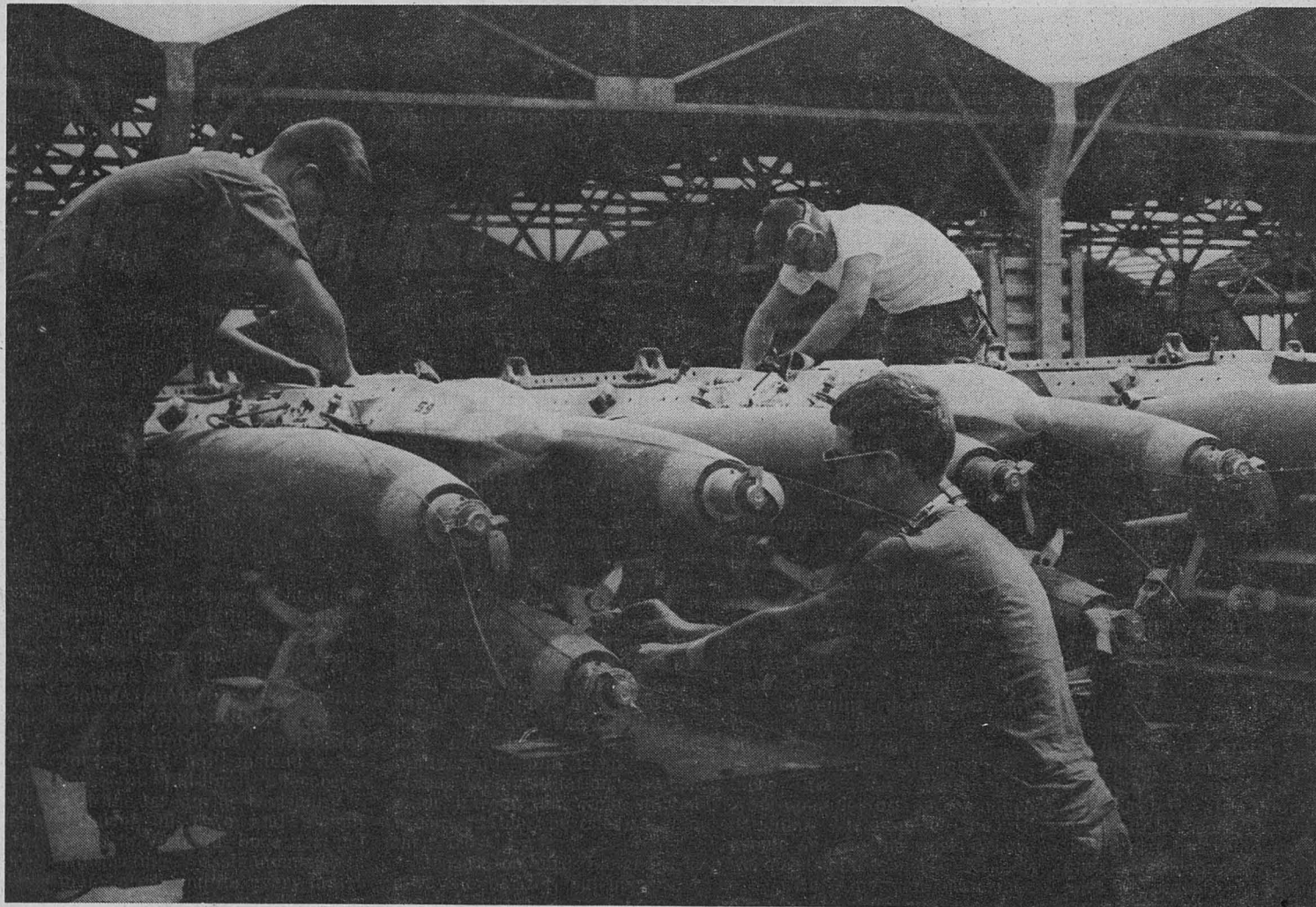
DA NANG — A ringing klunk sound on his helmet and LCpl. Thomas L. Lain (1806 W. 27th St., Pine Bluff, Ark.) thought, "I'm dead!"

But the enemy grenade harmlessly dropped to the ground without detonating.

Lain had just gotten too close to an enemy sapper, one of four who penetrated the defense per-

imeter of the 2nd Bn., 1st Marines command post south of Da Nang.

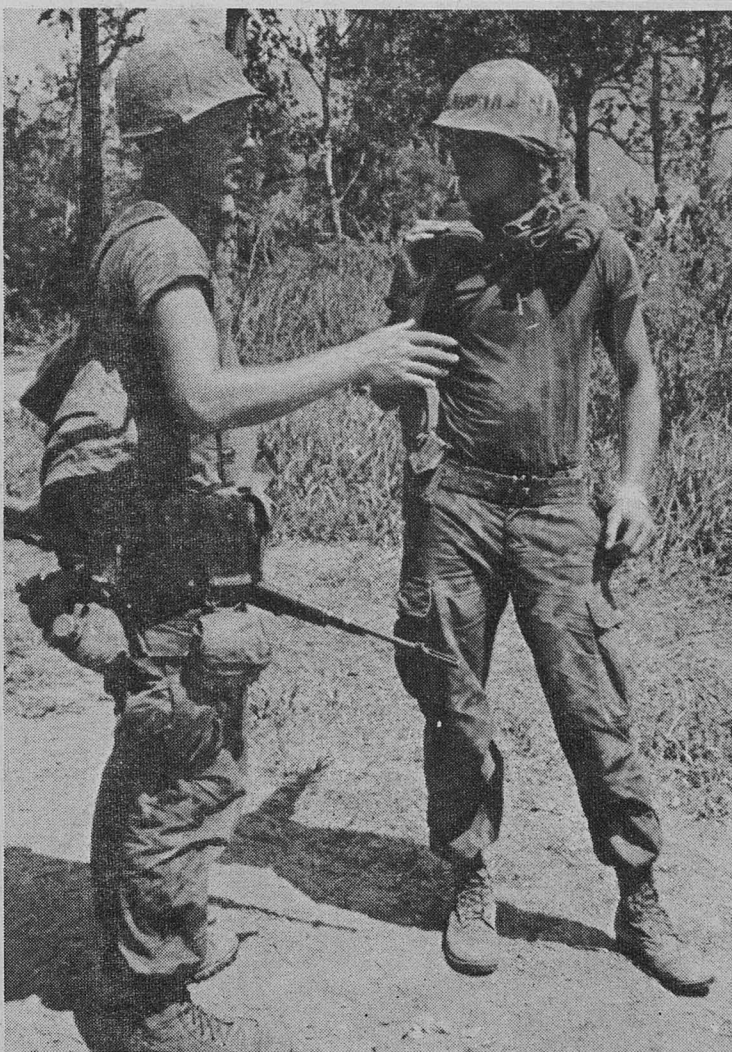
A fire team leader on the battalion's reaction force, he was searching for enemy soldiers. He spotted someone under a building. Assuming it was one of the Marines who had set up a defensive position when the enemy attack began, Lain bent down and flashed his light on.



Watch Out Charlie

LEATHERNECKS OF Marine Aircraft Group 11 prepare 500-lb. bombs to be loaded on MAG-11 jets for delivery to the enemy.

(Photo by SSgt. John Tolarchyk)



LCPL. ALLEN K. LAWRENCE (4807 Michael Dr., Del City, Okla.) (left) passes on information to his long-time buddy, Pfc. Rick D. Stevens (2028 Ida Mae, Del City). The two Leathernecks are members of the same fireteam in the 7th Marines. They enlisted in the Corps together under the "Buddy System" and underwent recruit training and pre-deployment training together in the States before coming to Vietnam. (Photo by Sgt. J. K. Mullins)

Chopper Hovers in Storm In Daring Recon Rescue

By SSgt. P.L. Stacy

DA NANG — The Marine CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter hovered two times for 30 minutes each in a heavy thunderstorm over a 100-foot jungle canopy to rescue a U.S. Army Special Forces and Vietnamese reconnaissance team.

"I had only been over the hole in the canopy for a few minutes when I noticed the storm rolling in on me," said 1stLt. George R. Hubbard, (1940 Ruffin Rd., Richmond, Va.) pilot of the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 chopper.

Trying to hover the big transport helicopter for 30 minutes in good weather is a job but to do it in the turbulence of a storm is next to impossible.

"If I hadn't kept the chopper steady, the hoist cable would have swayed, causing the recon man coming up to slam into trees. What worried me most was not being able to see. When the storm moved in it was worse than flying in complete darkness," Hubbard explained.

After hoisting up two casualties, Hubbard headed for a U.S. Navy hospital ship off shore.

Returning to "Elephant Valley," Hubbard found the whole area completely socked in.

"I had to fly at 6,000 feet to get above the storm. Once over the area I dropped down into the

storm but had to wait for a Marine AH-1G Cobra helicopter to come and lead me back to the canopy hole," he explained.

Once again Hubbard went into a 30-minute hover, hoisting up the remaining members of the recon team.

"A mission like this is more dangerous than getting shot at," said Hubbard. "The crew played a more important part in it than I did."

To keep the aircraft steady, the two gunners were at their windows acting as "navigators." They each selected a tree to

guide on, telling the pilot when he was moving left or right.

"My crew chief was operating the hoist as well as watching the rest of the aircraft to keep me out of the trees," said Hubbard.

With such a high canopy it was necessary to sit down just about on top of it so that the hoist cable would reach down to the men on the ground.

"I found out just how close I was to the canopy when I returned to Marble Mountain," Hubbard said. "I brought back a small tree limb which caught in the rear ramp."

3d Div. Flag to Fly Over War Memorial

By Cpl. Trygg Hansen

DONG HA—A crusade to honor American servicemen, initiated by the wife of a Marine, came one step nearer fulfillment with the flying of the Nation's Flag above the 3rd Marine Division headquarters here, less than 10 miles below the DMZ.

When the Flag was lowered at sunset, it was presented to CWO Stephen Myorski (9 Water St., Masontown, Pa.). The presentation marked the start of the Flag's homeward journey to Masontown, and a prominent place above the town's War Memorial.

Through the efforts of the Marine's wife, Betty, a native of Masontown and former society editor for the Masontown newspaper, a War Memorial dedicated to the town's servicemen was constructed. Funds for a flag pole, however, were not available at that time.

Six months ago, following her husband's assignment to Rations Plt., Force Logistic Support Group Bravo, the Marine Corps' major supply and support unit in northern I Corps, Mrs. Myorski began a drive to complete the memorial.

A letter to the U.S. Steel Corp. resulted in a new flag pole,

erected with the help of the local Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The next step towards completion of the project was the procurement of a Flag flown above the nation's capitol building. This was arranged by U.S. Congressman Thomas E. Morgan of Pennsylvania's 26th District.

In addition, a special Flag to be flown on holidays was obtained. To lend special significance, it was to be flown first in the Republic of Vietnam. That Flag is now on its way back to Masontown.

When placed above the memorial, the Stars and Stripes will serve as a tribute to those who served on the battlefield and a reminder of those who helped on the homefront.

Crew Chief Turns Corpsman To Help Mates on Chopper

By SSgt. P. L. Stacy

DA NANG — The night emergency mission had been completed but the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter crew chief was still faced with his own emergency.

"Both my gunners were hit. I didn't know how bad because I had all the helicopter's lights out," said LCpl. Chris D. Damron (Rt. 2, Chico, Calif.), crew chief of the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263 "bird."

Damron told the pilot he was dropping the external load of ammunition which was only about 10 feet above the zone. "I wanted to get out of there so I could turn on the lights and see how my gunners were," explained the Marine crew chief.

Both gunners had received leg wounds from the same enemy bullet. Turning on the lights, Damron found his port gunner on the floor holding his leg.

"I tore the leg of his flight suit where the bullet went through and bandaged it to stop the bleeding," Damron said. The other gunner had just been creased in the leg and didn't require any attention.

The crew chief, turned corpsman, was able to return to his bandaged patient. "Although it wasn't a real serious wound, I wanted to prevent any form of shock," he explained.

Damron recalled that his chopper had delivered supplies to the same ground unit earlier in the day.

It was completely dark when the helicopter returned with the emergency supplies, but the Marine infantry had built a small fire in the zone to guide the helicopter in. "We were in the zone

and just setting the supplies on the ground when we took fire," said Damron.

Leaving the zone, the pilot headed for the hospital where the gunners received medical at-

tention.

"I'm just glad that we were able to get the supplies to the grunts and that my gunners weren't seriously wounded," declared Damron.

FLSG-B Keeps Supplies Coming

By Cpl. Gary Gunn

DONG HA — Every day U.S. Navy cargo vessels, loaded with supplies, navigate up the calm Cua Viet River to a riverside dock. Once they arrive, their vital cargo changes hands and an important U.S. Marine liaison team takes over.

The team, from Force Logistic Support Group Bravo (FLSG-B), has the responsibility of staging all Marine Corps supplies brought up river and channeling them out to the correct units in northern I Corps.

Simple? Not on your life! One misunderstood code number or a wrong nod of the head and there's a good chance an entire shipment may be delayed for days.

To see that this situation never occurs, Capt. Larry Ladd (5631 Delaware Ave., Camp Lejeune, N. C.), officer-in-charge of the team, ensures that alertness and responsibility are not taken for granted by Marines of the liaison team.

A constant check of incoming ships is necessary to insure that the fastest means of handling the supplies are available as

they are off-loaded; such as trucks in the right place at the right time.

"We know beforehand what type of supplies are coming in and when they will arrive," said Cpl. Marshall Brothers (993

President St., Brooklyn, N. Y.), Ladd's daytime assistant.

Once in the hands of the liaison team, the supplies are earmarked for one of three places supported by FLSG-B. Lumber and other building materials are

hailed by Truck Co. and 7th Motor Transport Bn. to the 11th Engineer Bn. Ammunition is transported to Quang Tri, while general supply items are hauled directly to the FLSG-B shipping and receiving section.



A FORCE LOGISTIC COMMAND resupply convoy on a return trip from Vandegrift Combat Base to Dong Ha is greeted by South Vietnamese youngsters. Hundreds of children line both sides of Highway 9 each day between Dong Ha and the Cam Lo resettlement area as the huge trucks make the vital resupply runs in support of 3rd Marine Division operations in the northern reaches of Vietnam. (Photo by Sgt. Mike Teramoto)

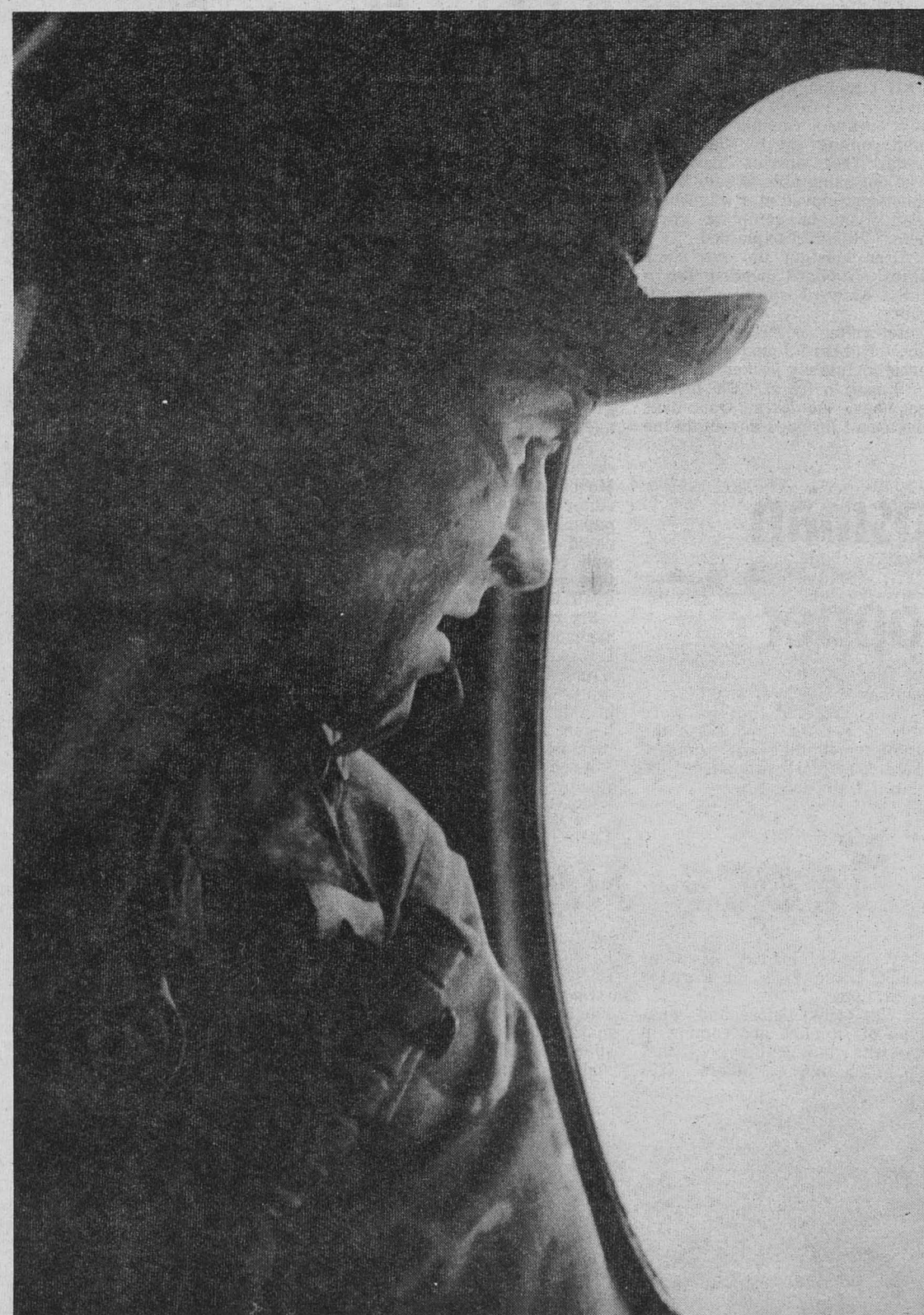


Security of the vital III MAF Bridge, linking east and west Da Nang, covers a wide spectrum of related activities. Marines of "C" Co., 1st Military Police Bn., responsible for bridge security, patrol a nearby village. (Photo by Sgt. Frank Fox)



This Sloggin' Perspirin' Inspirin' Freedom Lovin' Thing

Marines wait apprehensively as a helicopter carries them to Go Noi Island south of Da Nang to participate in the allied Operation Pipestone Canyon. (Photo by GySgt. Bob Jordan)

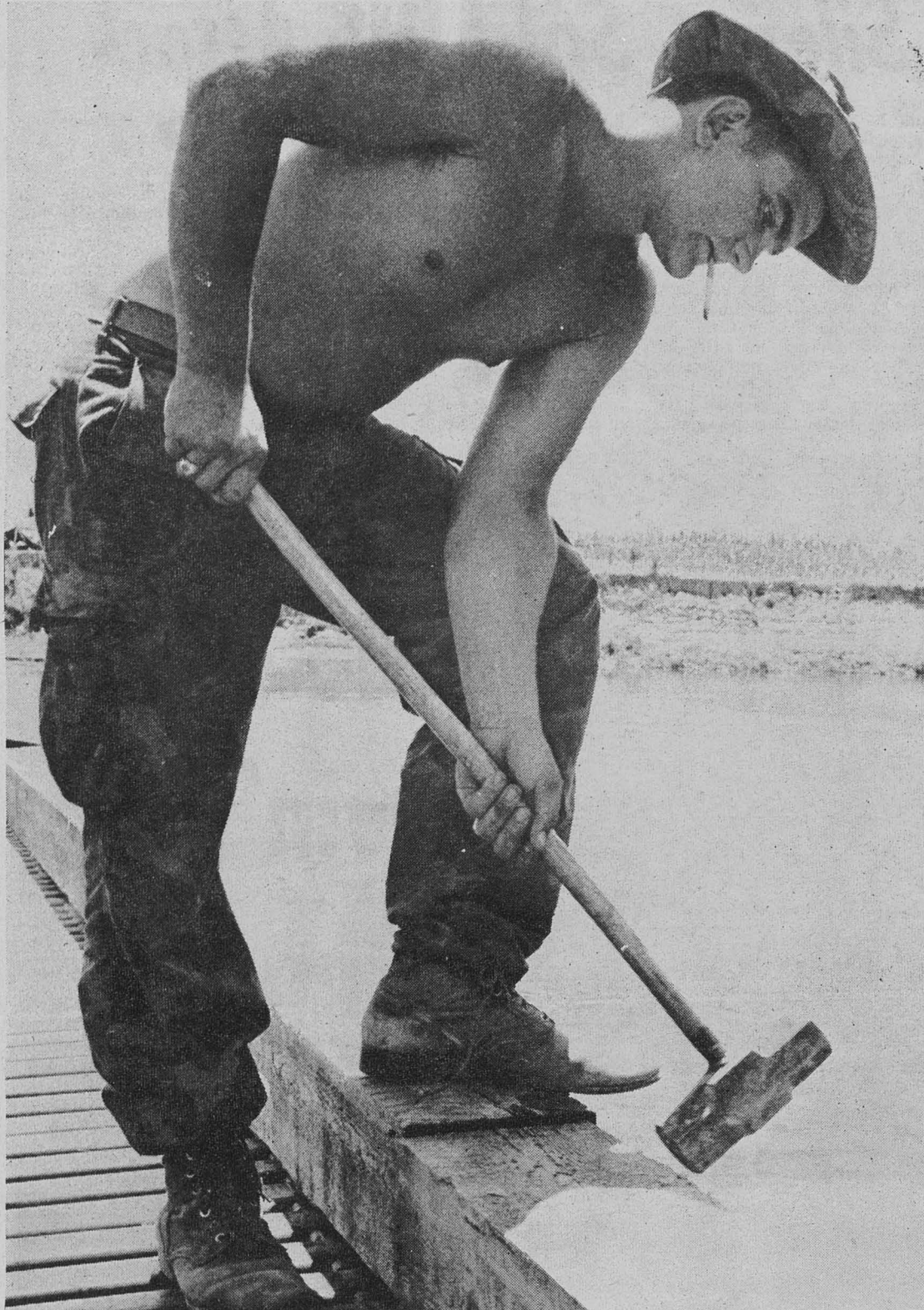


First Lt. Robert H. Phieffer (Waterville, Maine) carefully scans the terrain below for signs of enemy activity. He and his 1st Recon Bn. team are on their way to a patrol area via a CH-46D Sea Knight chopper from HMM-263. (Photo by GySgt. Bob Jordan)



Tankers of the 1st Marine Div. man .50-cal. machine guns and 90mm cannons, ready to render supporting fire to elements of the 1st Marines as they sweep the "Dodge City" area in the heart of the "Rice Triangle" 12 miles southwest of Da Nang. (Photo by SSgt. A.J. Sharp)

Pfc. James Tyson (Jackson, Tenn.), 1st Marines, patrols a rugged section of Go Noi Island's hostile terrain in search of enemy caches and fortifications during Operation Pipestone Canyon. Marines, ARVN, Vietnamese Rangers and Korean Marines are operating 12 miles southwest of Da Nang. (Photo by Cpl. J. Volpe)



PFC. ROBERT OWENS (Linden, Pa.), a member of the 1st Marine Division's 7th Engineer Bn., applies the finishing touches in repairing a damaged bridge just north of Da Nang. Everyday wear and tear keeps engineers busy repairing and rebuilding bridges throughout the division's tactical area (Photo by LCpl. J. Volpe)

Rifleman Tells of Worst Firefight

By Cpl. Hank Berkowitz

DA NANG — "It must have done something to those North Vietnamese Army soldiers' minds to see us charging their dug-in positions across 300 yards of open ground. Especially with all the fire they were putting out," exclaimed Wright.

Pfc. S. C. Wright (1031 D St., Eureka, Calif.) a rifleman with "L" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Marines was speaking of a fierce firefight when his company took on an estimated company of NVA soldiers and killed 81 of them five miles south of here.

"We were sweeping toward a treeline when our pointman spotted movement ahead," explained Wright. "Soon afterwards we started taking intense sniper fire that almost pinned our company down."

"There was no other way to go but forward across 300 yards of fireswept terrain and that's just

where we went. We moved out in fireteam rushes. A four-man fireteam would run up about 25 yards and drop to the ground and provide covering fire for the next team that would run past them.

"It wasn't bad with just the snipers firing but when we started getting close the NVA opened up with three machine guns, two .30-cal. and a .50-cal. That made things quite hairy for us. But if they thought that was going to stop us, then they should have thought twice, because we just kept on charging!"

The company charged through the tree line and then stopped because the enemy had been driven from their dug-in positions. As the enemy fled, the Leathernecks pursued by fire to hasten their retreat.

"That was the toughest firefight I've been in since arriving in Nam," said Wright, "but our men did a great job."

Ex-French Teacher Back on Old Job

By Sgt. Ken Corbett

DONG HA — When Capt. Arthur R. Geiger, a former high school French teacher, received orders to Vietnam he certainly never dreamed he would be teaching French in this war-torn country thousands of miles from his home in Woodside, N. Y.

Geiger was assigned to the 11th Engineer Bn. in Dong Ha upon his arrival in Vietnam last year and was given duties as battalion communications officer and commanding officer of Headquarters Co.

In September when classes opened for Vietnamese high school students in Dong Ha City there was a need for a French teacher. Geiger, with his background in French, including a bachelor's and master's degree

in French from Fordham University plus two years of teaching the language in a New York high school, volunteered to teach in the Dong Ha school.

He soon found himself teaching French each morning at an old French army headquarters building in Dong Ha City. The classroom had no lighting and Geiger wrote the lessons on the blackboard because his students did not have books.

Geiger believes that Vietnamese youngsters are much better disciplined and a lot wiser for their years than average American students. They are very eager to learn and extremely curious about anything American.

His teaching assignment found Geiger with another military title, that of battalion civil affairs officer. With the help of Marine engineers from his battalion, he made the badly needed repairs at the school. He also arranged to have a Navy hospital corpsman set up a clinic at the school once a week. At Christmas time, Geiger was host for a party for his students.

He also established a scholarship program which paid the tuition for 10 youngsters who would not otherwise have been able to attend high school. Many of his students traveled long distances to attend classes and several were from resettlement villages established for Vietnamese families who have escaped Communist aggression near the Demilitarized Zone.

"Almost all of my students' lives have been touched by Viet Cong terrorism directly or indirectly and I was amazed at their cheerful attitude despite their terrible experiences," said Geiger.

In summing up his experience in serving a dual role as both Marine and school teacher during his tour in Vietnam, Geiger said: "I developed a better understanding of these people and their hardships by working closely with these Vietnamese youngsters. They are the vital element in establishing a better life for the people of Vietnam and from my classroom contact with these youngsters I think the Republic of Vietnam has a very promising future in its youth."

Marine Entertains Cannoneers

DONG HA — His stage is a pile of sandbags or a mound of dirt and his accompaniment is all too often the roar of 155mm howitzers, but LCpl. Russell Mardis (Covington, Ky.) has one of the most appreciative audiences of any performer in the world.

Mardis is a member of the 155mm gun crew with the 2nd Provisional Btry., Hq. Btry., 12th Marines. Wherever he and the rest of his battery go, so goes a battered \$10 guitar which he bought on Okinawa. His gun crew may be the only one in Vietnam who eat their C-rations in the luxury of live entertainment.

"I've been playing the guitar for about five years," says Mardis, "and when I knew I was coming to Vietnam, I didn't see any reason why it should stop me from playing. I just bought an inexpensive guitar to take with me wherever I go and so far it's stood up real well."

But any guitar that has traveled for eight months with an artillery battery in northern I Corps is bound to show some scars. It has been blown about

by helicopters, hit by shrapnel and exposed to Vietnam's unpredictable and hardly ideal weather. Its strings are rusty and coated with mud. But one spot on the guitar is kept spotless. That is where Mardis has inscribed the name "Shirley," his wife with whom he spent five days in Hawaii on rest and relaxation (R&R) leave.

"Having a guitar to listen to during breaks in the routine is something special for us," says Pfc. Frank Leonetti (Walla Walla, Wash.), a member of the battery. "It means a lot to us, especially in the 'bush.' It isn't every battery that has its own live entertainment every night."

Jazz, rock and roll, the blues, any type of music anyone might

like to hear is included in Mardis' repertoire. He is now in the process of teaching another man to play the guitar as his backup man.

Mardis is one performer who never has to worry about an audience. As long as he is a member of the battery his fellow artillerymen will look forward to his nightly entertainment.

Drivers Find Shelter From Rain at Outpost Chapel

By LCpl. Joe Kinney

DA NANG — With the knowledge that in Vietnam death may lurk at every corner, Marines attend religious services with some degree of regularity. As one Leatherneck puts it, "There's something about this country that brings you a little closer to God."

In addition to the normal motivation for spiritual nourishment, however, Marines of the 1st Ma-

rine Division's 5th Marines recently had another stimulus to attend church.

Normally, the Liberty Bridge Marine combat outpost is only accessible by truck convoy from An Hoa or Da Nang. The ride from An Hoa is one of the roughest a man can experience as drivers cover the bumpy seven-mile distance at high speed to elude snipers in the area.

On a recent Sunday, as a con-

voy consisting of elements of the 5th Marines rolled in, rains of monsoon intensity struck. In looking for cover from the unseasonal downpour, their eyes caught sight of the outpost chapel.

"It's always nice to have a full house," said Navy Lt. Glenn E. Powell (4482 Aidendale, South Euclid, Ohio), Catholic chaplain, with a wide grin as the drenched Leathernecks in full combat gear joined his services.

Bit of Luck Goes Long Way

By Cpl. Frank Franzone

AN HOA — Variety, or change, as the saying goes, is the spice of life. For Pfc. Eugene Morse (3627 Keyes Ave., Alexandria, La.), variety and change are lifesavers.

Morse is a rifleman with "L" Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, 1st Marine Div. While preparing to go on patrol northwest of here, he decided to use a different flak jacket because his was missing one of its protective plates.

Morse usually walks behind the point man on patrols. At the last moment he was switched to a different squad and placed further to the rear of the patrol.

As the patrol was moving out, the point man stepped on a surprise firing device, injuring the man behind him. Morse would have been that man if he had not switched earlier.

Later in the day the small patrol made contact with an estimated 15 enemy soldiers. Morse crawled up to where the point man was lying.

"I've never been so nervous in my life. Bullets and grenades flying everywhere and the grass was so high you almost had to stand up to see where the firing was coming from. If you stuck your head up to see though, you were a dead duck," Morse explained.

With help from supporting arms fire from the base camp and Marine air strikes, the patrol was able to make it back to its lines with no casualties. It was then that Morse noticed his flak jacket.

Imbedded in the exact section of plating that was missing from his own flak jacket was an AK-47 rifle round.

"I hate to think what would have happened to me if I hadn't switched flak jackets or if I hadn't been changed to a different position in the squad this morning. In fact I try not to think about it!" Morse concluded.

Night's Silence Split by Attack

By Cpl. Frank Franzone

AN HOA — Pfc. Larry Johnson (1844 Cameron St., Orangeburg, S. C.) sat in his night defensive position and looked out into the night. It was quiet; maybe too quiet, he thought.

Johnson shot up a pop flare. Through the dim light he searched for a hint of movement or a sound that would alert him to any enemy out there.

Everything was quiet again. The darkness once again enveloped Johnson and the surrounding area. The sputtering sound

made by the pop flare was now replaced by silence.

Johnson sat back in his fighting hole, letting his thoughts roam from the war to the folks back home. "Boy," he thought, "it sure would be great to be back home."

A shout and a rifle shot broke the silence and brought him back to reality. It came from Johnson's left and not too far away. He focused his attention in that direction and braced himself.

He didn't have to wait long. Through the darkness he spied a

figure running his way. Johnson could see the man had no flak jacket or helmet on.

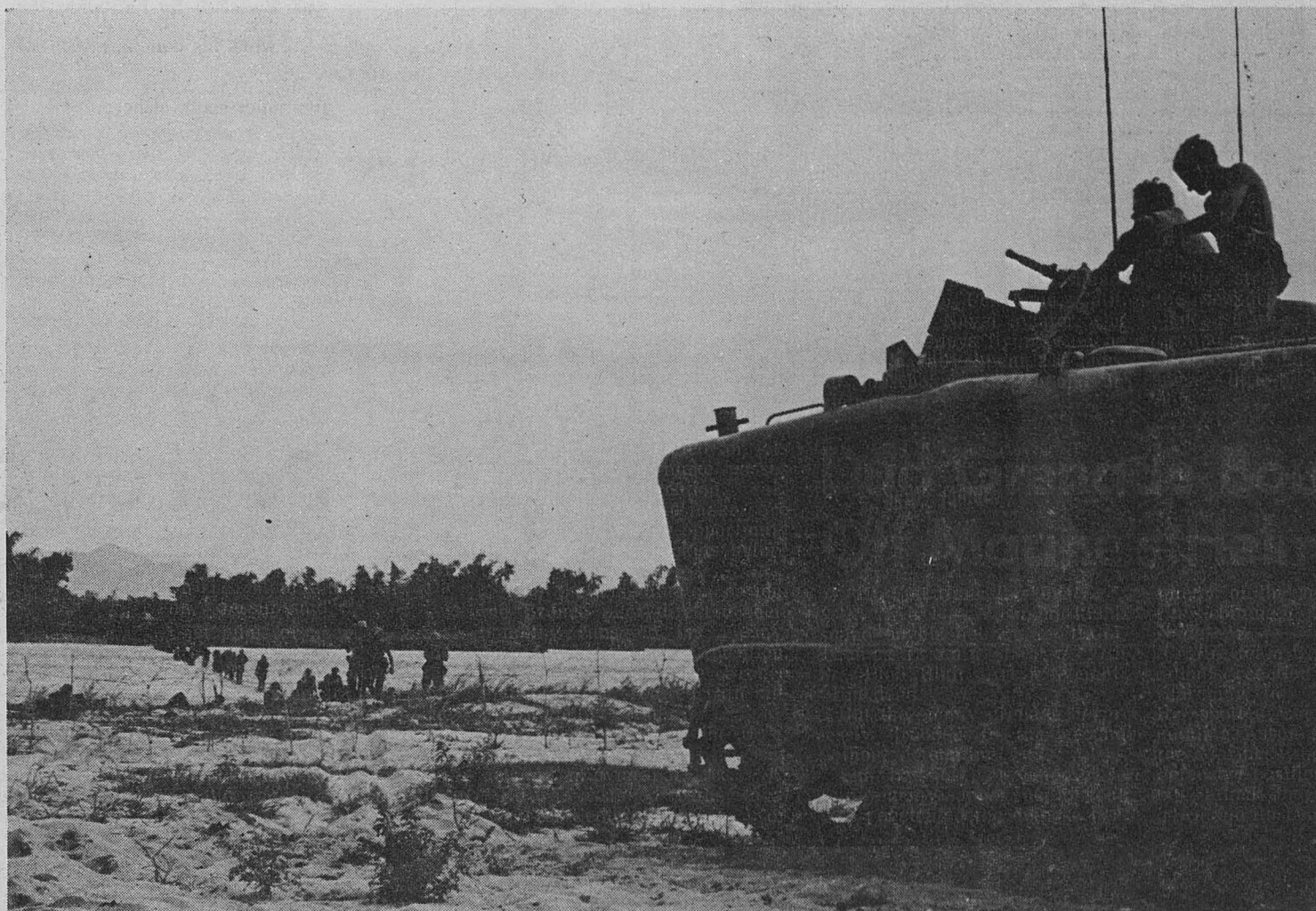
When the horrible truth struck Johnson. Some of the enemy had crawled up to the Marine lines undetected and were now a threat to the entire company.

The young Marine climbed out of his fighting hole and challenged the oncoming enemy soldier. There was a sharp report and two bullets whizzed past Johnson's ear.

Johnson replied with a burst of automatic fire from his M-16

rifle. The mortally wounded enemy soldier staggered and fell, only 15 feet from Johnson.

All was quiet for a second. The platoon sergeant walked up to Johnson and explained to him what had happened. Three North Vietnamese soldiers had crept up to "L" Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marines' night position carrying satchel charges. They were discovered five feet from the friendly lines. Once the alarm was sounded, they bolted in three directions and one went toward Johnson. All three had been killed.



MARINES OF THE 1st Bn., 7th Marines, cross the Vu Gia River after smashing North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces in the area, 18 miles southwest of Da Nang. Amphibian tractors (amtracs) support the ground troops with covering fire as the Marines advanced against the enemy. (Photo by GySgt. Bob Jordan)

Self-taught Linguist: Mountain of a Man

By Sgt. R.R. Keene

PHU BAI — The Vietnamese know him as "Sgt. Mountain," and they know him from Chu Lai to the DMZ as the American Marine interpreter who greets them in song.

His service record book lists him as James F. Spoo, a sergeant with Marine Aircraft Group 36, Hue-Phu Bai. It also states that he has been in Vietnam since December 1966, and has been assigned with almost every major Marine unit in the combat zone. What his records don't tell is why.

Spoo is a self-taught master of the Vietnamese language, which, in itself, makes him a valuable asset. His wife and family back in Ronks, Pa., would probably have worried less if he had put in his 13 months in Vietnam and returned to them, but Spoo had a goal to achieve, a goal which started while he was heading for Vietnam.

"I met another Marine who spoke Vietnamese," he recalled. "I couldn't speak a word of the language. He taught me how to say 'Hello, how are you?' and 'What is your name?' Once in

the war zone, I used what I'd learned to carry on brief conversations with civilian workers aboard the base."

Spoo was soon learning new words and phrases from the Vietnamese, who sensed his eager desire to grasp their language.

A few months after his arrival, Spoo volunteered to work with the Chu Lai civic action team.

"My desire was to help the Vietnamese as much as I possibly could. I extended my tour another six months in the hopes of going to a Combined Action Platoon (CAP) or to work full time with civic action."

As it turned out, Spoo never got to a CAP unit; instead he became a full-time interpreter with the 1st Marine Division.

During his two and a half years in Vietnam, Spoo has had interpreting assignments in many areas and for every major Marine Corps command.

"I've worked with the 3rd Marine Div., near the DMZ, with Vietnamese soldiers between Dong Ha and Quang Tri. I've helped the Force Logistic Command near Da Nang, and now

I'm back with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, this time at MAG-36 in Phu Bai.

Spoo has learned that one good way to gain the confidence of the Vietnamese is with a song.

"Their favorite form of self entertainment is singing," said Spoo. "The Vietnamese sing all the time, at work and at play. I can approach the people and say 'hello,' but because I'm an American they may shrug it off with a polite return. However, if I approach a Vietnamese casually singing one of their own ballads or folk songs, they take notice. They are really a very friendly people, but after so much war they are careful before making friendships. You really can't blame them."

Spoo explains that once he has made introductions and started a conversation, he tries to gain their trust.

"It isn't too hard. Language is always a barrier, but because I speak Vietnamese we save a lot of time and possibly misunderstandings. Soon I've not only made more friends for myself, but gained another friend for the Marine Corps and America."

His ability to gain the trust of

Vietnamese was aptly demonstrated during last year's Tet, when he personally hid the village officials of An Tan from an enemy assassination team. It was then the Vietnamese first called him "Sgt. Mountain."

"It was somewhat of a joke because I'm only five foot, six inches," said Spoo. "But it was also an honor to receive a Vietnamese name for helping the people."

For "Sgt. Mountain," the Vietnam war is just about over.

"This is my last extension," he says. "I've seen a great amount of improvement in the people and their country. They are becoming more self sufficient and will be able to stand on their own soon."

"Where Americans once were, there are now Vietnamese. Where our doctors once handled patients, Vietnamese medical people now do the work. Where we once built schools, Vietnamese, with American materials, now build, staff and maintain schools. Where American Marines once guarded perimeters, Vietnamese with American advisors now stand guard, run patrols, sweeps and carry a greater responsibility and do an out-

standing job. However, there still remains a lot to be done," he added.

"Sgt. Mountain" explains that it hasn't all been one-sided; he's learned a lot too. "I've learned that you can do just about anything if you have the drive and want something bad enough. Here in Vietnam I've learned a lot of different skills, matured, and gotten an education I would have never received any place else."

"I've made some outstanding friends among the Vietnamese. They accept me for what I am, which is all I ask. In return, I help them in whatever way I can. I would like to return to Vietnam someday as an advisor, not only for the military, but for the people themselves."

Whether or not "Sgt. Mountain" returns to Vietnam remains to be seen. There is little doubt that he would do well in any Asian country. Not only does he speak fluent Vietnamese but he also has a good working knowledge of the languages and customs of Japan, China, and Thailand. "That's not bad for a guy who flunked two years of French in high school" he says with a grin.

Charlie's Farewell Wishes...

By Cpl. Tom Kidman

DA NANG — Most Marines with one night left on their Vietnam tour spend that night packing, celebrating.

This was not the case for two members of the 3rd Bn., 11th Marines, who spent their last night dodging enemy mortars on Hill 55, 17 miles southwest of here.

Cpl. Rich Marx (13414 Acalender, Southgate, Mich.) and LCpl. H.L. Serofine (1057 Sunset Dr., Arroyo, Calif.), two Marines who came to Vietnam together, couldn't sleep and lay in their racks thinking about home and many things they hadn't seen in 13 months. Suddenly their thoughts were interrupted by an earth shaking explosion. Alert sirens shrieked and someone yelled, "Incoming!"

Before they could get their boots on and grab their gear, a second round landed less than 50 yards away, peppering the area around them with shrapnel that somehow missed the two. Motivated by the second round, they were outside and under cover before the third hit.

During the confusion the two got separated somehow and each was wondering about the other. Amidst the noise and confusion, the cries "Marx?" and "Serofine?" could be heard.

Finding each other unscratched but shaken, the two made for the command post to join the reaction forces, even though they were no longer officially attached to the unit.

"We were more worried about each other than ourselves!" said Marx.

The next morning the two "short timers" donned their helmets and flak jackets and headed for the air terminal in Da Nang. Both men carried suit cases which were riddled with shrapnel holes as a reminder of the previous night's events.

Bullets Too Close for Comfort

By SSgt. P.L. Stacy

DA NANG — One Marine suffered a bad headache, the other a sore foot. But both Leathernecks considered themselves extremely lucky after being hit by enemy bullets.

LCpl. Dan K. Dumm (Nicktown, Pa.) and LCpl. Samuel P. Eldred (780 Red Leaf Lane, Memphis, Tenn.) were flying aboard a Huey helicopter from Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 167 when they were almost simultaneously struck by the enemy rounds.

"I guess we are both darn lucky," said Dumm, "to have

both been hit and end up with no more than we did."

Dumm, who was flying port gunner in the Huey was hit first. The round went up the inside of his flight helmet but didn't touch his head.

"I must have been hit an instant later," said Eldred, "but at first I didn't realize I had been struck by a bullet."

He recalled that it felt like he had been kicked hard in the foot but didn't think much of it until his foot began to throb with pain.

"Then I saw the hole where the round went through my

sole," Eldred explained. "I took off my boot and the round fell out."

The round that hit Eldred had come up through the bottom of the aircraft. The aircraft's frame had slowed it enough so that it penetrated his boot but not his foot.

When Dumm was hit he immediately returned fire with his machine gun, although his head felt as though it had been hit with a baseball bat.

Eldred said they were flying at tree top level in an area northwest of An Hoa when they

were hit by enemy ground fire.

"The two Cobras flying escort for us worked the area over good, then they called in artillery," explained Dumm.

After returning to the Marble Mountain Air Facility near Da Nang, Dumm and Eldred were checked over at the dispensary where it was verified that they were indeed very lucky Leathernecks. Neither required medical treatment.

Both men acquired a memento of the incident. Dumm has a battle-scarred helmet and bullet while Eldred has his round plus a boot with a hole in it.



DURING OPERATION OKLAHOMA HILLS, Leathernecks of the 7th Marines cleared Bon Ton Village of enemy terrorists and earned the thanks of the villagers. This ceremony held after the Marines swept through the area was the villagers' way of saying thanks, through an ancient rite of friendship. (Photo by GySgt. R. R. Reynolds)

'Snuffies' Prepare for Future as NCOs

By Pvt. Ralph Evankavitch

DA NANG—Being in Vietnam does not deter some Leathernecks of the 1st Marine Div. from preparing for their future as leaders in the Marine Corps. They attend an NCO Leadership school, organized in January 1967, which gives lower ranking Marines the knowledge needed to become future non-commissioned officers.

Maj. Paul Vanderberg (Orange City, Iowa), school director, said, "Leadership school fills the gap between the training individual Marines receive in 'boot' camp, infantry training and staging battalion. Training is specifically aimed towards the Vietnam situation. It also stresses the importance of being able to take command and know exactly what to do in combat actions.

Division school assistant director, 1st Lt. Daniel Enock (4036 Fairway Rd., Lafayette, Pa.) said, "In a combat situation a lance corporal or corporal may all of a sudden find himself in charge with no senior NCO around to help him or tell him how or what to do. These Marines must be fully prepared and qualified to take command on a moment's notice.

"Any Leatherneck in the 1st Marine Div. is eligible for leadership school. We send quotas to the regiments concentrating mostly on 'grunt' outfits," continued Lt. Enock.

The two week course includes 96 hours of classroom instruction and eight hours of practical application of the knowledge gained in the classroom. The course covers weapons, mapping, small unit tactics, supporting arms and leadership.

The practical application part of the course comes at the end and includes simulated combat patrols, ambushes and a class on calling in air strikes and artillery missions.

"Like the stateside courses of instruction, our courses turn him into a polished, combat Marine," continued Lt. Enock. "If he was a follower before, after completing our course he is ready to be a leader."

CWO John E. Brennan (Parris Island, S. C.), officer in charge of the NCO school, said "Our instructors are Staff NCOs on their second tour of duty in Vietnam and have at one time or another served in infantry units, giving them a high degree of combat experience."

CWO Brennan said the school is currently stressing the quick-fire/quick-kill method of shooting the M-16 rifle because it is highly effective. Reports from infantry units show that their enemy kill ratio rose considerably by using this method.

The school also conducts a one-week higher level course of instruction for officers and senior staff NCOs.

First Lt. Dennis Archambault (Jacksonville, Fla.), officer in charge of the Officer and Staff NCO School, said "They get a good solid review of what they already know and get a chance to practice and put their knowledge to use."

First Lt. George Register (Phoenix, Ariz.) said, "In addition, we have mobile training teams that travel anywhere in the 1st Marine Div. area of responsibility on request from a unit. We also travel outside the division's area by special request."

Lt. Enock explained that the school was expanding the practical application part of the course because it is a combat area and the Marines must get to know jungle terrain and how to operate efficiently under different combat conditions.

The school recently began a surprise firing device

course and is instituting a class on helicopter operations.

Most training aids for the school are provided by Headquarters, III Marine Amphibious Force and from the school's own intelligence and operations offices. They also have their own museum containing a large array of captured enemy weapons and surprise firing devices. Also, instructors come up with their own ideas for training aids.

A class on military courtesy is given the Marines and morning inspections are routine stressing a good military appearance.

"We like to have Marines with about three months combat experience with their outfits in the field before coming here because they have some knowledge of combat situations and are more intent on learning how to effectively cope with problems in the field," said Lt. Enock.

"After completing the course, Marines return to their units recommending that all new Marines be sent to the school.

The feeling at the school is that it is one of the best and most important schools for Marines in Vietnam. They have well-qualified instructors and good material to work with. They would like to expand the school so all Vietnam Leathernecks can learn in-depth about combat situations and how to cope with them.

The men know that they are not on a field problem at Camp Pendleton, Calif., or Camp Lejeune, N. C. This makes them more intent on learning and they put their minds to it. Being in a combat zone gives dull classroom instruction more meaning because the Marines know when they get into the field the enemy will be there too.

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IT MAY NOT BE UNUSUAL for a town of 15,000 to have three native sons serving as Marine officers, as Bozeman, Mont., does, but it is unusual when all three are A-4 Skyhawk pilots with the same squadron in Vietnam. Maj. David L. Pospisil, top, and Capt. Jeffrey B. McAnally and Eric E. Hastings all hail from Bozeman and all fly with Marine Attack Squadron 211 at Chu Lai. The Skyhawk pilots have flown a total of more than 500 combat missions between them. All three attended Montana State University and are married to Bozeman girls. (Photo by Cpl. John Ehlert)

An Hoa's 'Angels' Keep Constant Supply Flow

By Sgt. Gary Clark

AN HOA — A resupply helicopter with a load of water, chow and ammo slung from its belly is often an angel of mercy to men in the field. Helicopters, however, are only one link in the chain of resupply which, for the men of the 5th Marines consists mainly of "B" Co., 1st Shore Party Bn. — An Hoa's angels.

With 15 men manning the Logistic Support Area (LSA) here and Helicopter Support Teams (HSTs) assigned to each infantry company, the men of Shore Party find it's a 25-hour-a-day job keeping resupplied the probing, searching, fighting animal that is the 5th Marines.

The officer-in-charge of the An Hoa LSA is 2nd Lt. Richard K. Mitchell (1301 W. Thoughy, Park Ridge, Ill.). "We generally have two or three choppers working for us each day. Those 'birds' and the men of the company are the only things that keep this regiment supplied adequately." More than 35 tons of resupply cargo, including ammunition, food, water, medical gear and clothing are flown to the 5th Marines daily.

The chain of resupply starts with a company "gunny" who lists the company's needs and then hands the list to the HST with the company. The Shore Party Marines then radio back to the LSA.

At the LSA unit representatives receive the request from the radio operators and pass the word to the logistics section of the parent unit. The logistic section then presents a work order to the Shore Party Marines.

"It generally takes us only one day to stage the requested supplies on the LSA," continued Lt. Mitchell. "All our supplies are drawn from the Force Logistic Command's Logistical Support Unit, a sort of storage dump right here at An Hoa."

Emergency requests for supplies receive priority at the LSA, and it usually takes only two hours from the time of the request until the company receives the gear.

The Bravo Company Marines are also responsible for all troop movements in the regiment, which amounts to about one lift every ten days. In addition, normal administrative matters necessitate one movement of about 150 Marines every day between their units and Da Nang.

"I guess we're the busiest when an operation is in progress and the regiment is building a new fire base," added Mitchell. "They we have to move all the regular supplies as well as the artillery pieces and ammunition."

"Our heaviest work occurred under those circumstances not too long ago. In one day we wound up rigging and preparing 200 tons of cargo for helicopter lift and in addition we moved 300 passengers."

Supply is the life blood of troops in the field. Realizing that, the Shore Party Marines work late into the night preparing the next day's resupplies. With the dawn the resupply choppers, the angels of mercy, will come for their loads. An Hoa's angels are ready once again.

1st Div Marines Sweep Dodge City Area...

(Continued From Page 1)

Simpson took command of the division six months ago.

Operation Pipestone Canyon will deny the enemy use of the deep thrusts into the area and "Dodge City" and Go Noi Island area as a "safe haven."

Brook and Meade River made met stiff opposition from large enemy forces. During the 20 days of Meade River, U.S. Marines killed more than 800 NVA.

Last year Operations Allen and VC. ARVN elements eliminated nearly 200 of the enemy.

Vietnamese rangers had been operating in the area for nearly two months before the start of Operation Pipestone Canyon. First Marine Div. engineers, working under a security cover provided by ARVN forces, destroyed countless enemy

bunkers, fighting holes and other fortifications while opening Route 4 to "Dodge City." Part of Route 4, from Dai Loc to Thuong Duc, was opened during Operation Oklahoma Hills which ended May 29.

When Operation Pipestone

Canyon draws to a close, enemy base camps in the "Dodge City" Go Noi Island area will have been destroyed. And Gen. Simpson has expressed hope that the people will return to the area and plant the next rice crop there, free of any fear of the enemy.

Progress . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

has been made toward achieving our country's goals in Vietnam . . . and for this I do commend all those who have played a role in defeating the enemy in armed combat and for all other contributions made to the overall effort. The redeployment of some U.S. forces is the result.

But much remains to be done . . . much that will require the full time, talents, energies and continuing sacrifices of those who remain.

I trust . . . I know . . . that I can count on the dedicated service of all U.S. servicemen and civilians who remain here, to see our mission through to a successful conclusion.

Lt. Gen. Herman Nickerson Jr., USMC
Commanding General, III MAF

Cool Radioman...

(Continued From Page 3)

take off, informing him over the radio that the wounded man would be able to wait 'til morning for pick-up."

As the night wore on and the heavy fighting continued, Heimbach left his radio to grab a rifle. Fighting alongside Golf Company's grunts, Heimbach blazed through twelve M-16 magazines helping to throw back the attacking enemy.

"At one point we began taking fire from two positions near our lines," added the Shore Party Marine. "I grabbed two LAWs (Light Anti-tank Weapons) and blew both enemy positions away."

Now, several weeks after the battle, Heimbach is back working on the LSA here, taking a breather before he and his radio are dispatched to another company to provide them with vital helicopter support—a life line of the field Marine.



NAVY SEABEE Steel Worker 2nd Class Clarence M. Kissner (Port Hueneme, Calif.) helps adjust a parachute for GySgt. James N. Floyd (Mobile, Ala.) just before a practice jump near Da Nang. Floyd is commander of Air Delivery Plt., FLC, which resupplies Marine units in I Corps. (Photo by Cpl. Bruce Chertkow)

Will Aid Hospital...

(Continued From Page 1)

U.S. and Vietnamese officials that continued free medical care for Vietnamese children will continue after American forces leave Vietnam.

WRC officials said they will place three staff members — an administrator, physician and lab technician — at the hospital this summer to prepare for the eventual transition and to assist in training the Vietnamese medical staff. WRC's long-range goal will be to staff the hospital completely with South Vietnamese and volunteer medical specialists and assistants from Free World countries.

The hospital had its beginning in 1965 when Marines built a small wood and tin medical aid station for Vietnamese. FLC took over operation of the aid station and replaced it with a semi-permanent structure.

The entire facility is now housed in a simple stone and tile building completed in January. It has a capacity of 120 beds and offers emergency and prolonged treatment for children of all ages. Most of the patients come from refugee areas northwest of Da Nang.

At present there are 56 nurses and aides staffing the hospital. They are supervised by U.S. Navy doctors and hospital corpsmen of FLC who work there on a voluntary basis.

The WRC headquarters at Long Island City, N. Y., has representatives in the Republic of Vietnam, Nigeria-Biafra, Chile, Hong Kong and West Pakistan to help alleviate suffering of victims of war, disease, poverty and illiteracy.

Wounded, Kills 4...

(Continued From Page 1)

man's wounds. Before he could finish patching up the man he was hit again but somehow he got up and struggled over to the side of a wounded Navy corpsman. While Barnett was helping the corpsman he was hit once again, but it didn't even slow him up as he moved back over to work on the corpsman.

"By this time we were setting up security so we could get a chopper in to pick up our wounded," continued Candelario. "While the chopper was hovering in the air, Barnett spotted four NVA attacking the chopper."

"He got up and charged them despite being wounded three times. He killed all four of them. He was hit for the fourth time during the engagement and it was time to get him out of there so we put him on the second chopper. Even then he didn't want to leave."

Sgt. Candelario rested a minute and then remarked, "He's back in the hospital in Japan now and recovering pretty well. I guess we all feel his actions were about the most courageous we've ever seen. . . ."

Couldn't Worm Its Way Off a Hook

By Sgt. R. R. Keene

PHU BAI — Like the rest of his running mates, he was squirming, digging in, and covered with slime and dirt. When a young Marine suddenly caught him in the open, he flexed his muscles and startled the Leatherneck with his uncommon size.

He was a giant among his companions. It took the Marine a few seconds to muster enough courage to grab him. The giant's smaller friends fled into their underground tunnels leaving him only one choice — surrender.

He was possibly the largest worm anyone had ever seen in Phu Bai, 36 elastic inches in length and a quarter of an inch in diameter. Depending on how he felt he was able to stretch more than a yard, thus making

himself a fisherman's delight, a super night-crawler, a worm among worms. In Vietnam, where Americans have reported seeing "the world's largest" elephants, tigers, sharks, lizards, rats and snakes, it was just a matter of time until the lowly worm got into the act.

The "find" is Marine LCpl Stephen L. Railey's claim to fame. Railey literally stumbled across the worm after morning chow at Marine Aircraft Group 36's messhall. Apparently the yard-long earthmover came up near the messhall for air during a recent rainstorm. No one seems to think the mess sergeant's cooking had anything to do with it.

Railey, from Arlington, Texas, now knows that his state isn't the only place that produces big

things. At first glance Railey thought the worm was a snake. However, closer scrutiny from a safe distance revealed it to be fish bait.

The worm was friendly enough; it wrapped itself around Railey's arm a full three times and gave it a friendly squeeze. Then it crawled up his shoulder and around his neck. It might have been a display of friendship among worms, but Railey didn't seem to appreciate it.

While stretched the length of the Texan's arm it was admired and photographed by many of

the Leathernecks working at Marine Air Base Squadron 36 Communications Section. By noon Railey and his worm were famous.

However, the popularity was short lived. Apparently someone else had taken a liking to the worm for dubious reasons. After noon chow the worm had disappeared and no one seemed to know the whereabouts of one large friendly worm resembling a snake.

However, Special Services reported checking out a number of fishing poles that afternoon.

Op. Cookielift . . .

(Continued From Page 3)

help Col. Richard S. Rash, commanding officer of MAG-13, oversee distribution of the cookies. Also assisting was Lt. Col. William Shanks Jr., the group's executive officer, whose wife Anna had baked some of the cookies at their home in Costa Mesa.

Each of the cans were filled

with assorted cookies, Kool-Aid and chewing gum, with popcorn as packing.

Throughout the MAG-13 area, Marines could be seen munching on cookies, thinking about home and the many people who do care. Their smiles beamed an unspoken Thank You.

"Operation Cookielift" — the sweetest operation ever to hit Chu Lai — was a success.

FLC Highlights...

By Capt. D.G. Menely

DA NANG, Vietnam — Supplying the Marines in the Republic of Vietnam is big business. Ask anyone at the Marine Force Logistic Command (FLC) eight miles north of Da Nang. More than 63,000 resupply requisitions

are processed every month by the Fleet Stock Account. On hand in warehouses and on storage lots are more than 62,000 different items used by U.S. Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. FLC issues roughly \$13.9 million worth of equipment and supplies each month.

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