

Allies Sweep Reds from Island Stronghold



SEA TIGER



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Enemy Dead Top 600 in Two Weeks

By Sgt. Ron Staff

DA NANG—More than 600 enemy have died in 1st Marine Division's TAOR, May 9-19, as a result of continuing small unit contacts, two large ground actions and a series of enemy attacks.

Beginning May 9, elements of the 5th Marines north of An Hoa, spotted 100 enemy and started a two-day running battle. The early morning hours of May 12 saw enemy units launch numerous harrassing attacks at battalion and regimental command positions.

Later that day a battalion of the 1st Marines, joined by South Vietnamese Regional Force and Army troops, cornered an enemy element apparently maneuvering to attack one of the bridges south of here. When the area was cleared the next day, more than 120 enemy had been killed. In the early morning hours of May 19, enemy sappers attacked a gun battery of the 11th Marine Regt., apparently in observance of Ho Chi Minh's birthday. It was futile. (See story below).

Once the enemy was spotted by elements of the 5th Marines on May 9, Leatherneck artillery bore down on the position. The enemy split up in an effort to reduce the effectiveness of the big guns. A short 30 minutes later two definite enemy groups were again spotted and Marine air strikes as well as artillery crashed in on the enemy soldiers. Ground troops and supporting arms pushed the enemy north toward the Vu Gia River where elements of the 7th Marines lay in wait.

The coordinated attack involving Marine air power and artillery as well as elements from each of the 1st Marine Division's infantry regiments cut 219 troops from the enemy's rolls by the nightfall of May 11.

The enemy attacks on May 12 were rendered even less effective as a result of a forced premature attack on a command position of the 1st Marine Regt. Enemy sappers were spotted infiltrating the defenses at the 2nd Bn., 1st Marines command post and had little choice but to attack before their supporting mortars were ready to fire. An immediate alert flashed through the division units, preparing them for attacks within the next hour, and elements of all regiments within the division were attacked before daylight, but they were ready for the enemy. (Story on Page 3.)

Most of the attacks were in the form of harrassing mortar fire. The small number of attacks that combined ground probes with mortar and rocket attacks, resulted in 36 North Vietnamese soldiers killed, nine AK-47 assault rifles and one crew-served weapon captured along with three enemy prisoners.

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At 79, Things Are Looking Grim

Ho's Birthday a Bust; Marines Maul Reds

By Sgt. Gary Clark

DA NANG—One moment they were a nine-man Viet Cong patrol crossing a river, proudly carrying two North Vietnamese flags and a banner declaring "Happy Birthday, Ho!" The next moment two of their number were dead and the rest were running desperately for their lives. The banner and flags lay in mud along the river.

Other enemy attacks, initiated yesterday to perhaps mark the 79th birthday of North Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh were equally unsuccessful here due to a big group of 'party-poopers,' namely the 1st Marine Division.

Many of the attacks were aimed at civilians, apparently to remind them of the birthday anniversary. Just after two a.m. yesterday, Hieu Duc District head-

quarters reported that a force of about 10 Viet Cong had infiltrated the village of An Tan, seven miles southwest of here, and were burning huts.

A unit from "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Marines and a South Vietnamese Popular Forces unit moved toward the area and saw movement in the light from the burning buildings. The force called for 81mm mortar and artillery support to block off retreat from the village, moved into attack VC positions and then swept through the village.

As the combined force moved in from one end, the enemy soldiers fled out of the other side of the village only to run into a Marine artillery, mortar and 106mm recoilless rifle barrage.

At the same time, artillerymen of "H" Btry. 3rd Bn., 11th Marines observed enemy soldiers outside their

night defensive perimeter. Leaving their 105mm howitzers, the men grabbed rifles and grenades and repelled the estimated 30 attackers. The firefight blazed for hours and a reaction force from "M" Co. 3rd Bn. 1st Marines was dispatched to assist.

As the battle neared an end, the artillerymen again manned their howitzers, lowered the barrels to eye level and tore apart the retreating enemy force. Marine infantrymen from Mike Co. continued after the fleeing enemy, killing two more in a running firefight. The final total for the arty-infantry team was 18 enemy soldiers killed and five detained. Six AK-47 assault rifles, two rocket propelled grenades, forty B-40 rocket rounds, two sets of wire cutters and 150 chicom grenades were captured.

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By Cpl. Herb Sharbel
and
Sgt. M. W. Starn

BARRIER ISLAND — When a 4,000-man allied strike force dropped on this nondescript, sun-scorched chunk of land May 5, the allies again proved what they had been saying all along.

"We can go in anytime we want, for as long as we want. We can drive the VC out and keep him out and Charlie knows it," said Marine Col. William C. Doty, commander of Special Landing Force Alpha, Task Group 79.4.

For some months before the start of Operation Daring Rebel, American swift boats, South Vietnamese coastal patrols and civilian craft had drawn sniper fire from the banks of the Cua Dai River which cuts into the mainland to border the island on the north.

Patrols by Vietnamese Army (ARVN) forces and Republic of Korea Marines, who normally operate in areas to the north and northwest were insufficient to neutralize the roving bands of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese who thrived on the scattered villages and rice paddies. A larger force was needed to do a thorough job.

Daring Rebel, which ended May 20, provided that force and hit the enemy high and low.

"It has taken the enemy years to set up a good infrastructure. By rooting out the VCI, we've hurt the enemy's cause much more than just taking prisoners.

(Continued on Back Page)



Arty Up!

PFC. WILLIAM HAND (Klamath Falls, Ore.), a radioman with the 5th Marines, relays a call for artillery fire during a two-day battle south of Da Nang. More than 600 of the enemy were killed from May 9 to 19 in 1st Division's AO. (Photo by LCpl. J. Volpe)

Virginia Ridge Ambush

Conks 19 NVA; 2 Captured

By Sgt. Ken Corbett

DONG HA — A rifle company of the 3rd Marines, participating in Operation Virginia Ridge southwest of Con Thien, sprang an ambush on about 40 NVA May 22, killing 19 of the enemy.

Two NVA wounded in the ambush were captured, treated for their wounds and turned over to ARVN forces.

The Leathernecks caught the NVA force by complete surprise

as they moved down a jungle trail. There were no Marine casualties.

Enemy gear picked up by the Marines in the ambush included 8 AK-47 rifles, 2 RPG launchers, a complete 60mm mortar, 55 Chicom grenades, 8 RPG rounds, 3 AK-47 magazines and 100 blocks of explosives.

Operation Virginia Ridge, a multi-battalion search-and-clear operation involving elements of the 3rd and 9th Marines, opened

on May 1. It is centered in an area about 6½ miles southwest of Con Thien. The 3rd Marine Div. battalions in the operation have the mission of destroying or capturing enemy forces, materiel and installations in the area of operations.

From May 1 through May 22, Operation Virginia Ridge cost the enemy 102 of his troops killed and 45 individual weapons and 12 crew-served weapons captured. Three enemy suspects were detained.

SecDef Urges End to Discrimination

The President's Executive Order of July 26, 1948 directed the abolition of racial segregation in the Armed Forces and required equality of opportunity and treatment without regard of race, color, creed or national origin. Substantial progress has been made in removing racial discrimination. No sector in American life has achieved the measure of equal opportunity and treatment that has been realized in the Armed Forces. The dedicated leadership of countless numbers of men and women in the Military Services has made this progress possible. I congratulate them.

Much still remains to be done, and it is to this task of removing every vestige of discrimination that I give my personal commitment. This can be achieved only by ensuring that complete equality of opportunity and treatment is not denied to any member of the Armed

Forces because of race, color, religion, national origin or any other irrelevant factor. This equality must be granted in training, education, assignment and promotion, including the opportunity to assume the highest positions of trust and responsibility. I encourage each member of the Armed Forces to utilize to the maximum the opportunities available for his development.

We must maintain harmonious, cooperative working relationships among military personnel so as to maintain high morale, military effectiveness and combat readiness. I urge all personnel to reject divisive and fragmenting forces and influences in our society which seek to diminish the integrity, unity and strength of our Armed Forces. We must not permit the irrelevancies of race and color, nor any other factor, to divide and weaken us.

It is the responsibility of every member of the Military Services from the newest inductee to the highest commissioned officer to accept other members on the basis of their individual worth and to assist in extending to all facets and activities of military life—on and off base, on and off duty—the spirit of mutual trust and respect which is manifest when our forces are in combat.

I call upon every Installation and Unit Commander to provide the leadership that will continue to translate the policy of equal opportunity into living and meaningful reality for every man and woman serving our Nation in the uniforms of the Armed Forces.

Secretary of Defense
MELVIN R. LAIRD



SECRETARY OF STATE William P. Rogers, in shirt sleeves, pauses for flag ceremony while visiting the 3rd Marine Division TAOR. The secretary was in-country for four days of consultation with U.S. and allied leaders throughout Vietnam. Rogers said America's major purpose here was to insure Vietnam's self-determination. (3rd Mar Div ISO Photo)

HQMC Announces New Command Shift

WASHINGTON — The following general officer reassessments were announced May 14 at Headquarters Marine Corps.

Maj. Gen. George S. Bowman Jr., Marine Corps Liaison Officer, Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C., will be reassigned duty as Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force, in July. His replacement will be announced later.

Maj. Gen. Carl A. Youngdale, who now holds that billet, will become Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic in August.

He replaces Maj. Gen. Norman J. Anderson, who will be reassigned duty as Deputy Chief of Staff, Commander in Chief, Atlantic, in August. The next assignment for Maj. Gen. John H. Masters will be determined at a later date.

Brig. Gen. George D. Webster will be reassigned to HQMC, MCDEC, as Deputy for Support and Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Quantico. He replaces Brig. Gen. Virgil W. Banning who retires June 30.

As announced earlier, Brig. Gen. Frank E. Garretson has been assigned duties as Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (Forward).

Brig. Gen. Leo J. Dulacki, Commanding General, 5th Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif., will replace Brig. Gen. Ross T. Dwyer Jr., Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division in June. Gen. Dwyer will assume command of the 5th Marine Division in August.

Brig. Gen. Homer G. Hutchinson Jr., Deputy Director, Plans, J-5, STRICOM, will retire on June 30. Brig. Gen. John E. Williams will replace Gen. Hutchinson.

The reassignment of Maj. Gen. Arthur H. Adams, who now commands the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, has also been announced. Gen. Adams, a Marine aviator since 1939, will become the senior member of the Military Armistice Commission in Korea in July.

He will be succeeded as 3rd MAW commander by Maj. Gen. Robert G. Owens Jr., who is now an assistant chief of staff at Marine Corps Headquarters.

32-Year Marine Veteran

Corps' SgtMaj. Retires

WASHINGTON — A colorful 32-year Marine Corps career comes to a close July 31 with the retirement of Sgt. Maj. Herbert J. Sweet, the outgoing Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

Sgt. Maj. Sweet began his career in February 1937. During World War II he saw action on Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima, and earned the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for actions during the Iwo Jima campaign. He also received three Purple Heart Medals for wounds on Guam and Iwo Jima.

With the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, Sgt. Maj. Sweet served there with the 1st Marine Division. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal Ribbon with Combat "V" and was wounded a fourth time.

Sgt. Maj. Sweet was appointed Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps July 17, 1965, the fourth Marine to hold the Corps' senior enlisted post.

"It was a very rewarding and challenging assignment and I leave with some regrets. I hope I have correctly read the pulse of my 280,000 enlisted Marines," said the sergeant major.

"Reading the pulse" meant making seven trips to Vietnam, two to Europe, and 49 to posts and stations within the United States as he accompanied the two Commandants of the Marine Corps whom he served. Armed with the latest facts about promotions, pay raises and other sought-after-information, he found the time to converse with thousands of Marines as he made his rounds.

The sergeant major also received thousands of letters from Marines in the field, many of them concerning promotions.

One such letter was from a staff sergeant who was inadvertently overlooked by the promotion board for two years. A query to Sgt. Maj. Sweet brought action. He put the case before the remedial promotion board and on the morning they were to meet, the hopeful staff sergeant received a letter which assured him, "The sergeant Major of the Marine Corps lit a candle for you at the 10:30 a.m. church service."

The results: the Marine was promoted and received two years back pay.

"It's results like this that make the job worthwhile, but they aren't all as fortunate," Sgt. Maj. Sweet said.

However, a stack of letters of appreciation attest to the fact that many of them are.

The young men wearing the globe and anchor today are the

best, according to the Sergeant major.

"He is better educated, better motivated and knows where he is headed and why," Sweet declared.

In his official travels, the sergeant major of the Marine Corps said he found morale to be "outstanding," even in frontline units and hospitals. He attributes this to the Marine Corps' traditional training methods and discipline which, according to him, haven't changed much in



SgtMaj. H. J. Sweet

30 years.

What has changed, though, are career opportunities in the Marine Corps which, he says, "have never been better."

He said more effort is needed at all levels to gain more reenlistments. According to Sweet, favorable results are already apparent since the Career Planning Branch was established at Headquarters Marine Corps.

The sergeant major also revealed that the rapid expansion of the Corps has had telling effects.

"Big holes were left in our senior Staff NCO ranks because so

many of them were commissioned," he said. "But we were able to fill their shoes with outstanding young Staff NCOs, who in turn were replaced by even younger experienced NCOs."

The Marine Corps will face another transition period in July when thousands of Staff NCOs start to transfer to the Fleet Reserve.

"When this 'brain drain' starts, I believe we will be in a good position to fill their ranks with the young staff who moved up recently," he said.

Although he will join the "brain drain," Sgt. Maj. Sweet will not completely sever ties with the Marine Corps. He will remain in the Washington, D.C. area, but his plans for a future position are still incomplete. He lives in Alexandria, Va., with his wife and two children.

In closing out 32 years as a Marine, Sgt. Maj. Sweet offered some parting advice to those he is leaving behind.

To Sergeants Major and First Sergeants:

"You are going to be replaced soon. Go out and shake the bushes and get more of your better corporals and sergeants to reenlist. The Corps needs them."

To Staff NCOs, he counseled:

"Don't lose touch with your men by being an 8 to 4:30 carpool Marine. Spend more time with your men than you do commuting. Get to know them in the barracks where they live. Lead them. Advise them. Motivate them."

To corporals and sergeants, he advised:

"Be easy to find. Study. Strive for a billet two ranks above you; but most of all, be loyal to your commander."

Sgt. Maj. Sweet said he will miss the busy schedule and prestige of being Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, but he feels it's time for a change.

SEA TIGER

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Med Team Fights Battle Against Disease

By Sgt. Bob Morris

DA NANG — The road to the Montagnard resettlement village of Mai Loc is a twisting, rutted dirt track that snakes nearly five miles through the foothills of Cam Lo.

Although the enemy is notorious for planting land mines along the winding trail, Navy Lt. Rudolph I. V. Mintz Jr. (Wilmington, N. C.), 9th Marines regimental surgeon, makes the hazardous journey several times a month with a Medical Civic Action Program (MedCap) team of two medical corpsmen.

His mission . . . to treat the dark-skinned mountain people living in the Mai Loc area.

2/1 Marines Nix Sapper Attack

By Sgt. Ron Staff

DA NANG—Enemy sappers backed by rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and mortars thought they could overrun the 2nd Bn., 1st Marines' command post on May 12. Only four of the enemy suicide squad managed to get through the Marines' defensive perimeter and they died quickly before doing much damage.

The attack was thrown off balance when Leatherneck sentries spotted the enemy approaching.

First Lt. Curtis W. Long (Star Route, Prescott, Wash.), commanding officer of the 81mm mortar platoon was the officer of the day. When informed of the enemy movement, he went to the area. Arriving at the post to check the report, he and two other Marines moved toward the suspected enemy position.

Once discovered, the enemy soldiers began their assault immediately, rather than wait for covering mortar fire.

As soon as the lieutenant drew fire, an enemy RPG hit the next guard position, killing the Marine on watch and wounding his two back-up men. Four sappers made it past this position before other Marines arrived to stop the penetration.

Two Marines, moving quickly to the 81mm mortar platoon area, fought hand to hand with four of the attacking sappers and killed all four.

At the next guard position, 20-year-old LCpl. David A. Weir, who had been in Vietnam just over 21 hours, shot three sappers as they tried to overrun his post. The enemy attack was stopped at this point.

Meanwhile SgtMaj. Marion Viera Jr. (47 Groton St., Providence, R. I.) was in a defensive position atop a compound post bunker when he saw three figures running across an open area.

"When they started toward the bunker I began to have my doubts that they were Marines," Viera recalled. "Since I wasn't sure, I fired a few rounds at the ground in front of them. When they changed directions toward the messhall, I was sure they weren't Marines, so I chased them."

Another sapper was wounded by the sergeant major.

The last surviving enemy was able to throw one satchel charge before being cut down.

Three other attempts to breach the defenses were total failures and when the enemy retreated, the Marines began cleaning up.

Two Marines were killed in

With the approach of the jeep, bearing penicillin, serums, vaccines, and sterile dressings, the Montagnards assemble at an old French building for treatment.

The old structure, with scars of bullets and explosives on its aging exterior, reflects the years of war the countryside has seen.

With nerves already frayed by their journey, the doctor and his corpsmen prepare for the even harder task of penetrating a language barrier and fighting superstition and poor hygienic practices.

"In our last visit we treated 80 patients in three hours," explained Hospital Corpsman Sec-

ond Class James M. Jung (Rocky Ford, Colo.). "That's nearly four times as many as the average civilian doctor would treat in the same time."

Jung remarked that not all of the people who seek treatment are seriously ill.

"In fact some of them come to see the doctor just out of curiosity," he continued. "Even so, we are here to favorably impress the people and we give them aspirin with a reminder to keep clean."

According to Jung, one of the most common diseases among the Montagnards is parasitic infestation.

The treatment of this malady is more difficult than most because the scabs must be scrubbed with surgical soap. This allows the sore to bleed and be cleaned.

"We find this disease very common among smaller children," Jung explained, "and it's

difficult to get a frightened child to submit to the pain involved in cleaning the sores."

Through an interpreter Mintz tries to impress upon the parents of these children the need to keep the sore clean and dressed with the medication that he gives them.

The MedCap continues as one by one the villagers come forward, some carrying tiny infants and others alone. All of them face the doctor with a look of shyness and uncertainty.

Many of them are barefoot and wear old pieces of jungle fatigues given to them by Marines who guard their village.

Occasionally a suspected bubonic plague or tubercular victim will be brought to the doctor.

"If it's an older person we usually have no problem in convincing him to go to Dong Ha for further tests and treatment," said Jung. "But with the chil-

dren we have problems. The Montagnards are very protective toward their children and we find it hard to separate the parents from the child so that he can be taken to the Children's Hospital in Dong Ha."

Finally all the people have been treated and the three men wearily wash their hands and repack their medical supplies.

Leathernecks of the 9th Marines who have stood security guard during the MedCap prepare for the return trip.

As the MedCap team leaves the Montagnard village, they feel a satisfaction of having helped these people. This is not the last trip for them over this dangerous trail to Mai Loc. It is part of the fight to establish a better life for these people and to Mintz and his corpsmen, the danger involved in bringing their medical aid to this remote village is more than worth the risk.



LEATHERNECK from Force Logistic Command's Aerial Delivery Platoon leaves a transport aircraft during a parachute jump near Da Nang. The platoon makes on-the-spot delivery of supplies by parachute to Marine infantrymen in combat.

(Photo by LCpl. Nick Myers)

(Continued on Page 11)

7th Marines Clash With NVA

By LCpl. Tom Kidman

DA NANG — In some of the heaviest fighting since February, Leathernecks of the 7th Marines killed at least 64 enemy soldiers while suffering 9 Marine casualties 17 miles southwest of here in the "Arizona Territory."

After sighting .50-cal. tracer rounds fired in the air, which they knew were coming from an estimated two companies of North Vietnamese Army sol-

diers, "B" and "D" Co. crossed the Vu Gia River shortly after midnight April 30. The enemy opened fire on them with mortars and small arms fire before both companies could get onto dry land.

The Marines returned fire and called in air and artillery support within 200 yards of their own position. "D" Co. assaulted the area, pushing the enemy back across rice paddies and

through treelines. "A" Co., 7th Marines acted as a blocking force while "B" and "D" Co.'s combined forces and swept across the enemy-held territory, wiping out enemy soldiers in their bunkers.

The next day Alpha Co. pulled back and "B" and "D" took over as the blocking force while elements of the 3rd Bn., 1st Marines swept through the same ground covered by the two com-

panies the day before.

Capt. J. W. Huffman, (Oceanside, Calif.) commanding officer of Bravo Co., recalled the two-day battle:

"Sweeping through villages and hamlets we often ran into large groups of the enemy and often had to fight hand to hand because we were so close and there were so many of them."

"Enemy snipers hampered our progress periodically but we silenced them with our mortars and artillery," Huffman said.

"Several times our own command post was hit by enemy

sniper fire, heavy small arms, or mortars — and sometimes all three," the captain said.

While sweeping back to the river, the Leathernecks found two 500 pound box-mines, 105 and 155mm artillery rounds, several AK-47 assault weapons and SKS communist carbines, two 60mm mortar tubes and an NVA radio.

"I've been in the Marine Corps 18 years, but I have never seen heavier fighting," the 38 year-old Korean War veteran concluded.

Flying Doc's Burden

By GySgt. Bob Jordan

DA NANG — The limp form was placed on the stretcher and the CH-46 Sea Knight medevac helicopter began to lift into the air. Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Shelby C. Bell (Clarendon, Texas) started to work frantically to strengthen the thin thread of life that remained in the young Marine. He checked the pulse and heart beat . . . nothing! Quickly he placed his hands, one on top of the other,

and used external heart massage on the Leatherneck's chest. At first there was no response. Another try, and this time success. A faint heart beat!

Bell removed the field dressing and replaced it with one from his medical kit. Gently he lowered the Marine's head and began to check the less seriously wounded men.

The giant helicopter from Marine Medium Helicopter Squad-

ron 165 moved quickly out of the landing zone.

Bell calls the helicopter medevac mission one of the most challenging in military medicine. "We provide the emergency first treatment often needed for survival until the patient arrives at a hospital or hospital ship for more extensive treatment by doctors."

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Shelby Bell, a man dedicated to saving lives.



A MARINE MEDIUM Helicopter Squadron 262 crew chief and a Navy corpsman attend a wounded Leatherneck. Hit only moments earlier in a fire fight with North Vietnamese forces, the Marine infantryman was quickly flown to a hospital ship cruising off shore for immediate medical care.

(Photo by Cpl. Jim De Witt)

Rifle Find Leads to Dangerous Surprise

By LCpl. Frank Franzone

AN HOA — Two Viet Cong decided to give up just in the nick of time — for Pfc. Kenneth Crockford, that is.

Crockford, of King Ferry, N.Y., a rifleman with "M" Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, 1st Marine Div., was with his platoon searching for enemy rice and weapons caches northwest of here. As he was about to enter a bunker, Crockford spotted an AK-47 assault rifle in the entrance way.

While two other Marines looked on, Crockford crawled down to the narrow opening. Reaching in, he uncovered the rifle partially hidden under some loose boards.

Elated, he turned to his fellow Marines yelling, "I've got an AK-47." What he didn't realize

was that something else followed the rifle out of the bunker.

With his back to the bunker, Crockford watched his fellow Marines' expressions of disbelief as the two enemy soldiers appeared behind him. Both were carrying fully loaded AK-47 rifles.

"Apparently they thought I had spotted them by the way I began yelling all of a sudden," Crockford said later. Crockford whirled around and the two threw down their weapons and threw up their hands.

"I thought I was a gonner when I turned and those two were behind me. They could have blown me away with no trouble at all," Crockford sighed.

A careful search of the bunker brought no more surprises.

2 NVA Wander Into Fight With Marines

By CPL. Dave Allem

DA NANG — The two Marines in their fighting holes on the outside perimeter of the "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 26th Marines area waited silently as the two enemy soldiers crept closer.

The 1st Marine Div. Leathernecks had been on watch for two hours as the sun began to rise above the distant mountains. The early morning light had enabled the two Marines to spot the North Vietnamese soldiers as they moved toward the Leatherneck lines.

Using their radio to alert an M-60 machine gun position of the situation, the Marines opened fire on the enemy figures simultaneously with the machine gun, pouring about 50 rounds into the

small area occupied by the enemy.

Immediately, AK-47 rounds ripped back at the Leathernecks, and an enemy grenade landed 10 yards away.

As the Marines fired back at the NVA soldiers with more automatic rifle fire and machine gun bursts, the sound of the enemy's rifles suddenly ceased. Cautiously, the Leathernecks moved from their positions and approached the NVA area 20 yards away.

"We found them both dead," reported LCpl. Carl D. Chamberlain (Rt. 3, Circle Ville, Ohio).

Enemy forces in the mountainous jungles southwest of here were minus two more NVA soldiers.

Together in Sandbox; Together in Battle

By LCpl. Frank DeLong

VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE — From the sandbox to the battlefield, Pfc. Russ Huston and Stan Kell of East Palestine, Ohio, have been at each other's side.

They played together when they were six and ran on the same track team in high school.

In college they were fraternity brothers.

"I think our most important decision was to join the Marine Corps and serve our country," said Kell. "Like everything else, we did it together."

Today the two men are serving with "A" Co., 1st Bn., 9th Marines in the northern I Corps sector of South Vietnam. They have been through numer-

ous combat operations together since joining the 9th Marines a year ago.

There have been many interesting coincidences in their lives. On Operation Dewey Canyon, during which the 9th Marines captured the largest communist arms and ammunition cache of the war, the two Leathernecks were wounded just one day apart and ironically both by enemy mortar fire.

While in high school both Marines dated the same girl. Russ won the young lady's heart and she is now Mrs. Huston.

Soon they will return to Ohio and once again their plans are the same. "We're going to take advantage of the G.I. Bill and try to get into Ohio State University," said Kell.

VC Seek Refuge in Water; Sitting Ducks For Marines

By LCpl. Hank Berkowitz

AN HOA — When a platoon of Viet Cong tried to hide in some deep rice paddy water to escape the wrath of Leathernecks of the 1st Marine Div., the determined Marines of "B" Co., 1st Bn., 5th Marines went right in and killed 18 of the enemy and captured five.

The company had trudged five thousand yards through muddy rice paddies during the night and set up a cordon along with "M" Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, around a suspected enemy concentration point two miles southeast of Liberty Bridge.

"As the company tightened the cordon an aerial observer (AO) spotted movement in a treeline within the circle," explained Capt. Gene C. Castagnetti (47-379A Ahuimanu Rd., Kaneohe, Hawaii), commanding

Washday Everyday

By Pfc. Joe Doyle

DA NANG — LCpl. Jimmy G. Vandiver (Crescent, Okla.) is a member of a unique organization, where, indeed, it all comes out in the wash.

Laundry Platoon, Supply Co., Supply Bn., Marine Force Logistic Command (FLC), is charged with the responsibility of providing laundry service for all of FLC, the 1st Marine Div, the 1st Hospital Co, 1st Medical Bn, and several other Marine infantry and support units in the Da Nang area.

Vandiver, currently serving his second voluntary extension to his tour in Vietnam is the administrative chief of the platoon.

"We average 125 tons of laundry per month," continued Vandiver. "When you stop to think about it, that's a lot of clothes."

"I get a lot of satisfaction out of my job," he said. "Some people may take laundry service for granted, but here in Vietnam, it is definitely a morale booster."

officer of "B" Co., "and I put the second platoon on line and we assaulted the treeline."

The company flushed the enemy out of the far side and drove them into a deep paddy, where the enemy soldiers submerged themselves in the water, hoping the Marines wouldn't find them.

"When the enemy ran out the far side, we had them in a cross-fire between the blocking and assaulting forces," said Castagnetti, "and it worked to our complete advantage. When they hid themselves in the water it was a big mistake on their part."

"They were bobbing up and down in the paddy water like pop-up targets, firing and then ducking under the water," explained Cpl. Theodore E. Wood (Aqua Vita Rd., Hadley, Mass.), a squad leader with "B" Co. "We got on line and charged them. We got five of them right off and then a few of them dropped their weapons and ran."

In another part of the action LCpl. Joe Graves (14376 Eddy Lake Rd., Fenton, Mich.), a radioman with "B" Co., was with

an assaulting squad that caught five VC trying to flee through the thick jungle brush of a treeline next to the paddy where the main action was taking place.

"I spotted one of the five trying to crawl off and got him with a short burst from my M-16 rifle while the rest of my squad cornered the remaining four in the treeline," said Graves. "Our M-60 machine gun team assaulted their position and I got another as they took care of the other three."

When the fighting had ended, 18 enemy soldiers lay dead and 5 were captured. The company captured eight weapons including two AK-47 assault rifles, two M-1 carbines, one M-14 and three M-16s along with seven grenades. Numerous documents and personal gear were also captured.

"The company had a good working knowledge of the terrain. We moved at night and blocked all the enemy's escape routes," reported Capt. Castagnetti. "These factors combined with the fighting spirit of the men made the sweep a complete success."

Smoking Really Bad For Your Health

By Cpl. Dave Allen

DA NANG — When a Marine makes the mistake of lighting a cigarette in the dark or even in semi-darkness, the inevitable yelled response from someone in the crowd is, "Sniper check."

But it was mid-afternoon when Cpl. Dale E. Genshaw (15650 Pasadena Ave., Tustin, Calif.) lit his cigarette. By the closeness of the enemy sniper rounds, however, he could have sworn that his lighter was responsible for the sudden hail of bullets.

Genshaw, a member of 1st Shore Party Bn. attached to "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 26th Marines reported, "It was about five in the afternoon and the company was already set in position for the

night. I walked over to a buddy and borrowed a cigarette from him and then went back to my area, close to a tree.

"I sat down and lit the cigarette and just as I put the lighter in my pocket, rounds started hitting in the dirt around me and in the tree beside me."

"The Marines on the lines opened up toward the general direction of the snipers. We knew there were two of them because the rounds hit in two different places.

"We never did know if we got them or not, but our return fire shut them up. You can bet I'll start cupping my hands around my cigarettes now, even in the broad daytime," Genshaw concluded.



FIVE-TON TRUCKS find the going a bit slippery as they ford a small mountain stream on their return trip from Vandegrift Combat Base to Dong Ha Combat Base. The 7th Motor Transport Bn. convoys make the 52-mile round trip hauling supplies from Marine Force Logistic Support Group Bravo for allied operations in the northwest sector of South Vietnam. (Photo by LCpl. Trygg Hansen)

VC Give Advisers A Warm Welcome

By LCpl. Tom Kidman

DA NANG — Recently two U.S. Army advisors to the South Vietnamese Army got a very warm reception as they traveled down Liberty Road in their jeep.

Just before they got to a Marine base camp, they came under enemy fire from both sides of the road. Miraculously they were unharmed, but were pinned down.

LCpl. Frank C. Archibald (San Rafael, Calif.) was about 300 yards away on a tower by "Golden Gate Bridge" near Hill 55, witnessing the advisors' dilemma.

"I could see Viet Cong on both sides of the road in the treelines but couldn't fire until I got clearance from my command post," he said.

"After I got the go ahead, I opened up with my machine gun, spraying one treeline then the other, and giving the advisors enough time to run to their jeep and get out of the area," the 19-year-old Marine added.

As Archibald was laying down his deadly stream of fire, tanks from the 1st Tank Bn. and a squad of Marines from "A" Co., 1st Bn., 7th Marines arrived on the scene.

A forward observer accompanying the tanks directed artillery fire and mortars into the area where the enemy had gathered to stand and fight.

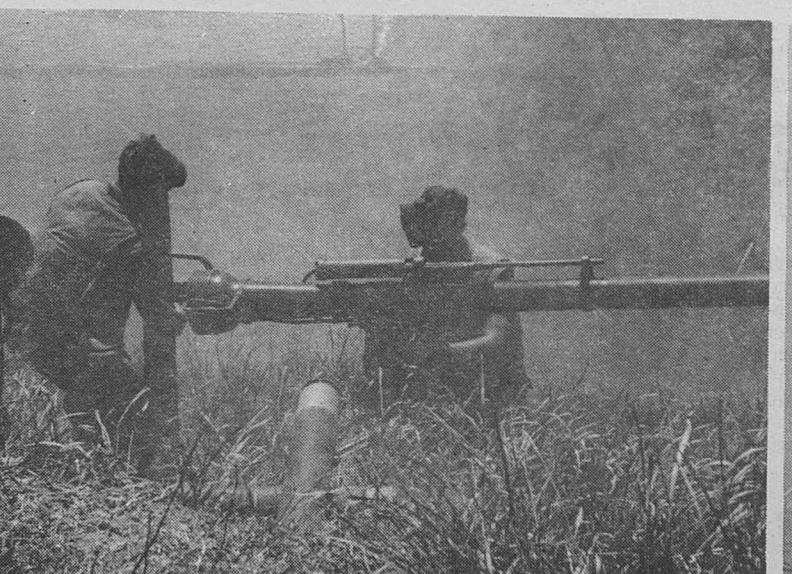
Then they struck home as two heavy explosions shook the ground while they concentrated their fire in the enemy's area, indicating the enemy was carrying high explosives.

"After the smoke cleared, the only thing left was a large burned out area where the explosives had gone off, taking the VC with them," said one "A" Co. officer.



MEMBERS OF THE 1st Marine Division's 5th Marines search a village in an area known as "Arizona Territory," while pursuing enemy forces 17 miles southwest of Da Nang. The Leatherneck air-ground team supported by Marine artillery killed 219 enemy in two days of bitter fighting.

(Photo by LCpl. J. Volpe)



A 106mm RECOILLESS RIFLE team with the 5th Marines opens up on scattered groups of NVA frantically trying to escape Marine infantry, air and artillery in the lowlands 20 miles south of Da Nang.

(Photos by Cpl. Dave Mendella)



Friend With a Rifle

Cpl. David Cook (Corliss Park Apts., Troy, N.Y.) a member of the 1st Marine Division's 7th Regt., gives a piece of gum to a small Vietnamese child as his unit passes through the village of Ban Tau, southwest of Da Nang. The Marines were taking part in Operation Oklahoma Hills.

(Photo by Sgt. J. A. Mullins)



The Old-New War in I Corps

DEVASTATING Marine fire-power is brought to bear on enemy forces during two days of bitter fighting in the Arizona Territory, 17 miles southwest of Da Nang. Marine air strikes and artillery barrages, coupled with Leatherneck ground assaults, accounted for 219 enemy dead.
(Photo by LCpl. J. Volpe)



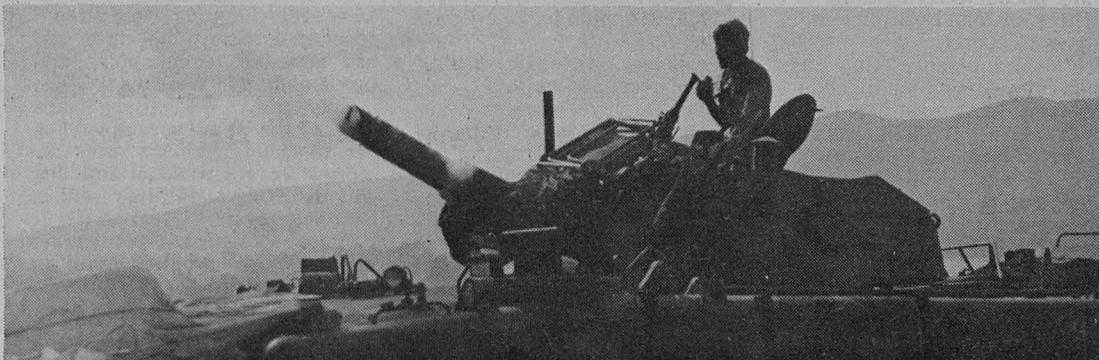
1st Division Marines pursue elusive enemy soldiers during a sweep-and-clear mission near the Vu Gia River. More than 400 NVA and VC broke and fled the Leatherneck drive.

(Photo by LCpl. J. Volpe)



LCPL. DAVID BLACK (Vaughan, Detroit, Mich.) takes a break between fire missions to shave. His section of LVTAs is supporting Marines on Operation Oklahoma Hills.

(Photo by Sgt. A.V. Huffman)



BELCHING SMOKE and shock waves, a 105mm howitzer on a Marine LVT(A)-4 recoils after firing.

(Photo by Sgt. A.V. Huffman)



WHENEVER THE platoons of the 1st Armored Amphibian Tractor Co., are rotated and a new section heads for Hoi An to support the Korean Marines, it means a short voyage by water for the 46-ton LVTAs. Here, one slams into the surf at Da Nang's Red Beach, on the start of its journey.

(Photo by Sgt. W. A. Tour)

Amphibious Howitzers

Blessing to Infantrymen

By Sgt. Gary Clark

DA NANG — What makes a military unit special? What is it that binds men together so tightly that a company of Marines can take on a definite personality?

Training? Experiencing the good and bad together? Perhaps. Whatever it is, the Marines of the 1st Armored Amphibian Tractor Co., 1st Marine Div., have a certain "oneness" and fighting spirit that makes them stand out.

Perhaps this spirit stems from the unusual vehicles the men operate. Often confused with amphibian tractors (amtracs), the mammoth, box-like LVTAs pack a big surprise for any enemy that thinks he's aiming in on just an amtrac.

The company has been using its surprise punch ever since arrival in Vietnam in November 1966. According to Maj. John E. Harms (531 Richman, Dunedin, Fla.), company commander since last September, the unit provides direct and indirect artillery fire for the Marine infantry units they carry into battle.

"The decision was made in 1965 that LVTAs were needed in Vietnam," said the major. "Since all armored amphibian units within the regular Marine Corps de-activated in 1962, the demand required the formation of a provisional amphibian howitzer platoon."

The provisional platoon was organized, equipped and put through six months of trial operations with the 3rd Marine Div.

in Vietnam. Because of its success, the 1st Armored Amphibian Co., minus one platoon of vehicles, was activated on June 1, 1966, at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

GySgt. Cecil Anderson (Bonners Ferry, Idaho) was with the company when it arrived in 1966 and is still serving with the company. "I was a shop chief then," he admitted, "and although I had been with tanks before, I was looking forward to serving with the LVTAs."

The gunny has served in all three of the company's regular operating areas: Cua Viet, Da Nang and Hoi An.

The company's platoons are rotated so that each eventually serves in all three areas. Cpl. Gray Pope (Battleboro, N.C.) has been with the company since February 1968, and has served with the company on Operations Mameluke Thrust and Oklahoma Hills. "We were in our position near Cua Viet and I was sitting on the ramp of the LVT(A) with another man. Suddenly a mortar round landed right behind us and another landed to our front. We made it to our bunker just as the third round came through an open hatch and exploded inside the LVT(A), destroying it."

Within a month of the company's arrival in Vietnam, one platoon was assigned to the Marines' Special Landing Force with the U.S. 7th Fleet and travelled to the Philippines for staging and training. The platoon roared ashore in the Mekong Delta in January 1967 to lead assault forces in Operation Deckhouse V. After a week's participation in the operation, the platoon returned to the Da Nang area.

During the next eight months the company supported a number of infantry units in 13 major operations.

Sgt. Gregg Locher (9381 Fox Allen Park, Mich.) and Sgt. James M. Jones (3120 Martha Custis Dr., Alexander, Va.) arrived in Vietnam in late 1967.

"We were manning defensive positions on Hill 47, an observation post near Da Nang, one night in January 1968," said Locher. "Suddenly the enemy began launching rockets at the

Da Nang airfield." Locher and his fellow Marines manned their 105mm howitzers through the night, bringing intense direct artillery fire on the enemy positions.

Jones was also serving on Hill 47 during August of last year when North Vietnamese Army sappers tried to destroy the LVTAs positions there. "At about 3 o'clock in the morning the NVA began launching rockets at the Da Nang airbase. At the same time our hill was hit by rocket propelled grenades and mortars. Within minutes after the attack had started, sappers were attempting to place satchel charges near the LVTAs to destroy them."

Jones and another man killed four of the enemy near their position with rifle fire. In all, the Marines on the hill killed five of the estimated eight attackers and still brought counter-fire on the enemy positions.

During 1968 the company was again called on to support Marines in the field. Marines on such operations as Napoleon Saline, Mameluke Thrust and Maui Peak had the comfort of knowing that they had help when the big LVTAs would pull up alongside to rip open an enemy position slowing the advance of ground forces.

To the infantry, the LVTAs meant not only heavy supporting fire, but transportation after a long day.

The company fired more than 200,000 rounds of 105mm ammunition during 1967 and 1968, and during that period was credited with killing 722 enemy soldiers.

In giving all they had in their mission of supporting the infantry, the Marines of the company have earned one Navy Cross, two Silver Stars, 15 Bronze Stars, 11 Navy Commendation Medals and better than five dozen Purple Hearts.

Quite a record for a company designated as a support unit. But then, the 1st Armored Amphibian Co. is a very special unit. With all the operations it has participated in, with all the medals earned, the men still believe that they were just doing their job.

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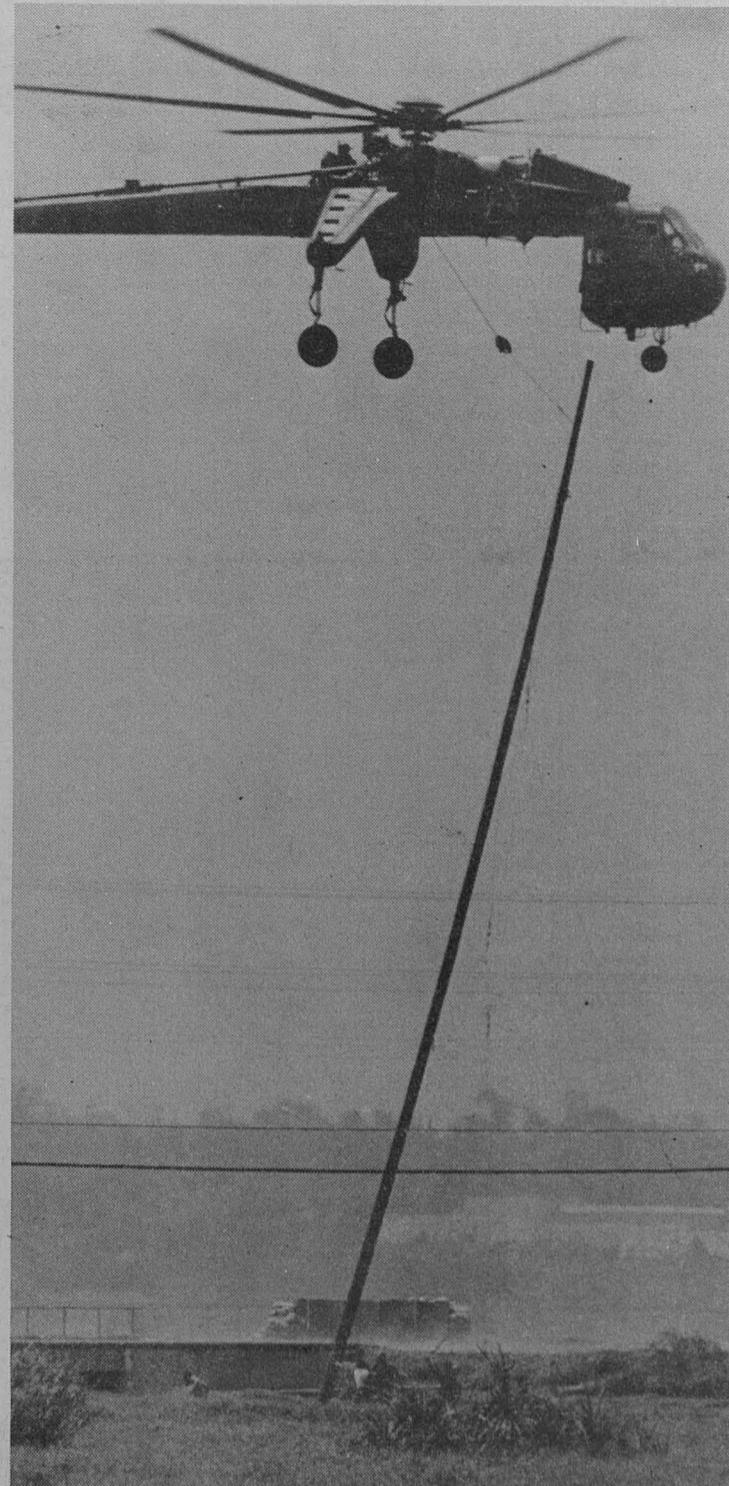
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Wing's New MARS Antenna

A CH-54 Skycrane helicopter positions a 98-foot pole, part of a new antenna for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing's Military Affiliate Radio Station (MARS). The antenna, one of the largest of its type in Vietnam, will enable the MARS station to send and receive more calls for longer periods of time and improve reception quality.

(Photo by LCpl. R. Nelson)

Engine Failure Brings Close Call For Crew

By LCpl. Tom Kidman

DA NANG — Quick thinking, a little luck and a lot of Marine know-how saved the day when an engine failed on a CH-53 helicopter 17 miles southwest of here in Hill 55's landing zone (LZ).

First Lt. Clay P. McBee (1427 West 5th Place, Kennewick, Wash.), a helicopter pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 463, was just starting to lift off from the LZ with 12,000 pounds of cargo to resupply elements of the 7th Marines partici-

pating in Operation Oklahoma Hills. Then it happened, he heard a loud "WHAP" and the number two engine's gauges started to unwind, indicating the engine was dead.

Realizing the tight spot he was in, the pilot told one of the crewmen to release the cargo, dropping it to the ground about 40 feet below.

Free of the weight of the cargo, the helicopter literally hopped the length of the LZ and touched down rather soundly in a bare area just beyond the LZ in good shape, save one dead engine.

An inspection later revealed that dirt had gotten into the high octane fuel and plugged one side of the fuel control which regulates the amount of fuel each of the two huge turbine engines use.

"The only thing I was really worried about was an ammunition dump about 100 feet away," said the pilot.

"If we hadn't dumped that cargo in time, that LZ would have been a mess," concluded Lt. McBee.

Scuttle...

(Continued From Page 3)
destroying all four NVA trucks and both houses.

"While the air strikes were underway about 15 enemy soldiers began assaulting our observation post on line," related Back. "We opened up on them with small arms fire and requested the AO to direct air strikes on the attacking enemy soldiers."

Allies Sweep Barrier Island Refuge...

(Continued From Page 1)
He has to start rebuilding over again if he wants to reassert himself in this area again," said Col. Doty.

During the 15-day operation allied forces killed 303 of the enemy and captured 100 individual and 5 crew-served weapons.

The majority of enemy casualties were inflicted by the two ARVN battalions, the 2nd Bn., 54th Regt., and the 3rd Bn., 51st Regt. They accounted for 132 enemy killed and 203 prisoners and captured 67 individual weapons and the 5 crew-served weapons.

Marines of Battalion Landing Team 1/26 nailed 104 of the ene-

my and corralled 168 suspects, including 79 VCI, and 14 Chieu Hois who rallied to the GVN.

Four companies of ROK Marines accounted for the remaining enemy killed. Other allied forces participating in the operation were 250 armored troops from the U.S. Army's Americal Division, who set up block forces and screens to the south, and South Vietnamese Regional and Popular Force units to the north along the Cua Dai River.

U.S. casualties during the operation were 2 killed in action and 47 wounded in action. ROK Marine and ARVN casualties were reported as light.

The entire operation was

marked by enemy probing action and hit-and-run tactics. Sweeping forces discovered numerous bunkers, spider holes and tunnels which held the 59,155 pounds of rice and 8,700 pounds of salt taken from the enemy.

On May 5, two companies of BLT 1/26th Marines were helilifted by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 into two landing zones in the southwestern corner of the island. HMM-362 supported the BLT throughout the operation. Simultaneously another Marine company poured from amphibian assault vehicles onto Red Beach to the southeast.

With the American screen already in place along the southern border, ROK Marine and river assault units set up a blocking force to the north and northwest. South Vietnamese units worked the northern portion of the pie-shaped island.

During the operation the enemy was caught napping twice when Marine units, which had swept from the southwest to the central section, boarded helicopters and returned to the original D-Day landing zones.

"I felt that when the enemy saw us turn our backs and move north they would come across the river behind us. We jumped right back to the area and got them," said Col. Doty.

By rooting out and isolating the Viet Cong Infrastructure, the operation "hurt the enemy for a long, long time," said Col. Doty. "We've proven that both to the VC and the civilians."

The island villagers were taken by the combined forces two Holding Centers, one in Quang Nam Province and the other in Quang Tin Province. The two centers processed a total of 7,042 civilians, including 214 classified as VC and 295 members of the VC infrastructure (VCI), political agents who undermine, terrorize and prey on defenseless villagers. Officials said many of the islanders came to the centers on their own, aided by Psychological Operations teams which broadcast instructions.

Dead Top 600...

(Continued From Page 1)

By 6 p.m. that day, the 3rd Bn., 1st Marines joined by two South Vietnamese companies from the 59th Regional Forces Bn. and two companies of the 51st Vietnamese Army Regt., had surrounded a large enemy unit. Forty-four of the enemy were killed in the first hours of fighting before the cordon around the enemy was tightened. During the night several enemy attempts to break out of the area resulted in five more enemy killed and one captured. The next day's sweep of the area brought down 37 more enemy soldiers and brought the total to 86 killed. Elements of the 51st Regt. killed an additional 43 who were attempting to flee the area.

A Marine officer felt that while most of the attacks had been just harrassing fire, the two large ground actions many have prevented ground attacks on certain key U.S. and South Vietnamese installations.

Last Ho-rah...

(Continued From Page 1)

Various other units were making contact at the same time. The command post of "F" Co., 2nd Bn. 7th Marines, southwest of here, received 15 to 20 rounds of incoming 60mm mortar fire and returned fire with 106 recoilless rifle.

Combined Action Platoon (CAP) 2-1-2, six miles west of here, observed 15 to 20 enemy soldiers moving south. A reaction force was assembled and the unit called in Marine artillery fire on the enemy position.

Marines continued to spot the enemy throughout the day. An "F" Co., 2nd Bn. 26th Marines platoon found three NVA bodies wrapped in a parachute. The NVA had apparently been killed in an artillery attack.

In addition, a recon team from the 1st Reconnaissance Bn. observed four NVA in a river 16 miles south of here. An OV-10A Bronco overhead called in Marine jets on air strikes. Later, the same team observed six NVA and VC burying a body. The team again contacted the Bronco pilot, who called in an artillery mission killing two more of the enemy.

Later in the day, a 7th Marines river patrol came across the banner-carrying Viet Cong patrol and killed two of them. At about the same time, a platoon of the 129th Popular Force (PF) Bn. made contact with an NVA squad. The PFs killed five and captured one NVA and several weapons.

As night fell, the enemy again stepped up his attempts to make a successful assault. Near An Hoa, 25 miles southwest of here, a civilian hospital received a direct hit from two enemy rocket-propelled-grenade rounds, which killed one civilian and injured eight. The enemy also fired a number of 82mm rounds at the

command post of the 3rd Bn., 5th Marines. The rounds missed and landed in the village of Ma Son, injuring 13 more civilians.

Later, in yet another display of poor marksmanship, the enemy launched 122mm rockets at Marine Aircraft Group 16's position. They landed in the bay nearby. One was a dud.

About 15 rounds of 122mm rockets were also fired at a Republic of Korea Marine position. All missed the target. The enemy then fired about 10 82mm mortars into the same position.

The command posts of the 2nd Bn. 1st Marines and the 7th Marine Regt. received enemy 82mm mortar rounds, but the enemy's luck ran badly there, too. The attacks were ineffectual.

**Congrats
From the
CG, III MAF**

The highly effective and aggressive defense of the artillery position of H/3/11 on 19 May by units of the 11th Marines, 1st Marines and 7th Marines is noted with admiration. The coordinated participation of these units resulting in eighteen enemy KIA, five PWs, eight IWC and two CSWC, at a cost of only five friendly WIA (minor), stands out as an example of how to deal with sappers. This action reflects great credit on the individual Marines involved, their leadership, and the professionalism of participating units. Well done.

LTC GEN. HERMAN NICKERSON JR.
Commanding General, III MAF



LCPLS DON WHITAKE, left, (7153 Elevloz, Buena Park, Calif.) and Ron Woodward (Kearns, Utah) repair the cradle mechanism on a 105mm howitzer at the An Hoa Combat Base south of Da Nang. The two Marines are attached to the ordnance maintenance section of Force Logistic Support Group Alpha, which is responsible for repair and maintenance of all artillery pieces used by the 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

(Photo by Sgt. Joe Coder)

A Common 'Enemy'

Retaliation Is a Bummer

By LCpl. Tom Kidman
DA NANG — It is generally known that combat Marines are notorious for vengeance against the enemy. Members of Hq Co. 3rd Bn. 11th Marines have a unique way of "retaliating" against a common "enemy"—the "Dear John" letter. It consists of the following reply:

Dear_____,
Congratulations!! Your Dear John letter has been chosen number one over many others, and you have won the coveted "Dear John of the Month" award for the month of_____.

This honor is bestowed upon you by the famous "Dear John

Club" headquartered on Hill 55, 17 miles southwest of Da Nang, Vietnam.

Out of a very select group of letters chosen for originality, effectiveness or subtleness, we are happy to announce yours as the winner in the ___ division of our contest.

Your letter will now be kept along with all the other monthly winners until the end of the year when the "Dear John Club" selects the "Dear John of the Year" winner.

Keep up the good work and Good Luck. May we expect to hear more from you?

Best Wishes
"Dear John Club"
3rd Bn., 11th Marines

Each month the members of the Dear John Club's screening committee selects three Dear John letters out of all received that month. One is chosen for originality, one is chosen for effectiveness and another for its subtleness.

Each year the three-year-old club takes the 36 letters and chooses the one containing the most of all three qualities to receive the "Dear John of the Year" award.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

FROM: _____

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

FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

TO: _____

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