

9th Marines' 'Last'

Enemy Dead Top 900 in 3rd Div Ops

By Sgt. Bruce Smith
and SSgt G. E. Brown

DONG HA — Operation Utah Mesa, a joint American and Army of the Republic of Vietnam search and clear operation, ended July 9. The allied thrust into the territory south of the old Khe Sanh combat base accounted for 309 NVA killed since it began June 11.

The 9th Marines, participating in their last operation in RVN before leaving for Okinawa, joined elements of the U.S. Army 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Div. (Mech.), and two elements of the U.S. Army 1st Regt. to form Joint Task Force Guadalcanal.

At the outset of the operation, Charlie Co., 1/9 and Kilo Co., 3/9 both had significant contact. After a squad-sized patrol had countered an enemy ambush, the remainder of Charlie Co. joined in, and with fixed-wing air and artillery support, accounted for 35 NVA dead.

Kilo Co. got into the action when a night ambush team foiled the enemy's plan to launch a surprise ground attack. After initiating contact at the ambush site, the "C" Co. Marines moved back within their battalion perimeter. The NVA followed and the ensuing battle lasted three hours. The enemy fled at dawn, leaving behind 29 dead.

As the operation moved into its final stages the action decreased. On July 4, Golf Co. 2/9 discovered a large bunker complex which had been destroyed by artillery the previous night. A fresh grave with three NVA bodies and blood trails throughout the area indicated that the

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THE RIGORS of combat show as Leathernecks of "C" Co., 1/26, return to their command post after a patrol. The Marines are rooting out enemy units on Barrier Island, 20 miles south of Da Nang. (Photo by Sgt. Mike Detherage)

Veteran of Two Wars

Thrash New 1st Wing CO

By Col. Joe Vaiksnis

DA NANG — Maj. Gen. William G. Thrash assumed command of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, the Marine Corps' largest air wing, during change of command ceremonies July 11, relieving Maj. Gen. Charles J. Quilter.

Gen. Quilter has been reassigned to Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.

Gen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr., CMC, commended Gen. Quilter for his "effective leadership," saying that the men of 1st MAF "have been resourceful, courageous and quick to respond in operations with their

fellow Marines . . . despite the aggravations of weather and the constraints of logistics." General Quilter arrived in Vietnam in June 1968.

Said Lt. Gen. Henry W. Buse, CG, FMFPac, "... you have my appreciation and congratulations for your admirable performance of a vital and highly responsible task." The general said Quilter's excellent judgment, leadership and unswerving devotion were "tangibly reflected in Wing's combat performance and contributions to the cause of freedom."

LtGen. Herman Nickerson, commanding general, III MAF, praised Quilter's "outstanding

contributions to our efforts toward the advancement of freedom in Southeast Asia. He cited 1st Wing's "professional attitude, valor and combat effectiveness of which your country and Corps are justifiably proud."

After graduating from the Georgia School of Technology in 1939 with a bachelor of science degree, Gen. Thrash was commissioned a second lieutenant.

He served his first tour with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in 1942. Operating in the Pacific, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and five Air Medals. During World War II he saw ser-

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PFC. JOHN F. CLARK (Boston, Mass.) aims in on an enemy target as Pfc. Tom G. Coxey (Littleton, Colo.) adjusts the 81mm mortar tube for a fire mission. The two H&S Co., 1/4 Marines operate from FSB Neville, northwest of Vandegrift Combat Base. (Photo by Sgt. Ken Corbett)

Phantoms Clout NVA, 'A-A' Guns

By Sgt. John Tolarchyk

DA NANG — Attacking through a hail of enemy fire, two Marine F-4B Phantom jets recently killed six North Vietnamese soldiers, destroyed their antiaircraft weapons and left the enemy position in shambles.

Keeping the enemy off guard by changing the direction of attack several times, the Phantoms returned to the Da Nang air base unscathed after braving the heavy enemy fire four times.

"We were scrambled off Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 542's standby 'hot pad' at 1 p.m.," said Capt. Kenneth R. Burns (Salt Lake City, Utah), a radar intercept officer. "About five minutes after we got the word, we were airborne and headed for the target, 35 miles south of Chu Lai."

The flight leader, Capt. Frederick T. Bryan (Watertown, Mass.) contacted the aerial observer about 20 miles from the target.

"He reported that an element of the U.S. Army's Americal Div. was in contact with an NVA force," explained Bryan. "The fire fight was just north of a small airfield, so we had to be on the lookout for helicopters and small fixed-wing aircraft."

As the Phantoms arrived "on station," two Marine A-4 Skyhawks were making their last strafing run on the target. When they completed their last strike, their controller banked into a dive marking the target with a smoke rocket.

Following close behind the small observation aircraft, the Phantom pilots pushed their aircraft into a dive.

"On the first run I could see a lot of muzzle flashes coming from the enemy position, so I asked the controller for a heading change to keep the NVA guessing where we were coming from next," said Bryan.

The second strike direction was at a different angle from the first. "The controller said we were still taking heavy fire, so we did a pattern reversal —

coming in from the north rather than the south to keep the enemy guessing."

Bryan, his Phantom armed with a 20mm gun pod, released all his bombs on the 3rd pass. He then streaked high into the sky and began an almost vertical dive on the enemy, firing the 20mm cannon as he closed on the target. With the enemy fire suppressed by Bryan, the

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40 More Zapped; Vu Gia R.

By Pfc. Romeo Garza

DA NANG — "We've killed over 40 enemy in the two weeks that we spent on the north side of the Vu Gia River bordering the 'Arizona Territory,'" said Capt. Brian Fagan (352 Salina Ct., Vista, Calif.), "and we haven't lost one man."

Delta Co., 1st Bn., 7th Marines conducting search and clear operations along the Vu Gia River 16 miles southwest of here, encountered some stiff enemy resistance during a two-week period.

"We were running squad and platoon-size patrols mostly along the river," said Capt. Fagan. "We were also searching the area for bunker and tunnel complexes."

"We stayed away from the open areas such as the rice paddies and open fields beyond the river. We concentrated more on the treelines, where we could move without being spotted."

"The company ran a lot of night patrols that were quite effective"

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FROM CG, III MAF

Helping Them Help Themselves

In the 20 June issue of the Sea Tiger, I said that we have three main tasks facing us in I Corps, which are all facets of the One War we are fighting here. These are: first, to conduct combat operations; second, to assist in the improvement and modernization of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF); and third, to pacify the countryside. I want to talk to you now about this third task, pacification.

Pacification is an important word, as well as an unavoidable subject in any popular discussion of Vietnam. Yet, I believe that many Americans, here as well as at home, do not understand fully the meaning of the word as it is used to describe our activities in the Republic of Vietnam.

The work of pacification takes place behind a shield of security provided by RVNAF and Free World Military Assistance Forces (FWMAF). In conducting large scale military operations in the least populated areas of I Corps, we create a buffer zone between the Vietnamese people and the main force VC and NVA units which allows the agencies of government to function.

These governmental functions involve providing local security, holding elections, and training elected officials in order that the reasonable wants and needs of the people can be fulfilled.

Briefly, this is the way it works. When an area is reasonably secure, the district chief mobilizes his assets to start the process of helping the people to help themselves. Let us be clear on what a district is—namely a geographical area within a province. (Province could be compared with one of our States and District to a County.) A district comprises several villages. Villages are also geographical areas made up of several hamlets. The village officials are elected as are hamlet officials. But it is the Village Council (of elected officials) that is given the money for projects—and the authority to govern the several hamlets of the village. Popular Force (PF) platoons, wearing brown uniforms and carrying M-16 rifles, are assigned to hamlets to assure continuing security. At the same time, Revolutionary Development (RD) cadre, clothed in black pajama-type uniforms, move into these hamlets which are under PF protection.

These 30-man RD groups have a fourfold mission: one, to gather intelligence about the VC underground and the local guerrilla structure; two, to organize the Peoples' Self Defense Force, which is the arming of the people program; three, to help conduct elections; and four, to organize self-help projects, such as the construction of schools, markets and wells. All of the above is aimed at improving life in the hamlets.

The first two objectives, once accomplished, free the Vietnamese people from fear and coercion, while the last two objectives assist the people to arrive at a more normal, independent, social and political life.

Simultaneously with the introduction of the PF's and the RD cadre, other Vietnamese governmental assets are employed. The Vietnamese Information Service dispatches representatives to those hamlets to provide information on matters of community interest. The National Police enter to maintain law and order; and other governmental services are provided.

And finally, the newly elected village and hamlet officials, after having received instruction in civic administration and procedures at either the province headquarters or at national training centers, are installed and commence to govern their villages and hamlets.

FWMAF and ARVN troops play an important role in this process. They, of course, are a major element in the security effort that is vital to successful pacification programs. Many of our Free World Military Assistance Force units are engaged in responsible civic action projects which not only enhance the well-being of the Vietnamese but which also bring about a closer working relationship and greater understanding between all the people involved. However, no civic action project is undertaken unilaterally—all are made to serve the pacification goals and the aspirations of the people.

Our American civilians, too, are much involved in these efforts, for many of the advisors in governmental functions are civilians who transmit their knowledge and experience to their Vietnamese counterparts in order that this pacification effort can proceed effectively. This effort comes from the CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support) side of III MAF.

Pacification, then, is the process whereby the Government of the Republic of Vietnam frees its people from communist domination and wins their approval by assisting them to achieve security, economic opportunity and political freedom.

A successful pacification program requires the close coordination and integration of all our efforts, both Vietnamese and free World Military Assistance Force personnel, military and civilian.

My purpose is served if you see the whole picture instead of one small part. Many of you have not fought in all of the parts of this One War. I believe we have a successful program underway in I Corps. Your understanding and efforts will produce even greater results.

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

If You Should But Don't, They Could But Won't

Nobody Does. Just the other guy. But suppose you were to die while in the military service. Do you know who your heirs are?

Who will receive any money due you from salary or annual leave? Who will receive your life insurance?

One method for deciding these vital questions is the designation of a beneficiary on your emergency data form in your personnel file. However, even though it is a requirement, most personnel fail to keep this emergency data form up to date. But the best way to assure that your heirs receive their inheritance, according to your desire, is through a properly executed will.

Some factors to keep in mind when making a will are the "natural heirs of your bounty." A man making a will should at least mention his children and the children of a deceased child. Where the will does not mention his children, or provide for them by settlement, they are called "pretermitted heirs." What is "mention" in a will may be a difficult question for a court to decide, especially in the case of a self-written will.

In many contested cases the courts have held that a will referring to children, relatives or other heirs served well enough to show that the testator had his children in mind. If the testator gives these persons a nominal amount, even one dollar, or intentionally disinherits them, as a rule they will have no claim to the estate. A will need not necessarily leave property to a child, though to do so may prevent lawsuits.

Some persons draft their own wills. These "holographic" wills are often contested because a homemade will often is deficient in complying with laws regarding the mention of children. In one case the testator failed to mention a child, but said that "anyone who may contest this will" would receive one dollar. Too general and vague, the court held. The will did not mention children or spouse, directly or indirectly, or show intent to disinherit them.

Only when there is no other means available should you write your own will, but it is better to write your own than to die intestate.

So if you plan on drawing a will, which should be a must for everyone whether married or not, see your legal officer. (AFPS)

DoD Plans New 'ID' System; 'Old Salt' Days Numbered

WASHINGTON (HQM) — Attention Old Salts. Plans are underway at Headquarters to substitute the Social Security Number for the present military service number as the primary "ID" for all Marines, commissioned and enlisted.

The switch is servicewide, ordered by the DoD to streamline record keeping. It will facilitate direct data interchange between the services. It is being accomplished on a service-by-service basis, as each service's data processing system is developed.

Although some phases of the switch have already started, individual Marines will not be issued a Social Security Account

Number (SSAN) instead of a service number upon arrival at recruit depots. Marines already on active duty will retain their service number, but will use their SSAN in all administrative matters. The service number will be used only as a secondary means of identification.

The new system is expected to relieve the strain on computers which are being standardized throughout the U.S. armed forces. Since the length of the service number varies from service to service, between officer and enlisted and male and female, a uniform DoD data system was difficult to set up.

Another favorable side effect

is that future service personnel will have one less number to bother with, thus eliminating extra paperwork.

The SSAN has been a part of the military pay records since 1955, when military personnel were included in the Federal Insurance Contribution Act. Since then, both the SSAN and service number have been used for identification of an individual.

The SSAN will not indicate whether an individual is an officer or enlisted, male or female. Since the SSAN is not issued in sequence, it also will not be possible to determine the approximate length of service as with the service number.

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Jets Brave Red Lead in Chopper Rescue

By Sgt. David Butler

CHU LAI — The crew of a crippled Marine helicopter, downed by enemy fire in a mountaintop landing zone, was saved by pinpoint bombing from two Leatherneck jets.

The CH-46 Sea Knight transport helicopter had been shot down after carrying Marine infantrymen to a landing zone, near the Rockpile in northern I Corps.

The chopper pilot, still trapped inside the aircraft, radioed in to the Dong Ha air controller for help, while North Vietnamese mortarmen continued to pepper the zone with intense fire.

Nearest jet support to the LZ was two A-4 Skyhawks from Marine Attack Squadron 223, which were providing air cover for another helicopter flight more than 30 miles away.

Dong Ha's air controller told the flight leader, Capt. Richard Gnazze (Torrington, Conn.) to scramble to the scene of the downed helicopter. Other Marine helicopters were also sent to evacuate the downed chopper's crew.

A Marine OV-10A Bronco spotter plane preceded the jets to the zone and found the enemy

mortar crew hidden on another ridge line running parallel to the LZ.

"When we got there," said Capt. Gnazze, "mortar rounds were still raining into the zone in and around the helicopter. Some of the aircraft's crew, including the pilot, were still trapped inside."

"First the Bronco marked the

enemy position with a smoke rocket," he said. Once the jets were in position, they began making low-level bomb runs on the enemy. Both jets took small arms fire from the concealed NVA, but the enemy mortar fire in the zone ceased, allowing rescue helicopters to move in and medevac the injured crew members from the downed chopper.

Fowl Play Suspected

Pets'r' Ducky But Somethin's Cookin'

By Sgt. Dennis Blair

PHU BAI—Tired of "C" rations?

Leathernecks of Marine Aircraft Group 36 plans and logistics section seem well on their way to at least a temporary solution.

They recently purchased two small ducks, innocent little fellows named Gertrude and Heathcliffe. Ostensibly they are the section mascots and as such are receiving royal treatment.

The have their own swimming pool (a large dishpan) and are moved constantly so that one half stays in the sun and the other in the shade. But the major concern seems to be that they eat well and grow to be large, plump, juicy ducks.

Could there possibly be an ulterior motive?

Another occurrence that has raised eyebrows is the number of people who just happen to stop by to feel a wing or leg, all the while muttering to themselves, "too thin, they must eat more!"

When questioned about the possibility of a duck feast sometime in the future, all the Marines scowl in indignation and declare that Gertrude and Heathcliffe are mascots and will never grace a table.

Despite the men's assertions and the care being taken with the pair, it seems strange that their friend and guardian, Ralph M. Lamaitis (Chittenango, N. Y.), Pfc.-in-charge-of-ducks, is rumored to have prior experience as a cook.

Gen Johnson New Asst Wing CO

By Gy Sgt. B.R. Finlayson

DA NANG — Brig. Gen. William G. Johnson has assumed

duties as assistant wing commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

The general was born May 29, 1920, in Tyler, Texas, and attended Tyler Junior College, Southern Methodist University and George Washington University prior to entering the Corps in 1942.

He received flight training at the Naval Aviation Technical Training Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, was designated a Naval aviator in June 1942, and was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in July 1942.

During the remainder of World War II, he served in a variety of duties.

During the Korean conflict he saw action with Marine Night Fighter Squadron 513. Returning to the States, he served with Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 12 at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif.

In July 1961, he was assigned duties with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was promoted to colonel in August 1962, and the following October became Marine Corps liaison officer to Congress, serving in that capacity until December 1963.

Col. Johnson served as commanding officer of MAG-36 at Marine Corps Air Facility, Santa Ana, Calif., and later commanded the group in Vietnam.

In September 1966, he was assigned duty as assistant chief of staff, G-4, at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.

He was promoted to his present rank in January 1968.

Prior to assuming his present duties, Gen. Johnson served as assistant deputy chief of staff, air, at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington.

Col. Simlik

New 3rd Marines Skipper

By Sgt. Bruce Smith

DONG HA — Col. Wilbur F. Simlik, holder of the Silver Star Medal and the Legion of Merit with combat "V" has assumed command of the 3rd Marines from Col. Paul D. Lafond during a ceremony at Dong Ha Combat Base.

During the ceremony, Col. Simlik told his new command, "This is the greatest honor of my life. The combat achievements of the 3rd Marines have been truly magnificent."

Col. Simlik was graduated from Muskingum College in Concord, Ohio, with a bachelor of arts degree in social sciences. Later he earned a masters degree in business administration from the University of Chicago.

The 48-year-old veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, received the Silver Star Medal for heroic actions on Iwo Jima during World War II while serving as a company commander with the 25th Marines. He later served as a company commander in Korea with the

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My Pal Pat, the Nose

Cpl. William Kehoe (New York, N.Y.) and his dog, Pat, take a breather at FSB Neville northwest of Vandegrift Combat Base following a patrol with "C" Co., 4th Marines. Kehoe is a member of Scout Dog Platoon, 3rd MP Bn., near Da Nang.

(Photo by Sgt. Ken Corbett)

4th Marines Sgt. Maj.

Recalls Assault on Guam

By Sgt. Ken Corbett

FIRE SUPPORT BASE NEVILLE — Sitting on a bunker at a mountaintop fire support base in northern I Corps, Sgt. Maj. Curt Stacy (Clemons, Ky.) took time out from his duties as sergeant major of 1st Bn., 4th Marines to recall his role in another war.

July 21 marks the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Guam, a day well remembered by Stacy because he hit the beach on Guam that day as a machine gunner with "F" Co., 2nd Bn., 9th Marines.

"I was wounded on the beach, but I stayed with the unit in the assault against enemy positions inland," recalled Stacy. "Fonte Ridge was where we encountered stiff resistance and after a fierce 18-hour battle when the Japanese launched repeated Banzai attacks, we took the ridge."

After the Marines secured Fonte Ridge, the Battle of Guam turned in favor of American forces. On August 11, 1944, the island was secured. Stacy's company commander, Capt. Louis H. Wilson, now a brigadier general, earned the Medal of

Honor for heroic action on Fonte Ridge.

Stacy was a seasoned combat veteran when he hit the beach at Guam. His unit had just taken Bougainville. After a brief rest and some training on Guam, Stacy went on to participate in the Battle of Iwo Jima, where he earned the Bronze Star Medal.

After Iwo Jima and 28 months of fighting in the Pacific, Stacy's unit returned to the United States.

The sergeant major is a veteran of nearly 27 years' Marine Corps service and is currently serving his second tour in Vietnam.

Skyhawks '46 Makes Daring Rescue

Destroy Bunkers

By Sgt. David Butler

CHU LAI—Marine jet bombers played hide and seek with a North Vietnamese field fortress north of here recently, and ended up tagging at least two heavily-fortified bunkers and four NVA soldiers.

The air attack was led by air and ground controllers operating with American, Vietnamese and Korean forces sweeping the enemy-infested islands of the Hoi An River, south of Da Nang.

Two A-4 Skyhawks from Marine Aircraft Group 12, loaded with 500-pound bombs and armed with 20mm cannons, were scrambled from the Chu Lai airstrip when word came that ground forces were meeting resistance from one of the river islands.

Piloting the lead aircraft was Marine Capt. Andre Novickis (Liverpoole, N.Y.), of Marine Attack Squadron 311.

"The air controller radioed that the enemy was suspected to be at the eastern end of an island, concealed in bunkers hidden by tall grass," said the Marine pilot. "And we were asked to 'prep' the area prior to a sweep by ground forces."

"Each of us had six 500-pound bombs, which we dropped one at a time for greater effect. All our bomb runs were directed by a controller, since neither of us could really see the enemy," he added.

Following the bombing, the two jets strafed the area with their 20mm cannons and then left the enemy fortress to the assault troops on the ground.

By Cpl. John Ehler

QUANG TRI — A popular song of the past told of belonging to a "mutual admiration society." After a recent helicopter mission in the Ashau Valley in northern I Corps, two Leathernecks of Marine Medium Helicopter (HMM) Squadron 161 have formed their own such society.

1st Lt. Dennis C. Clayton (Seattle, Wash.) is a CH-46D helicopter pilot with HMM-161; LCpl. Jan D. Garringer (Bensenville, Ill.) is his crew chief. A recent mission left both Marines with nothing but praise for each other, and with good reason.

1st Lt. Clayton was piloting his Sea Knight transport chopper when he received a call that a

Marine reconnaissance team had made heavy contact with the enemy and needed to be heli-lifted out.

"Recon pick-ups are often a little hairy," said Lt. Clayton. "But when we got this one it looked virtually impossible for a minute. The 12-man team was in a position at the edge of a 4,300-foot cliff and was receiving enemy small arms fire and grenades from three sides. There seemed to be no place for us to set down."

"Then Garringer took over. He said we could possibly set down the two rear wheels on two big boulders at the edge of the cliff. Relying solely on Garringer's directions, since the pilot can't see to the rear of the chopper, I tried to back in and set

down on the edge. On my first two tries we were blown off; the altitude made it very difficult to hover. On the third time in, still relying on Garringer's directions, I managed to set the rear wheels on the two boulders. The front three-quarters of the bird was hovering precariously over the 4,300-foot drop.

"From then on it was all Garringer — all I had to do was hold the chopper there."

The 20-year-old crew chief leveled the rear ramp. By lying on it and leaning nearly completely out of the aircraft, with only a gunners belt to hold him in, he reached the first two members of the team and got them aboard. At the same time he was directing the fire of the Sea Knight's two .50-cal. machine guns on the enemy.

After he had the first two recon Marines in, he found that they had been the two tallest, and he could not reach the others from the ramp. He then got out of the chopper and, straddling the two boulders, pulled up five more members of the recon team.

With seven of the Marines on board, Lt. Clayton lifted the chopper up and away. The other CH-46 of the flight then went in. By following Clayton's and Gar-

ringer's example, they got the other five Marines out.

"Garringer was fantastic," said Lt. Clayton. "All I had to do was hold the bird steady while he did all the work and got the Marines aboard. The only reason I even got in was on his directions."

Garringer, however, said that he had the easy job. "All I had to do was direct Lt. Clayton in and get the guys on board. He did a helluva job, backing in there and keeping the bird steady. The success of the mission and my life was in his hands. If the chopper had moved at all, I would have fallen. And 4,300 feet is a long drop."

The crew chief has been with HMM-161 for five months and has flown over 400 hours in CH-46D's. "I enjoy it immensely," says Garringer. "It's always lively, never boring. And when we can help Marines such as recon teams do their job, it's even better. But the most rewarding missions are the medevacs." Garringer would know — he's flown dozens of them.

Clayton has been a pilot with '161 since Nov., 1968, and has flown many missions in nearly 800 flight hours. He also agrees that it is rewarding and exciting work.



NAVY LT. VAN AUSTIN (Salt Lake City), commanding officer, "C", 3rd Medical Bn., conducts a thorough inspection of some newly acquired surgical equipment. These instruments are a "special lot" and weren't obtained through regular channels. They were acquired from the North Vietnamese Army by the 1st Bn., 9th Marines during Operation Utah Mesa. (Photo by Sgt. Ken Corbett)

'Wear This Jacket': Words to the Wise

By Cpl. Frank Franzone

AN HOA—A single sentence has come to mean a great deal to LCpl. J.J. Courregas. The sentence, sewn into the lining of every flak jacket, simply states, "Wear this jacket—it may save your life."

Courregas (1747 N.E. 92nd St., Seattle, Wash.) and elements of "B" Co., 1st Marines were on patrol 15 miles northwest of here, when they came under intense small arms and automatic weapons fire.

The young squad leader maneuvered his men to a vantage point and opened fire on the estimated platoon of North Vietnamese Army soldiers.

"I came to my knees to throw a grenade," Courregas explained, "I was about to pull the pin, when something knocked me down. I didn't think anything about it at the time, so I just got back up and threw the grenade."

Courregas and the rest of Bravo Co. continued firing at the NVA force until the enemy broke contact.

As the 20-year-old Marine was checking his squad for injuries, it was brought to his attention that his flak jacket has a hole in the right side.

"I looked inside the hole, but I couldn't see anything, I started feeling around the lining and felt a hard lump on the opposite side of my jacket," Courregas continued.

Courregas cut a small hole above the lump and reached into the lining to extract the mysterious object.

What he pulled out was a slug from one SKS rifle round. With the bullet came the realization as to what knocked him down during the encounter with the NVA unit.

"That really shook me up. Then I glanced at the label and saw the part about how a flak jacket could save your life. All I've got to say is that I'm sure glad I was wearing mine. I guess that it was the difference between life and death," Courregas concluded.



LEATHERNECKS OF "C" CO., 1st Bn., 26th Marines, roast a wild pig they butchered during Operation Bold Pursuit on Barrier Island 20 miles south of Da Nang. (Photo by Sgt. Mike Detherage)

'Bushmasters' Catch NVA on Own Land

By Cpl. Hank Berkowitz
AN HOA — Capt. Castagnetti's "Bravo Bushmasters" stealthily pursued the elusive enemy soldiers into what the enemy considers his own domain, 10 miles southwest of here and 19 North Vietnamese Army soldiers died under a rain of steel put there by the 1st Div. Leathernecks.

Capt. G. E. Castagnetti (47-379a Hurnanu Rd., Kanohe,

Hawaii), commanding officer of "B" Co., 1st Bn., 5th Marines, described the events that led up to his "Bushmasters" catching the NVA off-guard.

"Earlier in the day we had sighted mortar and recoilless rifle fire coming from the mountains to our rear," he explained. "In the afternoon we moved out and swept toward the suspected launching sights."

"As we moved forward, a

monsoon-like rain squall set in and I took the point leading the company up the side of a steep hill. Once we reached the top I spotted a column of 25 NVA moving below us alongside a small river. Not wanting to blow a golden opportunity I assigned each man a target," he continued. "Then I brought up the machine gun team to cover the whole column."

After Castagnetti gave the signal to fire, the "Bushmasters" first burst of fire cut down 16 of the enemy soldiers. Three NVA were left behind hiding in a bomb crater while the rest fled.

One Marine removed his combat gear and swam across a small river. While his fellow Marines covered him, he crept up and threw two grenades in the crater finishing off the three NVA.

Eight assault rifles were recovered along with one mortar tube and numerous packs of ammunition.

"Our complete success was due to the fact that we were operating in enemy territory where they didn't expect us to be and that every man waited for his assigned target without any premature firing," Castagnetti concluded.

Enemy Storage Located

By Sgt. Dave Allen

AN HOA—A Soviet-made medical microscope, 100 brand new uniforms, 2,500 pounds of rice, 4 automatic rifles, 3 field radios, a pot of boiling rice and three North Vietnamese Army soldiers . . .

When "M" Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marines moved into the foothills near a region known as "Alligator Lake," they found a lot more than they had expected. The enemy soldiers and gear were only a start.

As the 1st Div. Leathernecks moved out of the suspected enemy aid-station after picking up its contents, only half a day passes before they had another big find.

Coming upon a recently deserted small enemy base camp, the Leathernecks immediately commenced searching the 10 hootches that had housed at least 150 enemy soldiers.

The first thing found was about 50 pounds of blank paper and 50 pounds of propaganda leaflets.

"After we found the papers, we really began searching. We turned the place inside-out," reported Capt. T.P. Burns, the company's commander. "After looking around, he found a commercial AM/FM radio and a tape recorder that had a North Vietnamese language tape on it."

Further probing revealed 300 rounds of AK-47 rifle ammunition, sacks of tea, beans, salt, several entrenching tools, ponchos and hammocks.

"Obviously, they found out that we were coming and couldn't afford to hang around to protect their property," said Burns.



LEATHERNECKS OF 3RD BN., 5TH MARINES, wade through waist-deep water in 100-degree temperatures during a search-and-clear mission in Phu Loc Valley south of An Hoa. (Photo by GySgt. C.E. Lane)

Pfc. Takes On Sergeant's Job

By Sgt. Chuck Lane

DA NANG — A young Marine with "M" Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marines has proven that years of combat experience is not always necessary to accomplish a mission.

Arriving in Vietnam in late February, Pfc. George J. Roseberry (1010 Watkins St., New Castle, Ind.) has risen from a machine gunner, through team leader and has just recently been assigned as a Weapons Platoon Squad Leader, a job normally held by a sergeant.

Although having only three months combat experience, Roseberry has proven his ability to analyze battlefield situations and take positive steps under fire at highly critical times.

During a recent encounter with North Vietnamese Army soldiers while on a routine search and clear mission near Liberty Bridge southeast of here, the unknown size enemy force opened up from well concealed bunkers and spider holes. The Marines were forced to seek cover immediately.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Roseberry strategically located his two machine guns where they could effectively fire on the enemy positions.

During the organization phase for an assault on the enemy positions a platoon member was felled and critically wounded by enemy fire.

Although the wounded Marine was in an extremely vulnerable position with enemy rounds impacting all around him, Roseberry left his position of relative

safety and crossed the path of enemy fire to the side of the fallen Marine. He picked up the wounded Leatherneck and carried him to cover.

Returning to his gun position, Roseberry continued directing a heavy volume of fire as the Marines assaulted and overran the enemy positions.

As a result of the young Marines initiative and aggressiveness the enemy force was completely demoralized and one Marine's life was saved.

NVA Attack Turns Into Death Trap

By Sgt. Doug Pennington

AN HOA — When the whistling of enemy bullets breaks the almost solemn night, the first reaction of a combat Marine is to grab his rifle and return the fire.

But this was a bit difficult one night for Marines of the 1st Plt., "C" Co., 1st Bn., 5th Marines when approximately five North Vietnamese Army soldiers opened fire on the Marine unit in the "Arizona Territory" three miles northwest of here.

"They hit us real hard with B-40 rockets and AK-47 rifle fire for about three minutes and then

quit," explained Pfc. Jimmie B. Welch (Birmingham, Ala.). "Nobody could tell where the fire had come from."

When the NVA soldiers fired again, Welch was the first to see their muzzle flashes. Immediately jumping from his foxhole with a magazine loaded with tracer rounds, Welch fired in the direction of the enemy positions, thus giving his comrades an idea where the enemy fire was coming from. "The rest of the platoon opened up on the NVA and after about fifteen minutes the enemy was finished," Welch continued.

Marine Phantoms Destroy Enemy Field Fortification

By Cpl. Ed. Willis

CHU LAI—Two Marine F-4B Phantoms and an Army AH-1G Cobra gunship teamed up near here to destroy 10 enemy occupied bunkers.

While flying security for a troop lift 15 miles west of Chu Lai, the Cobra spotted a North Vietnamese soldier near a thickly wooded area and killed him with a burst from its minigun.

Further investigation of the wooded area where the Cobra had killed the enemy soldier showed signs of an enemy field fortress. The Army chopper then called for nearby Marine bombers, led by Capt. Steve Hale (St. Louis, Mo.) of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, to elimi-

nate the suspected enemy position. Meanwhile, the Cobra pilot marked the enemy position with a smoke rocket.

"Coming in on target my wingman and I dropped two 500-pound bombs apiece," said Hale. "Our ordnance revealed even more enemy positions."

"On our eighth pass we hit a structure that set off two secondary explosions and killed two North Vietnamese troops."

With the help of the Cobra pilot, the Marine Aircraft Group 13 airmen were credited with destroying seven enemy fortifications and three bunkers. They also caused two secondary explosions and three secondary fires.

25 Years Ago...Marines Assault Guam, Tinian; Beginning of the End

WASHINGTON (USMC) — Twenty-five years ago on July 21 U.S. Marines began liberating Guam.

The 3rd Marine Division and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade pressed home the assault to end Japanese occupation of the American-owned, mid-Pacific island.

Shortly after the Marines stormed ashore on two beaches, soldiers of the 77th Army Division joined the fight against 18,500 Japanese. Later, Marine Air Group 21 landed to support the ground troops.

Organized Japanese resistance lasted until August 10. It was overcome at a cost of 1,350 Marines' and soldiers' lives and the wounding of 6,450 more.

Guam's recapture returned a major naval base to U.S. control and provided bases from which strategic bombers could strike the Japanese homeland.

It also freed more than 20,000 Guamanians who had been under Japanese control since December 10, 1941, when a 6,000-man Japanese force overwhelmed a tiny garrison of Marines, sailors and Guamanian militia.

Guam's liberation was the second phase of an offensive against the Marianas Islands which began when

Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, Commander of the 5th Fleet, landed Marines and soldiers on Saipan, north of Guam, in mid-June 1944.

The Marine assault on Guam followed a 13-day naval bombardment. Though the heavy Navy airstrikes and gunfire softened the enemy, Marine units still faced strong opposition when they hit Guam's western coast.

The 3rd Division had to fight for every inch of the ground north of Apra Harbor and Orote Peninsula—site of the major Japanese installations. The 1st Brigade had the same experience to the south. Both units had to repulse frequent counterattacks.

The tactical plan was a simple one. After landing, the two Marine units joined up to isolate Orote Peninsula, while the 77th Army Division overcame scattered Japanese resistance in southern Guam.

Later, the 3d Marine and 77th Army Divisions joined and drove north while the 1st Marine Brigade reduced enemy elements on the Orote positions.

Marine Air Group 21—which began operating from Orote Peninsula as soon as the Brigade captured it on August 30—supported the ground units in the final phase of the drive north.

A large Japanese counterattack during the night of July 25-26 was the campaign's most intense action.

The counterattack—which hit both Marine units—scored initial successes, but was halted by the morning of July 26. Marine firepower killed 3,500 Japanese in this action.

During the attack on Guam, the landing force, the III Amphibious Corps, was commanded by Major General Roy S. Geiger, USMC.

General Geiger's subordinate commanders were:

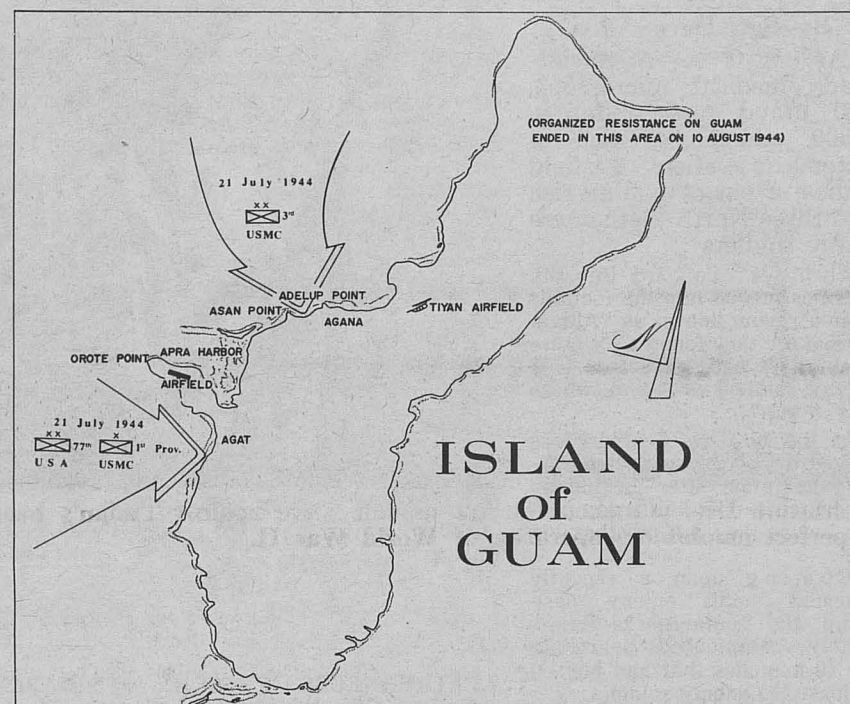
Maj. Gen. Allen H. Turnage, USMC, 3rd Marine Division; Brig. Gen. Isaac Spalding, USA, 77th Army Division; Brig. Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, USMC, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade; Brig. Gen. Pedro A. del Valle, USMC, Corps Artillery; and Col. Peter F. Schrider, USMC, Marine Air Group 21.

Maj. Gen. Henry L. Larsen, USMC, headed the military government which was temporarily installed on Guam.

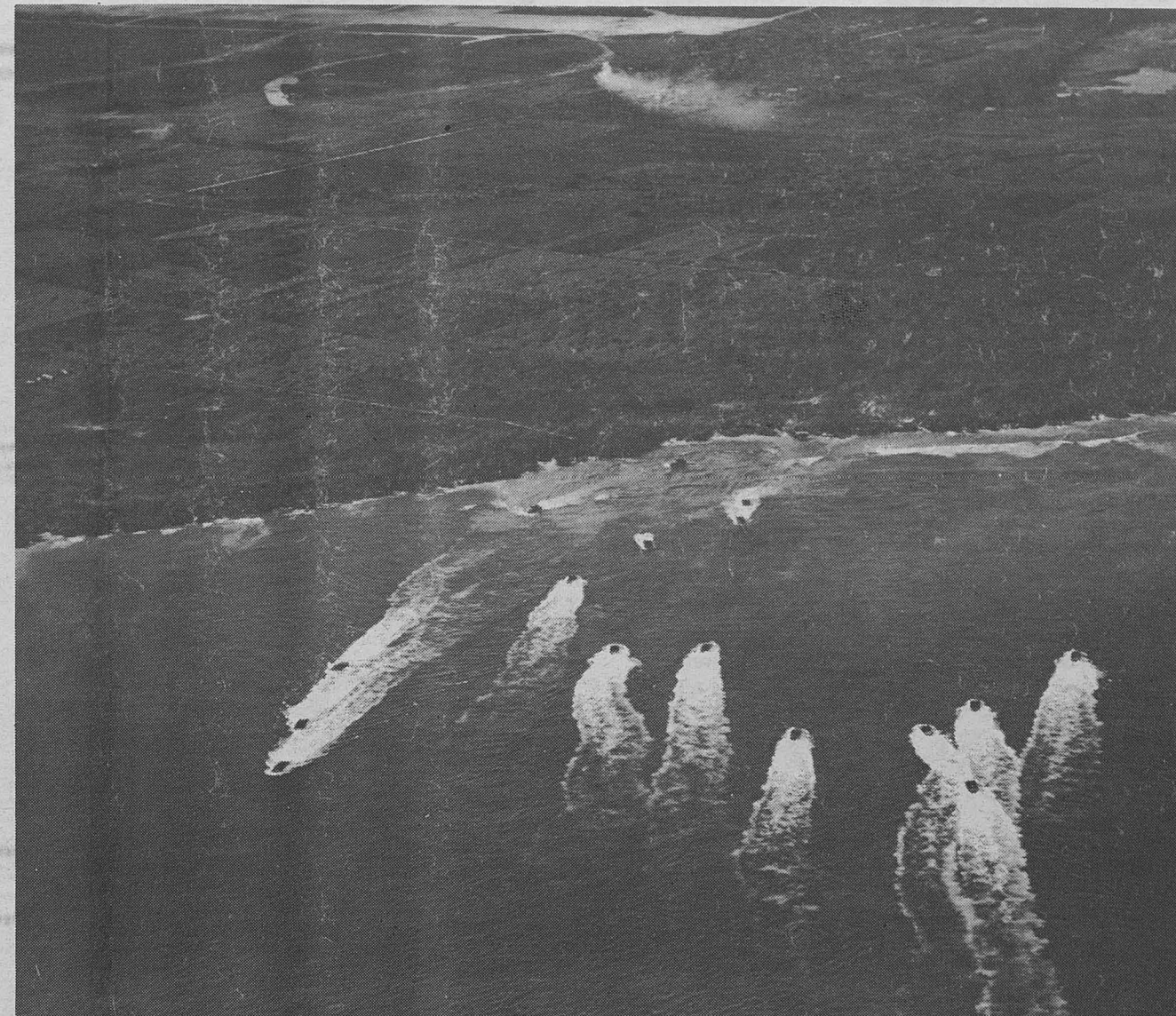
Rear Admiral R. L. ("Close In") Connolly led Task Force 53—the naval unit which put the landing force ashore. He also directed the 13-day pre-assault bombardment.



American colors were again raised at the old Marine Barracks on Guam July 29, 1944. Generals H.M. Smith, R.S. Geiger, L.C. Shepherd and Adm. R. Spruance led the ceremonies. (Photo by TSgt. G.R. Gass)



3rd Marine Division Leathernecks re-take Agana, Guam, the first American city of any size. The wrecked capital was full of land mines planted by the Japanese as they retreated. (Photo by SSgt. J. Heiberger)



Elements of the 4th Marine Div. launched the 1st assault wave against Tinian's beaches. The battle was later termed the perfect amphibious operation of World War II. (USMC Photo)



Marines advance under close coverage of medium tanks during the July 1944 assault on Tinian island. (USMC Photo)

WASHINGTON (USMC) — Three days after the initial landings on Guam, U.S. Marines assaulted Japanese defenders on Tinian, the final objective of the World War II campaign for the Marianas Islands.

The move was an important step toward ending the war.

Tinian became the base from which nuclear weapons were delivered to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Many of the other final air strikes of the war were also launched from Tinian.

The task of taking Tinian fell to the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions.

Fourth Marine Div. elements led the attack by landing over two tiny, lightly-defended beaches on Tinian's northwestern coast, far from the island's major defenses.

While the 4th Division was landing, the 2nd Division and Naval units diverted the enemy's attention with a feint at the main Japanese defenses.

The 2nd Division landed the next day behind the 4th Division. The two divisions, in nine days, overcame 9,000 Japanese defenders in actions costing the lives of 384 Marines. Another 1,961 were wounded.

The Japanese lost nearly all their men.

Tinian's landing force fought under the command of Maj. Gen. Harry Schmidt, USMC, whose command was a part of the V Amphibious Corps commanded by Lt. Gen. H.M. Smith, USMC.

Gen. Smith was in overall command of the Marines and Army troops who took Saipan and Guam as well as Tinian.

During the Tinian fighting, the 2nd Marine Div. was commanded by Maj. Gen. Thomas E. Watson, USMC, while Maj. Gen. Clifton E. Cates, USMC, led the 4th Division.

The Marine commands were backed by two U.S. Army units—the 27th Infantry Division and XXIV Corps Artillery.

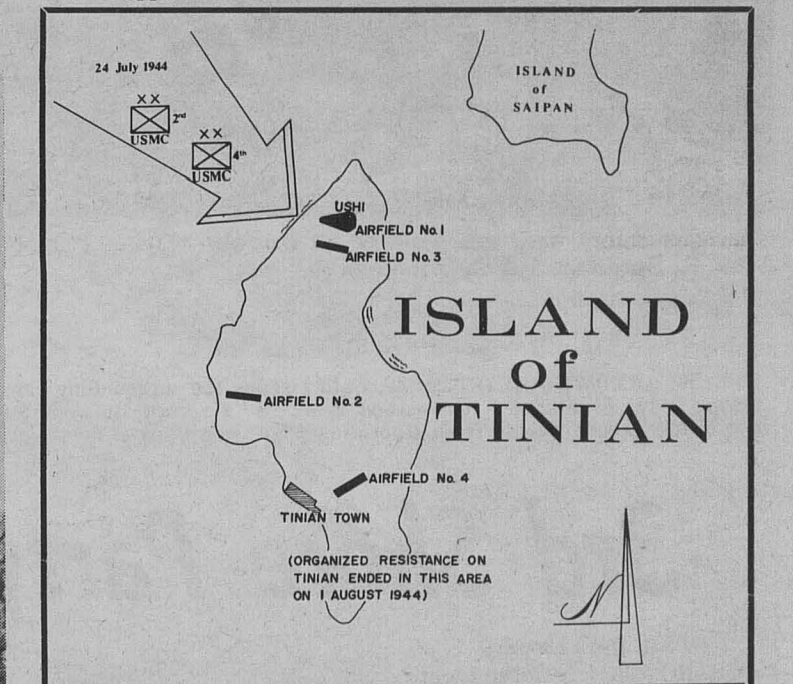
The Division was commanded by Maj. Gen. George W. Griner, USA.

Brig. Gen. Arthur M. Harper, USA, and his XXIV Corps Artillery also actively participated in the Tinian fighting.

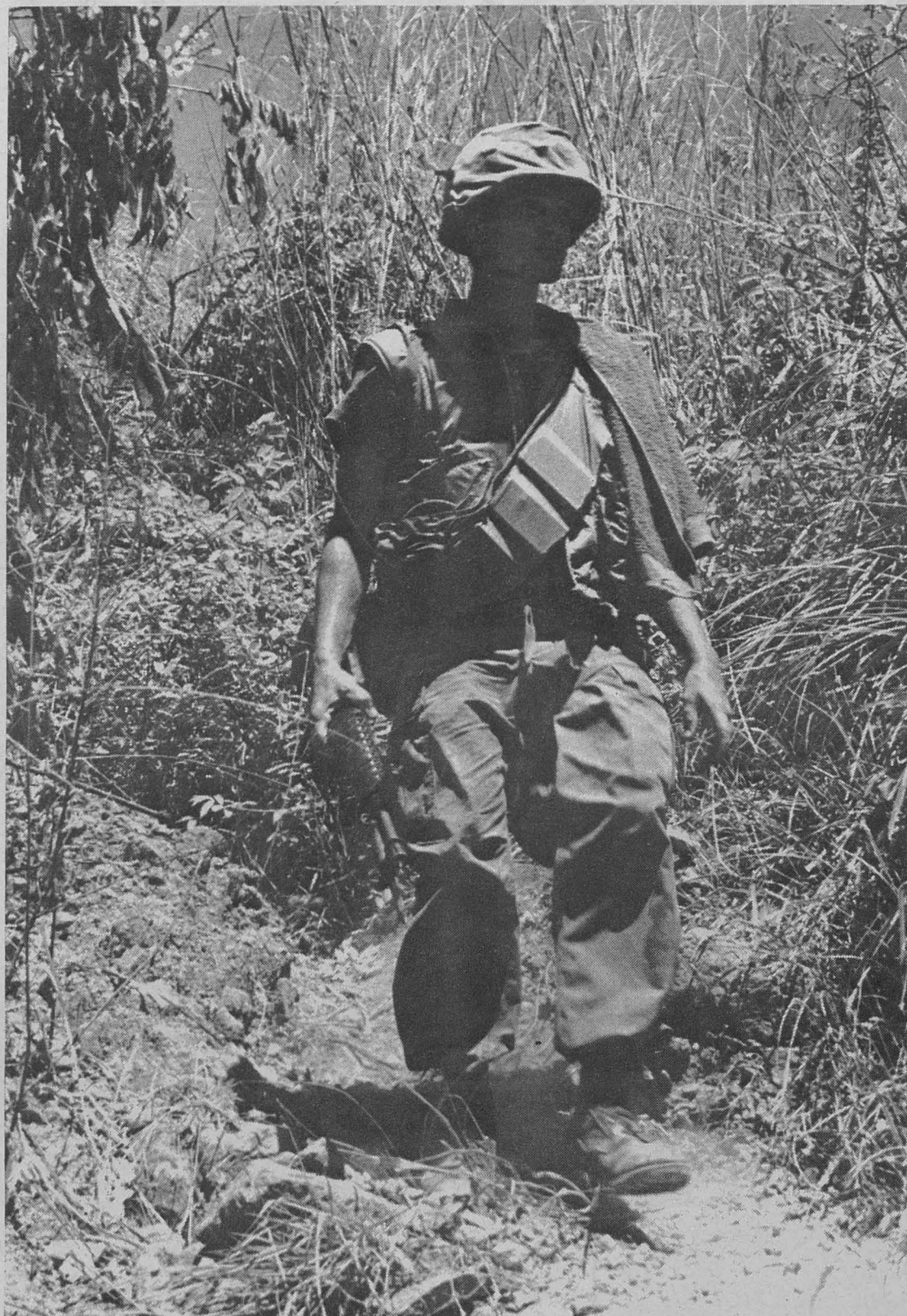
The command supported the Marines from firing positions on nearby Saipan during the early stages of the Tinian action. As the range increased, some units moved to Tinian.

Termed "the perfect amphibious operation of World War II," the battle for Tinian lasted only nine days. The combination of surprise and effective logistical support was responsible for Tinian's recapture with a much lower casualty rate than had been experienced in previous landings.

Almost a year after its capture from the Japanese, Tinian played a final role in the defeat of the Japanese when a B-29 named the "Enola Gay" left Point Ushi Airstrip, carrying the atomic bomb to be dropped on Hiroshima.



War was forgotten by these Marines on Tinian when mail call came. This was the first mail since they landed on the island and morale went up as fast as letters were given out. (Photo by SSgt. R.E. Olund)



PFC. W. ARROWWOOD (Riverside, Calif.) scans the surrounding brush for signs of enemy movement during a sweep mission. Arrowwood, from "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, was on patrol trying to net enemy troops fleeing from Operation Pipestone Canyon northward to his patrol area. (Photo by Sgt. D.E. Kramer)

Enemy Engineers Deathly Ill With A-4 Skyhawkitis

By Sgt. David Butler

CHU LAI—If you're keeping score, it's Marine jets 17, North Vietnamese engineers 0.

The latest score in the battle between the NVA construction teams who build their field fortresses and Marine jet pilots who eliminate them, came recently when two A-4 Skyhawk pilots from Marine Attack Squadron 311 ripped into 17 Communist positions, destroying 12 fortifications and severely damaging five others.

In addition, the two pilots, Maj. A. David Thompson (Jeffersonville, Ind.) and Capt. Charles R. Sorensen (San Carlos, Calif.) caused two secondary explosions and five secondary fires.

Both jets were scrambled from the Chu Lai "hot pad" when word came that U.S. Army ground troops were meeting resistance on the coastal plain about 20 miles north of here.

Heavy enemy fire coming from a fortified Communist area hidden amongst the trees near Tam Ky. Both pilots described

the fortress as a complex of large, well-built and protected concrete fortifications, some nearly 50 feet long.

Arriving above the enemy positions, the two Skyhawks maneuvered for their bomb runs.

"We began getting secondary explosions on our first pass," said the flight leader, Maj. Thompson. "It was really beautiful. In all, we made about 14 passes on the fortifications, dropping all our ordnance. By the time we were through, the area was in ruins."

ASC Dedicated, Speeds Supplies

By MSgt. Don Haley

DA NANG—One of the most advanced computer installations in the U.S. Marine Corps has gone into full operation following its formal dedication by the commander of Leatherneck forces it was designed to serve.

At a traditional dedication ceremony Lt. Gen. Herman Nickerson Jr., commanding general, III Marine Amphibious Force, pushed a button that activated a multi-million dollar system of electronic components designed to aid Force Logistic Command (FLC) Leathernecks in maintaining a reliable, efficient and rapid means of supplying some

80,000 Marines in the Republic of Vietnam.

The new TBM Model 360 50-1 computer system, operated by FLC's Automated Services Center (ASC), replaces an earlier, smaller data processing system and is housed in a new dust-free, air conditioned building at Camp Books, headquarters of FLC, eight miles northwest of here.

The Model 50-1 system will be used to monitor the entire supply chain for FLC in its mission of supplying and supporting two reinforced Marine divisions and a reinforced Marine aircraft wing operating in I Corps, the republic's northernmost tactical zone.

The Model 50-1, a third-generation data processing system, has the capability of completing work programmed into it four times faster than its smaller predecessor, the IBM Model 30.

To the Leatherneck rifleman in the field, this means that all his supplies, from rations to ammunition will be monitored faster and closer to insure that stockpiles are maintained throughout the entire supply chain back to the United States.

The ASC will also use the computer system to handle personnel accounting for the entire III Marine Amphibious Force. At any given time, the computer can show what men are needed in what units, who are rotating back to the United States, and who have voluntarily extended their tours here.

3rd Shore Party Honors Dead

By Sgt. Dave Elsworth

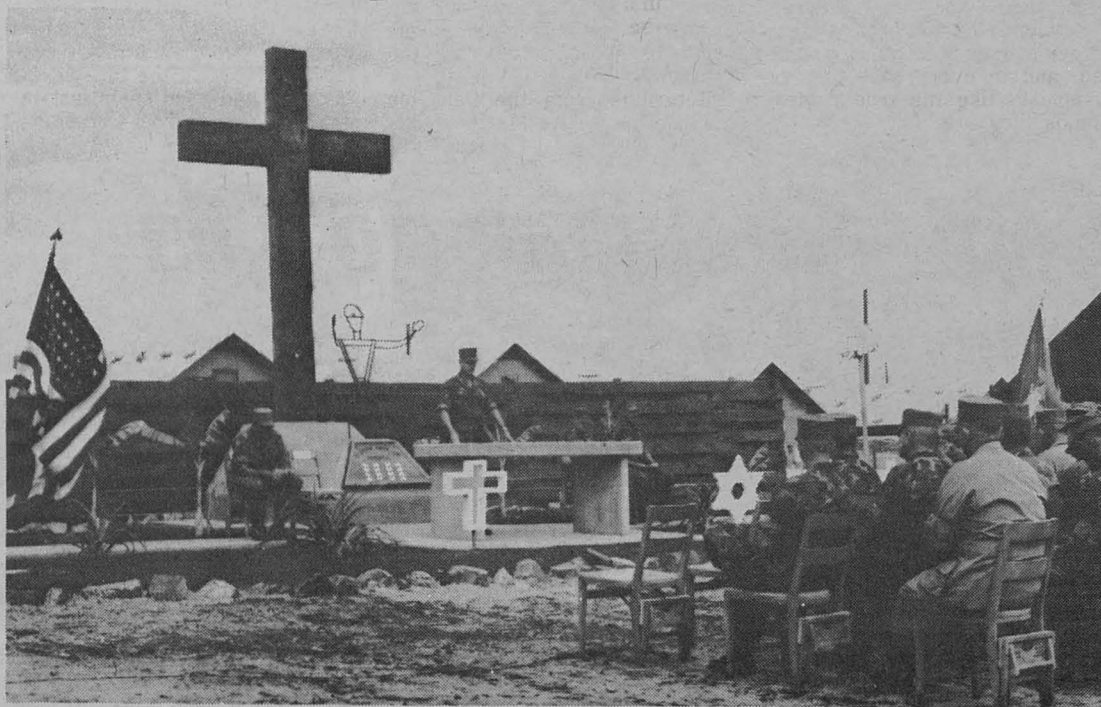
QUANG TRI — "This memorial was built and is now dedicated in the memory of those men in the 3rd Shore Party Bn., who paid the fullest measure in the service of their country."

These words were spoken by Maj. J.B. Knotts (Virginia Beach, Va.), commanding officer, 3rd Shore Party Bn., 3rd Marine Div. during the dedication of the battalion's new memorial park, on June 20.

Maj. Knotts added, "May this memorial daily remind us all of their sacrifices so that our living might somehow reflect their sacrifices."

Attending the ceremony was Col. Martin J. Sexton (Baltimore, Md.), 3rd Marine Div. chief of staff, who said, "Marines who have given their lives have done it for the greatest cause possible — to give the South Vietnamese people hope for a better way of life."

The 3rd Shore Party Bn. Memorial Park ceremonies ended with taps.



MAJ. KNOTTS ADDRESSES members of the 3rd Shore Party Bn. during the dedication ceremony. (Photo by Cpl. G.K. Maddeaux)



MEMBERS OF 3RD BN., 9TH MARINES attend church services in the "bush" during recently concluded Operation Cameron Falls. Conducting the services was Navy Lt. Cmdr. C.R. Spencer (Clearwater, Fla.), chaplain for the battalion. (Photo by Sgt. Ken Corbett)

2/7 Scout Dog Assumes Burden Of Walking Point

By LCpl. Joe Kinney

DA NANG — Ninety pounds of canine radar with nearly four years of combat experience in the Republic of Vietnam is helping to make life easier for the point-man of "E" Co., 2nd Bn., 7th Marines working from Hill 22, eight miles southwest of here.

"Colonel," a 5½-year-old German Shepherd scout dog teams up with Pfc. Frank B. Morrison to take over the foremost exposed position in a tactical column. The pressures of being a point man are enormous. No one wants to risk stepping on a booby trap or leading a unit into an ambush. Colonel and Morrison make an unbeatable team when it comes to handling these problems.

"He's always at the point with his dog," said an Echo Company point-man about the combination. "Normally, a scout dog would be second in a column but Morrison and his dog always lead the way. And they definitely find their share of booby traps and everything else."

"I was scared of Colonel when I first saw him," said Morrison (300 Lakeview Dr., Pell City, Ala.). "He sure was big. Now I wouldn't go anywhere without him. He's all a scout dog could be."

Morrison justifies his walking point. "Colonel and I working together can find any booby trap the enemy can make. Colonel has found tunnels, bunkers and quite a few other things. Once we were walking through an open area and he saw an enemy squad leave their position about 300 yards up the trail.

Without the dog we could have walked into an ambush. The enemy knew that Colonel had picked up their scent and had alerted me. They were forced to abandon their plan and seek escape.

Colonel's record justifies any compliments that Morrison might have. "He's never had a handler wounded. And he's worked with many units in many hot spots in the years that he has been in Vietnam.

Let's Be Frank Now, Sinatra A Marine??

By Pfc. Joe Doyle

DA NANG—One might expect to see John Wayne in Vietnam but Marines at Maintenance Bn., Force Logistic Command have no such luck. They must settle for Frank Sinatra.

Named after his grandfather rather than the entertainer, Cpl. Frank P. Sinatra (1422 Woodland Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.) is a tank mechanic in the battalion's Ordnance Maintenance Co.

"At first, people don't believe I'm telling them my real name; they think it's a put-on," the corporal says quietly. "When they finally believe that Sinatra is my real name, they will always ask if I'm related to him. I'm not."

It might be nice if confusion over his name were the only problem facing Frank, but as a tank mechanic in a combat zone, he definitely has his work cut out for him.

Sinatra's outfit is responsible for major repairs to Marine tanks. The mechanics must do their work quickly and efficiently and return the rolling hulks of steel back to the field.

Although he admits he cannot sing, Sinatra the Marine is just as professional at his job as Sinatra the entertainer.

"Having a famous name doesn't bother me at all," Sinatra says. "In fact, it's been to my advantage — especially in meeting girls."

"They hear my name," he continues, "and right away they want to see what I look like."

Upon completion of his Marine Corps tour, Sinatra hopes to return to the Republic of Vietnam as a civilian.

"I've enjoyed knowing the Vietnamese," he observes, "and I'd like to come back and do more to help them."

The accomplishments and ambitions of Marine Cpl. Frank Sinatra, Ordnance Maintenance Co., Maintenance Bn., Force Logistic Command have proved him to be a star in his own right — even if he isn't as famous as the "other" Sinatra.

Views on Redeployment

Emotions Differ in 9th Marines

By Cpl. Franklin Delong
VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE — When the news first reached the Leatherneck 1st Bn., 9th Marines that they would be part of President Nixon's announced 25,000-man troop redeployment from Vietnam, they didn't believe it. But after the word was passed from their company commanders, the Marines began to realize that it wasn't just a rumor, but the real "scoop."

LCpl. Albert Lambert (Andrews, S.C.) summed up his emotions this way, "I've been here for 12 months and it would have been hard leaving these guys behind. I think it's great that we're all going to Okinawa together." Lambert has served with an 81mm mortar platoon since coming to Vietnam.

For the most part there were mixed emotions among the Leathernecks. Some were happy, a few were indifferent and others talked of trying to switch to another unit so that they could remain in Vietnam to complete their tours.

In telling their men of the 9th Marines' redeployment in the middle of the operation, company commanders never doubted their troops' ability to adjust to any situation. Rea-

soned Capt. John Kelly (New York, N.Y.), commanding officer of "C" Co., "The men are Marines and I've made it a point to tell them everything that concerns them. I have gone to them before with good news as well as bad, and in every case they've responded like the true professionals they are."

Just two days after the news reached the field, "C" Co., engaged North Vietnamese Army elements in a fierce battle southwest of Khe Sanh and won the battle conclusively, as 45 enemy soldiers lay dead following the contact.

Returning from the field for the last time, the Marines hur-

ried off their choppers and headed for their areas at Vandegrift Combat Base. To some it was a time for rejoicing, to others a time to write home and tell everyone about the latest news. For all it was an emotional feeling to know that the 1st Bn., 9th Marines had seen their last operation in northern I Corps.

Capt. Chapman to Oki

By Cpl. Franklin Delong

VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE — Capt. Leonard Chapman (Orlando, Fla.), commanding officer of "D" Co., 1st Bn., 9th Marines, grabbed the basketball, pivoted and sank a 15-foot jump shot.

The basketball court Capt. Chapman was playing on is one of several recently installed at this combat base to provide recreation for Leathernecks returning from the field. The 1st Bn., 9th Marines have returned from the field for the last time in Vietnam, and are now utilizing these facilities during their off-duty hours.

Capt. Chapman, on his third tour in Vietnam, is redeploying to Okinawa with his battalion.

In speaking of his company, Chapman commented, "I've enjoyed working with this company. It's been the most rewarding thing I've done since joining the Marine Corps."

On Operation Utah Mesa, conducted by the 9th Marines southwest of Khe Sanh, Delta Co. Marines accounted for more than 30 North Vietnamese soldiers killed and they didn't lose a man to enemy fire.

Since assuming command during Operation Dewey Canyon,

Chapman led his company through five operations in northern I Corps. "These are good troops, each one of them," he exclaimed.

Capt. Chapman is the son of Gen. Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps.

In discussing his unit, Capt. Chapman remarked, "I believe the real rewards are to be found here in country as I have found them in three tours over here, especially when there is an opportunity to work with Marines like Delta Company."



WHEN MARINES are in the "bush" and away from the luxuries such as showers, they improvise with whatever is available. In this case Marines of "C" Co., 1st Bn., 26th Marines take their showers with cool water from a deep well during Operation Bold Pursuit 20 miles south of Da Nang. (Photo by Sgt. Mike Detherage)

Recons Endure 6-hour Contact

Cpl. Frank Franzone

DA NANG—A recon patrol from 1st Force Reconnaissance Co. battled extreme heat and a determined enemy for six hours before being heli-lifted out of the jungle, their mission completed.

The eight man long range reconnaissance patrol, led by Sgt. Theodore Ott (2506 17th St., Monroe, Wisc.), was dropped off in a densely forested area 43 miles southwest of Da Nang. They were charged with reconnoitering enemy positions and strengths.

The first day was uneventful — the Marines were only able to travel 25-30 yards an hour due to the thick foliage. At 8:30 the second day, they made contact with an unknown size enemy force.

"We were checking out a trail when three or four North Vietnamese soldiers tried to walk up on the rear of our patrol. Our rear man opened up and killed two of them," stated Ott.

The Leathernecks then moved 25-30 yards down the trail and set in. They were there only 10 minutes before they heard enemy soldiers breaking brush to their west. Ott and another Marine opened fire on the first

three NVA they saw, killing the trio.

Ten minutes later the patrol heard some more movement in the nearby brush. The patrol fired again, wounding one NVA and taking him captive. As a medevac chopper was called for the wounded NVA, the Marines' position came under heavy fire from three sides.

"We were returning fire when an enemy grenade landed in the middle of us. Pfc. Robert Castle (24 Onieta St., Battle Creek, Mich.) dove for it and threw it out of the perimeter we had set up," Ott explained.

Ott rose to his knees and yelled instructions to his men when he was wounded by a small arms round. Despite his wound, Ott continued to direct his patrol for the remainder of the day. He radioed for Marine air support against the mounting enemy fire. Jet aircraft from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing flew cover for the encircled Marines from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"The jets and aerial observers (AOs) were always up there when we needed them. The AOs really knew their job and the support we got was great. Those jet pilots were outstanding," commented Ott.

Two hours after the initial contact, the NVA force tried to overrun the Leathernecks. During the attack one Marine was seriously wounded outside friendly lines. Not knowing if the man was alive or dead, Ott moved outside the perimeter under heavy fire and brought the Marine back.

Marine jets continued to pound the enemy positions and at 3:30 p.m. a helicopter was able to drop a recovery net to the patrol. The Marines and their NVA captive hooked up to the net and made their exit.

After six hours of fighting in Charlie's backyard, Ott and his men headed for An Hoa and a well deserved rest.

Home Remedies Fading

Viets Seen Accepting Medicine

By Cpl. Dick Frankovich

DA NANG—Modern medicine is beginning to cope with disease in the Republic of Vietnam, even though the country is at war. The local citizen is beginning to trust modern medicine as his fellow countrymen learn the techniques American military doctors are sharing.

Daily at the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital, eight miles northwest of here at the headquarters site of Marine Force Logistic Command, wonders of modern medicine are reaching the villager and farmer.

Today's encouraging situation is the result of efforts by U.S. Navy doctors who are leaving a priceless array of techniques and cures to their Vietnamese counterparts.

Joining in this effort is Navy Lt. Marvin Margolis (Rockford, Ill.), who has spent almost a year working on a volunteer basis at the children's hospital in addition to taking care of the medical needs of FLC Marines as their command medical officer.

Many Vietnamese now trust the germ approach to medicine, as opposed to local folk cures.

"I've seen a marked attitude change since I've been here. The people seem to trust us a great deal more now," beamed the young doctor.

But western medicine has had to adjust to the requirements of the South Vietnamese. Military doctors have had to apply modern drugs and diagnostic skills to seldom seen tropical diseases.

"The textbooks in America told us that we'd probably never see Mellioidosis, and here we've come in contact with it. So we've had to come up with a treatment," said Margolis.

This often fatal lung disease at first disguised itself with the symptoms of tuberculosis until a joint consultation between FLC medical officers and internal medicine experts at 1st Medical Bn., 1st Marine Division, was able to arrive upon a method of diagnosis.

Since summer 1968, Navy doctors treating patients at the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital have saved 20 youngsters who contracted this exotic disease.

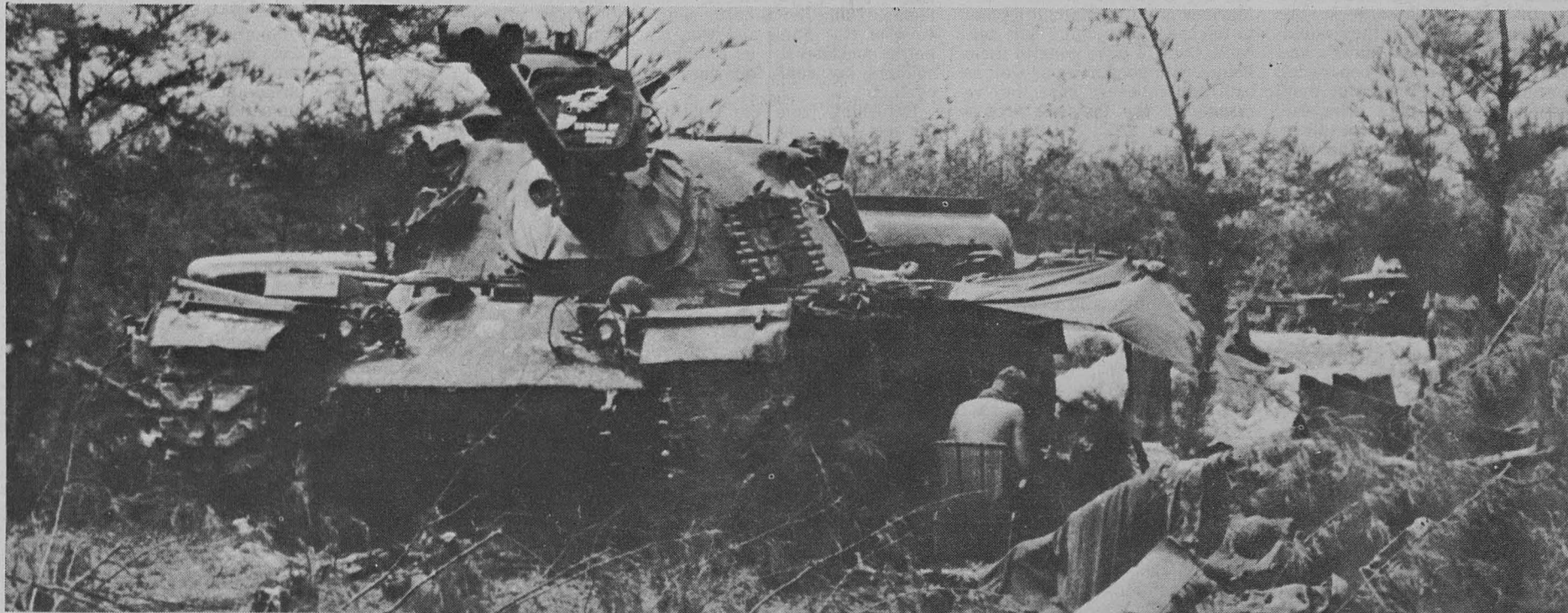
Vietnamese in this fast growing refugee

resettlement area just northwest of Da Nang are bringing their children to the hospital with a growing sense of confidence. The American doctor has moved from a "last resort to a first resort" in many households.

Along with volunteer help from Navy doctors and corpsmen, the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital is staffed with Vietnamese nurses and medical technicians. These people have learned how to work with modern medicine and have become proficient at recognizing the appropriate treatment for diseases such as plague and malaria.

Margolis said one thing that is helping to overcome many roadblocks on the path to better health here is the adaptation of standard cures for tropical disease to the Vietnamese situation.

Modern medicine has a strong foothold around Da Nang. And it's medical personnel like Navy Lt. Marvin Margolis who are helping to assure a better standard of health for the people of the Republic of Vietnam.



MARINES OF "A" CO., 1st Bn., 5th Marines, take time to rig up improvised shelter against the rain and sun as they guard the command post perimeter of Battalion Landing Team 1/26 during Operation Bold Pursuit. (Photo by Sgt. Mike Detherage)

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

(Cont. From Page 2)

Kathy Daniels
61 N. 6th St.
Fulton, N.Y. 13069
Age 18

Lynn Hall
R.D. #1 Rathburn Rd.
Fulton, N.Y. 13069
Age 16

Diann Hall
R.D. #1 Rathburn Rd.
Fulton, N.Y. 13069
Age 17

Cecelia Wolfersburger
R.D. #1
Fulton, N.Y. 13069
Age 16

Linda Bargam
R.D. 1
Hannibal, N.Y. 13074
Age 17

Richard Murphy
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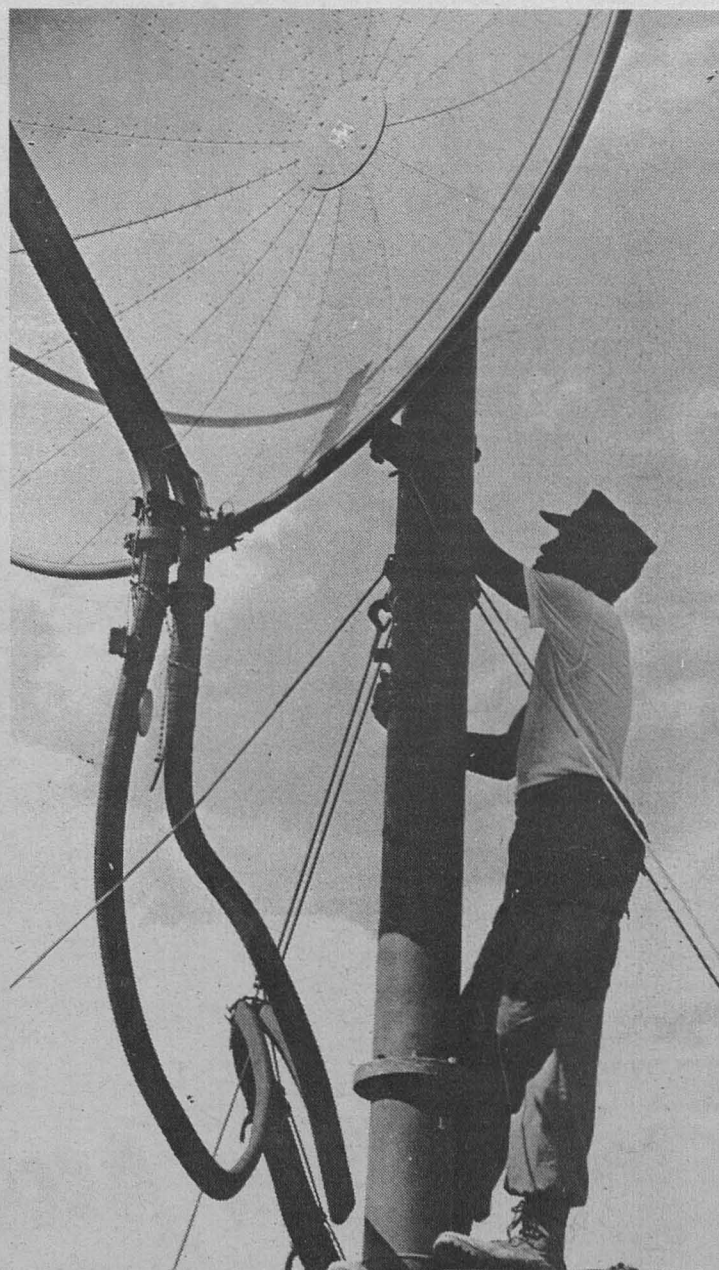
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LCPL. C.I. HARRIS (Cincinnati, Ohio) adjusts an antenna used as part of a long-distance radio relay system between major Marine units in Vietnam. Harris, a member of 5th/7th Communications Bn., is part of a team that furnishes communication support to all U.S. and Republic of Korea Marines and Free World forces operating in I Corps. (Photo by Capt. D.G. Menely)

New Taste Comes From Viet Produce

By Sgt. Bruce Smith

DONG HA—A three-fold Civil Affairs program is presently in full-swing in Quang Tri Province.

The program has as its goal improving the diets of the Vietnamese people, stimulating their economy and providing fresh fruits and vegetables for the fighting forces in northern I Corps.

Under the supervision of John Swanson, Quang Tri Province agricultural advisor for Civil Operations Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), the local villagers are being shown how to grow a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, many of which have never before been grown in this area.

When grown for personal consumption, these fruits and vegetables provide a valuable addition to the diet of the farmer and his family. When grown for market, they provide a stimulus for the economy because they are always in strong demand.

Second Lt. Robert O. Dillender (St. Louis, Mo.) of the 29th Civil Affairs Co., is serving as the 3rd Marine Div. agricultural coordinator. "Out of every 32 cents that goes into the project in the form of seed and fertilizer distributed to the farmers," says Dillender, "27 cents is returned to the farmer in the form of cash proceeds from his sales. This is only one of the strong points of the program, however."

Chieu Hoi Village, located two miles south of Quang Tri City, is a good place to see the program in operation. Because of the ex-

tremely sandy soil, the village has always been held to a limited number of crops. At the recommendation of Swanson, hydromulch was mixed with the soil to retain water and prevent erosion. As a result, the people of Chieu Hoi Village now grow watermelons, tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables which they had been unable to grow before. In addition, they enjoy more healthful diets and produce fresh items that have a greater market demand.

The U.S. Marines also receive benefits from the program. The fresh tomatoes, corn, watermelon and cucumbers now being served in 3rd Marine Div. mess halls were grown by local farmers.

When asked which fruit or vegetable seemed to be the most popular with the Marines, SSgt. W.F. Frehe (New Milford, N.J.), mess sergeant at one mess hall in Dong Ha said, "Well, the men eat a lot of corn, and the green onions always go over big, but I'd say the watermelon is their favorite."

**Make Saving Easy
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'Frag' Greet Startled Marine or 2's Comp'ny, 3's a Crowd

By Cpl. Frank Franzone

AN HOA—The closer Cpl. Donald Spoon got to the lines, the more cautious he became. In the distance he could see the tracer fire coming from the Marines' positions along the lines. An AK-47 round whizzed scant yards above his head. "Wow, only 75 more yards and I'll be in the safety and comfort of a bunker," he thought.

Spoon (48 Michael Pl., Levittown, Pa.), a member of Headquarters and Service Bn., Force Logistic Command working with the 5th Marines here, was responding to an all-out alert sounded throughout the base. An estimated platoon of North Vietnamese Army sappers were attacking the perimeter defense wire in several places. As soon as the alarm was sounded, Spoon grabbed his rifle, helmet and flak jacket and headed for the lines.

With about 75 yards yet to go, the 20-year-old Marine stopped to catch his breath. "I was thinking what a good target I made there, so I decided to make a run for the nearest bunker," Spoon explained.

"I was running at top speed when I approached the bunker near the wire. I decided I would shout a warning to them and let them know I was

coming in. I didn't want them thinking I was an NVA," Spoon said.

No sooner had Spoon yelled, "I'm coming in," than he was at the entrance to the bunker. He expected a welcome greeting from the Marines inside. Instead the "greeting" came in the form of two Communist grenades.

Spoon ducked around the corner of the bunker just before the two grenades exploded.

Somewhat confused, he yelled again. Two more grenades.

"That really convinced me. It took me a while to get the point, but I finally figured out there weren't any friendlies in there," Spoon added.

Spoon grabbed two fragmentation grenades out of his utility pockets and crawled around to the front of the bunker. With a pull and a flip of his wrist, Spoon lobbed the two grenades through the opening. Seconds later the grenades exploded, killing the two NVA sappers hiding inside.

"All the time I was running for the bunker, I kept thinking about how nice and safe I would be once I got inside. What a miscalculation! The hardest part was just getting inside," Spoon concluded.

Enemy Dead...

(Continued From Page 1)

NVA had recently used the complex. A search of the bunkers produced 200 pounds of rice, two bangalore torpedoes, 82 grenades, medicine, rations, assorted clothing and combat gear, and explosives.

In addition to the heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy, the allies captured seven prisoners, and 114 individual and 31 crew-served weapons.

Virginia Ridge

The 3rd Marines, participating in Operation Virginia Ridge north of the Rockpile, continue

to push the enemy toll higher. Between May 1, when the operation began, and July 6 more than 500 North Vietnamese soldiers were killed.

The mission of the 3rd Marines during the operation is to destroy or capture enemy installations and materials, and to stop enemy soldiers infiltrating into the republic.

In addition to the NVA soldiers killed, the regiment has also taken 9 prisoners, seven detainees, 139 individual and 31 crew-served weapons.

Herkimer Mountain

Operation Herkimer Mountain, an operation being conducted by the 4th Marines in the mountainous jungles northwest of Vandegrift Combat Base is now in its ninth week. As of July 6, the operation had accounted for 118 enemy soldiers killed.

The operation's goal is to search out invading North Vietnamese Army forces and to deny them entry into the republic. The operation is also designed to prevent enemy forces from massing attacks against allied fire bases.

Elements of the 4th Marines are continuing their patrols from mountaintop fire bases. Using artillery and close air support to enhance the effectiveness of their patrols, the results in Operation Herkimer Mountain have been termed by Col. William F. Goggin, commanding officer of the regiment, as "very successful."

In addition to the enemy soldiers killed, the Leathernecks have taken 66 detainees and captured 20 individual and four crew-served weapons.

Simlik...

(Continued From Page 3)

1st Bn., 5th Marines where he earned the Legion of Merit with combat "V."

Before departing for the United States, Col. Lafond had a special message for his former infantrymen in which he complimented them for their accomplishments on the battlefield.

He concluded his farewell address by adding, "It is time now for me to say goodbye. Good hunting, 3rd Marines, good luck and may God keep you from harm's way."

Col. Lafond will attend the Naval War College, Newport, R. I.

Vu Gia...

(Continued From Page 1)

fective. At one time one of our patrols was followed by an enemy force of unknown size," continued Fagan.

"We set up a hasty defense along the trail and when the NVA patrol closed, we opened up and killed four of them."

"Almost all of our contact was along the river. The enemy must not have known that we were in the area because we got most of them there within six days."

"The men used their military skills and tactics in an outstanding and professional manner. They used the key terrain to their advantage and completely tore the NVA apart."

"Our company-size operation was a success in more ways than one, and I can't single out anyone special," continued Fagan.

"The aggressiveness during our patrols — using the treelines and being alert at all times — helped us catch the enemy when they tried to make any river crossing or tried to slip through our lines into the Arizona Territory and onto Charlie Ridge."

"These Marines showed me that they know how to fight, and I'm proud of them," concluded Fagan.

Clout...

(Continued From Page 1)

second Phantom screamed low over the target dropping his remaining bombs.

In addition to the dead NVA troops, the flight was credited with two antiaircraft weapons, three bunkers, three fortified positions. They also caused six secondary fires believed to be burning ammunition supplies.

I Corps Logistics

By PFC Richard Carroll

DA NANG — Ammunition Co., a unit of Supply Battalion, Marine Force Logistic Command, issued 588,035 tons of ammunition and 127,607 tons of aviation ordnance to Marine units in I Corps during 1968.



COLORED SMOKE billows up to show wind direction as a 1st MAF CH-46 helicopter approaches a mountain-top fire support base in northern I Corps with supplies from Force Logistic Support Group Bravo at Dong Ha. (Photo by Cpl. Watler Leetch)

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New 1st Wing CO...

(Continued From Page 1)

vice at Pearl Harbor, Saipan and Okinawa before he was assigned to the Division of Aviation at Headquarters Marine Corps in January 1946.

Assigned the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in June 1951, he earned the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action Oct. 25, 1951, while serving with Marine Aircraft Group 12. He was also awarded his first Legion of Merit with combat "V" and his sixth and seventh Air Medals prior to being captured and interned by

the Chinese Communists in December 1951. He earned a second Legion of Merit for meritorious conduct as senior United Nations officer in a Chinese Communist prisoner of war camp.

In August 1962, Gen. Thrash again joined the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Iwakuni, Japan as chief of staff. The following June, he arrived in the United States and served at Norfolk, Va., as assistant chief of staff G-3, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic.

In March 1964, he was as-

signed as legislative assistant to the Commandant. For his services in this capacity, he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal. Prior to assuming his present duties, Gen. Thrash served as commanding general of Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Calif.

The Commandant and Generals Buse and Nickerson further expressed confidence that 1st MAF, under Gen. Thrash's leadership "... will continue to achieve new laurels," citing the new wing commander's "broad experience and outstanding professional qualifications."