



SEA TIGER



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Enemy Caught Off Guard

By LCpl. Bob Partain

CAMP CARROLL — A company-size force from the 3rd Marine Regiment caught an estimated platoon of North Vietnamese (NVA) soldiers off-guard during a search and clear operation east of Camp Carroll, depriving the enemy of his sanctuary and equipment.

The Leathernecks were sweeping from Camp Carroll into the Mai Loc TAOR (tactical area of responsibility) to act

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NVA Go, Marines Mop Up VC

By Cpl. John Lawrence

DONG HA — While 3rd Marine Division units continue their relentless pursuit of the enemy, the other war, the war of pacification, continues with gathering momentum throughout Quang Tri Province.

During the second week in November, a company-sized force of the 3rd Marine Regiment made good headway in their efforts to pacify the Cam Lo area, west of Dong Ha.

The company, the first infantry unit of its size to work in complete integration with Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF's) and Regional Forces (RF's) soldiers, conducted a successful cordon and search operation.

The operation netted six members of the Viet Cong (VC) infrastructure and much valuable intelligence information.

Capt. Donald J. Meyers (3109 N. Burbank Lane, Woodbridge, Va.), who heads the joint Marine-Vietnamese effort in Cam Lo, explained, "My company was moved into the village to clean out the VC infrastructure left behind when we drove out North Vietnamese Army units during the Tet offensive earlier this year."

"Now that we have pushed the North Vietnamese soldiers further north, we have time to clean out the other bad guys," he added, "and we will."

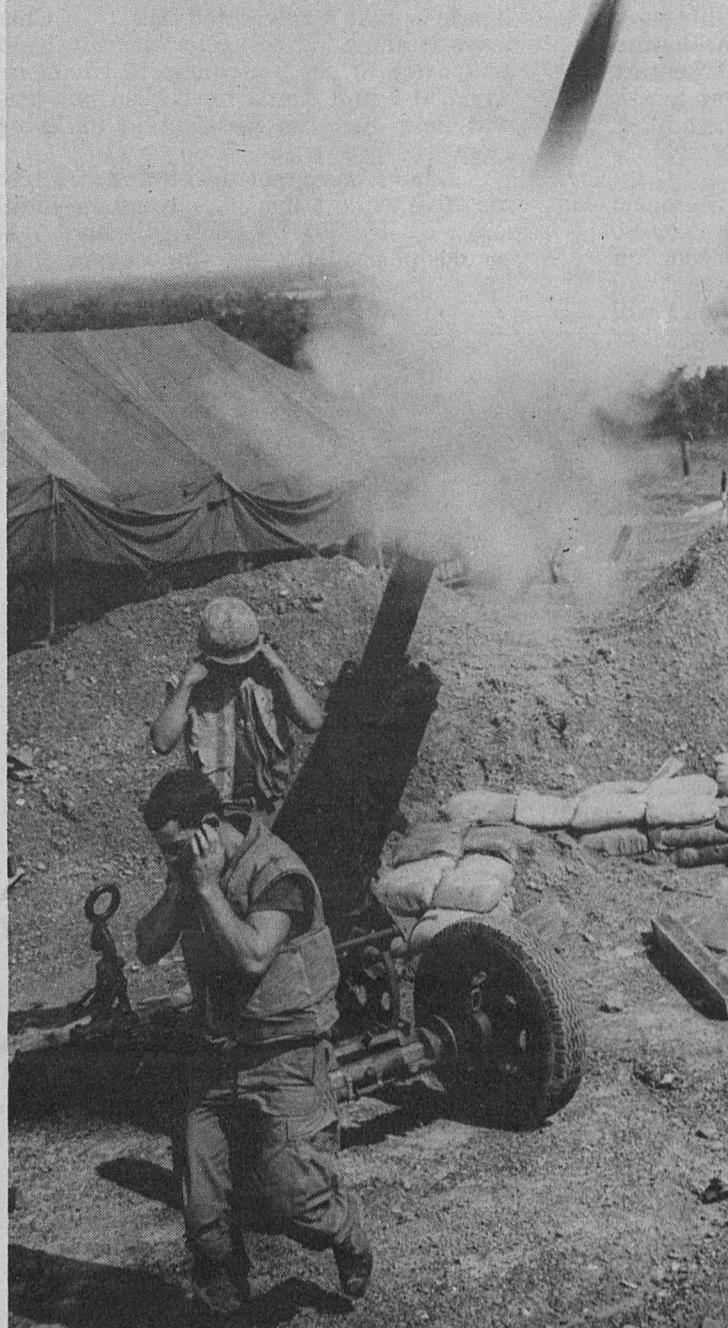
Fifteen miles east of Cam Lo, at the mouth of the Cua Viet River, the 1st Amphibian Tractor Bn. has been hard at work with its DentCAP (Dental Civic Action Program) operations.

Dentists of the Cua Viet based battalion continued with their scheduled bi-weekly trips into nearby villages to alleviate some of the population's dental problems.

Moving southwest of the Quang Tri City area, the 4th Combined Action Group (CAG), commanded by LtCol. John F. Greenwood (Kailua, Hawaii) detained three Viet Cong suspects.

The CAG's squad size Marine-PF patrols made several contacts with small enemy units.

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Ear Shattering

The 4.2 inch howitzer makes Leathernecks of "W" Battery, 3/11 hold their ears. The howitzer was fired in support of 2/7 during Operation Meade River, south of Da Nang.

(Photo by Cpl. W.A. Oberg)

Weapons Left Behind

1/1 Marines Repulse VC Sappers

By SSgt. Bob Bowen

DA NANG — A squad of Marines from "B" Co., 1/1, turned the tables on a unit of Viet Cong sappers early this month, killing two and capturing one.

It began at 2 a.m.

"I heard movement and then some yelling," Pfc. Joseph Decker, (1226 Logonda Ave., Springfield, Ohio) said. "The next thing I knew a B-40 rocket was exploding 20-meters in front of me."

The attack was on.

Marines Complete Army Heli School

WASHINGTON (USMC) — The first Marines to graduate from the Army Helicopter Program received their wings last month at the Army Aviation School, Ft Hunter Airfield, Ga.

Maj. Gen. Keith B. McCutcheon, deputy chief of staff (Air), Headquarters Marine Corps, pinned the Army wings on the six lieutenants at the graduation exercises.

The Army trained helicopter pilots are: Second Lts. George W. Haufler, Jeffry D. Monaghan, George L. Miner, Joseph E. Sturtevant, Jr., Stanley W. Taylor and Edward L. Watson.

They are now undergoing additional training with the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, El Toro, Calif., before being assigned to Vietnam.

Operation Meade River Stuns Enemy

By GySgt. Tom Bartlett

DA NANG — As Operation Meade River went into its 16th day, two pockets of enemy resistance remained the prime targets of Marine Air strikes and artillery, naval gunfire, and, finally, Marine infantry assaults.

Marines, ARVN and Korean Marines had been the jaws of a trap engulfing an enemy infested area. The cordon had clamped shut on November 20.

Operation Meade River had opened with the largest helicopter assault in the history of the Marine Corps.

There were 5,000 U.S. Marines — seven battalions — two battalions of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's 51st Regiment and units of the 2nd Korean Marine Brigade. Also, there were units of the Vietnamese National Police Field Force.

The area was considered by MajGen Carl A. Youngdale, 1st Marine Division commander as a "continuous approach route into the Da Nang TAOR, through which came the majority of attacks, both by fire and

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Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 (HMM-165) operating in the Da Nang area have moved from operation to operation without letting up.

Starting in October, the Marines went 11 miles southwest of Da Nang for an operation. Only slight resistance was met, and after spending a week in the field, the Marines returned to their command post only to

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Thanks

Last week the SEA TIGER was the recipient of the Silver Anchor Award from the Armed Forces Writers League, designating it the top Sea Service Newspaper of the year, among 500 others entered. Undoubtedly, this is a very proud moment for us, but we must give credit where credit is due.

Without the assistance of all the Marine Corps' writers and photographers, this award could not have been possible. Through their on-the-spot coverage of Marines in I Corps they have achieved recognition.

We would like to pass along our compliments and thanks for a job well done, and for success in the future.

—Editor

Did You Know?

Battle casualties are flown by helicopter to the US Naval Support Activity Station Hospital in Da Nang and are on the operating table an average of 60 minutes after being wounded in the field. Casualties come to the hospital from all parts of the I Corps Tactical Zone, including areas along the DMZ.

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Editorial

I am not afraid of dying, but I am very much afraid of not living enough. I am not concerned how long I live, measured in time but, rather, the capacity to live all the life there is while it is before me. I do not mean having a "Good Time"; I mean having a real time facing all facets of life realistically with each passing moment.

I want to continue seeing this ever changing life as it really is and keep on seeing myself as I really am. I want to keep the courage to question and defy all theories, even myself in the search for that real life. I want to ask questions and test out my answers even if I find them false. I want to discover and search out all the truths possible for me to find.

I have seen men so trapped by comfort . . . So fooled by success . . . So embittered by seclusion . . . So strangled by their fears and smothered in complacency, I do not intend to be cheated that way. I have and will continue to seek danger so that I can laugh at fear. I will

court humiliation to prick my complacency and join with compassion those beset by intolerance.

Not being certain of my life hereafter, I will seek out the uncertainties of this one and challenge the theory that life is a mystery and largely beyond our control. Of this much I am sure, I can live this life as I will . . . Play it safe or take a calculated risk . . . Choose to accept it or leave it alone. Hide away with my head in the sand like an ostrich or set my course to where most fear to tread. Then, if I find that I have been two-timing on eternity, I will have had the satisfaction of living enough for the moment.

I have one great desire and it is constant . . . Keep me alive while I live . . . Keep me inquisitive . . . Restless . . . Hungry for knowledge and, to keep myself within bounds of prudence and the concept of a full, real and rich life as I seek it.

... CAPTAIN GEORGE COOK, USN (ret)



THE HUMAN ELEMENT—Artist John Witt recorded on paper the faces of CAP 1-35 Marines based at Chu Lai. The faces reflect a diversity of personalities, but a singular purpose, defend and rebuild.

Challenge: Insure Peace

Washington (AFPS) — Assistant Secretary of the Navy Randolph S. Driver believes the challenge of military life is much greater today than ever before in history.

Speaking at a Navy League luncheon in Memphis, Tenn., Secretary Driver said, "It is no longer the military's job simply to wage war. The goal, the whole reason for the existence of America's armed forces, is to insure peace."

He said American science and industry have produced a variety of tools to see that this peace-keeping job is done. "But, it is the military man—dedicated, mature and technically compe-

tent—who bears the responsibility of managing and operating the products of American industry."

Mr. Driver said, "Today, military life offers one of the most challenging and varied opportunities for a career available in this country.

"As our armed forces have adjusted to a period of increasing technological specialization, the selection of either officer or enlisted career personnel requires increased skill, knowledge and education from the individual."

He cited Rudyard Kipling's "Barracks Room Ballads," which told of the average

British soldier, who was ignored or dismissed by the civilian population until the "guns began to shoot" and then suddenly he was transformed in the public eye to a "thin red line of heroes."

"What Kipling said 70 years ago is just as true today. The career officer and enlisted man is a special kind of citizen. He is dedicated, self-sacrificing and willing to work longer hours for less pay than most."

"Even if there were no war these men would be serving in various far flung duty stations away from their wives and families, sacrificing themselves for the security of their country," he said.

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SEA TIGER

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Tactical Tips

Let's talk about ways we can gather important information that will help your unit accomplish its mission and save lives.

Yes, let's talk about combat intelligence and how you, the Individual Marine, can speed up the flow of information to the Battalion S-2, which in due process will turn that information into Combat Intelligence and disseminate it to the proper channels or units where it will do the most good.

The success of any operation depends upon all available information that you can gather. Remember, it's a never-ending process. There is always a need for more information in the S-2. You say, "OK Gunny, scoop me in".

So here are some very basic facts that will start you off on the right foot. First, you as our best source of combat information. You ask, "How's that Gun-

ny?" There are many ways of collecting information. Patrolling is one; OP's and LP's are some of the best ways. There are more.

They should be in this order. **Enemy personnel.** Capture as many as you possibly can, ALIVE, without jeopardizing your mission. Remember the 5 S's and let the S-2 do their work and you do yours. Second, **Enemy documents.** One thing we must get straight is this; look out for booby traps when searching for documents and materials. Where to look? Enemy personnel, enemy dead, and installations. Turn these documents over to your Squad leader or platoon commander, always making sure that these documents or materials can be identified with the person or area that they came from. Remember, there must be some background to them or else they'll be useless to the S-2.



READY TO HUMP—Outfitted with the latest in "John Wayne" or "782" gear, this Marine is prepared to march for miles. The packs on his back are prototypes designed to replace the packs and suspender straps the Corps has been using since 1941. (Photo By L.C. Haleman)

Inducted; Woman Retaliates

by Cpl. John Lawrence

CUA VIET — A young Vietnamese woman from a small village south of Cua Viet is waging her own private war against the Viet Cong.

Hoang Thu Mai, who three years ago was forcefully inducted into the service of the Viet Cong, is now aiding American advisors and Vietnamese forces to search out the enemy, its hiding places and arms and supply caches.

Mai, 24, explained, "I was forced to join the VC when they came into our small village three years ago. They grabbed 15 of the younger women and told us that if we did not help them we would be killed and our families would suffer harm."

Her job with the Viet Cong terrorists was to pick up wounded or lost VC and serve as a guide and liaison for them.

When American and South Vietnamese forces moved into her village she took the opportunity to turn herself in and for the past month has been actively helping to destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure in the area.

Army Capt. Ted. L. Baldwin (Phoenix, Ariz.), military advisor for the Vietnamese Regional Forces operating in the area, said, "Hoang Thu Mai was one of the first VC to come over to our side when we began operations in this area. She has guided us to innumerable VC food and arms caches and identified several members of the VC infrastructure living in nearby villages."

Asked why she left the VC, Mai replied, "I came over to the Government of South Vietnam because I finally saw the light. The government is really trying to give us material benefits while the VC just make a lot of fruitless promises."

by Cpl. Ken Corbett

VANDEGRIFT COMBAT BASE — "Fire!" came the command from a hilltop near Laos and seconds later the hills in the northwesternmost sector of South Vietnam echoed with the reports of 105mm howitzer fire.

It was a new and strange sound for this region of Vietnam and proof of 3rd Marine Division's power of mobility

and its relentless drive to seek out the enemy throughout the entire northernmost sector of South Vietnam.

Just a few days ago, this hilltop, 2,000 meters from the Laotian border and about 6,000 meters from the Demilitarized Zone, stood mute.

Today it has a name: Fire Support Base Argonne, northwesternmost Marine outpost in South Vietnam. It buzzes with

activity as artillerymen from the 12th Marine Regiment fire their howitzers on suspected enemy infiltration routes. The guns also support Marine infantrymen combing the area in search of enemy units, their weapons and supply caches.

Fire Support Base Argonne was constructed on a jungle covered mountain peak overlooking Laos, during the first week of November.

Marine reconnaissance men and combat engineers were heli-lifted to the hilltop, and gun and defensive positions were prepared.

Huge Marine transport helicopters followed with 105mm howitzers and artillerymen to man them. More helicopters from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing brought infantrymen of the 4th Marine Regiment to hunt for the enemy, and search an area previously unexplored, believed a sanctuary for communist infiltrators from the north.

Ground contact with the enemy, however, remains light as Marines continue to search out every possible area where the enemy might be hiding.

"With the backing of artillery, we are able to hunt for the enemy in areas where our ground troops never entered before," said LtCol. Thomas Galbraith, field commander of the Marines operating in the area.

"It's like a game of hide and seek with the enemy," added a young Marine squad leader, "but if Charlie is here, we'll find him."

A-4 Pilot Sheds Wings, Sees War From Ground

by Sgt. R. R. Kenne

CHU LAI — "Being a ground forward air controller is an experience I'll never forget."

Fresh from the field, and back in his own element, Capt. Shelton F. Lankford, a 26-year old A-4 Skyhawk pilot, sat in Marine Attack Squadron 233's ready room at Chu Lai relating his experience with Marine infantry prior to flying another mission.

"I had no conception of what the war was really like on the ground until I spent three months with the 1st Bn., First Marines." The native of North Wilkesboro, N. C., proudly displayed the rain hat he wore in the field, which now, in dirty dignity, serves as testimony to the fact that he had "grunted" it.

"They called us the 'Rice Battalion,'" he smiled with a twinge of pride. "We captured 8,000 pounds of that stuff south of Da Nang and in the process

we called in 200 flights in support of the battalion."

The job of the forward air controller is to coordinate air strikes with an airborne controller handling attacking Marine jets. This job requires someone with practical knowledge of air planes, consequently, the men on the ground are usually pilots who temporarily shed their wings to serve with the infantry.

"Sometimes you can't see anything. It's hot or raining out there. You feel miserable. You are tired and the foliage is thick. You gotta have someone in the sky spot for you."

Lankford talked of how Marine air support more than served its purpose. "Off hand I can't really recall any one incident that stands out, but over all, I was impressed with Marine air, especially with being on the ground and depending on it.

"The OV-10A Bronco aircraft

and the UH-1E Huey gunships were outstanding, there was never much time between our call and their arrival. They handled the real close work and their observation and target marking were very accurate."

Now, every time Lankford climbs into an aircraft for a mission, he puts a little extra effort into it. "I guess everybody feels the same, but there is a feeling you get after being with the ground troops. I guess it's because you really understand how they feel and what they need and realize their problems. I think it's a good idea to have our pilots serve three months with the grunts. But three months is long enough; now I am back doing what I like and am trained for flying."

He adjusted his flight gear and started for his plane. "Yes, it was a worthwhile experience and I wouldn't trade any of it."

Engineers Span River Over Night

by LCpl. Larry White

CAMP CARROLL — When heavy monsoon rains washed out the Khe Gio bridge on Route 9 near Camp Carroll, an urgent call went to 3rd Marine Division's 11th Engineer Battalion.

Men of 3rd Brigade Company labored throughout the night and in 18 hours a new bridge spanned the river and Route 9, a vital supply link, was again open to traffic.

The 150-foot, 711,000 pound span was completed by only 29 of the bridge builders.

"We worked through the night using flood lights, to get the bridge completed as soon as possible," said 1st Lieut. Dave Beaty, (Corpus Christi, Texas), officer in charge of the construction project.

"Our main worry in working with flood lights was the constant threat of enemy mortar fire," he added.

Elements of 3rd Bn., Third Marine Regiment provided security for the construction work, and there were no incidents.

The engineers utilized the abutments of an old French bridge for the foundation of the span.

"The aluminum truss bridge is designed to accommodate 45 tons, but may take more in a critical crossing," explained Beaty. "With a load of approximately 45 tons, the bridge may sag in the middle up to 36 inches, but this is normal for this type of bridge."

Assisting the men of 3rd Bridge Co., were Marines from "A" Co., 11th Engineer Bn., they graded the ramps to the bridge and put down six dump loads of gravel to help stabilize the entrance and exit areas of the bridge.



FIRE!—Marines watch power of the USS NEW JERSEY'S 16-inch guns as she fires on enemy positions. Forty-seven Leathernecks from the 4th and 9th Marines visited the battleship while she operated in the Gulf of Tonkin.

(Photo by Cpl. Ken Corbett)



RIDGELINE EXIT—Leathernecks of the 4th Marine Regiment scramble from a Marine Sea Knight helicopter at Fire Support Base Argonne, located near the Laotian border, in the northernmost sector of South Vietnam. (Photo by Cpl. Ken Corbett)

Call Him Chief

FLC Marine Splits The Difference

By LCpl. Trygg Hansen

CHU LAI — MSgt. James R. Tatum (111 Shady Oak Lane, Mobile, Ala.) has a dual job with a single purpose.

Tatum is both motor transport and industrial relations (IRO) chief for Supply Co., Force Logistic Support Group Bravo (FLSG-B) at Chu Lai. "I've been in the motor trans-

port field for over 20 years now," said Tatum, "but the IRO field was new to me until 16 months ago."

During his career in the Marine Corps, Tatum has seen his share of the world. China, Guam, Hawaii, Korea and Okinawa, plus innumerable bases from coast-to-coast in the United States have all been part of his career.

"Civic action projects have played a major role in the industrial relations program," stated Tatum. "Since I arrived

here, we have helped build five grade schools, a pagoda and a high school. We have also aided Vietnamese villagers in constructing wells and brickmaking ovens."

The Dickey Chapelle Orphanage and Dispensary also receives civic action support from Supply Co. through clothing and medical donations.

"We have over 100 Vietnamese workers on the base," he said. "Their jobs range from housemaids and warehouse workers to barbers, clerks and

tailors. All we ask is a willingness to learn and we will find a job for them."

"These men do an outstanding job delivering over 28,000 tons of water, fuel, rations and ammunition a month," he noted with pride. The motor transport drivers supply Marine aircraft groups and South Korean troops in the Chu Lai area.

"In both jobs," Tatum concluded, "I feel I am contributing to the over-all mission of helping the Vietnamese to help themselves."

Friendship Lasts The Longest...

By LCpl. R.K. Nystrom
PHU BAI — For 193 years Marines have prided themselves in teamwork. From the most menial tasks to the mobilization of battalions, teamwork makes the Marine Corps a success.

Lance Cpl. Alexander M. Lefek (3420 Wisconsin Ave., Berwyn, Ill.) is a member of a team within a team.

Two months ago Lefek was assigned to the civic action platoon of Marine Force Logistic Support Group Alpha (FLSG-A), headquartered at Phu Bai. The platoon is assigned the task of fighting Vietnam's "other war."

Its goal is pacification, and to accomplish this mission Lefek and his other members meet with the Vietnamese on a person to person basis.

Every week the Phu Bai team treats more than 800 Vietnamese during their Medical Action Program, popularly called MEDCAPs. They have provided materials and wells in many small rural hamlets. Lefek teaches English classes at a village school and an orphanage in Hue City, the ancient imperial capital of Vietnam.

"The largest effort we make," said Lefek, "is our constant personal involvement with the Vietnamese. Sure, they may remember the cuts we healed, or the well we dug, but they'll never forget those times we were just plain friends."

By GySgt. E.J. Moore

DONG HA — "Alpha Omega, this is Yankee Bravo. You have the 'greenlight.' Roll 'em."

Every day of the week, words similar to these start a convoy on its way along Route 9 in Vietnam's northernmost tactical zone.

Route 9 is the vital ground link between three combat staging and supply bases: Dong Ha, Camp Carroll, and Vandegrift. These combat bases support Marine tactical units operating below the Demilitarized Zone.

What takes place up to 16 hours before the word to "move out" is sent over a radio is a military feat in itself.

In a small 7 x 12-foot room in the operations section of Force Logistic Support Group Bravo (FLSG-B) at Dong Ha, several men work in the Motor Transport Coordination Center (MTCC).

The group is headed by 1st Lt. Bernie J. Wallace (2526 Brierwood Dr., Albany, Ga.). He is responsible for the formation of all convoys that travel Route 9.

Trucks that haul normal resupplies of food and equipment make up the nucleus of the daily convoy. The leader or "pacer" truck is a specially

constructed five-ton vehicle that carries the daily supply of fresh bread.

Other trucks in the daily convoys are cargo carriers loaded with rations, a cold storage truck with fresh fruit and vegetables, five-to-seven fuel tankers, and trucks that haul a daily load of organizational supplies, office supplies and field equipment.

Early in the afternoon, the day before a convoy is formed, the MTCC starts receiving resupply requests from the logistic sections of operational units in the field. The requirements for supplies at times are staggering, due to the large number of Marines being resupplied. Included are all types of ammunition and fortification material as barbed wire, lumber and sandbags.

The vehicles that carry all this come from three sources. Two are other Force Logistic Command (FLC) units; 7th Motor Transport Bn., and Truck Co. of FLSG-B.

The other is the 9th Motor Transport Bn., supporting the 3rd Marine Division.

Keeping close contact with all three truck units and knowing the location of all vehicles is another aspect of MTCC's operational responsibility. As requirements start pouring in

by radio, telephone, message and dispatch, Wallace has to make sure transportation is available.

During the afternoon and through the night, trucks are loaded with vital cargo. The night work is supervised by Cpl. Milton H. Ver Doot (1800 Monroe St., Two Rivers, Wis.), the night road master.

Ver Doot's job is to coordinate loaded vehicles arriving from outlying locations such as the FLSG-B resupply point at the Cua Viet River boat ramp, and as far as Quang Tri, eight miles south.

An officer has already been assigned as Convoy Control Officer, and he, along with the day roadmaster, place the vehicles into proper position.

An accurate list of all drivers and passengers has been handed to Wallace because the 26 miles of Route 9 covered from Dong Ha are subject to enemy attack. MTCC must know who is on each vehicle.

Security vehicles, with automatic weapons are placed throughout the convoy, which by this time, numbers 70 vehicles.

All have been processed and cleared to roll. Drivers await their orders from the FLSG-B Motor Transport Coordination Center.

7th Marines Say She's The Greatest

By LCpl. Jerry Goodall

DA NANG—Marines of "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Marine Regiment got a surprise treat, when a famous and talented female colonel visited them at their combat base on Hill 65, southwest of here.

When a helicopter arrived unexpectedly during a 60mm mortar fire mission the troops knew something was up. As soon as Martha Raye was spotted word spread rapidly through the

as she joked and sang meaningful songs such as "Going out of My Head," and "I left My Heart in San Francisco."

At the end of her performance she assured the crowd that the people taking part in demonstrations back in the States are a small minority and there are many millions of people who pray for them and back them 100 percent.

Afterwards she commented to Maj. Robb, "There are no boys here, many of them are young, but they're men, every one of them!"

Recon Team Nets 2 NVA, Mortar Tube

by SSgt. Bob Bowen

DA NANG—A 1st Marine Division reconnaissance team spent a harrowing two hours in enemy territory but scored two North Vietnamese Army (NVA) kills and captured an 82mm mortar tube for its efforts. Huey gunships netted another six kills in the action 14 miles south of Da Nang.

The recon team received small arms fire as it was inserted by helicopter. Four enemy were spotted immediately.

Cpl. Howard L. Jones (Rochester, Ind.), described the enemy. "They looked as though their uniforms were starched and pressed. They looked as if they were going on leave. They wore khakis, black berets and black cartridge belts."

Three of the NVA were seen going underground into what appeared to be a bunker or trenchline. The fourth wasn't as lucky. Evidently he hadn't seen where the recon team went when they left the helicopter.

"He didn't see us until he was about 10 meters away," said Sgt. Dean E. Smarsty, (702 N. Nevada, Oceanside, Calif.). "He was carrying the mortar tube at port arms when he ran into us. When he saw our dog his eyes bugged out and he tried to run," Smarsty, the team leader, said.

The team scored their second kill with an M-79 grenade launcher, then turned the show over to the air wing.

Pfc. Rickie L. Stees (3922 Harrison, Del. Mead, Texas) described one of the six kills that Marine air scored. "I saw one NVA rise up and put a pair of binoculars to his eyes, but before I could get my rifle up he ducked back down," he said. "Then a Huey gunship came on station and fired 2.75mm rockets right on him. I know they got him."

The Marines were drawing enemy fire when a helicopter arrived to extract them.

"I had a scared dog, so I got to the chopper way ahead of everybody," said Cpl. Robert B. Hatch (2312 Esquiline Dr., Fenton, Mo.), the scout dog handler. "The helicopter definitely took some hits and then it was all over."

Twin Force Is 'Cheu Go Da'

Anglico: They're Different

By GySgt. Tom Bartlett

HOI AN—They are "different."

They are isolated, though surrounded. They hear, but cannot always comprehend.

They are Marines stationed with Marines, but they are "different."

They are the American Marines serving with the Second Korean Marine Brigade's Air/Naval Gunfire Platoon, 1st Air/Naval Gunfire Company, or ANGLICO.

Marines of the unit are positioned from Dong Ha to the Delta. For the Korean Brigade's ANGLICO Platoon, Hoi An serves as the nucleus with nine officers and 80 enlisted Marines sprinkled throughout the Korean Marine Brigade's Tactical Area of Responsibility.

The Koreans are responsible for 11 miles of coastline along the South China Sea, an area approximately 15 miles in depth.

Of the enlisted men attached to the ANGLICO platoon, only one ranks higher than sergeant. GunnerySgt. Billy R. Weathers, (Dallas, Texas) is the platoon's only staff noncommissioned officer.

Weathers is serving his second tour of duty in Vietnam. He was with the 17th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division in 1965-66.

"We're a different kind of military organization," the lanky Texan drawled. "Because we're a small group, we're closer than many. Because we work with the Koreans, we pick up a different language than most other American units. It's a combination of

know your people, their capabilities and limitations, and you have to accomplish your mission.

"The work is interesting because it is challenging," he concluded.

Yanacheak had 10 months of flight school at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., and six months at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., studying to become a communicator.

"A breakdown of communications here," he added, "could be fatal."

Cpl John H. Harding (Mullen, Nebr.) is the radio repair chief for the Marine platoon, assisted by two other enlisted Marines.

Together, the three are responsible for more than 60 radios throughout the Brigade area, and 40 other radios attached to other

SUPPORT FOR THEIR OWN—The Marine detachment aboard the USS GALVESTON wait for orders to man their gun in support of Marines ashore. The 39 Marines on board man their own battery on the cruiser off the coast of South Vietnam. (Photo By GySgt. Tom Bartlett)

Korean, Vietnamese and English.

"And, because every enlisted man in the unit is a communicator, the average intelligence is higher than in most other military organizations."

The platoon coordinates and controls American Marine helicopters for outlying Korean Marine units. Helicopters provide troop lifts, resupply and medical evacuations for the Koreans, as well as strafing, target marking and rocket runs on enemy positions.

Marine jets bomb, rocket and strafe enemy positions, supply areas and troop concentrations.

Sergeant Charles E. Yanacheak (Davenport, Iowa) is the Brigade Air Team Chief, in charge of a dozen Marines who operate communication radios daily for the Koreans, every hour of the day.

"We are here working with the Koreans for the Koreans," he states. "There are some minor problems, like the language difference, for example, but it all works out."

"To work here, you have to know your mission; you must



MOVING OUT—A unit of 2nd Korean Marine Brigade moves out to sweep enemy positions near Hoi An, following naval gunfire and Marine Corps Air assaults.

(Photo by LCpl. Don Barr)

ANGLICO units in the northernmost tactical zone.

The radios range from telephone-size to communications jeeps.

The three take turns making "house calls" on ANGLICO radios when they need repair. Chu Lai, Hue, Phu Bai, Dong Ha, Camp Evans and Camp Eagle are all included in their repair routes.

"We keep five radios here for replacement," Harding said. "In the event we can't repair one, we replace it. No ANGLICO unit has ever been without a working radio," he boasted.

The naval gunfire section of the Brigade platoon is headed by Navy Lieut. (jg) Raymond O. Wilkes (Sheffield, Ala.) the Naval Gunfire Officer. He is assisted by Sgt Richard J. Derrig (Des Plaines, Ill.).

The Brigade naval gunfire

team is responsible for the number of rounds and the accuracy of the ship's fire.

Wilkes "welcomes" each American cruiser or destroyer as it comes "on station" off the coast of Hoi An. He goes to the ship, meets the officers and men and briefs them of the tactical situation ashore.

On one such visit to the USS BENNER, Wilkes arrived and immediately gave the ship a target. General quarters was sounded immediately and the guns were firing as he left the ship.

Two or three days later, Wilkes returned to the ship with an initial prep order (meaning the ship bombards an area prior to the landing of ground troops.)

The Benner fired 300 rounds in a 15-minute period.

Generally, fire missions are radioed to the ship.

If a ship fires a mission, Wilkes, Derrig and Yanacheak must coordinate, imposing their "Sav-A-Plane" plan which prevents a ship from shooting down allied aircraft in the area. At all times, the air section knows where and when naval missions will take place, and the naval gunfire section knows where all aircraft are in the area.

ANGLICO is the only Fleet Marine Force unit in Vietnam not directly under the command of the III Marine Amphibious Force. They are a part of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, headquartered in Saigon.

Each Korean company has ANGLICO Marines serving with it.

The American Marine is notified by the Korean Service Company that a resupply is needed for an outlying unit of Korean Marines. The American contacts Leatherneck pilots enroute to the Korean position and gives him a zone briefing, which includes the tactical situation.

"We notify the pilot of any artillery or naval ships firing into the route the pilot will be taking," said Yanacheak.

As the pilot nears the Korean position, the Marine ANGLICO representative radios the helicopter and gives the pilot another briefing, in which he tells

the pilot of the last time the position was hit by enemy fire, where friendly positions are, the safest avenue of approach, and, naturally, where the enemy is or is suspected to be.

Daily the Korean Marines notify ANGLICO Marines of how many resupply missions will be flown the following day, or if there is an operation beginning or ending, how many helicopters will be needed to transport the troops.

The III Marine Amphibious Forces' Senior Air Director designates a mission number, the type of aircraft and the time on target for preplanned air strikes in which jets are to be used. They also clear night bombing targets, the use of flareships or the transport aircraft called "Spooky" which has been converted into a gunship which saturates an area with machinegun fire at an almost unbelievable rate.

"These kids are fabulous," boasts Maj. James E. Toth, (Urbana, Ill.) Commanding Officer of the Brigade's Air/Naval Gunfire Platoon.

"Here, you've got Pfc's or lance corporals with the responsibility of lives and millions of dollars worth of aircraft and supplies."

There are eight Marines assigned to each Korean battalion and two to each company.

"The lads with the companies find themselves alone. Few Koreans speak English. They stay in the field for six months with no other American contact, other than brief talks with helicopter crews, or else they report by radio to Brigade Headquarters," the major said.

The Americans accompany the Koreans on patrols and operations; they become an intricate, vital part of the Korean organization. They wear the unmistakable Korean uniform, camouflaged differently than the other Free World Forces combatting communism in Vietnam.

The Koreans say the Americans of ANGLICO are "Cheu go da," or, "the best there is . . ."

And, they're "different . . ."



POWER TO SPARE—A Marine jet bombs suspected enemy positions in support of the 2nd Korean Marine Brigade near Hoi An. Air and naval fire is coordinated by the ANGLICO. (Photo By LCpl. Don Barr)



ROUGH CLIMB—Leathernecks of 2/7 climb steadily upward hoping the top is near during an operation south of Da Nang.

SLF: Ready For Any Contingency

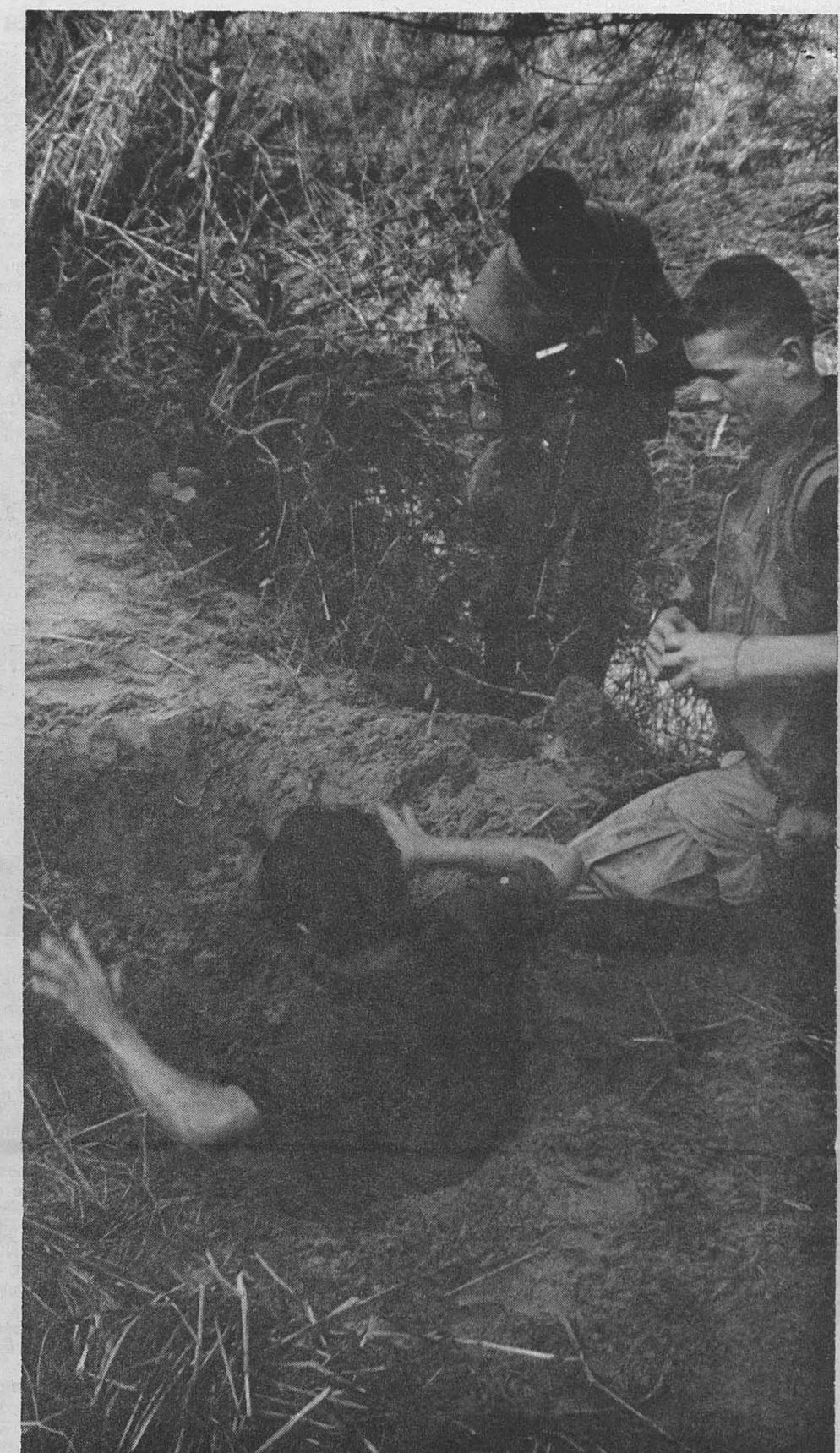
Photos By Cpl. W. A. Oberg



SHOULD I?—A Leatherneck of 2/7 with .45-cal. pistol in hand considers the odds before entering an NVA tunnel.



SUPPLIES—A CH-46 helicopter from HMM-165 delivers supplies to 2/7.



ENEMY—Two Marines from 2/7 flush a Viet Cong from his tunnel during a recent operation.



MOVING—Marines of 2/7 on an Amtrac move through a treeline during an operation 22 miles south of Da Nang.



RINGSIDE SEAT—Members of 2/7 have a ringside seat on an Amtrac as they observe engineers blowing a VC tunnel.

When You're Up Tight

Kaopectate To The Rescue

By SSgt. Bob Bowen

DA NANG — When you're in Viet Cong controlled territory, you use any weapon at your disposal . . . even Kaopectate.

Ask Cpl. Duana A. Pretzer, civil affairs NCO with the 1st Bn., 1st Marine Regiment. Kaopectate is one of the biggest weapons.

Each month, Pretzer (1025 E. Lombita St., Glendale, Calif.) leads about 30 MedCap (Medical Civil Affairs Program) missions into enemy country.

Protected by a squad of infantry Marines, Pretzer and two corpsmen treat as many Vietnamese as they can; young and old alike.

Speaking through an interpreter to an 88-year old woman, HN Russell Lefevre learns she is losing her sight. There's

little he can do but give her some medicine to help ease the pain should her eyes begin to hurt. She understands and her wrinkled face breaks into a smile of thanks.

A child, perhaps two years old, is given a small glass of Kaopectate and urged to drink it dry. Lefevre (20831 N.E. 12th Ave., North Miami Beach, Fla.) tells the mother that the medicine will help relieve the child's diarrhea.

HN Robert Remillard (2304 N.E. 54th St., Portland, Ore.) examines the infected toe of a small girl. "Hang nail," he says and administers peroxide, iodine and a bandage.

The word travels like wild fire.

"Bac Si is here. Bac Si is here."

"Bac Si" is Vietnamese for

doctor, and before the day ends, Bac Si Remillard and Bac Si Lefevre will have given medical treatment to more than 100 Vietnamese in the village.

"I'd estimate that about 70 percent of them actually needed medical attention," Pretzer said on the way back to the battalion area, "but of that 70 percent, many needed it badly."

One of them was a woman with shrapnel in her stomach. She told the corpsmen a Viet Cong mortar had exploded near her home. The mortar fragment had begun to work its way out, and Lefevre asked her to come to the battalion to be treated by a doctor.

A tablespoon of Kaopectate, a drop of peroxide, aspirin and a bandage. . . Bac Si's weapons in the war to win the support of the Vietnamese.

AC 'Eyes In The Sky' Keep Enemy On The Run

By Sgt. R. R. Keene

CHU LAI — In Vietnam, the men who fly as aerial controllers and observers act as the eyes of the Marine Corps in the forward battle area. Many are not pilots, but a special breed of "flying grunts."

Marine 1st Lt. David Hamlin Jr., a 25-year-old infantry officer, is one of the men who has traded his pack and rifle for a flight suit and pilot's harness to become the "eyes" in the sky for the Marine infantrymen. He flies in the 0-1C, a single-engine spotter plane, and fast moving TA-4F Skyhawk jet.

Working as a team, his pilot handles the controls and directs aerial attacks, while the native of Holcomb, N.Y., watches the ground and spots targets for ground units.

After his first four months as a member of the 3rd Marine Division's 3rd Bn., Ninth Marines, Hamlin volunteered for duty in the back seat of observation planes. His experience gained while sweeping along the Demilitarized Zone made him ideal for the job of spotter from the air.

"They didn't waste time in putting me into the action. I was flying in the back seat of the 0-1 Charlie almost as soon as I arrived at Dong Ha," recalls Hamlin.

To fly on these missions, Hamlin explains that it takes a sharp eye, experience gained with flying over the same area daily, a little extra sensory perception and luck.

"I've flown about every type of mission, from directly controlling air and artillery, to leading ground troops to water. I guess you can call us 'Jacks of all trades' up there."

While flying direct air support, Hamlin works just ahead of the forward elements and flies deep reconnaissance at low levels to spot enemy positions. Bullet holes in the aircraft testify to the fact that Hamlin and his pilot fly where the action is.

"The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese are shrewd, and the best way to find them is to put yourself in their position and try to think as they would.

"We look for the places we would hide, or set up an ambush

for Marines. Anything that looks suspicious or out of place can be a sign of enemy presence. The enemy is great at camouflage with just the basic materials, yet nobody's perfect. A piece of foliage that doesn't belong, a trail or a path in the elephant grass, can be a clue to give them away."

Hamlin remembers his ground experience. "Sometimes on the ground, you can't see more than 100 meters in front of you. You can pass just out of smelling distance of the enemy. It could be disastrous if we didn't have spotter planes over head."

Hamlin knows the war from both angles now, and keeps alert. "I remember near Khe Sanh, where we were spotting for a company sweep. The point men were pretty far out from the rest. Their visibility was limited by the bush; but above, we spotted an NVA bunker complex just ahead of the point, and called in artillery, preventing the ambush.

"We usually fly against the wind so they (the NVA) won't hear us coming. Once we think they have spotted us, we try to draw their fire which gives away their positions.

"If we catch them in the open, they don't scatter, but move off the open lanes and freeze, mak-

Living Good

NVA R&R Center Smashed

By LCpl. Frank Wiley

DA NANG — Members of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) not only had their rest and recuperation (R&R) disrupted but also lost their R&R site.

During a recent operation with "L" Co., 3rd Bn., 24th Marine Regiment in the mountain north of here, the 1st Division Marines were sweeping a mountain when they spotted bunkers and received machinegun fire.

The Leathernecks charged up the hill pushing the NVA back. One NVA jumped out from behind a rock with his AK-47 rifle.

"He was about 10 yards from me when he jumped out," said

ing them harder to spot. In the open, seasoned troops will actually wait for the bombs to drop from the plane and judge where the explosive will hit before moving for cover.

"Once we spot the enemy, we call on the Skyhawks, Phantoms and Intruder jets, which are unbelievably accurate.

"We also have a new 'Sunday punch' sitting off the coast—the battle-ship New Jersey. That ship has taken a lot of pressure off us controllers. During bad weather, the ceiling gets low too, it is hard to maneuver aircraft without taking fire. The NVA knew this and used to pour it on us without worrying about giving away their positions. Now, with the floating gun platform sitting almost on top of them, they hesitate to fire. We can call in artillery rounds that weigh a ton during any weather.

"Those guys are accurate too. I like working with them, they are cooperative and eager to fire."

But to Hamlin, it's still Marine close air support he relies on. "To me, those pilots are the most accurate and professional in the world. They really are heaven sent, take it from someone who knows. Ask any grunt, he'll tell you."

Living Good

Cpl. James C. Gray (8509 E. 6th St., Downey, Calif.). "I was startled, but by the look on his face I think that he thought we were further away. I opened up before he did and cut him down."

Lance Cpl. Lionell Parish (2110 Merchant St., Lake Charles, La.) said, "It looked like total havoc up on the hill. We could see enemy soldiers running over the top and their defenses just fell apart."

Parish spotted one NVA soldier running over the hill. He quickly aimed and fired his M-79 grenade launcher, dropping the enemy.

The Marines charged to the



HOOK UP—A Marine at the Hill 55 landing zone prepares an external lift of combat supplies for hook-up to a CH-46 transport helicopter. The supplies will fly by the 1st MAW chopper to Marines participating in Operation Meade-River south of Da Nang.

(Photo by LCpl. Trygg Hansen)

Laughter Helps The Pill Go Down

By Cpl. Bob Kerr

VANDEGRIFT COMBAT MASE — Every war spawns its own brand of humor, and Vietnam is no different.

Without this thin veneer of humor, the prospect of spending 13 months in the mud, rain, dust and heat of Vietnam could be disheartening, lonely and depressing.

The humor, springing from the fertile minds of men living in an unfriendly climate and rough conditions, takes as many forms as the men who devise it.

A 3rd Marine Division Leatherneck crawled out of a bunker during a lull in an enemy artillery bombardment and announced, "I think they (the enemy) are getting ready to go home. They're unloading their ammo on us so they won't have to carry it back."

This wit often masks the constant knowledge that war is a deadly game and every hour, minute or second could bring death.

Only the Marine's ability to laugh at himself and his predicament can turn his seeming misfortune into cause for a special brand of humor.

A drawing of "Snoopy" on a hot at Dong Ha proclaims "Happiness is being short!" A photograph of Ho Chi Minh posted in a P.X. (post exchange) asks, "Would you buy a used car from this man?"

The dominant theme seems to be to exaggerate the commonplace and subjugate the important.

"Caution: Vietnam may be hazardous to your health" "Don't shoot, I'm short!" "Just you and me, right Lord?" are just a few. Thousands of other sayings can be seen throughout Quang Tri Province, authored by 3rd Marine Division infantrymen as they search for the enemy.

But not all the witticisms seen are lighthearted or frivolous.

A Marine, manning a machine-gun position along the Demilitarized Zone has a flak jacket with perhaps the most telling inscription of them all.

"For those who fight for it, life has a flavor the protected never know."

Happiness Is A MARS Message

By Cpl. John Lawrence

QUANG TRI — Marines recovering from wounds in a hospital at Quang Tri are receiving new therapy — telephone calls to their families.

"I couldn't believe it," exclaimed Pfc. Larry D. Leikweg (3315 Duryea Place, Jannings, Mo.), "here I am in Vietnam and I just spoke to my mother thousands of miles away in Missouri."

Leikweg had just put down the telephone after completing a call home via the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) at Quang Tri. The 20-year-old Marine made the call from his hospital bed at the 3rd Medical Battalion's hospital, where he's recovering from shrapnel wounds received while on an operation with 1st Bn., Third Marine Regiment.

"I feel much better now," he added, "Mom won't worry so much now that she's heard my voice."

This sentiment was echoed by other wounded Marines in the hospital ward after placing calls home.

The hospitalized Marines are making their calls home through the efforts of Seabees, who man MCB-11's (Mobile Construction Battalion-11) MARS station.

The Quang Tri MARS station has set aside one day each week to broadcast telephone calls home from the hospital. In addition, five seriously wounded make phone calls home each morning.



HAM OPERATOR—Corporal David L. Price (809 S. Corona St., Denver, Colo.) of the Chu Lai military affiliate radio station talks to a HAM operator at MCRD, San Diego, as they prepare to connect a phone call from another Chu Lai Marine to his wife.

(Photo by SSGT. P. L. Stacy)

The radio operators at the Seabee's MARS station are all volunteers and operate the facility from two to 10 hours daily, depending on atmospheric conditions.

The station broadcasts to a similar volunteer station at El Toro, Calif. There, radio transmissions are hooked into the

telephone system. The only charge is the telephone toll from El Toro to its final destination.

Radioman Second Class Russell A. Shrub (8381 LaVilla Street, Downey, Calif.), a MARS operator, remarked, "We're happy to provide a few moments happiness for the

guys.

"At first they weren't too sure if we were serious when we went and asked them if they'd like to call their families. But the idea caught on, and you should see their faces when they hear a familiar voice from thousands of miles away!" he concluded.

Fire Bases Reflect Corps History; Famous Names Grace Jungle Camps

By Cpl. John Lawrence

DONG HA — Familiar names from pages of history echo throughout Quang Tri Province as men of the 3rd Marine Division continue their operations in the northern sector of South Vietnam against the enemy from the north.

A score of landing zones (LZ)

and fire support bases (FSB) scattered throughout the area south of the Demilitarized Zone bear the names of famous battles and great military leaders of the past.

Elements of 1st Bn., 9th Marines make a helicopter assault on LZ Corregidor while participating in a search and clear

operation in the Mai Loc area. The land-locked jungle helicopter landing zone does not resemble the island fortress off Bataan of World War II fame, but there is an enemy at Vietnam's Corridor and Marines are there.

Today FSB Argonne is a hilltop artillery position a half dozen miles south of the Demili-

tarized Zone. In 1918 the Argonne Forest was the site of one of the last major offensive actions in World War I. The new Argonne is also an offensive position from which Marine artillerymen shower high explosives on the enemy, or provide an umbrella of steel for assaulting Marine infantry units in the area.

Five FSBs have been named after former Commandants of the Marine Corps. Artillery positions named Henderson, Lejeune, Holcomb, Cates, and Shepherd dot the map from the Gulf of Tonkin to the Laotian border.

The largest jump-off point for operations in the Quang Tri Province is Vandegrift Combat Base, named after General Alexander A. Vandegrift, the 19th Commandant and a Medal of Honor winner.

And as a fitting tribute to another Medal of Honor winner and the present commander of the 3rd Marine Division, MajGen. Raymond G. Davis, an artillery position in the southern corner of the division's area of operations bears the name Davis.

In leafing through the pages of history to name the numerous landing zones and fire support bases, 3rd Marine Division Leathernecks did not forget the historic spot in Philadelphia, where the Corps had its beginning in 1775. A fire support base in the jungles of Vietnam bears the name Tun Tavern.



AMMUNITION—Lance Cpl. Kenny R. Dean (4803 NE 78th St., Portland, Ore.) carries a 95-pound high explosive projectile to his gun position. Dean is a member of "L" Battery, 4th Bn., 12th Marines, supporting 3rd Marine Division infantry units.

(Photo by Pfc. E. E. Hildreth)

by SSGT. P. L. Stacy

CHU LAI — "Hi sweetheart, I love you and miss you; how are the boys and is everything else all right? Over."

A telephone call through MARS is one of the few means to make immediate contact with someone an ocean away. Although the majority of the calls leaving Chu Lai's station are of a routine nature, it is also used for emergency purposes.

"We work with the Red Cross and chaplains, and if they deem a call to be an emergency we give it first priority," said GySgt. Frankie E. McCallum, noncommissioned officer in charge of the station.

"Most of the calls are from Marines who want to hear the familiar voices of their loved ones. It's good to see a guy walk out of here with a smile on his face after talking to his wife," McCallum said.

The HAM operators transmit from 7 a.m. until noon, patching their calls with a MARS station at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.

Upon receiving a telephone number from the operator at Chu Lai, San Diego places the call through the normal telephone systems in the States. After the called party is reached, the Marine at Chu Lai talks first, saying "over" when he is finished so that switches can be changed, allowing the party in the States to talk.

The station also goes on the air on odd calendar nights to take care of those Marines who don't have the opportunity to make a call during the day.

"We complete about 25 calls to the States during each scheduling or about 900 a month," said MARS operator Cpl. Steve W. Willey (108 St. Christopher Lane, Oahu, Ill.).

The five Marines who man the station also operate a HAM radio set with which they can contact 25 other MARS operators throughout Vietnam. "This can be used as a back up communications system if for some reason normal communications are out of order," Willey explained.

Another service provided by the station is the MARS radiogram. With the radiogram, a Marine can send a message to a MARS station nearest to where the message is going. The message is then relayed to the recipient and a return message can be transmitted in the same manner.

Once a week, a HAM operator travels to the Army's 27th Surgical and 312th Medical Evacuation Companies enabling patients of the two medical facilities to make calls directly from their wards.

"We feel they need the morale boost of calling home more than anyone, and since they can't come to us, we go to them," Willey explained. "It is a little harder to patch a call this way but we can hook into our communications system here and into the station about the same as they do in the states."

McCallum originally opened the Chu Lai MARS facility in February, 1966 during his first tour in Vietnam. He volunteered to come back to Vietnam and spent six months with a helicopter squadron before returning to the Chu Lai station.

'Kaintuk' Windage Drops VC

By LCpl. Art Kibat

AN HOA — With an M-16 rifle in his hand, along with the professional Marine Corps' training on how to aim and fire a weapon, one 1st Division Leatherneck still swears by that "good old Kentucky windage."

LanceCpl. John E. McLean (14429 Wilshire, Detroit, Mich.), has an adequate reason for using his style of Kentucky windage...he killed a Viet Cong sniper 650 meters away.

Sight alignment and trigger squeeze may have been a good policy for McLean to use if the enemy soldier had been 500 meters away or closer, but in this circumstance the normal accuracy would have been impaired by the distance.

When "E" Co., 2/5 started receiving sniper fire from a treeline, 600 to 700 meters away, the company's snipers, equipped with bolt-action 7.62mm rifles and nine-power scopes, began returning fire across the vast rice field toward the enemy's positions.

When the firing commenced, McLean ran approximately 20 meters out in the field and sat down behind a rice paddy dike, which he used to steady his rifle.

A few seconds after he assumed his position he spotted a Viet Cong running out of the treeline.

"I saw him running so I started panning shots at him," McLean recalled, "my first round hit about two feet in front of him."

"Before firing my second round I moved my sighting to try and allow for the two feet. The second shot hit about five feet in back of him."

"It took me five shots before I got on target and killed him."

"When you have to fire a long distance, you can't beat that good old Kentucky windage," McLean grinned.

3/7 Marine Finds Job Is 'A-OK'

By LCpl. Jerry Goodall

DA NANG — Cpl. Jeffery R. Sage (Rt. 3, Waterloo, Iowa), a radioman for an artillery forward observer team found that his interest in learning how to call for artillery and air support paid off when his air observer (AO) was wounded in recent action 15 miles south of Da Nang.

With the AO unable to function, Sage found himself directly responsible for assuring the safety of many of the men in his unit. It was now up to him to call for the supporting arms.

This was the first time that Sage was faced with such a situation and he hoped that what he had picked up by listening to the AO at work would be enough to accomplish the task.

For the next day and a half, before the new observer arrived, Sage directed air strikes and artillery missions. He marked the friendly lines and directed the fire of a "Spooky" gunship (a converted C-47) at night.

Afterwards, while looking back on the events, Sage said, "I'm glad that I got the chance to prove to myself that I could handle the job and should it happen again I'll have a lot more confidence."

FLC Marines Buffaloed

Meanwhile, Back At The Ranch

By GySgt. B.R. Finlayson

DA NANG — It had all the elements of a rodeo, complete with steer, contestant and crowd.

The event, however, took place far from any rodeo, the steer was a 1,200 pound water buffalo, and the contestant and crowd were Marines at the Force Logistic Command (FLC) near Da Nang.

The recent impromptu rodeo occurred after the Headquarters and Service Battalion Civil Affairs Section received a call that a water buffalo had gotten aboard the base and was running loose.

Two H&S Civil Affairs Marines, 1st Lt. Gary Webster (2121 North 89th, Seattle, Wash.), and Cpl. Tom Buck (Monahans, Texas) quickly located the animal.

After a great deal of maneuvering, the two Marines finally got the animal between them, although each remained a cautious 25 feet away.

The two Leathernecks didn't realize the meaness of a Vietnamese water buffalo.

For a few moments the beast pawed viciously at the turf, then lowered its head and charged...straight at Buck.

"Hemingway sure wasn't kid-

ding when he talked about that 'Moment of truth' in a bull ring," declared the native Texan. "When he came at me I thought I'd had it."

As if by second nature, Buck stepped aside, just as the enraged buffalo rushed past.

A lusty cheer arose from nearby Marines who watched in awe as Buck quickly reached out, grabbed the water buffalo by the horns and in a flash bulldogged the beast to the ground.

"It wasn't like back on the farm in Texas," says Buck. "All we bulldogged back there were calves. For awhile I was

flung about like a leaf in a windstorm."

The 200-pound Texan managed to subdue the animal somewhat and a rope was quickly placed around its neck. By then, other Marines were ready to lend a hand.

They tugged and pulled on the rope, but to no avail. The water buffalo refused to budge. Finally a bulldozer was called into action and the animal was pulled through a nearby gate to awaiting owners.

When asked whether he planned to pursue his "career" as a rodeo contestant, Buck remarked, "Are you serious? Every muscle in my body ached for three days afterward. I don't care if I ever see another water buffalo or steer!"

Let's Hear It For... 'Stumbles'

By GySgt. Tom Bartlett

HOI AN — Betty Crocker would have been proud of the two-point landing made by a Marine.

LanceCpl. Jay T. Schweitzer (Columbus Junction, Iowa) serves with the Brigade Gunfire Platoon, 1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company at the Korean Marine Corps' Brigade Headquarters near Hoi An.

Schweitzer was a member of a unit selected to participate in the Marine Corps' Birthday ceremony. A 110-pound cake had been baked and ornately decorated for the occasion.

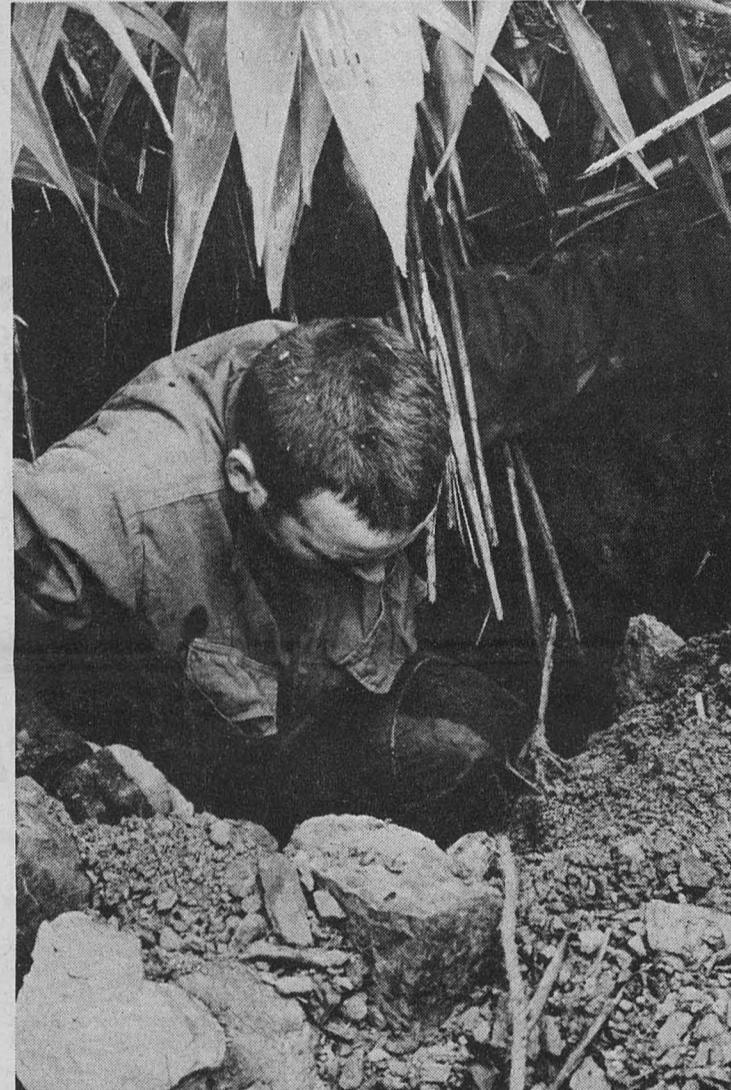
The cake had been carried into the club, where the ceremony was to take place. A small piece of icing fell from the cake, unobserved by most.

As Schweitzer marched sharply into the room, he did a smart "right face," slipped on the bit of icing and lost his balance.

He fell, hands outstretched, into the cake. A perfect "two point" emergency landing.

"At first I was scared stiff," he recalled. "Then after I looked around and saw that everyone was laughing, I knew it would be alright."

Though the annual observance of the Marine Corps Birthday is a serious military affair, it was temporarily postponed while the Marine washed cake and icing from his hands and the onlookers wiped tears of laughter from their eyes.



ENEMY BUNKER—Lance Cpl. Ronald W. White (Altoona, Penn.) scrambles out of an enemy bunker west of Vandegrift combat base. White participated in a search and clear operation near the DMZ with "F" Co., 2nd Bn. 4th Marines. (Photo by Pfc. E.E. Hildreth)

Pleasure Of Your Face

By Sgt. Ron Staff

DA NANG — Every day Cpl. Charles W. Springer (4024 72nd St., Woodside, N.Y.), a mortarmen with 2/1 1st Marine Division has the opportunity many fellow Marines claim to want.

He and his recruiter are serving in the same platoon.

Gunnery Sgt. Paul Hernandez (20-19 20th St., Astoria, N.Y.), his recruiter, got orders to Vietnam after Springer left the States and arrived in Vietnam about four and a half months ago. He was assigned as Springer's assistant platoon commander.

Springer said, "Before, I left, I had a funny feeling I'd be seeing him in Vietnam." Following boot camp and infantry training Springer stopped by to see his recruiter. At the time they discovered they had the same Military Occupational

Specialties (MOSS). Also that day the gunny was promoted to his present rank.

Although not many Marines get to know their recruiters very well, Springer's home is only two blocks from the recruiting station and he stopped in quite often. Springer says of gunny, "He really leveled with me. He said boot camp would be rough and it was."

When he first got to Vietnam, Springer, like so many other Marines here, sent pictures of this ancient land home to his folks. His father, in turn, used to drop by to see Hernandez and frequently brought the pictures his son had taken.

With 1,800,000 in the gunny's old recruiting area, such a situation has a certain probability of occurring. But the probability of the two ending up with the same MOS and in the same unit

in Vietnam is much smaller.

Since Springer has five more months in Vietnam than his recruiter, Hernandez says with a smile, "although I recruited him I'm junior to him over here." The gunny has been with the platoon four months now and he was with them when Springer was recommended for and promoted to corporal.

The gunny said, "I was involved in his promotion. He deserves the rank. He does his job."

With a twinkle in his eye and a chuckle the gunny added, "I've only got three more months to put up with him before he rotates!"

The recruiter has run into about three other men he enlisted. However Springer is the only one in his unit.

The gunny said, "I wish we had more men like him!"

"All of our students are here to learn," said LCpl. Erick Lowe, (405 Smithwood Dr., Nashville, Tenn.) an administrative clerk at Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-11. Many of his students hope to broaden their education and obtain better jobs by attending night school.

Students range in ages from 8-34 years. However, classes are divided according to how much English a person already knows before the beginning of each semester.

Classes are held three nights a week during each 12-week semester. While the more than 200 students come from all over the crowded city of Da Nang, the instructors are trucked to town from the MAG-11 compound at the Da Nang Air Base, 10 miles away.

"I enjoy working with the Vietnamese people and the opportunity to visit and work spare time," said LCpl. Phillip closely with them during my Bohm (Rt. No. 4, Three River, Mich.).

Cracking An Old Barrier

By: SSgt. Jim Mims

DA NANG — Evenings at Marine Aircraft Group 11 can either be spent at a movie, writing letters home or discussing the day's work with fellow Marines. However, for a select few at MAG-11, some of their evenings are spent teaching conversational English to Vietnamese in Da Nang.

"Having a sense of good motivation, and being capable of instructing, is the basic requirement for a man to teach in Da Nang," says Lieut. R. V. Sampler, MAG-11 chaplain and sponsor for the instructors.

After an interview with the chaplain, a prospective English teacher is then referred to his section for a character recommendation from his officer in charge and his section chief. Once the recommendations are returned to the chaplain, they are referred to the group commanding officer for approval.

Eleven highly motivated Marines of various occupational fields are presently instructing conversational English at a Da Nang high school. Being able to personally help the people of South Vietnam is the general feeling that has spurred the Leathernecks to teaching.

"All of our students are here to learn," said LCpl. Erick Lowe, (405 Smithwood Dr., Nashville, Tenn.) an administrative clerk at Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-11. Many of his students hope to broaden their education and obtain better jobs by attending night school.

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NVA Gets Inkling... Of The End

By Cpl. John Lawrence
DONG HA — A North Vietnamese Army (NVA) newsman learned to his sorrow that the adage "The pen is mightier than the sword" is not always true. He was captured northeast of Quang Tri.

The enemy journalist was one of several detainees taken during a waterborne assault by Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF's) soldiers taking advantage of unusual flood conditions in the Quang Tri City Area.

Maj. Lo Van Kiem, Trieu Phong District chief, said, "Our normal operations area was flooded to the depth of five feet, so we decided to take a look at the area by boat."

The major loaded his men aboard skimmer boats and started checking the flooded hamlets for people in need of assistance.

"We were about 200 meters from a flooded hamlet when shooting started. All we could see above water, were rooftops," commented the Vietnamese district chief.

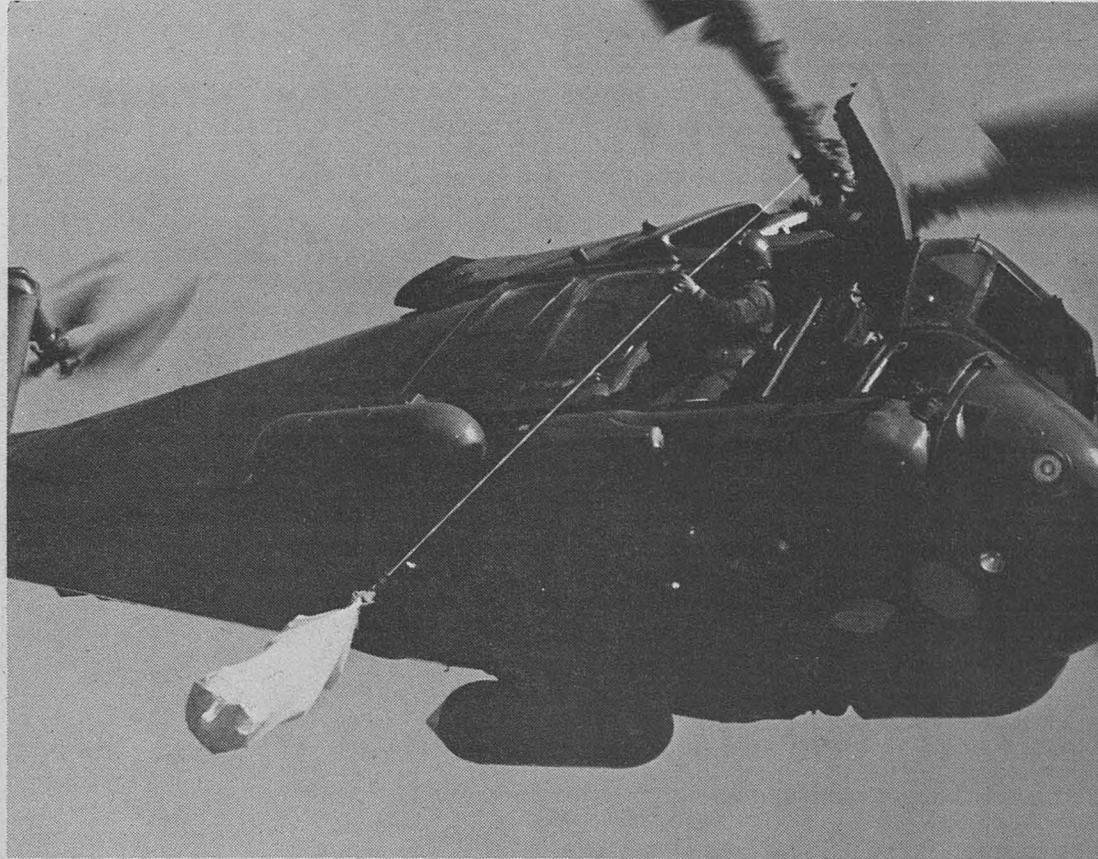
The two Popular Forces boats split up and charged with all guns firing into the enemy held buildings.

"The firing died down and we cautiously approached the hamlet to see what we had run into," continued Kiem.

The Vietnamese soldiers learned that they had broken up a meeting between the Viet Cong leaders in the area, an NVA lieutenant and a North Vietnamese newsman.

The "Trieu Phong Navy", as the local PF's are now called, killed 11 communists, wounded six and took 11 prisoners.

"We are not worried about the flood anymore," concluded Major Kiem, "our floating task force is ready for action."



SEA RESCUE—A helicopter from the communication ship USS ELDORADO drops emergency gear to a floundering Vietnamese gunboat near Da Nang Harbor. The chopper also lowered a control panel specialist to the troubled boat, which struck a submerged rock.

(USN Photo by PH3 Brian Ramey)

Just When Things Were 'Dragon'

'Creature' Appears On River

By SSgt. R.B. Williams

QUANG TRI — Aviation Marines captured a dragon — a paper dragon.

First Lt. Rolland A. Schmitt (414 South Division St., Cashmere, Wash.), Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 security officer, said "We were sitting near one of the bunkers that faces the Quang Tri River one night when I noticed a small bit of light moving slowly down the river toward us.

"At first, we couldn't make it out. We thought it might be some sort of mine the Viet Cong had put in the river.

"When it was closer, I had a man set off a hand flare. We still couldn't make it out, but one of the sentries in the guard tower near us got a look at it with his field glasses. He called down to me on the phone and said, 'Sir, you aren't going to believe this, but that thing looks like a Chinese dragon.'

"I told him he was right, I didn't believe him. But after it got a little closer, I could see he was right. The thing did look like a small dragon.

"It was made of paper and banana logs and had a small candle on it in addition to several sets of small paper clothes and bits of food. The next morning, I took it to the Vietnamese interpreter assigned to MAG-39 to find out what it was all about."

The "dragon" turned out to be a part of the Confucianism religion. The followers of Confucius, according to the interpreter, set these dragon boats adrift periodically to resupply departed ancestors.

"As soon as we learned that the dragon was part of a religious ceremony," says Schmitt, "we took it back to the river and sent it on its way."



CITY CHARMER — Attractive Helen Chambers is a New York City model and wishes Armed Forces personnel everywhere a "Happy New Year."

(Continued From Page 2)

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PO Box 793
Valley Center, Calif. 92082
(Christmas Mail)

Mrs. Valeta Koller
21003 Lassen St.
Chatsworth, Calif. 91311
(Men who have no families writing them)

Bonita Vista Jr. High
4800 Otay Lakes Rd.
Chula Vista, Calif. 92010
(English class desires pen pals)

* * *

"Mail From Home"
Bethlehem Post 855, VFW
Bethlehem, Penn. 18017
(Gifts or letters)

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Kathie Stauff
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* * *



Marine Sees 'His' Flag Fly At MAG-11

By SSgt. Jim Mims

DA NANG — A Marine Aircraft Group 11 administrative clerk's wish came true November 10 when he witnessed the raising of an American flag on the Marine Corps birthday at 1st Marine Aircraft Wing headquarters in Da Nang.

Sgt. Raymond Dunn (572 Aullwood Rd., Dayton, Ohio) wrote Governor Rhodes of Ohio requesting a state flag to display in the Marine Air Base Squadron 11 administrative office. The governor referred the letter to Charles W. Whalen Jr., of Montgomery County, Ohio, who in return forwarded a state flag and made arrangements for Dunn to obtain a 5x8 American flag which had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D. C.

In addition to the flags, Dunn received a certificate and letter from Rep. Whalen declaring that the flag had been flown over the Capitol.

Dunn plans on presenting the flag to his squadron commander, LtCol. J. W. Haskell, requesting that it be displayed in the admin' office.

**U.S.
SAVINGS
BONDS**

Meade River...

(Continued From Page 1)
on the ground, that were aimed at Da Nang.

"Marines and ARVN constantly ran into enemy forces in that area," the general added.

The trap sprung shut. The safety of the villagers was provided for. They were moved to safer areas, photographed and issued new ID cards.

Over 2,530 innocent civilians were fed, entertained and cared for, issued new papers and escorted back home — more than half by the end of Thanksgiving Day.

But there were 125 other civilians whose identity could not be proven, and these were detained for further questioning. Seventy-one later were cleared as political detainees, members of the Viet Cong infrastructure or "shadow government" that plagued the innocent villagers.

Meade River flowed slowly but effectively.

Mission? To root out the enemy infrastructure; destroy the enemy, both NVA and VC, and his fortifications.

"Comb it thoroughly ... inch by inch," General Youngdale had said. And comb they did.

"We had 15 to 20 meters between fire teams," the Marine commander explained. Marines, in addition to their weapons, carried T-bars to probe for hidden materials and tunnels.

The allies moved ... slowly ... thoroughly ... effectively. There was no need to hurry. The enemy was surrounded. The cordon was tight.

"I am confident," General Youngdale said, "there are no large (enemy) units that have been able to get out."

They tried. Not only did enemy units attempt to break out, other units tried to get in to assist surrounded comrades. But they failed.

Thanksgiving Day, the Marines took turns eating hot turkey dinners ferried out to them in special containers by helicopters and "Otters" where necessary. Turkey, mashed potatoes and even cranberry sauce...

But it was a brief respite. The cordon was drawn tighter. At least an NVA battalion and two hard-core VC companies were believed to be snared in the cordon.

At the end of the 15th day of the operation, the Marines had detained 71 identified members of the Viet Cong infrastructure (VCI). They had killed 451 NVA or VC. ARVN units accounted for 35 dead enemy; the Koreans had killed two.

Marines had six NVA and 58 VC detainees who were later reclassified by the ARVN as

prisoners. Three NVA and two VC Chieu Hoi'd or surrendered under the "Open Arms" program.

Allied forces captured 53 individual weapons and five crew-served weapons.

The smell of death hung heavy in some areas. A prisoner told the ARVN of many wounded in bunkers. A Psychological Operations (PsyOps) team used loudspeakers to urge wounded enemy soldiers — and those fortunate enough not to be wounded — to surrender while they still had a chance. But few did.

At the beginning of the 16th day, two pockets of enemy resistance remained. They were

well dug in and equipped with rocket propelled grenades, mortars, grenades, automatic and small arms.

Naval guns hammered the enemy emplacements; Marine artillery pounded the positions and Marine jets strafed and bombed.

Once again, the individual Marine would be called on to do what the so-called "more sophisticated" weapons of modern warfare did not accomplish. The Marine infantryman on the ground, with his rifle, esprit de corps and determination ... the "Grunt" ... would face and defeat the enemy during the final hours of Operation Meade River.

Pacification ...

(Continued From Page 1)
but were unable to confirm enemy losses.

By its constant patrols and ambushes in the Quang Tri City area, the CAG units are successfully denying the communists access to their source of supply in the villages and hamlets.

The second week in November saw the start of a new mobile team concept in 4th CAG operations.

"We have started the program with two mobile teams," explained Col. Greenwood. "They will operate in a predesignated area and move continuously

within it. By searching for the enemy and laying in ambush for him at constantly changing locations, we hope to destroy his faith in his ability to operate in this area."

Perhaps one of the major Civic Action accomplishments of the week was a 33,000 pound emergency foodlift.

Marine transport helicopters carried the foodstuffs to a resettlement village in the Cua Valley, 10 miles west of Dong Ha, whose inhabitants were on the point of starvation due to crop failures.

Enemy ...

(Continued From Page 1)
as a blocking force for other Marine units, when they discovered an enemy camp site.

"The fire at the NVA camp was still warm. I could smell it long before I saw it," stated 1Lt. Iverson G. Nelson (Salt Lake City, Utah), a company executive officer. "When we walked into the camp there were rifles laying around and we found letters with North Vietnam return addresses. Apparently they left in a real hurry."

Marines found the enemy hiding place under a thick jungle canopy that had prevented its detection from the air. The NVA camp site consisted of five bunkers and a number of grass huts. It even included a swimming hole, fashioned by blocking off a jungle stream.

Marines took up defensive positions and searched the enemy hideout.

"I took a few men to check the site for booby traps first," said Capt. William B. Gray (1909 Colebrook, Oklahoma City, Okla.), "but it looked like the

only thing they (the enemy) had time to do was run."

Search of the area netted one enemy machinegun, two semi-automatic assault rifles, 3,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, six B-40 rockets, grenades and booby traps, and two anti-tank mines. Marines also found one half ton of rice, 20 pounds of sugar and assorted NVA field equipment, including gas masks and canteens.

"If the NVA came back to see if we found their camp, they're sure going to be surprised and disappointed to find nothing but destroyed bunkers," concluded Capt. Gray.

Repulsed...

(Continued From Page 1)
with a volley of grenades, small arms fire and M-79 rounds.

Sporadic firing continued throughout the night in an effort to keep the Viet Cong from retrieving bodies and equipment, but wounded or dead, enemy, soldiers were pulled away.

At first light, the Marines conducted a thorough search of the area. Three of the communists had not made the safety of the nearby treeline. Two were dead. One badly wounded enemy soldier was rushed to a hospital for medical attention.

The Viet Cong also left behind four AK-47 rifles, one homemade bangalore torpedo, one B-40 rocket launcher and rocket round, six Chinese communist grenades, and a mine.

It had been a good night for the men of "B" Co.; not one man had suffered a scratch.

"We call ourselves Bush Beaten Bravo," said SSGT. Paul Thomas (606 Quail Ave., Chesapeake, Va.) a platoon commander with the company. "We've killed 10 Viet Cong in seven days and we haven't lost a man yet."

Bush Beaten Bravo has yet to be beaten!

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BUNKER—Lance Cpl. Milton J. Harris (Newroads, La.) searches the remains of an enemy bunker which was destroyed during an operation south of Da Nang. Harris is a squad leader in the 2nd Plt., "F" Co., 2/7.

(Photo by Cpl. W.A. Oberg)

2/7 Leathernecks...

(Continued From Page 1)
be recalled a few hours later to help the Thong Duc Civilian Irregular Defense Group Camp located 18 miles southwest of Da Nang.

During Operation Maui Peak, a multi-battalion operation, BLT 2/7 again met with only slight resistance.

Returning to Task Group 79.5, the SLF was given four days rest and then to the field for another operation. This time the Marines celebrated the Marine Corps' 193rd anniversary, November 10th, with an amphibious assault at the northern end of Barrier Island, 22 miles south of Da Nang.

During the operation the Marines moved into the surrounding villages and cleared them of all civilian population detaining nearly 300 Viet Cong suspects. The suspects were heli-lifted to Hoi An where they were given food and housing.

Numerous tunnels and bunkers were located and destroyed in the area of operation. Marines met with moderate resistance throughout the operation taking light casualties while the enemy suffered 39 killed, 27 Viet Cong and 3 North Vietnamese soldiers detained.

With two days rest the Marines of SLF 'Bravo' were heli-lifted to "Dodge City" on Operation Meade River. The multi-battalion operation is considered to be the largest heli-assault in the Marine Corps' history.

This area is well known to the Marines of BLT 2/7. Only two months before they entered this area leaving 80 NVA killed.

This is the first time Marines have made a complete sweep of "Dodge City."

Leatherneck Keeps Cool, But Scared

By Sgt. Ron Staff

DA NANG — A 20-year-old Marine found an empty tin can to be one of the most important things in his life.

The 2nd Bn., First Marine Regiment rifleman was beginning to relax after a tiring five-hour daylight patrol through intermittent rains. The platoon had set up defensive positions for an afternoon break when Pfc Richard V. Duarte, (4224 34th St., South Sacramento, Calif.) stretched a little too much.

The small "C-ration" can his foot brushed against and overturned proved to be a cover for an enemy booby-trapped grenade. "I was real scared," said the young Leatherneck. "Then when I noticed that the wire triggering device hadn't been disturbed, I relaxed a little and called the platoon sergeant."

The sergeant destroyed the grenade with TNT, much to Duarte's relief. "I'm still a little shaken by that thing, but I definitely plan on going back to the 'States' on my own two feet, so I don't let it bother me... much."